

# 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.

## Rakhine State govt emphasizes freshwater fish farming for exporting products to Bangladesh market

THE Rakhine State government is working with the state Fisheries Department to develop the regional marine sector. The state also achieves a proper freshwater export market in Bangladesh and the government provide techniques and capital for the freshwater fish farming sector.

Rakhine State Economic Affairs Minister U San Shwe Maung met with local livestock



The freshwater fish and prawns farming with non-degradation of the mangrove. PHOTO: KANU



Fishery products are exported to Bangladesh through the Maungdaw border.

farming business persons on 15 June and discussed plans to support techniques for freshwater fish, prawn and soft-shell crab businesses and to organize fishery associations to grant loans.

The two border camps of Rakhine State export Rohu, Snapper, Black Pomfret, Ilish, Lobster, various dried fish, salt-water fish/prawn, mud crab, soft-shell crab and clams.

“We arrange to adapt Mangrove Friendly Farming System

for crab/prawn farming. We estimate implementing a two-year project for 1,000 acres. There are about 500 freshwater fish farming lakes in Rakhine State and a freshwater fish farming market in Bangladesh, so we mainly focus on the freshwater fish farming sector. A new fish hatchery is constructed in Minbya township using the state budget. We will start the hatching operation in the coming season. We also arrange to develop

a farming zone on 1,000 acres of land near the hatchery,” said U Thet Oo, Director of the Rakhine State Fisheries Department.

The Maungtau and Sittway border camps of Rakhine State earned \$13.387 million by exporting 1,136.97 tonnes of marine products in the 2021-2022 mini-budget period and \$13.378 million by exporting 2,711.80 tonnes of products until 11 June of the 2022-2023FY. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

### INSIDE TODAY

#### NATIONAL

Yangon conducts 15 earthquake preparedness rehearsals in 12 townships

PAGE-2

#### NATIONAL

Second coordination meeting held for Film, Music, Theatre Concert

PAGE-3

#### FEATURE

A small manageable business that will never be extinct or Essential Uncle

PAGE-4

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS

Kyaukpyu Combined Cycle Power Plant Project to be completed in 2023

PAGE-5





## 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*

## Yangon conducts 15 earthquake preparedness drills in 12 townships



A demonstration of role-play drill in response to the earthquake.

TWELVE townships in Yangon Region have conducted earthquake preparedness drills for 15 times, according to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

The training courses were conducted in collaboration with governmental departments and social organizations as one of the main activities to prepare for an earthquake. The exercise was conducted at schools, and residential apartments in the townships, and the participants practised the fastest ways to escape from buildings, towers, poles and trees that may collapse in the event of an earthquake and to transport the vic-

tims to the safest place as soon as possible.

During the drill, they also carried out awareness-raising activities to make the public understand matters to be taken immediately in the event of an earthquake and knowledge about the earthquake.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement also makes the necessary equipment and transport vehicles ready to transport victims after an earthquake, as well as it has been coordinated with relevant governmental departments and humanitarian organizations in advance. — TWA/GNLM

## COVID-19 vaccine drives in states/regions

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions.

Doctors and nurses from public hospitals, Tatmadaw medical teams, healthcare workers and volunteers are working hard to give COVID-19 vaccines in different states and regions as the vaccination programme is one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 disease.

COVID-19 vaccine is administered daily to target groups regardless of race or religion, including Buddhist monks and nuns, local people aged 40 and

above, students, religious leaders, prisoners, people with disabilities, ethnic armed groups, people with chronic diseases, people in IDP camps and over 12-year-old students.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 17,506 people for twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 2,896 people from eight townships in Rakhine and Chin States, 1,987 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, and 565 from

Htandabin and Bago Townships in Bago Region, respectively.

Similarly, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 2,000 students from Tachilek Township in Shan State (East), 10,913 students from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 11,263 students from nine townships in Rakhine and Chin States and 653 students from Htandabin Townships in Bago Region yesterday.

It is reported that officials from the respective Military commands visited the site and coordinated the necessary work. — MNA



A student in Kyaukyu Township in Rakhine State gets COVID-19 vaccine shot.

**11 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 23 June, total figure rises to 613,532**

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,532** after **11** new cases were reported on 23 June 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,516** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,434** without more casualties.—MNA



## 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.)*

## Second coordination meeting held for Film, Music, Theatre Variety Show



The second coordination meeting on holding the film, music and theatre variety show is in progress.

THE second coordination meeting on convening the “Film, Music, Theatre variety show” was held yesterday afternoon in Yangon, and Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung

Ohn attended the meeting.

At the meeting, the Union minister said he would like to organize the show according to the suggestions of the artistes. The main purpose of the event is to make the art world lively again. He said people in the art world today are facing challenges to do their work due to the threats posed by dishonest destroyers, and it will be necessary to find ways for them to carry out their work. He suggested helping the artistes who are now struggling to make a living return to their work in various ways.

By holding this variety show, it can assist the livelihood of the artistes and they will be able to resume activities, he added. The Union minister called on the at-

tendees to discuss effective and appropriate ways to do so, adding that his ministry will provide necessary assistance.

Then, U Kyi Soe Tun, Chairman of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, U Myint Aung, Secretary of the Myanmar Music Association (Central), Myanmar Theatre Association Secretary U Nay Win and artistes gave suggestions on successfully holding the show.

The meeting was attended by the directors-general of the Ministry of Information, officials from the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, the Myanmar Music Association (Central) and the Myanmar Theatre Association, artistes and invitees. — MNA

## Walking bridges in Kandawgyi Park reopened

THE opening ceremony of the walking bridges in Kandawgyi Park in Mingala Taungnyunt township was opened yesterday. Chairman of the Yangon City Development Committee Mayor U Bo Htay, Vice-Mayor U Nyi Nyi and Secretary U Nyunt Pe cut the ribbon to open the ceremony.

The ceremony was also attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, the Deputy Commander of the Yangon Command, Yangon Region Cabinet Ministers, and YCDC members. While the Chief Minister and party inspected the bridges, the head of the Yangon Region Development Committee Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges) explained that the Yangon City Development Committee is clearing garbage in Kandawgyi Lake with Aquamarine and Truxor heavy machinery and renovated the

walking bridges.

To let the people relax on the pedestrian bridges, do exercises for health, and provide easy access to the parks in the Kandawgyi Lake, the old wooden poles were replaced with precast RC piles (driven piles) and the wooden flooring was replaced by steel flooring.

There are seven pedestrian bridges in the lake, 886 feet from Karaweik Park to Baganlone Island Park, 3,205 feet from Baganlone Island Park to the former Aquarium Park, and 2,170 feet from the Former Aquarium Park to Pearl Island Park, 520 feet from Pearl Island Park to Maha Myaing Island Park, 350 feet from Freshwater Fish Park to Bogyoke Park, 126 feet from Bogyoke Park to Rock Garden Island, 70 feet from Bogyoke Park to Oval-Shape Walking Bridge. The total length of the bridge is



The Yangon mayor and officials cut the ribbon to reopen the walking bridges in Kandawgyi Park yesterday.

7,307 feet.

After that, the Chief Minister and party observed the activi-

ties of the public at the Former Aquarium Island, inspected the landscaping work and the beau-

tification of the island, and gave necessary orders. — San Kyaw Oo (IPRD)/GNLM



# A small manageable business that will never be extinct or Essential Uncle

By Lin Oo



A young lady who lives in my neighbourhood smiled at me and greeted me when I met her. I asked her where she was going. She surprisingly said that she was on her way to an essential uncle at the corner of the street. When I heard her answer, a confused look appeared on my face. She noticed it and laughed.

It is just a man who repairs umbrellas and shoes at the corner of the street.

Then, I noticed the umbrella in her arm and I told her with a smile, "Oh! I see".

Then, it reminded me of my flip-flops stuck on my shoe rack which need to be repaired. The low-income and middle-income households in the suburban areas need a man who repairs shoes and umbrellas. He is the essential man as the young lady said.

U Thein Tun, 60, who lives in Lanmadaw Township, runs a repair shop on the corner of the street and near the market. He gives repair services for umbrellas, footwear and keys. That kind of business in the rainy season rarely attracts people. It is hard to find them in the rainy season.

U Thein Tun, who comes from the opposite side of Yangon Port (Dala town) to downtown areas, runs his small service business on the pavement. He put his equipment down the side of the road and operates his repair shop without needing a facility. "I kept my equipment below the stairs of the apartment near my working place. I have to give K5,000 for that. The number of repair shops is declining. The majority of the young people disposed of them and bought the new ones instead.

"However, only old people come to the repair shop," U Thein Tun said.

That kind of small business can be seen along the pavement near the Iron market and Mawtin market.

People can get the umbrella, footwear and various home keys repaired easily.

"Umbrella malfunction is mostly witnessed in the rainy season. I have to sew footwear in the summer and rainy seasons. Some old people get the old umbrella which was discarded by the young people repaired and use them during the rainy season.

I earn only K500-K1,500 from the repair service. If the cost is higher than that, people are not interested in the act of repairing," said Ko Win Min, a repairman.

We can make a gross profit after subtracting the food cost and transportation fees as there is no need to pay shop rentals.

"Some customers came to the shop at closing time. If it takes a long time to restore the broken things to a good condition, I schedule an appointment the next day. People mostly have their umbrellas repaired and reused", U Thein Tun stated.

Low-cost umbrellas which are given by companies as a sales promotion are of poor quality yet people seldom get them repaired.

"I have to fix the broken umbrella ribs and frames. Customers who get the

umbrella cover changed are rarely seen."

A quality large umbrella with a six-month warranty is priced at K100,000 maximum, said Ko Phoe Zaw from Mayangon Township.

The medium-sized umbrellas which are commonly utilized at the betel quid shops are worth around K40,000.

The promotional umbrella is distributed free of charge to roadside shops. Those large umbrellas (circle and square structure) are available at the shops near the Post office in Pazundaung Township.

Those shops also provide repair services and service charges are estimated at K10,000-20,000 depending on the conditions. "I run repair shops to mend footwear and umbrellas and earn a regular income throughout the year.

"The repairs of footwear are charged K500-3,000 depending on the conditions and types. Furthermore, keys are required for the apartment stairs in Yangon Region.

I have to give key duplication services frequently, said Ko Hla Min, a repairman.

"I have to make seven to 15 duplicated keys depending on the apartment units.

"The service charges are K2,000 for a key. I will give discounts if they ask me to duplicate more keys," Ko Hla Min elaborated. However, key-making businesses on a large scale are opened downtown.

Therefore, the small shops receive customers once in a while. He also give door-to-door service to fix the broken keys and it costs more than K5,000. Nowadays, people use security keys for the staircase in apartment buildings.

The roadside repair shops can be considered as unremarkable businesses.

Nevertheless, this business on a manageable scale is a small enterprise which brings a benefit to those involved.

Translated.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:antiillegaltradeoffice@gmail.com)  
*Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee*

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.



## Kyaukpyu Combined Cycle Power Plant Project to be completed in 2023

THE Kyaukpyu combined cycle power plant project with a capacity of 135 mW will be completed in May 2023, according to the Kyaukpyu District Electric Power Generation Enterprise.

The project was started near the Gangawdaw Pagoda in Kyaukpyu Township in 2020 and is 81 per cent completed to date. The power plant will be installed with the German-made SGT-800 Gas Turbine in Myanmar, the first of its kind in Myanmar. When the power plant operates, it will generate 135 megawatts of electricity at a rate of 8.59 cents per unit.

During the 25 years of operation of the plant, engineers from the Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) will be



The Kyaukpyu Combined Cycle Power Plant is under construction.

assigned to the plant and handed over the operational maintenance technology.

The Ministry of Electric Power and for Energy conducts maintenance works on No (4)

Fertilizer Factory (Myaungtaga) and No (5) Fertilizer Factory (Kangyidaunt) every April to meet the power needs of people.

Currently, the Kyaukpyu 45 megawatts gas-fuelled power



plant of V Power Group Holdings Limited and Kyaukpyu 150 mW gas-fired power plant of CNTIC V Power KY-3 Limited is generating power in Kyaukpyu township. The 135 mW Kyauk-

pyu combined cycle power plant project of the Kyaukpyu Electric Power Company Limited is being implemented to generate more electricity in coming years. — TWA/GNLM

## E-bikes on top of motorcycles banned in 5 townships of Yangon Region



Motorbikes are seen running and riding in Thanlyin downtown before imposing the ban.

IN addition to motorcycling in five townships in Yangon Region, E-bikes were banned in the second week of June, according to the residents of the townships.

As a result of the ban on motorcycling, local motorcyclists who are making a living with a motorcycle are facing challenges, locals say. The ban has been imposed in Thanlyin, Dala, Hlinethaya, Twantay and Kawhmu townships in Yangon Region. Regarding the ban, the Team Leader of the State Administration Council's Information Team said motorcycles are banned in some areas for security reasons.

First, Thanlyin was closed to motorcyclists with rumours that it will be open at the end of the month, and locals are facing difficulties in commuting in the township as no buses are running in Thanlyin. Residents have been relying on motorcyclists to get to a bus stop to get out of the township and

the ban has made it difficult for the residents to move around, said Ko Naing Lin Aung, a resident in Thanlyin.

Since the motorcycling restriction in Thanlyin Township, locals are renting mini Oway which costs K1,000 per person depending on the distance while the fare for a motorcyclist was K300 - K500.

"The restriction has made the livelihood of my family difficult. I could make around K10,000 per day before," said Ko Hla Tun, a motorcyclist making a living by transporting passengers around Thanlyin. The Ward Administration Office announced that the motorcycling was banned indefinitely on 9 June in Twantay Township, where most commuters have to rely on motorcycles to go around the villages. In addition to the ban on motorcycling, I heard that e-bikes are also not allowed anymore in Hlinethaya Township, said Ma Wai, a resident in Hlinethaya Township. — TWA/GNLM

## China-produced onions enter Yangon market at low prices

THE Chinese onions were entering Yangon market on 23 June, said Ko Aung onion and potato seller at Nyaung Pin Lay Market.

The large size of Monya onion is priced at K1,900 per viss while K1,500 per viss of Chinese onion.

The current China-produced onions were smaller than the previous ones but larger than the onions of Myanmar.

Although the price of Chinese onion was K1,500 per viss in the market, the sellers are still watching the situation comparing the price of Myanmar onion, purchaser Ko Min Lwin told the GNLM.

The locally produced onion prices are high and the low-quality onion has been entering the Yangon market since 2009.

Strangely, the onion entry period is not similar to the previous years as the country receives the onions in mid-year, the onion dealers said.

The Yangon's wholesale centres sell the products by taking fees from the mer-

chants.

The prices are different about K500 or K200 per viss depending on the sizes of onions.

When the price drops, the people buy large-size onions, and small or medium-size ones when the price is high to save about K200 or K500, said Daw Cho Cho Oo from South Okkalapa Township.

The Chinese onions of this year are similar to the Myanmar onions and there is still no comment for them, said Ko Min Lwin.

In 2022, the people will grow monsoon onion earlier and the new monsoon onion will enter the Yangon market in early December. —TWA/GNLM



Onions from China are seen entering the Yangon market on 23 June.



# CRIME NEWS

## Illegal foodstuffs, consumer goods, materials and unregistered motorbike 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 Chairman of the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force, an on-duty team made inspections on 20 and 21 June, according to information.

They seized K7.5 million worth of cosmetics which were not mentioned in the Import Declaration (ID) at the Yangon International Airport Warehouse on 20 June and 950 kilogrammes of suspected metal powder which were different from the Import Declaration (ID) at an estimated value of K3.5 million at the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Checkpoint on 21 June. Effective action was taken under the Customs Procedures.



Seized goods at Yangon International Airport.

Similarly, inspections were carried out under the supervision of the Kayin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force on 22 June. The foodstuffs and consum-

er goods worth K 9 million which exceeded the value of Import Declaration (ID) worth K9 million were captured at Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined check-

point, and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, a team led by the Myanmar Police Force seized a Super Anbo motorbike

at an estimated value of K150,000 in Monywa Township under the Sagaing Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force on 23 June.

Afterwards, the materials which were used in illegal petroleum drilling worth K478,000 were captured in Mintaegy Village in Minhla Township, and the action was taken under the Myanmar Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

Similarly, the on-duty team made inspections at the Ma-yanchaung Permanent Checkpoint and confiscated consumer goods, without official documents, worth K5,431,600 from a truck. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Therefore, seven arrests estimated at K26,059,600 were made on four consecutive days from 20 to 23 June, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

## Drugs seized in various townships

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

On 18 June morning, a team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and checked a Scania passenger bus at the Mahlwe Taung Joint Inspection Checkpoint near Ahl-elsakhan Village of Lawtthaing Village-tract, Yephyu Township and seized 25,344 stimulant tablets.

On the same morning, a team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force confiscated 18,000 stimulant pills from a motorcycle driven by Sai Mein Kwang, at the Tarkaw Bridge Joint Checkpoint

in Tarkaw Village-tract, Kunhing Township.

Similarly, a team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force performed inspections on the Holinam Kyum Highway near Tonkyet Village of Pyingye Village-tract in Kunlong Township and seized 0.11 kilogramme of heroin and 12,000 stimulant tablets from a motorcycle driven by Hlu Wam Fu (aka) Louk Ae at 4 pm.

At 9 am on the same day, a team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a house of Laos citizens, Arr Sam and Wilarwut (aka) Sai, located at Weinkyauk Ward in Tachilek and captured 1,900 Ecstasy pills from the bedroom.

Likewise, on 19 June at the Mahlwe Taung Joint Inspection Checkpoint near Ahl-elsakhan Village of Lawtthaing Village-tract, Yephyu Township, 48,750 stimulant tablets and K3.4 million were confiscated by the team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, from a Yutong passenger bus at 8:15 am.

At noon, a team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched and seized 29,800 stimulant tablets from an Express car, at the Joint Inspection Gate of Mayanchaung Village, Mayanchaung Village-tract in Kyaikhto Township. The suspects were prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the Myanmar Police Force stated. — MNA

## Over K300 mln worth of drugs seized in Namhkam, Shan State (North)



The suspect is pictured along with seized drugs and a vehicle.

HEROIN and stimulant tablets worth over K300 million were confiscated in Namhkam, northern Shan State, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

On 21 June at 8 pm, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a Toyota Hilux Revo car heading from Muse to Namhkam, driven by Khar Aung at No 1 Mantkham Ward, Namhkam Township of Shan State (North), ac-

ording to the information and seized 5.94 kilogrammes of heroin and 0.222 million stimulant tablets worth over K300 million.

After the investigation, the suspect admitted that the seized drugs were to be carried from Kutkai to Namhkam Township. Police are conducting further investigations and the suspect is being prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, stated the MPF. — MNA



Arrestees are pictured along with seized drugs. Ma Pyone, Ma Nan Lay (aka) Mya Sein, Ma Hla Shwe, Ma Nan Yee (from Left to Right).



# LOCAL BUSINESS

## Kitchen crops market becomes sluggish despite high prices

ALTHOUGH the prices of rice, onion, Shan garlic, potato, chilli pepper and sugar edged up in the Bayintnaung market between 16 and 22 June, the demand is pretty low in the rainy season. Rice and chilli pepper markets are especially sluggish, said Ko Hla Han, a seller on Seinpan Street, Yangon.

The prices of rice are on the rise in the Bayintnaung market, yet the demand from the regions outside Yangon is quite low. As a result of this, the commodity depot owners find it hard to pay daily wages of K8,000-9,000.

The prices of broken rice increased from K30,500 to K33,500 per bag. The rice prices stood

at K55,000-K63,000 per bag for Shwebo Pawsan, K54,000 for Pathein-Myaungmya Pawsan, K51,000 for Pyapon Pawsan and K40,000 for Pawkywe variety. The prices at retail shops are K4,000-5,000 higher than those prices in the Bayintnaung market due to free transport costs and other services, said Ma Myint Myint, a local in Kyauktada Township.

On 15 June, the wholesale price of onion (large size) was K2,100 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), thereafter, the price slightly fell to K1,800 per viss. The medium-sized onion was priced at K1,400-1,900 per viss in the Monywa wholesale market on 22 June.

Onions produced in Pyawbwe fetched K1,150-1,750 per viss. What a surprising event is that there is no entry of popular Seikphyu onions into the Yangon market for three consecutive days.

Newly harvested garlic (Kyukok) produced in Shan State was valued at K2,700-2,725 per viss, while garlic (Aungban) was valued at K2,300-3,900 depending on the different sizes.

The wholesale prices of Chinese potatoes move in the range of K1,700-1,800 per viss. The price soared from K1,450 per viss on 18 June. Chinese potatoes are of high quality and there is little chance of potato rot.

The prices of long chilli pep-

per stood at K7,000-8,000 per viss depending on the varieties on 15 June, while Moehtaung chilli pepper in cold storage fetched up to K8,000. Paprika was worth around K9,500-10,000 per viss. On 22 June, the price tremendously jumped to K8,500 for long chilli pepper and K8,500-9,000 for Moehtaung chilli pepper variety. Nevertheless, the demand for chilli pepper declined in the market, a depot owner said.

On 22 June, the prices of sugar were relatively high to K2,230 per viss from K2,170 recorded on 13 June, while imported sugar price rose to K2,400 per viss. Tamarind price was stable at a high of K2,400-3,500 per viss, said

Ko Kar, a tamarind depot owner.

Meanwhile, the palm oil price dropped again to 4,850 MYR. On 21 June, the wholesale price of imported palm oil was K7,200-7,400 per viss and K6,900 per 10 viss in Yangon, said Ko Kyaw Paing, a trader from the Nyaungpinlay market.

On 16 June, the price of black gram (FAQ/RC) was K1,570,000 per tonne and pigeon peas (red gram) were offered at K1,410,000 per tonne. On 22 June, the newly harvested black gram prices significantly climbed to K1,616,000 per tonne, while the pigeon price moved to K1,387,000 per tonne.

— TWA/GNLM

### Onion prices skyrocket to K2,000 in Pyay market



The onions are grown in Mandalay, Magway and Yangon regions, Nay Pyi Taw and Shan State.

THE prices of onions in the Pyay market, Bago Region jumped to K2,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), which reflects an increase of K800 within two weeks.

The price started to rise from the first week of June. Over 200 30-viss bags of onions are daily flowing into Pyay market from Taungdwingyi Township, K150 from Yenangyoung Township and 120 from Magway Region. The market is steadily going. The onions are sent to Thayawady District in Bago, Pathein and Kyangin townships in Ayeyawady Region through the Pyay market.

The wholesale prices stand at K1,800-2,100 depending on sizes and quality. Onion wholesale prices rally to K2,000 across the regions and states.

This year, onion production is estimated at 500,000 tonnes. The daily consumption of onions is around 650-800 tonnes. About 200,000 tonnes of onions can be delivered to the exter-

nal market, a market observer shared his opinion. Next, the cross-border trade channel between Myanmar and China has reopened again. Bangladesh offered to purchase Myanmar's onions in mid-May. Onions are conveyed to Thailand as well.

"If Bangladesh's demand for onions increases, the price will surely rocket. It is hard to predict the market condition now. China and Thailand prefer quality onions only," said a trader. The onion growers, as well as traders, experienced market fallouts during the COVID-19 pandemic since the foreign demand dried up.

Next, Bangladesh's demand for Myanmar's onions coupled with high demand in the local market hiked up prices, soaring up to K4,000 per viss on 15 November 2019, according to the Mandalay commodity depot. The onions are grown in Mandalay, Magway and Yangon regions, Nay Pyi Taw and Shan State. — KK/GNLM

### EOIs under scrutiny for legal corn exports to China; permitted companies to be announced

THE Express of Interests submitted by 142 companies is being examined closely, regarding official corn exports to China. Those permitted companies will be officially declared, said U Min Khaing, chair of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

A working task force has been screening the EOIs in line with the protocols. Myanmar's Department of the Consumer Affairs and Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service (MITS), the authorized organization of the State, are surveying the drying mills and warehouses as well.

"The scrutiny process is nearly completed. The related department will release the result soon," said U Min Khaing.

Those companies which are found to be as per the protocols can ship corns to China through an official channel starting from September, the association guessed.

At present, the corn industry is endeavouring to seek permits from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) and to meet the import food safety criteria the SPS Protocol (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Protocol) for biosecurity is a must for legitimate export to China, the main trade partner of agricultural products with Myanmar. Myanmar's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and GACC have signed an agreement to legally ship corn to China.

Therefore, the exporter companies have been notified to submit EOIs to the working task force by 31 March 2022 in order to meet the SPS protocol requirements and file annual registration.

The protocols include the exporters must have a company or institution which can handle the standard drying mill or warehousing operation for exports or can strictly adhere to the agreements during the set period. Those who have a history of corn exports to China or other foreign countries must also present the relevant documents. The company has to comply with the rules and regulations set by China. Additionally, they need to adopt Good Agricultural Practices and contract farming in need to enhance the corn sector and

ensure food safety.

The prevailing prices stood at K1,030-1,050 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) and FOB prices were approximately US\$350-370 per tonne, according to the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung). Myanmar exported 2.3 million tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the 2020-2021 financial year. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to China, India and Viet Nam.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons—winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/GNLM



Myanmar exported 2.3 million tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the 2020-2021 financial year.



# OPINION

## Conduct research on agriculture and livestock sectors for booming

**H**IGH consumption is a primary factor for the import of fuel and edible oil in the country on a yearly basis. Hence, the people need to efficiently use the two kinds of oils in order to make local edible oil and fuel sufficient and help develop the State economy. On the other hand, an emphasis must be placed on increased cultivation of edible oil crops at home to generate incomes from exportation.

Actually, everybody faces difficulties to reduce the consumption rate of edible oil and fuel. Each person consumes 2.5 ticals of edible oil per day and the people in the whole country, 600,000 to 700,000 tonnes of edible oil per year. Hence, the country imports 800,000 tonnes to 900,000 tons of edible oil per year. People need to focus on the increased production of edible oils. Local farmers can produce edible oil to meet the local demand to some extent.

Myanmar has fertile soils which are enough for expanded cultivation of edible oil crops lands. Taninthayi Region, potential to become an oil pot for the nation, needs to properly manage the cultivation of oil palm plantations. Technicians should seek ways and means for purifying palm oil for public consumption. Meanwhile, local farmers should strive for operating the cultivation of sesame as usual.

In addition, all farmers need to expand sunflower plantations to produce sufficient edible oil for public consumption. Moreover, soybean is also cultivated on the land. Only when

are grown with the purpose of foreign exportation, can the import volume of expeller cakes to be used in feedstuffs be reduced.

At the same time, it is necessary to prioritize conducting the research works in order to produce quality strains of crops and animals to be distributed to local farmers. Encouragement must be given to doing research on agricultural crops which can contribute towards surging the State economy.

Agricultural and livestock scholars must be deployed for the implementation of research projects as well as the expansion of sown acreage of crops and livestock farms. To operate these farms, it is necessary to turn out qualified graduates from agriculture and livestock institutes for ensuring an adequate number of human resources.

As agriculture and livestock training courses will be conducted in newly-set up districts in all regions and states, technicians and skilled labour produced by the training schools will have the chance to join the workplaces for raising the production rates in the agriculture and livestock sectors.

**E**VERYONE has already heard there are four skills in a certain language. For instance, a Myanmar student can have had the four skills of the Myanmar language when he was a 3rd Grader. He can be able to read some text written in the Myanmar Language. He can be able to speak the Myanmar Language to his friends, his family, and his teacher. He can also write some text from his school textbook in the Myanmar Language. He can also understand the words of the others who speak to him in the Myanmar Language. It means the young kid has already possessed the four skills since he was about in Grade III.

However, a student needs at least 11 years to complete his or her matriculation level in Myanmar. It means he or she has studied the English Language for 11 years. Then, he or she must be quite fluent in this language. In reality, they cannot write their own essays. About five per cent of the matric student who was the candidates for the final examination wrote essays. Therefore, almost all matric students who have been learning the English Language for about 11 years cannot seize the ability of the four skills in English. They obtained only one skill i.e., reading. To say frankly, I could not write my own essay when I was a matriculation student. Then, there is a question. Is this weakness due to the teachers who teach English, the students, or ...?

If you do not want to give an answer, you can stay calm. I will have to explain something that

will lead to the answer because I have had over four decades of experience in teaching English. Among the four skills, all English teachers realize that writing is the most difficult one and speaking is the easiest one. Here, again to say frankly, the teachers who are or were teaching English can or could not be fluent in writing. Therefore, it is not strange their students taught by them can never be fluent in writing. There is still another difficulty. It is nothing but the burden of English textbooks for every Grade. It makes the most teachers and all of the students weigh a lot. They cannot be heading toward the way of writing.

Writing is an art. It is also a creation. Writing comes from one's fingertips. To produce a sentence, i.e., writing, one's brain or intellect orders the fingertips to start moving. Such an ordering work is thinking. Thinking and writing are directly associated with each other. Therefore, the teachers who are teaching English should not neglect thinking. In the 21st Century, thinking has been regarded as a skill, and so there are the five skills in the English language.

In this article, although I am emphasizing the thinking skill that is directly associated with writing, thinking skill is not enough to end up like this amount. There are many branches of thinking skills.

Here, I would like to state Nina MK, PhD, who said some interesting words about thinking skills. Many educators now believe that a curriculum aimed at developing thinking skills, in

general, may benefit the learner, society, and the world at large. Let us look at the various ideas and stages and try to understand what critical thinking may mean for education. Every year during the entrance exams, she sees the same large slogan hanging down the local university's main building: "We'll teach you how to think!" Is it indeed possible to teach students not only a certain set of skills, a volume of knowledge as specified in the national curriculum, but also to evaluate the said knowledge and to be able to apply that in real life? Moreover, can we teach them how to think about their own thinking processes?

**Stage 1.** It is learning how to use the critical thinking approach to oneself, the teacher. How many teachers check their own knowledge of a topic before introducing it to their students? Does it even occur to a person with several years or even decades of experience to do it? In our system, a teacher is more or less God. If a pedagogical university instructor mispronounced or misused a word, most listeners would go on into their own professional life and do the same, perpetuating the mistakes. Heaven forbid teachers are corrected at a lesson. The most powerful tool in the classroom is of course the class manual, the journal. A student may get a bad mark for "interrupting" the process; there may be a notation about "disruptive" behaviour; parents may be called. Children learn fast. A colleague made her whole class recite in a chorus,



By Yin Nwe Ko

"It aches to move". When I was a beginner teacher at the university, I was made to visit a senior colleague's lesson. At the end of each lesson, she would say with a nice smile, "And now ze last sin". I politely tried to correct her after a session and acquired an enemy for life. At a school Olympiad, I asked a leading teacher why she counted a correct answer as a mistake and subtracted points from a very good essay. "But I've never seen such an expression!" My many experiences taught me a few things, and now I restrict myself to listing some glaring examples of teacher mistakes at every teacher refresher course or a workshop, and suggest that they use a dictionary or an edu-

cational site.

**Stage 2.** It is teaching your students to use critical thinking while learning. If you manage to give them the basics, they may use those acquired skills later in life and achieve considerable success in whatever they are doing. For instance, when you start a new topic, underline all the words which have more than one meaning, and explain to your students that in English most words have more than one meaning. For instance, when they learn the words which describe a face, you may tell them that nose may be used as a noun and a verb. Cheek is another word worthy of mentioning. "He/she has cheek" shows us

that it is an idiom because there is no article and the singular form is used. Spend a few seconds on a game, ask your students how many cheeks they have, are classified by size, big and small, or by sides, left and right. Proceed to the ears, and elicit the responses: left and right. And then ask them if they also have left and right lips which will immediately result in laughter. But when you ask them how to denote the two lips they will flounder trying to use the familiar "up and down" notion which clearly does not apply here. Once you turn the sometimes-boring process of learning the new lexis into a game it will become easier to remember the topical vocabulary.

**Stage 3.** The main question children ask once they learn to speak is probably "Why". Why do we need to learn this topic? Why should we learn those grammar rules? Why must I study English if I may never use it in my future life? The answers are many and various. True, the internet, the ability to read in at least two languages broadens up one's horizons immensely. But let us remember that an absolute majority of school children in the world (85 per cent) list communication with their peers as the main reason for attending school. Primary school children are often brought to school by their parents, so they come into the classroom a few minutes before the bell rings. Teenagers are quite independent. They often come to school once the building opens, sometimes a whole hour before the lessons begin. The sole motivation is often the desire to meet their friends, not necessarily from their own classes. One of the ways to motivate students and help them develop their thinking skills is through communication. Find an international project partner, and arrange correspondence with the same age group in a different country or another region of your own country. Another way is working through an individual student's interests and aspirations. I would bring various texts and distribute them among students to read, understand and comment upon. Thus, we would all benefit by listening to a future paediatrician, a specialist in bees,

and an avid car lover at the same lesson. Watching their own peers present their findings on diverse topics is good motivation for the whole class.

**Stage 4.** While we may acquaint our adolescent students with the main principles of critical thinking and help them interpret, analyze, evaluate and apply their new knowledge in life, it is equally important to explain that critical does not mean criticism. Many students would refuse to speak up and express their ideas for fear of ridicule. If a teacher has a habit of scolding or making fun of a child who happens to make a mistake, then any attempt at developing critical thinking will fail. Younger children would not be able to formulate their resentment so they would keep silent. Teenagers would indeed internalize as they would build up whole speeches against a teacher in their heads. The feeling of resentment may only grow; it is never a good companion to successful learning.

**Stage 5.** If we manage to teach our students how to think, how to approach the new data creatively, and how to apply their knowledge in the future, we may produce some very productive members of any society. Consolidation will then become a life-long process of using one's education for the greater good. It is never possible to predict which skills exactly will be most useful, as we have no way of knowing how this or that branch of science, this or that area of human activity may develop. Look at the internet and

SEE PAGE - 10



British Airways said on Wednesday (22 June) that it is working closely with Singapore health authorities after the country confirmed one imported case of monkeypox. PHOTO: AFP/BEN STANSALL/FILE

## WHO emergency committee meets on monkeypox

**A**WORLD Health Organization committee of experts will meet on Thursday to discuss the monkeypox outbreak for the first time and decide whether it constitutes a global health emergency.

The one-day meeting, being held in private, was due to start at 1000 GMT, with a statement on the outcome likely to be issued on Friday.

A surge of monkeypox cases has been detected since May outside of the West and Central African countries where the disease has long been endemic. Most of the new cases have been in West-

ern Europe.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has convened an emergency committee to assess whether the outbreak constitutes a public health emergency of international concern.

A PHEIC is the highest alarm that the WHO can sound, under the International Health Regulations — the legally-binding framework agreed by 196 countries on handling public health events that could cross borders.

Besides providing a PHEIC assessment, the committee members are set to give the WHO

and its member states advice on how to better prevent the spread of the disease and manage their response.

"The emergency committee will provide a recommendation to the director-general based on scientific principles, and an assessment of the risk to human health, the risk of international spread and the risk of interference with international traffic," the WHO said.

Tedros then makes the final determination on whether a PHEIC should be declared, based on their advice. There have been six PHEIC declarations since

2009, the last being for Covid-19 in 2020 — though the sluggish global response to the alarm bell still rankles at the WHO's Geneva headquarters.

Emergency committee meetings on the new coronavirus outbreak were held on 22 and 23 January, 2020 but the panel could not agree at that time that the PHEIC threshold had been reached.

A PHEIC was declared after a third meeting on 30 January. But it was only after March 11, when Tedros described the rapidly-worsening situation as a pandemic, that many countries seemed to wake up to the danger:

**More than 2,000 cases**

This year, as of 15 June, some 2,103 laboratory-confirmed cases and one probable case of monkeypox, including one death, have been reported to the WHO from 42 countries.

But the WHO's Europe office and the EU health agency ECDC said that 2,746 cases had been recorded in Europe alone as of Tuesday. "The outbreak of monkeypox continues to primarily affect men who have sex with men who have reported recent sex with new or multiple partners," the WHO said.

SOURCE: AFP



# HEALTH/ENVIRON WORLD

## Monkeypox cases confirmed in South Korea, Singapore

SOUTH Korea confirmed Wednesday its first case of monkeypox infection, prompting health authorities to raise the alert level for the virus, as the country has just started to resume accepting foreign tourists following the coronavirus pandemic.

A South Korean, who arrived from Germany on Tuesday, tested positive for monkeypox, showing symptoms like mild fever, sore throat and skin lesions, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency said.

South Korea became the

second country in Asia to report an infection with the virus after Singapore. Its health authorities plan to import antiviral drugs for monkeypox by July while bolstering measures to prevent its spread.

The report came at a time when the government has assessed that the COVID-19 situation in South Korea has subsided and begun to accept foreign tourists by easing immigration controls. A foreigner who entered the country on Monday and was hospitalized with similar symptoms, meanwhile, was

found to have been infected with chickenpox, the agency said.

Meanwhile, Singapore's Ministry of Health (MOH) has confirmed one imported case of monkeypox infection in Singapore.

According to a MOH statement issued here on Tuesday night, the patient is a 42-year-old male British national who works as a flight attendant and was in Singapore between 15-17 June and again on 19 June as he flew in and out of Singapore. He was tested positive for monkeypox on 20 June.—Kyodo/Xinhua



Passengers of a chartered flight wait for boarding at Singapore Changi Airport in Singapore, 5 February 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

## Spain bets on green hydrogen in clean energy push

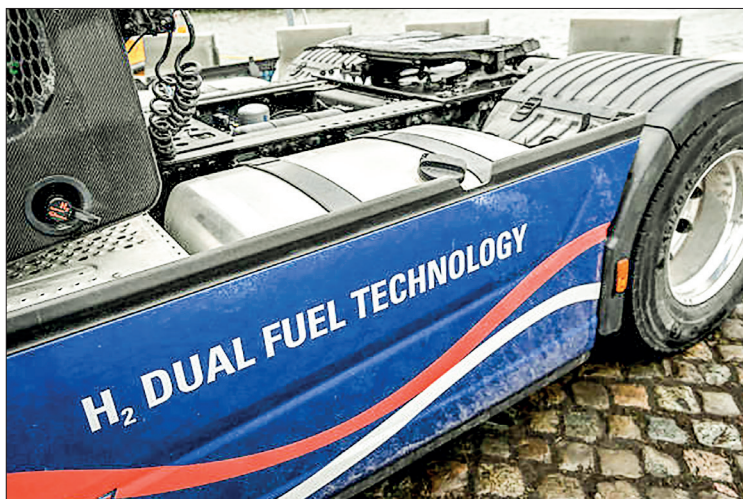


Illustration picture shows a truck with hydrogen fuel technology. PHOTO: DIRK WAEM/BELGA MAG/AFP

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 decarbonize 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.—AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Poliovirus detected in London sewage samples

A type of poliovirus derived from vaccines has been detected in London sewage samples, the World Health Organization and British health officials said Wednesday, adding that more analysis was underway.

No human cases of polio have been found in Britain, where the crippling disease was fully eradicated two decades ago.

The WHO said in a statement that "type 2 vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV2)" had been found in environmental samples in the British capital.—AFP

#### Finland to build national hydrogen network

FINLAND is to set up a national hydrogen network as part of its bid to attain carbon neutrality by 2035, the country's government said on Wednesday. Ambitious climate targets set by Finland and the European Union (EU), the rise in energy prices, and the phasing out of Russian fossil energy have accelerated the need to find new energy solutions, it said. Hydrogen will play an important role in the introduction of emissions-free solutions.

Minister for Finance Annika Saarikko said that the wholly state-owned Gasgrid Finland will begin developing the infrastructure for transferring hydrogen.—Xinhua

### FROM PAGE - 9

its amazing growth. The ability to think, evaluate and re-think if/when needed, is a great skill that we may foster and nurture even in very young children.

At this point, my esteemed readers will be enough to realize what the thinking skill is from the detailed explanation of thinking by Nina MK. I said writing is an art. Writing and thinking are directly associated with each other like a head and tail of a coin. Therefore, thinking is also an art. Then, how do we make our students obtain thinking skills? It is not a difficult task. One must read something which is like the input and from the information he read, there are some ideas born in his mind which will lead to his writing. Here, writing is like the output. No input means no output. This is the simplest and cleverest way for a teacher. First, the teacher must be a reader, and then he must make his students read about something that will appear in letters or essays while writing.

## Global food crisis 'will kill millions' by disease, health executive warns

THE global food crisis sparked by the war in Ukraine will kill millions by leaving the hungriest more vulnerable to infectious diseases, potentially triggering the world's next health catastrophe, the head of a major aid organisation has warned.

A Russian naval blockade of Ukraine's Black Sea ports has stopped grain shipments from the world's fourth-larg-

est exporter of wheat and corn, raising the spectre of shortages and hunger in low-income countries.

The knock-on effects of the food shortages mean many will die not only of starvation but from having weaker defences against infectious diseases due to bad nutrition, Peter Sands, executive director of the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculo-

sis and Malaria told AFP this week.

"I think we've probably already begun our next health crisis. It's not a new pathogen but it means people who are poorly nourished will be more vulnerable to the existing diseases," he said in an interview on the sidelines of a G20 health minister meeting in the Indonesian city of Yogyakarta.—AFP



## Around 25 million people faced consequences of Shanghai COVID-19 lockdown: Report

XI Jinping's zero-COVID policy and the harsh lockdown affected roughly 25 million people in China's financial centre and its largest metropolis Shanghai and what is important is that it was avoidable.

In early June China's financial centre and its largest metropolis Shanghai announced that it is finally phasing out its harshest "zero-COVID" lockdown after more than two months.

Roughly 25 million residents became prisoners in their own

homes, many hauled away to quarantine centres without any recourse, COVID-positive babies forcibly separated from parents, some starved as there were food shortages, and the sick and elderly lost access to life-saving medical treatments, The Washington Times reported.

The cumulative effect on this mega-city is learned helplessness on a massive scale. Consequently, there may be a long-lasting impact on the outlook of the populace, especially

its middle class and the young generation, as the feelings of powerlessness and the unpredictable nature of the lockdown were forced upon them. While economic activities may soon be bustling again, the psychological wounds could leave permanent scars, it added.

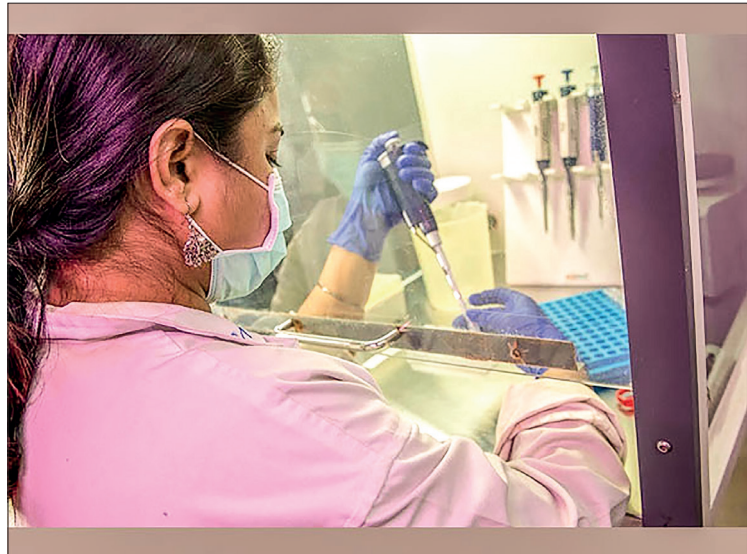
According to the media outlet, the Chinese Communist Party leadership, under the direction of Chair Xi Jinping, fully and opportunistically took advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Residents wait for nucleic acid testing at a community in Pudong New Area, Shanghai, on 4 April. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

A few weeks after Shanghai began "unlocking", businessmen and merchants in China's financial hub still are finding it difficult to resume their businesses and are demanding exemption on rents they are paying for their shops. —ANI

## Asia's first city-wide wastewater surveillance system for COVID-precision health celebrates its one-year anniversary



The Precision Health platform works on the principle of environmental surveillance. **PHOTO: ANI**

THE Government of Karnataka through the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) with support from COVIDActionCollab (CAC) and its partners celebrated the successful

completion of one year of service in the city.

The anniversary event released a collaborative playbook and shared insights on the future roadmap for scale, bringing to

light the upcoming goals of the stakeholders. It also announced the launch of a Multi-city Environmental Surveillance Initiative for the supervision of pathogens of potential pandemics supported by the Crypto Relief Foundation.

Launched in association with the Skoll Foundation on 2 May 2021, the local and government bodies assisted in creating Asia's first city-wide environmental surveillance covering 45 sites representing 131 wards targeting approximately 75 per cent of the population in Bengaluru city.

The Precision Health platform works on the principle of environmental surveillance. An effort piloted by the COVIDActionCollab (CAC), with the objective of helping in the early diagnosis and preparedness to assist with disease intervention. —ANI

## Denmark offers fourth Covid vaccine dose to over-50s

DENMARK'S government said Wednesday the country will begin offering a fourth dose of the Covid-19 vaccine to risk groups next week and all over-50s after the summer, amid the emergence of a new variant.

"Authorities believe the new

variant is more infectious than the previous one, which is why we are acting now... to protect the most vulnerable and the elderly", Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen told reporters.

She said those most at risk would be able to receive a fourth

dose starting next week. The Omicron subvariant BA.5 now accounts for 59 per cent of new cases in Denmark, which has registered more than 3.1 million infections since the beginning of the pandemic in a country of 5.8 million people. —AFP

## Covid subvariants cast shadow over European summer

A resurgence of Covid-19 cases in Europe, this time driven by new, fast-spreading Omicron subvariants, is once again threatening to disrupt people's summer plans.

Several Western European nations have recently recorded their highest daily case numbers in months, due in part to Omicron sub-variants BA.4 and BA.5.

The increase in cases has spurred calls for increased vigilance across a continent that has relaxed most if not all coronavirus restrictions.

The first resurgence came in May in Portugal, where BA.5 propelled a wave that hit almost 30,000 cases a day at the

beginning of June. That wave has since started to subside, however.

Italy recorded more than 62,700 cases on Tuesday, nearly doubling the number from the previous week, the health ministry said.

Germany meanwhile reported more than 122,000 cases on Tuesday. France recorded over 95,000 cases on Tuesday, its highest daily number since late April, representing a 45-per cent increase in just a week.

Cases have also surged in Britain, where there has been a seven-fold increase in Omicron reinfection, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).—AFP



A view taken on 11 May 2020 on the seafront of Cesenatico on the Adriatic coast, northeastern Italy, shows beach manager Ramon Diego Gargiulo (R) and a partner demonstrating the positioning of sunbeds and sunshades on a private beach as part of safety precautions for customers against the spread of COVID-19 during the upcoming summer season. **PHOTO: VINCENZO PINTO / AFP**



# ECONOMY WORLD

## Sri Lanka bets on casino magnate to revive wrecked economy

SRI Lankan casino magnate Dhammika Perera entered parliament on Wednesday with a mandate to revive the bankrupt island nation's wrecked economy — working alongside a premier who once accused him of corruption.

The 54-year-old Perera is a long-time loyalist of the powerful Rajapaksa clan, whom protesters have accused of mismanaging the country into its current predicament.

He replaces President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's youngest brother, Basil, who resigned from parliament this month after stepping down as finance minister in April.

"He was nominated by the president and will shortly take over the investment promotion portfolio and enter the cabinet," a ruling party official told AFP.

Perera will serve in a unity

government formed to tackle the crisis alongside Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, who in 2015 accused the casino boss of being a "demon who protected the corrupt regime of Rajapaksas".

Wickremesinghe has also described Perera as one of four most corrupt businessmen in the country.

Both men shook hands on Wednesday soon after Perera was sworn into parliament before the chamber's speaker.

Perera — who also has interests in banking, hotels, manufacturing, logistics and exports — takes office at a time when Sri Lanka is suffering through months-long shortages of food, fuel and other essential goods.

Long queues form outside gas stations each day for scarce petrol supplies, while regular blackouts and runaway inflation



Motorists queue to buy scarce petrol in Colombo earlier this month as Sri Lanka grapples with shortages of essential goods. **PHOTO: AFP**

have made life difficult for the island nation's 22 million people.

The government has defaulted on its \$51 billion foreign debt

and is seeking an International Monetary Fund bailout. —AFP

## Lebanon banks on summer tourism windfall: minister

LEBANON'S ailing economy should receive a welcome injection of more than \$3 billion thanks to a rebound in tourist arrivals over the summer, the tourism minister said Wednesday.

Lebanon defaulted on its debt in 2020, the local currency has lost around 90 per cent of its value on the black market, and the UN now considers four in five Lebanese to be poor.

While soaring inflation is ravaging households with in-

comes in Lebanese pounds, the informal exchange rate makes prices attractive to most tourists.

"This summer is promising. We expect more than a million tourists and income of \$3-3.5 billion during this summer season," Minister Walid Nassar told AFP in an interview.

Reservations show that three quarters of the arrivals will be Lebanese nationals from the diaspora, he said.—AFP



Japanese tourists wearing health face masks, due to fears of COVID-19 coronavirus, tour in the Sidon Sea Castle in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon on 7 March 2020. **PHOTO: MAHMOUD ZAYYAT / AFP / FILE**

## New UK statue unveiled to post-war Caribbean migrants

PRINCE William on Wednesday unveiled a new national monument to the "Windrush" generation of Caribbean migrants who moved to Britain following World War II, praising their "immense contribution" to national life.

The 12-foot (3.65-metre) bronze statue, which depicts a man, woman and child standing on top of suitcases, will greet millions of rail commuters at London's Waterloo station.

"Over the past seven decades, the Windrush Generation's role in the fabric of our national life has been immense," said William.

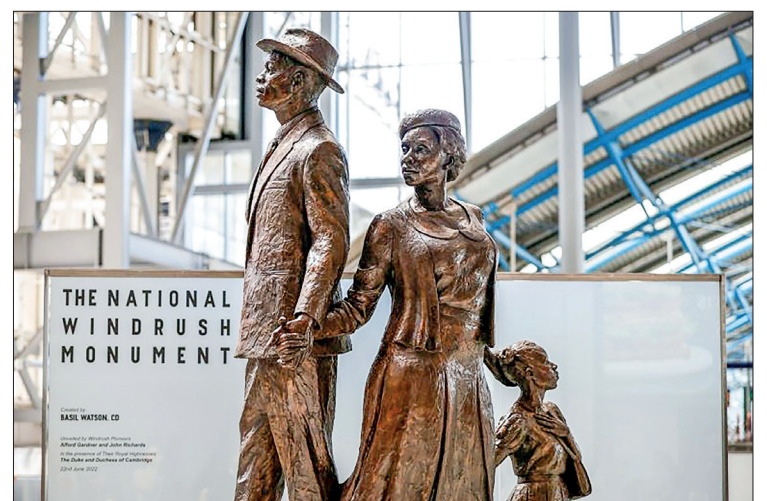
"Every part of British life is better for the half a million men and women of the Windrush Generation.

"I want to say a profound

thank you to every member of that generation, and the generations that have followed," he added.

The decision to erect a

monument followed a scandal that first emerged in 2017 and caused much soul-searching about racism past and present in Britain.—AFP



Prince William unveiled the new national monument to the 'Windrush' generation of Caribbean migrants who moved to Britain following World War II. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

## Tunisia urges IMF to consider social impact of reforms

TUNISIAN President Kais Saied on Tuesday urged the International Monetary Fund to take into account the social impact of any economic reforms it may demand as part of a bailout package.

The North African country

has been in preliminary discussions with the global lender for a new loan to save an economy ravaged by years of high unemployment, inflation and public debt even pre-dating its 2011 revolution.

Saied met the IMF's region-

al chief Jihad Azour on Tuesday, telling him he "recognized the need to introduce major reforms" but insisted that such changes must "take social impacts into account", according to a statement from the president's office.—AFP



# China's digital yuan seeing wider real-life usage

WHEN consumers in some big cities like Beijing and Guangzhou open the mobile app of the Chinese online food delivery platform Meituan, an enticing digital red packet would be on offer.

Besides being a spending incentive, the coupons serve as invitations to try the platform's new payment choice: China's digital yuan.

Worth 40 yuan (about 6 US dollars) in total, the coupons are in the form

of digital fiat currency, or the e-CNY, which can be used once users open an official e-CNY account. The e-CNY coupons could foot the bill for take-away food, movie tickets and other life services on Meituan.

Rolled out across the board in January, the e-CNY payment service on the platform had attracted some 6 million users by 20 June.

With the support from Internet platforms

like Meituan, usage of the e-CNY has been expanding fast since it started pilot projects in 2019.

Data from the country's central bank, also the designer of the e-CNY, showed that by the end of 2021, the e-CNY had over 8 million application scenarios, with more than 260 million individual digital yuan wallets opened.

A number of applications have taken shape in wholesale and retail, catering, tourism and pay-

ment of administrative fees, which cover both online and offline scenarios and can be replicated and promoted, the central bank said in a statement earlier this year.

Consumption scenarios have been the primary test ground of the digital yuan. Many Chinese cities have leveraged e-CNY coupons to invigorate local consumer spending after COVID-19 outbreaks snarled consumption.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 12 Oct 2020 shows a sign reminding customers that digital yuan is accepted at a supermarket in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province. PHOTO: XINHUA/WU YANTING

# Sharp to make English its official language in a year: CEO



Stockholders head to the venue of Sharp Corp.'s stockholders meeting on 23 June 2022, in Sakai, Osaka Prefecture in western Japan. PHOTO: KYODO

SHARP Corp. will make English its official language in a year, Wu Po-hsuan, chief executive of the Japanese electronics company, said Thursday. The company, headquartered in Sakai, Osaka Prefecture, plans to expand its overseas business by strengthening

human resource development, said Wu, who replaced Tai Jeng-wu in April. Both Tai and Wu have been sent to Sharp by Taiwan's Hon Hai Precision Industry Co.

Briefing stockholders at a meeting in Sakai, Wu vowed to "transform the

Sharp brand from one that is Japan-centric to a global brand." Currently, Wu is in charge of Sharp's global branding and overseas business in the Americas, Asia and Oceania. Sharp became a subsidiary of Hon Hai in 2016, in the first acquisition of a major Japanese firm by a foreign company. Hon Hai assembles Apple Inc.'s iPhones and is known by its trade name Foxconn.

Tai is credited with leading the Japanese company back from the verge of collapse. Over recent years, a handful of Japanese companies have shifted to make English their official language.—Kyodo

# More young Aussies leaving big cities for life in Australia

REGIONAL migration in Australia is at a five-year high with younger people setting the trend, according to data released on Thursday from one of the nation's leading banks and a prominent think tank.

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) and the Regional Australia

Institute (RAI)'s Regional Movers Index (RMI) recorded a 16.6 per cent jump in the number of people moving away from the capital cities such as Sydney and Melbourne during the first three months of this year. RAI chief executive Liz Ritchie said the influx of "Millen-

nials" (aged 24 to 40) and "Gen-Xers" (aged 40 to 56) were welcome additions to the countryside as they "often bring with them business skills to grow the local community, as well as families who integrate into the local school system and community sporting activities".—AFP

# EU court quashes Ryanair complaint over Finnair bailout

THE EU Court of Justice on Wednesday dismissed a Ryanair case seeking to annul Covid-19 aid granted to Finnish state-owned airline Finnair.

The complaint was part of a string of more

than 20 court cases brought by the Dublin-based airline during the pandemic.

Ryanair has sought to undo the massive bailouts of Lufthansa, Air France and other major

EU airlines, with varying success.

Finnair was granted over one billion euros (\$1.1 billion) in aid as part of Finland's measures to support the economy during Covid-19.—AFP

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## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (197W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (197W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V RESOLUTION VOY.NO. (2216S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RESOLUTION VOY.NO. (2216S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-6-2022** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO. LTD



# GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## Campaigning starts for Japan's upper house election on 10 July



People listen to a politician making a stump speech in Nagoya on Wednesday, the first day of campaigning for the 10 July House of Councillors election. **PHOTO: KYODO**

OFFICIAL campaigning began Wednesday in Japan for the House of Councillors election on 10 July, as the ruling and opposition parties rush to address inflation concerns and spar over whether a more robust defence posture is necessary in the wake of Russia's war on Ukraine.

A total of 125 seats are up for grabs in the 248-member upper house, with a total of 545 people filing their candidacies. The number is a sharp rise from the 370 candidates in the last upper house election in 2019.

The number of female candidates this time round hit an

all-time high of 181, eclipsing the previous record of 146 set in 1989 and accounting for an unprecedented 33.2 per cent.

The triennial election is a critical test for Prime Minister Fumio Kishida to gauge voter confidence in his handling of government after nearly nine months spent bolstering the country's COVID-19 response, taking a tough stance on Russia and scrambling to ease the pain on households from rising prices of energy and everyday items like food.

The Liberal Democratic Party, headed by Kishida, aims to

maintain a majority of the seats in the upper house with its coalition partner Komeito, which would allow them to stably run the government for the next three years.

"This election has put under the spotlight who can deliver results in facing major challenges, including the rebuilding of Fukushima, the fight against the novel coronavirus, the response to the Ukraine crisis, and rising prices," Kishida said in a stump speech in Fukushima Prefecture, which suffered meltdowns at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant following the massive 2011 earthquake and tsunami.—AFP

### RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

## Moscow accuses Berlin of 'Russophobic hysteria' on anniversary of Nazi invasion

RUSSIA on Wednesday accused Germany of anti-Russian sentiment in a statement on the anniversary of the invasion of the Soviet Union by Nazi troops in 1941 as tensions rage over Ukraine.

"Russophobic hysteria is systematically fuelled by almost daily public attacks against our country by members of the German government," Russia's foreign ministry said.

It said authorities in Berlin "have recently been undermining the process of historical reconciliation between Russians and Germans" after World War II.

Berlin "jeopardises the results of the efforts made by

Russia and Germany for decades to overcome post-war enmity, hostility and distrust between the peoples of our countries," the ministry said.

It said "the anti-Russian propaganda campaign" has provoked "unmotivated aggression bordering on mass psychosis" against Russians and Russian speakers in Germany.

The ministry also accused NATO member Germany of building up its military presence near Russia's western borders, "bringing to mind the most bitter periods of Russian-German relations for our people, including the events preceding May 1945".—AFP

## Russia says repelled attack on Ukraine's Snake Island

RUSSIA said Tuesday it had repelled a "mad" attempt by Kyiv's forces to retake the Black Sea's Snake Island captured by Moscow at the start of military action in Ukraine.

The outpost became a symbol of Ukrainian resistance after a radio exchange went viral at the start of the war, in which Ukrainian soldiers used an expletive in rebuffing a demand by the Russian warship Moskva to surrender.

Besides its symbolic value, the island also has a strategic location off the coast of Ukraine and Romania, and Moscow says Ukraine's forces have tried to recapture it several times.

"On 20 June at 5:00 am, the Kyiv regime undertook another mad attempt to take possession of Snake Island," Russia's defence ministry said in a briefing.



Zmiinyi (Snake) Island is located 48 kilometres (30 miles) south of Ukraine's mainland in the Black Sea. **PHOTO: UKRAINIAN NAVAL FORCES/AFP**

Ukraine's forces had "planned to carry out massive air and artillery fire... before landing and capturing" the island, it added.

The ministry said 15 Ukrainian attack and reconnaissance drones took part in the airstrike while missile launchers and howitzers fired at the island.

Russian air defence systems intercepted all the projectiles and shot down 13 drones, "forcing the enemy to abandon the landing on Snake Island", the ministry added.

It also said that Russian radars had detected a US RQ-4 "Global Hawk" reconnaissance drone in the area.—AFP

## Sweden issues 'early warning' on Russian gas supply

THE Swedish Energy Agency on Tuesday declared a first level "early warning" over fears that gas supplies may be impacted due to reductions in energy imports from Russia due the war in Ukraine.

The announcement, which concerned western Sweden, follows a similar declaration by Denmark on Monday evening.

"Sweden and Denmark have a common gas market and a joint balancing zone where the Danish supply situation is of great importance for the Swedish one," the agency said in a statement.

"Therefore the Energy Agency in Sweden has decided to mirror Denmark's decision on a crisis level," it added.—AFP

## Türkiye to host meeting with UN, Russia, Ukraine on grain corridor: media

TÜRKIYE is to host a four-way meeting with the United Nations, Russia and Ukraine in Istanbul next week to discuss a possible Black Sea corridor for exporting Ukrainian grains, local media reported Wednesday.

A Turkish military delegation will travel to Russia

this week to discuss the details of the planned corridor, the HaberTurk TV reported, quoting anonymous presidential sources.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres wanted to attend the meeting, according to the sources.

The United Nations had appealed to Russia and Ukraine, as well as Türkiye, to agree to set up a maritime corridor to export Ukrainian grains. Türkiye, a NATO member, has been making efforts to broker a deal to allow Ukraine export grains to avert a food crisis.—Xinhua



## US Capitol assault hearings take break as new evidence floods in

THE congressional panel investigating last year's attack on the United States Capitol announced a break from its blockbuster series of televised hearings on Wednesday after receiving a glut of new video footage of Donald Trump and his family from a documentary filmmaker.

Chairman Bennie Thompson told reporters today's hearing on Trump's alleged attempts to corrupt the Justice Department would be the last until two further hearings later in July.

Thompson did not elaborate on the timetable but said further hearings after the two in July are "always a possibility".

"The timeline of the hearings is driven, and continues to

be driven, by the investigation. The select committee continues to receive relevant new evidence that we think is very important to the investigation," an aide to the panel said.

"It's important that our members (and) investigators take the time needed to assess that information and figure out how we're going to use that information as we continue to make our presentation to the American people."

The new evidence includes documents from the National Archive and multiple new leads given to a tip-line since the televised hearings began earlier in June.

The most prized haul though will be hours of footage



Pro-Trump supporters stormed the US Capitol following a rally with President Donald Trump on 6 January 2021. PHOTO: SAMUEL CORUM /AFP/FILE

from documentary filmmaker Alex Holder, who was granted extensive access to Trump and his inner circle — including for interviews — before and after January 6.— AFP

## At least 1,000 killed in Afghan quake, with fear toll will rise

DESPERATE rescuers battled against the clock Thursday under pouring rain to pull survivors from the rubble after a powerful quake struck a mountainous border region of Afghanistan, killing at least 1,000 people.

The 5.9-magnitude quake struck hardest in the rugged east, where people already lead hardscabble lives in the grip of a humanitarian crisis made worse since the Taliban takeover in August.

"People are digging grave after grave," said Mohammad Amin Huzaifa, head of the Information and Culture Department in hard-hit Paktika, adding that at least 1,000 people had died in that province alone.

He said more than 1,500 people were injured, many critically.

"People are still trapped under the rubble," he told journalists.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the global agency has "fully mobilized" to help, deploying health teams and supplies of medicine, food, trauma kits and emergency shelter to the quake zone.

The death toll climbed steadily Wednesday as news of casualties filtered in from hard-to-reach areas in the mountains, and the country's supreme leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada, warned it would likely rise further.—AFP



Damaged houses are pictured following an earthquake in Gayan district, Paktika province in Afghanistan on 22 June 2022. PHOTO: AFP

## UK by-elections pose fresh threat to Boris Johnson

VOTERS head to the polls on Thursday in two closely watched UK by-elections that risk renewing pressure on beleaguered Prime Minister Boris Johnson following months of scandals and setbacks.

His ruling Conservatives are tipped to lose both contests, for the parliamentary seats of Tiverton and Honiton in southwest England and Wakefield in the north, after both Tory MPs resigned in disgrace.

Tiverton and Honiton's MP Neil Parish quit after admitting watching pornography on his phone in the House of Commons, while Wakefield's Imran Ahmad Khan was jailed for sexually assaulting a teenage boy.

The votes come just weeks after Johnson narrowly survived an attempt by his own lawmakers to oust him as party leader and prime minister.

The 6 June vote among Conservative MPs saw more than 40 percent of the parliamentary party desert him, leaving him severely weakened and struggling to reset his turbulent tenure in power.

Johnson has spent months fighting for his survival after a series of controversies including the "Partygate" saga led many Tories to question whether he should remain as leader.—AFP



The smaller opposition Liberal Democrats are hoping to overturn at The Lib Dems the Conservative party's 24,000-majority in a by-election in Tiverton and Honiton in southwest England on Thursday. PHOTO: AFP

## Hong Kong Palace Museum holds opening ceremony

THE Hong Kong Palace Museum (HKPM), located in the West Kowloon Cultural District of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), held its opening ceremony on Wednesday.

The ceremony was co-organized by the HKSAR government and the Chinese Ministry of Cul-

ture and Tourism.

Carrie Lam, chief executive of the HKSAR, said the establishment of the HKPM is intertwined with the unique advantages of Hong Kong under "one country, two systems." The HKPM is also intertwined with the full support rendered by the central

government for Hong Kong and its affection for the people of Hong Kong, as well as with the trust that the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the National Cultural Heritage Administration and the Palace Museum have in Hong Kong, Lam told the opening ceremony.—Xinhua





## FIFA Ranking: Myanmar team stands sixth in ASEAN after Asian Cup Qualifiers



Myanmar national footballers sing the National Anthem before their Asian Cup Qualifiers match against Singapore on 14 June 2022. PHOTO: MFF

THE Myanmar men's national football team is currently standing sixth in the ASEAN region and ranked 158<sup>th</sup> in the world with 1,012 points, according to the FIFA rankings released after the third round of Asian Cup Qualifiers.

Team Viet Nam is still standing first in ASEAN with a world ranking of 97<sup>th</sup> and 1,219 points earned.

Meanwhile, Thailand's national football team is placed second in ASEAN with a FIFA

ranking of 111 and 1,173 points.

The Philippines squad is third with a world ranking of 133<sup>th</sup> and 1,114 points.

Next, Malaysia's national team is fourth in ASEAN and the team is standing 147<sup>th</sup> in the world ranking with 1,057 points earned and the Indonesia team is the fifth in ASEAN with 155<sup>th</sup> the world rank.

In the meantime, Singapore is following Myanmar with a FIFA world ranking of 159<sup>th</sup> and 1,001 points.

Next, Cambodia and Laos are in eighth and ninth place in ASEAN with FIFA ranking 174<sup>th</sup> and 183<sup>rd</sup>.

Brunei team is next in the tenth place with a FIFA world ranking of 119<sup>th</sup> and Timor Leste is in the eleventh place with a FIFA ranking of 198<sup>th</sup>.

Myanmar had the highest records in FIFA ranking 97<sup>th</sup> in April 1996 and lowest as 182<sup>nd</sup> in August 2012, according to FIFA. — 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.

## Myanmar National League tourney to be launched on 25 June

THE 2022 season of the Myanmar National League will be launched at Thuwunna Youth Traing Centre in Yangon starting on 25 June, according to the statement with the national league.

The MNL matches will be held on every Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday at the Centre.

Defending Champion Shan United, Hanthawady United, Ayeyawady United, Yangon United, Myawady FC, Mahar United, Rakhine United, ISPE FC, GFA FC, and Yadanabon FC will compete in the tournament, according to the football authorities.

According to the fixture, Myawady FC will play an opening match against Yangon FC on 25 June.

Next, Hanthawady United will take on Ayeyawady United on 26 June.

Similarly, Mahar United will face Shan United on 27

June and ISPE FC will take on Rakhine United FC on 29 June.

GFA FC will take on Yadanabon FC on 30 June.

All the participating clubs have made a lot of preparations for the new season, with most of the teams competing with local players.

Fans have to see many newcomers as most of the national team players are playing abroad and trying to get a chance to play for foreign clubs.

Therefore, the upcoming MNL tournament will be a competition for local players.

The MNL tournament was launched in 2009 and is held annually for all years except 2021.

Yangon has won a five-time Championship while Yadanabon has won four times and Shan United has won three times. — Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

## Medical staff in Argentina to be tried for Maradona death

EIGHT medical personnel will stand trial for alleged criminal neglect causing Argentine football legend Diego Maradona to die in bed while receiving post-surgery care.

A judge on Wednesday ordered a culpable homicide trial for the eight, who include Mara-

dona's family doctor and nurses, based on evidence that they had failed to take "action that could have prevented the death" in November 2020. No trial date has been set.

Maradona died aged 60 while recovering from brain surgery for a blood clot, and after decades of

battles with cocaine and alcohol addictions.

He was found dead in bed two weeks after going under the knife, in a rented house in an exclusive Buenos Aires neighbourhood where he was brought after being discharged from hospital. —AFP

## Man City poised to sign Bielefeld goalkeeper Ortega

PREMIER League champions Manchester City are on the verge of signing Stefan Ortega from relegated Bundesliga club Arminia Bielefeld as back up for first-choice goalkeeper Ederson, according to reports Thursday.

Magazine Kicker and top-selling daily Bild say the 29-year-old will join the Citizens on a free transfer as his Bielefeld contract has expired.

Ortega was one of Bielefeld's best players last season, keeping six clean sheets in 33 league games even though the club was relegated after finishing second from bottom in Germany's top flight. He was on the fringe of the Germany squad for last summer's Euro 2020 finals as fourth-choice goalkeeper on stand-by if Manuel Neuer, Kevin Trapp or Bernd Leno had been injured.— AFP

