

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Myanmar stands 6th position in 11th ASEAN Para Games

VICTORY in sports uplifts the prestige of the State and its nationals in the international community and sports competitions are dubbed as fighting without arms, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to honour the winning Myanmar sports contingent in the 11th ASEAN Para Games hosted by Indonesia, at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium (B) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his address, the Senior General said that sports do not stop at the stage for health purposes as well as for sports as its integrity and situation are higher due to changing situations. Now, sport is a national duty for the athletes to uplift the honour of the State and the nationals.

The Senior General noted that the WHO stated percentage of persons with disabilities rose to 15 per cent of the global people today. Hence, it is necessary to allow rights to the persons with disabilities as some 1,000 million population with disabilities become a number which attention should be paid.

Based on data from the 2014 census, there were some 2.3 million persons with disabilities accounting for 4.6 per cent in Myanmar. The government,



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents cash rewards to Maung Aung Phone who won one gold and one silver in the swimming competition of the eleventh ASEAN Para Games.

international organizations, non-governmental organizations, charity organizations and wellwishers help persons with

disabilities rehabilitate themselves and uplift their prestige and enjoy equal terms of rights with ordinary people.

Myanmar paralympic teams have secured 77 medals including 43 gold medals in the first ASEAN Para Games held in Malaysia in

2001 standing in the third position, 24 golds in the second games, 29 golds in the third games, 14 golds

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PYIN OD LWIN

Pwe Gauk

(BE.FALLS)

Waterfalls Resort

Special arrangements are made for Package Tours and group Pilgrimages.

**5D-LED Modern digital glass bridge,
Jumping cloud, Children play ground, Jungle foopath,
Suspension bridge, Souvenir shop, Food court**

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 bor-

der 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

MoI Deputy Minister inspects staff housing and dormitories

DEPUTY Minister U Ye Tint of the Ministry of Information visited the staff housing and dormitories of the MoI yesterday morning and examined the progress of cleaning works for the surroundings.

The deputy minister and party went to the staff housing and dormitories (for single employees) of the ministry's officials and staff, located in Mingalatheikdi Ward, Bawgatheikdi Ward, Danatheikdi Ward and Pyinyatheikdi Ward in Zabuthiri Township. Then, they inspected collective cleaning works, environmental preservation activities, fire prevention measures, water and electricity consumption, the cultivation of crops and plants, proper disposal of garbage, the improvement of drainage system to prevent mosquito-related diseases and the housing and dormitory environment security conditions.

The deputy minister enquires about difficulties regarding social and health conditions of residents during the inspection and exhorts employees to follow housing rules and regulations, take security precautions and perform cleaning works of the environment in unity. — MNA



Information Deputy Minister U Ye Tint pays inspection tours round the staff housing in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of Dr Khin Maung Zaw, Rector of Sittway University of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

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

48 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 20 August, total figure rises to 614,621

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 614,621 after 48 — 18 imported and 30 local transmission — new cases were reported on 20 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 593,215 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,437 without more casualties.—MNA

Federalism is a system of power-sharing among different regions and states, ethnicities and races

DEMOCRACY is a governance system where people choose their representative to represent them. Federalism is a system of power-sharing among different regions and states, ethnicities and races. Thus, a Union system based on democracy and federalism means that ethnic national people across the nation live together under a governance system of their own choice, with each state or region having the right to legislate. Only then will a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system emerge.

(The excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on the Occasion of the Eighteen Month of the Assumption of State Duties by the State Administration Council on 1st August 2022.)

Myanmar stands 6th position in 11th ASEAN Para Games



The Senior General gives the speech at the event.



The Vice-Senior General presents cash rewards Lance Corporal Aung Tun Lin at the event.

FROM PAGE-1
in the fourth games, 14 golds in the fifth games, 11 golds in the sixth games, 34 golds in the seventh games, 16 golds in the eighth games and 11 golds in the ninth games. The tenth games was not held in the Philippines in 2019. In the 11th games in 2022, 113 athletes of the Myanmar paralympic team secured 14 golds, 12 silvers and 17 bronzes, totalling 43 medals, stand-

ing in the 6th position among 11 countries.
As an acknowledging the vigorous efforts of the sports, K200,000 and US\$200 each were provided to all athletes and US\$100 each to coaches and managers before departure for the competition.
In the competition, gold medalist was awarded US\$1,000, silver medalist US\$700 and bronze US\$500, US\$500 each for

athletes from teamwise events and US\$300 each for those from the bronze medal winning team.
Moreover, K1,006 million as cash awards will be presented to the winners and coaches and managers. The Senior General urged them to show off brilliant skills in the 12th ASEAN Para Games to be held in Cambodia from 3 to 9 June 2023.
Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein

Zan recounted the participation of Myanmar athletes in the 11th ASEAN Para Games.
Then, the Senior General presented cash awards to medallists in the 100-m and 200-m races, 400-m teamwise relay event, shotput and discus events, 100-m breaststroke event and 50-m freestyle swimming events, backstroke event, butterfly event and javelin event respectively.

The Vice-Senior General also presented cash awards to the winners in the respective sports events. Council members also gave cash awards to winning athletes, managers and coaches.
Two-gold and one-silver medallist Lance Corporal Soe Pay spoke words of thanks.
Later, the Senior General and party cordially greeted the victorious athletes and coaches.
— MNA

Rice sold at fairer prices

MYANMAR Rice Federation has been selling the basic food, rice at fairer prices for the people at the rice wholesale centre (Wahdan) in Lanmadaw Township of Yangon Region since 3 August.
A person can buy one sack of rice daily between 9 am and 3:50 pm except for Sunday at K52,000 per bag of Ayeyawady Pawsan, K55,000-K60,000 per bag of Kyapyan, K75,000 -K77,000 per bag of Shwebo Pawsan and K35,000-K37,000 per bag of 90 days rice.
The shops in Yangon sell Pyapon sticky broken rice at K50,000 per bag while K70,000 per bag of sticky rice, K40,000 per bag of 90 days rice, K50,000 per

bag of Pawsan and K93,000 per bag of Shwebo Pawsan.
The broken rice is priced at between K1,500 and K4,000 per pyi. It is K35,000 per bag of brown rice and K93,000 per bag of finished rice. They set the rice prices depending on the prices of the Bayintnaung market, transportation charges and labour charges.
“The people are happy as we sell the rice at cheap prices. The rice prices are not high but other prices are on the rise. We cannot say the price for the coming month. We sell 350/400 bags per day. It is important for the people to buy the rice at cheap prices and so we arrange further action



Rice selling takes place at the Wahdan rice wholesale centre. **PHOTO: KANU**
to sell continuously after three months. We are also satisfied with such doings,” said U Nay Lin, chairman of the Myanmar Rice Traders Association.
The Yangonites consume about 10 types of rice daily. The Ayeyawady Pawsan was much in demand and the price was not much different from the Shwebo Pawsan that was started producing in 2002 and the Shwebo

Pawsan became more popular. Then, the Shwebo Pawsan price was higher. Changes in consuming different types of rice can support rice price stability.
It is estimated to grow over 1.3 million acres of monsoon paddy and it completes over one million acres. It is also expected to produce 13 million tonnes of monsoon paddy.
Myanmar Rice Traders Association, Myanmar Rice Millers Association, Myanmar Paddy Producers Association, and rice wholesale centres (Wahdan) and (Bayintnaung) sell four types of rice for the people to purchase at fairer prices. — Nyein Thu/ (MNA) GNLM

Plum seeds see price hike on Chinese demand

ACCORDING to traders in Mandalay, the prices of plums seeds produced in Myanmar in the Mandalay market these days have increased dramatically due to good demand from China.

There are three types of plum in Myanmar. These seeds are produced only by grinding and producing from the fruit. At the beginning of March, the price of the plum seeds was only K18,000 per viss. In the third week of August, the price has increased exponentially to K90,000 per viss, said U Soe Win Myint, an owner of the Soe Win Myint Brokerage from Mandalay.

“This year’s plum season saw a record high of plum seeds produced by mills due to China’s demand. It is not found that there is any useful application in the Myanmar market. I heard that these plum seeds are manufactured in the Chinese market



Female workers are pictured sorting out the plums. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG

for pharmaceutical purposes. That’s why we are getting amazing prices that we have never seen before.

“In the market, a basket of chickpeas costs K60,000. The

price of a basket of sesame seeds is K80,000 but the price of a viss of plum seeds is K90,000.

“In addition to the good prices, the small industries are operating, so the workers also get jobs. Because the price is so good, I would like to suggest that the plum tree should be planted in open ground instead of habitual growth,” U Soe Myint Win elaborated. The plum fruit is a crop that appears only once a year, usually starting from the spring season. This plant prefers sandy soils and hot seasons and is most commonly seen in Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region and Magway Region.

It is reported that plum seeds are crushed in various grinders in cities such as Yenangyaung, Chauk, Mahlaing and Meiktila. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

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

21-8-2022

Kyat/Litre

Fuel (Retail Price)	Yangon	Mandalay	Nay Pyi Taw	Bago	Magway	Dawei	Monywa	Patheingyi	Myittha	Sittoung	Hpa-an	Mawlaikine	Lashio	Taungtha	Loile	Haka	Kengtung
92 Ron	2,400	2,450	2,445	2,410	2,445	2,470	2,455	2,435	2,525	2,545	2,440	2,450	2,485	2,485	2,485	2,705	2,930
95 Ron	2,490	2,535	2,535	2,495	2,535	2,555	2,540	2,520	2,615	2,630	2,525	2,545	2,570	2,570	2,575	2,790	2,995
HSD (500 ppm)	2,820	2,865	2,860	2,825	2,865	2,885	2,880	2,850	2,965	2,960	2,855	2,865	2,900	2,900	2,905	3,120	3,365
HSD (50 ppm)	2,895	2,945	2,940	2,905	2,940	2,965	2,960	2,930	3,040	3,035	2,935	2,945	2,980	2,980	2,980	3,200	3,400
HSD (10 ppm)	2,895	2,945	2,940	2,905	2,940	2,965	2,960	2,930	3,040	3,035	2,935	2,945	2,980	2,980	2,980	3,200	3,400

Fuel (Wholesale Price)	Yangon	Mandalay
92 Ron	2,292	2,371
95 Ron	2,376	2,458
HSD (500 ppm)	2,697	2,780
HSD (50 ppm)	2,771	2,856
HSD (10 ppm)	2,771	2,856

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

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MOH recommends fourth COVID-19 booster jab

MINISTRY of Health announced the COVID-19 booster vaccination will be given free for the fourth time this week. Individuals aged 18 and older are recommended to receive a fourth booster dose after six months of the previous booster (third dose) and to contact relevant health centres, according to the Ministry of Health.

Booster doses will support the prevention of COVID-19 infection, protect against Omicron variants and can reduce the risk

of severe illness and mortality by seven times, the ministry stated.

A total of 36.5 million people have received the COVID-19 vaccine and booster jabs in Myanmar: Omicron BA.4, BA.5, BA.2.75 and BA.2.76 were found both in foreign arrivals and domestic transmission in Myanmar.

“COVID-19 two-time full vaccination plus a booster should be mandatory. The spread is faster because of the rainy season. Currently, as there is no notification from the Ministry of Health that

people do not need to wear face masks almost all wear no masks. That’s why the spread must be faster. That’s why vaccination should be mandatory. It can reduce the spread, severe illness and mortality from COVID-19,” a health worker told the GNLN.

According to the Ministry of Health, a national total tally of 32 new cases was reported as of 19 August and out of it, 13 were imported and 19 were cases of domestic transmission. —TWA/GNLN



A local gets a booster jab in Kyaktaw in Rakhine State.

Temporary power outage to be occurred today in some townships of Yangon



A power distribution sub-station.

MAINTENANCE work on the primary side and secondary side of Thakayta Power Plant 230/33/11 kV, (100) MVA Tr will be carried out from 10 am to 2 pm on 21 August, according to the Yangon Electricity Supply Cooperation.

The YESC has informed the public that there will be temporary power outages in some townships of the Yangon Region including Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Thingangyun, Thakayta and Dawbon townships and they will need to ensure that there are no power outages in important areas.

In order to ensure stable electricity usage for the people who use electricity and the businesses which use electricity in industrial zones, the Ministry of Electricity has established power plants, power lines and sub-stations.

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

Furthermore, plans are underway to increase the production of electricity using various sources, including wind energy.

In such doing, the 500 kV power line and substation projects are also planned for the stable improvement of the power system and the ability to transfer more power to the power lines that are full of load, U Thaung Han, Union Minister of the Ministry of Electric Power, said in a meeting about the conditions of electricity distribution to industrial zones in Yangon Region on 13 August. — Htun Htun/GNLN

92 Ron price reaches K2,400 per litre

THE local fuel oil prices became higher on 20 August and the 92 Ron was priced at K2,400 per litre in Yangon Region, according to the statement of the Supervisory Committee on Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

Similarly, it was over K2,400 per litre of 92 Ron in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Magway, Dawei, Monywa, Patheingyi, Hpa-An, Mawlamyine, Lashio, Taunggyi and Loileik while it was over K2,500 in Myittha and Sittoung, K2,700 in Haka and K2,900 in Kengtung, respectively.

According to the reference prices of the committee, retail prices of the fuel oil were K2,400

per litre of 92 Ron, K2,400 per litre of 95 Ron and K2,490 per litre of HSD (500 ppm) in Yangon yesterday.

It was K2,895 per litre of HSD (50 ppm) and HSD (10 ppm).

Moreover, the wholesale prices were set at K2,292 per litre of 92 Ron, K2,376 per litre of 95 Ron, and K2,697 per litre of HSD (500 ppm) and K2,771 per litre of HSD (50 ppm) and HSD (10 ppm).

The committee sets the prices based on the MOPS’ prices and the consumers can report to the committee if they are not satisfied with the operations. — TWA/GNLN



A fuel refilling station in Bahan Township.

UDE students notified of exam dates and close-up courses



THE Department of Higher Education has released exam dates and close-up courses for the second and third batches of students

specializing in Bachelor of Art programmes at the University of Distance Education for the 2022 Academic Year.

First, second and third years as the second batch of English, Law, Geography, Psychology, Oriental Studies and Philosophy majors, the close-up classes will be attended from 12 to 22 September and the exam will be held from 26 September to 1 October, according to the announcement.

In the first, second, and third years for the third batch of Myanmar, History, Economics, and Business Management majors, close-up classes will be held from 3 to 15 October, and the exam from 18 to 25 October.

As part of the distance learning university’s fourth-year arts specialization in second and third batches, close-up courses and exams were held in May and June for the 2022 Academic Year. — TWA/GNLN

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.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 2,519 people from nine Townships in



A local in Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State gets COVID-19 vaccine shot on 20 August.

Shan State (North), 5,309 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 1,612 people from five townships in Rakhine and Chin States, and 11,199 from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

Similarly on that day, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 10,248 students from seven townships in Shan State (North), 916

students from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 932 students from four townships in Rakhine and Chin States and 5,851 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

CRIME NEWS

Narcotic drugs seized in Mohnyin, Myeik and Mudon townships

ON 19 August evening, a co-ordinated team including the Anti-Drug Police Force members stopped and examined a motorcycle driven by Zaw Tun Oo (aka) Phoe Zaw near the Ingyingon village entrance of Ingyingon village-tract in Mohnyin Township and seized 1.1 kilogrammes of heroin from the suspect.

In addition, the Anti-Drug Police Force members raided a house of Tun Maung, located in Myeik village (South) of Myeik village-tract (South) of Myeik Township and captured 4,000

stimulant pills on the scene at 6 pm on the same day.

Similarly, a combined team consisting of the Mon State Police Force confiscated 10,000 stimulant tablets from a motorcycle driven by Nay Htet Lin on 19 August noon, while performing the inspection near the foot of seven mountains on the Mudon-Chaunghnitkhwa Road in Myoma Ward 4 of Mudon Township. The suspects were prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the MPF stated. — MNA



An arrestee is pictured together with seized drugs and motorbike.

Illegal timbers, fuel, machinery and unregistered motorbikes confiscated

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

A combined team under the instructions of the Magway Region Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force conducted inspections on 18 August.

Officials nabbed an unregistered Odyssey car (approximately K2.5 million) near Phonedawpyae village in Natmauk township and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law. Similarly, officials captured 35 gallons of illegal fuel oil worth K1,347,500 and the action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law. In addition, a total of 1.6528 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K115,696 were confiscated in Field No 10 of the East Yoma forest reserve of Sinbaungwe township and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Afterwards, a team under the supervision of the Taninthayi Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force carried out inspections on 19 August.

They seized three unregistered motorbikes (approximately K2.6 million) in Thayetchaung,



Officials check seized timbers.

Myeik and Bokpyin townships. The action was taken under the Export and Import Laws. In addition, an unregistered machinery (approximately K150 million) was captured at the Mahlwataung Checkpoint of Yephyu township and the action was taken under the Vehicle Safety and Vehicle Management Law.

Similarly, a team led by the Myanmar Police Force made inspections under the Sagaing Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force and nabbed an unregistered Kanda motorbike (approximately K150,000) in Homalin

township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

On 20 August, an inspection team led by the Bago Region Forest Department confiscated a total of 2.0200 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K406,880 in the Yoma protected forest in Yedashe township and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, eight arrests (approximately K157,120,076) were made on three consecutive days from 18 to 20 August, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Dollar price reaches K2,900 in market despite CBM's reference rate of K2,100

ALTHOUGH the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) set the reference exchange rate at K2,100 per dollar, it reached K2,900 per dollar in the market, according to local forex traders.

The CBM released a statement at a reference rate within the margin of ± 0.3 for selling, purchasing and exchanging foreign currency on 10 August.

Therefore, the banks and business persons including exchange counters set the purchase price at K2,100 per dollar and the selling price at K2,106 per dollar.

Despite the set prices, the purchase price was K2,860 per dollar while the selling price was K2,910 per dollar in the market on 20 August.

The CBM sells the dollars in a bid to control the dollar price rising. In 2021, it sold for \$443.8 million.

In September 2021, the foreign exchange rate hit a record over K3,000 per dollar while

K2,220,000 per tical of pure gold in the local market.

Under the guidance of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, the Monitoring and Steering Committee on Gold and Currency Market was formed on 17 December 2021 as gold and currency market stability play a crucial role in trade facilitation.

The objectives of the committee are inspecting and prosecuting market manipulation, checking if there is compliance with payment rules in the domestic market, and proceeding against those unscrupulous traders who intend to interfere with 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

Sugar prices on the rise and slack in market

SUGAR prices were on the rise in the local market starting in mid-2021. The country produces about 500,000 tonnes of sugar per year and has a consumption rate of 450,000 tonnes, and exports a hundred thousand tonnes of sugar, Daw Nyo, a sugar dealer at the Bayintnaung market told the GNLM.

In 2016, the country re-exported the sugar to China through the Muse border, and the sugar prices were high at that time. However, the export was suspended in 2017 and resumed after three months before mid-2018.

The sugar was priced at K1,750 per viss in August 2010. The sugar merchants reaped healthy profits between 2010 and 2016, said sugar purchaser Ko Chit.

In 2020, it is about K900 per viss. In early 2021, it was K1,000 and rose to K1,500 and K2,000 per viss later. In 2022, the price is above K2,000 and has reached over K2,200 per viss since mid-June to date.

The country has about



The production process is seen at one sugar mill.

440,000 acres of sugarcane plantation per year and nearly 20 sugar mills produce 500,000 tonnes of sugar per year. The sugar mills are run by the end of the year and operate four months a year.

When the sugar price is low, the sugarcane price is only K40,000 per tonne and it can fetch K80,000 per tonne this year.

Myanmar and Laos that export sugar to Viet Nam will

be exempted from taxes. In the first four months of 2022, Myanmar exported 40,000 tonnes of sugar to Viet Nam.

In 2020, the sugar price was K500 lower than the jaggery price and jaggery mixed with sugar was sold in the market. The sugar mills will be operated soon and the stockpiled sugar will be sold at lower prices before that operation, said purchaser Ko Myo. — TWA/GNLM

Prices of kitchen goods drop in few days

THE prices of some commodities increased in the Yangon market starting from 20 August, and some fell again after the price hike.

The market operators said that the prices of potato, chilli pepper and sugar are falling again.

Ko Hla Han from the chilli pepper market told the GNLM that among the decreased prices of some commodities, the price of pepper fluctuates over K1,000 per viss.

It is the nature of the market that commodity prices go up and down as well. When the price is high, the demand tends to decrease and the price tends to decrease due to the emergence of new crops of similar products, the GNLM quoted Ko Thet, who sells goods to the area, as saying.

On 8 August, the wholesale price of frozen Moe Htaung chilli pepper rose to K18,500-19,000 per viss and the price fell again later that day.

On 20 August, the wholesale price of refrigerated Moehtaung



A retail outlet is pictured with kitchen goods.

chilli pepper is only K16,000 per viss.

In the same way, Panye and Hmyani long chillies were wholesaled at K17,000-18,000 per viss, but the price was only K16,000 on 20 August but the buyer paid only K14,000 per viss.

The price of green chilli pepper rose to K16,500-17,000 per viss but it is only K15,000-

16,000 per viss at present. Ko Hla Han said that the chilli pepper market was the seller's favourite market in early August but since the end of the second week it has been the buyer's favourite one until the present.

On 18 August, the wholesale price of Chinese potato rose to K2,400 per viss but on 20 August the wholesale price of pome-

granate was K2,150 per viss, Ko Kyaw Myint from the Nyaungpinlay Market told the GNLM.

Ko Kyaw Myint continued that on 17 August, the wholesale price of Kyukok potatoes rose to K4,100 per viss. In August, the price of small bags was K3,900 a viss and large bags were only K3,850.

The wholesale price of sug-

ar, which was as high as K2,240 per viss, is sold at a lower price of K2,200 per viss these days, a local commodity buyer told the GNLM.

Due to the resumption of wet conditions, the prices of sugar in the Yangon market have dropped.

A viss of sugar is sold for K2,240 in the Yangon market, and the transport cost by train to Yangon is around K60 for one viss.

In the Yangon market, when sales are low during the rainy season, those who own the stored sugar that they bought at a low price will get big profits by selling it at a reasonable price, the GNLM quoted Daw Nyo, the sugar seller, as saying.

Most of kitchen goods prices including onions and edible oil have not decreased but the drop in the prices of sugar, chilli pepper, and potatoes means that consumers can save money when buying kitchen goods, said Daw Yong, who is shopping at the Nyaungpinlay Market. — TWA/GNLM

Don't turn a blind eye to victims of terrorism

THE word terrorism defines devil acts, with the purpose of destroying the life and property of others without any sympathy and empathy by prioritizing their interests. Acts of terrorism propagating a wide range of hateful ideologies continue to injure, harm and kill thousands of innocent people each year.

Despite international condemnation of terrorism, victims often struggle to have their voices heard, their needs supported and their rights upheld. Victims often feel forgotten and neglected once the immediate aftermath of a terrorist attack fades, with profound consequences for them.

Few member states of the United Nations have the resources or the capacity to fulfil the medium and long-term needs of victims of terrorism to enable them to fully recover, rehabilitate and re-integrate into society. Most victims can only recover and cope with their trauma through long-term multi-dimensional support, including physical, psychological, social and financial. Hence, the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017. It designated 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism in order to honour the victims and survivors of terrorism.

Indeed, both the government and the people of all strata are responsible for wiping out terrorists and terrorism in all forms from the world. On the other hand, they need to give a helping hand to victims of terrorism to be able to rehabilitate themselves. It is a good thing for all.

The United Nations has an important role in supporting member states to implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by standing in solidarity and providing support to victims of terrorism, offering capacity-building assistance; establishing networks, and offering support to civil society organizations, particularly victims' associations, and encouraging member states to promote, protect and respect the rights of victims of terrorism. With donor support, the United Nations provides technical assistance and capacity-building to member states and victims' associations to better address the needs of victims of terrorism.

Myanmar enacted Counter-Terrorism Law on 4 June 2014. In pursuant to Chapter 3 of the Law, the government has formed the Central Committee for Counter Terrorism comprising 20 representatives from the relevant ministries with the Union Minister for Home Affairs as Chairman. Counter-Terrorism Department has been established under Myanmar Police Force in 2015 to fight against terrorist acts. The Government of Myanmar has also promulgated Anti-Money Laundering Law and set up a Financial Investigation Unit to deter and prevent the financing of terrorism.

Indeed, both the government and the people of all strata are responsible for wiping out terrorists and terrorism in all forms from the world. On the other hand, they need to give a helping hand to victims of terrorism to be able to rehabilitate themselves. It is a good thing for all.

New Direct Entry to Yangon

By Linn Oo

BEFORE the outbreak of Storm Nargis in 2008, the people from the majority of towns in the Delta Area were very much reliant upon the passenger and freight vessels belonging to the Inland Water Transport. True, water transport costs the travellers much less when compared to the costs the people have to incur. Nonetheless, the time taken by the ships to reach the destination is rather too long in comparison with the time taken by the motor vehicles to take their passengers to their destination. The delayed journeys have caused the towns which have no access to road transport to suffer from lagging behind in development. The successive governments have subsidized water transport for the convenience of the dwellers of the towns within the delta area. The Inland Water Transport has

facilitated transport of both the passengers and the commodities while there are also privately owned motor vessels running the riverine routes.

The coastal going vessels and those cruising between Yangon and the Delta Area embark at the Yangon Port, and the jet-ties between Sint-Oh-Dan and Keighley receive mainly passenger vessels and the cargo ships running between Yangon and the Delta including the vessels carrying the rice bags. There are six pontoon bridges between Sint-Oh-Dan and Shwedaung-dan, which receive both the privately owned passenger and cargo ships and the Inland Water Transport-owned ships known as Irrawaddy Ships.

Wahdan Jetty has been seen thronged with the passengers, and the port area is restless until 2010 with the passengers mov-

ing in great haste to reach the ship in time and the goods being loaded onto and unloaded from the ships by the freight handlers who can earn a fair amount of wages with which they can feed the mouth of everybody at home. Lanmadaw Township has been developed because there are Iron Bazaar, Nyaungpinlay Bazaar and St John Market which are selling foodstuff, garments and cloth and medicines. Additionally, there are jetties in Lanmadaw. The existence of the jetties and the markets and bazaars in Lanmadaw has made the town well developed when compared to other towns in downtown Yangon. Moreover, there are also grocery brokerages that sell aquatic products in addition to the green groceries and the chicken and duck depots. Lanmadaw has thus been a popular town for the people of the Delta

Area. The port area has been well developed in those days.

As the people from Delta Area have had to depend on water transport only, the government, in 2008, started to implement a project under which a road network linking 11 motor roads was constructed for regional development. Although only a few of this road network cannot be used yet because they lack river-crossing bridges, the majority of roads are being used. The roads that cannot be used are those leading to some sea-side towns.

With the construction of the motor roads, there has been a decline in the water transport business. It has already been about five years since the Inland Water Transport stopped running Yangon-Pathein routes



A miniature version of the Yangon-Dala Bridge under construction.

because there are not enough passengers. Not only the Yangon-Pathein routes but also other routes are suffering losses with only a few ships operating. In those days Yangon-Mawgyun and Yangon-Pyapon routes were crowded with passengers. However, these days have not been

witnessing the routes operating for some years.

The privately owned ships are also suffering the same fate as IWT. Their double-decker running from Yangon to Pathein, Hinthada, Pyapon, Wakema, Myaungmya and Bogale have also stopped operation with ves-

sels going to Kyaiklat and Mawgyun running only.

However, certain smaller sea-going single-deckers are still carrying passengers and commodities. In those days, four double-deckers were running daily between Yangon and Mawgyun. However, there is only one dou-

ble-decker now daily running this route. Lanmadaw jetties crowded in those days have now become deserted with almost no passengers moving around.

Most of the big vessels are either sold out or turned into cargo ships with some of them dismantled. However, there are still double-deckers that are carrying the rice bags. Up to the early months of 2015, there are some double-deckers which carry the passengers on the upper deck with the roofs installed. But when MV Aungdagun sank, transporting the passengers in an undisciplined manner is no longer accepted with legal action being taken against those who violate the rules. Since then, no such make-shift passenger ships are seen any longer.

In this regard, it is worth mentioning here at this juncture that the construction of the road network has enabled the shortening of the roads. Previously, the road between Yangon and Pathein was 113 miles long but

>> SEE PAGE-10



Book Title	- Old Path White Clouds (Walking in the Footsteps of the Buddha)
Translator	- By Thich Nhat Hanh
Publisher	- Toe Hla
Publishing House	- The Eras
Publication Date	- April 2022 (1st Edition)
Price	- K5,000

Old Path White Clouds (Walking in the Footsteps of the Buddha) by Thich Nhat Hanh

HISTORY is the documentation of the past yet the information mostly relies on the primary source based on the person's records rather than facts. History might not contain biases and distortions. Moreover, a story about the life and teachings of Gautama Buddha must not be exaggerated. The life story of Gautama Buddha is traced back 2,600 years ago. It is hard to know the traditional story of Buddha's life for certain when

one understates or exaggerates the story of the Buddha. Therefore, when foreign authors who always follow only accurate information through meticulous historical research share an insight into the life and teachings of Buddha, their books have become the best seller in the global book market.

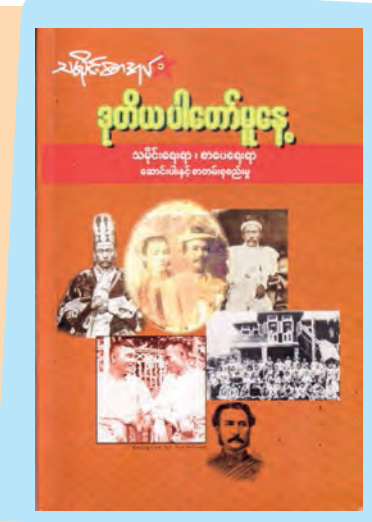
This week's pick is a book entitled Old Path White Clouds by a Vietnamese Buddhist Monk named Thich Nhat Hanh, who is

a prolific author, poet and peace activist. It is the ninth edition of Thich Nhat Hanh. The author Dr Toe Hla who won history and research awards published Myanmar translated book entitled 'ဝိမ္ဗူပုဏ္ဏားနှင့် မဂ်လမ်းနှင့်'. The author wants the readers to realize the difference between the modern Buddhist texts and the Chronicles of Buddha in Myanmar (what we knew).

That book shares an in-depth explanation of the Bud-

dha's life through the eyes of an ordinary person. Despite some differences from what we know, the book illuminates the humanity, compassion and loving-kindness of the Buddha, when Buddhist books in our country shed light on enlightenment, nobleness and unrivalled knowledge. In his preamble, Buddha's compassion, mercifulness, equanimity, serenity and forgiveness are highlighted.

As far as Yathawdaya, the wife of Siddhartha Prince, is concerned, she didn't want him to pursue a spiritual journey. She was crying chest-throbbing. Yet, this book illustrated differently that she was a selfless and supportive spouse. She knew it already and told Sanda that the Prince would need an escort in his journey tonight and asked him to prepare the horse Kanthaka for the Prince and another horse for him as well. She pretended to sleep on the side. It is written that she was looking forward to the Prince's last greeting. This is the 489th publication of the Eras publisher. The Maw Naing designed the art of the book cover.



Book Title	- The Day after Abdication of Myanmar's Last King (Literature and History)
Author	- Various Authors
Publishing House	- Pan Swe
Publication Date	- February 2019 (1st Edition)
Price	- K2,500

The Day after Abdication of Myanmar's Last King (Literature and History)

ALTHOUGH there are thousands of books published in Myanmar's literature, the number of history books is smaller than other literary genres. History is a reference for the Younger generation and a lesson for adult seniors.

Myanmar people consider the word 'History' as an area of knowledge. It is important to study history. History books are helpful for the young people as a dictionary to make a better future

Therefore, an organizer of this book aims to level up history knowledge of Myanmar citizens and pass on cultural and historical values and norms to the future generations. This book targets to reach mil-

lennials, the preamble stated.

This book is a collection of articles and writings of historians – Thukamein (Nan Nyunt Swe), Kyi Oo, Ko Than (Kyimyindine), Dr Toe Hla, Maung Than Swe (Dawei), Maung Pe Nge, Dr Yee Yee Win (Professor of the Department of History at the University of Mandalay), Naung Kyaw (Khaing Myo Zaw) and Tayza Aung, consisting of 11 articles and three pieces of writings.

An article entitled 'The Day after Abdication of Myanmar's Last King' revealed that Myanmar became slave of foreigners under British colonialism after Myanmar's last monarch King Thibaw was forced to abdicate. Myanmar ethnic people rose up

in armed resistance to have freedom of the nation. Those who joined in the fight included notable persons like Prince of Limbin, son of Prince Kanaung as rights and duties of the nation. One can read the heart touching story of Prince of Limbin's freedom fight, failure and repression as they were outnumbered and outgunned against the British.

Additionally, a general knowledge article entitled "Who is real target: Bogoyoke Aung San or Thakin Nu" and an article entitled "Ancient artefacts with historical value", a collection of the speeches delivered by Thakin Kodaw Hmaing, the father of nationalist and peace movements are included in the book.

ARTICLE/ENVIRON WORLD

Power shift for Mumbai's double-decker buses

INDIA'S entertainment capital is expanding its fleet of London-style red double-decker buses nearly a century after they made their debut — this time as electric vehicles.

The first of 200 new buses are expected to start service on Mumbai's busy roads from December, joining nearly 400 single-floor EVs already in operation.

India — home to 1.4 billion people — is the world's third-biggest carbon emitter, and the government has pledged to reach net-zero emissions by 2070.

The drive to electrify public transport is fuelled in part by the need to reduce pollution in cities with some of the world's worst air.

The electric bus was developed by Switch Mobility, an arm



The first of 200 new buses are expected to start service on Mumbai's busy roads from December, joining nearly 400 single-floor EVs already in operation. **PHOTO: AADITYA THACKERAY/TWITTER**

of Indian auto manufacturing giant Ashok Leyland.

Similar electric double-deckers built by the company were rolled out in London in 2014.

"We want common people to use electric mobility and achieve their goals of net-zero," Switch

Mobility India chief executive Mahesh Babu told AFP at Thursday's unveiling of the new fleet.

The Switch EiV 22 vehicle, built in India, has 65 passenger seats and a battery pack that would give it a range of 250 kilometres (155 miles).—AFP

Greenland treads softly on tourism as icebergs melt

AS tourists flock to Greenland to take in its breathtaking icebergs and natural beauty, authorities are mulling ways to control crowds to protect the fragile environment, already threatened by global warming.

"It's a dream destination,"

said Yves Gleyze, a veteran off-the-beaten-track French tourist in his 60s as he arrived at the airport in Ilulissat. Visitors to the third-biggest town in the Danish autonomous territory are met by a rugged, austere landscape of grey rock and sparse vegetation.

But mesmerising views of massive icebergs come into view after just a short drive.

Breaking off from the Ilulissat glacier in the neighbouring fjord, the majestic blocks of ice drift slowly by in Disko Bay, the occasional whale making an appearance.—AFP

Huge complex of 500 standing stones found in Spain

A huge megalithic complex of more than 500 standing stones has been discovered in southern Spain which could be one of the largest in Europe, archaeologists told AFP Thursday.

The stones were discovered on a plot of land in Huelva, a province which flanks the southernmost part of Spain's border with Portugal, near the Guadiana River.

Spanning some 600 hectares (1,500 acres), the land had been earmarked for an avocado plantation.

But before granting the permit, the regional authorities requested a survey in light of the site's possible archaeological significance — and revealed the presence of the stones.

"This is the biggest and most diverse collection of standing stones grouped together in the Iberian peninsula," said Jose Antonio Linares, a researcher at Huelva University and one of the project's three directors.

It is likely that the oldest standing stones at the La Torre-La Janera site were erected during the second half of the sixth or fifth millennium BC, he said.

"It is a major megalithic site in Europe," he said. At the site, they found a large number of various types of megaliths, including standing stones, dolmens, mounds, coffin-like stone boxes called cists and various enclosures.—AFP



Carnac in northwestern France is one of the most famous megalithic sites in the world with some 3,000 standing stones. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

New Direct Entry to Yangon

>>FROM PAGE-9

when there has emerged the Einme-Darka Road linking Wakema beyond Pantanaw, the road from Pathein to Yangon has been shortened with the result that the road and bridge charges can be reduced.

Similarly, the road from Maubin to Yangon has been shorted because of the construction of a diversion route, which is linked to Twantay, from which the vehicles can proceed to Hlinethaya. Crossing the Pan Hlaing Bridge near No 4 Industrial Zone, one can enter Yangon via Bayintnaung Bridges. As the vehicles can avoid Sarmalauk and Dagon Ayeya Highway Bus

Terminal where there are traffic jams, the driving hours can be reduced a lot.

Now, a suspension bridge crossing the Yangon River is being constructed in Lanmadaw Township for the motor vehicles from Yangon to go over the bridge to Dala and vice versa. Upon completion of the river crossing bridge, the people from the Delta who are using the road network linking Bogale, Mawgyun, Wakema, Myaungmya and Pathein can come to Yangon crossing Sawkeyyun, Pyatthat and Kyungon river crossing bridges, having no need to go via Pyapon, Dedaye, Bogale and Mawgyun as they did previously.

Thanks to the construction of a new road network, they can shorten the route a lot.

Additionally, the people from Delta have got more options these days thanks to the construction of a road network linking Pathein, Myaungmya, Labutta, Wakema, Mawgyun, Bogale, Pyapon, and Dedaye. But they cannot use the road to Pyinsalu because the bridges en route are not built yet.

Upon completion of construction of the Yangon-Dala Suspension Bridge across the Yangon River, People from Delta can come directly to Yangon. Although the news of formulation of the rules for the passenger

bus lines is not released yet by the authorities, private cars can use the new suspension bridge with the result that the people from Delta and Dala sides will be free from the woes of traffic jams and delays and the dependency on the Z crafts to transport the cars across the river can be rid of. The heavy traffic taking place daily in Hlinethaya can be reduced.

Currently, the Z crafts are carrying about 400 vehicles big and small from Yangon to Dala and vice versa. After one year or so, more than 1,000 cars will cross the bridge.

In those days, people from Pathein had to spend about 16 hours to reach Yangon. Nowadays, they need only four hours to travel from Pathein to Yangon. Previously, the ships

were running at a speed of 10 miles per hour, so, it will take ten hours to travel a distance of 100 nautical miles. Nowadays, people need to spend only three hours for the same distance.

When the Yangon-Tanyin Rail-cum-Road Bridge across the Bago River was built, there were no longer the triple-deckers called Thida1 and Thida 2 crossing the river. Besides, no more double-deckers were crossing the river, too. It will happen the same to the ferries plying between Dala and Lanmadaw in Yangon. Only very few will use the ferry service. Let's hope to have a new scene around Lanmadaw jetties. I can't wait to have a look at the new suspension bridge and the port area of Lanmadaw.

Translated.

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

WHO pushes two Ebola treatments found to boost survival rates

THE World Health Organization said Friday that two existing treatments dramatically reduced deaths from Ebola and should be given to people of all ages suffering from the often-fatal haemorrhagic disease.

Publishing its first-ever guidelines on which therapeutics to use against Ebola, the UN health agency strongly recommended using two monoclonal antibodies, mAb114, also known as Ansuvimab or Ebanga, and REGN-EB3, or Inmazeb.

Studies had showed that the two treatments significantly “reduced mortality,” Janet Diaz,



Liberians wash their hands next to an Ebola information and sanitation station, raising awareness about the virus in Monrovia in this 30 September 2014 file photo. **PHOTO: PASCAL GUYO/AFP**

lead of the clinical management unit in the WHO’s Health Emer-

gencies programme, told reporters in Geneva.

Depending on the standard of care, she said they could save between 230 and 400 lives for every 1,000 people infected.

In its guidelines, the WHO recommended against using other therapeutics that have been tested for Ebola, including monoclonal antibody ZMapp and antiviral drug remdesivir.

Ebola is an often-fatal viral haemorrhagic fever that was first identified in central Africa in 1976. The disease was named after a river in the Democratic Republic of Congo, then known as Zaire.—AFP

Scientists find simple, safe method to destroy ‘forever chemicals’

“FOREVER chemicals” used in daily items like nonstick pans have long been linked to serious health issues – a result of their toxicity and extreme resistance to being broken down as waste products. Chemists in the United States and China on Thursday said they had finally found a breakthrough method to degrade these polluting compounds, referred to as PFAS, using relatively low temperatures and common reagents. Their results were published in the journal Science, potentially offering a solution to a longstanding source of harm to the environment, livestock and humans.—AFP

2022 MONKEYPOX OUTBREAK

Denmark reports first female case of monkeypox

DENMARK has reported its first female case of monkeypox, the country’s Ministry of Health announced on Friday afternoon. The woman is one of five new cases of the disease in Denmark in the last 24 hours.

“This is an isolated case of infection in a woman, which the Agency for Patient Safety is tracing. It is the Statens Serum Institut’s (SSI) assessment that with the current number of cases, individual cases of infection can be

expected to spread to other groups,” said Health Minister Magnus Heunicke.

“We have expanded the target group for vaccination and purchased new supplies, so that everyone who is in a risk group can be offered a vaccine,” he added.

Until now, in Denmark monkeypox has only been seen in men who have sex with men; however, the SSI had said that individual cases of infection outside the risk group were unavoidable.—Xinhua

Monkeypox test kit unveiled in India

INDIA’S first indigenously developed RT-PCR kit for testing Monkeypox was launched in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, local daily The Times of India reported on Friday.

The test kit, which was developed by the Transasia Bio-Medicals Ltd, was launched at the Andhra Pradesh Medtech Zone. According to the report, the test kit enables an easy testing with uniquely formulated primer and probe for enhanced accuracy. “The kit would help in early detection and better management of the infection which the World Health Organization



Health workers inspect passengers arriving from high-risk countries for MonkeyPox symptoms, at Chennai International Airport. **PHOTO: AN**

declared as a public health emergency of international concern”, the report quoted Transasia Bio-Medicals’ founder chairman Suresh Vazirani as saying.—Xinhua

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE WORLDWIDE

US CDC admits falling short in response to COVID-19



A medical worker collects a swab sample from a man at a COVID-19 testing site on Times Square in New York, the United States, 17 May 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/WANG YING**

THE chief of the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Wednesday acknowledged that the agency had failed to respond effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic, and announced plans for extensive changes.

“To be frank, we are responsible for some pretty dramatic, pretty public mistakes, from testing to data to communications,” said CDC Director Rochelle Walensky in a video distributed to the agency’s roughly 11,000 employees.—Xinhua

EU watchdog reviewing SK Chemicals anti-Covid jab

THE European medicines watchdog said Thursday it was reviewing German-based pharmaceutical SK Chemicals’ coronavirus vaccine which uses nanotechnology to combat the virus, amid concern of a possible comeback later in the year.

If eventually approved, the vaccine called Skycovion will be the seventh jab to join the European Union’s growing toolkit, although other vaccines are also currently being reviewed.

The Amsterdam-based EMA’s human medicines committee “has started a review of a conditional marketing authorization application for Skycovion, a vaccine for protecting against COVID-19,” it said. SK Chemicals GmbH “has submitted data on how well the vaccine triggers the production of antibodies against the original strain of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19,” the EMA added in a statement.—AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

APEC meeting discusses concerted efforts for tourism recovery

TOURISM ministers and delegates from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies convened here on Friday for making concerted efforts to accelerate tourism recovery in the region.

During the 11th APEC Tourism Ministerial Meeting, attendees discussed APEC's cooperation guidelines to accelerate tourism revitalization in the post-COVID-19 era and the role of the tourism sector in promoting the well-being of people in the region, Thailand's Minister of Tourism and Sports Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn told

a press conference after the meeting.

"We also exchanged experiences in promoting the recovery in each economy and discussed how to maintain tourism's status as a sector that contributes to the benefit and well-being of the people of the APEC region," said the minister, who chaired the meeting.

A chair's statement was issued after the meeting, instead of a joint statement as economies were unable to reach consensus in one paragraph of the draft joint statement, he said without elaborating.—Xinhua



One of the top-level tourist sites in China, the West Lake in Yangzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, is a very popular attraction. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Japanese utilities consider renewing deal with new Sakhalin operator



File photo shows a liquefied natural gas tanker that traveled from Sakhalin 2 arriving off Sodegaura, Chiba Prefecture in eastern Japan, in April 2009. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

SOME of the Japanese utilities that have been purchasing liquefied natural gas from Russia's

Sakhalin 2 oil and gas project are considering renewing their contracts with the new operator

that Moscow set up earlier this month after taking control of the project, sources familiar with the matter said Friday.

The new operator has offered the same contract terms as those of the previous entity after being established Aug. 5 under a decree by Russian President Vladimir Putin following the exit of some foreign shareholders because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

A contract renewal would ease concerns in Japan about a potential sharp increase in charges by Japanese utilities, which would be forced to seek alternative LNG sources if they no longer had access to Sakhalin 2 supplies.

The Sakhalin 2 project in Russia's Far East accounts for around 9 percent of resource-poor Japan's LNG imports and Tokyo has said it considers it an important energy provider.—Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK retail sales in surprise rebound

BRITISH retail sales surprisingly rose overall in July but consumer confidence is at a record-low as the UK heads towards recession, data showed Friday.

Sales by volume gained 0.3 per cent last month after a slight drop in June, the Office for National Statistics said, while analysts' consensus had been for another fall.

Online purchases "were boosted by a range of offers and promotions", said Darren Morgan, ONS director of economic statistics.

"However, fuel sales fell with some evidence suggesting the very hot weather meant fewer people travelling."

Morgan added that another fall in sales of clothing and household goods indicated "consumers are cutting back due to increased prices and concerns around affordability and cost of living".—AFP

Czech economic growth forecast for 2022 adjusted upward to 2.2%: ministry

THE Czech ministry of finance on Friday raised its forecast of gross domestic product (GDP) growth for this year to 2.2 per cent year on year, up from its April forecast of 1.2 per cent.

Citing figures from the Czech Statistical Office, the ministry said GDP grew by 0.2 per cent quarter on quarter and by 3.6 per cent year on year in the second quarter of 2022. "While the economy had grown in the first half of this year despite adverse circumstances, it should experience a mild recession in the second half of the year. Nonetheless, GDP for the full year 2022 could increase by 2.2 per cent," the ministry said in its latest forecast.—Xinhua

Bangladesh fixes ceiling on USD trading for money exchangers

THE central bank of Bangladesh has fixed a ceiling on US dollar trading profit for money exchangers, amid a lingering greenback supply shortage and its appreciation against the country's currency taka.

After a meeting with the

Money Changers' Association in Dhaka, Bangladesh Bank (BB) spokesperson Serajul Islam told reporters that no money exchangers in the country can now charge over 1.5 taka against a US dollar while buying and selling the greenback.—Xinhua

The price of one US dollar escalated to around 120 taka days ago for the first time. The authorities then launched raids on money exchanger houses and the central bank intensified its monitoring. **PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/AFP/FILE**



Pro-Putin rapper opens Starbucks successor in Moscow

RE-BRANDED as Stars Coffee, the successor of Starbucks welcomed its first visitors in Moscow on Friday after the Seattle-based coffee shop chain withdrew from the Russian market over the conflict in Ukraine.

Pro-Kremlin rapper Timati and Russian restaurateur Anton Pinskiy acquired Starbucks' Russian operations in July and gave it a new name under the slogan "bucks is gone, stars stay".

"Why STARS? The new brand unites the stars of the gastronomic industry," the new owners of the coffee chain said on

their website which also features its new logo.

Looking very similar to its predecessor, the logo replaces Starbucks' iconic twin-tailed mermaid with a woman wearing a traditional Russian headdress, the kokoshnik.

Patrons will find familiar caffeinated beverages on the menu but no Starbucks-patented Frappuccinos. The new chain will also continue the Starbucks tradition of writing customers' names on cups when taking their order.

Arina, a 20-year-old student with a cup of coffee in hand, said

she "doesn't see any difference for the moment: the taste is the same in any case and the interior and everything remain the same".

But Ekaterina, 25, said she misses Starbucks "because I have a collection of their mugs and cups".

Starbucks temporarily closed its 130 coffee shops in Russia at the start of Moscow's February military intervention in Ukraine, later announcing that it will permanently leave the Russian market after nearly 15 years.— AFP



Pro-Kremlin rapper Timati and Russian restaurateur Anton Pinskiy rebranded former Starbucks cafes as Stars Coffee. **PHOTO: AFP**

Easyjet pilots' strike causes 14 flight cancellations to and from Spain



The fourth day of strike action in Spain by pilots working for the low-cost airline Easyjet on Friday led to the cancellation of 14 flights. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE fourth day of strike action in Spain by pilots working for the low-cost airline Easyjet on Friday led to the cancellation of 14 flights, the pilots' union Sepa has confirmed.

Eight of the flights were either to or from Palma airport on the island of Mallorca, with another six between Barcelona's El Prat airport and Geneva, Basel, Milan, Paris and London.

Friday's cancellations mean that 50 flights have now been cancelled since the start of the strike on 12 August. Further strike actions are scheduled for 21, 27 and 29 August, as pilots continue their campaign for improved working conditions.

Sepa highlighted that Easyjet pilots had accepted "a salary drop" to help the airline during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the employer has not reverted to pre-pandemic conditions although the number of flights is now "very similar to what it was in 2019".

According to the union, this means pilots have lost between 25-30 per cent of their purchasing power. Air travellers to and from Spain are also having to deal with a strike by cabin crew at Ryanair, which is due to continue until January 2023. Meanwhile, cabin crew at Iberia Express on Wednesday called 10 days of strikes from 28 August to 6 September, as they seek a collective agreement on working conditions.—Xinhua

Consortium launched in Mumbai to develop bio-energy value chain

A consortium led by Luxembourg-based Boson Energy was formed Friday in India's financial hub Mumbai aimed at developing bio-energy value chain including hydrogen production in the South Asian country.

The consortium called Net Zero Hydrogen Interest Group will work to promote hydrogen production directly from biomass and agro-waste, said a statement by MVIRDC World Trade Centre Mumbai, a part of the consortium.

"We have the technology to convert 100 tonnes of waste into 100 MWh of electricity, 100 tonnes of fresh water, and 70-80 cubic metres of high-quality construction material, without carbon emission," said Jan Grimbrandt, CEO and Founder of Boson Energy, whose vision is to leverage next-generation technologies to produce hydrogen directly

from biomass and waste.

The electricity generated through this process can be used for powering automobiles or supplying electricity to power grid, Grimbrandt said.

Vijay Kalantri, chairman of MVIRDC World Trade Centre Mumbai said, "India has enormous opportunities to convert Agri, Bio and other waste to energy; what we need is good technology."

Speaking on the occasion, Monish Ahuja, chairman of Confederation of Biomass Energy Industry of India, said, "Around 82 per cent of India's energy mix is composed of non-electricity sources such as petroleum and natural gas, for which the country is dependent on imports."

In February, India unveiled its hydrogen policy with a target of producing five million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030.—Xinhua

Oil prices inch higher, but notch weekly losses

OIL futures edged up in volatile trading on Friday, but concerns over weaker demand kept prices lower for the week.

The West Texas Intermediate for September delivery added 27 cents, or 0.3 per cent, to settle at 90.77 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Brent crude for October delivery increased 13 cents, or 0.1 per cent, to close at 96.72 dollars a barrel on the London ICE Futures Exchange. The number of active US rigs drilling for oil was unchanged at 601 this week, Houston-based oilfield services company Baker Hughes reported Friday. The

total active US rig count, which includes those drilling for natural gas, fell by one to stand at 762, showed the report.

For the week, the US crude benchmark dropped 1.4 per cent, while Brent declined 1.5 per cent, based on the front-month contracts.—Xinhua

China's urban passenger transport shrinks in Jan-July

CHINA recorded a decline in passenger transport levels in urban areas in the first seven months of this year, official data showed.

In the January-July period, the number of passenger trips in 36 major cities stood at 24.7 billion, down 21.1 per cent year on year, according to the Ministry of Transport.

The northern city of Shijiazhuang reversed the overall downturn, registering 23 per cent growth during the period.—Xinhua

Japan’s plastic food artists get creative

FROM the “leaning tower of piza” to a fish slicing and cooking itself and a dragon emerging from a dragon fruit, Japanese artisans’ quirky plastic food sculptures went on display this week at an exhibition in Tokyo.

The models were made with the same painstaking detail as the rock-solid noodle soups and crispy-looking plastic snacks that have long been displayed outside Japanese restaurants where they are called “shokuhin sampuru”, or “sample food products”.

Sampuru are common outside ramen shops and family restaurants across Japan a century after stores began using wax models to advertise their menu to a growing middle class.

“Normally we have to follow orders from clients. We take



A worker applies the finishing touches on his plastic cyclone of fermented soybeans, aka the ‘nattornado’. **PHOO: AFP**

their views on board when we’re making items,” plastic food artist Shinichiro Hatasa, 57, told AFP.

But when dreaming up fun designs, “you can use your

imagination. How it ends up is totally up to you,” he said.

For the exhibition, Hatasa crafted an ear of corn leisurely sunbathing on a beach.

Other creations on display

included a deep-fried shrimp with four breaded legs roaming like a tiger on a mountain of shredded cabbage and a Tetris game made of chicken.

A Japanese breakfast dish of fermented soybeans called natto appeared to spiral in the air, resembling a powerful cyclone — nicknamed, naturally, a “nattornado”.

Around 60 sculptures were on display, some silly but others designed to showcase the artists’ formidable skills.

“They are not real, but they look so real. It’s wonderful,” said exhibition attendee Reiko Ichimaru. All the models were handmade by specialists at Iwasaki Group, Japan’s leading maker of “sampuru”, which celebrates its 90th anniversary this year. —AFP

North Syria violence kills 21 civilians: monitor

AT least 21 civilians including children were killed Friday in separate bombardments in the latest flare-up of violence along Syria’s northern border with Türkiye, Kurdish authorities and a war monitor said.

The bloodshed comes against a backdrop of increased tensions pitting the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) against Turkish troops and their Syrian proxies.

A pre-dawn strike by a Turkish drone that hit “a training centre for young girls” in the Shmouka area near Hasakeh in the northeast killed “four children and wounded 11”, a statement from the semi-autonomous Kurdish authorities said.—AFP

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

‘Total lack of progress’ for Russia: Pentagon

Ukraine’s forces have brought the Russian advance to a halt in recent weeks and the Russian military’s positions on the ground have weakened, a senior US defence official says.

“You are seeing a complete and total lack of progress by the Russians on the battlefield,” the official says, speaking to reporters on grounds of anonymity.

Finland, Sweden to meet Türkiye on NATO bids

Finland will host a meeting with Sweden and Türkiye later this month, the Finnish foreign minister Pekka Haavisto says, in a bid to counter Ankara’s opposition to the Nordic countries’ NATO bids.

Finland and Sweden dropped their longstanding policies of military non-alliance earlier this year when they announced plans to join NATO after Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February.

Their bids have already been ratified by the United States and more than half of the 30 members of NATO. Each application must win unanimous consent from member states.

SOURCE: AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Putin decries obstacles to food, fertilizer exports

DURING their call, Putin tells Macron that Russia is facing obstacles in the export of its food products and fertilizer.

“There are still obstacles to the mentioned Russian exports that does not contribute to the solution of problems related to ensuring global food security,” the Kremlin says. Last month in Istanbul, Russia and Ukraine signed landmark deals with Türkiye and the United Nations that opened secure corridors for grain exports to leave Ukraine’s Black Sea ports. A similar agreement signed at the same time allowed Russia to export its agricultural products and fertilizer despite Western sanctions over Moscow’s military intervention in Ukraine.—AFP

During their call, Putin tells Macron that Russia is facing obstacles in the export of its food products and fertiliser. PhosAgro-Cherepovets fertilizer plant operated by PhosAgro PJSC, in Cherepovets, Russia. **PHOTO: PHOSAGRO PJSC**



Putin, Macron call for IAEA inspection of Ukraine nuclear plant

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron called for independent inspections at the Moscow-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, the Kremlin said in a statement Friday.

Putin “stressed that the systematic shelling by the Ukrainian military of the territory of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant creates the danger of a large-scale catastrophe that could lead to radiation contamination of vast territories”.

According to the Kremlin, both leaders called for experts of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect the plant “as soon as possible” and “assess the real situation on the ground”.

“The Russian side confirmed its readiness to provide the Agency inspectors with the necessary assistance,” the statement said.—AFP

Rafael Grossi, Director-General of the IAEA, points on a map of the Ukrainian Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant during a press conference in Vienna, Austria. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Literature world holds New York rally for Rushdie

PROMINENT literary figures including Paul Auster and Gay Talese gathered Friday in Manhattan for a reading of Salman Rushdie's works, in solidarity with the author seriously injured in a stabbing attack.

More than a dozen acclaimed writers, including friends and colleagues of Rushdie, spoke at the steps of the

New York Public Library for the event, which organizers said the novelist had been invited to watch from the hospital.

One week ago Rushdie was about to be interviewed as part of a lecture series in upstate New York, when a man stormed the stage and stabbed the 75-year-old writer repeatedly in the neck and abdomen.



Writers gather in New York to read selected works of British author Salman Rushdie, one week after he was stabbed while on stage. **PHOTO: AFP**

In Rushdie's honour the American literary journalist Talese, sporting his signature fedora and three-piece suit, read an excerpt from "The Golden House" novel, while Irish writer Colum McCann read from the 1992 New Yorker essay "Out of Kansas."

A.M. Homes — the American author whose own works including "The End of Alice" novel have triggered controversy over the years — read from Rushdie's piece "On Censorship", which was drawn from a lecture he gave in 2012.

"No writer ever really wants to talk about censorship," she read. "Writers want to talk about creation, and censorship is anti-creation, negative energy, uncreation, the bringing into being of non-being." Rushdie spent years under police protection after Iranian leaders called for his killing over his portrayal of Islam and the Prophet Mohammed in his 1988 novel "The Satanic Verses". — AFP

Mexico arrests ex-top prosecutor over disappearance of 43 students

MEXICO on Friday arrested a former attorney-general who led a controversial investigation into the disappearance of 43 students in 2014 — one of the country's worst human rights tragedies.

Arrest warrants were also issued for dozens more suspects including military personnel, police officers and cartel members, prosecutors announced.

Ex-attorney-general Jesus Murillo Karam is the most senior figure detained so far in connection with the case, which shocked the nation and generated international condemnation.

He is considered the architect of the so-called "historical truth" version of events presented in 2015 by the government of then-president Enrique Pena Nieto that was widely rejected, including by relatives.

Murillo Karam, a former heavyweight of the once-dominant Institutional Revolutionary

Party (PRI), was arrested for the crimes of forced disappearance, torture and perverting justice, the attorney-general's office said. Arrest warrants were also issued for 20 members of the military, five administrative and judicial officials, 44 police officers

and 14 members of the Guerreros Unidos cartel, prosecutors later announced.

They are accused of involvement in organized crime, forced disappearance, torture, homicide and obstruction of Justice, they said.—AFP



Portraits of some of the 43 students who disappeared in 2014 in one of Mexico's worst human rights tragedies. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

S Africa's Zulus to crown new king as succession row rages



King Goodwill Zwelithini, centre, was one of the world's longest-reigning monarchs -- he died last year after half a century on the throne. **PHOTO: AFP**

SOUTH Africa's largest ethnic group, the Zulus, will on Saturday crown a new king following a year of feuding over who should ascend to the throne of the country's most influential traditional monarchy.

Misuzulu Zulu, 47, is set to succeed his father, Goodwill Zwelithini, who died in March last year after 50 years in charge.

Although the title of king does not bestow executive power, Zulu monarchs wield great moral influence over more than 11 million Zulus, who make up nearly a fifth of South Africa's population.

On Saturday, Misuzulu will enter the "cattle kraal" at the Zulu royal residence or KwaKhethomthandayo in

Nongoma, a small town in the ethnic group's southeastern heartland province of KwaZulu-Natal.

There, he will take part in a secret rite designed to present the new monarch to his legendary ancestors.

Afterwards, he will be introduced to his people, who will pledge to "accept the king as their king", said Gugulethu Mazibuko, an expert in African cultures at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Only selected members of the royal family and Zulu warriors, known as amaButhos, are allowed to witness the kraal rite up close, but large crowds are expected to gather at the royal palace to celebrate the event.—AFP

S Korea set guideline on using radar on Japan patrol plane in 2019

SOUTH Korea's military had set a guideline in February 2019 on what kind of situation to lock its fire-control radar on a Japanese Self-Defence Forces patrol plane, two months after it carried out the move, the country's lawmaker said Friday.

Relations between South Korea and Japan — US security allies in the region — sharply deteriorated against a backdrop of the radar irradiation, along with unresolved historical grievances, Tokyo's imposition of export control measures and other disputes.

The revelation indicated that the South Korean administration of then President Moon Jae In, known as an anti-Japan politician, had decided on a hard-line approach to Tokyo, with bilateral distrust growing in several fields, including defence. The guideline has instructed the South Korean navy to direct its fire-control radar at a Japanese maritime patrol aircraft if the plane does not respond to two warnings by the nation's military vessels when it approaches them, the lawmaker said.—Kyodo



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.

Scott clings to one-shot lead at PGA BMW Championship



Adam Scott of Australia fired a two-under par 69 to grab a one-stroke lead after the second round of the US PGA Tour's BMW Championship. **PHOTO: AFP**

ADAM Scott, the 2013 Masters champion, fired a two-under-par 69 to seize a one-stroke lead after Friday's second round of the US PGA's BMW Championship.

The 42-year-old Australian, chasing his 15th career PGA victory, stood on eight-under 134 after 36 holes at Wilmington (Delaware) Country Club.

"I'm playing well," Scott said. "I'm in great shape going into the weekend. I don't even know when the last time I led a tournament was."

World number one Scottie Scheffler, the reigning Masters champion, and fellow Americans Cameron Young and Jordan Spieth shared second on 135 with Canada's Corey Connors.—AFP

Hanthawady stop defending champion Shan United's winning streak

THE first day of the Week 9 of Myanmar National League 2022 was held on 20 August at the Thuwunna stadium, and the defending champion Shan United and the Hanthawady United played to a draw with two goals each.

Current champion Shan United team's eight-game winning streak was stopped in the ninth game by the Hanthawady team. Shan United's winning streak stopped, but they continued to lead at the top of the table. The Hanthawady team tried to get a good result and managed to get a draw with a late goal.

Both teams used a full set of core players, and the Shan United team included both foreign and local players in the starting lineup. Both teams tried to score from the beginning, but the Hanthawady team made an icebreaker near the end of the first half.

Myo Zaw Oo scored the leading goal for the Hanthawady team in the 45th minute. In the first half, the Shan United team tried to



The Hanthawady United goalkeeper (green) attempts to block the header of a Shan United player during their Week 9 Myanmar National League match at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 20 August 2022. **PHOTO: MNL**

equalize at the beginning of the second half, and in the 47th minute, right-back player Kyaw Zin Lwin headed a corner kick and scored the equalizing goal.

By scoring an equalizing goal, the Shan United team could press harder, and Mark

Saki scored the second goal in the 53rd minute. After that, the Hanthawady tried to equalize and the Shan United team tried to maintain the winning result.

Shan United's winning streak was broken in the 88th minute, and Aung Myo Thura scored

the equalizer for Hanthawady.

Shan United team has 25 points after playing nine games in the first round while Hanthawady has 11 points.

Myawady FC will take on Ayeyarwady United today. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Tuchel in talks over extending contract at Chelsea



Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel says his representatives are in talks over extending his contract whilst he focuses on field matters. **PHOTO: AFP**

THOMAS Tuchel is in talks with Chelsea over extending his contract although the German says he is focusing on "my team... and on being competitive".

The 48-year-old's present contract runs until 2024. He signed that after guiding Chelsea to the 2021 Champions League trophy having initially had an 18-month deal when he replaced the sacked Frank Lampard in January 2021.

"My people talk to the owners and take care of everything else," said Tuchel on Friday ahead of Sunday's away match at Leeds. "You know how glad I am to be here and how much I like it. "There are talks but I think given the situation where we come from, and where we are in the middle of the transfer period, I think it is the very best if I focus on my team and on sports and on being competitive," he added.—AFP