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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.

It is necessary to reduce reliance of businesses on products of underground and above ground natural resources: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the ceremony to mark World Environment Day 2022 at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 June.

MYANMAR has formed 25.8 per cent of the forest reserves/protected forests to meet the 30 per cent of the national lands in 2030 for conservation of forest ecosystem and natural resources, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to mark the World Environment Day 2022 at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his speech, the Senior General said the sixth global

Systematic management of waste is of great importance to control the pollutions. Hence, development organizations and relevant departments must effectively implement the national waste management strategy and the master plan adopted by the government.

environment survey report of the UNEP in 2019 stated that if urban population is on the rise till 2050, and if urbanization is not systematically managed, the globe will face social and environmental challenges. If it does not notice environmental arrangements in the economic development, the people will face lessening of natural resources and environmental degradation. Myanmar needs to emphasize lessening the environmental degradation and bad impact of climate change.

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Invitation to basic education staff absent from duties extended

THE Information Team Committee of the State Administration Council invited teachers and education staff who have been absent due to intimidation, participation in protests, and travel difficulties and concerns to report to the nearest Township Education Offices before 31-5-2022 so as to resume their teaching duties.

To date, 2,482 teachers have contacted there.

For teachers who wish to report but are unable to report within the deadline due to transport and other difficulties, the reporting deadline has been extended to 7-6-2022.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Shwe Padauk fish market sells about 300,000 visses of fishery products a day

SHWE Padauk Fish Market in Hline Township is mainly exporting fishery products to various regions and states, including the Yangon Region. During the rainy season, about 250,000 to 300,000 visses of fishery products are exported a day.

There are 444 shops and more than 90 stalls, and more than 50,000 buyers and distributors are entering the area, including motor boats from the Hline River and fish carriers from Bayintnaung Road. Shwe Padauk Fish Market covers an area of 8.172 acres and sells about 23 species of freshwater fish and 25 species of saltwater fish. Due to the opening of the offshore fishing season from 1 June, saltwater fish and shrimps will come in droves at the end of the month.

“Especially during the rainy season, we are focusing on improving the flow of water in the market and market security; Since it is the big market for pub-



Various kinds of fishery products are on sale at Shwe Padauk Fish Market in Hline Township of Yangon Region. **PHOTO: KANU**

lic food production and distribution, we are distributing fishery products from 4 am to 6 pm,” said U Than Naing, in-charge of Shwe

Padauk Fish Market.

During the dry season, up to 500,000 visses of fish enter the market. Due to the rising

costs of transportation and the low inflow of saltwater fishery products at the start of the offshore fishing season, products

from freshwater and livestock farms are mainly distributed this rainy season.

A variety of fishery products from Rakhine State, Ayeyawady, Bago and Taninthayi regions are entering Shwe Padauk Fish Market, local traders are sending them daily to hilly and border areas by means off transport vehicles and freight vehicles.

“The decrease in fishery flows is due to the low inflow of saltwater products and the difficulty of accessing freshwater products regularly during the rainy season; Everything will be fine later,” said Chairman of the Shwe Padauk Fish Market Development Committee U Kyin Saw. The country’s fishery production will be able to control not only domestic consumption but also export quality, with the opening up of high-end fish markets, which will increase foreign exchange earnings from the fishery industry.—Nyein Thu (MNA)/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

One new case of COVID-19 reported on 5 June, total figure rises to 613,382

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,382** after **one** new case was reported on 5 June 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,346** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,434** without more casualties.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 4-6-2022, a total of **32,211,460** people have been vaccinated. Of them, **26,886,720** people have been fully vaccinated and **5,324,740** people have yet to get the second shots and **2,172,939** people have received booster doses.—MNA

Reference wholesale price set as K5,645 per viss of palm oil

IT was announced on 5 June that it would take action under the Important Goods and Services Act if the persons raise prices, stores goods illegally and scams in the domestic market.

The Committee for the Supervision of the Import and Distribution of Edible Oils under the Ministry of Commerce has issued the statement in a bid to manage the domestic palm oil prices.

Depending on the daily monitoring of FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, transportation costs, bank expenses, and basic wholesale reference price to be traded in the local market are taken into account, including taxes for setting the proper prices.

Palm oil prices fallen slightly in the world’s palm oil exporters this week, with FOB prices expected to decline sharply this week. From 6 to 12 June, the basic Yangon Reference Wholesale Price of palm oil is K5,645 per viss.

These basic wholesale quotes are available on the Department of Consumer Affairs website: www.doca.gov.mm and on the Facebook page of the Myanmar Oil Traders and Oil Entrepreneurs Association.—MNA

Union spirit is the resolve to build a Union through mutual amity between all the nationalities

UNION spirit is the foundation of the historic independence struggle, and it will also be the cornerstone of the future democratic country. In fact, the Union spirit is the resolve to build a Union through mutual amity between all the nationalities. As a peaceful and stable democratic State will be built only with the Union spirit we must nurture a highly qualified new generation possessing a strong Union spirit.

(Excerpt from the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing on occasion of 74th Anniversary Union Day on 12 February 2021)

It is necessary to reduce reliance of businesses on products of underground and above ground natural resources: Senior General

FROM PAGE-1

As agriculture sector is a backbone of the State economy. Root causes of declining agricultural productivity are shorter monsoon, annual average temperature and inflow of seawater into coastal farmlands.

Hence, efforts are being made to arrange the use of crops, resilience of thirst, flooding and pests, season-harmonized crops and patterns, and arrange modern irrigation systems. Livestock sector is a basic factor for increasing meat consumption. As waste from animals made as bio-fertilizers bring benefits to the environments, reducing bad impacts, it is necessary to develop the livestock farms in harmony with the nature and health.

According to the FAO's the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020, conservation of fresh and marine resources are of importance for development of future livelihoods and food sufficiency. Hence, relevant departments, private organizations and people are to join hands in effectively prohibiting the illegal fishery work for sustainable development of fish sources and the ecosystems and preventing water pollution in creeks, rivers and seas due to plastics, waste and sewage water.

As increasing the water, solar and wind clean energy sources based investment can contribute much to generating of sufficient electricity and social economic development as well as sustainable conservation of environment, it is necessary to generate electricity based on renewable energy.

Myanmar is implementing provisions of the UN Climate Change Framework Convention and Paris Conventions.

So far, Myanmar has formed 25.8 per cent of the forest reserves/protected forests to meet the 30 per cent of the national lands in 2030 for conservation of



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round booths to mark World Environment Day 2022.

investments of the State, environmental conservation, and benefit of social, economic and environmental benefits.

With regard to environmental conservation, development tasks must be added with environmental issues in harmony with environment, synchronized development, encouragement to investment for green economy which lessens carbon production without harming the environment, improvement of climate conditions, conservation of ecosystems and prevention of pollution including waste management.

A video message sent by the UN Secretary-General and one more video message by the



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents first prize to Daw Moe Moe Thwin (Yanant Cho Hinthada) in essay contest and U Arkar San (Arkar San) in article contest respectively.



forest ecosystem and natural resources. Likewise, natural lands have been formed accounting for 6.43 per cent out of 10 per cent of the nation. It is necessary to reduce reliance of businesses on products of underground and above ground natural resources. Myanmar suspends export of timber logs to foreign market. Likewise, timber extraction was also suspended in the mini budget of 2021-22 fiscal year and 2022-23 FY. Similarly, excavation of jade was also suspended in Lonkin, Phakant and Mohnyin regions.

The survey of the UNEP stated that some seven million of global people lose their lives on a

yearly basis due to environmental pollution and air pollution. The global people dispose 11.2 billion tons of waste yearly, eight million tons of which flow into seas and oceans, causing environmental pollution.

There are more than 100,000 items of chemicals and elements used by the humans across the world. If chemicals are systematically used, it will severely affect the health of the humans and environmental pollution. Hence, all need to manage systematic use of chemicals.

Responsible persons from all sectors need to adopt the plans for controlling the plastic pollu-

tion in Myanmar and abide by it. People need to use plastic packaging and usages on unavoidable occasions.

Systematic management of waste is of great importance to control the pollutions. Hence, development organizations and relevant departments must effectively implement the national waste management strategy and the master plan adopted by the government.

Increasing investments in the green economy, for instance: generating electricity from solar energy, ecotourism and manufacturing of electric cars can ensure betterment of natural

UNEP Executive Director were presented.

The Senior General presented the first prize to winners in the essay and article contests.

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi presented the environmental sustainable development city award to deputy director U Ye Naing of NyaungU Township Development Committee. Next, the video about 2022 World Environment Day was presented.

The Senior General and party interestingly viewed round the booths to mark the World Environment Day.—MNA

Government Peace Talks Team meets NDAA (Mongla) Vice-Chairman-led delegation



The peace talks between the Peace Talks Team of the government and the delegation led by the vice-chairman of the National Democratic Alliance Army-NDAA (Mongla) are in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE Peace Talks Team of the government met the delegation led by Vice-Chairman of the National Democratic Alliance Army-NDAA (Mongla) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by State Administration Council Member National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Chairman Union Minister at the Government Office (1) Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, in his capacity as the leader of the Peace Talks Team, SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung, Vice-Chairman of

the NDAA (Mongla) U San Pae, General Secretary of the Peace and Solidarity Committee U Kyi Myint, Secretary-2 U Ah Lu and Head of Communications Division U Sai Mauk.

In the talks, Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and Vice-Chairman of NDAA (Mongla) U San Pae extended greetings and the participants discussed peace and development related matters. After that, they adjourned the first-day meeting. The discussion will be continued on 6 June. — MNA

Deputy Minister coordinates with authorities for development of MraukU

DEPUTY Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Myint Soe met departmental officials, village committee members, officials from cooperative societies, yesterday morning and coordinated the development activities in MraukU, Rakhine State.

First, the Deputy Minister met them at the Department of Rural Development in Sittway. They discussed building Maungshwikan Village in MraukU Township as a Smart Village.

At the meeting, the Deputy Minister said that the ministry was implementing smart villages in each region and state in accordance with the 15 principles.

Next, the Deputy Minister met farmers and responsible persons from Ponnagyun, MraukU, and Kyauktaw townships, and discussed the activities to implement collective farming system in these three townships. Later, the Deputy Minister responded to the reports of departmental officials.—MNA



Deputy Minister U Myint Soe discusses implementation of collective farming system together with officials on 5 June.

RTAD reports: 30 killed, 110 injured in traffic accidents during Jan-May period



A Fielder car plunges into roadside after bumping guard rails between mile post 101/4 and 101/5 on Yangon-Mandalay expressway on 5 June. PHOTO: MFSD

MYANMAR'S traffic accidents in the past five months during the period of January-May 2022 left 30 dead and 110 injured in 72 cases, according the Road Transport Administration Department.

This year, the traffic-related death toll and injuries declined compared to the corresponding period in 2021. A total of 3,315 road accidents were claimed across the country during January-May 2021 period, with 1,651 people killed and 4,467 injured, RTAD's traffic data showed.

Between January and May 2022, a total of 15 road accidents occurred on the highway connecting commercial hub Yan-

gon with the second-largest city Mandalay, killing four and causing 37 injured, the expressway police force reported.

The highway traffic accidents were reported 45 deaths and 239 injured in the year-ago period.

Over speeding is the main cause of the accidents on the country's roads and expressways. Other causes include reckless driving, unsafe vehicles and severe weather condition.

The fatality rate caused by traffic accidents was the highest in February 2022 with 12 deaths. — KK/GNLM

Over 120 requirements found during inspection of standards for treatment of prisoners in 27 prisons

THE Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) conducted an inspection whether prisons meet the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in 27 prisons/jails in May, and found 124 requirements, according to the statement of the commission.

The inspection team led by U Tin Aung, a member of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, visited Paungde Prison and Paungde Myoma Police Station's custody on 30 May 2022. On 31 May 2022, the team visited Pyay Prison and Pyay No. (1) Police Station's custody.

The inspection was conducted by meeting with 9,297 prisoners from 27 prisons from January to May 2022. According to the findings of the inspection, one food issue, 43 administra-



Officials of MNHRC inspect working process for food supplies at the jail.

tive issues, 49 health issues, 23 building issues, one educational

issue, five hygiene issues and two drinking water issues were

found.

The commission submit-

ted the findings to the relevant union-level organizations for advice and received 99 replies, with 25 remaining. Of the 99 replies, 65 points (65.66%) have been implemented and 34 points (34.34%) ongoing, according to the MNHRC.

During the inspection, the commission also met with 30 prisoners who required separate meetings with the commission officials under Sections 43/44 of the Commission's Law.

The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission was formed under Notification No 34/2011 dated 5 September 2011 of Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, with the aim of creating a society that respects and promotes human rights in Myanmar.—TWA/GNLM

Kawthoung-Ranong border gate to be open under COVID-19 rules on 6 June



Travellers pass through the jetty to Kawthoung-Ranong border gade.

THE Kawthoung-Ranong border gate at the border of Myanmar and Thailand will allow people to pass under the COVID-19 rules and regulations as of 6 June.

On 1 June, residents of Kawthoung were allowed to enter Ranong with a Border Pass through the Kawthoung-Ranong border gate. On the morning of 4 July, travel between the two country was banned.

Although the reason of the closure of the gate could not be known, a notice was posted in the afternoon at the gate saying it would reopen on the morning of 6 June, according to Ko Win Zaw, a resident of Kawthoung. The gate allows migrant workers under the

MoU system, he added.

The Kawthoung-Ranong border checkpoint will be reopened on 6 June by checking Border Transit Certificates (BP/TBP) of the migrant workers, and those who enter and leave must follow the health directives of the Ministry of Health issued on 1 May, with quarantine and lab test.

A total of 153 Myanmar migrant workers who had been served the prison time in Thailand were released and transported from Ranong to Kawthoung by 9 trawlers on 9 April, and 30 migrant more workers under the MoU were also allowed to pass the Ranong port on 24 May.—TWA/GNLM

Govt to distribute urea fertilizer starting June second week

THE urea fertilizer will be distributed to the farmers across the nation starting the second week of June, said Urea Fertilizer Purchase and Distribution Committee Chairman Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe.

The urea fertilizer was sold at the fertilizer shops in regions/states as of 3 June and will be distributed to farmers between 7 and 15 June, he said during an online meeting.

A total of 60,188 tonnes of urea fertilizer docked at Yangon jetty was imported by Consortium and Myanmar Rice Federation in the

first batch.

The MRF will sell it on 6 June and negotiate with companies to import more urea fertilizers. They also arrange to transport the fertilizer through road and sea routes.

The price of urea fertilizer is K86,000 per bag in the Yangon market and the price ranges from K87,800 to K89,400 depending on the transport charges. In some townships of the Yangon Region, the price of fertilizer ranges between K92,000 and K95,000 per bag and buyers can save more than K10,000. — TWA/GNLM

203 Myanmar migrant workers transferred via Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge No 2

A total of 203 migrant workers—147 Myanmar migrant workers who went to work in Thailand and other 46 people—were transferred to Myanmar via Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge No 2 on 4 June.

Thai authorities handed over 56 Myanmar migrant workers: 18 males and 38 females and 147 arrested Myanmar citizens: 101 males, and 46 females to Myanmar officials.

The migrant workers received COVID-19 test after being welcomed by Myanmar officials. The migrant workers will stay quarantine at the Wamlon Health

Care Centre after testing for the COVID-19. Next, they will be sent

back to their respective places, officials said.—TWA/GNLM



Photo shows some Myanmar migrant workers handed over by Thai authorities to Myanmar on 4 June.

Self-administered zone chairmen visit MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw



Chairmen of self-administered zones and party visit MRTV sections and Diamond Jubilee Museum of MRTV in Tatkon of Nay Pyi Taw on 5 June.

CHAIRMAN of Palaung Self-Administered Zone Tar Thein Zaw, Chairman of Kokang Self-Administered Zone U Myint Swe, and Chairman of Wa Self-Administered Division U Nyi Nap visited the Diamond Jubilee Museum of Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) yesterday

morning.

They also observed the broadcasting process of the MRTV and the Diamond Jubilee Museum in Tatkon in Nay Pyi Taw.

First, the chairmen of the self-administered regions were welcomed by MRTV Di-

rector-General U Ye Naing and officials. During their visit, officials explained the department's broadcasting activities and ethnic TV broadcasting.

They looked around Convergence News Room, News Control Room, News Studio Room, 40 galleries featuring

equipment and materials used in the TV broadcasts on display at the Diamond Museum of MRTV, live broadcast vehicles, reporting formats, documentary photos of the participants in the series that have been broadcast for generations, musical instruments, news studi-

os, antique records and other accessories used in the radio programmes.

Relevant officials replied to their queries during the visit.

Next, the MRTV Director-General presented MRTV DTH satellites plus accessories to the self-administered region chairpersons.

The chairmen also presented cash and foodstuffs to the respective ethnic nationalities working for the ethnic television channels.

The MRTV broadcasts MRTV-NRC channel in Kachin, Kayah, Sagaw Kayin, Western Poe Kayin, Eastern Poe Kayin, Chin (Laizoe), Chin (Kyoe), Mon, Rakhine, Shan, and Wa ethnic languages.

In turn, the Myanmar Radio station broadcasts with 17 ethnic languages featuring different programmes.—MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal teak, vehicles, and ceramic wares seized in various townships

UNDER the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, effective action is being taken to prevent illegal trade in accordance with the law.

On 4 June, the Port Inspection Team conducted an inspection at the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Inspection Station under the management of the Customs Department, and confiscated the ceramic bowls at estimated value of K14.75 million that exceeds the import declaration

ID and took action in accordance with the customs procedures.

Similarly, on 5 June, an unlicensed TOYOTA Hilux (Vigo) at estimated at K3 million was seized in Kanbalu Township, Sagaing Region under the supervision of the Anti-Trafficking Task Force and action is being taken under the Import and Export Law.

Similarly, under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, combined inspection

teams led by Bago Region Forest Department conducted inspections in Pyu Township, Toungoo District, Bago Region, and 0.456 tonne of illegal teak sawn timber at estimated value of K300,960 were seized and action is being taken in accordance with the forest law.

Therefore, a total of three arrests (approximately K18,050,960) were made on 4 and 5 June, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee.—MNA



Officials inspect seized sawn timber in Pyu Township in Bago Region on 5 June.

Stimulant tablets seized in Myeik, Tachilek



A drug trafficker is seen with seized 3,600 kg of Caffeine together with a truck in Tachilek township on 3 June.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force seized 16,000 stimulant tablets from a motorbike on the afternoon of 4 June in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region.

In addition, 3,600 kg of Caffeine was seized from a 6-wheeler truck on the Tachilek-Monghsat road, Loitawkhram village, Tachilek Township on 3 June.

It is reported that the persons arrested together with the seized illegal drugs are being prosecuted under the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law, according to the Myanmar Police Force.—MNA

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Mandalay market sees price spike in rice bean

RICE bean trade is a roar these days in in Mandalay market and the prices hit record high, traders from Mandalay market said.

At present, rice beans are flowing from Madaya, Singu, Monywa and Pakokku townships. The price stood at only K89,000 per three-basket bag in January during the beginning of the harvest season. The price tremendously surged to K150,000 per bag for now. The market sees bustling sales, said U Soe Win Myint, an owner of Soe Win Myint Commodity Depot in Mandalay Region.

“The price hits a fresh new peak. Between January and April 2022, India’s traders purchased them. Then, the trade came to a halt. In early May, the prices rose again on the

back of China’s demand. Some restrictions at the cross-border posts between Myanmar and China have lifted so trading became alive. Rice bean is rarely demanded in domestic market. It primarily goes to external market. The two neighbouring countries are buying them. The price is expected to remain upward trend,” he elaborated.

Rice bean is commonly grown in Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing regions. Cultivation is more successful on alluvial soil along Ayeyawady and Chindwin Rivers.

It can be grown once per year, during October-November period. The harvest season starts in January. It is cost-effective and high-yielding crop.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay sub-printing house)/GNLM



Warehouse stores bags of rice bean in Mandalay. PHOTO:MINHTETAUNG

500 companies fail to submit annual return in May



Directorate of Investment and Company Administration manages registration of companies.

A total of 500 companies have been struck off the register in May as they fail to submit annual return (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA has notified any registered company which fails to submit its AR on MyCO are to be suspended, under section 430 (F) of Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA’s notification.

Furthermore, 300 companies in April, 400 each in March, February and January 2022 did not file annual return on MyCO

respectively, totalling 2,000 companies which failed to do AR submission, according to DICA.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website was commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies need to file AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

According to Section 266

(A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously.

All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, as per Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA’s report, thousands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms within the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company’s status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000.

If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice.—NN/GNLM

Rice prices between sale centre and retail price different by K4,000/5,000 per bag

THERE are around 4,000 and 5,000 kyats different between the sale centre and retail price of rice in the Yangon rice market, and the rice price has increased, according to business owners at Bayintnaung Rice Brokerage owners.

The price is up because the rice has to be refined by workers to be ready to cook in the retail market, as well as because of the home delivery service, said U Win Naing who runs a rice business.

At the end of March, a bag of Pyapon Pawsan was K54,000 and Myaungmya Pawsan, K55,000. In early June, the prices were up by K4,000/5,000, said Daw Mar Mar Win, a Mayangon resident. On 2 June, the price of a Pyapon Pawsan bag was trad-

ed between K50,000 and K52,000, Myaungmya Pawsan was traded between K53,000 and K55,000 and Shwebo Pawsan between K55,000 and K61,000.

Although the retail price is on the rise, most workers in Bayintnaung Rice Sale Centres are making less money due to the low distribution to the upper Myanmar and less demand from Yangon city. As a result, employers have to pay their workers.

New monsoon paddy is expected to enter the market in 2022 November, and the arrivals of the new paddy face a discount of around K10,000 per bag each year compared to the old paddy on the market because consumers are mainly buying old rice.—TWA/GNLM



Freight workers loading bags of rice onto aboard the cargo truck for distribution to regions and states.

OPINION

Study Myanmar Encyclopaedia volumes for life

A new version of Myanmar Encyclopaedia Volume I (Ka-Kote) illustrated with colourful photos in conformity with the current era came out in mid-May 2022, attracting enthusiasts and researchers to taste reading.

Truly, Myanmar had published fifteen volumes of Myanmar Encyclopaedia between 1954 and 1976, as favourite publications in the literary arena, significantly occupying the hearts of readers, writers, researchers and students.

However, the time has gone with the wind. Successive eras have changed. During the 60 years, many changes have occurred across the nation as well as throughout the world. As such, the government has been striving to re-publishing the encyclopaedia volumes since 2018 by revising, reediting and recomposing various items based on original topics useful for the people.

Readers and users need to study and apply it to take initiation for improvement of the nation based on knowledge from the encyclopaedia. Those capable of searching for lessons from the events mentioned in the encyclopaedia can take advantage. It depends on the diversity of their capabilities. The more capable the person, the more advantages they can take. It is a kind of advantage in reading.

taking lessons from past events.

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The encyclopaedia volume (Ka-Kote), the valuable reference book, is the first step of the government to let the reader people taste the best presentations. More plans are underway to publish the following volumes of encyclopaedia one after another in the future. Every country must have encyclopaedias in their versions. Myanmar will have fulfilled the real essence of literature based on the volumes of encyclopaedia in the near future.

■

Managing inventories a pandemic headache for US businesses

MORE than two years into the Covid-19 pandemic, American businesses are still struggling to manage their inventories in a feast-or-famine cycle caused by fickle consumer demand.

"We have way too much inventory right now," said Ginny Pasqualone, chief executive of Sparkledots, a children's clothing manufacturer.

"It's important that we have a large selection of merchandise that our clients can choose from," she said, but store traffic has been hit by inflation concerns, with some customers "very scared that they're not going to survive another recession."

For now, Sparkledots is holding more goods in inventory, but that ties up company capital and limits its ability to add to its 18-worker staff.

"It sucks our growth for the future," Pasqualone said.

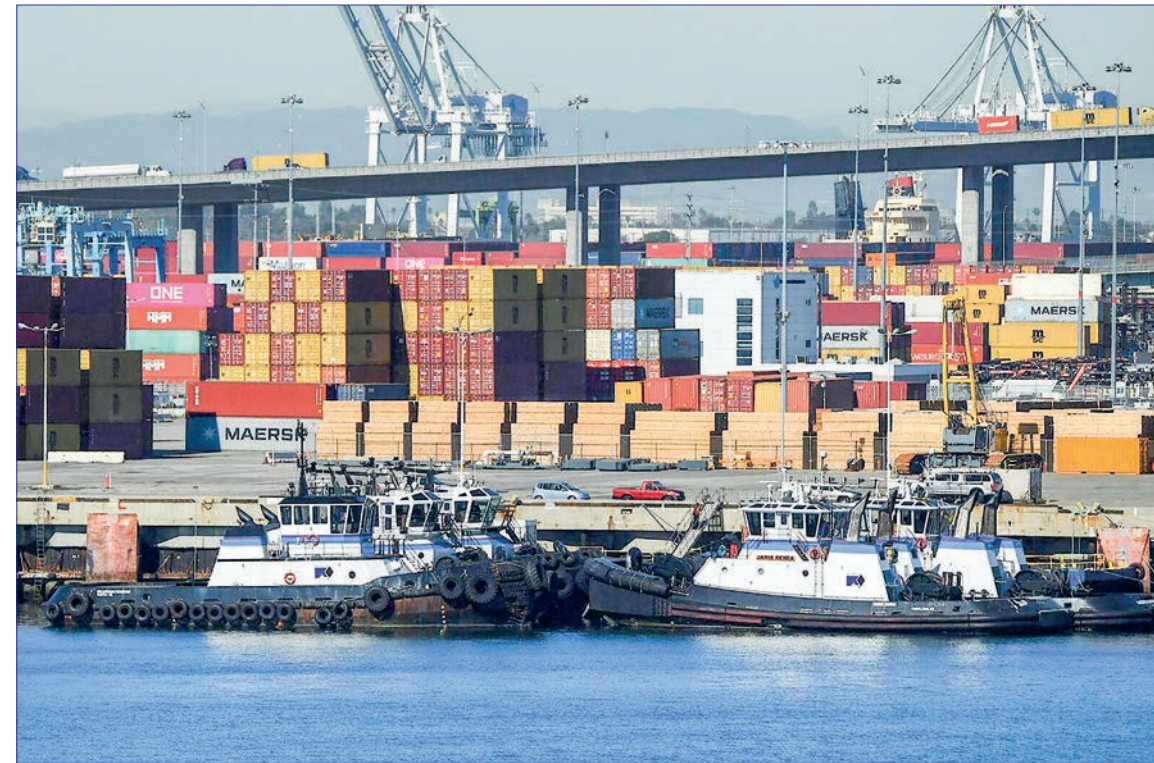
Such is the dilemma affecting businesses of all sizes.

Large store chains like Walmart, Target and Macy's have acknowledged in recent weeks that they misread consumer patterns, leaving them with excess supplies of appliances, casual clothing and bicycles.

Bicycles were a hot commodity early in the pandemic, prompting surprisingly large orders, said Wayne Sosin, owner of Worksman Cycles, a New York manufacturer best known for its tricycles.

"Retailers bought whatever they could as if bike sales would continue to have unprecedented demand," Sosin said. "It was so obvious to me that (this) would not last."

Still, Sosin said demand remains strong in some parts of the business, placing stress on supplies of some key bicycle parts.



Backups at ports like this one, in Long Beach, California, contributed to major inventory challenges for US businesses of all sizes. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Unexpected shift

Torrid consumer demand since 2020 fueled by govern-

ment pandemic relief programs has led to product shortages and backlogs in seaports.

"The business can no longer count on the idea that you're going to have this easy,

just-in-time inventory and that you can only keep stock on hand that you need," said Phil Levy, an economist for logistics company Flexport.

Companies are unsure how much the outsized buying during the pandemic will persist and for which goods.

"The way we tend to predict things is by looking at past patterns," Levy said. "But we don't have data on how the consumers behaved during the five recent major modern pandemics."

In the most recent quarter, the big-box chain Target saw sales of appliances, clothing and other goods slow as consumers shifted spending to travel and other service-oriented consumption.

"We didn't anticipate the magnitude of that shift," Target Chief Executive Brian Cornell said on an analyst conference call.

As a result, Target had

bought too many televisions and too much outdoor furniture.

Similarly, department-store chain Macy's was caught off guard by a 20 percent drop in sales of casual clothing and housewares in the most recent period, compared with the prior quarter. At the same time, "supply chain constraints relaxed," unexpectedly boosting deliveries of merchandise, said Macy's Chief Executive Jeffrey Gennette.

'Wildcards'

Retailers have adopted different strategies for dealing with a glut of goods.

Target has moved some of its goods outside of stores into temporary storage facilities, while liquidating seasonal merchandise no longer in demand.

Others plan to offer more discounted items. Apparel chain Urban Outfitters expects promotions to increase "not just

in the second quarter, but throughout the year and into the holiday season," said Chief Executive Richard Hayne.

The consumer remains the "wildcard," said Brian Yarbrough, an analyst who follows consumer companies at Edward Jones.

Demand for goods has remained fairly robust even as consumers spend more on services and contend with inflation, Yarbrough said.

Among other unknowns is the state of ocean shipping between Asia and the United States. Will ports on the US West Coast again struggle with delays, or even a possible strike due to high-stakes labor negotiations this summer?

"How long will it take to ship freight from Asia to the US to have stuff on the shelves this fall?" wonders Levy. "You just don't know."

SOURCE: AFP

More than 700 monkeypox cases globally: CDC



The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said Friday it was aware of more than 700 global cases of monkeypox, including 21 in the United States, with investigations now suggesting it is spreading inside the country. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). PHOTO: IANS NEWS/AFP

THE US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said Friday it was aware of more than 700 global cases of monkeypox, including 21 in the United States, with investigations now suggesting it is

spreading inside the country.

Sixteen of the first 17 cases were among people who identify as men who have sex with men, according to a new CDC report, and 14 were thought to be travel associated.

All patients are in recovery or have recovered, and no cases have been fatal.

"There have also been some cases in the United States that we know are linked to known cases," Jennifer McQuiston, deputy direc-

tor of the CDC's Division of High Consequence Pathogens and Pathology, told reporters on a call.

"We also have at least one case in the United States that does not have a travel link or know how they acquired their infection."

Monkeypox is a rare disease that is related to but less severe than smallpox, causing a rash that spreads, fever, chills, and aches, among other symptoms.

Generally confined to western and central Africa, cases have been reported in Europe since May and the number of countries affected has grown since.

Canada also released new figures Friday, counting 77 confirmed cases — almost all of them detected in Quebec province, where vaccines have been delivered.

Though its new spread may be linked to particular gay festivals in Europe, monkeypox is not thought to be a sexually transmitted disease, with the main risk factor being close skin-to-skin contact with someone who has

monkey pox sores.

A person is contagious until all the sores have scabbed and new skin is formed.

'More than enough vaccine'

Raj Panjabi, senior director for the White House's global health security and biodefense division, added that 1,200 vaccines and 100 treatment courses had been delivered to US states, where they were offered to close contacts of those infected.

There are currently two authorized vaccines: ACAM2000 and JYNNEOS, which were originally developed against smallpox.

Though smallpox has been eliminated, the United States retains the vaccines in a strategic national reserve in case it is deployed as a biological weapon. JYNNEOS is the more modern of the two vaccines, with fewer side effects.

"We continue to have more than enough vaccine available," Dawn O'Connell, assistant secretary for preparedness and response in the Department of

Health and Human Services, told reporters.

In late May, the CDC said it had 100 million doses of ACAM2000 and 1,000 doses of JYNNEOS available, but O'Connell said Friday the figures had shifted, though she could not divulge precise numbers for strategic reasons.

The CDC has also authorized two antivirals used to treat smallpox, TPOXX and Cidofovir, to be repurposed to treat monkeypox.

"Anyone can get monkeypox and we are carefully monitoring for monkeypox that may be spreading in any population, including those who are not identifying as men who have sex with men," said McQuiston.

That being said, the CDC is undertaking special outreach in the LGBT community, she added.

A suspected case "should be anyone with a new characteristic rash," or anyone who meets the criteria for high suspicion such as relevant travel, close contact, or being a man who has sex with men. SOURCE: AFP



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 5 June 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak to moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 6 June 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Magway regions and Shan and Kayah states, fairly widespread in Chin and Rakhine states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squall with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthyai Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (30-35) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (8-10) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthyai Coasts and (6-8) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Upper Sagaing, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Shan, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 June 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 June 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 June 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

နန်းဝင်း ရေးသားပူဇော်သည်

(၃၈) ဖြာစင်္ဂါ

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တေးဂီတ - ရန်ကုန်ရုပ် **HD**

Nine nutrient-rich forage species to be cultivated on 91 acres of land in Mingaladon Tsp

NINE nutrient-rich grazed forage species at Pynmabin Dairy Cattle Research and Model Farm in Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region are designated to be cultivated on 91 acres of land. Land treatment has been carried out and grass seeds started to be grown in the second week of June, according to Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

Sampling depth to cultivate grass plants for pasture grazing is 6 inches and soil sample is taken every year from 91 acres of land. The feasibility study of grass cultivation was conducted on 20 acres of land with ten grass species. As it came to a fruition result, land treatment for nine forage species on 91 acres commenced in March 2022. During the Yangon Region Chief Minister's visit to grazed forage model farms at the Pynmabin Dairy Cattle Research and Model Farm in Mingaladon Township in the first week of May, he gave a remark to add more grazed-forage farms, carry out grass distribution to the farmers and feasibility study effectively, ensure water supply to Napier grass cultivation, cooperate with the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department for lake restoration at model farm and follow up cattle production from pasture farms.

"Native grass species are lack of protein and nutritional values for cattle farming. In a bid to farm pedigree cattle, nutritional quality of forage crops is more economical and effective. It can help the farmers generate higher incomes. The

initial cultivation of Napier grass on a trial basis on 20 acres was successful. The grass from pasture will be distributed to Ayeyawady and Bago regions. The seeds will be nurtured in the second week of June," said Dr Toe Min Tun, director of LBVD, Yangon Region.

As the agriculture and livestock tasks are the backbone of the country. Optimizing use of grazed grass in livestock contributes to the agriculture and livestock sector. As livestock sector plays a crucial role in the economic development and trade enhancement, pedigree cattle farming will increase the income. Additionally, feedstuff cost will be cheaper and it will help narrow the income gap between the urban and rural areas. Nurturing seed farms are developed on 73 acres with nine grass species. With a high seed production potential, grafting nursery is implemented on 18 acres with Mombaca grass, Ruzi grass, Paspalum grass, Pangola grass, Ubon Stylo grass, Hamata Stylo grass and other two nutrient-rich grass species.

Myanmar began cultivation of Napier and Mombaca grass species as feedstuff in the 2020-2021 Financial year on 157.412 acres of land developed by the LBVD, on 165.74 acres operated by other departments and 2,256 acres of private farms, totaling 2,579.377 acres. Moreover, there is an export potential for a sillage (fermented and pickled pasture). The LBVD is endeavouring to expand the projects to generate more revenue for the State.—Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

Friday Night Show

MUSIC GALLERY 3

ရသ ဝေလျှံ ဆိုတေး
သာထူးဇော် Sparrow ဂျင်းနီ သဗ္ဗာမြင့်မိုင်
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Ads Call 09251022355, 09974424848 **HD**

PANDEMIC WORLD

Beijing to reopen schools and workplaces as Covid-19 curbs ease

BEIJING will gradually lift Covid-19 restrictions this week, city officials said Sunday.

After some easing in recent days, the Chinese capital — which reported 19 new infections Sunday — announced residents would start returning to work from Monday and schools would reopen from 13 June.

China is wedded to a zero-Covid strategy of hard lockdowns, mass testing and long

quarantine periods to wipe out clusters as they emerge.

That strategy has meant restrictions on movement in major cities including Shanghai and Beijing, a metropolis of 22 million people where a resurgence of Covid-19 in April led to just under 2,000 infections.

From Monday, restaurants will be able to welcome customers again — if they have tested negative in the previous three days — and public

transport will operate normally, the city's government said in a statement.

Two districts in the capital will maintain restrictions.

In Shanghai, most of the city's 25 million inhabitants have been able to move freely since Wednesday.

But hundreds of thousands still face restrictions after being designated close contacts of infected people. —AFP



Fourth-graders attend a physical education class at Yangfangdian central primary school in Haidian District of Beijing, capital of China, 8 June 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA/REN CHAO

US FDA concerned over potential Novavax myocarditis risk

THE Food and Drug Administration voiced concern Friday about myocarditis being potentially linked to the Novavax Covid-19 vaccine, just as experts are to weigh its use in the United States.

The Novavax vaccine is already authorized in other countries, particularly in Europe. In the United States, an independent committee convened at the request of the FDA is to meet Tuesday to evaluate data from the clinical trials of Novavax and give its recommendation.

In advance of that, the

agency published a lengthy document on Friday analyzing these results, as it had done for the three other vaccines already authorized in the country.

Shortly afterwards, Novavax stock dropped 20 per cent on the New York Stock Exchange.

Novavax's vaccine was found to be 90 per cent effective against symptomatic cases of the disease, in trials conducted before the appearance of the Omicron variant, according to the FDA.

But six cases of myocar-

ditis, an inflammation of the heart muscle, were detected in the group that received the vaccine, against one case in the placebo group, the agency pointed out.

Five cases occurred within two weeks of vaccination.

"Identification of multiple potential vaccine-associated cases" out of 40,000 clinical trial participants "raises concern that if causally associated, the risk of myocarditis following" the Novavax shot "could be higher than reported" on other vaccines such as Pfizer or Moderna, the FDA said. —AFP

Tokyo reports 1,584 new COVID-19 cases

TOKYO confirmed 1,584 new COVID-19 infections on Sunday, marking a decline of 610 from a week earlier and the 23rd straight day of a week-on-week decrease.

The seven-day average of new cases dropped 28.9% to 2,855.6, while the number of severely ill patients under the Tokyo Metropolitan Government's criteria remained unchanged from Saturday at two.

On Saturday, Japan reported 18,252 new cases, down by around 7,500 from a week before. There were 23 deaths linked to COVID-19, while the number of severely ill patients fell by two from Friday to 84. The news comes as more people in Japan anticipate a return to normal, though vaccination rates among younger people still remain low relative to the general population.

According to a survey re-



Photo taken on 10 July 2021, shows Tokyo's Asakusa sightseeing area and Tokyo Skytree (background) just days after the Japanese government decided to place the capital under a fresh COVID-19 state of emergency for the duration of the Olympics. PHOTO: KYODO

leased over the weekend, about 740,000 COVID-19 booster vaccine doses made by Moderna have been discarded or are expected to be discarded in 27 major cities in Japan due to expiration, as the country struggles to expand the number of people getting third

shots.

The Kyodo News survey results also reflect views among some people who prefer Pfizer shots as adverse reactions such as pain and fever are more frequently reported with the Moderna vaccine. —Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sri Lanka's President orders release of Rs 1.8 billion from COVID-19 fund

AMID Sri Lanka's unprecedented economic crisis, its President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has ordered the release of Rs 1.8 billion from COVID-19 Healthcare and Social Security Fund for the import of essential medicines.

The President made this remark during the discussion at its official residence in Colombo regarding matters of urgent concern in the field of the health sector.

The President said that the funds which were given by donors to control the coronavirus disease can be used for health needs as the COVID-19 epidemic is now under control, Colombo Page reported citing President's Media Division.

According to the release, President Rajapaksa pointed out the possibility of rapidly increasing the local pharmaceutical manufacturing and obtaining the necessary raw materials in this regard under the Indian credit line.

There are 12 investors in the pharmaceutical sector in Oyamaduwawa and Millewala area in Horana. The production in those factories is expected to begin in the next few months and has the potential to produce more than 200 types of drugs in these regions, the officials said.

Sri Lanka's President further said that the Ministry of Samurdhi and Education is planning to provide nutritious meals to primary school children and pregnant mothers. —ANI

Brazil to authorize 2nd COVID-19 booster dose for people over 50

THE Brazilian government plans to approve the application of the second booster dose against COVID-19 for people over 50 years old, Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga said Thursday. "The second booster dose was authorized for those over 60 years old (in May), and will be extended to those over 50," he told the press from Brasilia, adding that details will be released in a technical note in the coming hours.

In approving the second booster dose, the Health Ministry recommended that it be administered four months after the first. This comes at a time when the South American country is registering an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases, deaths and hospitalizations, while states and municipalities are once again urging the use of masks in closed spaces.

To date, 166.1 million people (77.4 per cent of the population) in Brazil are fully vaccinated, while almost 93 million have gotten at least one booster dose and 3.5 million two booster doses. —Xinhua

ECON: WORLD



File photo shows logs piled up at a processing factory in a coastal region in the Russian Far East in 2009. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

Majority of Japanese firms struggle to get materials amid war in Ukraine

MORE than 50 per cent of Japanese firms are struggling to obtain raw materials and other commodities due to Russia's war in Ukraine, according to a survey by a credit research firm.

The Teikoku Databank survey found 50.8 per cent were affected in terms of raw materials, products and services they obtain and 66.7 per cent were experiencing effects from surging purchase costs.

Many of these companies said they are considering taking or have already taken action including changing materials and passing on price rises to consumers.

sumers.

The survey highlighted the impact on wood-based industries, with 88.3 per cent of wood construction companies and 83.6 per cent of wood and bamboo wholesalers reporting difficulties getting adequate stock.

The numbers appear to be a consequence of sanctions Japan has taken to ban imports of some Russian lumber. Russia, too, has labeled Japan an "unfriendly country" and halted exports of some wood products.

The survey also showed 91.3 per cent of wood construction firms and 91.2 per cent of fuel

retailers such as gas stations were hit by surging purchase costs. In a multiple response section, affected companies said they were already taking countermeasures, with 48.3 per cent reporting passing on price rises to consumers and 21.3 per cent replacing such commodities as raw materials.

When it came to measures companies were considering, the highest proportion — 36.1 per cent — reported looking into upping retail prices, while 25.2 per cent said they were reviewing changing materials and other commodities. —Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan eyes reform of outdated labour systems based on gender "roles"

THE Japanese government on Friday called for a revamp of old-fashioned labor practices, taxation and social security systems that have left the nation's gender gap largely intact for years, taking issue with the stereotypical notion of the roles expected of men and women.

A policy blueprint to promote women's economic empowerment states that the once deep-rooted belief that marriage guarantees women economic stability for the rest of their life is "a thing of the past" as more women choose to get divorced and live longer than before.

The government plans to make it mandatory for firms with 300 or more employees to release gender pay gap data, and assist women in acquiring necessary digital skills and finding a job by setting a three-year intensive period. It will also review the existing taxation and social security systems to better reflect the needs of working women. Japan lags behind other nations in ensuring gender equality and it ranked 120th among 156 nations in a World Economic Forum gender gap report released in March 2021, due to the low percentage of women in managerial posts or female lawmakers. —Kyodo

China, Timor-Leste to further enhance win-win cooperation

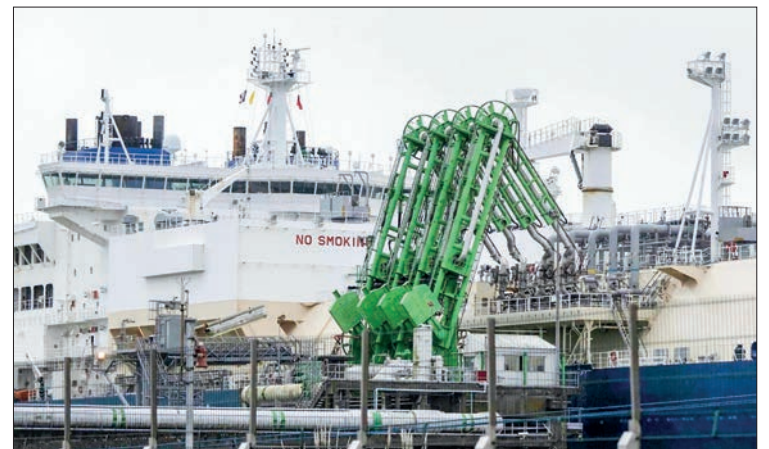
VISITING Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Friday held talks with Timor-Leste's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Adaljiza Magno, with both sides agreeing to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation.

Noting that this year marks the 20th anniversary of Timor-Leste's independence and the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Timor-Leste, Wang said the two sides have supported and trusted each other over the past 20 years with steady development of bilateral relations and deepening practical cooperation. China appreciates that Timor-Leste truly abides by the consensus reached when the two countries established diplomatic ties, firmly adheres to the one-China policy, and understands and supports China safeguarding its core interests, Wang said, adding that China stands ready to work with Timor-Leste to enrich bilateral relations and make their ties a model of mutual respect, equality, mutual benefit and common development between countries regardless of size. —Xinhua

Russian lawmaker foresees benefit from EU oil embargo

AMID surging energy prices, Russian lower house chairman Vyacheslav Volodin said on Saturday said Russia's economy may benefit from the EU oil embargo imposed as part of the sixth sanctions package, while the EU member countries are set to overpay about USD 268 billion annually.

"Russia's possible losses caused by a ban on oil exports to Europe, according to experts, could amount to \$22 billion a year. But due to surging energy prices, prompted by the sanctions and redirection of Russian oil markets to Asia, the costs can be fully compensated, with a possible profit for our economy," Sputnik quoted Volodin as saying on Telegram.



LNG (Liquefied natural gas) tanker Rudolf Samoylovich, sailing under the flag of Bahamas, moors at the dock of the Montoir-de-Bretagne LNG Terminal near Saint-Nazaire, western France, on 10 March 2022. **PHOTO: LOIC VENANCE / AFP**

The politician went on to say that Europe will overpay more than 250 billion euros annually apart from additional costs of enterprises' transition to new

oil brands. "Washington is doing everything so that the main burden from the implementation of sanctions falls on European countries." —ANI

EU bans most Russian oil

THE EU formally adopted a ban on most Russian oil imports on Friday, hitting Moscow with its toughest sanctions over the war on Ukraine after weeks of wrangling with Hungary.

The sanctions — the sixth wave imposed by the 27-nation bloc since the Kremlin launched the invasion in February — include cutting Russia's biggest bank Sberbank from the global SWIFT messaging system, the text published in

the EU's official journal said.

President Vladimir Putin's alleged girlfriend, former gymnast Alina Kabaeva, was also added to an assets freeze and visa ban blacklist, along with Russian army personnel suspected of war crimes in the Ukrainian town of Bucha.

EU leaders agreed to target Russia's key oil exports on Monday after weeks of resistance from Hungary, ceding to Prime Minister Viktor Orban's demand to exempt Russian oil

delivered by pipeline.

The sanctions cover the two-thirds of Russian exports currently being brought in by ship and come into full force in six months for crude oil and eight months for refined products.

Germany and Poland have further committed to stop receiving deliveries by pipeline — meaning that some 90 per cent of EU imports of Russian oil are expected to be halted by the end of the year. —AFP

Lithium Price jumps fivefold as demand surges for use in EV batteries

THE price of lithium, a rare metal used in the manufacturing of rechargeable batteries, has increased fivefold since April last year as demand from automakers surged, according to a recent report by British research firm Argus Media.

Prices have also soared for other metals such as cobalt and nickel that are used for the batteries, which account for about 30 to 40 per cent of the overall price of EVs, the firm said.

The surge in demand, along with Russia's inva-

sion of Ukraine which has disrupted lithium supply chains, will in turn likely drive up prices of the EVs themselves, making the already expensive cars even less affordable for consumers and potentially slowing the shift from fossil fuel cars.

According to Argus, the price of lithium, which is often traded in Chinese yuan as many battery-related industries are concentrated in China, has gone from about 89,000 yuan (\$13,200) per ton in April last year to 486,000 yuan per ton. Prices of



Photo taken 27 May 2022, in Nagoya, central Japan, shows Toyota Motor Corp.'s new electric model bZ4X, equipped with a lithium-ion battery. PHOTO: KYODO

cobalt increased 1.8 times and those of nickel rose 1.5

times in the same period. The pace of rise in

nickel's price accelerated after Russia, a major pro-

ducer of the metal, invaded Ukraine, raising supply concerns.

In the United States, Tesla Inc. raised prices across its entire line-up earlier in the year to pass on higher raw materials costs to customers.

Automakers are accelerating their move toward electrification in the face of global efforts to reduce carbon emissions, raising the prospect of further increases in demand for such key commodities and their prices. Toyota Motor Corp. said in December it aims to sell 3.5 million EVs worldwide in 2030. —Kyodo

Baby formula plant linked to US shortage resumes production



Production has resumed at the Abbott Nutrition manufacturing facility in Sturgis, Michigan — good news for those suffering through a baby formula shortage. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

PRODUCTION resumed Saturday at an Abbott Nutrition baby formula plant in the US whose closure helped fuel a crippling nationwide shortage.

The facility in Sturgis, Michigan has met initial government sanitary requirements for reopening, the company said in a statement.

The plant shut down in February after the death of two babies, and issued a product recall amid concerns over bacteria contamination.

Shortages of specialized formula were particularly worrying to parents of infants with allergies or with certain metabolic conditions.

Concerns became so acute that President Joe Biden met this week with infant food executives and said his administration was doing everything it could to help.

Abbott said Saturday that it was restarting production of its EleCare formula and that the product should be back on store shelves around June 20.

"We're also working hard to fulfill the steps necessary to restart production of Similac and other formulas," Abbott said.

"We will ramp production as quickly as we can while meeting all requirements."

The United States has been struggling with the shortages for months. —AFP

German car industry dealt new blow in May

GERMAN car sales suffered another blow in May, official figures published on Wednesday showed, as the Russian invasion of Ukraine and tight supply chains compounded industry woes.

New registrations in Europe's top economy fell by 10.2 per cent year-on-year to just over 207,000 cars, the federal transport authority (KBA) said in a statement. It came after the same indicator slumped by 21.5 per cent

in April and 17.5 per cent in March.

"The market and production continue to be limited by a lack of primary and intermediate products, high raw material prices and general uncertainty due to the continuing war in Ukraine," the VDA auto industry association said in a statement. EY sector analyst Peter Fuss said the automobile industry was "stuck in its worst production crisis in the post-war period". —AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NAKSKOV MAERSK VOY.NO. (215W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NAKSKOV MAERSK VOY.NO. (215W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-6-2022** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HANSA BREITENBURG VOY.NO. (221W/222E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HANSA BREITENBURG VOY.NO. (221W/222E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-6-2022** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ASIATIC KING VOY.NO. (23S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ASIATIC KING VOY.NO. (23S/N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

North Korea fires eight ballistic missiles, Seoul says

NORTH Korea launched eight ballistic missiles from multiple locations Sunday, South Korea's military said, a day after Seoul and Washington completed their first joint drills involving a US aircraft carrier in more than four years.

Pyongyang has doubled down on upgrading its weapons programme this year, despite facing crippling economic sanctions, with officials and analysts warning that the regime is preparing to carry out a fresh nuclear test.

"Our military detected eight short-range ballistic missiles fired by North Korea," Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

The missiles were launched from multiple locations over a 30-minute period, including Sunan in capital Pyongyang, Tongchang-ri in North Pyongan province, and Hamhung in South Hamgyong province, they said.

They travelled different distances — from 110 kilometres (68 miles) to 670 kilometres — and flew at different altitudes of up to 90 kilometres, it added.

Japanese Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi said the simultaneous test-firing from multiple locations was "unusual".

"This is absolutely unacceptable," he added.

According to local reports, two missiles were shot from



North Korea has launched a flurry of missiles in 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

each site, likely from transporter erector launchers (TELS) — the

largest number of ballistic missiles North Korea has recently

launched on a single day and occasion. —AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Sri Lanka in diplomatic spat over confiscated Russian plane



An Aeroflot plane is seen by the new terminal C at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport on 17 January 2020. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SRI Lanka's main airport on Saturday denied the island nation's government was behind a decision to detain an Aeroflot aircraft, after Russia lodged a

diplomatic protest over the move.

The Airbus A330 was seized at the Bandaranaike International Airport on Thursday,

the same day it arrived from Moscow, after a directive from a court in the capital Colombo.

Flight SU289 was about to return to the Russian capital with 191 passengers and 13 crew aboard.

Sri Lanka's top envoy was summoned to the Russian foreign ministry on Friday to receive a "resolute protest" over the detention, Russian state news agency TASS reported.

But Airport and Aviation Services, which runs Bandaranaike airport, said in a statement the dispute was "purely of a commercial nature" and should not be subject to state involvement. —AFP

Two Reuters journalists injured, driver killed in Ukraine: Reports

TWO Reuters journalists were injured and a driver was killed on Friday in eastern Ukraine, according to media reports.

"Two Reuters journalists injured, driver killed near Sievierodonetsk. Reuters reported that photographer Alexander Ermochenko and cameraman Pavel Klimov had sustained minor injuries after the vehicle they were in came under

fire while en route to Sievierodonetsk," The Kyiv Independent said in a Tweet on Saturday.

"They were traveling in a car provided by Russian proxies on a Russian-controlled road. The news agency said it couldn't establish the identity of the driver who had been assigned by the Russian proxies for the reporting trip," The Kyiv Independent said.

On Monday, French journalist Frederic Leclerc-Imhoff was killed in eastern Ukraine.

"Journalist Frederic Leclerc-Imhoff was in Ukraine to show the reality of the war. On board a humanitarian bus, alongside civilians forced to flee to escape the Russian bombs, he was fatally shot," Macron tweeted Monday. —ANI

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

'Street fighting' in Severodonetsk as explosions rock Kyiv

THE battle for Ukraine's eastern city of Severodonetsk was being waged street by street, President Volodymyr Zelensky said, while explosions rocked the capital Kyiv early Sunday.

"Several explosions in Darnytsky and Dniprovsky districts of the city. Services are extinguishing," Mayor Vitali Klitschko said on Telegram shortly after air raid warnings sounded in Kyiv and several other cities. "There are currently no dead from missile strikes on infrastructure. One wounded was hospitalised. The services are still working in the affected areas."

Separately, at least 11 civilians were reported killed in the Lugansk region where Severodonetsk is located, the nearby Donetsk region and in the southern city of Mykolaiv.

"The situation in Severodonetsk, where street fighting continues, remains extremely difficult," Zelensky said in his daily address Saturday evening. —AFP

UN issues fresh alert amid alarming food insecurity in Ukraine

ONE hundred days since the 24 February Russian invasion of Ukraine, UN humanitarians on Friday issued a fresh alert amid rising and alarming levels of food insecurity there.

Amin Awad, UN Crisis Coordinator for Ukraine, confirmed that the Organization was making every effort to secure the release of grain stuck in Ukraine's Black Sea ports, UN News reported. Equally important for the world's farmers is a secure supply of fertilizer from Russia, a major world producer.

"The negotiations are going on," said Awad, speaking to journalists in Geneva from Kyiv. "There (are) a lot of details and shuttling between Moscow and other countries that have concerns and the negotiations continue. But there's no clear-cut emerging solution right now because it's a board of puzzles that they have to move it together." —ANI

Cambodians vote in local polls as revived opposition vies for seats

CAMBODIANS voted in local polls on Sunday as a revived opposition party attempted to dent Prime Minister Hun Sen's decades-long grip on power ahead of national elections next year.

Hun Sen, one of the world's longest-serving leaders, has ruled Cambodia for more than 37 years and turned the country into a one-party state in 2018 when his party won every seat in a national election.

Voting shortly after polls opened at 7 am (0000 GMT), the prime minister was all smiles as he entered a school polling station on Phnom Penh's outskirts with his wife Bun Rany — but declined to speak to media.

Critics and rights groups have accused him of creating a climate of fear by locking up scores of political opponents and activists.

The opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) — which won 44 percent of the popular vote in local elections in 2017 — was forced to forfeit its positions after a court dissolved it later that year.

Scores of opposition figures have since fled the country, while others have been arrested.

Opposition leader Kem Sokha, who was arrested and jailed for more than a year, is facing a treason trial, while CNRP co-founder Sam Rainsy is living in France to escape convictions



Supporters of the Candlelight Party (CP) take part in a rally on the last day of campaigning for the commune elections in Phnom Penh on Friday. PHOTO: AFP

he says are politically motivated. Sunday's vote in 1,652 communes, or village clusters, will take the country's political pulse

ahead of the national elections in 2023.

Hun Sen's ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) made a

show of strength in Phnom Penh on Friday with a massive parade of cars, trucks, motorcycles and tuk-tuks. — AFP

Iran admits to taking oil from Greek tankers



The Greek tanker Delta Poseidon. PHOTO: IRNA/AFP/FILE

IRAN was merely taking back "stolen property" by capturing two Greek tankers last week, the country's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said on Saturday,

reported AFP. The Ayatollah pointed to the earlier seizure of the Russian-flagged tanker Lana off Greece, when Greek officials

said they would send 115,000 tons of Iranian oil to the US in accordance with the US-imposed sanctions.

"They steal Iranian oil off the Greek coast, then our brave men who don't fear death respond and seized the enemy's oil tanker," Khamenei said in a speech on Saturday.

He acknowledged that Iran took oil from the Greek vessels, but also dismissed Athens' accusations of piracy.

"Who is the pirate? You stole our oil, we took it back from you. Taking back a stolen property is not called stealing," the 83-year-old said. — AFP

Kazakhstan holds referendum to move past Nazarbayev era

KAZAKHSTAN is holding a referendum Sunday to overhaul its constitution after deadly unrest in January ended founding leader Nursultan Nazarbayev's three-decade grip on Central Asia's richest country.

The bloodshed, which grew out of peaceful protests over a spike in car fuel prices — left more than 230 people dead and prompted author-

ities to call in troops from a Russia-led security bloc.

The drive for a "New Kazakhstan" in the wake of the violence has come from the man that Nazarbayev hand-picked to replace him as president in 2019, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

Tokayev, 69, describes the snap referendum as a shift from "super-presidential"

rule that will strengthen parliament.

But it is the absence of special privileges for 81-year-old Nazarbayev that is the most eye-catching change to the constitution.

Prior to January's crisis, Tokayev was widely seen as ruling in the shadow of Nazarbayev and his super-rich relatives. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Belgian king, in shadow of colonial past, to visit DR Congo

Belgium's King Philippe on Tuesday begins a historic visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo, in a region cruelly exploited by his ancestors, as tensions rise in the volatile east.

The six-day trip, at the invitation of President Felix Tshisekedi, has strong symbolic significance, coming two years after Philippe expressed to the Congolese leader his "deepest regrets" for the "wounds" of colonisation. — AFP

Saudi receives first foreign hajj pilgrims since before pandemic

SAUDI Arabia on Saturday welcomed its first batch of hajj pilgrims since before the coronavirus pandemic, which prompted authorities to sharply restrict the annual ritual.

The group from Indonesia landed in the city of Medina and was set to travel south to the holy city of Mecca in the coming weeks to prepare for the hajj next month, state media reported.

"Today we received the first group of this year's pilgrims from Indonesia, and the flights will continue from Malaysia and India," Mohammed al-Bijawi of the country's Hajj Ministry told the state-run Al-Ekhbariya channel. — AFP

Surgeons transplant 3D ear made of living cells

A US medical team said Thursday they had reconstructed a human ear using the patient's own tissue to create a 3D bioimplant, a pioneering procedure they hope can be used to treat people with a rare birth defect. The surgery was performed as part of an early-stage clinical trial to evaluate the safety and efficacy of the implant for people with microtia, in which the external ear is small and not formed properly. AuriNovo, as the implant is called, was developed by the company 3DBio Therapeutics while the surgery was led by Arturo Bonilla, founder and director of the Microtia-Congenital Ear Deformity Institute in San Antonio, Texas. — AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

North Korea fires eight ballistic missiles, Seoul says
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24 teams including Myanmar to compete in 3rd round Asian Cup Qualifiers

A total of 24 teams, including Myanmar, will compete in the third round of the 2023 Asian Cup qualifiers from 8 to 14 June.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) hosted the first and second round qualifiers on a home and away basis.

Due to the COVID-19 pan-

demia, matches of each group will be held by respective host countries and the tournament will run with a one-round format.

The third round will be divided into six groups, with 11 teams: the top six teams from each of the six groups and the top five runners-up will advance to the

next stage.

Myanmar is falling in the Group F together with Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Singapore.

The Myanmar team is in the tough group stage and may struggle to win the tournament, football officials said.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Rafael Nadal, modest warrior with iron will to win

THERE are three certainties in life—death, taxes and Rafael Nadal winning the French Open.

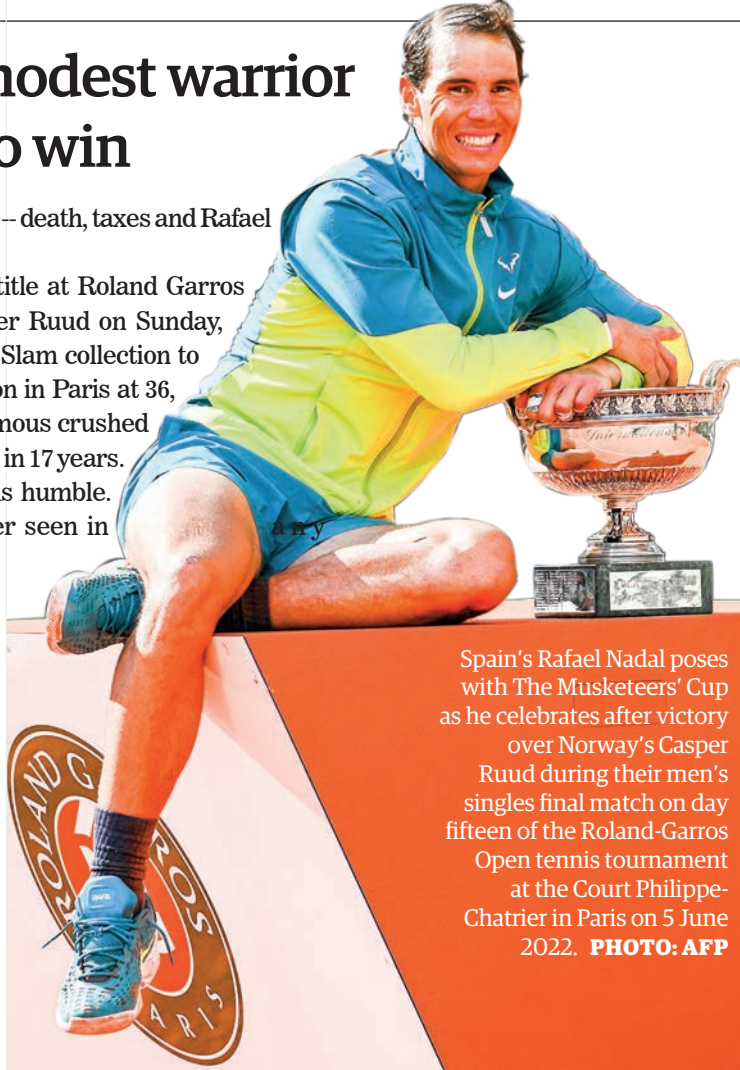
The Spaniard secured a 14th title at Roland Garros with a straight-sets rout of Casper Ruud on Sunday, swelling his record-setting Grand Slam collection to 22. Nadal, the oldest ever champion in Paris at 36, now has 112 match wins on the famous crushed red brick against just three defeats in 17 years.

“He is a great champion, he is humble.

He is the best athlete I have ever seen in sport,” another tennis legend, John McEnroe said in January when Nadal collected the Australian Open.

However, you will never hear Nadal indulge in any similar self-praise. Just as happy fishing or playing golf in Manacor, Nadal is ruthless on the tennis court but disarmingly humble off it.

“I have doubts every day but that’s good as it makes me work hard with more intensity,” said Nadal, whose career has been constantly under siege from knee, wrist and foot injuries.—AFP



Spain's Rafael Nadal poses with The Musketiers' Cup as he celebrates after victory over Norway's Casper Ruud during their men's singles final match on day fifteen of the Roland-Garros Open tennis tournament at the Court Philippe-Chatrier in Paris on 5 June 2022. PHOTO: AFP

Brazil don't need Neymar magic to win, says manager Tite

BRAZIL no longer rely on superstar Neymar to win games, manager Tite said Sunday, with an Olympic gold medal-winning generation looking to step up at

the World Cup.

Neymar underlined his importance to Tite's side by netting the 72nd and 73rd goals of his Brazil career in a 5-1 friend-

ly thrashing of South Korea in Seoul last week.

That took him within striking distance of the legendary Pele's record of 77 goals for the five-time World Cup winners.

Tite played down Brazil's dependence on Neymar as his team prepared to face Japan in a friendly in Tokyo on Monday, saying a new generation of players are ready to share the load.

“I have been in charge of the national team for a long time, and in that time I have made lots of mistakes and also made some good decisions,” he said.—AFP



Brazil's head coach Tite says he has great hope for the new generation of players coming into the national side. PHOTO: AFP

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.

Unbeaten Fulton rips Roman to keep super bantamweight titles



Unbeaten American Stephen Fulton, posing with his world championship belts, defeated Daniel Roman by unanimous decision to defend his crowns on Saturday. PHOTO: AFP

UNDEFEATED Stephen Fulton held on to his two world super bantamweight boxing titles Saturday with a unanimous decision victory over fellow American Daniel Roman.

Judges awarded Fulton the 12-round victory by scores of 119-109, 120-108 and 120-108 at the Armory in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

“I made a hell of a statement tonight,” Fulton said. “I

told you I would make an easy fight depending on how I felt, and I woke up feeling good.”

Fulton, 21-0 with eight knockouts, kept the World Boxing Council crown he won by majority decision over countryman Brandon Figueroa last November and the World Boxing Organization title he took by unanimous decision over compatriot Angelo Leo in January 2021.—AFP