HARNESS FRESHWATER SOURCES TO BE USEFUL FOR THE SOCIETY PAGE-8 (OPINION)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 121, 4th Waning of Wagaung 1384 ME www.gnlm.com.mm Monday, 15 August 2022

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 spewedy 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.

Myanmar conveys $53.04 mln worth fishery products to Thailand through three border posts in past four months



Seafood processing and packaging for exports.

MYANMAR delivered fishery products to Thailand through three border posts in the past four months (April-July) of the current financial year 2022-2023, with an estimated value of US$53.04 million, according to the statistics released by the border posts.

Fisheries exports via the Myanmar-Thailand border trade channel have returned to normal. The export volume of fishery products via three border posts and Htikhee, Mawtaung and Kawthoung is estimated at over 46,930 tonnes in the past four months.

During April-July 2022 period, trade value stood at $10.14 million at Htikhee border post, over $0.9 million at Mawtaung post and over $42 million at Kawthoung post, according to the trade data released by Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

Trade volume in the corresponding period of the 2020-2021 FY was only 84,000 tonnes, which was still lower than the volume recorded in the same period of 2021-2022 mini-budget period.

Myanmar shipped over $181 million valued fishery products to foreign markets between 1 April and 22 July of the current FY 2022-2023, as per the Department of Fisheries.

Myanmar exports raw aquaculture products from farms and caught by onshore and offshore fishing businesses to the external markets. Additionally, aquaculture products are also exported after being processed at the cold storage facilities.

The Department of Fisheries and Myanmar Fisheries Federation are working together on fishery export promotion beyond self-sufficiency.—TWA/GNLM

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
Consultation meeting held for electricity supply to industrial zones in Yangon Region
PAGE-3

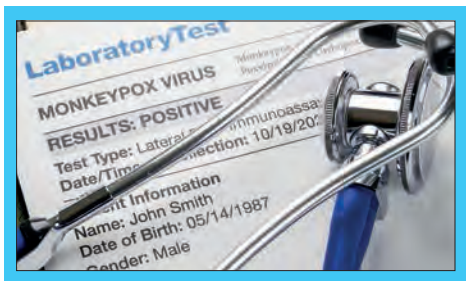
NATIONAL
Union Minister for Industry inspects No 1 Steel Mill (Myingyan)
PAGE-4

LOCAL BUSINESS
YGEA set gold price at over K2.1 mln per tical on global gold market trends
PAGE-5



CURRENT AFFAIRS
Applicants allowed to submit entrance forms to universities as of 18 August
PAGE-6





ARTICLE
WHO gives new names to variants of monkeypox virus
PAGE-8-9

29 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 14 August, total figure rises to 614,389

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 614,389 after 29 new cases were reported on 14 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 593,093 patients have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,435 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 13-8-2022, 30,271,544 people above 18 and a total of 6,224,317 people under 18 have been vaccinated. —MNA

Those wishing to enter the legal fold can contact respective townships' Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in addition to reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council has released the statement inviting CDM staff, students and youths, who are in border areas and ethnic armed groups, they can contact the nearest reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations if they want to enter the legal fold and the government will guarantee their lives following the rules and regulations.

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. Meanwhile, 3,156 education workers, who were absent from their duties, another 1,009 people, who want to withdraw the cases that were opened against them, and 231 PDF members have contacted and returned to the legal fold. Then, they were given back to their parents systematically and the numbers of people who enter the legal fold and those who wish to are rising. Therefore, the government is making efforts to accept more numbers of those people.

The government opens reception centres in border areas for those who would like to return to the legal fold. Moreover, those wishing to return home can contact respective townships' Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. It is guaranteed that they will be able to lead their daily lives peacefully.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Objectives of 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2022

(a) To uplift national prestige and integrity and to preserve the cultural heritage and national characteristics
(b) To discover, preserve and uplift the traditional cultural heritage of performing arts of ethnic nationals and national cultural characteristics
(c) To preserve traditional cultural performing arts in order to further revitalize adoration of the State and hand it down to new generation youths
(d) To contribute much to the restoration of perpetual peace

Yangon Mayor inspects cleaning, construction activities

CHAIRMAN of the Yangon City Development Committee Mayor U Bo Htay examined the ongoing activities such as anti-mosquito spraying in classrooms, putting Temephos (trade name Abate) into school ponds and cleaning the grass and bushes, at Basic Education Middle School No 7 on the Park School Road of Ward 13 in Hline Township for the cleanliness of the school on 13 August. Then, the mayor left the necessary instructions to the responsible personnel.

Afterwards, the Yangon mayor continues the inspection of ground levelling works and cleaning works of the stadium in Ward 13, as well as the cleaning of grass bushes to prevent and control dengue fever with the activities of anti-mosquito spraying in the classrooms and the Abate putting in the ponds, at No 6 Basic Education High School located on Kanyeiktha Road of Thabyaygon Ward in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, No 10 Basic Education Primary School of Mar Mar Aye Ward in Dawbon Township and Basic Education Primary School No 14 on Zabuthiri Road of West Ward in Thakayta Township.

Then, he inspected the Zabupyinnya Library and instructed the responsible personnel to fulfil the needs.—MNA

Reference wholesale price set as K4,140 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.

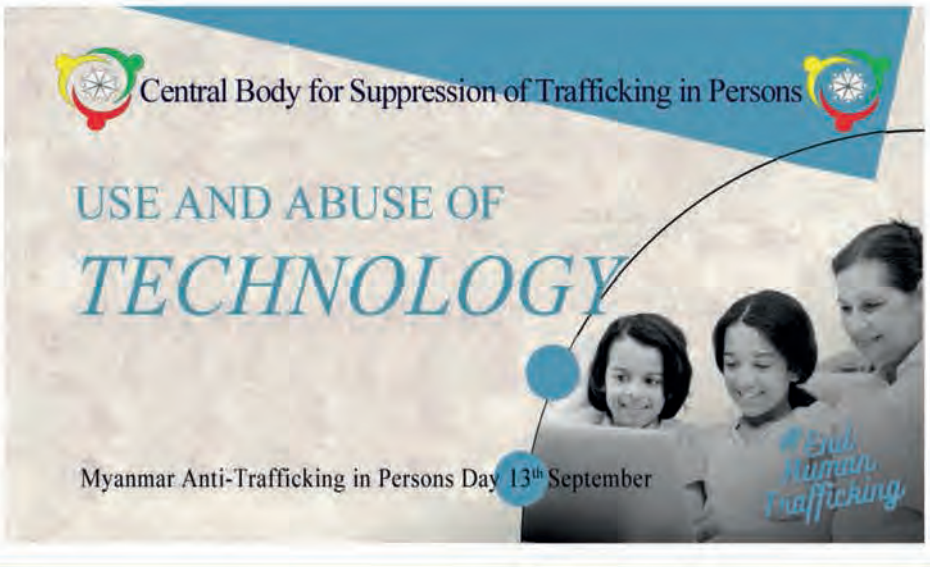
The Committee for the Supervision of the Import and Distribution of Edible Oils under the Ministry of Commerce has issued a statement in a bid to manage the domestic palm oil prices.

Depending on the daily monitoring of FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, transportation costs, bank expenses, and basic wholesales 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 exporters this week, the committee has announced the basic Yangon Reference Wholesale Price of palm oil is K4,140 per viss within 15 and 21 August.

It has also been notified that any illegal activities, such as stocking to raise prices and selling in the domestic market, will be prosecuted under the Important Goods and Services Act.

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



2022 Anti-Trafficking Persons in Days' Objectives

- To mobilize the participation of all citizens in combating human trafficking as a national duty;
- To have the public instilled with awareness about and knowledge of trafficking in persons;
- To protect and care trafficked victims with empathy; and
- To strengthen cooperation and coordination among all counter trafficking stakeholders government agencies, civil society organizations, UN agencies, international organizations and general public.

Tatmadaw is also steering and monitoring to be straightforward on building the Union Republic rooted in democracy and federal system having peace and tranquillity

HAVING duty consciousness among the country and people, loyalty and a variety of selfless performances with a spirit of goodwill by Tatmadaw have been witnessed in the past. Currently, Tatmadaw is also steering and monitoring to be straightforward on building the Union Republic rooted in democracy and federal system having peace and tranquillity, and community development. I would like to highlight that every effort partaken by Tatmadaw tend to be beneficial for our motherland and ethnic people, and Tatmadaw also performs the tasks with a spirit of goodwill to be able to stand rigidly as a country among the world.

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

Consultation meeting held for electricity supply to industrial zones in Yangon Region

A coordination meeting emphasized electricity supply to industrial zones in Yangon Region held at Yangon Region Government Office on the morning of 13 August.

First of all, Union Minister for Electric Power U Thaung Han said that the power plants and national grids as well as sub-power stations are being built for electrifying people and industrial zones.

In addition, in order to meet the growing demand for electricity in the country, the ongoing projects include hydropower projects and solar power plants, as well as cross-border power lines and the purchase of electricity are being implemented, he said.

Furthermore, plans are underway to develop electricity generation using various sources including wind energy, the Union Minister added.

In doing so, the 500 kV power line and substation projects are also being planned for stablizing the power system and for ability to feed more power to the power lines, the Union Minister continued.

He said that measures are being taken to meet the power needs of industrial zones and industries in Yangon Region. In order to meet the power needs of industrial zones as much as possible, infrastructure is being upgraded, he said. After that, officials explained the electricity generation and distribution and transmission of electricity.

The chairman of Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation said that the supply of power in the Yangon region and officials from the industrial zones discussed the business conditions and the needs of the electricity that will be invested in the electricity sector.



Union Minister for Electric Power U Thaung Han speaking at consultation meeting on supply of electricity to industrial zones in Yangon on 13 August.

The Union Minister and the Yangon Region Chief Minister fulfilled the needs of electrification.—MNA

H&T Ministry striving for grasping a chance of good potential Russian tourism market share



Union Minister for H&T Dr Htay Aung views round booths at the counter at Yangon International Airport on 14 August.

THE Head of State on his goodwill visit allowed the visa exemption for Russian citizens to create chances for more arrivals of travellers from Russian to Myanmar, said Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung on 13 August afternoon at the ceremony to launch the Russian language course in conjunction with the ceremony of presenting national level health and disaster free medals at Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister said the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism conducted the courses on hotel services, tourism and tour guides as well as foreign languages in order to develop human resources in the hotels and tourism sector.

He added that Myanmar slated to participate in the tourism show in Russia in March 2023 with contacting the embassies for enhancing the Myanmar's tourism services.

The Union minister attended the booster dose vaccination ceremony for 125 staff of hotel staff at Novotel Hotel in Yangon.

He also held a meeting with officials from Myanmar Tourism Federation and Myanmar-China tourism promotion board for enhancement of Chinese tourism market.

The Union minister also met with departmental staff at Yangon International Airport yesterday morning and inspected distribution of correct information to the passengers through information counter.—MNA

Union Minister for Industry inspects No 1 Steel Mill (Myingyan)

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than visited No. 1 Steel Mill (Myingyan) in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region on 13 August.

In the meeting hall, the mill manager and officials explained the status of the factory, and project activities.

In relation to the presentations, the Union Minister requested that the approved funds be used effectively for the operation of Phase-1 and the purchase of equipment under the roof,

The Union Minister urged officials to prepare the staff needs according to the skill level to be replenished in time, to draw up economic plans for project activities and to complete them according to the plan and constantly study and conduct market research on products, to produce their own products meeting the set standards, to plan in advance to be able to compete with imported iron and steel wares, and to carry out manufacturing activities continuously and the necessary raw materials must also be collected in advance.



Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than views machine parts to be installed at Steel Mill (Myingyan) on 13 August.

In order to be able to fulfill the needs of the State on one hand and to be able to produce commercially, the responsible engineers should establish cost-effective production plans based on the laws of engineering economics and industrial economics and professionals are dedicated to the national interest, the Union Minister said. He ordered them to serve with pride as employees who can serve the interests of the public.

After that, the Union Minister toured the Cold Mill Complex and the factory, which is being built to purchase and store the equipment under shelter, and coordinated and resolved the necessary issues.—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.



A local in Mandalay Region gets COVID-19 vaccine shot on 14 August.

On 13 August, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 1,781 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 392 people from Kyaukpyu and Thandwe townships in Rakhine State and 5,413 local people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

Similarly on that day, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 236 students from Buthidaung and Kyaukpyu townships in Rakhine State and 1,215 students from seven districts in Mandalay Region.

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

Situations that require mandatory wearing of face masks announced

1. The Ministry of Health has been urging people to wear face masks to prevent the spread of the disease since the beginning of the outbreak of COVID-19.

2. As part of the personal protection rules for the COVID-19 disease that the public has to follow in their daily lives, they are informed that it is necessary to wear a face mask in the following situations: -

   (a) being close to one person in a room;

   (b) being with people in crowded places such as travelling in vehicles used by the public, railways, ships, planes; hospitals/health centres used by the public; offices, schools, markets, shopping centres, and nursing homes;

   (c) Having any suspected symptoms of COVID-19 such as illness, cough, sneezing, stuffy nose, sore throat, physical discomfort, body pain, sudden loss of smell and taste.

Ministry of Health
25-7-2022



THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515
ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

gnlmnews@gmail.com
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email **aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm** with your name and title.

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.

LOCAL BUSINESS

YGEA set gold price at over K2.1 mln per tical on global gold market trends

AS gold price climbs in international markets, pure gold price set by Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association has gained to over K2.1 million per tical (0.578 ounce, or 0.016 kilogramme).

In early August, gold prices stood at only US$1,770 per ounce in global markets. On 13 August, the price jumped to $1,802 per ounce.

The domestic gold prices have risen accordingly. On 13 August, YGEA set the precious yellow metal at K2,101,000 per tical.

Nonetheless, the prices reached record-high of around K2.6 million per tical in the grey market.



Gold ornaments are displayed at the goldsmith.

The rising gold prices are attributed to the effect of the continuous Kyat depreciation in the local forex market. The unofficial exchange rate against the dollar is estimated at around K2,800 in the markets.

The association determined the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate of K2,100, said U Myo Myint, chair of YGEA.

Therefore, there is a gap of over K500,000 between the set price of YGEA and the informal market price. Consequently, the cross-border illegal market has arisen again.

The soaring safe-haven dollar value against the weakening Kyat in the domestic forex market halted pure gold bar transactions as well, U Myo Myint stressed.

Next, the authorities also interrogated some gold traders and currency exchange operators in end-July.

During the end of September 2021, a dollar value hit an all-time high of over K3,000 in the gold exchanges and consequently, the pure gold reached a high of K2.22 million per tical.

The objectives of the committee are inspecting and prosecuting market manipulation, checking if there is a compliance to payment rules or not in the domestic market, proceeding against those unscrupulous traders who intend to interfere in the free and fair operation of the market under the existing laws, by-laws and regulations in line with the official directives, illegal foreign currency holding, illegal trade and taking legal actions against price manipulators. —NN/GNLM

Palm oil price peaked at K9,000 per viss despite wholesale reference rate of K3,525



A grocery shop owner prepares to sell oil to a customer.

THE price of palm oil hit a high of K9,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) when the wholesale reference rate of palm oil in Yangon market is set at K3,525 per viss, according to the oil market.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transportation cost, tariff and banking service, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

The reference rate of palm oil in Yangon market for a week from 8 to 14 August is set at K3,525 per viss. However, the market price is higher than the reference rate.

In spite of the reference rate, the traders are found to raise the price up to K9,000 per viss in the markets.

To tackle this, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships starting from 17 July in order to offer the palm oil at the subsidized rate of K3,700 per viss to the consumers. However, there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell the palm oil at reference rate depending on the volume quota.

The Ministry of Commerce is striving for the consumers not to worry over the supply of edible oil. The ministry is also trying to secure edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer the reasonable price to the consumers, maintain the price stability and prevent market manipulation.—NN/GNLM

Mandalay market sees brisk tomato sales

TOMATOES supplied by Ywangan and Inlay areas do a roaring trade in Thiri Marlar wholesale market, Aungmyethazan District of Mandalay, according to tomato depots.

Abundant supply of tomato from Ywangan and Inlay areas is daily flowing into the Thiri Marlar market by about 15 twelve-wheel trucks. The prices of tomatoes from the Inlay area stood at K14,000-15,000 per 18-viss box, whereas Ywangan's tomato fetches K12,000-13,000 per box, said U Aung Moe Naing, an owner of Aung commodity centre in Mandalay city.

"At present, tomatoes from Shan State are abundantly seen in the market. Inlay's tomato receives a high price as it does not be rotten too fast. The prices have risen on low inventory. The market sees a bustling trade. The prices of green tomatoes are K600-700 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes). Fresh produce sellers are doing well," he elaborated.

Tomatoes enter the Mandalay market daily. The price also shows an uptick. In addition to tomatoes, other vegetables such as cabbage, broccoli, mustard, eggplant, chayote, potato and onions are also selling well.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)/GNLM



Local farmers are sorting quality tomatoes to be sent to the market. **PHOTO : MIN HTET AUNG**

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Applicants allowed to submit entrance forms to universities as of 18 August

THE Ministry of Education on 13 August announced that students who passed the matriculation examination in 2022 can take out university entrance forms from 18 August.

They must collect the score list, summary score level, university guidebook and entrance forms from relevant exam supervisors starting from 18 August in order to apply for university admission from 18 August to 2 September without holidays.

Students may apply for university admission to Myitkyina, Loikaw, Hpa-an, Haka, Meiktila, Kyaukse, Mawlamyine, Monywa, Sittway, Shwebo, Taungup, Sagaing, Dawei, Toungoo, Taunggyi, Lashio, Pyay, Kengtung, Bago, Magway, Pathein, Hinthada, Pakokku, Maubin universities, Yangon University of Distance Education and Mandalay UDE.

The overdue applications must be sent to the Higher Education Department (Yangon Branch) on Thaton street, Kamayut township in Yangon. For more details, contact the Higher Education Department (Yangon), dialing 017-537677, 017-525612 and 017-503147.—TWA/GNLM



Students are searching their names at results of matriculation examination in 2022.

Pigeon pea price skyrockets to nearly K2 mln per tonne

PRICES of pigeon pea are in the upward trend. It hit nearly K2 million per tonne on 13 August 2022, said Ko Thet Tun, a bean trader involved in Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre.

On 13 August 2022, the prices of pigeon pea (red gram) RC stood at K1,957,500 per tonne, while the prices of black gram were estimated at K1,850,000 per tonne of FAQ/RC (Fair Average Quality) and K2,155,000 per tonne of SQ/RC (Special Quality). Pigeon pea was priced only at K1,612,500 per tonne on 5 August, indicating a sharp increase of K345,000 per tonne within seven days. It comes close to K2 million, Ko Thet Tun elaborated on soaring pigeon pea prices. The pigeon pea was worth only K1,190,000 per tonne in the corresponding period last year. Moreover, it fetched just K800,000 per tonne on 13 August 2020.

When newly harvested fresh pigeon peas entered the markets in early 2022, the price tumbled under K1.3 million in the first week of January. Shortly thereafter, the prices stayed at approximately K1.3 million.

It gradually rose to over K1.4 million per tonne between the second week of March and the last week of April. After that, the price slipped to under K1.4 million during April-mid-June period. The pigeon pea prices moved in the range between K1.4 million and K1.5 million as of end-July.

The figures showed a rise of K200,000 per tonne of pigeon peas in the past seven months (Jan-July) 2022. However, pigeon pea prices shot up between 28 July and 13 August. The price tremendously went up to K1,967,500 per tonne from K1,485,000 per tonne. There is a wide gap of K482,500 per tonne within 14 days.

A market observer called Ko San pointed out extreme price volatility in the past seven days as the inflation rate is more than twice the rate recorded during the January-July period.

Those traders who keep pigeon peas stock in hands are making a handsome profit these days rather than black gram traders, said Ko Soe, black gram trader from Kyaunggon Township.

Traders are closely observing the Yangon pulses market which has faced a bumpy ride in recent days. It has been about a decade that transactions are made without the need for pluses on display at Yangon's commodity exchange, said Ko Tun Myat Oo, a trader. —TWA/GNLM



Traders observing the pulses on display at Mandalay commodity market.

Billing system of collecting bus fare of YBS depending on stops on five-day test



A passenger is using the YPS card installed on the YBS bus. **PHOTO:TWA**

BUS fare collection on YBS payment cards will depend on number of bus-stops for five days, and initially, YBS 28 and YBS 29 lines will start working as a pilot test from 13 August, according to the YBS authorities.

The bus fare will be based on the number of stops by specifying the beginning of the gate, the middle of the gate, and the end of the gate.

It will be started as a pilot test from 12 to 18 August and if it is convenient, it is planned to be implemented from 19 August.

Any stop will be charged 200 kyats according to the current fare format on the YBS-28 (Dagon University to Sule City Hall) bus line, starting from the starting stop and up to a total of 25 stops.

A total of 300 Kyats will be deducted from the card if the journey exceeds 24 stops from the start of the bus stop.

Similarly, any stop on the YBS-29 (Shwe Paukan Bridge to Sule City Hall) bus line will be charged 200 kyats from the starting stop up to a total of 33 stops.

A trip that exceeds a total of 32 stops from the bus stop will cost 300 kyats.

From 12 to 18 August, the Dilet Test system will be tested for five days only, and if it is effective, YPS card users will be able to make accurate fare payments using the YPS card based on the number of stops from 19 August.

It is reported that the previously fixed fare (Flat Fare) will now be changed to a fare (Distance Fare) which will be charged based on the distance traveled.

YUPT Company announced in early August that if passengers will pay the fare with the YPS card, they will have to pay the fare with the card once to get on the bus and once to get off.

As for the fare collection, it will cost 200 kyats if the trip is half way from the gate.

It is planned to charge 200 kyats from any trip to the end of the gate and 400 kyats for the whole trip.

If passengers pay for the start-to-end of the trip with the YPS card, the fare will be reduced by 5% discount and will cost only 380 kyats.

A total of 116 YBS bus lines are transporting about 121,230 passengers with 3,172 buses in all townships in Yangon.—TWA/GNLM

NATIONAL/CRIME

Illegal timbers, fuel, consumer goods and vehicles seized

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

A combined inspection team under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal trade special task force of Magway Region, led by the Forest Department inspected Aunglan and Minbu townships on 10 and 11 August. They seized 5.1126 tonnes of illegal teaks and other timbers at estimated value of K1,023,838 and action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade special task force of Shan State, led by the Kengtung Township Customs Department found 150 bottles of Diesel Engine Oil on 12 August, stockpiled without owner, estimated value of K5.25 million at near Arkhar village, 21 miles of Pankwe mountain between Kengtung and Tachilek townships. The action was taken under the Customs Law.

In the same way, under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade special task force of Sagaing Region, led by the Region Forest Department found 7.188 tonnes of illegal teaks estimated value of K1,797,000 at Phatsuk forest reserve area in Indaw Township on 12 August and action was taken under the Forest Law. The combination team led by Myanmar Police Force seized a Toyota Crown, without licence worth K3 million at Kantalu checkpoint on 13 August and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law. Total worth of seizures amounted to K4,797,000.

Furthermore, under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade special task force of Ayeyawady Region, on duty team at checkpoint, situated enter the city, found a Toyota Wish, without licence worth K6 million at east Taloklat village in Maubin township and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Then, under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal force of Kayin State, on duty team at Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) checkpoint on 13 August. The team found two trucks, which were travel from Myawady to Yangon, 208 rice cooker estimated at K2,080,00 and 2,200 pairs of foam slipper estimated at K3,080,000, which were without declared on ID from the trucks. On 14 August, the team found a truck, travelling from Myawady to Yangon. The team seized Sarong, which are without declared on ID estimated K2.8 million. Total worth of seizures amounted to K7.96 million and the actions were taken under the Customs Law.

Therefore, nine cases (estimated value of K25,030,838) were taken action from 10 to 14 August, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. —MNA



Illegal cut logs seen before extraction on forest reserve in Sagaing Region on 12 August.



Photo shows illegally imported engine oil in Shan State on 12 August.

Reference wholesale prices for Union Territory, Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay and reference retail prices for cities of regions and states

15-8-2022 — **Kyat/Litre**

Fuel (Retail Price)	Yangon	Mandalay	Nay Pyi Taw	Bago	Magway	Dawei	Monywa	Pathein	Myitkyina	Sittway	Hpa-an	Mawlamyine	Lashio	Taunggyi	Loikaw	Haka	Kengtung
92 Ron	2,320	2,365	2,360	2,330	2,365	2,390	2,375	2,350	2,445	2,460	2,360	2,365	2,400	2,405	2,405	2,625	2,855
95 Ron	2,390	2,435	2,435	2,395	2,435	2,455	2,440	2,420	2,515	2,530	2,425	2,440	2,470	2,470	2,470	2,690	2,925
HSD (500 ppm)	2,655	2,700	2,695	2,660	2,700	2,720	2,715	2,685	2,800	2,795	2,690	2,700	2,735	2,735	2,740	2,955	3,225
HSD (50 ppm)	2,730	2,775	2,770	2,735	2,775	2,795	2,790	2,760	2,875	2,870	2,765	2,775	2,810	2,810	2,815	30,30	3,260
HSD (10 ppm)	2,730	2,775	2,770	2,735	2,775	2,795	2,790	2,760	2,875	2,870	2,765	2,775	2,810	2,810	2,815	3,030	3,260

Fuel (Wholesale Price)	Yangon	Mandalay
92 Ron	2,213	2,291
95 Ron	2,278	2,357
HSD (500 ppm)	2,537	2,617
HSD (50 ppm)	2,608	2,690
HSD (10 ppm)	2,608	2,690

Remarks:

(1) It's calculation is based on MOPS price.

(2) If people are not satisfied with purchase of fuel, they may safely send complaints to telephone numbers of the committee as follows: -

067-409881 and 09-699611116, 067-411129, 09-440433533

Fuel Import, Storage and Distribution Supervisory Committee

OPINION

Harness freshwater sources to be useful for the society

Freshwater is essential for the daily consumption of humans. Four major rivers and a number of creeks are conveying more than 800 million acre-feet of freshwater from the north to the south of the nation.

In Myanmar, various parts of water areas are filled with freshwater, except tidal areas from the deltaic region. So, local people do not thoroughly know the value of freshwater. Only when the persons who face a shortage of drinking water will they understand the value of freshwater. Actually, the entire Myanmar people consume some 45 million acre-feet of freshwater from various sources per year, accounting for about five per cent of the total freshwater volume.

Myanmar has many potentials for sustainable development of water sources and for operating water sources-based businesses and investments. In this regard, it is necessary to conserve forests in watershed areas in order to utilize river and creek networks in the long run.

> Everybody is responsible for the efficient use of water in all seasons. Saving water means saving them as well as saving the world. Every drop of fresh water is invaluable not only for all the people but also for all the world. Every drop of fresh water can save many lives and build many countries. Humans have the capacity to harness the sources of freshwater to be useful for society.

The deforested areas are unable to prevent landslides, flash flooding, silting of rivers and creeks, erosions of cultivable lands as well as a lack of controlling underground water tapping. As a consequent impact, deforestation may affect efficient water utilization, generation of electricity, marine product production and transportation facilities.

As such, local authorities in different regions and states need to implement the prevention of watershed areas into consideration in cooperation with relevant ministries. They have to try hard to supply fresh water to local people in arid regions for daily consumption.

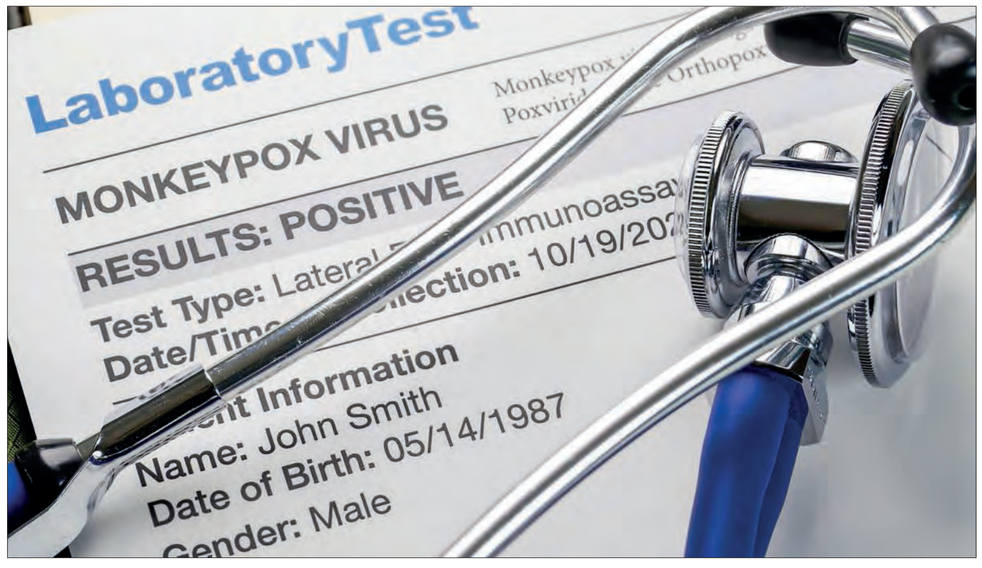
Deforestation may cause drought, loss of underground water, the disappearance of springs, and degradation of soil into desertification. If so, local people miss the chance to engage in agriculture and livestock farming tasks, harming the livelihoods of local people and their living standards. The improper situation of living standards cannot contribute to shaping the future of the new generation of youths.

Thanks to the concerted efforts of the government and the people, barren hills are being shaped by greening with the growth of trees, reemerging springs which will be reliable water sources for the local people. If so, everybody can comprehensively understand the value of freshwater and its useful ways.

Everybody is responsible for the efficient use of water in all seasons. Saving water means saving them as well as saving the world. Every drop of fresh water is invaluable not only for all the people but also for all the world. Every drop of fresh water can save many lives and build many countries. Humans have the capacity to harness the sources of freshwater to be useful for society.

WHO gives new names to variants of monkeypox virus

Newly-identified viruses, related diseases, and virus variants should be given names that avoid causing offense to any cultural, social, national, regional, professional, or ethnic groups, and which minimize any negative impact on trade, travel, tourism or animal welfare, WHO added.



The monkeypox virus was named when it was first discovered in 1958. Major variants were identified by the geographic regions where they were known to circulate. **PHOTO: EEHEALTH.ORG**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced new names for variants of the monkeypox virus that are currently in circulation. This is to avoid causing any cultural or social offense, the WHO explained in a statement on Friday.

A group of global experts convened by the WHO decided on the new names.

Experts will now refer to the former Congo Basin clade (group of variants) in Central Africa as Clade I, and the former West African clade as Clade II. The latter consists of two sub-clades, Clade IIa and Clade IIb, of which Clade IIb was the main group of variants circulating during the 2022 outbreak.

WHO said the new names for the clades should be used immediately.

Newly-identified viruses, related diseases, and virus variants should be given names that avoid causing offense to any cultural, social, national, regional, professional, or ethnic groups, and which minimize any negative impact on trade, travel, tourism or animal welfare, WHO added.

The monkeypox virus was named when it was first discovered in 1958. Major variants were identified by the geographic regions where they were known to circulate.

WHO officially declared late last month that the current multi-country monkeypox outbreak had turned into a public health emergency of international concern.

According to WHO's situation report on the monkeypox outbreak published on Wednesday, there have now been 27,814 laboratory-confirmed cases, and 11 deaths from the disease in 89 countries and regions worldwide, with Europe and the Americas being hit the hardest.

SOURCE: Xinhua

ARTICLE
Weather Report

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 14 August 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the depression which crossed to West Bengal coast and North Odisha coast near Digha, India moved to West-Northwestwards as a Land Depression still persists. It is forecast continue to move West-Northwestwards and weaken gradually. Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and strong over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 15 August 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, and Mandalay regions, fairly widespread in Magway and Taninthayi regions and Shan and Kayah states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Yangon Region and Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (40) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (9-12) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast and (6-8) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Weak to moderate monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 August 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 August 2022: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 August 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Trade Mark Ads Call 09251022355, 09974424848

Study describes how COVID-19 damages the brain

A study shows how SARS-COV-2 infects brain cells called astrocytes, causing structural changes in the brain. Infection with SARS-CoV-2 can cause brain alterations and neurocognitive dysfunction, particularly in long COVID-19 syndrome, but the underlying mechanisms are elusive.

Daniel Martins-de-Souza and colleagues used MRI to compare brain structure in 81 study participants recovering from a mild COVID-19 infection and 81 healthy individuals.

The authors found that the former group exhibited reduced cortical thickness, which was correlated with cognitive impairments and symptoms such as anxiety and depression.

The authors analyzed brain samples from 26 people who had died of COVID-19, finding that samples from five of these individuals exhibited tissue damage.

Damaged brain samples

Further analysis of damaged brain samples revealed that astrocytes, which are brain cells that sustain neuronal metabolism, were particularly likely to be infected with SARS-CoV-2 and that the virus enters these cells through the NRP1 receptor.

Once infected, astrocytes exhibited altered levels of metabolites used to fuel neurons and neurotransmitter production, and the infected cells secreted neurotoxic molecules.

According to the authors, the findings uncover structural changes observed in the brains of people with COVID-19.

The significance of the study denotes the neurological symptoms that are among the most prevalent of the extrapulmonary complications of COVID-19, affecting more than 30 per cent of patients. In this study, we provide evidence that severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is found in the human brain, where it infects astrocytes and to a lesser extent, neurons.

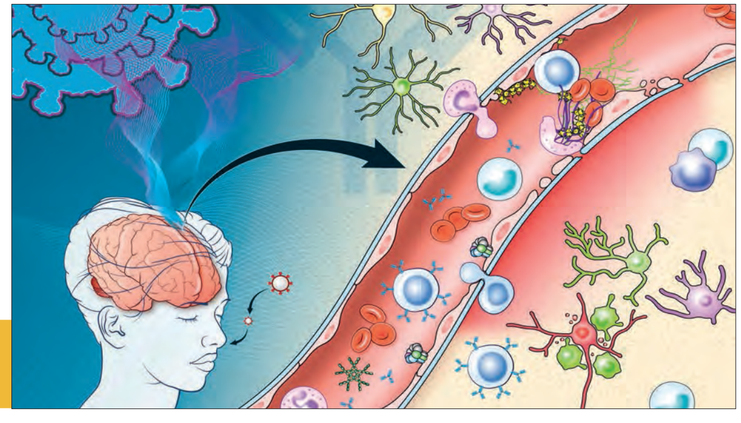
We also show that astrocytes are susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection through a noncanonical mechanism that involves spike-NRP1 interaction and respond to the infection by remodeling energy metabolism, which in turn, alters the levels of metabolites used to fuel neurons and support neurotransmitter synthesis.

The altered secretory phenotype

The altered secretory phenotype of infected astrocytes then impairs neuronal viability. These features could explain the damage and structural changes observed in the brains of COVID-19 patients.

Although increasing evidence confirms neuropsychiatric manifestations associated mainly with severe COVID-19 infection, long-term neuropsychiatric dysfunction (recently characterized as part of "long COVID-19" syndrome) has been frequently observed after mild infection.

SOURCE: ANI



According to the authors, the findings uncover structural changes observed in the brains of people with COVID-19. **PHOTO: NIH.GOV/ANI**

ENVIRON WORLD

Farming under fire on the frontlines in eastern Ukraine



An aerial picture shows wheat plantations burnt following an air strike in Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine, on 8 July 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE combine harvester lies crippled in a field of eastern Ukraine, surrounded by a blackened patch of cropland.

The machine was lumbering through a pasture outside the village of Maidan — around 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the frontline with Russian forces — when it struck a mine, according to farmer Pavlo Kudimov.

One front wheel was wrenched off and the giant rotating reel prised aside, as the cabin was scorched by flames.

The next morning the driver remained in hospital suffering serious burns as the wreck still smouldered, a reminder of the risks of tending land in a breadbasket that has become a brutal war zone.

"Farming has always been hard, but it's even harder now," Kudimov told AFP.

At the start of August, the first shipment of grain left Ukraine since Russia launched its large-scale invasion and blockaded Kyiv's ports on the southern Black Sea.

Ukraine accounts for 10 per cent of the world wheat market and the boat left under a deal brokered by Türkiye and the United Nations, eager to assuage a global food price crisis hammering poor nations.

Inside Ukraine, the embargo on grain exports has created a crisis for farmers.

With no access to international markets, silos are full, prices have dived and the supply chain logjam has yet to ease up.

Risking our lives

Farmers in Donbas — the eastern region where the war with Russia shifted after the Kremlin gambit to capture Kyiv failed — are facing threats on two fronts. Comprising the regions of Donetsk and Lugansk, Donbas is the industrial and farming heartland of Ukraine.

But every day the air raid sirens sound. Rockets rain down, military jets attack ground targets and cluster bombs speckle fields. —AFP

Iraq's Garden of Eden now 'like a desert'

TO feed and cool his buffaloes, Hashem Gassed must cross 10 kilometres (six miles) of sunburnt land in southern Iraq, where drought is devastating swathes of the mythical Mesopotamian Marshes.

The reputed home of the biblical Garden of Eden, Iraq's swamplands have been battered by three years of drought and low rainfall, as well as reduced water flows along rivers and tributaries originating in neighbouring Türkiye and Iran.

Vast expanses of the once lush Huwaizah Marshes, straddling the border with Iran, have been baked dry, their vegetation yellowing. Stretches of the Chibayish Marshes, which are popular with tourists, are suffering the same fate.

"The marshes are our livelihood — we used to fish here and our livestock could graze and drink," said Gassed, 35, from a hamlet near Huwaizah.

Southern Iraq's marshlands were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2016, both for their biodiversity and their ancient history.

But now, beds of dry streams snake around the once verdant wetlands, and the area's Um al-Naaj lake has been reduced to puddles of muddy water among largely dry ground. —AFP



Iraqi officials point to canals and small streams that have been rehabilitated to feed into the marshes – and to where some families have relocated from dried-out areas. **PHOTO: AFP**

Over 200 major glaciers disappear in Italy due to changing climate

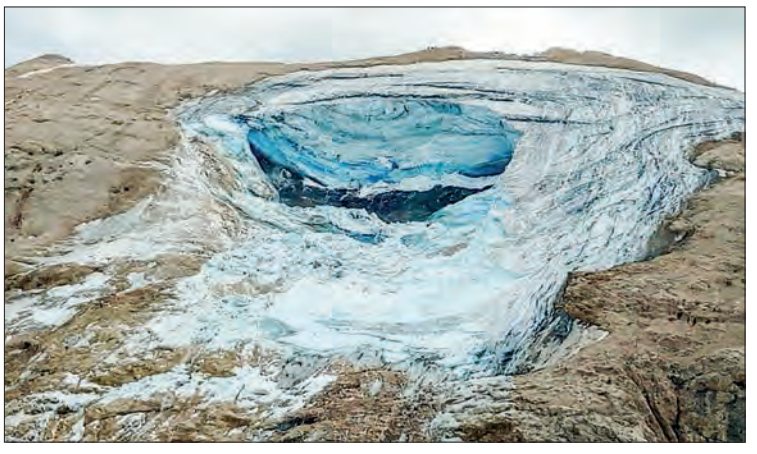


Photo provided by Italy's Alpine Rescue on 3 July 2022 shows a general view of Marmolada Glacier in northern Italy. **PHOTO: ITALY'S ALPINE RESCUE/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

OVER than 200 major Alpine glaciers have disappeared in Italy since record-keeping began in 1895, the country's environmental lobby group Legambiente said in a report.

In its third report, "Caravan of the Glaciers," Legambiente said the recent findings confirmed "the dramatic retreat of glaciers due to the climate crisis."

The group said alpine temperatures are rising twice as fast as sea-level temperatures and land ice has been shrinking every year since 2012, the Xinhua news agency reported.

The report is designed as a way to inform politicians about sustainable development policies, Legambient said.

It was produced by the group in collaboration with the Italian Glaciology Committee.

This incident is expected to have far-reaching consequences.

"The rapid retreat of glacial fronts not only leads to the loss of fascinating landscapes and biodiversity, but it also amounts to the disappearance of important freshwater reserves," the report said. —Xinhua

11 more Indian wetlands added to Ramsar int'l wetland list

INDIA has added 11 more wetlands to the list of the Ramsar wetlands of international importance, taking the number of such sites in the country to 75, the federal Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said Saturday.

The 11 newly designated wetland sites include four in Tamil Nadu, three in Odisha, two in Indian-controlled Kashmir, and one each in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. They total 76,316 hectares in area.

"India adds 11 more wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites to make total 75 Ramsar sites covering an area of 1,326,678 hectares," the ministry said. "Designation of these sites would help in conservation and management of wetlands and wise use of their resources." —Xinhua

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE WORLDWIDE

Swiss techno Street Parade returns after two-year absence

HUNDREDS of thousands of people filled the streets of a sun-baked Zurich Saturday for the Swiss city's annual techno Street Parade, after a two-year absence due to the coronavirus pandemic.

But celebrations were marred by the death of a young man who drowned after jumping into the city's river near the parade. Zurich police said rescuers tried to save the man but it was too late.

Around 850,000 people attended the last event in 2019, and this year organisers expected between 750,000 and one million. Under a clear blue sky, fans gathered for the start of the free parade for around two kilometres (1.4 miles) along the river in the heart of Switzerland's financial capital. —AFP



A raver dances during the 19th annual techno Street Parade in Zurich. **PHOTO: FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP /FILE**

North Korea lifts mask mandate after Covid-19 'victory'

NORTH Korea has lifted a mask mandate and eased other virus restrictions, state media said on Saturday, days after leader Kim Jong-un declared "victory" over Covid-19.

The announcement comes after Pyongyang earlier this week blamed Seoul for causing the Covid-19 outbreak in the North and threatened to "wipe out" the South Korean authorities, if necessary. Virus restrictions were eased as "the public health crisis created in the country was completely defused and its whole territory was turned into a clean one free from the malignant virus in the shortest period," Pyongyang's official Korea Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

"The step for obligatory mask-wearing was lifted in all areas except frontline areas and borderline cities and counties, given that the whole country was turned into an epidemic-free zone," KCNA said.

North Korea declared a "shining victory" over Covid-19 earlier this week just months after announcing its first cases in May.

Social distancing and other anti-virus measures were also lifted, except for border regions.

But people with symptoms of respiratory disease were recommended to wear masks and North Koreans were urged to "remain vigilant" against "abnormal things" — apparently referring to propaganda leaflets from the South. —AFP



Experts, including the World Health Organisation, have long questioned Pyongyang's Covid-19 statistics and claims to have brought the outbreak under control. **PHOTO: AFP**

2022 MONKEYPOX OUTBREAK

Foreigners flock to Canada for monkeypox vaccine

WITH the monkeypox vaccine in short supply in the United States, thousands of foreigners, including Americans are flocking to Montreal to get their shots.

Canada's second-largest city, located about 70km north of the US border in Quebec province, has decided to make the vaccine available to all those who consider themselves to be at risk.

Robb Stilson, an art director from Denver, Colorado, took advantage of the opportunity during a visit to Montreal last week.

"It's very difficult in the States to get vaccinated," Stilson said as he lined up to get a shot at a pop-up vaccination centre together with his husband and two daughters. "I have friends who have waited 8 or 9 hours to get in." Because contact tracing is difficult, authorities in Montreal decided to offer the vaccine to all those who are at risk to stem the spread of the virus.

"As tourists, they may participate in activities that may expose them and so in a way, we're combatting the pandemic by letting them become vaccinated here so that they don't transmit the infection either here or when they go back home," Donald Vinh, infectious disease specialist at the McGill University Health Centre, told AFP.

Since the vaccination campaign was launched in mid-May, as soon as the first cases of monkeypox were detected, Montreal has inoculated 18,500 people, 13% of them foreigners.

The goal is to administer 25,000 doses and vaccinate some 75% to 80% of the population deemed to be at risk, in particular men who have sex with men or with multiple partners. —AFP



Healthcare and activists holds signs as they stage a protest outside of the San Francisco Federal Building on A 08, 2022 in San Francisco, California for more access to monkeypox vaccines. Americans are now crossing the border to Canada to get their shots. **PHOTO: JUSTIN SULLIVAN / AFP**

India reports 10th case of monkeypox

THE 10th case of monkeypox was confirmed in the Indian capital city New Delhi, local media reported Saturday.

The patient has been identified as a 22-year-old woman of African-origin, who was staying in the southern part of the capital.

The fresh case put the number of monkeypox cases in the Indian capital alone to five.

Local media quoted health officials as reporting that the woman tested positive on Friday and had traveled to Africa a month ago.

"One patient has been admitted in Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan (LNJP) Hospital and her sample tested positive, at present four patients are admitted and one has been discharged," Suresh Kumar of LNJP Hospital was quoted as saying.

So far, one death from monkeypox has been reported in the southern state of Kerala.

Following the detection of the first case of monkeypox, the federal government issued a series of guidelines to curb its outbreak.

The health ministry urged people to stay safe from monkeypox by following preventative measures and approach doctors immediately if any of the symptoms related to the disease occur.

Monkeypox is a zoonotic disease that presents symptoms which include fever, an extensive characteristic rash and usually swollen lymph nodes. —Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

Travellers returning from Japan's summer break crowd trains, airports

JAPANESE train stations, airports and expressways were crowded Sunday as the majority of travellers returned from their summer vacation.

Although many visited their hometowns or elsewhere for the first summer holiday season in three years without COVID-19 restrictions on domestic travel in place, the operators of some transport networks reported sluggish sales as the country continues to grapple with a seventh wave of infections.

Still, long lines formed at security checkpoints, especially before departures of Tokyo-bound flights, with vacationers seen nearly shoulder-to-shoulder in souvenir shops at Fukuoka airport in southwestern Japan.

Kyoko Ito, a 41-year-old Tokyo office worker, made sure she had a negative PCR test before traveling to her family home in Fukuoka. "As there are no movement restrictions, I could spend my time without worrying what people around me thought."

Her 7-year-old-son, Satoshi, said he spent time catching cicadas with his grandfather.

Tokyo Station's shinkansen bullet train platforms were also bustling. Miki Hisamochi, 40, had just returned from visiting her parents in Nagaoka, northwest of Tokyo, in Niigata Prefecture.

Hisamochi attended the Nagaoka fireworks festival, held for the first time in three years after being cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic, saying, "It moved me because it was very beautiful." —Kyodo



A platform for shinkansen bullet trains is crowded with travelers at JR Tokyo Station on 14 August 2022, as many people return from hometowns in the "Bon" holiday period. **PHOTO: KYODO**

'Now Hiring': US employers struggle to find enough workers

SALESPEOPLE, food servers, postal workers — "Help Wanted" ads are proliferating across the United States, as companies struggle to deal with a worker shortage caused by the pandemic, a rash of early retirements and restrictive immigration laws.

More than 10 million openings went unfilled in June, according to government data, while fewer than six million people were seeking work, even as employers desperately try to boost hiring amid a frenzy of consumer spending.

"We have a lot of jobs, but not enough workers to fill them," the US Chamber of Commerce, which represents American companies, said in a statement.

Many of those who stopped working as Covid-19 first ravaged the US economy in early 2020 have never returned.

"There would be 3.4 million more workers today if labor force participation" — the percentage of the working-age population currently employed or actively seeking work — was at the pre-pandemic rate, the Chamber calculated. It has slipped from 63.4 per cent to 62.1 per cent.



A McDonald's restaurant in Garden Grove, California, seen on 8 July 2022, with a big 'Now McHIRING!' sign in the window. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

And where have all these people gone? Many simply took early retirement.

"Part of that is just the US population continues to age," Nick Bunker, a labor-market specialist with jobs website Indeed, told AFP. —AFP

Pakistani rupee, stocks continue to strengthen amid economic optimism

PAKISTANI rupee and stocks continued to gain ground in the last working session of the week on Friday, with the upward momentum being driven by the improved economic indicators and market sentiments.

The Pakistani rupee continued to roar higher for the 10th successive trading session as the local currency recovered by over 10 per cent or 23 rupees in the interbank market, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The rupee appreciated 1.57 per cent to trade at 215.49 rupees against the US dollar in the interbank market on Friday as compared to 218.88 rupees on Thursday, the SBP data showed. —Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia economy shrinks as sanctions bite

RUSSIA'S economy contracted by four per cent year-on-year in the second quarter, the national statistics agency said Friday, as Western sanctions take their toll in the wake of Moscow's military offensive in Ukraine.

In the period from April to June, gross domestic product "amounted to 96 per cent of the level attained in the same period of 2021, preliminary estimates show", Rosstat said in a statement.

It was the first full quarterly growth data to be published since Moscow sent troops into its pro-Western neighbour in late February and western countries slapped stinging economic sanctions on Russia in response.

After Russian GDP expanded by 3.5 per cent year-on-year in the first three months of 2022, the country is now facing a long period of recession.

The Russian central bank said Friday that it is projecting economic contraction of between four and six per cent for the whole of 2022 and then a further contraction of between one and four per cent for 2023, before growth picks up again in 2024. –AFP

Spain's inflation hits 10.8% highest in 38

SPAIN'S inflation rate climbed to 10.8 per cent in July, the highest in 38 years, according to data published by the Spanish Statistical Institute (INE) on Friday.

In June, inflation stood at 10.2 per cent.

INE has attributed the rise to higher electricity prices, coupled with price hikes for food and non-alcoholic drinks.

The new data have confirmed INE's preliminary predictions made on 29 July and shown that inflation is now at its highest level in Spain since September 1984.

Under its impact, the Spaniards have seen significant increases in the prices of eggs, milk and other dairy products, as well as meat, bread and cereals.

Electricity price also hiked in July, becoming one of the main causes of inflation. – Xinhua

Saudi Aramco unveils record $48.4 billion profit in Q2

OIL giant Saudi Aramco on Sunday unveiled record profits of $48.4 billion in the second quarter of 2022, after Russia's war in Ukraine and a post-pandemic surge in demand sent crude prices soaring.

Net income leapt 90 per cent year-on-year for the world's biggest oil producer, which clocked its second straight quarterly record after announcing $39.5 billion for Q1.



Billboard displaying an advert for Aramco in the Saudi capital Riyadh. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

"While global market volatility and economic uncertainty remain, events during the first half of this year support our view that ongoing investment in our industry is essential — both to help ensure markets remain well supplied and to facilitate an orderly energy transition," said Aramco president and CEO Amin H. Nasser. "In fact, we expect oil demand to continue to grow for the rest of the decade, despite downward economic pressures on short-term global forecasts."

Net income rose 22.7 per cent from Q1 in "strong market conditions", Aramco said. Half-year profits were $87.91 billion, up from $47.18 billion for the same period of 2021. Aramco paid an $18.8 billion dividend in Q2 and will disburse the same amount in Q3. —AFP

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(23/2022–2023)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following item in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(1)	DMP/L–178(22–23)	FP 90 Gear Oil (Or) 80 W 90 GL–5 Gear Oil (320) Drums	Ks

2. The open Tender forms including Description of Materials /Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **15 August 2022** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested bidder should submit the **Technical Specifications and Commercial Quotation with Original Bid Bond in each separate seated envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **12:00 pm** on **29, August 2022**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time– **29–8–2022, 12:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. +95 67 – 411206

Ads Call 09251022355 09974424848

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3213S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3213S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-8-2022** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V KOTA RAJIN VOY.NO. (KRJNO260N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA RAJIN VOY.NO. (KRJNO260N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-8-2022** 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MTT SEMPORNA VOY.NO. (20W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MTT SEMPORNA VOY.NO. (20W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-8-2022** 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 GOLD STAR SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ALVAN VOY.NO. (SCY1134)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALVAN VOY. NO. (SCY1134)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-8-2022** 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 LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (063N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (063N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

The Global New Light of Myanmar
www.gnlm.com.mm
သတင်းစာ မှာယူလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
09 454 237 515
သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာစံချိန်မှီ ပုံနှိပ်လိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
01 860 4530
ကြော်ငြာရင်မျှားနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအေဂျင်စီများ ကြော်ငြာ ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက တိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ် ဆွေးနွေးနိုင်ပါတယ်
09 974 424 848

GLOBAL AFFAIRS



Students attend a mathematics class taught mainly in English at Haccho elementary school in Toyohashi in Aichi Prefecture, central Japan, on 13 June 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Japan public elementary school offers rare English-immersion program

AN elementary school in a central Japan city has been offering an English-immersion program, a rare move for a public elementary school.

With the exception of international schools and private schools that offer lessons in English, the use of the language is limited at Japanese public elementary schools. Many schools start teaching English from third grade, and English classes became mandatory for fifth and sixth grades from fiscal 2020.

But at Haccho elementary school in Toyohashi, Aichi Prefecture, English is the dominant language for a special class in each grade. It is used throughout the curriculum except for Japanese language and ethics classes, and Japanese is only used when a teacher has to explain the meaning of a word.

"How many cherries are there?" asked a female teacher from the Philippines in a second grade mathematics class, and many students exclaimed, "I know!" in English.

"I can understand words I don't know when I listen to someone talking. Classes are fun. I want to talk to foreign people in the future," said 7-year-old attendee Mihito Nishitani.

Noriyuki Ishida, 46, who has been teaching the classes with foreigners, said, "There were children who became confused at first, but their ability to understand English grew far more than what we had expected."

He said lessons progress slower than when conducted in Japanese and require more preparation time, but the school believes the program is beneficial for students and hopes their efforts will serve as a model case for other schools nationwide.

"We feel (the program) stimulates children's intellectual curiosity. We've seen an increase in the academic performance of students, including those who are not in the all-English classes," said the school's vice-principal Tsunehisa Inada, 53. —Kyodo

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia starts delivering extra gas to Hungary: Budapest

HUNGARY said Saturday that Russia has started delivering additional gas to the EU member following a July visit to Moscow by its foreign minister.

Hungary's Foreign Ministry said trade negotiations with Moscow "led to an agreement", resulting in Russia's Gazprom starting to deliver "above the already contracted quantities" on Friday.

"It is the duty of the Hungarian government to ensure the country's safe supply of natural gas, and we are living up to it," ministry official Tamas Menczer said on his Facebook page.

In the first phase, an additional volume of 2.6 million cubic meters per day will arrive from the south through the TurkStream pipeline until the end of August, he said, adding negotiations were underway for September deliveries.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto made a previously unannounced visit to Moscow in July to discuss the purchase of an additional 700 million cubic metres of natural gas. —AFP



Hungary's Foreign Ministry says trade negotiations with Moscow have led to an agreement resulting in Russia's Gazprom starting to deliver gas above the already contracted quantities. **PHOTO: TURKSTREAM/AFP**

Ukraine, Russia accuse each other of nuclear plant strikes

KYIV and Moscow have exchanged blame for fresh shelling around Europe's largest nuclear facility, which is in Russia's control and has come under fire repeatedly in the past week.

The Zaporizhzhia plant in southeastern Ukraine has been occupied by Russian forces since March, and Kyiv has accused Moscow of basing hundreds of soldiers and storing arms there.

During his televised address on Saturday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky accused Russia of nuclear "blackmail" and using the plant to "intimidate people in an extremely cynical way."

"They arrange constant provocations with shelling of the territory of the nuclear power plant and try to bring their additional forces in this direction to blackmail our state and the entire free world even more," Zelensky said.

He added that Russian forces were "hiding" behind the plant to stage bombings on the Ukrainian-controlled towns of Nikopol and Marganets.Ukraine's nuclear agency Energoatom warned residents in the city of Energodar, where the plant is located, to stay off the streets as much as possible to avoid ongoing Russian shelling. —AFP



A man walks in front of a destroyed building following a rocket attack in the town of Kramatorsk in the Donetsk region of Ukraine. **PHOTO: ANATOLII STEPANOV/ AFP**

Russian tourists to Finland greeted with Ukrainian anthem

A crowd of people gathers in the Eastern Finnish city of Imatra on a bridge overlooking Imatrankoski rapids, one of the Nordic country's most well-known natural attractions.

At the same time every day, the river's almost century-old dam is opened and water rushes under the bridge, to the sound of music by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius. It is a popular attraction especially for Russian tourists. Even Catherine the Great, Empress of Russia, visited Imatrankoski in 1772.

But since the end of July, the city of Imatra has started the show by playing the Ukrainian national anthem, to protest the Russian invasion. —AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Nicaragua's presidential couple in insatiable bid for power, experts say

FIRST they jailed their opponents, now they've set their sights on the Catholic Church: Nicaragua's first couple — President Daniel Ortega and his wife, Vice President Rosario Murillo — are in a bid for absolute control over the lives of citizens, experts say.

The former guerilla and his partner have steadily increased their grip on power since he returned to the nation's top office in 2007, particularly via constitutional reforms that removed presidential term limits.

This style of government "concentrates discretionary decision making in the hands of the presidential couple," sociologist Elvira Cuadra, who lives in exile, told AFP.

The shift towards authoritarianism effectively allows Ortega to rule for life, she said.

"What we have is the building of a cult of personality," said Eliseo Nunez, an analyst and former legislator also living in exile.

Things have become markedly worse in Nicaragua since the brutal repression of anti-government protests in 2018 that left more than 350 people dead.

In the last year alone, the government arrested 46 opposition figures and critics, while the courts sentenced them to up to 13 years in prison.

Among those detained were seven presidential hopefuls prevented from standing in last November's elections when Ortega won a fourth consecutive term.

It is not just the opposition and detractors being marginalized or persecuted, however. Ortega's Sandinista National Liberation Front party is being purged of dissenting voices within.

And now, the Catholic Church has become the last bastion of resistance and rebellion against the government, riling the presidential couple.

In her daily speeches, Murillo has called criticism by bishops a crime and "a sin against spirituality." Rolando Alvarez, the bishop of the northeastern city of Matagalpa, has now been confined to his Managua residence for more than a week, after the government accused him and the Catholic Church of inciting violence to destabilize the country. —AFP



Nicaragua's president, Daniel Ortega, and his wife and vice president, Rosario Murillo, are moving toward near total control of the lives of Nicaraguans by repressing all dissenting voices, including in the Catholic Church. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tourists, locals irate over Machu Picchu snafu



Tourists and tour operators remain stranded in Aguas Calientes, also known as Machu Picchu Pueblo, in the foothills of the famous Inca ruins close to Cusco in the Peruvian Andes, on 12 August 2022. File photo of Machu Picchu. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE suspension of ticket sales to Machu Picchu sparked protests among angry tourists and merchants from the town closest to the Inca citadel.

Authorities had recently begun limiting the number of visitors to the jewel of Peruvian tourism to reduce wear and tear but increased the number of daily visitors from 4,044 to 5,044 in July following industry complaints.

Friday's protests took place in the neighboring town of Machu Picchu, formerly called Aguas Calientes, where visitors arrive by train before boarding minibuses that transport them to climb the ancient site through a narrow mountain pass.

Protestors were angered after tickets to enter Machu Picchu were only being sold in the nearby city of Cusco and not in Aguas Calientes.

"I paid for my (train) tickets with Inca Rail for one day with a tour guide. We even paid an additional fee for the bus that brings us here to Machu Picchu, where the ruins are and they have not let us in because we do not have the ticket to get in," Mexican Israel Gonzales Rizoo told AFP. —AFP

Seven injured, two seriously, in attack on Jerusalem bus: police, medics

SEVEN people were injured, two of them critically, after a shooting attack on a bus in Jerusalem's Old City, Israeli police and medics said early Sunday.

"The police were informed of a shooting of a bus ... Police have cordoned off the scene and are searching for a suspect who fled," the police said.

Israel's emergency medical services, the Magen David Adom (MDA), called the incident a "terror attack in the Old City". "We were on scene very quickly. On Ma'ale Hashalom St. we saw a passenger bus standing in the middle of the road, bystanders called us to treat two males around 30 years old who were on the bus with gunshot wounds," MDA paramedics said in a statement.

Bus driver Daniel Kanievsky said the attack occurred near King David's Tomb. "I was coming from the Western Wall. The bus was full of passengers. I stopped at the station of the Tomb of David. At this moment starts the shootings. Two people outside I see falling, two inside were bleeding.Everybody panicked," he told reporters at the scene. —AFP

Police detain gunman in Canberra airport shooting

A gunman fired about five shots inside Canberra's main airport Sunday, sending passengers fleeing but injuring no-one before he was detained by Australian police.

The airport was evacuated and locked down, leading to the suspension of flights.

Images posted on social media showed a police officer restraining a man on the ground inside the terminal as the emergency alarm sounded in the capital's main airport.

"A male has entered Canberra Airport in the departures area. He has sat in one of the areas adjacent to the glass windows," detective acting superintendent Dave Craft told reporters outside the airport building.

"After approximately five minutes, this male has removed a firearm from his possession and let off approximately five rounds," he added.

Craft said the crime scene indicated that the man had fired shots at the glass inside the terminal.

"There was no shots directed at people, or persons, passengers or staff," he said

Several apparent bullet impacts were visible on the glass front of the airport, according to images shown by Australia's public broadcaster ABC. —AFP



A gunman fired around five shots inside Canberra's main airport Sunday, sending passengers fleeing but injuring no one before he was detained by police. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Japan public elementary school offers rare English-immersion program

PAGE-14



Tun Tun Min wins Championship title in MLWC-7

THE Myanmar Traditional Boxing (Lethwei) World Championship named MLWC-7, which has been held annually since 2016, took place yesterday at Theinbyu Traditional Boxing Hall.

In the competition, the champions of Myanmar fought against the champions of various foreign countries at different levels.

In the 80 kg, Myanmar's defending Lethwei Champion Tun Tun Min beat Hamed Soleimani of Iran in the first round and won the Championship trophy of Myanmar Lethwei World Championship-7.

In the 60 kilo, Myanmar's Saw Ba Hein fight to a draw against Thearith Ouch of Cambodia. In the 63.5 kg, Ae Mwe of Myanmar beat Jake Oliver of New Zealand in the first round. In the 67 kg, Min Htet Aung of Myanmar fought to a draw against Alan Yauny of Argentina. In the 70 kg, Myanmar's star fighter Soe Lin Oo vs Wijit of Thailand bout was finished draw.

In the special women's challenging bout, May Thazin Htoo fought against Than Thar Nyeint Nyaoung from ATM 2 Club and their bout was ended as a draw.

The Myanmar traditional boxing championship was broadcasted live on SKY NET Sports Channel.—Arkar Soe/GNLM



Myanmar's Lethwei star Tun Tun Min lands a punch on the Iran fighter Hamed Soleimani during the special bout of the MLWC-7 Championship in Yangon on 14 August 2022. **PHOTO: ARKAR SOE**

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 striker Suam Lamang transfers to Thai League-2 on loan



Myanmar forward player Suam Lamang holds the insignia of the Krabi FC of Thai League-2 after signing one-season contract with the club. **PHOTO: KRABI FC**

MYANMAR national team striker Suam Lamang has moved to Thai League-2 club Krabi on a one-season contract.

Suam Lamang parted ways with Thai League-2 club Navy, where he played last season. He moved to Krabi just days before the start of the new season. Suam Lamang has been playing for overseas clubs since 2020, only playing for Thai clubs.

Suam Lamang joined Krabi as the fifth Thai club and signed a one-year contract. Suam Lamang played for Myong Kan United, Trat United, Ranang United and Navy FC before joining Krabi.

The 2022-2023 Thai League-2 season has started and many Myanmar players are participating.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Conte, Tuchel see red as Kane snatches Spurs draw at Chelsea

HARRY Kane snatched a 96th minute equalizer to salvage a 2-2 draw for Tottenham from a feisty London derby against Chelsea on Sunday.

Both managers Antonio Conte and Thomas Tuchel were sent-off after the full-time whistle for their second physical altercation of the match.

Chelsea looked set to get a new era at Stamford Bridge off to the best possible start as they twice led through Kalidou Koulibaly and Reece James.

Tottenham were well off the level required if they are to live up to hopes of challenging Manchester City and Liverpool for the title, but showed the newfound character instilled by Conte to fight back for a point.

The Italian and Tuchel were both booked in the aftermath of Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg's first equalizer.

Tempers then flared again during a handshake after Kane nodded in with virtually the last action of the game.

Tottenham have still only won once at Stamford Bridge in 32 years in the league, but Conte will be delighted to escape with a share of the spoils against his former club. New Chelsea chairman Todd Boehly was welcomed by a huge banner from the Chelsea support and saw an early return on the near £170 million ($206 million) investment in the transfer market since he sanctioned a £2.5 billion takeover to buy the club from Roman Abramovich. —AFP



Tottenham Hotspur's Italian head coach Antonio Conte (R) and Chelsea's German head coach Thomas Tuchel (L) clash after the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur at Stamford Bridge in London on 14 August 2022. The game finished 2-2. **PHOTO: GLYN KIRK / AFP**