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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.

Insured worker who gave birth to triplets receives social security benefits

AN insured worker of Myanmar Honey Farm in Mandalay Region, who has taken registration at the Social Security Board branch 1 in Aungmyethazan Township, gave birth to triplets and was provided maternity leave and maternity allowance on 9 July in accordance with the 2012 Social Security Law.

“We grant the allowance of the insured woman for her pregnancy and maternity. The allowance is 50 per cent of the salary for one child, 75 per cent for twin and 100 per cent for triplets and above. The medical treatment is provided for the children until they turn one year old. The SSB branch 1 has granted over K9.5 million maternity allowances between April and June of this financial year,” said Assistance Director Daw Lwin Lwin Myint of Mandalay’s SSB office.

The insured female worker, Ma Zin Mar Latt gave birth to triplets—one girl and two boys — and so she was provided K506,880 allowance by Assistance Director Daw Lwin Lwin Myint of Mandalay’s SSB office.



The insured worker accepts allowances for her triplets babies provided by Social Security Board in Mandalay on 9 July.

The SSB arranges benefits for the insured workers, and the employers should register for the employees to ensure benefits for sickness, maternity, funeral, medical service/ travel allowance and worksite injury including temporary disability and permanent disability.—Maung Aye Chan/GNLM

Myanmar trade deficit widens to over \$140.9 mln in first quarter

A surge in imports pushed up Myanmar’s trade gap to over US\$140.99 million in the first quarter (April-June) of the current financial year 2022-2023 from just \$86 million registered in the corresponding period of the 2021-2022 FY, according to data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

In the past three months, Myanmar’s external trade soared to \$8.5 billion from \$7.24 billion recorded in the year-ago period.

While exports were estimated at \$4.189 billion, imports were valued relatively high at \$4.33 billion in the first quarter. Compared to the FY 2021-2022, exports showed an increase of over \$522.7 million, while import value was up by \$749.8 million.

Myanmar’s maritime trade climbed up yet the country witnessed a drop in border trade as cross-border trade with the main trade partner China has not returned to normalcy amid the strict virus policy.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest

products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer goods.

Myanmar’s lower imports and higher exports in the past six-month mini-budget period (Oct 2021-Mar 2022) resulted in a positive trade balance of \$169 million. Moreover, an import fall led to the largest trade surplus of \$677 million in the FY 2020-2021, with \$15.36 billion worth of exports outperforming \$14.69 billion worth of imports, according to data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

The country’s export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. The Ministry of Commerce is trying to reduce the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports. The country mainly imports essential goods, construction materials, capital goods, hygienic materials and supporting products for export promotion and the import substitution.—KK/GNLM

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Special care cannot be given to every single crop

We work everyday to govern an entire nation. So, we don't have leisure time. In governing an entire nation, it is impossible to focus at the same time on every issue affecting the people. But, in reality, our government is working with many difficulties, we saw success in some issues and not in others.

(Excerpt from the address made by Bogyoke Aung San at the meeting with journalists on 30 May 1947)



Reference wholesale price set as K4,650 per viss of palm oil

IT was announced yesterday that it would take action under the Important Goods and Services Act if the persons raise prices, illegally store goods and commit 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 a 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.

According to market and price in the world's palm oil ex-

porters this week, the committee has announced the basic Yangon Reference Wholesale Price of palm oil is K4,650 per viss within 11 and 17 July.

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

Lahu Democratic Union-LDU peace delegation leaves Nay Pyi Taw

THE peace delegation led by General Secretary Kyar Solomon of the Lahu Democratic Union-LDU which arrived in Nay Pyi Taw at the invitation of State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, returned Tachilek of Shan State by flight yesterday.

The peace delegation was seen off by officials and members of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation

Committee, departmental officials and ethnic people of the Department of Fine Arts and locals at Nay Pyi Taw airport by holding miniature State flags and placards bearing—perpetual peace is the real aspiration of the people, achieving peace is the true desire of all citizens, let's hold talks for peace in the Union and only the ethnic nationalities are in unity, stability, peace and tranquility will be achieved.

On arrival at Tachilek airport, the delegation was welcomed by officials of Tachilek station, departmental concerned, political organizations and local residents by holding miniature State flags and placards bearing—"State Administration Council gains achievements for peace, we welcome the peace processes, the peace talks must be successful and we agree with the peace talks".—MNA



Peace delegation of Lahu Democratic Union-LDU led by General Secretary Kyar Solomon is being seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by departmental officials and ethnic people on 10 July.

Announcement for opening reception centres to receive CDM staff, students and youths

THE State Administration Council has been striving for the all-round development of the country including economic, social, education and health sectors. In addition, security forces are performing their duties day and night so that the entire mass of national people in various regions across the Union should be able to lead their lives and earn their living in the peace of mind. The State Administration Council gives priority to achieving genuine and perpetual peace, building up the united strength of the national brethren.

In order to prevent the unnecessary loss of human resources, the State Administration Council has publicly invited the basic education staff who are absent from duty to resume their duties and those who take part in armed resistance under various names of groups, including PDFs, to return to the legal fold if they wish to, and is systematically receiving the returnees.

It is found that, due to the persuasion, instigation and coercion of CRPH and NUG terrorist groups, some CDM staff, students and youths went to the strongholds of some ethnic armed organizations and received training in arms, ammunition and explosives.

It is known that some of those who have completed the training no longer want to be involved in terrorist attacks and so they fled to the regions within and without the country and are working there for their living. When they see terrorist attacks with their own eyes, they cannot accept such terrible acts at all. On the other hand, they have come to believe in the government's five-point roadmap and its endeavour for durable peace. Moreover, they want to live peacefully in their hometowns again with their parents and relatives. Nevertheless, they cannot do so because of the coercion and intimidation by CRPH and NUG terrorist groups and their subordinates, it is learnt.

Therefore, the government is taking measures to be able to open reception centres in border areas for those who would like to return homes to their respective regions. Moreover, those wishing to return home can contact Tatmadaw units and police stations. It is guaranteed that they will be able to lead their daily lives peacefully.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Further invitation to remnant 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 remnant groups to hold talks.

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

Qualified ones from THS, basic education high school arranged to join GTI, undergraduate courses

ARRANGEMENTS have been made to give training to trainees to be able to inspect quality of agricultural equipment manufactured at home and abroad and turn out qualified agricultural machinery operators and produce skilled agricultural machinery operators, said Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo on 9 July in meeting with officials from Myanmar Agricultural Equipment Factory (Ingon) in Kyaukse township, Mandalay Region.

He also unveiled the plan to train those who completed the technical high school and basic education high school

to become internationally certified skilled technicians and make a bridge for qualified ones to learn at Government Technical Institute and undergraduate courses.

Due to the scarcity of farm labour and climate change, it is necessary to use agricultural implements on a wider scale for timely cultivation and production. He noted that the ministry encourages investments of citizens and foreigners for meeting the needs. As a result, he urged businesspersons to make arrangements to ensure that farmers have easy access to high quality agricultural implements.—MNA



Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo views manufacturing of agricultural machinery at Myanmar Agriculture Equipment Factory (Ingon) in Kyaukse on 9 July.

Govt to grant loans for setting up sunflower oil mills



Union Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint San views storage of cooking oil in tanks in Yangon Region at meeting with oil dealers on 9 July.

THE government arranges to grant loans for the establishment of sunflower oil mills while the country is promoting sunflower cultivation rate, said Union Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint San during a meeting with members of Edible Oil Import and Distribution Supervisory Committee, Myanmar Edible Oil Millers' Association and oil importers in Yangon on 9 July.

The Union Minister said it should promote the local production rate to reduce the palm oil import volumes. It is important to produce quality palm oil for the consumers.

The country now produces crude palm oil and still needs to produce high quality palm oil. The importers should follow the set rules and regulations, he added.

The government also urged the business people to use Consumer Pack instead of oil barrels in coming fiscal year.

He also stressed the advantages of using Consumer Packs such as there will be accountability of companies concerned by describing the trademark in full and protection of the rights and interests of consumers.—MNA

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

9 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 10 July, total figure rises to 613,736

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,736** after **9** new cases were reported on 10 July 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,645** 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 9-7-2022, a total of **29,966,102** people above 18 have been vaccinated. A total of **5,710,254** people under 18 have been vaccinated.—MNA

Union Health Minister looks into YGH, extended building of Pathein General Hospital

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win inspected the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery, Yangon General Hospital and cordially met the coronary surgery patients on 8 July.

There were 156 coronary heart surgeries at the hospital from 2021 to till June 2022.

On 9 July, the Union Minister and party met with officials of Ayeyawady Region Public Health Department, the nine-storey extended building project of Pathein General Hospital and building task force-5 at the hospital's meeting hall together with the Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister and highlighted the needs to conduct systematic settlement for the patients at new and old hospital buildings and the effective



Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win meets trainees of Nursing and Midwifery Training School in Pathein on 9 July.

healthcare services.

The officials then inspected the nine-storey extended build-

ing construction site, and the departments of Pathein General Hospital including installa-

tion of CT and MRI at Radiology Department.

They also went to Nursing

and Midwifery Training School (Pathein) and met with the trainees and then looked into the skill lab and library.

They also held discussions with officials of Ayeyawady Region Public Health Department, Medical Services Department, Department of Human Resources for Health and Department of Food and Drugs Administration at region Public Health and Medical Services Department. They cordially met the trainees of Public Health Supervisor Grade -2 training.

At Maubin General Hospital, the Union Minister talked about the efforts of ministry to develop the human resource for health and provision of medicines, machines and labour for the hospital.—MNA

284 Myanmar nationals return through Myawady Friendship Bridge

MYANMAR citizens who returned from Thailand are accepted back through the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge No 2 in Myawady as of 1 August 2021 and a total of 284 Myanmar citizens returned home on 9 July.

Those Myanmar nationals were welcomed back by officials from Myawady District. Then, the officials and staff from the relevant departments are taking necessary action such as providing a COVID-19

awareness talk, collecting the information of the returnees, sending them to the quarantine centres in Myawady and Mawlamyine townships and detecting the COVID-19 test at the public health department. After having those processes, they were transported to their respective states and regions.

A total of 284 returnees—200 males and 84 females—from states and regions came back home. — Htein Linn Aung (IPRD)/GNLM



Union SYA Minister leaves for Phnom Penh to attend SEA Games Federation Council Meeting



Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan is seen at Yangon International Airport on 10 July before departure for Phnom Penh of Cambodia.

UNION Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee U Min Thein Zan and five members of the delegation left Yangon for Cambodia at 11:30 am yesterday to attend the South East Asian Games Federation Council meeting to be held in Phnom Penh from

11 to 13 July.

The Union Minister and Director-General of the Department of Sports and Physical Education U Tun Myint Oo will attend the SEAGF Council Meeting and Director U Khun Ja Aung will also attend the SEAGF Sports and Rule Committee meeting.

Director Dr Soe Min Oo will attend the SEAGF Medical Meeting while Director Daw Soe Soe Mya will join the SEAGF Women's and Sports Committee meeting.

Deputy Director U Win Htet Mon will attend the SEAGF Broadcast Committee meeting.—MNA

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Pure gold prices down by K26,000 per tical within ten days

THE prices of pure gold declined by more than K26,000 per tical (0.578 ounce, or 0.016 kilogramme) within ten days, according to Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

The gold price peaked at K2,073,500 per tical on 2 July in the domestic market and the price fell to K1,047,000 per tical on 9 July.

The domestic gold prices dip tracking the slump in the global market. The global gold price was valued at above \$1,800 per ounce on 2 July and slid to \$1,741 per ounce on 9 July.

In a bid to end the black market and stabilize the volatile prices, YGEA urged the members and gold traders to make gold transactions with immediate payment. Cross-border trade is not allowed without reporting to the association, according to its statement released on 17 May. The statement includes seeking trade licence for gold shops, licence for gold bar

transaction and taking action against those unauthorized dealers involved in online trade platforms.

After that, gold shops engaged in gold bar transactions have to make an inventory list of gold bars and gold trading reports. Those individuals and gold shops will face legal action under the existing law if they fail to follow that statement, according to the YGEA.

Moreover, YGEA also decided on 4 May to import raw gold from foreign countries in the coming rainy season so as not to fall short of raw metal supply.

In a bid to stabilize the gold market, gold transactions had better be made according to the reference rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar (K1,850), according to the CBM's statement released on 3 April. However, it has not come into force yet as there is a barrier to proceed with the reference exchange rate, said U Myo Myint, chair of YGEA. — NN/GNLM

Peanut, sesame prices spiking tracking resumption of oil crop exports



Harvested sesame plants are placed under sunray before harrowing and winnowing at the farm.

THE prices of peanut and sesame seeds are edging up in the domestic market, the market's price data indicated.

On 1 July, the peanut price moved in the range of K4,100 and K4,400 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), whereas the price rose to K4,600-K4,700 per viss on 9 June. The figures reflected an increase of K300-K550 per viss.

Similarly, the prices of sesame hit the highest of K2,556 per viss of Niger seed, K3,333 per viss of brown sesame and K5,444 per viss of black sesame

(Samone variety) on 1 July. The price rose to K2,711 for Niger seed, K3,933 for brown sesame and K5,778 for black sesame on 9 July. The price of various sesame seeds showed an increase of K150-K600 per viss.

After Myanmar's export ban on oil crops reversed, the prices of peanut and sesame prices inflated. The local millers are also increasingly purchasing them, scaling the stocks down, according to the commodity depots.

Last April, world's top palm oil exporter Indonesia, which is

one of the main oil suppliers to Myanmar, declared an export ban on cooking oil export to reduce domestic shortage. Consequently, Myanmar's Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce temporarily suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) from 9 May to ensure oil self-sufficiency.

Exports of Myanmar's edible oil crops will resume as the world's top palm oil exporters return to normalcy, according to a notification dated 5 July 2022 released by the Trade Department. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar manufacturing sector attracts \$11 million from China in Q1 (April-June)

SEVEN Chinese enterprises brought in US\$11.112 million into Myanmar's manufacturing sector in Q1 (April-June) of the current financial year 2022-2023, as per the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Myanmar drew foreign direct investments of \$21.99 million in the first quarter. All the investments pumped into the manufacturing sector only. In addition to over \$11 million investments by Chinese companies, two enterprises from Hong Kong SAR put \$5.7 million and Japan invested an estimated capital of \$3.1 million into the manufacturing sector in the past three months. The existing enterprises from China (Taipei) also increased \$2 million investments in the manufacturing sector.



Female workers are seen in production line of garment factory.

The manufacturing enterprises and businesses that need a large labour force of the local community are prioritized in creation of job opportunities,

according to the Myanmar Investment Commission.

Although some labour-intensive enterprises faced financial hardship amid the COV-

ID-19 negative impacts and the political changes, the industry is now returning to normal after the COVID-19 vaccination programme for the workers, as

per the HIS Markit's September report.

In a bid to boost factory productivity with a healthy workforce in the garment industry, Mobile Medical Check to garment workers took place in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw, supported by UNICEF Myanmar.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textiles produced on the Cutting, Making, and Packaging basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

Myanmar has drawn foreign direct investment of more than \$647.127 million from 49 enterprises in the past mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022). Of them, 40 foreign enterprises put investments in the manufacturing sector, pumping the estimated capital of \$202.667 million. — KK/GNLM

Deputy Construction Minister inspects roads, bridges, housing project, hospital in Mandalay Region



Deputy Minister for Construction U Win Pe meets officials for implementation of Mingala Yankin Public Rental Housing Project in Patheingyi Township on 10 July.

DEPUTY Minister for Construction U Win Pe and officials inspected working process of the roads, and bridges under the BOT system at the office of Director (Civil) in Mandalay Region yesterday morning.

The Deputy Minister instructed the officials of the Department of Highways to inspect the ground conditions whether the actual situation is in line with

the completion of the work.

After that, he inspected repaving of the road section between mileposts 10/0 to 13/0 on Mandalay-Mogok Road and gave necessary instructions. At Mingala Yankin Public Rental Housing Project in Shintawgon Village-tract, Patheingyi Township, the deputy minister stressed the need to harmoniously complete the construction tasks and

viewed round the buildings.

In the afternoon, he inspected progress of the 8-storey extended building of the Children's Hospital (550-bed) on 66th Street between 27th and 28th Streets, Chanayethazan Township.

After giving instructions to officials for worksite safety and timely completion, the deputy minister inspected the medical wards of the building.—MNA

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 over the age of 40, students, religious leaders, prisoners, people with disabilities, ethnic armed groups, people with

chronic diseases, people in IDP camps and over 12-year-old students, respectively.

On 10 July, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 9,321 people from 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region, 914 people from five townships in Rakhine and 10,935 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

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



A local from Yanbye Township in Rakhine State gets jabbed against COVID-19.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, consumer goods, vehicles seized at various checkpoints

UNDER the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, effective action is being taken to prevent illegal trade under the law. On 9 July, at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) checkpoint, a combined inspection team seized rolls of carpet without import declaration, at an

estimated value of K3.025 million and WESTLAKE brand tyres at an estimated value of K3.040 million (approximately K6.065 million) from two trucks, which would go from Myawady to Yangon, and action was taken under the Customs Procedure.

Similarly, a combined in-



WESTLAKE brand tyres are seized at Tadakyoe checkpoint in Kawkareik on 9 July.

spection team conducted the examines under the supervision of Mandalay Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force at the Latpanhla-Singu temporary checkpoint where officials captured foodstuff materials used in bakery and dried tea leaves at an estimated value of K6.535 million

without official documents and a Mitsubishi Canter carrying illegal foodstuffs at an estimated value of K10 million, totalling K16.535 million and the action was also taken under the Customs Procedure.

In the same way, led by the Bago Region Forest Department

team conducted the inspections under the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, nabbed 13.862 tonnes of illegal teak and Showy Silk Cotton timbers at estimated K4,371,126 in Kyaukmasin and Khapaung forest reserves at Toungoo District. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, under the management of Chin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, a team headed by the leader of Haka Myoma Police Station seized an unregistered Mitsubishi Pajero GD1 estimated at K2 million driving from Haka to Matupi at Kyawbok checkpoint and action was taken under the Vehicle Safety and Motor Vehicle Management Law.

Therefore, eight cases approximately valued at K28,971,126 were arrested on 9 July, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. —MNA



A Mitsubishi Canter was seized at Letpanhla Singu temporary checkpoint on 9 July.

Govt provides K200,000 each to 692 mine victims



Attendees to the meeting for establishment of regional victim assistance network pose for documentary photo.



A national consultative meeting is in progress to establish regional victim assistance network.

A total of K138.4 million cash assistance—K200,000 each—was provided to 692 landmine victims starting from 2017-2018 FY to date, said Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine.

She said at the nation-

level Hybrid coordination meeting on establishment of the regional victim assistance network jointly organized by the Rehabilitation Department and ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) held in Nay Pyi Taw on 8 July.

In her speech, the Union

Minister said Myanmar is conducting mine awareness programmes although it is not a member of Anti-personal Mine Ban Convention. The processes are being carried out in line with the procedures of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and are linked with the

implementation works of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Deputy Minister of SWRR and ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC)

Executive Director Mr Prum Suonpraseth made greeting speeches.

The meeting was attended by officials of ministry concerned, ARMAC and mine victims while the officials of international organizations joined online.—TWA/GNLM

Taxi fare changes depending on fuel prices in Yangon

THE reference rate of fuel prices significantly declined between 6 and 8 July and the taxi fare dropped. When the fuel prices were high again on 9 and 10 July, the taxi fares also surged, said Daw Win, who always hires taxi from Sangyoung Township.

It cost only K3,500 from Thiri street in Sangyoung township, to 38th street of Kyauktada township on 8 July and it was K4,000 on 10 July, she said.

On 6 July, it was K1,732 per litre of Octane (92), K1,834 per litre of Octane (95), K1,963 per litre of diesel and K2,018 per litre of premium diesel in Yangon.

On 8 July, the retail price of Octane (92) was K1,825 per litre, K1,930 per litre of Octane (95), K2,065 per litre of diesel and K2,120 per litre of premium diesel.

On 9 July, the wholesale price of Octane (92) was K1,786 per litre, K1,856 per litre of Octane (95), K2,191 per litre of diesel and K2,136 per

litre of premium diesel while the retail price of Octane (92) was K1,880 per litre, K1,955 per litre of Octane (95), K2,240 per litre of diesel and K2,300 per litre of premium diesel.

On 10 July, the wholesale price of Octane (92) was K1,786 per litre, K1,856 per litre of diesel and K2,136 per litre of premium diesel while the retail price of Octane (92) was K1,880 per litre, K1,955 per litre of Octane (95), K2,240 per litre of diesel and K2,300 per litre of premium diesel.

The taxi drivers said they did not expect such surging prices within a few days and are hoping not to be higher than that amount.

The Octane-fueled cars in Yangon can reduce fares rather than the CNG-powered taxis, said taxi driver Ko Aung.

Similarly, the decline of fuel prices will benefit the passengers and those who transport goods.—TWA/GNLM

One passenger killed, three injured when express bus overturned in creek

ONE passenger out of 11 was killed and three others injured when an express bus plunged into a creek on the

Yangon-Mandalay expressway yesterday.



According to reports, expressway firefighters rushed into the scene where they found the crashed and overturned express bus named Shwe La Yaung in a creek near Mile Post 45/2 of the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway at around 6:30 am.

The injured were taken to Bago General Hospital for medical treatment.

Firefighters from Bawnatgyi, Bawni, Phayagyi expressway fire stations performed search and rescue at the scene, officials said.—TWA/GNLM



Firefighters work to clear the wreckage near the scene. (Photo: Expressway Fire Brigade)

OPINION

Take care of teenagers with mental health problems

EVERYBODY may face mental health problems from the age of an infant to the dying days. It is a Universal truth. The Lord Buddha preached humans might face ageing, suffering from health problems and death.

It is true that human needs to live throughout life by taking care of their health. They have to live in health and fitness. But older persons have experiences in life in overcoming health challenges. Actually, humans of all ages need to take care of their health throughout their lifespan without any suffering. However, they have life experiences on how to encounter difficulties and how to manage themselves in all aspects.

Children and teenagers are parts of their lifespan with immaturity. They do not have adequate knowledge as well as experience in how to manage themselves. Hence, they need to take shelter from parents and guardians who can give a guide on ways of living to be free from suffering if necessary.

Parents need to take care of teenagers in daily situations. The life nature of teenagers is different from childhood. Teenagers have full of strange feelings, moods, emotions, keenness to do against the proper advice, eagerness to confine something and to explore new ones, stubbornness and keenness to secure victory over others.

In this regard, parents should guide teenage of their children not to derail from the correct paths for their life. It is because those youths face the development of hormones in their body which initiates their physical and mental improvement in addition to sexual progress. Hence, relevant families need to understand the nature of changes in their daily life and console them if necessary.

Especially, it is necessary to take care of the physical and mental health of teenagers. Generally, they may face needs in various sectors without knowing the actual situations such as family problems, financial problems of families, household situations and reflection of the society. Before and after committing something wrong, they need some counselling from others, especially parents and guardians.

As teenagers seem they are always free from sins, if they unexpectedly commit some wrongs, they will have got some shocks based on emotions. At that time, they need some types of consoling from their friends or some admirable persons or some guardians apart from parents. So, only when elders understand the nature of teenagers, can they handle those youths to path the right track.

ARTICLE

Brief History of World Population Day

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

WORLD Population Day, which seeks to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues, was established by the then-Governing Council of the United Nations Development Program in 1989, an outgrowth of the interest generated by the Day of Five Billion, which was observed on 11 July 1987.

By resolution 45/216 of December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly decided to continue observing World Population Day in order to enhance awareness of population issues, including their relations to the environment and development.

The Day was first marked on 11 July 1990 in more than 90 countries. Since then, UNFPA country offices and other organizations and institutions commemorate World Population Day, in partnership with governments and civil society.

On 11 July 1987, World Population Day was put forward in public attention as the world's population surpassed the five billion mark. World Population Day was commemorated and recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1990. Since then, the day has been observed and acknowledged every year.

World Population Day is marked on 11 July and it is an annual event. The main purpose of marking such a day is to bring

awareness about the rising global population and the issues and problems that arise with such overpopulation. The event was first suggested by Dr Zacharia in his capacity as a demographer at the World Bank. It was during his term; that the population crossed the five billion mark.

So, in 1989, the governing council of UNDP (United Nations Development Program) decided to mark every July 11 as World Population Day. Therefore, this day is being marked for over three decades in various ways by all the participating nations of the United Nations.

The UN Population Division collaborates closely with the agencies, funds, programs and bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the work program on population and in the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development. United Nations missions, national Government offices, United Nations offices, researchers, media representatives and the public regularly consult the Population Division regarding population estimates and projections and information and analyses on population and development issues.

At its thirty-eighth session, the Statistical Commission requested the United Nations Statistics Division and other international agencies to increase their

technical assistance to national statistical offices in order to strengthen national capacity for the implementation of the 2010 World Program on Population and Housing Censuses. In addition, the Commission requested countries to begin implementation of the revised Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses.

World Population Day 2022 Theme is "A world of eight billion: Towards a resilient future for all - Harnessing opportunities and ensuring rights and choices for all".

In 2011, the world reached a population of seven billion. This year, the number will hit 8 billion, prompting the attendant responses. Some will marvel at the advancements in health that have extended lifespans, reduced maternal mortality and child mortality and given rise to vaccine development in record time. Others will tout technological innovations that have eased our lives and connected us more than ever. Still, others will herald gains in gender equality.

But progress is not universal, throwing inequality into razor-sharp relief. Women are still dying in childbirth. Gender gaps remain entrenched. The digital divide leaves more women and those in developing countries of fline. More recently, COVID-19 vaccines remain unevenly distributed. And the same concerns



World Population Day 2022 – 11 July : The Day was first marked on 11 July 1990 in more than 90 countries. Since then, a number of UNFPA country offices and other organizations and institutions commemorate World Population Day, in partnership with governments and civil society. PHOTO: SPARKBLUE.ORG

and challenges raised 11 years ago remain or have worsened: Climate change, violence, and discrimination. The world reached a particularly grim milestone in May: More than 100 million were forcibly displaced worldwide.

Then there will be alarmists claiming that the world is on the verge of either disastrous overpopulation or a catastrophic population collapse. Both sides are likely to call for measures to curtail or induce population growth. But engineering population numbers have not proven successful in the past. Rather, it only serves to undermine human rights, including reproductive rights when women are forced to have more or fewer children against their

will or because they don't have access to the information and services to help them make that decision, which flies in the face of the International Conference of Population and Development Program of Action.

For the first time in history, we are seeing extreme diversity in the mean age of countries and the fertility rates of populations. While the populations of a growing number of countries are ageing and about 60 per cent of the world's population live in countries with below-replacement fertility of 2.1 children per woman, other countries have huge youth populations and keep growing apace.

But the focus should be on people, not the population. Re-

ducing people to numbers strips them of their humanity. Instead of making the numbers work for systems, make the systems work for the numbers by promoting the health and well-being of people.

According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "Even though the pace of global population growth will continue to decline in the coming decades, the world population is likely to be between 20 and 30 per cent larger in 2050 than in 2020. Having accurate estimates of population trends and reliable forecasts of future changes, including the size of populations and their distributions by age, sex and geographical location, is required for policy formulation and

implementation and as a guide to assist countries in following a path towards sustainable development."

If, for example, fertility is falling, is it because prospective parents worry about how they will provide for a family, find affordable living space or how going on maternity leave might hamper a mother's career trajectory? If fertility is rising, is it by choice or because women don't have knowledge of or access to modern contraception? Making sure everyone is counted can allow governments to better assess the needs of a changing population and chart a surer path to addressing those needs for demographic resilience.

In an ideal world, eight billion people mean eight billion opportunities for healthier societies empowered by rights and choices. But the playing field is not and has never been even. Based on gender, ethnicity, class, religion, sexual orientation, disability and origin, among other factors, too many are still exposed to discrimination, harassment and violence. We do ourselves no favours when neglecting those left behind.

Let no alarmist headline distract from the work at hand: investing in human and physical capital for inclusive, productive societies that uphold human and reproductive rights. Only then can we tackle the enormous challenges facing our planet and forge a world where health, dignity and education are rights and realities, not privileges and empty promises. In a world of 8 billion, there must always be space for possibility.

In addition, World Population Day is a United Nations initiative that the entire world celebrates on the 11th of July every year. Furthermore, the aim of this day is to create awareness about the exploding world population and the importance of reproductive health.

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COVID-19 vaccine activates antibodies that target parts of the virus: Study



Football players in Uruguay's first division receive their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine developed by Chinese pharmaceutical firm Sinovac, at Centenario Stadium in Montevideo, Uruguay, 6 May 2021. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/XINHUA/NICOLAS ZELAYA

CONSIDERING the speculation about whether the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine can reawaken previous antibody responses and pave the way to a universal coronavirus vaccine, new research on a COVID-19 vaccine's antibody response suggests that the immune system's history with other coronaviruses, along with those behind the common cold, influences a patient's response, as per the study published in Cell Reports.

Vaccine generates antibodies

Led by scientists at the Translational Genomics Re-

search Institute (TGen), part of City of Hope, and Northern Arizona University (NAU), a research team found that the vaccine generates antibodies that target regions of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein that are unique to the new virus, while also targeting regions of the protein that are shared or conserved among many coronaviruses. What's more, the antibody response to these different coronaviruses appears to follow different paths. Over the course of 140 days following vaccination, the response to common cold coronaviruses started early but diminished over time. The response to SARS-CoV-2 continued to get

stronger and stronger over time. "The findings could help fine-tune the design of future vaccines or new monoclonal antibody treatments, perhaps leading to a universal coronavirus vaccine," said John Altin, Ph.D., senior author and assistant professor in TGen's Pathogen Genomics and Integrated Cancer Genomics Divisions. "Even if the response to the conserved regions is just a small part of the vaccine's overall protection, it may be a response that could be leveraged in future vaccines against future variants of the COVID-19 virus," he added. Altin and colleagues are now looking more closely at the an-

tibodies that target the two conserved regions they identified in their study to determine whether these are broadly neutralizing antibodies that generate immunity extending to new variants of the virus.

Technology called PepSeq

Using a technology called PepSeq developed by Altin and co-author Jason Ladner, Ph.D., an assistant professor at NAU's Pathogen and Microbiome Institute, allowed the researchers to carefully map antibody responses and track them serially over 140 days in 21 people who received the Moderna SARS-CoV-2 vaccine. The technology matches

individual peptides (the building blocks of proteins) with unique DNA tags. The tags allow scientists to pinpoint which peptides are being targeted by antibodies. Before technologies like PepSeq, researchers had to measure the response of antibodies against one protein target at a time. "PepSeq allows us to perform up to hundreds of thousands of measurements of antibodies against different parts of virus proteins all at the same time from the same sample," Ladner said. PepSeq also helps scientists precisely map the antibody response to specific regions of a protein. This allowed Ladner, Altin and their colleagues to

track the differences in antibody response between divergent and conserved regions of the SARS-CoV-2 Spike protein. "Our theory is that there is actually memory from previous common cold coronavirus encounters, and when you get the vaccine for SARS-CoV-2, the vaccine reawakens some of those memories. Then you see this early response which is basically just a rapid memory response to what you've already seen," Altin said. "With time, the immune system can reshape those responses more in the direction of the pandemic virus."

SOURCE: ANI

ARTICLE

Waso, the Month of Ordination Festival

By Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja, Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

CONTINUED FROM
YESTERDAY'S ARTICLE

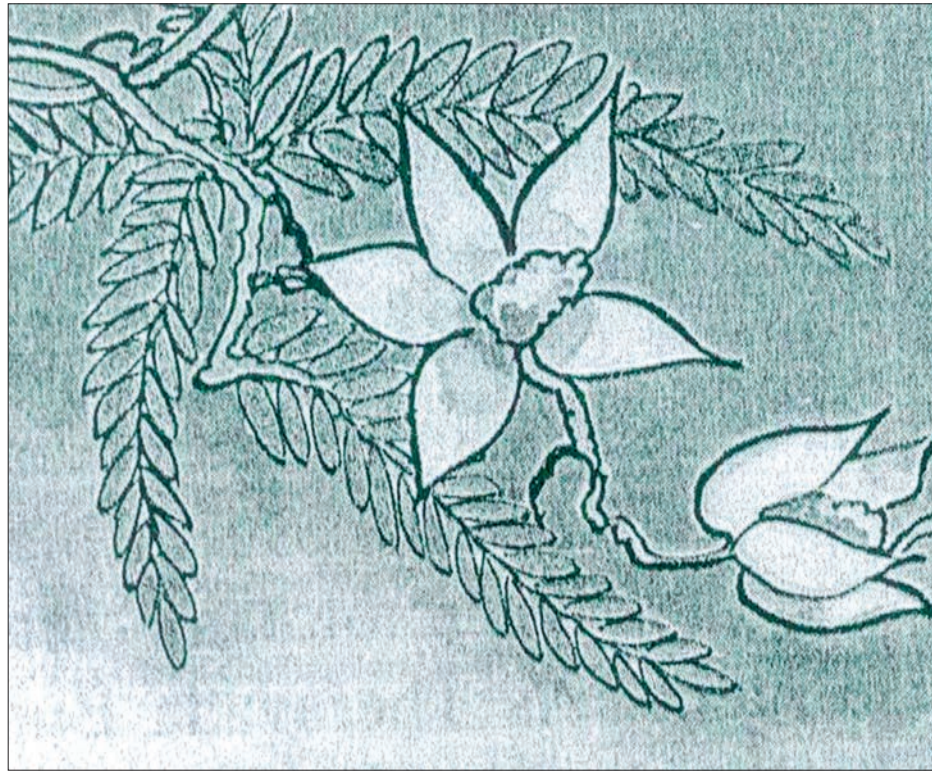
The other evidence is as follows: -

Great King Asoka was very lavish in charity. He built 84,000 stupas and dug 84,000 wells and constructed 84,000 tanks among other works of religious merit. He promoted Buddhism by sending out Buddhist missionaries to the four corners of the world. One day he asked his guru monk Shin Moggaliputta whether he deserved to be the inheritor of Buddha Sasana. The guru monk replied that although the King's religious givings were incomparably plenty he was only the contributor to the support of Buddhism and that only when he ordained his own offsprings would he become the inheritor of Buddha Sasana. On hearing that his son Prince Mahinda and daughter Princess Sanghamitta offered themselves up to their royal father for ordination.

In the time of Myanmar Kings, ordination in Waso was the great festive event of the month. The Hluttaw or the King's Council arranged the ordination festival. It made a list of names of candidates to be ordained, names of donors who would bear the expenses of the ordination ceremony, names of persons who would support the ordained monks, and names of monasteries the ordained monks were to reside. At this ceremony, Byaw music was played. Byaw is a kind of drum. Byaw music is played on the occasion of religious charity. Byaw musicians were appointed by the King and were quartered in a separate village. The ordination festival of the Innwa Period was graphically described in the Lawka Byu Har In-Yone Sardan, a Treatise on Court Ceremonies and Festivals compiled by Minister Thiri Uzana of In-Yone as follows:

"First the list of candidates to be ordained was submitted to the Hluttaw. The Crown Prince, Senior Prince, Minister of Royal Granary, Ministers, Governor of town, Minister of Cavalry, Minister of Elephantry, Minister of Treasury, Minister of Gunnery, Minister of Artillery, Minister of the Palace Precincts, Minister of Royal Shield, Minister of Justice, Junior Ministers, wealthy men etc. each took care of one candidate for ordination."

"The Minister of Royal Treasury provided umbrellas and eight priestly utensils namely three pieces of the yellow robe, an alms bowl, a girdle, a short handle adz, a needle, and a water dipper. These were sent to the monasteries where the ordained monks would reside. An allotment of K 50/- for each candidate was issued from the Royal Treasury to bear the cost of celebrating the occasion at his house. On the 9th waning of Waso, candi-



The astrological name of Waso is Kataka (Cancer) and its symbol is crab. In this month Myat Lay flower (fragrant *Jasminum Grandi florum*) blooms. Spanish Jasmine (Myat Lay)

dates for novitiation and ordination were dressed in fine clothes and in the early hours of that day they were taken to the Innwa Shwezigon Pagoda. They wore a gold-coloured headdress and gold chains provided by the Royal Treasury. They were carried on the palanquins in the ceremonial procession which included gunners, musicians, palanquins bearing Kamma Vaca or Plates of Scriptures to be recited at the ordination service, bearers of four ceremonial white umbrellas shading the Kamma Vaca, bearers of eight priestly utensils, bearers of betel boxes, tea containers, and water goblets and several other paraphernalia. After paying homage to the Pagoda the procession turned to the Palace. Except for the gunners, all entered the Palace City through the right Marabin Gate."

"After making a round of the Palace podium they went up to the Northern Samok (Gatehouse in a palace) Building where the King was waiting with his Ministers and attendants. The royal drums were being struck to mark the occasion. The officer-in-charge of the ceremony submitted the list of Candidates to be ordained by reading it out to the King. His Majesty gave the candidates his exhortation as follows: -

"To have been born human is a rare opportunity.

To be literate and knowledgeable is a rare opportunity.

To have been born a human male during the period of Buddha Sasana is a rare opportunity and

To be an ordained monk is a rare opportunity.

"These five rare opportunities were

pointed out by the Lord Buddha himself. You should therefore be aware that you have now got all these five rare opportunities. You should therefore strictly abide by Vinaya, the Priestly Disciplines, and faithfully follow the teachings of the Lord Buddha."

"After delivering his words of admonition the King performed the libation ceremony by pouring out lustral water from the golden ewer. Then the royal drum was struck and religious music Byaw was played. The procession returned to the Shwezigon Pagoda and at the big rest house, the King's admonition was read out in public. The procession then went on to the Sima or Ordination Hall where the candidates were formally ordained by the Chapters according to the prescribed procedure."

The following is the account given in the Myanmar Chronicle called Konbaung Set Maha Yazawin Vol.3 page 219 of the Ordination Ceremony performed in the time of King Mindon.

"... 500 candidates for the priesthood (Upasampada= Being ordained to monkhood) and 500 candidates for novice (Samenera) altogether one thousand were dressed up in fine clothes and were carried on the caparisoned elephants followed by a retinue of attendants lined up in procession. They went round in the Palace City and eventually stopped at the entrance of the pavilions set up on either side of the Mye Nan Taw Palace Buildings. In the pavilions were gathered 100 senior monks and eight priestly utensils for each of the 1,000 candidates about to be novitiated or ordained. Other offertories were ar-

tistically displayed in the pavilions. The candidates sat down respectfully in front of the monks. The Queen Mother entered the pavilions and performed the libation ceremony. Celebrations followed after it."

"In the evening of that day, King Mindon, Chief Queen and the whole Court came out in state and made a ceremonial presentation of 1,000 candidates in the service of Buddha Sasana. The following day the King and Chief Queen offered rice to the novices and newly ordained monks."

The festive atmosphere of Waso is created by devotees who come to the monasteries to watch with reverence and piety the performance of the Waso rite by the monks. They wear colourful garments and jewellery carrying candles, flowers, robes and other alms to be offered to the monks. These offertories came to be known as Waso candles, Waso flowers and Waso robes. Strictly speaking, the Waso robe is offered to the monk in the period between the first waxing day of Waso month and its full moon day both days inclusive. Waso robe is meant to be worn by a monk during Lent. Similar offertories may be presented to the Pagodas and Buddha statues. In the countryside, young people go out to the nearby woodlands to gather wild flowers and sprigs of Thabye, thus providing a merry social occasion for meeting between boys and girls. Folk music, song and dance accompany them if they come out in organised groups. On the fullmoon day and the day after it, shrines, pagodas, and monasteries are crowded with devotees doing works of religious merit.

In the days of Myanmar Kings twice in a year, homage was paid to the parents, elders, superiors, and teachers, namely at the beginning of Lent called "Wa Win (July) and at the end of Lent called "Wa Kyut" (October). On the first waning day of Waso, the King offered to the seven Buddha white umbrellas, prayer flags, prayer festoons, gold and silver flowers and flower vases. At the Hluttaw princes, ministers, high-ranking officers, men of wealth and position presented gold and silver bowls and silk clothes to the King and paid him homage. On the 5th waning, their wives paid homage to the King. At the monasteries, junior monks paid homage to senior monks. In towns and villages, the public paid homage to the Governor of the town and the village headman. At home, children paid homage to their parents, elders and teachers.

Waso traditions have long been maintained and observed by the Myanmar people. The mass media of today carry news and reports of Waso activities at the shrines, monasteries schools, colleges and universities.

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Cambodia scraps quarantine requirements for unvaccinated inbound travellers

CAMBODIA said on Friday it will lift quarantine requirements for unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated inbound travellers, but require them to undergo a rapid antigen test upon their arrivals.

The decision will take effect from 11 July, Health Minister Mam Bunheng said in a statement.

“If the rapid antigen test’s result is negative, he/she will be allowed to travel to their respective houses or destinations without observing quarantine obligations,” Bunheng said.

“If the test’s result turns out to be positive, but the patient has mild symptoms, he/she will be

allowed to undergo treatment at home with self-isolation,” he added.

For positive patients with severe symptoms, however, they must seek medical treatment at licensed COVID-19 hospitals, the minister said.

According to Bunheng, an unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated foreign traveler is required to pay 5 US dollars for a rapid antigen test. He also encouraged unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated inbound travellers to receive COVID-19 vaccines for free-of-charge at any vaccination site across the country. — Xinhua



Cambodia will lift quarantine requirements for unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated inbound travellers, but require them to undergo a rapid antigen test upon their arrivals. PHOTO: NAM NEWS NETWORK/XINHUA

India administered more than 8 lakh Covid-19 vaccine doses



Health workers carrying boxes containing Covid-19 vaccines travel aboard a ferry after a vaccination drive at an island 100km south of Kolkata in India. PHOTO: AFP

MORE than 8 lakh Coronavirus vaccine doses were administered in the country on Saturday till 7 pm, the Ministry of Health

and Family Welfare informed. According to the Ministry, India’s cumulative Covid-19 vaccination crossed the 198.75

crore (1,98,75,32,165) mark today, with as many as 8,95,664 vaccine doses administered today.

The Ministry reported that the daily vaccination tally is likely to be increased with the compilation of the final reports for the day by late tonight.

The Ministry informed a total of 4,97,14,895 Precaution Dose have been administered to the people with 58,54,133 and 1,08,67,763 being given to the Health Care Workers and Front Line Workers respectively, and the remaining have been jabbed to the people above 18 years of age. —ANI

Kenya, WHO launches hub for handling health emergencies in Africa

THE World Health Organization (WHO) in partnership with the Kenyan government Saturday launched the Health Emergency Hub to enhance response to health emergencies in Africa.

A statement from the WHO released in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital said the hub will lay the foundation for a robust response to health emergencies including disease outbreaks unfolding in the continent.

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, the Director-General of WHO Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO Regional Director for Africa Matshidiso Moeti and Kenya’s Cabinet Secretary for Health Mutahi

Kagwe, were among high profile dignitaries who attended ground breaking ceremony for

construction of a hub to handle Africa’s health emergencies that took place in Nairobi. — Xinhua



A healthcare worker injects the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine into a woman in Siaya, Kenya, on 18 May 2021 PHOTO: BRIAN ONGORO/AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

BA.5 becoming dominant Omicron subvariant across the world: health official

THE Omicron subvariant BA.5 is becoming the dominant strain of COVID-19 across the world and is causing cluster infections in China, a Chinese health official told a press conference on Friday.

Pointing out the seriousness and complexity of the epidemic prevention and control situation, Mi Feng, spokesperson for the National Health Commission, urged adherence to the dynamic zero-COVID policy and called for efforts to guard against both inbound cases and domestic resurgence.

In areas affected by new outbreaks, transmission should be contained in a decisive manner with early detection and swift and science-based response measures, Mi said. —AFP

France’s COVID-19 related deaths pass 150,000 mark

THE total number of COVID-19 related deaths in France passed the 150,000 mark on Friday, after 74 deaths related to the virus were recorded in hospitals in the past 24 hours, announced the country’s public health agency.

According to the French Ministry of Health, the number of COVID-19 tests reached 3 million in one week, and the number of 16 to 25 year-olds testing positive increased by 60 percent this week.

France’s total number of COVID-19 related deaths hit the 140,000 mark on 11 March, two years after the pandemic hit the country. — Xinhua

Zambia to start administering oral antiviral COVID-19 pills

ZAMBIA will soon start administering Paxlovid, an oral antiviral pill, to people at risk of developing severe COVID-19 disease, its health ministry said on Friday.

Sylvia Masebo, the Minister of Health, said the ministry was working with other partners to start administering the oral pills following a steady rise in cases in order to prevent severe COVID-19, especially on people with underlying conditions such as diabetes, sugar disease, high blood pressure and HIV/AIDS, among others.

The minister further directed health facilities to start giving the injectable drug, Remdesivir, which was currently available in the country and limits the multiplication of the virus that caused COVID-19. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

NEWS IN BRIEF

Canada's employment declines in June

CANADA'S employment fell by 43,000, or 0.2 per cent, in June, marking the first employment decline not associated with a tightening of public health restrictions since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Statistics Canada announced Friday.

The employment loss was almost entirely due to a decrease among workers aged 55 and older. Across industries, a decline in the services-producing sector, particularly in retail trade, was moderated by gains in the goods-producing sector, the national statistical agency said.

Meanwhile the unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage points to a new record low of 4.9 per cent as fewer people searched for work. The total number of unemployed workers fell by 54,000, or 5.1 per cent, to one million, the agency said. — Xinhua

Argentina makes down payment on restructured IMF loan

ARGENTINA on Friday made a \$1.28-billion down payment on a \$45 billion loan with the International Monetary Fund, the terms of which were recently renegotiated, the economy ministry said.

The payments were made from a \$4-billion disbursement received from the IMF two weeks ago after a review of Argentina's adherence to the renegotiated loan agreement.

Also Friday, Argentina paid interest of \$425.6 million on a separate loan of \$66 billion with private international creditors, which was itself restructured in 2020.

The country has lived through a nervous few days since Economy Minister Martin Guzman stepped down on Saturday amid political infighting at the highest levels of government. Guzman had been the architect of the restructuring deal of the 2018 loan with the IMF. —AFP

Philippine government lowers GDP growth target for 2022

THE Philippine government economic team on Friday lowered gross domestic product (GDP) target band for 2022 to 6.5 to 7.5 per cent from 7 to 8 per cent due to "recent external and domestic developments."

"This growth will be sustained and expanded to 6.5 percent to 8 percent in 2023 to 2028," said the interagency Development Budget Coordination Committee headed by newly appointed Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno.

The increase in household consumption and private investments, along with the robust manufacturing industry, high vaccination rate, improved healthcare capacity, and the



A worker views the city skyline of Manila while on a break from construction work. **PHOTO: AFP/JES AZNAR**

upward trend in tourism and employment, have allowed the Philippines to safely re-open the economy and register pos-

itive growth for the first three months of 2022.

"This momentum is expected to continue for the

rest of the year, with the GDP growth assumption slightly adjusted to 6.5 to 7.5 per cent in consideration of recent external and domestic developments," the committee said in a statement.

The committee also revised the average inflation rate assumption for 2022, saying that prices remain elevated and are projected to range from 4.5 to 5.5 per cent due to the uptick in fuel and food prices.

The committee slightly adjusted the inflation rate for 2023 to 2.5 to 4.5 per cent. The committee forecasts the inflation rate to return to the target range of 2 to 4 per cent by 2024 until 2028. — Xinhua

Entrenched inflation a "significant risk" to US economy, say Fed officials

SENIOR Federal Reserve officials have warned that the entrenched inflation poses a "significant risk" to the US economy and feared tighter monetary policy may be needed if prices rise more than expected, British newspaper Financial Times has reported.

According to the minutes of the US central bank's meeting in June, policymakers are now willing to raise interest rates to levels where economic activity may be restrained, and they might become "even more restrictive"

when supported by data, said the report published on Wednesday.

The minutes showed that most participants noted "the risks to the outlook were 'skewed to the downside' given the possibility that further tightening could weigh on activity," said the report. The report said the Fed would decide at its July meeting whether to raise rates by 0.5 percentage points or 0.75 percentage points, and several officials have voiced support for a bigger raise. — Xinhua



Declining energy prices masked other increases to drive annual US inflation to its lowest rate in two years. **PHOTO: AFP**

Striking Paris airport workers win 3% pay rise

STRIKING airport workers in Paris called an end to their stoppages on Friday after securing

a three-per cent pay rise from management — in line with a similar deal agreed for the rail-

ways this week.

The decision was voted at a staff meeting of employees of ADP Group, which runs the main Charles de Gaulle airport northeast of the capital and the smaller Orly airport to the south.

The strike had threatened to run to Sunday, disturbing a major travel weekend at the start of the summer holidays in France.

"ADP Group welcomes the agreement," the company said in a statement, while trade union leaders also sounded satisfied despite their initial demands for a six-percent hike.

The deal also provides for separate individual rises for around 1,800 staff members.

Like all countries faced with spiralling energy and food prices,

France is seeing a round of strikes and pay demands in key sectors.

The state-run rail network SNCF agreed to a rise of 3.7 per cent on Wednesday for all non-management staff following stoppages, while government workers are set to receive 3.5 per cent.

"We encourage companies, where they can, to raise salaries," Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire told a press conference on Thursday.

Annual inflation was clocked at just below six per cent in France last month, much lower than in many European countries due to caps introduced by the government on energy prices. — AFP



A passenger looks at the departures boards at Paris's Orly airport on 8 April 2015. **PHOTO: THOMAS SAMSON/AFP/FILE**

China's largest SUV maker sees sales growth in June



Workers are seen at a factory of Great Wall Motors in Yongchuan District of Chongqing, southwest China, 18 March 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA/HUANG WEI

GREAT Wall Motor (GWM), China's largest sport utility vehicle (SUV) and pickup manufacturer, saw vehicle sales increase 26.38 per cent month on month to 101,186 units in June, including 13,451 sold in overseas markets.

In the first half of this year, the company sold a total of 518,525 vehicles, 62,823 of which were overseas sales, account-

ing for 12 per cent. The company's total overseas sales exceeded 1 million.

With the improving COVID-19 situation and the resumption of work in the supply chain, Great Wall Motor has launched multiple new electric and intelligent vehicles, which have contributed to the rise in sales in the second quarter, the company noted.

Headquartered in the city of Baoding, north China's Hebei Province, Great Wall Motor owns several vehicle brands, including HAVAL, GWM Pickup, WEY and ORA. — Xinhua

Uniper asks for bailout as gas crisis causes heavy losses

GERMAN energy giant Uniper said Friday it was haemorrhaging tens of millions of euros a day since Russia limited gas supplies to Europe's largest economy, as it asked for government support.

"Under the current circumstances we are seeing cash outflows in the mid two-digit million range," Uniper CEO Klaus-Dieter Maubach said. Uniper, one of the biggest importers of Russian gas, "cannot endure for long" in the present

situation, Maubach said, with the group making a formal bailout request to the German government.

Since Russian energy giant Gazprom reduced gas supplies to Germany via the Nord Stream pipeline by 60 per cent in mid-June, Uniper has been forced to pay higher prices on the spot market to make up the shortfall.

Unable to pass the cost on, Uniper has accumulated "substantial losses", the company said in a statement. —AFP

Twitter's future uncertain as it faces messy breakup with Musk

COURTED and then jilted by the world's richest person, Twitter looks well positioned to win a court battle with Elon Musk over a \$1 billion breakup fee and more — but the company will not emerge unscathed.

The entire saga has left observers baffled by what Wedbush analyst Dan Ives described as "one of the craziest business stories ever."

"I think it starts off as a circus show and it's ending as a circus show," Ives told AFP.

Musk, the founder of electric car company Tesla, sent a letter to Twitter on Friday saying he was pulling out of the controversial deal he made in April to buy the platform for \$54.20 per share, or \$44 billion in total.

But such merger agreements are "designed to prevent buyers from getting cold feet and deciding they want to walk away," explains Ann Lipton, a professor of law at Tulane University who specializes in corporate litigation. — Xinhua

US factory linked to baby formula shortage reopens, again

A US baby formula factory that had recently shut down for a second time this year, compounding a national shortage, reopened on 1 July, medical firm Abbott told AFP on Saturday.

The plant in Sturgis, Michigan had been closed for several months following a recall of the formula manufactured there, after it had been suspected of causing two infants to die.

Production resumed in early June, but was halted once more days later due to

flooding, again delaying deliveries of its EleCare brand of hypoallergenic formula.

"We restarted EleCare production at Sturgis on 1 July," an Abbott spokesperson told AFP by email Saturday.

The earlier shutdown had exacerbated a national shortage of some infant formula brands that had been due to Covid-related supply and labor issues. US President Joe Biden, whose administration has been accused of reacting



A notice says "No stock in the back for infant formula" in a supermarket in New York, US, as the City Mayor Eric Adams declares a state of emergency amid nationwide shortage of infant formula on 22 May 2022. PHOTO: CFP/AFP

slowly to the crisis, ordered foreign-made baby milk by airlifts to bring in tons of military aircraft. —AFP

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0268-723N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0268-723N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-7-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V THEMIS TRIUMPH VOY.NO. (69)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V THEMIS TRIUMPH VOY.NO. (69)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-7-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT-2** 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: **2301191/2301178**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MOL DRY BLUK LTD, JAPAN

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Iran says Damavand destroyer to soon join naval fleet



The Damavand destroyer uses the most up-to-date equipment and has been built entirely by domestic experts. Aug 26, 2019 – Iran has deployed a naval destroyer with long-range cruise missile systems to the Gulf of Aden to provide security for Iranian ships. **PHOTO: IRNA/FILE**

AN Iranian military commander said on Saturday that the domestically-built Damavand destroyer will soon join the navy's Northern Fleet in a special ceremony, semi-official Fars News Agency reported.

This move will help maintain the country's territorial integrity

in the Caspian Sea region and deal a blow to enemies' delusions about Iran's defense capabilities, Iranian Navy Commander Shahrām Irani said on the sidelines of the 1401 Sustainable Security, a two-day annual naval exercise in the Caspian Sea which began on Friday.

The Damavand destroyer uses the most up-to-date equipment and has been built entirely by domestic experts, he added.

Irani said Iran has achieved the highest level of naval technology in the Caspian Sea region and is capable of building destroyers in the region. — Xinhua

5 years after liberation, life returns to normal in Mosul

FIVE years after liberation from the extremist Islamic State (IS) militants, life has returned to normal in Iraq's second-largest city Mosul.

The old painful picture of Mosul has changed: the rubble and ruins left by the fierce battles with the IS militants are gradually replaced by the booming commercial activity in many areas of the city, where many of its famous traditional markets are now brimming with various products and shoppers could go around freely without fear.

Mosul, about 400 km north of the capital Baghdad, was seized by the IS militant group in June 2014 and was liberated on 10 July 2017 after nine months of fierce fighting. The battles left massive destruction to the city, especially in the old city center.

Sitting in his butcher shop

in the ancient al-Attareen market in Mosul's old city center, Ali Saadi Alwan told Xinhua that "our business now has doubled from the previous year, and many customers are coming to us."

In general, the market is very good thanks to the security and reconstruction."

Meanwhile, reconstruction work is underway at the Grand al-Nuri Mosque, which was blown up by the IS militants on 21 June 2017.

The mosque holds symbolic value to the people of Mosul as it gave the city its nickname "al-Hadbaa" or "the hunchback" with its famous leaning minaret.

The reconstruction of Mosul needs 12 to 15 billion dollars, said Mosul Mayor Amin al-Fanash, citing reports of international organizations. — Xinhua

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

US airs concern about China-Russia alignment amid Ukraine war

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Saturday raised Washington's concern about China's alignment with Moscow amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Blinken said that was made clear during a more than five-hour meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the Indonesian island of Bali, but both sides agreed to manage their differences on issues ranging from Chinese Taipei to human rights and continue high-level exchanges.

At a press conference following the meeting, their first face-to-face talks since the start of Russia's war against Ukraine, Blinken said, "Now, what you hear from Beijing is that it claims to be neutral. I would start with the proposition that it's pretty hard to be neutral when it comes to this aggression." — Kyodo

Hot water wells in Hungary fuel switch from Russian gas

HOT water from deep underground is being channelled to produce energy and heat for thousands of households in Hungary's third largest city Szeged.

Experts say the project – billed as Europe's biggest urban heating system overhaul – can serve as a model for other cities across the continent as EU nations scramble to wean themselves off Russian gas after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

"Geothermal energy is local, accessible and renewable so why not use it," geologist Tamas Medgyes told AFP beside a recently completed well in the middle of a residential neighbourhood. —AFP

Health situation in Ukraine: WHO

FIVE months into the war in Ukraine, people are suffering severely from all kinds of diseases and disabilities with an overstretched health system operating in the country, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Friday at a press briefing at the United Nations in Geneva.

Speaking via Zoom from

the port city Odessa in southern Ukraine, Dr. Dorit Nitzan, WHO's Incident Manager in Ukraine, said that "the health institutions here in Odessa, and I am sure that in Mykolaiv and elsewhere, now where the fights are ongoing, are really overstretched".

WHO is currently establish-

ing a WHO hub in Odessa where they are focusing, together with the Ukraine Ministry of Health and other national and international partners, on the needs of the affected population – people whose physical and mental health has been harmed and deteriorated due to the Russian invasion. — AFP

Crippling of G-20 over Ukraine highlights need for new framework

THE Group of 20 foreign ministers' meeting through Friday ended up only laying bare the rifts over Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with experts underscoring the need for the creation of a more effective framework to address global challenges.

At the two-day gathering held on the Indonesian island of Bali, the United States and other Group of Seven countries traded barbs with Russia over the war in Ukraine that has led to global food and energy prices. The ministers wrapped up their talks without any specific outcomes.

"I wasn't expecting much to come of this meeting," said

Hugo Dobson, a professor in the School of East Asian Studies at

the University of Sheffield in England. — Kyodo



A Ukrainian serviceman walks past destroyed Russian tanks near Kyiv. **PHOTO: SERGEI SUPINSKY / AFP**

Sri Lankan president says to resign on 13 July

SRI Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Saturday informed the country's parliament speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena that he will resign from office on 13 July.

The speaker's office told Xinhua that the president disclosed his decision following a request made by political party leaders.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has agreed to resign earlier in the day after party leaders in the parliament urged both him and the president to step down.

On Saturday, protesters stormed the president's residence and office, and the prime minister's house was set on fire.



Protesters in Sri Lanka stormed President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's office after overrunning his residence. **PHOTO: AFP**

The events on Saturday were the culmination of months of anti-government protests fuelled by an unprecedented economic crisis that bankrupted the South Asian island na-

tion, and fury over the ruling Rajapaksa clan's corruption.

Hundreds of thousands of people had massed in the capital, Colombo, on Saturday to demand the government take responsibility for mismanaging the nation's finances, and for crippling food and fuel shortages. After storming the gates of the presidential palace, a throng of protesters walked through its rooms, with some among the boisterous crowd jumping into the compound's pool. After fleeing, Rajapaksa boarded a naval craft at the Colombo port and was taken to the island's southern waters, where he said would finally bow to demands for him to step down. — Xinhua/AFP

Several Tory heavyweights enter already fractious race to replace Johnson



10 Downing Street is the official residence of Britain's prime minister in London. **PHOTO: CARLOS JASSO/AFP**

A trio of Conservative heavyweights, including former health ministers Sajid Javid and Jeremy Hunt, late Saturday an-

nounced their bids to succeed Prime Minister Boris Johnson, meaning eight contenders have entered the already acrimonious

leadership race.

Javid, also a former finance minister, and Hunt, who finished runner-up to Johnson in the last contest in 2019, were joined on the growing candidate list by current Chancellor of the Exchequer Nadhim Zahawi, who was only appointed to that post on Tuesday.

None of the trio are front-runners in recent polls of Conservative party members who will ultimately choose their new leader and Johnson's replacement, but are among the most high-profile to have launched campaigns so far. —AFP

Abe shooter says he tried to make bomb: sources

THE man who fatally shot former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has told police he had attempted to make a bomb, investigative sources said Sunday.

Tetsuya Yamagami has also said he "made multiple guns," according to the sources. The police have searched his home in the western city of Nara, confiscating guns similar to the apparently homemade one found at the scene after Abe was shot Friday while delivering a stump speech on a street in the city.

Yamagami, 41, was sent to prosecutors Sunday on suspicion of murder.

As for his motive, Yamagami

has said his mother made a "huge donation" to a religious organization and he harbored a

grudge against the group, which he believed was associated with Abe, sources have said. —Kyodo



A police vehicle carrying Tetsuya Yamagami, the man who fatally shot former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, leaves Nara Nishi Police Station in Nara, western Japan, on 10 July 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

World News Roundup

Voting under way in Japan's upper house election

VOTING is under way for a House of Councillors election Sunday, with rising prices and security threats seen as being at the forefront of the people's minds as Japan also reels from the death of Shinzo Abe, a former prime minister who was gunned down on the campaign trail.

The outcome of the triennial election is a gauge of voter confidence roughly nine months into the government of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who has set a goal for his ruling Liberal Democratic Party and coalition partner Komeito to retain a majority in the upper house.

A decisive win would strengthen Kishida's grip on power at a time when the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is being threatened by surging energy and food prices, and heightened security concerns amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine have led to calls for a stronger defense posture.

Abe, who was an LDP member of the House of Representatives, was fatally shot Friday while delivering a speech to rally support for the ruling coalition in Nara, western Japan. Any impact of his death on the election remains uncertain, though it united political leaders across their party lines in vowing not to yield to violence intended to quash the freedom of speech as campaigning drew to a close. —Kyodo

36 pct of Americans say gov't system "not at all sound": poll

AS many as 36 per cent of Americans said the US government system is "not at all sound," an increase from 10 per cent in 1980 and 22 per cent in 2021, according to a poll released Thursday.

Just 36 per cent described the system as "basically sound," declining from 55 per cent in February 2020 and 44 per cent, a few weeks after the Jan. 6 riot in 2021, showed the poll conducted in June with 978 adults in the United States by Monmouth University.

Partisanship, the current economic crisis and "attacks on our fundamental democratic processes — and the lack of universal condemnation of those attacks by political leaders from both sides of the aisle" have all led to Americans' declining faith in the government system, said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute. —Xinhua



SPORT

Ayeyawady United trounce Mahar United 6-1 in MNL

AYEYAWADY United celebrated a 6-1 win over Mahar United on the second match of the Myanmar National League Week-3 at the Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna in Yangon yesterday.

The Ayeyawady United lost in the first match of the season but won two consecutive matches against Rakhine and Mahar United.

With Ayeyawady's wins, striker Yan Kyaw Htwe became the first hat-trick record holder this season.

Ayeyawady's head coach U Myo Hlaing Win used his favourite line-up with Tin Win Aung, Zaw Lin, Aung Naing Win, Yan Kyaw Htwe, and Yazar Aung.

Meanwhile, Kyaw Swa Min, Soe Min Naing and Naing Lin Tun were on the line-up of Mahar United. Nay Oo Lwin scored the first goal for Mahar United in the first five minutes of the match but Mahar United could not control the match and had to return three goals in the first half.

Yan Kyaw Htwe scored the



Mahar United player jumps and kicks the ball during the Myanmar National League Week-3 match against Ayeyawady United at YTC in Yangon on 10 July 2022. PHOTO: MNL

equalizer for Ayeyawady in the 14th minute. Ayeyawady won 3-1 at the end of the first half as Kaug Myat Thu scored two goals in the 34th and 39th minutes.

In the second half, Ayeyawady controlled the match and scored the winning goals again.

Yan Kyaw Htwe scored two more goals in the 68 and 71 minute-marks and made a hat-trick. In the 77th minute, Si Thu Naing scored another goal to give the

Ayeyawady a six-goal victory.

Mahar United beat Hanthawady in Game 2 but lost to Shan United and Ayeyawady, so the FC has to prepare for good results in the next matches.

After three games played, Ayeyawady have secured six points while Mahar United three points. Defending Champion Shan United will take on Yadanabon FC today.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Shwe Aung Lan and Challenge fights of Myanmar Boxing Tournament continue



SHWE AUNG LAN and Challenge fights of Shwe Aung Lan Myanmar Traditional Boxing Tournament was held at Theinbyu Boxing Gymnasium in Yangon yesterday.

Hein Tun Aung (Shwe Thaton) and Saw Ba Hein (Cement Factory) competed in the 60-kilo Shwe Aung Lan fight at the Shwe Aung Lan Myanmar Traditional Boxing Championship, and all three judges declared Saw Ba Hein as a winner by technical knockout.

In the 63.5-kilo event final, Natkhat Min (Zwekabin Myay) fought with Ekmwee (Dragon King) and Elmwee won by TK.

In the 67-kilo, and Kabar Shar (AMT 2) did not win or lose until the 5th round, and judges declared Saw Min Min as a winner by TK.

Min Htet Aung (Shwe Thaton) and Kyal Gyi (G3G) competed in the final of 70-71 kilo event and Min Htet Aung beat Kyal Gyi and won the title.

In the first match of Skynet Shwe Aung Lan Special Challenge, Htet Naing Aung (Shwe Thaton) and Yu Klein Aung (Phalon Pyinnya Tawaw) competed and ended at a draw.

Both Htet Naing Aung and Yu Klein Aung, who are both uninjured, competed as a good duo, fans said.

Next, Moe Hmaung and Aung Min Tun tied in the second match of Skynet Shwe Aung Lan's Special Challenge fight.

Although they were punched and kicked in all directions, those traditional boxers were strong and seen as if they were no longer in pain.—TWA/GNLM