

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

Yangon Region Agriculture Dept targets over 1.1 mln acres of monsoon paddy

YANGON Region Agriculture Department is endeavouring to reach over 1.1 million acres of monsoon paddy target in the 2022-2023 Financial Year, which is the first year of a five-year plan implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation to boost paddy production in Yangon Region.

A total of 332,330 acres of four high-yielding varieties and four native rice crops have been cultivated in 17 townships in Yangon Region. Other remaining 841,170 acres will be carried out under the Modified Mat Nursery and broadcasting system. The monsoon rice growers are cultivating high-yielding crops such as Manawthuka, Theehtetyin, Hmawby 2, Ayamin, Shwewahtun and native crops such as Ngasein, Pawsan, glutinous rice, Taungpyan Ngakywe, Baykyargyi, Baykyarlay, Khunni and Taungpyan paddy varieties for exports and domestic consumption.

Of over 300,000 acres of monsoon paddy which have been cultivated so far, 126,550 acres are high yield varieties, while native rice crops cover 205,780 acres. The first phase of the five-year project includes 1,164,500 acres and more than 300,000 acres have



A group of female farmers are pictured collectively planting the rice paddy nurseries. **PHOTO: KANU**

been completed. As the farmers can easily purchase fertilizer, the monsoon rice cultivation is going well. In July, lush green paddy fields implemented under the Modified Mat Nursery system will be seen.

After the monsoon rice is harvested, various beans and

pulses will be cultivated. So, the rice seeds were broadcasted in Thanlyin, Kyauktan and Kayan townships in the first week of June. The harvest season will start in late October and end in December for the paddy in Modified Mat Nursery.

Last year, 79,521,143 baskets

of monsoon rice yielded in Yangon Region. The high-yielding paddy varieties were priced at K700,000-750,000 per 100 baskets, while native varieties fetched K900,000-K1 million per 100 baskets. The farmers were doing well.

The high pre-acre yield

stands at 80 baskets for high-yielding varieties and 68 baskets for native varieties. The yield rate varies on the climatic conditions and soil fertility. Yangon Region has completed 332,330 acres of monsoon rice out of the targeted 1,164,500 acres. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

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Announcement for armed resistance organizations' members including PDF who want to enter legal fold

LESSONS have already been learnt from the past that unity can only assure non-disintegration of the Union and perpetuation of sovereignty for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar where various ethnic peoples are living in. In the future, it must work for the unity and solidarity of ethnic brethren. Due to political adversaries and disagreements in ethnic affairs, internal armed conflicts occurred and it has hampered the development of the country.

Those who were persuaded by terrorist groups CRPH and NUG to commit acts of terrorism leading to the utter devastation of the country and launch armed resistance under various names of groups including PDF. Such doings can affect the stability of the State and ensue delay in ways to democracy.

As the strength of the country lies on its own, the entire people should cooperate in establishing a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system as per the five-point roadmap of the State Administration Council, "upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party according to democratic standards", and in line with "one of the objectives on political affairs to build a Union based on democracy and federalism through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just".

Therefore, it is here announced that the organizations including PDF are welcomed if they enter the legal fold for their normal civilian lives by surrendering their weapons following rules and regulations to participate in future work plans of the country.

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

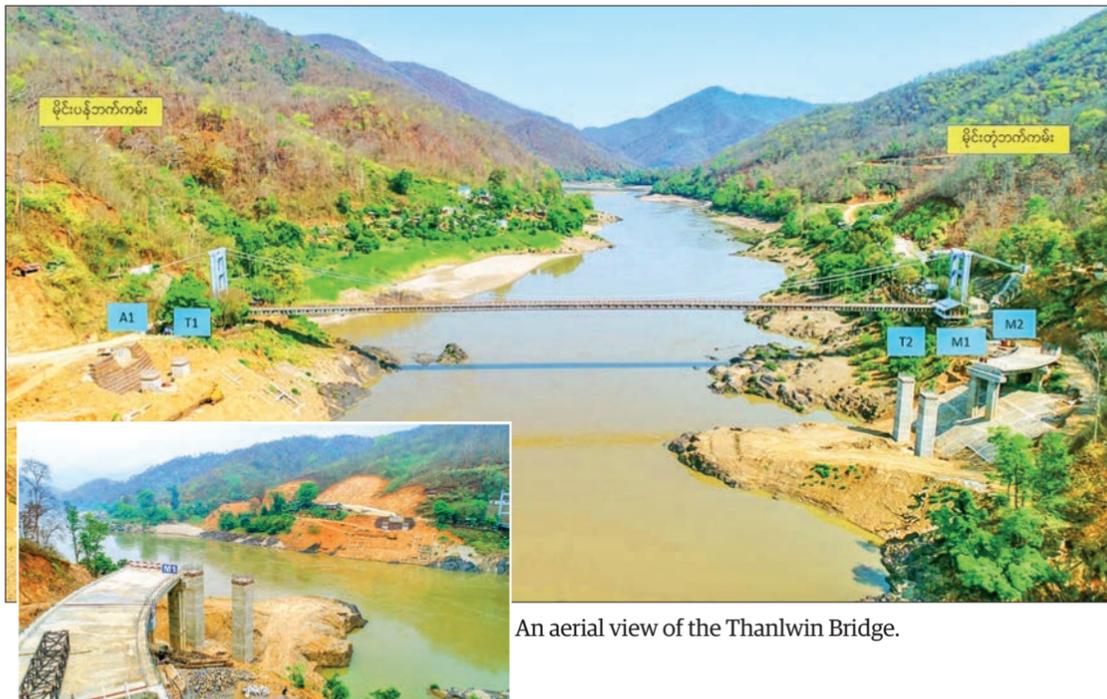
Thanlwin bridge (Tahsan)

THE Thanlwin bridge (Tahsan) is located between the 184 kilometres and 185 kilometres on Namhsam-Mongnai-Mongton-Monghsat road section and is being across the Thanlwin River that lies between the southern and eastern parts of Shan State.

It is being built by the bridge task force (4). Mongton township of Monghsat district lies in the eastern bank of the Thanlwin River and the Mongpan township of Langkho district in the western bank of the river. The old Thanlwin (Tahsan) bridge was constructed in 1999 and it is over 20 years old. The 900 feet long bailey suspension bridge was constructed with an open foundation system and a C-channel deck. It is 18 feet wide and can withstand up to 30-tonne vehicles.

The Thanlwin bridge (Tahsan) was constructed by the experts of Myanmar and China and the Bridge Department conducts regular checks on the bridge. However, it can only hold 16-tonne trucks.

About 35 small vehicles and 15 large vehicles are passing the bridge daily and as it allows up to 16-tonne trucks, the cargo



An aerial view of the Thanlwin Bridge.

from large 10-wheel trucks is transferred to the smaller vehicles to enable the goods to pass. Such a process is too time-consuming and not conducive for businesses. Therefore, the over 30-tonne trucks use the Namhsam-Mongnai-Mongton-Monghsat road and the government conducted upgrade of the bridge to be able to hold up to 60-tonne trucks. The construction work of Thanlwin bridge (Tahsan) has been

launched on 6 february 2019. The bridge is located between the 184 kilometres and 185 kilometres on Namhsam-Mongnai-Mongton-Monghsat road section. It is 875.57 feet (266.861 metres) long. The approach road is 11 metres long on the side of Mongpan and 54.861 metres long on the side of Mongton. The 1.5 metres R.C Bored pile is used for the bridge while Steel Truss and R.C are used for the upper part of the bridge. It is 8.5 me-

tres wide with 117.5 metres of water clearance in width and 10 metres in height. The load capacity is of 75-tonne. There is also one metre (3 feet) wide pedestrian walk on each side. Now, the construction 19.5 per cent completed. The construction was started on 6 February 2019 and is slated for completion on 31 March 2024.

When it is completed, it will provide easy access to Thailand, Laos and China via southern Shan State passing southern Shan State from the middle part of Myanmar. The local products can be exported to the neighbouring areas and it will support the trade flow. — Kayan Soe Myint/GNLM



Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

The following telephone numbers, fax and email address can be reached to safely report information in connection with illegal trade.

- Auto telephone number - 067 409 883
- Mobile phone - 09 404339969
- Fax - 067 409 886
- Email address - antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com
Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

Regarding the "request for money from departmental organizations in conducting trade", the following numbers can be reached to safely report such information.

- Auto telephone number - 067 409 881
- Mobile phone - 09 699611116
- Fax - 067 409 887
- Email address - antiillegaltradeoffice@gmail.com
Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

Further invitation to remaining groups to hold talks

Democracy as well as federalism requires equal rights. Talks will continue with the ethnic armed organizations to restore peace. Good results came out from the talks with EAOs. Efforts will continue to restore peace by holding better talks. Some EAOs cannot participate in the talks for various reasons. In line with the firm implementation of two political visions, the government further invites remaining groups to hold talks.

(The excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with ministers of Yangon Region government on 9 June 2022.)

MoI Union Minister inspects Sarso Beikman building location, Sarpay Beikman bookshop, views Dance Jam shooting at MRTV

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the plot for Sarso Beikman and the Sarpay Beikman bookshop, and also watched the filming of Dance Jam programme at MRTV yesterday.

On arrival at the plot for Sarso Beikman which is located in Mingala Taungnyunt Township of Yangon Region, he stressed the need to draw the building structure based on the suggestions of intellectuals.

Then, he went to the Sarpay Beikman book centre and gave instructions to officials for luring the interest of young people.

He then visited the MRTV on Pyay Road and met the artistes of the movie, theatrical and musical fields and officials of private broadcasting channels.



Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn inspects the location where the Sarso Beikman is to be built in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.



He enjoyed the Dance Jam programme made at MRTV studio-A. The MRTV broadcasts Friday Night Live Show every Friday, Anyeint and 38-principle Mingala programme every Saturday, Myanmar movies every Sunday and the current new programme named Dance Jam (Dancing Show) in addition to the Music Gallery programme every Friday. —MNA

DKBA delegation leaves Nay Pyi Taw

THE peace delegation led by Commander-in-Chief Saw Steel of the Democratic Ka-

ren Benevolent Army-DKBA, which arrived in Nay Pyi Taw at the invitation of State Ad-

ministration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, left Nay Pyi

Taw yesterday.

On leaving the Horizon Lake View Resort in Nay Pyi Taw, the peace delegation was seen off by officials and members of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, departmental officials and ethnic people of the Department of Fine Arts and locals by holding miniature State flags and placards bearing: “Perpetual peace is the real aspiration of the people”, “Achieving peace is the true desire of all citizens”, “Let’s hold talks for peace in the Union”, “Only if the ethnic nationalities are in unity, stability, peace and tranquillity will be achieved”.—MNA



13 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 22 June, total figure rises to 613,521

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 613,521 after 13 new cases were reported on 22 June 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 592,515 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,434 without more casualties.—MNA

Data Analysis Training 1/2022 for conducting IT Audit opened

THE opening ceremony of Data Analysis Training 1/2022 for conducting IT Audit was held at 12:30 pm on 22 June at the Assembly Hall of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the ceremony, Union Auditor-General Prof Dr Kan Zaw delivered an address, saying that this training aims to conduct the auditing applying IT because Governmental Departments and Organizations keep their large volume of monetary and accounting transactions applying IT and the time and staff are limited for the conduct of auditing manually; the auditors should understand IT and use it effectively in conducting the audit as the development in technology is improving very rapidly nowadays; therefore he urged the trainees to learn the

lectures properly, retrain staff at their offices and apply in field-works for the development of OAG in future.

Two from the Head Office and twelve from the Auditor-General's Offices of Bago, Yangon, and Magway Regions, totalling fourteen, will attend the training designed to be theoretical and practical from 22-6-2022 to 29-6-2022 for seven days.

The permanent secretary, the director-general of Audit Department, the deputy permanent secretary, deputy directors-general, responsible persons, trainers and trainees attended the ceremony.

Similarly, the Union Auditor-General also delivered an address at the annual general meeting of the Cooperative Credit Society Limited of the Office of the Auditor-General



of the Union, held at 10 am on 22 June at the Assembly Hall of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union. The permanent

secretary, the director-general of Audit Department, the deputy permanent secretary, deputy directors-general (Audit/Admin),

directors, deputy directors, responsible persons and members of the cooperative limited attended the meeting.— GNLM

Yangon mayor inspects Nyaunghnapin Agriculture and Livestock Special Zone



YANGON mayor U Bo Htay, in his capacity as chairman of Yangon City Development Committee, inspected the Nyaunghnapin Agriculture and Livestock Special Zone in Hlegu Township, a special Zone area at the junction of M 5 and C 14 roads at Zone 2, repair work of the office and tower, construction of a small bridge over a drainage ditch in front of the office, repair work of restrooms and keeping office premises clean in the morning

on 19 June.

Later, the party led by the Yangon mayor observed the manufacturing process of the EM Bokashi natural fertilizer from hyacinth from ditches and weeds from land repair and treatment for agriculture, construction of wholesale market at the special zone 1. He instructed officials to develop model farms in the zone.

Then, he inspected the construction of traffic islands and concrete slabs at the junction

of Pyay and Hsatthataw Road to Nyaunghnapin and directed the officials to fulfil the needs.

After that, they arrived at Yangon Waste-to-Energy Plant in Shwepyitha Township and inspected the operations of the plant.

Finally, he asked the officials to prepare a healthy workplace and provide training for the employees to improve the capacity of the staff and ensure the safe disposal of waste. — MNA

MoC oversees importation of essential anti-COVID-19 equipment

THE Ministry of Commerce supervises the import of necessary medical supplies as well as anti-COVID-19 devices critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities through border trade posts, international airports and sea-ports.

A total of 300 Covid Test Kits were imported through the Yangon International Airport

yesterday.

Officials from relevant departments provided necessary facilities to beef up the standard operating procedures-SOP for the import process.

The public can browse the Ministry's Website — www.commerce.gov.mm — for notifications on the importation of medicines and related accessories. — MNA

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 09:00 hrs M.S.T on 22-6-2022)

Flood Bulletin

FLOOD condition of Ayeyawady River The water level of Ayeyawady River at Shwegu has exceeded by about (2) inches above its danger level on (21-6-2022) at (18:30) pm.

According to the (8:30) am MST observation today, it has fallen below its danger level.

MoRAC identifies 33 colonial-era buildings as archaeological sites

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture has designated 33 colonial-era buildings in Mandalay Region as the ancient buildings. The Ministry issued Order 30/2022, exercising its authority under Sub-section (b) of Section 34 of the Preservation and Protection of Ancient Buildings Law.

These buildings included



A renown BEHS 10 where King Thibaw went to school in Mandalay (above). Zaygyo Clock Tower (before-up) and (now-down).



Shwe Yay Hsaung Monastery in Chanmyathazi Township, Nyaung Kan Monastery, Zay Cho Clock Tower, Methodist Church, Myoma Baptist Church, St. Mary's Church, Ye Zarni Yeiktha, Father Laphone Church, Myin Wun Monastery (Alae Building), Myin Wun Monastery (Shwe Kyaung), Myin Wun Monastery (Pitakat Monastery), Myin Wun Monastery (Ma Soe Yein Monastery), Maha Withudayon Taikthit, Chris-

tian Religious Building, St. John Church, Shwe Zarli Monastery in Thabeikkyin Township, District General Administration Department, U Sa Yut (Seed trading house), Department of Forest (Hinthar Myaing), Myaing Haymar, Hnin Si Myaing, Mya Sein Yaung, Thiri Myaing Hotel, Taw Win Thante Building, Kali Temple, Public Hospital and two public schools in PyinOoLwin. — TWA/GNLM

Over 200 Japanese companies send labour demand letters

MYANMAR receives Demand Letters from 206 Japanese companies for Myanmar migrant workers, according to the statement of the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo.

The Myanmar Embassy reviews the Demand Letters sent by the Ministry of Labour via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a timely manner, it said.

The Japan-based labour supervising company inspect the factories and companies whether they exist in Japan or not and send the lists to the Ministry of Labour via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Myanmar workers between 100 and 500 are sent per month.

The Japanese government put Myanmar in the Blue colour group of COVID-19 on 1 June and the workers in Japan do not need to undergo quarantine. Japan set the entry ban and lifted the ban in early March 2022, and allowed the Myanmar workers under the law.

The Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo sent 94 demand letters to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs between 14 and 31 May, the statement added. — TWA/GNLM



One garment workplace in Japan.

MAI to resume Incheon-Yangon-Incheon flights 3 days per week

MYANMAR Airways International (MAI) has announced that Incheon-Yangon-Incheon flights will resume three days per week starting from 6 July.

Currently, Korean Air is operating the Yangon-Incheon flight. After the suspension for over two years, Korean Air (KE) resumed flying. At present, both Korean Air and MAI are selling the tickets for the Yangon-Incheon flight to be resumed on 6 July. The flights will fly weekly on Tuesday, Fri-

day and Sunday.

In addition, Nok Air will also resume Yangon-Bangkok flights on 1 July and will fly every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) is also operating regular flights to Singapore, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur. MAI flies to Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Tokyo, Singapore, Seoul, Guangzhou, Dubai, Phnom Penh, Kolkata and Delhi on scheduled dates.

— TWA/GNLM



An MAI aircraft is preparing for embarking and disembarking passengers.

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals
Enterprise

300,000 fingerlings added into Myitmakha River, Bago Region



The Bago Region chief minister and officials are seen planting fingerlings into the Myitmakha River.

A ceremony of adding fish fingerlings into the Myitmakha River was held on 21 June afternoon, near the Sanyway Village in Thayawady Township. Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win, the directors-general, departmental personnel and officials planted 300,000 fingerlings of Cyprinus carpio, silver barb and Rohu into the Myitmakha River.

A total of 12.44 million fingerlings were planned to be put in irrigation canals, creeks and rivers of the Bago Region this year and 1.7 million various fingerlings were targeted to be added in Thayawady District.

Afterwards, the chief minister viewed the conditions of the experimental fields of sunflower crop and kitchen plants and then gave instructions to plant these crops mainly in alluvial lands and use natural fertilizers. He also coordinated with officials for a firm market.

In addition, the chief minister observed the students who were studying in peace at the Basic Education Primary School of Zayatgyi Village in Thayawady Township and instructed responsible personnel to build a temporary classroom and a playground for the needs of the learning environment. — MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, lead (metal), foodstuffs, unregistered motorbikes and vehicles seized

SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, effective action is being taken to prevent illegal trade under the law.

Under the instructions of the Tanintharyi Region of the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force, a combined inspection team made inspections on 20 June, according to information.

They seized 2,901 visses of illegally stored lead (metal) worth K159,555,000 at the Myitta Yinaye Parahita monastery compound in Shanchaung ward of Kalwin village-tract of Myeik District

and effective action is being taken under Myanmar Mines Law.

Similarly, on the same day, a combined inspection team confiscated foodstuffs without official documents at an estimated value of K985,000 at the Phayagyi Tollgate and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, on 21 and 22 June, a total of 2.9912 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K1,694,736 in the Bago and Thayawady districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, inspections led by the Myanmar Police Force

were carried out under the management of the Sagaing Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force on 21 June.

An unregistered Canda motorbike worth K200,000 and an unregistered Toyota Crown car worth K4 million in Shwebo township and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Therefore, seven arrests estimated at K166,434,736 were made on three consecutive days from 20 to 22 June, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA



Seized commodities in Bago Region.

Over 190 tonnes of illegal timbers seized across country

THE Department of Forest of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation is implementing the detection and seizure of illegal timbers and forest products in a variety of ways, including the Community Monitoring and Reporting System (CMRS).

According to the data sent

by the Forest Department, 134.9886 tonnes of illegal teak, 23.0544 tonnes of hardwood, and another 41.2958 tonnes, totalling 199.3388 tonnes of illegal timbers were seized with 28 suspects and nine vehicles between 13 and 19 June in regions/states and Nay Pyi Taw, according to the Department of Forest. — MNA



Officials confiscate illegal timbers.

Drugs seized in some townships across Myanmar



Seized drugs and vehicle.

Hlaing (aka) Soe Win in Dagon Myo Thit (North) township and captured 10,000 stimulant tablets.

According to the investigation, 260,000 more stimulant tablets worth K270 million were captured in a house of Myint Thein (aka) Ganay (aka) Thargyi in Dagon Myothit (North) township at 3 pm.

In addition, at 12:20 pm on the same day, Police stopped and examined a Hyundai Starex car driven by Kyaw Lin Htun on the Ywangan-Hanmyintmo Road in Ywangan township and captured K175 million worth 350,000 stimulant tablets.

The suspects were prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the MPF stated. — MNA

A combined team consisting of MPF members searched a Dong Feng fuel bowser which was stopped in front of the Bamboo strip Buddha image in PyinOoLwin township at 6:30 am on 20 June.

They seized 28.6 kilo-

grammes of heroin and 480,000 stimulant tablets worth K1.435 billion. The driver was missing.

On 21 June at 11:15 am, Police examined a Toyota Corolla Fielder car driven by Myint Thein (aka) Ganay (aka) Thargyi accompanied by Aye

LOCAL BUSINESS

Growing demand, low inventory elevate rice prices

THE growing demand and low inventory in the domestic market drove the prices of rice and paddy up, according to the rice market.

At present, a competitive demand in the domestic and foreign markets pushed up the rice prices across the regions and states including Yangon. Moreover, the rice millers and traders are also purchasing the paddy at a high price while the inventory is low.

The statistics released by the Aya Trade Centre indicated that the prices of Pawsan paddy varieties move in the range of K1.15 million and K1.23 million per 100 baskets in each township at present. This being so, the price reflected an increase of K20,000-30,000 per 100 baskets in early June.

The prices of monsoon



Over one million tonnes of rice and broken rice were delivered to external markets in the first five months of 2022, with over 630,000 tonnes of rice and 380,000 tonnes of broken rice.

paddy (Emahta variety) reach K810,000 to over K890,000 per 100 baskets. The price is up by K65,000 per 100 baskets compared to the prices recorded in early June.

Similarly, summer paddy (Emahta variety) fetches K750,000 to over K850,000 per 100 baskets. The price is K55,000-60,000 per 100 baskets higher than the prices record-

ed in early June.

Moreover, the prices of rice also rose by K1,000-2,500 per 108-pound bag.

The price rally of paddy is expected to continue on the

back of strong demand in the domestic and export markets, said an official of Bayintnaung Rice Depot.

The prices of broken rice are relatively high and hit around K29,000-30,000 per bag.

The rising demand and a shortage of supply might result in an upward trend in the price, market observers analyzed.

Myanmar's broken rice is primarily shipped to China, Belgium, the Philippines, Spain, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Poland and the Netherlands. Over one million tonnes of rice and broken rice were delivered to external markets in the first five months of 2022, with over 630,000 tonnes of rice and 380,000 tonnes of broken rice, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation. — NN/GNLM

White sesame price climbs during harvest season



One female worker is harvesting the white sesame.

THE white sesame seeds are abundantly flowing into the market and the price is also high during the harvest season, according to traders from Mandalay market.

The price increased from K178,000 to K202,000 per bag depending on quality.

White sesame is offered K57,000 per basket in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region. The locals are doing well with the high price at the beginning of the sesame season, said U Kyaw San, a summer sesame grower in Nyaungpinsauk village, Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region.

The Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Man-

agement provided adequate irrigated water to summer sesame plantations in Pwintbyu Township through the Mezali diversion weir. Therefore, the summer sesame is successfully yielded with 15 baskets per acre.

In order to have edible oil sufficiency, locals in Pwintbyu Township are executing oil crop cultivation. About 60,928 acres of sesame (Sinyadana 4, white sesame, black sesame (Samone) and Theitpan black sesame) were projected in the township, said an official of the department.

The prices of sesame stood at K220,000-235,000 per bag of black sesame, and K195,000-

202,000 per bag of white sesame.

Among the agricultural products that are allowed to be exported through the border posts, oil crops (peanut and sesame seeds) except black sesame are temporarily suspended for exports.

The Trade Department released a statement on 9 May to discuss with the related organizations to ensure peanut and sesame export ban. The export ban over peanut and sesame except black sesame was effective starting from 9 May 2022.

Myanmar's sesame was earlier exported to China, South Korea, Japan, Singapore and China Taipei (Taiwan). However, it is now relying solely on China and the shipments to other foreign countries have certain difficulties. Additionally, some regions turned to other crop substitutions over the sesame due to the late monsoon season, resulting in a drop in acreages compared to the previous years. The growers also faced a high input burden. — Hlaing Win Lay (Pwintbyumyay), KK/GNLM

Myanmar ships \$79.58 mln worth of 254,930-tonne corn to foreign markets in May

MYANMAR conveyed over 254,930 tonnes of corns to external markets through sea trade and border posts in May, with an estimated export value of US\$79.58 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar shipped \$12.195 million worth 38,300 tonnes of corns to foreign trade partners via maritime trade. The majority of the corns were delivered to the Philippines, followed by Thailand and Bangladesh in May.

Additionally, Myanmar sent over 216,630 tonnes of corns to neighbouring countries via cross-border posts, generating an income of \$67.385 million. A total of 215,974 tonnes of corns were exported to Thailand, while 695 tonnes were sent to China. The export volume via border trade reflected an increase of 191,180 tonnes (valued at \$59.632 million) compared to the data recorded in April 2022.

In the 2021-2022 corn season (October-September), Myanmar targets to export about 2 million tonnes of corn to external markets, said U Min Khaing, chair of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Thailand gives green light to corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand.

Therefore, only two months (July and August) are left for corn exports under Form D exemption.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — GNLM



The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year.

OPINION

Be grateful to the benefactor

EVERYBODY experiences they have to be grateful to benefactors as they have sought any help and assistance from them. Only when they have to remember the gratitude of benefactors and must try to pay back the debt of gratitude to those benefactors as much as possible will they be humane.

In fact, everybody takes any help from another one at least once in their lives to ensure a smooth process of work. They might take physical and mental assistance such as taking advice, money, food, water, shelter, road direction, counselling for satisfaction and so on from others. Due to taking these sorts of help from others, the receivers may change their trends of life for ensuring betterment. Hence, they should not forget their gratitude to benefactors.

Gratitude receivers need to take care of the situation to pay back the debt of gratitude to their benefactors in any way. Even if they miss the chance to do so, they have to bring the consequences of gratitude throughout their lifetime. They should never forget it. It is because benefactors contributed their bits of help to the receivers to reach the current status. Otherwise, they would be inhumane. Those who forget the gratitude of benefactors may face universal punishment for their sins. It is because the third law of great scientist Newton stated that for every action (force) in nature there is an equal and opposite reaction. Hence, if one had sought help, one would have given a similar help to others as much as possible.

Actually, the vicious circle is very strange for all living beings. If one commits any action without intention, one will face similar action called reaction. In the Universe, all things and all persons have to face reactions and responses at any time. For instance, an image of a person can be reflected in a mirror. They have to harvest the fruits of trees they planted as they liked. Only when the first doers perform good things will they receive similar things. It can be said that such a theory is a nature of the Universe.

This is why everybody needs to culture good morale. They have to avoid any misdeeds and insults against others even though the latter commit any sins. Committing an insult would not be endless in the vicious circle of responding to each other alternatively. Only when all avoid misdeeds will they all escape from the punishment of the Universe.

G-20 health, finance chiefs to find ways to address future pandemics

HEALTH and finance ministers from the Group of 20 major economies are set to gather Tuesday to work out ways to deal with future pandemics, preventing them from becoming an economic, social and political crisis.

On Monday, at least 17 of 20 health ministers of the group agreed in principle to harmonize global health protocol standards that will make the mobility of global travellers easier, according to a source close to the meeting held in Yogyakarta, an ancient city in central Java. Only three countries — Argentina, Brazil and China —

have not expressed their decision, the source said. “We realize, as economists, that when a health crisis happens...no people move. When no people move, no goods move. When goods cannot move, the economy doesn’t move,” Indonesian Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin said.

“Then...the health crisis becomes an economic crisis, economic crisis becomes a social crisis and a social crisis becomes a political crisis,” he added.

QR codes containing vaccine certificates

A common global framework

to read QR codes containing vaccine certificates and other information is now being developed, and it is expected to be launched after G-20 leaders adopt it during their summit in November, health officials said.

Initially, the system will be able to read certificates from G-20 member countries, but in the future, it will be made open to all countries in the world.

The health ministers have also agreed to form a financial intermediary fund and will discuss it in detail with the finance ministers Tuesday.

SOURCE: KYODO



Minister of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, Budi Gunadi Sadikin opened the 1st G20 Health Ministers Meeting in Yogyakarta on Monday, 20 June. A couple (C) dressed in superhero costumes walk through a commuter train to promote health awareness to prevent the transmission of the COVID-19 coronavirus in Yogyakarta on 11 February 2021. PHOTO: AGUNG SUPRIYANTO / AFP

Myanmar Gazette

Head of Service Organization transferred and appointed

THE State Administration Council has transferred and appointed U Nay Win, Director-General of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, as Director-General of the Department of Youth Affairs of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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Siddhartha and Jonathan Livingston Seagull novels: a brief glimpse

Centenary publication of *Ulysses* and *Siddhartha*

THE year 2022 is the centenary of the publication of the novel *Ulysses* by author James Joyce (2 February 1882-13 January 1941). This writer has not read Joyce’s very long novel depicting the events concerning the main protagonist Leopold Bloom in a single day (16 June 1904) which reaches around 750 pages!

When I read the events or happenings in the life of ‘Holden Caulfield’ spread over three days in *The Catcher in the Rye* (first published 1951) by J D Salinger (1 January 1919-27 January 2010) I thought that Salinger packed too many events in his narration of the (shall we say) misadventures of teenager Holden Caulfield. But around 750 pages for events, thoughts, diversions, digressions of what occurred in a single day in the life of the main protagonist Leopold Bloom in *Ulysses*? Yours truly do not intend to embark on such a reading but compliment those in the past 100 years (several million?) readers who did and continue to do so.

The year 2022 is also the centenary of the publication of a perhaps less well-known or less-commemorated novel *Siddhartha*

written by Hermann Hesse (2 July 1877-9 August 1962) originally in the German language. There are many versions of English translations one of which was by Hilda Rosner which was first published in 1951. English translation by Hilda Rosner of Hesse’s *Siddhartha* and the first publication of Salinger’s *Catcher* took place in the same year of 1951 but it goes without saying that in America (where *Catcher* was published) and the English reading public elsewhere *Catcher* made more of a stir than the translation of *Siddhartha*.

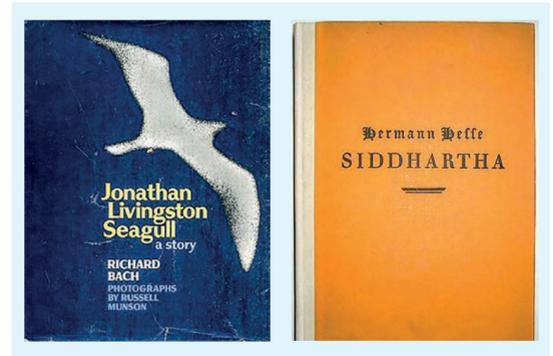
Vasudeva ‘going into the woods’ at the end of the novel *Siddhartha*

Siddhartha was the name of the historical Gautama (spelled as Gotama in the novel) Buddha when he was a prince and before he obtained enlightenment and became the Buddha. The title of Hesse’s novel was not (not) a reference to the Buddha but to a (as the start of the novel states) ‘handsome Brahmin son’ by the name (also) of Siddhartha who flourished during the Buddha’s time. Siddhartha leaves the life of Brahmin’s son to seek and find

his own ‘liberation’. Siddhartha’s companion in his search was his childhood friend Govinda. Siddhartha and Govinda meet a Buddhist community of monks and Govinda finds his vocation there. Hesse narrates a meeting between the Buddha and the Brahmin’s son Siddhartha. When the Brahmin’s son meets the Enlightened One (the Buddha) he respectfully questions what Siddhartha (and Hesse) describes as the Buddha’s doctrine of ‘escape from the world’. Hesse writes that the Buddha tells the young man that he speaks ‘cleverly’ but also reminds Siddhartha ‘to be aware of too much cleverness’.

Leaving behind his childhood friend Govinda as a Buddhist monk Hesse’s Siddhartha continues his journey living a life of dissipation and sensuous indulgence. After the ennui of the sensuous dissipation years, Siddhartha meets and befriends a ferryman by the name of Vasudeva where for years the two now ageing boatmen ferry passengers living a simple life in a hut beside a river. Ultimately, just as (in a sense) in their youths Siddhartha left Govinda in the Buddhist community of monks, after years of ferrying together

By Dr Myint Zan



the boatman Vasudeva tells Siddhartha that he is ‘going (in) to the woods’. The curial or maybe not that curial curiosity that comes to mind is: Siddhartha and Vasudeva live (sort) of in the ‘woods’ (albeit woods beside a river) and now Vasudeva is going into the woods by himself leaving Siddhartha? How would Vasudeva live ‘in the woods’? Or am I being too literal in querying what does the phrase Vasudeva ‘going into the woods’ mean? Does Vasudeva pass away or obtain or reach if not ‘a higher form of existence’ then a different dimension? Talking about dimensions or a higher form of existence brings me to a book published

about 48 years after the German version of Hesse’s *Siddhartha*.

Jonathan Seagull disappearing into another ‘shore’ in *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*

Richard Bach (born 23 June 1936) first published his novel or novella *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* in 1970. In just over 50 years it is said that *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* has sold over 60 million copies. Almost certainly worldwide and over the decades *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* sold more than *Siddhartha*. In Burma/Myanmar itself there are 3 different Burmese translations of Bach’s book. The first Burmese

translation that appeared in 1973 was by the late (Colonel) Ba Than (Dhammika) (1914-19 July 1987). Perhaps several years later the late Daw Khin Myo Chit (1 May 1915- 2 January 1999) did another translation. There is a third translation by Htin Lin. The version that I have read is by Ba Than (Dhammika). In contrast, the late Saya Paragu (10 November 1921-9 April 2011) published (not from the original German but from the English translation) a Burmese translation of Hesse’s *Siddhartha*. Saya Paragu’s translation was perhaps first published in the late 1960s. Dr Aung Gyi (born 15 February 1953) (retired Professor of Medicine), in an article in *Myanmar Affairs*, published around 2020 pointed out several of the mistranslations (based on the English version) of Paragu.

Just as Siddhartha was a human seeker in *Siddhartha* Jonathan Seagull was a seagull seeker (so to speak) in *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*. Quite a few phrases in *Siddhartha* (from the translation) are eloquent, inspiring and noteworthy. When Siddhartha was in his sensuous, indulgent stage, in spite of his being cheated in his mercantile dealings Siddhartha was still of the view that ‘people are children’. And Richard Bach writes eloquently that for seekers

like Jonathan Seagull ‘... we can lift ourselves out of ignorance ... we can be free; we can learn to fly’.

Siddhartha’s the Brahmin’s son ultimate *guru* or teacher was the ferryman Vasudeva. Jonathan Seagull’s initial pupil was the ‘Fletcher Seagull’. Just as Vasudeva after guiding Siddhartha in the novel *Siddhartha* leaves him and disappears into the woods, at the end of *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* Jonathan Seagull’s body ‘shimmers’ and disappears. As his disciple, Fletcher Seagull watches in amazement and with sorrow, Jonathan Seagull says to Fletcher Seagull ‘Don’t believe what your eyes are telling you’. In *Siddhartha* after Vasudeva leaves his companion for the woods, Siddhartha meets (one more and the final time) his childhood friend Govinda.

Hermann Hesse’s novel ends with the sentence that many images appear through Govinda’s mind as he kissed Siddhartha’s forehead and watches his friend’s face through tears which ‘reminded him [Govinda] all that is holy and noble in his life’.

Richard Bach’s novel ends with Fletcher Seagull about to teach his new seagull pupils and saying to himself and the disappeared Jonathan Seagull: ‘No limits Jonathan? Then the time’s

not so distant when I’m going to appear on your beach, and show you a thing or two about flying ... [and as he looks at his new pupils] he more than liked he loved what it was that he saw’.

‘Wisdom’ and inspiration in the concluding sentences of *Siddhartha* and *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*

There are similarities and differences in interpretations of the themes, symbolisms and message(s) of the two novels (or) novellas of the gifted writers Herman Hesse and Richard Bach. The late poet Robert Frost (26 March 1874-29 January 1963) stated that ‘poetry begins in delight and ends in wisdom’. There are (in the generic sense of the word) snippets of wisdom in *Siddhartha* and *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*. The affecting concluding sentences of these two novellas even if they are not (entirely) joyous have touched and inspired many readers.

This article commemorates the 100th anniversary of the publication in 1922 of *Siddhartha* by Hermann Hesse and the 86th birthday on 23 June 2022 of Richard Bach the author of *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*.

ENVIRON WORLD

Spain bets on green hydrogen in clean energy push



Producing 'green' hydrogen is key for fuel-cell technology to not create emissions. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

AS Europe seeks to move way from fossil fuels, Spain is racing ahead in developing green hydrogen, aided by a growing wind and solar power complex in efforts to decarbonise its economy.

Spain accounted for 20 per cent of the world's green hydrogen projects in the first quarter, second only to the United States,

home to more than half of them, according to Wood Mackenzie consulting firm.

"A lot of countries are interested in green hydrogen, but in Spain the sector has rapidly accelerated" in recent months, said Rafael Cossent, research associate professor in energy economics at Comillas Pontifical

University in Madrid.

The sector is still in its infancy, but the war in Ukraine has prompted the European Union to double its production goal for 2030 as part of efforts to reduce its dependence on Russian energy supplies.

"Spain has become a very attractive country for green hydrogen," EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said during a visit to the country in May. "A shift is happening ... to mass-scale competitive hydrogen".

Green hydrogen is produced by passing an electric current through water to split it between hydrogen and oxygen, a process called electrolysis. It is considered green because the electricity comes from renewable sources of energy that don't create any harmful emissions.

And while fossil fuels emit harmful greenhouse gases when they burn, hydrogen only emits harmless water vapour.—AFP

Warming climate upends Arctic mining town

TOR Selnes owes his life to a lamp. He miraculously survived a fatal avalanche that shed light on the vulnerability of Svalbard, a region warming faster than anywhere else, to human-caused climate change. On the morning of 19 December 2015, the 54-year-old school monitor was napping at home in Longyearbyen, the main town in the Norwegian archipelago halfway between mainland Norway and the North Pole.

Suddenly, a mass of snow hurtled down from Sukkertoppen, the mountain overlooking the town, taking with it two rows of houses.

Selnes' home was swept away 80 metres (263 feet). The room where he was sleeping was completely demolished amid "a scraping sound like metal against a road". To avoid being buried under the snow, he grabbed onto a ceiling lamp.

"It's like I was in a washing machine, surrounded by planks, glass, sharp objects, everything

you can imagine", recalls Selnes.

He survived, suffering just scrapes and bruises. His three children, who were in another part of the house, were unhurt. But two neighbours — Atle, with whom he played poker the night before, and Nikoline, a two-year-old girl — lost their lives. The accident, which had been

unthinkable in locals' eyes, sent shockwaves through the small community of under 2,500 people.

"There's been a lot of talk of climate change ever since I came... but it was kind of difficult to take in or to see," author and journalist Line Nagell Ylvisaker, who has lived in Longyearbyen since 2005, tells AFP.—AFP



Longyearbyen is a small mining town on Spitsbergen Island, in Norway's Svalbard archipelago. Picture taken on 6 May 2022 shows houses in Longyearbyen, located on Spitsbergen island, in Svalbard Archipelago, northern Norway. **PHOTO: JONATHAN NACKSTRAND / AFP**

New Mexico's largest wildfire sparked by missteps of US Forest Service

US Forest Service has admitted that multiple miscalculations and errors during its routine prescribed burn had sparked the largest wildfire in the history of western mountain state New Mexico.

The prescribed burn, part of a forest-management plan to thin trees and therefore reduce the risk of more serious damaging blazes, ultimately started the Hermits Peak fire which has burned over 341,000 acres in the state since 6 April, the Forest Service said in a review issued Tuesday. Fire managers had followed a plan within approved limits, but "the prescribed fire was burning under much drier conditions than they understood", said the review.

The wildfire, which has been 72 per cent contained as of Tuesday, has destroyed hundreds of homes, forcing thousands of residents evacuated.

Fire personnel made a series of missteps. They "did not cease ignitions or suppress the prescribed fire after clear indications of high-fire intensity", used National Weather Service forecasts instead of relying on "local expertise" to understand variable wind conditions and some were using a radio frequency that made them unreachable on several occasions, said the review. District fire employees also perceived pressure to "accomplish the mission", which may have led to taking greater risks, the inquiry found.—Xinhua



The wildfire, which has been 72 per cent contained as of Tuesday, has destroyed hundreds of homes, forcing thousands of residents evacuated. **PHOTO: SRGBLOG/XINHUA**

Crunch talks kick off on global pact to protect nature

NEGOTIATORS from almost 200 countries will begin crunch biodiversity talks in Nairobi on Tuesday, working towards a much-delayed global pact to protect nature from the damage wrought by human activities.

International efforts to protect the natural world — including the air we breathe, the food we eat and the water we drink — have been severely slowed by the Covid-19 pandemic, while the destruction continues at a frantic pace.

As the meeting kicked off, the UN confirmed that the thrice-delayed COP15 biodiversity summit — originally set for

Kunming, China in 2020 — will now take place from 5 to 17 December this year in Montreal, Canada.

Country representatives in Nairobi are tasked with hammering out details of a draft text outlining a global framework to "live in harmony with nature" by 2050, with key targets to be met by 2030. Many hope the landmark deal, when finalised, will be as ambitious in its goals to protect life on Earth as the Paris agreement was for climate change — even if the United States is not a party to UN efforts to conserve nature.—AFP

PANDEMIC WORLD

Delayed Tokyo 2020 Olympics cost double original estimate

THE final price tag for last year's Tokyo Olympics was more than double the city's original 2013 estimate after a one-year coronavirus postponement added to the already hefty bill.

The organizing committee said Tuesday the Games had cost 1.42 trillion yen, the equivalent of \$13 billion at the time. At today's rates, with the yen at a 24-year low against the dollar, the figure would be \$10.4 billion.

Tokyo 2020 was held a year later than planned because of the pandemic — the first Olympics postponed in peacetime — and spectators were banned

from nearly all events, which were held under strict Covid-19 countermeasures.

The Games cost twice the 734 billion yen that the Tokyo Games organisers had predicted in their bid to the International Olympic Committee in 2013, but less than the final pre-Games budget unveiled in December 2020.

Despite losing out on ticket sales, organizers saved some cash by simplifying events and avoiding the cost of hosting millions of fans.

The organizing committee, which disbands at the end of

June, said the event's final cost was 200 billion yen less than projected in its pre-Games budget in 2020 and 29 billion yen less than the final slimmed-down costs prediction in December 2021.

"It's up to everyone involved in this event to pass on the legacy of the Tokyo Olympics to the next generation," said Tokyo 2020 chief Seiko Hashimoto.

Tokyo experienced a Covid-19 surge last year as the Olympics approached, fuelling fears the event could worsen outbreaks in Japan and possibly the world.—AFP



People wearing face masks walk in Tokyo's Ginza area on 1 Aug 2021, as the Tokyo Olympics goes on with COVID-19 cases remaining rampant in the capital. PHOTO: KYODO

NEWS IN BRIEF

Moderna to build UK centre for mRNA vaccines

MODERNA and the United Kingdom government on Wednesday announced a deal for the United States biotech firm to build a cutting-edge centre to develop and produce mRNA vaccines for respiratory diseases, including Covid-19.

The company and Health Ministry said in a joint statement that work could start on the manufacturing and research and development centre as early as this year.

The first UK-developed mRNA vaccine is scheduled to be produced in 2025. No financial details or location for the centre were given but ministers said the deal would give patients on the state-run National Health Service access to "next-generation" vaccines and treatments.—AFP

Saudi ban on travel to India lifted

AN official source at the Ministry of Interior of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced the lifting of a citizens' direct and indirect travel suspension to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Turkey, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and the Republic of India.

The source stated that this decision is based on the follow-up to the epidemiological situation of the Coronavirus pandemic, and what has been submitted by health authorities regarding the global epidemiological situation.— ANI

China set to power world economic growth against COVID-19 headwinds

CHINA remains the world's most appealing investment destination despite the near-term headwinds from the COVID-19 pandemic, noted representatives from multinational corporate giants and industry insiders at the third

Qingdao Multinationals Summit in the coastal city of Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province.

Themed "Multinationals and China," this year's summit focused on topics including global industrial and supply chain recon-

struction in the post-pandemic era, implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and promotion of institutional opening up, multinationals' role in enhancing economic and social development, and the Yellow River Basin ecological protection and high-quality development.

More than 5,600 industry leaders, company delegates, ambassadors, scholars, and government officials participated in the summit online and offline.

A total of 99 key foreign investment projects with a combined investment of 15.6 billion US dollars were signed at the three-day summit that opened on Sunday. The investment fields mainly involve high-end equipment, new energy and new materials, new-generation information technology, as well as modern finance, agriculture, and service.— Xinhua



Visitors view the Exhibition on Multinationals and China during the third Qingdao Multinationals Summit in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, 19 June 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/LI ZIHENG



Aftermath of COVID-19 still disrupting US daily life: CNN

REPERCUSSIONS of the COVID-19 pandemic are still disrupt-

ing daily life in the United States, and widening political divides may hamper the country's capacity to solve crises, CNN said Monday.

"Many key aspects of economic, social and national life that were once viewed as smoothly running certainties are

out of joint," said a CNN analysis.

The pandemic has left "a complicated legacy of challenges," and some of them are threatening "Americans' economic prospects and sense of safety and wellbeing, like the growing fears of a recession," it added.—Xinhua

Pedestrians walk past a COVID-19 testing site on Times Square in New York, the United States, 17 May 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/WANG YING

ECONOMY WORLD



Aerial photo taken on 7 March 2022 shows vehicles to be loaded onto a freight ship at Yantai Port, east China's Shandong Province. **PHOTO: TANG KE/XINHUA**

China encourages renminbi settlement in new models of foreign trade

CHINA'S central bank has ramped up support for renminbi settlement in new forms and models of foreign trade to better serve the real economy and facilitate trade and investment.

In a recent circular, the People's Bank of China improved policies for cross-border renminbi business in e-commerce and other new models of foreign trade. The business scope of payment institutions will be

expanded from goods and services trade to current accounts, and risk prevention and control will be strengthened with clear requirements for authenticity verification and anti-money laundering work, among other issues.

Effective 21 July, the new policies will provide better financial services for trade companies, guide the healthy development of new trade models,

and help stabilize the economy, according to the central bank.

Apart from e-commerce, new forms and models of foreign trade also include market procurement, offshore trade, and overseas warehouses. China has stepped up efforts to boost the growth of these new forms and models of foreign trade to push forward the upgrade of foreign trade and foster new competitive strengths.— Xinhua

Oil turbulence could last five years, ExxonMobil boss warns

CONSUMERS must be prepared to endure up to five years of turbulent oil markets, the head of ExxonMobil said Tuesday, citing under-investment and the coronavirus pandemic.

Energy markets have been roiled by the Ukraine war as Russia has reduced some exports and faced sanctions while Europe has announced plans to wean itself off dependency on Russian fossil fuels in coming years.

Speaking ahead of ExxonMobil's unveiling as the fourth international partner for Qatar's natural gas expansion, chairman and chief executive Darren Woods said major uncertainty lies ahead.

"You are probably looking at three to five years of continued fairly tight markets," Woods told the Qatar Economic Forum. "How that manifests itself in price will obviously be a big

function of demand, which is difficult to predict."

On top of under-investment in finding new oil sources in 2014-2015, Woods said the pandemic "really sucked a lot of revenues out of the industry".

Woods said companies and governments needed to think long-term. "We are going to see a lot of volatility and discontinuity in the market place if we don't get to more thoughtful policies," he predicted.

Representatives from the Middle East energy industry also renewed calls for better planning in consumer countries.

Sheikh Nawaf Saud al-Sabah, chief executive of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, said the company was supplying all customers, but that multinational oil firms were not matching the investment of national oil enterprises.—AFP



Aerial View of a Oil Refinery and Fuel Storage, Hong Kong, China. **PHOTO: CHUNYIP WONG/GETTY/AFP/FILE**

More strike calls cloud summer for European low-cost airlines

EUROPE'S low-cost airlines are facing more strikes this summer as staff in Spain and France announced new walkouts on Tuesday. Trade unions representing Ryanair cabin crew in Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal and Spain have called for strikes this coming weekend, while easyJet's operations in Spain face a nine-day strike next month.

Damien Mourgues, a representative of the SNPNC trade union at Ryanair in France, said the airline doesn't respect rest time laws and is calling for a raise for cabin crew still paid at the minimum wage. Cabin crew will go on strike on Saturday and Sunday.

A strike on the weekend of 12 and 13 June already prompted the cancellation of about 40 Ryanair flights in France, or about a quarter of the total.

Ryanair's low-cost rival

easyJet also faces nine days of strikes on different days in July at the Barcelona, Malaga and Palma de Mallorca airports.

The union said Tuesday that Spanish easyJet cabin crew, with a base pay of 950 euros per month, have the lowest wages of the airline's European bases.

The strikes come as air trav-

el has rebounded since Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted.

But many airlines, which laid off staff during the pandemic, are having trouble rehiring enough workers and have been forced to cancel flights, including easyJet, which has been particularly hard hit by employee shortages.—AFP



Strikes could keep Ryanair flights on the tarmac at peak travel times this summer, but management is unfazed as passengers return en masse. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Bankrupt Sri Lanka allows younger women to work abroad

CRISIS-HIT Sri Lanka on Tuesday reduced to 21 the minimum age at which women can go abroad for work and earn much-needed dollars for the bankrupt economy.

Colombo imposed age restrictions on women working overseas in 2013 after a 17-year-old Sri Lankan nanny was beheaded in Saudi Arabia over the death of a child in her care.

Following outrage over the

execution, only women older than 23 were allowed to go abroad, while for Saudi Arabia the minimum age was set at 25.

But with Sri Lanka in its worst economic crisis since independence, the government on Tuesday eased the rules, including for Saudi Arabia.

"The cabinet of ministers approved the decision to lower the minimum age to 21 years for all countries given the need to

increase foreign employment opportunities," spokesman Bandula Gunawardana told reporters.

Remittances from Sri Lankans working abroad have long been a key source of foreign exchange for the country, bringing in around \$7 billion per year. This number dived during the coronavirus pandemic to \$5.4 billion in 2021 and was forecast to drop under \$3.5 billion this year because of the economic crisis.—AFP

Japan news firms OK to cooperate in negotiations with IT giants

JAPAN'S news outlets have legal grounds to jointly negotiate contracts on the use of their articles on sites run by IT giants, including Yahoo Japan Corp., the antitrust watchdog said Wednesday.

Japan's Fair Trade Commission said media companies would not be violating the antimonopoly law by asking to see the revenue IT firms generate from operating news sites or by cooperating in seeking a standardized written contract. Distribution fees are based on the level of revenue.

But the commission did say it could not allow media firms to limit competition by jointly deciding distribution fees.

News firms have



A woman receives a copy of an extra edition of a newspaper in Hiroshima, western Japan, on 28 Aug 2020, after media reported that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will step down from his post due to his declining health. **PHOTO: KYODO**

been deeply dissatisfied by what they consider unfair compensation for their articles used by online news sites, which have strong connections with advertisers and read-

ers. Cooperation would give them greater negotiating power and could lead to revisions in contract terms with major online companies. It is also

thought that if news firms used a prepared, standard contract, they could broker deals from an equal position.

The commission stated its findings in its fiscal 2021 compilation of consultations. Although the consulting entity is anonymous, major Japanese daily The Asahi Shimbun told Kyodo News it approached the commission in 2021 over whether joint negotiations would contravene the antimonopoly law's promotion of "fair and free competition".

The commission said requesting information from IT companies, using joint contracts and pursuing distribution agreements were not problematic.—Kyodo

US may stop taxing petrol for 3 months to stop prices from rising

US President Joe Biden will ask Congress Wednesday to suspend the federal gas tax for three months as skyrocketing prices cause widespread anger among Americans just months before crucial mid-term elections.

The White House wants to discontinue the 18 cents per gallon tax until September and will call on state governments to do the same to "provide direct relief to American consumers who have been hit with Putin's price hike," a senior administration official said.

The official noted that gas prices — now aver-

aging near \$5 per gallon (3.78 litres) — had gone up almost \$2 since Russian President Vladimir Putin began building up forces on the Ukrainian border earlier this year.

"The president recognizes the significant challenge that high gas prices pose to working families," the official said, while conceding the tax suspension alone would not offset household costs that are rising at the fastest rate in a generation. Biden, whose popularity has plummeted alongside soaring inflation, has made tackling surging prices his top domestic

priority while finding few ready tools at his disposal to directly impact them.

Facing growing public anger over the rising cost of gas, several states

including New York and Connecticut have already suspended fuel taxes, while others have delayed planned tax increases.—AFP



US President Joe Biden is seeking a temporary federal gas tax holiday as prices across the country soar. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

CEO says China to leapfrog in technology development

CHINA is progressing rapidly in the development of aerospace, quantum computing and electric vehicles, which lead to more innovative competition, Paddy Cos-

grave, the founder and CEO of Web Summit and Collision, two of the world's largest and fastest-growing tech conferences, said Tuesday in an interview with Xinhua.

Asked about his views on China's technology developments over the next couple of years, Cosgrave said: "I think it's firstly quite phenomenal. It was re-

ally interesting seeing Huawei file for a patent for a quantum computer chip. I think progress in semiconductors is moving faster than anybody expected."—Xinhua

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 23rd June 2022

lmm@kcyangon.com

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK NORBERG VOY.NO. (225E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK NORBERG VOY.NO. (225E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Signatories to UN nuke ban treaty hold 1st meeting, Japan stays out



Photo taken in Vienna on 21 June 2022, shows the first meeting of state parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE first meeting of parties to a UN treaty banning nuclear weapons started Tuesday in Vienna, with participating countries aiming to build momentum for abolishing the ultimate weapons of war. Though non-signatory countries such as Germany, Norway and the Netherlands are joining the three-day meeting as observers, Japan is not, despite high expectations among survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that it would. The Japanese government has said that without any nuclear weapons state joining the treaty, Japan would rather promote “realistic

efforts” toward a world free of nuclear weapons, while trying to involve those states.

The meeting is expected to conclude Thursday with a political statement and an action plan to chart a course for nuclear abolition and the salvation of “hibakusha” – survivors and others who have been physically affected by nuclear radiation – as well as the restoration of environments contaminated by nuclear tests. The treaty is the first international pact outlawing nuclear weapons development, testing, possession and use. The treaty, which finds the complete elimination of such

weapons as the only way to guarantee nuclear weapons are never used again, took effect in January last year. The United States, China, Russia and other nuclear-armed nations are not part of it, and Japan has stood aligned with the United States as it has a long-standing security alliance with Washington that offers the shelter of its nuclear umbrella.

Survivors of the 1945 US atomic bombings and signatory countries were calling for Japan’s attendance as an observer as the only nation to have suffered the devastating consequences of such bombings.—Kyodo

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia vows ‘serious’ consequences over Lithuania rail transit ban

RUSSIA’S security council chief Nikolai Patrushev on Tuesday warned EU and NATO member Lithuania of “serious” consequences over restrictions on the rail transit of EU-sanctioned goods to Moscow’s exclave of Kaliningrad.

Moscow accused the Baltic nation of banning the rail transit of goods subject to sanctions imposed by the European Union over Russia’s military intervention in Ukraine.

“Russia will certainly respond to such hostile actions,” Patrushev said at a regional se-

curity meeting in Kaliningrad, a Russian region bordering Lithuania and Poland.

He added that “appropriate measures” are in the works and they “will be taken in the near future”. “Their consequences will have a serious negative impact on the population of Lithuania,” he said in remarks reported by Russian news agencies.

Also on Tuesday, Russia’s foreign ministry summoned the EU ambassador to Moscow, Markus Ederer, over the “anti-Russian restrictions” on cargo transit between Kaliningrad and

mainland Russia.

“The inadmissibility of such actions, which violate the relevant legal and political obligations of the European Union and lead to an escalation of tensions, was pointed out,” the ministry said in a statement.

Speaking after the meeting, Ederer said he called on the Russian side to “remain calm” and “resolve this issue diplomatically”, TASS news agency reported.

Moscow has demanded that Lithuania immediately lift the restrictions, which Vilnius says were taken in compliance



Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov called the restriction of rail transit “an element of the blockade”. **PHOTO: VITALY NEVAR/TASS/AFP**

with European sanctions over Ukraine.

Wedged between EU and NATO members Lithuania and Poland, the heavily militarized exclave of Kaliningrad does not

share a land border with Russia. The region on the shores of the Baltic Sea is the base of Russia’s Baltic Fleet and Moscow says it has deployed nuclear-capable Iskander missiles there.—AFP

EU clears path to granting Ukraine ‘candidate status’

EU officials said Tuesday that there was no opposition within the 27-nation bloc to granting war-torn Ukraine “candidate status”, ahead of a summit expected to green light the move. The bloc’s executive arm last week proposed taking the symbolic first step to put Ukraine on the years-long path towards EU membership in a strong sign of support as Kyiv battles Russia’s military onslaught.

A two-day summit from Thursday looks set to approve the move to formally name Ukraine and neighbouring Moldova “candidates” to start negotiations on joining.—AFP



EU officials said Tuesday that there was no opposition within the 27-nation bloc to granting war-torn Ukraine “candidate status”, ahead of a summit expected to green light the move. **PHOTO: AFP**

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Eastern city suffers ‘catastrophic’ shelling

UKRAINE says Russian shelling has caused “catastrophic destruction” in the eastern industrial city of Lysychansk, which lies just across a river from Severodonetsk where Russian and Ukrainian troops have been locked in battle for weeks.

Regional governor Sergiy Gaiday says that non-stop shelling of Lysychansk on Monday destroyed ten residential blocks and a police station, killing at least one person.—AFP

Russian TV beamed into Kherson

A Russian television signal is turned on in the occupied southern region of Kherson, in the latest move aimed at strengthening Moscow’s control over the area.

Russia has already introduced the ruble in Kherson -- the city of the same name was the first to fall to Russia within days of the invasion -- and begun distributing Russian passports.—AFP

Saudi crown prince pays first visit to Turkey since Khashoggi murder

SAUDI Arabia's de facto ruler will on Wednesday take another step towards breaking his international isolation by paying his first visit to Turkey since the murder in 2018 of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the kingdom's Istanbul consulate.

The talks in Ankara between Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan come one month before a visit to Riyadh by US president Joe Biden, for a regional summit focused on the energy crunch caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Erdogan's decision to revive ties with one of his biggest rivals is also driven in large part by economics and trade.

Turks' living standards are imploding one year before a general election that poses one of the biggest challenges of Erdogan's mercurial two-decade rule.

After Khashoggi's death, Erdogan's Islamic-rooted government released drip-by-drip details of the gruesome murder that deeply embarrassed the Saudi crown prince. But it is now drumming up investment and central bank assistance from the very countries it opposed on ideological grounds in the wake of the Arab Spring revolts. "I think this is probably one of the most significant visits to Ankara by a foreign leader in almost a decade," said the Washington Institute's Turkey specialist Soner Cagaptay.—AFP



The talks in Ankara between Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan come one month before a visit to Riyadh by US president Joe Biden, for a regional summit focused on the energy crunch caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. PHOTO: MOONSTARTV/AFP/FILE

NEWS IN BRIEF

Europol says criminal gang broken up in the Netherlands

AN international police operation broke up a criminal group suspected of stealing millions of euros through fraudulent online "phishing" in Belgium and the Netherlands, Europol said on Tuesday.

The gang sent out a link to a fake bank website to get people's banking details and clear out their accounts, Europol alleged.

"The investigative leads suggest that the criminal network managed to steal several million euros from their victims with this fraudulent activity," said Europol.

Police arrested nine people and raided 24 houses in the Netherlands, seizing firearms, ammunition, jewellery, electronic devices, cash and cryptocurrency.

Belgian and Dutch police collaborated in the operation, said Europol.

Police were also investigating members of the same gang for possible drugs and firearms trafficking, said the statement.—AFP

Italy's government hit by Five Star party split

ITALIAN Prime Minister Mario Draghi's coalition government was rocked by fresh turmoil Tuesday after the largest party in parliament split, with the foreign minister starting a breakaway group.

Luigi Di Maio said his decision to leave the Five Star Movement (M5S) — the party he once led — was due to its "ambiguity" over Italy's support of Ukraine following Russia's invasion.

But it follows months of internal tensions in the party, which has lost most of the support that propelled it to power in 2018 and risks being almost wiped out in national elections due next year.

As many as 60 former Five Star lawmakers have already signed up to Di Maio's new group, "Together for the Future", media reports said.

"Today I and so many others... are leaving the Five Star Movement," the foreign minister announced at a press conference.—AFP

US lawmakers agree bipartisan bill on gun safety



Gun control advocates, like this protester at the 'March for Our Lives' in Washington on 11 June 2022, have not seen significant federal reforms since 1994. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

US senators unveiled a bill Tuesday addressing the epidemic of gun violence plaguing the country as they locked down a narrow set of reforms that were nevertheless hailed as the first

significant firearms controls in a generation.

The cross-party group, which had been working for weeks on the wording of the legislation, voiced confidence that

it would have enough support to pass the Senate, and it could be signed into law by President Joe Biden as soon as next week.

The limited proposals don't go as far as reforms called for by Biden, such as an all-out ban on assault rifles.

But Chris Murphy, the senator leading negotiations for Democrats, hailed the bill as the "most significant piece of anti-gun violence legislation in nearly 30 years." "This bill is going to save thousands of lives," he tweeted. The lawmakers had been up against the clock — aware that any delay risked losing the sense of urgency ignited by the fatal shooting of 19 children in Uvalde, Texas and of 10 Black people at a supermarket in Buffalo, upstate New York, both last month.—AFP

Afghan earthquake: at least 285 killed, 600 wounded

AT least 285 people were killed and over 600 injured after an earthquake struck Afghanistan's two eastern provinces early Wednesday, the state-run Bakhtar News Agency reported.

"Some 255 people lost their lives and 500 injured in Barmal, Ziruk, Naka and Gayan districts of Paktika province. Helicopters and rescue teams have arrived

in the affected areas from neighbouring provinces and Kabul," the report said, referring to one of the quake-hit provinces. The Gayan district was the worst-hit area in Paktika, according to the report. The quake has destroyed and damaged scores of houses in the region and also caused land sliding in Paktika, local sources said. The number of casualties

might rise as dozens were still trapped under the debris.

The quake jolted in mountainous areas and the Ministry of Defence dispatched seven helicopters with life-saving equipment and medical personnel to the area, while medical and rescue teams were also on the way to the affected areas, the ministry said on Twitter.—Xinhua

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SPORT

Myanmar Chinlone Federation President leaves for Cambodia



Myanmar Chinlone Federation President U Soe Naing leaves for Cambodia for the SEA Games matters.

PRESIDENT of the Myanmar Chinlone (Cane Ball) Federation and Asian Chinlone Fed-

eration U Soe Naing, Asian Chinlone Federation Secretary and Myanmar Chinlone Advisor U Pyae Sone Aung left for Cambodia on 21 June for the traditional Myanmar Chinlone participation in the 2023 Cambodian SEA Games.

The visit will be held at the invitation of Dr Meas Sarin, President of the Sepak Takraw Federation, and will include detailed discussions on the sport, which is planned to be included in the upcoming SEA Games.

Chinlone, a traditional Myanmar sport, was introduced at the 2013 SEA

Games, hosted by Myanmar, and competed in the 2015 Singapore SEA Games and the 2017 Malaysia SEA Games, but did not participate in the 2019 Philippines SEA Games and the last SEA Games in Viet Nam.

The Myanmar team is planning to include the games in the 2023 SEA Games, which will be hosted by Cambodia.

The Myanmar Chinlone Federation will continue to prepare for the Myanmar SEA Games to win gold medals at the upcoming SEA Games. —Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- (c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Bayern confirm signing of Liverpool's Mane

BAYERN Munich have signed Sadio Mane from Liverpool, both clubs confirmed on Wednesday, as the Senegal attacker has signed a three-year deal with the Bundesliga champions.

The transfer fee is reportedly around 41 million euros (\$43 million) for Mane, 30, who won the Champions League, Premier League, FA Cup and Club World Cup during six years on Merseyside.

“My agent told me that there were also enquiries from other clubs, but for me, the feeling was right from the start when Bayern presented their plan with me,” Mane told Germany’s top-selling daily newspaper Bild.

“For me, it was the right club at the right time. “It is one of the biggest clubs in the world

and the team are always fighting for all the titles.”

Bayern have just won the Bundesliga for a tenth straight season and Mane said he wants to “do everything to make sure I win titles with my team mates”.

Mane can play as a centre forward or winger. His arrival means Bayern have a ready-made replacement for wain-taway

striker Robert Lewandowski, who has been linked to a move to Barcelona, and winger Serge Gnabry, who is stalling over signing a contract extension.

“Sadio Mane is a global star, who underlines the appeal of Bayern and will increase the attractiveness of the Bundesliga as a whole,” said Bayern president Herbert Hainer.

“Fans come to the stadiums to see unique players like this.” — AFP



Sadio Mane's last match for Liverpool was the Champions League final defeat to Real Madrid. PHOTO: AFP

Myanmar women's football team play domestic matches

THE Myanmar women's team, which is under training for the 2022 ASEAN Women's Championship, is playing domestic tune-up matches in preparation for the tournament.

The Myanmar women's national team has been playing domestic matches since 17 June and will play up to four matches and has already played two matches. The Myanmar women's national team is playing a friendly match according to the group stage fixtures of the ASEAN Championship.

On 21 June, they played against Myanmar U-18 Women's (A) Team and won

by dozens of goals.

The Myanmar women's team will play two more friendly matches on 23 and 25 June, with the last match scheduled to be played against the youth men's team.

The Myanmar women's team is currently taking training with 30 preliminary players and captain Khin Malar Tun, who is currently playing for a Thai club, has rejoined the team.

The 2022 ASEAN Women's Championship will be held in the Philippines from 4 to 17 July.

Myanmar will face Viet Nam, Timor-Leste, Laos and Cambodia in Group B. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM