STAY IN A STABLE LIFESTYLE TO REMOVE WORRIES ABOUT INFLATION PAGE-8 (OPINION)

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 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.

2,072 rare Myanmar star tortoises breed in Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary

A total of 2,072 Myanmar star tortoises, which are listed as rare species, have been bred and hatched in Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary in Minbu Township, Magway Region, said U Aung San, assistant director of Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary Natural Environment and Wildlife Conservation Branch.

Star tortoises in the Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary are a native species found only in the central tropical region of Myanmar.

In order to protect Star Tortoise from the danger of extinction, the Department of Forest, Wildlife Group and the Turtle Survival Group raised fences to conserve the rare species in the Mandalay Yadanabon Park, Lawkananda Sanctuary, Minsone Mountain Sanctuary, and Shwesettaw Sanctuary.

Rare species Star tortoises are being fed feedstuff in Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary in Minbu Township. **PHOTO : ZEYAR HTET**

A total of 297 tortoises were hatched in 2014, and now up to 2,072 turtles are under conservation. Star tortoises are illegally hunted and killed by hunting dogs to be eaten by people living in rural areas. There is an illegal trade in star tortoises because wealthy people are breeding them as pets.

The star tortoises became extinct and rare due to the cutting of trees and the reclamation of agricultural land.

Therefore, in order to protect the tortoises from the danger of extinction, they are raised by fences.

Star tortoises breed from late September to May, and tortoises often lay eggs, up to 11 at a time. Eggs are laid three or four times a year. They usually hatch in June, July, and eggs that do not hatch until August are destroyed.

Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary has high temperature and sandy soil, so only 50 to 70 per cent of tortoise hatch.

The hatchlings eat normally, but if their body weight decreases, they must be fed with laxatives.

If the water is dehydrated, the health of the turtles will be affected, they must see Veterinarian.

Sweet potato leaves as food for star tortoises, gourd Cabbage watermelon, and feedstuff such as popcorn can be fed.

In previous years, during the Mann Shwesettaw Buddha Pujaniya Festival, small natural stone rocks were made and displayed in the farm cage in the gallery so that pilgrims could study the star turtles.

In Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary, a variety of tortoises and star tortoises live in the garden, and since there is a risk of extinction, they have been included in the list of completely protected wildlife species and are being carefully conserved.—Zeyar Htet (Minbu)/GNLM

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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

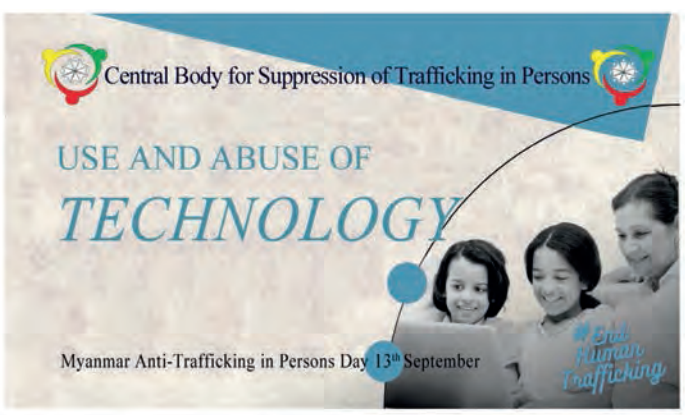
Leaders of Ethnic Armed Organizations arrive in Nay Pyi Taw to participate in peace talks

Officials and ethnic national people warmly welcome peace delegations of Pa-O National Liberation Organization, Lahu Democratic Union and Arakan Liberation Party at Horizon Lake Resort in Nay Pyi Taw and Nay Pyi Taw Airport on 21 August.

AS Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing called for peace talks with ethnic armed organizations-EAOs to restore perpetual peace in the country and make an end to the armed conflicts, a peace delegation led by Chairman Khun Thurein of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO from Taunggyi of Shan State, Chairman Kyar Solomon of the Lahu Democratic Union-LDU from Tachilek of Shan State and Vice Chair Saw Mra Razar Lin of the Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) from Sittway of Rakhine State arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

On the arriving of the PNLO peace delegation at Horizon Lake Resort in Nay Pyi Taw, the LDU and ALP peace delegations at Nay Pyi Taw Airport, they were welcomed by members and officials of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, officials from Nay Pyi Taw Council and ministries and ethnic people from the Department of Fine Arts of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and locals who wants peace holding miniature State flags and placards bearing, "Perpetual peace is the real aspiration of the people", "Achieving peace is the true desire of all citizens", "Let's hold talks for peace in the Union", "Only the ethnic nationalities are in unity, stability, peace and tranquillity will be achieved".

The peace delegations from EAOs held the peace talks for the first time from May to August 2022. Strengthening of multiparty democratic system, building the Union based on democracy and federalism and further striving for ensuring peace and development of the Union were agreed in the talks. It was reported that the peace delegations are allowed to openly discuss their political anticipations and future talks in the second time talk. Moreover, the ethnic armed organizations which do not join the peace talks yet are also invited to the talks without advance restrictions in any situations.—MNA



2022 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Days' Objectives

* To mobilize the participation of all citizens in combatting 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.

Panglong Spirit

OUR country gained independence through the Panglong Agreement with Union spirit. The essence of the Panglong Agreement is the Panglong Spirit, which is also called the Union Spirit. The Union Spirit is based on building a future Union rooted in democracy and federalism. Therefore, holding meetings with ethnic armed organizations must be based on the Union Spirit to be able to discuss the actual requirements of the regions and the country.

(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.)

Chinese tourism market the best in Myanmar's tourism sector

THE basic Chinese language course was conducted with the aim of understanding language, customs and traditions of Chinese tourists and providing the best services to them, said Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung at the opening ceremony of the course and the ceremony to present the medal recognized by Enchanting Myanmar Health & Safety Protocols at the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung addresses opening of Chinese language course, ceremony to give medal of national level Enchanting Myanmar Health & Safety Protocols to hotels on 21 August.

The Union minister continued to say that the Chinese tourism market is the best in the Myanmar's tourism sector. Chinese tourists prefer to visit Bagan region, he added. The language courses were conducted in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw.

A total of 186 staff from hotels and lodges, 13 from restaurant association, 17 from tour guide association, 20 from tour transport entrepreneurs association, 20 from souvenir shops, 25 from Department of Archaeology and National Museum in Bagan, 11 from Directorate of Hotels and Tourism in Bagan and 10 from Lacquerware College.

The HSP national level medals recognized by Enchanting Myanmar Health and Safety Protocol-HSP were given to 12 hotels in Bagan.

The ministry conducts the hotels and tourism service courses, basic computer technology course and languages courses in Nay Pyi Taw and other regions and states.—MNA

2nd round of the ASEAN Youth Debate 2022 continues

THE second round of the ASEAN Youth Debate 2022 was held yesterday morning and six young representatives from Myanmar participated in the virtual online system.

Aiming to achieve friendship and cooperation among young people in the ASEAN region, and organized by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of Cambodia, the event was held for the first time under the theme Addressing Challenges Together: ACT.

Myanmar team participates in Second Round of ASEAN Youth Debate 2022 on 21 August.

In yesterday's (Second Elimination Round) match, the Singaporean team and the Cambodian team competed in each other under the title "We must create more job opportunities to develop the economy in the ASEAN region".

The Myanmar team and the Indonesian team competed in the event under the theme "Climate change is the biggest threat to all mankind".

Six Myanmar young representatives from Ministry of Information, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement participated in the Myanmar team (2).

The quarter-final matches will be held on 4 September and the semi-final match on 18 September via virtual format.

The final match will take place on 12 October and the awarding ceremony on 13 October in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.—MNA

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

33 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 21 August, total figure rises to 614,654

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 614,654 after 33 new cases were reported on 21 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 593,231 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,437 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 20-8-2022, a total of 30,312,766 people above 18 have been vaccinated. A total of 6,280,760 people under 18 have been vaccinated. —MNA

Myanmar tank troop deservedly secures first prize in Tank Biathlon (Tank Crews Competition) Division-2 of International Army Games-2022

MYANMAR deservedly won the first prize in the Tank Biathlon (Tank Crews Competition) Division-2 of the International Army Games-2022 organized in the Russian Federation from 15 August.

In the Tank Biathlon (Tank Crews Competition) Division-2, the Myanmar tank troop took the driving record, fired three cartridges of 125 mm cannon and 15 cartridges of 12.7mm surface to air machine gun. The crew-1 of the Myanmar tank troop set 27 min 43 sec of competition record, the crew-2 38 min 14 sec record and the crew-3 30 min 28 sec, totalling 1 hr 36 min 25 sec, hitting 14 of 15 targets.

Myanmar participated in the Tank Biathlon for fifth time including this year event. Among 22 contending troops, Myanmar stood 16th position in 2018, the fifth in division-2 of 2019 among 11 troops, the fourth in the dividion-2 of 2020 among eight troops, and the third in the dividion-2 of 2021 among eight troops. The Myanmar troops could take competition experiences, technological experiences and friendly relations in the games of international military troops.

Myanmar troop participates in Tank Biathlon (Tank Crews Competition) Division-2.

A soldier of Myanmar Tatmadaw takes part in Sniper Frontier event.

Female nurse of Myanmar Tatmadaw participates in individual Military Medical Relay Race.

Cades of the Myanmar Tatmadaw also participated in three of seven events in the 3rd CISM World Cadet Games, standing eighth among 20 country teams.

Moreover, troops of Myanmar Tatmadaw are still competing in the Military Medical Relay Race (Medical Staff Competition), the Sniper Frontier and the Army of Culture.—MNA

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

A local in Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region gets COVID-19 vaccine shot on 21 August.

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 11,320 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 572 people from Kyaukpyu and Thandwe townships in Rakhine State, and 6,013 from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

Similarly on that day, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 1,447 students from seven townships in Rakhine State and 4,692 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

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

Myanmar pulses exports generate over $460 million incomes over four months

MYANMAR has earned over US$460 million from various pulses exports so far in the current financial year 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar exported $463.255 million worth of over 601,226 metric tonnes of various pulses to foreign countries between 1 April and 12 August 2022, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Over the four months, the country shipped over 461,448 tonnes of pulses to external markets through sea trade, generating an income of $369.089 million, while $94.166 million worth of 139,777 tonnes of pulses were sent to the neighbouring countries via cross-border posts.

Pigeon pea crops are seen in the green lush field.

Myanmar conveyed $1.57 billion worth of over 2.02 million tonnes of various beans and pulses to foreign trade partners in the 2020-2021 FY. The country shipped $966.4 million valued over 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through sea route, and $604.3 million valued over 786,920 tonnes were sent to neighbouring countries through land border, the MoC's trade data showed.

Myanmar's bean cultivation covers 20 per cent of overall cultivable lands. Among them, black bean, pigeon pea and green gram constitute 72 per cent of bean acreage. Other beans including peanut, chickpea, soybean, black eyed beans, butter bean and ricebean are also grown in the country. Myanmar's agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's economy and various pulses are included in the main agricultural export items.—TWA/GNLM

Journalist-cum-Author Maung Thit Lwin (Ludu) passes away

JOURNALIST-CUM-AUTHOR Maung Thit Lwin (Ludu), 89 years old, has passed away in the evening of 20 August at his residence in Hmantan Ward, Nandawya Sanpya Quarter, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, due to aging.

His remains were buried at Taung-inn Myauk-inn Cemetery at 2 pm on 21 August by his beloved family, literary community and friends.

He was born on 11 August, 1934, (Saturday) of U Pyant and Daw Aye Htike in Chauk, and his childhood name was Maung Than Wai.

In 1952, he competed under the pen name Thit Lwin (Chauk) in the first writing competition organized by Thway Thauk Magazine, and won the second place.

Journalist Maung Thit Lwin (Ludu).

In 1955-56, he wrote short stories and articles under the pen name Htin Latt in Thway Thauk magazine.

Through that, he continued to write under pen names: Maung Wutyi, Maung Chit Khin, Aye Aye Mon, Htein Lin, Maung Sar, D Lu and Hnin Nu Wai.

In January 1957, he started working as an editor at newsroom of Ludu Newspaper in Mandalay.

He learned journalism from Ludu U Hla, Ludu Daw Amar, editor Thura (Shan Pyay), and proof reader U Lay Han, and wrote articles, international affairs, and other articles in Ludu Newspaper.

During the caretaker government in 1959, Ludu newspaper was halted, and Ludu U Hla allowed him to continue living in the newspaper and continue publishing books.

While trying to take practice and learn media studies based on the teachings of Ludu U Hla and Ludu Daw Amar, he continuously wrote news articles in newspapers, journals and magazines, and earned the pen name Maung Thit Lwin (Ludu).

In 1960, when public newspapers were allowed to be republished, he continued to work together with Natmauk Tun Shin and Tekkatho Saw Lwin.

In 1997, he worked as the editor-in-charge of Shwe Wutyi Magazine.

The Myanmar Press Council honoured him with the Lifetime Journalist Award for 2019-2020.—TWA/GNLM

Over 3,533 traffic accidents of vehicle collision leave over 1,730 dead in entire country in Jan-July

IN the whole state, over 3,533 vehicle collisions occurred on highways including the expressway, resulting in 1,730 deaths and 4,841 injuries in January-July 2022, according to the Road Transport Administration Department.

The chart of collisions, dead and injured came from Nay Pyi Taw, Kachin State, Kayah State, Kayin State, Chin State, Sagaing Region, Taninthayi Region, Bago Region, Magway Region, Mandalay Region, Mon State, Rakhine State, Yangon Region, Shan State, Ayeyawady Region, Railways Police, Expressway Police, Border Guard Police Force and Yangon-Mandalay express way.

According to the RTAD, in the past year there were 4,158 vehicle collisions, leaving 5,460 injured and 2,075 dead.—TWA/GNLM

A vehicle seen in traffic accident on Yangon-Mandalay expressway.

LIFE STYLE

Healthy homemade breakfast for low-income households

By Lin Oo

TEA shops decorated with grand teak furniture are commonly seen and strategically located around the corner of the streets of every ward and the markets across the commercial hub Yangon, where low-income households are located.

The majority of the Yangonites come to tea shops as they offer delicious breakfast foods. Most of the families enjoy breakfast at the tea shop on the weekdays and during the weekends.

In the suburban areas of Yangon city where low-income people live, the small shops still offer a reasonable price for each food item.

"If a family of three or four goes to a restaurant, it costs K5,000-K8,000 at least. It does not mean the food can fill their stomach. Nangyi salad (thick rice noodle) made with chicken curry is sold at K1,800-K2,000 per dish at the restaurant, while the roadside shops around the corner of the street offer this at K1,000. As far as I am concerned, the location and decoration of the restaurants cause the price gap," said Ko Aung Tun Oo from Ahlon Township.

Street food vendors offering Myanmar popular breakfast foods (Monhinga, Coconut noodle soup, salad) can be found in the wards and markets. They have their own customers depending on the taste. Even some restaurants cannot keep up with them in sales.

"How low one earns, they spend K3,000-K4,000 on breakfast at the tea shops. Some buy Myanmar snacks such as steamed sticky rice, boiled peas and other traditional delicacies and eat at home in the morning. Whatever they eat, they spend K1,500-2,000 on breakfast," said Ko Khin Ohn from North Okkalapa Township.

When the country was stepping up the COVID-19 prevention and control measures in the previous year, the tea shops were directed to ensure a three-feet social distance with plastic partitions. At present, the vaccination has been covered across the country. The COVID-19 rules are eased.

"Adults can control themself not to eat out. Yet, the children are satisfied with only the snacks offered at the tea shops. As the restaurants hiked up the prices of the food items, the small vendors and shops in the wards also raised the price a bit accordingly. Myanmar popular breakfast foods (Monhinga, Coconut noodle soup, salad) are priced at K700 per dish at the roadside shops as well," Daw Mu Mu from Mingala Taungnyunt Township elaborated.

Although the restaurants serve many foods at a single place, poor hygienic practices are still found.

"We can see poor hygienic standards in the restaurants; personal hygiene of waiters, dirty dishes and kitchen utensils and accessories and unhealthy ingredients. Sometimes, unwanted things are found in the plate," Daw Mu Mu continued.

Factory workers and blue-collar workers always calculate the food prices with their income and they fill their stomach with the fair and cheap foods for breakfast.

"We can eat a good and nutritious meal for lunch when we can cut the cost of our breakfast. The restaurants use unhealthy oil as well. My family rarely eats out. We eat fried rice with peas at home. We buy instant coffee mix sachets. We spend our income effectively. We make healthy and nutritious homemade meals instead of eating out," a housewife Daw Wah Wah Nwe shared her opinion.

Translated.

Officials concerned inspect tea shop whether it is hygienic or not.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Ayeya Pawsan paddy price inches higher to K1.4 million per 100 baskets

THE prices of Ayeya Pawsan paddy edged up to K1.4 million per 100 baskets (46 pounds), according to Ayeya Trade Centre.

On 1 August, Ayeya Pawsan paddy price was only K1,264,000 per 100 baskets. The price jumped up to K1.384 million per 100 baskets this week ended 21 August.

Therefore, the figure shows an increase of K120,000 per 46 pounds within three weeks.

Similarly, low-grade Emahta paddy varieties produced from Ayeyawady Region also rose to over K900,000 per 46 pounds on 20 August.

Low inventory, strong demand from millers and traders in Yangon and other domestic markets and strong demand on rice for exports elevated the paddy price.

Thriving paddy plants are seen in paddy field in monsoon.

Following higher paddy prices, rice prices have also gained accordingly. On 20 August, Pawsan rice prices reached the minimum of K58,000 per bag and the maximum of K90,000 per bag. Fast matured rice price (90 days) fetched K44,000 per bag. Meanwhile, the prices of low-grade rice varieties (Emahta, Ngasein and Meedon) moved in the range of K38,000-K50,000.

Starting from 3 August, the Myanmar Rice Federation, the Myanmar Rice Producers and Planters Association, the Myanmar Rice Millers' Association, and traders and brokers engaged in Wadan Rice Wholesale Centre and Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre have been working together to offer fair prices of Shwebo Pawsan and other rice varieties to the consumers at the Wadan Wholesale Centre in the working days between 9 am and 3:30 pm.

The offer prices are K75,000-K77,000 per bag of Shwebo Pawsan, K52,000-K55,000 per bag of Ayeyawady Pawsan, K55,000-K60,000 per bag of Kyapyan, and K35,000-K37,000 per bag of first-matured rice varieties (90 days) at the Wadan Rice Wholesale Centre.

Sales volume is limited to one bag per household. Those traders and retailers are not entitled to buy them.—NN/GNLM

Cabbage from PyinOoLwin, Aungban areas fetches record prices

Farmers load cabbage onto trucks to be sent to domestic market.

CABBAGE from PyinOoLwin and Aungban areas are offered higher price this month at the Thirimarlar green grocery market in Aungmyethazan District, Mandalay Region, according to cabbage depots in the market.

About five to six 12-wheel truckloads of cabbages are daily supplied to the market. The price is higher than the previous months. The maximum price of a cabbage was K150-K200 in the wholesale market last month. At the present time, the cabbage prices reached a high of K700-K800, said U Aung Moe Naing, an owner of Aung warehouse in Mandalay.

"Aungban and PyinOoLwin areas are the main supplier of cabbage for now. The declining acreage of cabbage pushed the prices up. The market sees a daily supply of five to six truckloads of cabbage. Demand from various regions also drove the price up. The growers do a roaring trade," he continued.

Along with high cabbage prices, the prices of other vegetables such as potato, cucumber, tomato, mustard, chili pepper, chayote, eggplant, kidney beans, podded peas and cauliflower went up as well. The market has a regular supply of fresh produce.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)/GNLM

Mineral exports down by $115 mln as of 12 August

THE value of Myanmar's mineral exports has declined by US$115 million as of 12 August since April 2022 in the current financial year 2022-2023 compared to the corresponding period last year.

The value of Myanmar's mineral exports sank to US$139 million in the past four and a half months from $254.448 million recorded in the same period of 2021-2022 mini-budget, the Ministry of Commerce's data indicated.

The coronavirus negative consequences led to the slump in mineral exports during the pandemic. At present, the majority of the mining businesses suspend operations in the rainy season.

Additionally, Lonkhin, Hpakant, Mawlu and Mawhan gem and jade mining businesses in Kachin State have been suspended with a view to supporting sustainable resource extraction for future generations, and ensuring safe and efficient operation of jade and gems mines, according to Myanmar Gems Enterprise.

Due to limited extraction of natural resources, exports of minerals had dropped significantly in the previous years. Investors can seek permits to mine for minerals such as gold, copper, lead and tin. The permits cover prospecting, exploration, and production.

Myanmar's mineral exports touched $895.6 million in the previous FY 2020-2021, showing a significant drop of $975.2 million compared with the year-ago period, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

About 80 per cent of mineral products are shipped to external markets through sea trade, while 20 of them are sent to neighbouring countries through border trade channels.—KK/GNLM

A gem merchant checks jade stones in the gems market.

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OPINION

Stay in a stable lifestyle to remove worries about inflation

INFLATION is the most useful usage at present as the people are now burdening the impact of inflation in the economic sector. Generally, many countries, especially developing and least developed countries may plunge into a situation of instability for a long time due to inflation.

Economists remark that inflation is a rate of prices for goods which rose in a specific period. Generally, hiking prices of various goods, as well as costs of families, depending on inflation. It can be analyzed how inflation can manipulate the market and lifestyle of the people in a specific period.

Every issue has a relevant answer. So, a long-lasting high inflation rate may be based on infirm monetary policy or wrongly tackling the monetary problems as well as loosed control of market management. For example, if printing currency notes are larger than the economic situation, the currency value will automatically decline. On one hand, it means that demand is low whereas prices are high.

As such, the central banks need to try to win the trust of the people. Only when the central banks win the public trust will they properly manage the monetary issues to be able to control the inflation rate. On the other hand, people should not too much worry about the high prices of commodities. If they avoid stockpiling foods at home and follow the instructions of the central banks, they can stay away from the high inflation rate.

Moreover, posing pressure on demand or supply may cause inflation in the market. In the current world, the oil price is high, consequently causing high production costs. Mostly, the global oil price manipulates all kinds of the market in both powerful and small countries. Moreover, the outbreak of natural disasters may trigger the situation of the market in disarray, putting pressure on the supply of goods and a decline in demand. As a result, prices of goods, as well as the inflation rate, are higher and higher.

Disability of the stock market, reduction of interest rate by the central bank and rising the government expense may cause pressure on the demand, triggering inflation. Moreover, worries of the people over the high prices of goods may be one of the facts of causing inflation.

As such, the government needs to analyze its policies which may be a factor to cause inflation. If the market is booming much with demand, the government needs to increase the interest rate so as to control the demand. It is because the monetary policy of the country is related to inflation.

As such, the central banks need to try to win the trust of the people. Only when the central banks win the public trust will they properly manage the monetary issues to be able to control the inflation rate. On the other hand, people should not too much worry about the high prices of commodities. If they avoid stockpiling foods at home and follow the instructions of the central banks, they can stay away from the high inflation rate.

■ ■ ■

ARTICLE
Weather Report

Study gives new insights into how long people with COVID-19 are infectious

A recent research on 57 persons with moderate COVID-19 determines how long people are infectious and when they may safely be released from isolation. The research, which is led by Imperial College London and published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine journal, is the first to unveil how long infectiousness lasts for after natural COVID-19 infection in the community.

Detailed daily tests

The study team conducted detailed daily tests from when people were exposed to SARS-CoV-2 to look at how much infectious virus they were shedding throughout their infection. The findings suggest that in people who develop symptoms, the majority are not infectious before symptoms develop, but two-thirds of cases are still infectious five days after their symptoms begin.

They also suggest that while lateral flow tests do not detect the start of infectiousness well, they more accurately identify when someone is no longer infectious and can safely leave isolation. Study author, Professor Ajit Lalvani, Director of the NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Respiratory Infections at Imperial, said: "We closely monitored people in their homes from when they were first exposed to the virus, capturing the moment when they developed infection through until they ceased being infectious.

Before this study we were missing half of the picture about infectiousness, because it's hard to know when people are first exposed to SARS-CoV-2 and when they first become infectious.

By using special daily tests to measure infectious virus (not just PCR) and daily symptom records we were able to define the window in which people are infectious.

This is fundamental to controlling any pandemic and has not been previously defined for any respiratory infection in the community."

Dynamics of Omicron infections

"Combining our results with what we know about the dynamics of Omicron infections, we believe that the duration of infectiousness we've observed is broadly generalisable to current SARS-CoV-2 variants, though their infectious window may be a bit shorter.

Our evidence can be used to inform infection control policies and self-isolation guidance to help reduce the transmission of SARS-CoV-2."

Co-author, Dr Seran Hakki also from Imperial's National Heart and Lung Institute, said: "There is no longer a legal requirement to self-isolate if you test positive for COVID-19, but most people still want to isolate until they are not infectious. Despite this, there is lack of clarity around how to come out of self-isolation safely.

Our study is the first to assess how long infectiousness lasts for, using real life evidence from naturally acquired infection.

Our findings can thus inform guidance as to how to safely end self-isolation." She adds: "If you test positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms after being in contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19, you should try to stay at home and minimise contact with other people." Most complete picture of the course of infectiousness to date.

How long someone is infectious

Previous studies estimating how long someone is infectious for have been a laboratory-based human challenge study or have used mathematical modelling. The new study followed people who were exposed to someone with PCR-confirmed COVID-19 in their home between September 2020 and March 2021 (pre-Alpha SARS-CoV-2 virus and Alpha variant waves) and May-October 2021 (Delta variant wave), including some who were vaccinated and others who were not. Participants completed daily questionnaires about their symptoms and did daily nasal and throat swabs that were sent to a laboratory for PCR-testing.

PCR-positive samples were then tested to determine if they contained infectious virus and how infectious the virus was. The researchers also completed 652 lateral flow tests on the samples to determine how accurate lateral flow tests were at identifying actual infectiousness as opposed to PCR-positivity.

Rapid at-home Covid-19 test kits are handed out to people at Chelsea Community Connections in Chelsea, Massachusetts, on 17 December 2021. **PHOTO: JOSEPH PREZIOSO /AFP**

Samples from a total of 57 people were used, but not all were included in some analyses because of some participants not sharing information about their symptoms, some people not shedding culturable virus, and some people shedding infectious virus before or beyond the sampling period. As a result, the duration of infectiousness was measured in 42 people. There were 38 people with a confirmed date of when their symptoms started and three were asymptomatic.

Real-world timeline of infectiousness

The study found that the overall median amount of time that people were infectious was five days. Though 24 out of 38 people tested positive on a PCR test before they developed symptoms of COVID-19 this does not indicate infectiousness and most people only became infectious after they developed symptoms. Only one in five participants were infectious before symptom onset (7 out of 35 cases). Although levels of infectiousness reduced during the course of infection, 22 of 34 cases continued to shed infectious virus five days after symptoms began, and eight of these people continued to shed infectious virus at seven days. Current NHS guidance suggests that people should try to stay at home and avoid contact with others for just five days.

Safely self-isolating

To help understand when people may be able to safely leave isolation, the researchers compared levels of infectiousness with lateral flow test results.

SOURCE: ANI

■

EU backs new monkeypox jab method to stretch supply

THE EU's drug regulator on Friday authorised a new technique for monkeypox injections that will allow up to five times more people to be inoculated as supplies of the vaccine run short.

The jab can now be given just below the top layer of skin, or intradermally, instead of fully below the skin, or subcutaneously, as it currently is, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) said in a statement.

The new method uses just one fifth of the amount of Imvanex vaccine but produced similar levels of antibodies, although there was a greater risk of skin irritation, the Amsterdam-based watchdog said.

People queue in Lille, northern France, on 8 August to receive the monkeypox vaccine. **PHOTO: FRANCOIS LO PRESTI/AFP**

"National authorities may decide as a temporary measure to use Imvanex as an intradermal injection at a lower dose to protect at-risk individuals during the current monkeypox outbreak, while supply of the vaccine remains limited," the EMA said.

EU Commissioner Stella Kyriakides said the decision was "extremely important as it allows the vaccination of five times as many people with the vaccine supply we have".

"This ensures greater access to vaccination for citizens at risk and healthcare workers," she said in a statement.

While monkeypox had long been endemic in parts of West and Central Africa, since May there have been outbreaks across the world including in Europe and the United States.

'Similar levels of antibodies'

Manufactured by the Danish drug-maker Bavarian Nordic, the Imvanex vaccine was originally approved for use against smallpox, which was eradicated worldwide in 1980.

But studies showed it is also highly effective against the less virulent monkeypox, sparking a worldwide scramble for what is now the only authorised jab against the disease.

The EMA formally approved the extension of its use on 22 July saying it should be administered using deeper, subcutaneous injections.

But on Friday the watchdog said its emergency task force had now found that "when given intradermally, a smaller dose of the vaccine can be used. Given the currently limited supply of the vaccine, this means that more people can be vaccinated".

The task force studied data from a clinical trial involving around 500 adults comparing both kinds of injection.

"People receiving the vaccine intradermally received one fifth (0.1 ml) of the subcutaneous dose (0.5 ml) but produced similar levels of antibodies to those who received the higher subcutaneous dose," the EMA said.

It warned however that there was a "higher risk of local reactions" such as longer-lasting redness and thickening or discoloration of the skin after the shallower injections.

Bavarian Nordic has said it is looking at partnerships with other firms and organisations to "further increase the manufacturing capacity in order to improve global access to the vaccine".

SOURCE: AFP

■

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 21 August 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 22 August 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kachin State, fairly widespread in Sagaing, Mandalay, and Magway regions and Chin State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi regions and Kayin and Mon states and isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw , Mandalay, Bago, and Yangon regions and (Southern and Eastern)Shan and Kayah states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi regions and Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 August 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

NATIONAL/SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Illegal foodstuffs, cosmetics, consumer goods, construction materials, industrial materials, restricted chemical, vehicles seized

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

Under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal trade special task force of Mandalay Region, on duty investigation team from 16th-mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint performed inspection tasks at 21st mile and 5th furlong point of PyinOoLwin-Mandalay road on 20 August. They seized 10 Compound Multi-gas detector Model BH-4, without official documents, at estimated value of K2 million and the action was taken under the Customs Law.

Photo shows seized 10 compound multi-gas detector model BH-4 in Mandalay on 20 August.

Similarly, under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal trade special task force of Kayin State, on duty team investigated at Kawkareik (Tadakyo) checkpoint on 20 August. The team seized 40 bags of Ammonium Nitrate, which is a restricted chemical, at an estimated value of K1.2 million from an express bus, which is driven from Myawady to Yangon. And foodstuffs and cosmetics, without official documents, at an estimated value of K16.705 million and a Sunlone express vehicle, worth K80 million carrying the goods. An inspection team checked them at the Thanlwin bridge combined checkpoint. They seized consumer goods at estimated value of K1.85 million, without official documents. Total worth of seizures amounted to K99.755 million and the action was taken under the Customs Law.

Furthermore, under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal trade special task force of Kayin State, a combined team searched. The team searched a truck, driven from Myawady to Yangon, at Kawkareik (Tadakyo) combined check point on 21 August. They found 320 boxes of ceramic tile worth K2.560 million without ID and foodstuffs estimate K2.500 million. The combined team found a truck at Myawady-Thingan-Nyinaung road. They seized foodstuffs worth K24 million without official documents and a Canter at estimated value of K15 million. Total estimated value K44,060,000 were seized and the action was taken under the Customs Law.Therefore, 11 cases (at estimated value of K145,815,000) were taken action on 20 and 21 August, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. —MNA

NASA unveils landing sites for manned Moon mission

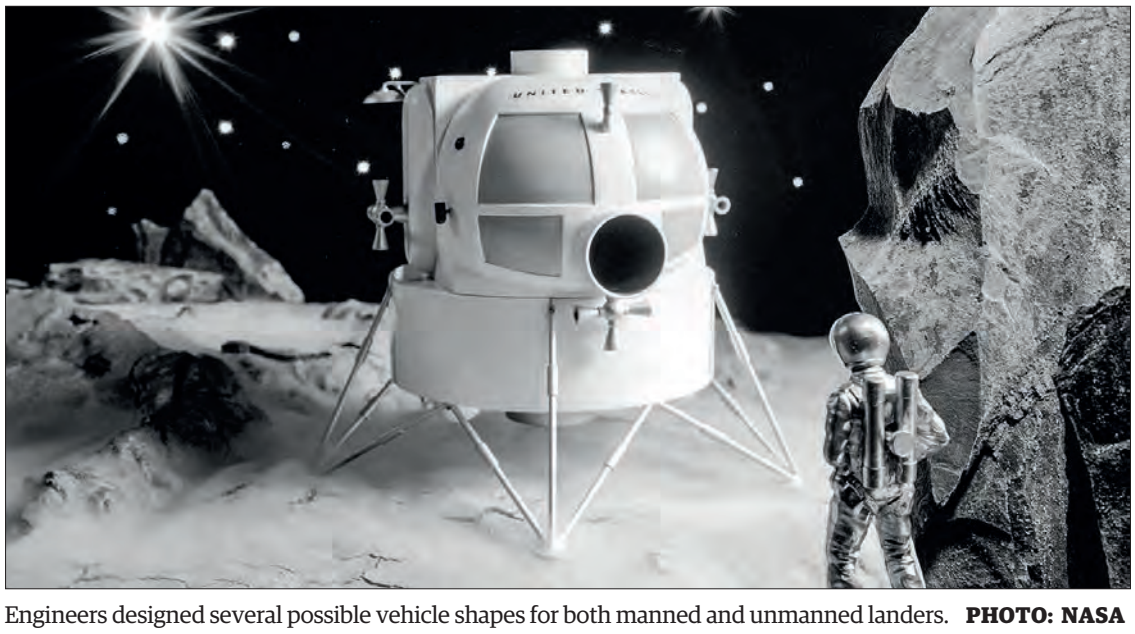
NASA announced Friday that it has selected 13 possible regions at the South Pole of the Moon as potential future landing sites for its Artemis III mission, a project aiming to send astronauts back to the Moon in 2025.

"Selecting these regions means we are one giant leap closer to returning humans to the Moon for the first time since Apollo," said Mark Kirasich, deputy associate administrator for the Artemis Campaign Development Division at NASA Headquarters in Washington.

NASA said each of these regions is located within six degrees of latitude of the lunar South Pole, an area water ice is believed to exist in permanently shadowed craters and could provide continuous access to sunlight throughout a 6.5-day period, the planned duration of the Artemis III surface mission.

The Apollo missions more than 50 years ago went to the equatorial regions of the Moon, where there are long stretches of daylight, for as long as two weeks. The South Pole may only have only a few days of light, making the missions more challenging and limiting the windows when NASA can launch.

"Several of the proposed sites within the regions are located among some of the oldest parts of the Moon, and together with the permanently shadowed regions, provide the opportunity to learn about the history of the Moon through previously unstudied lunar materials," said Sarah Noble, Artemis lunar science lead for NASA's Planetary Science Division. Access to ice resource and sunlight is critical for a long-term stay at the Moon because it provides a power source and minimizes temperature variations. Unlike the Apollo missions which concluded in 1972, Artemis is designed to create a permanent presence on and around the Moon. — Xinhua



Engineers designed several possible vehicle shapes for both manned and unmanned landers. **PHOTO: NASA**

Tobacco, alcohol main causes of cancer worldwide, study finds

Young woman drinking alcohol and smoking in bar. **PHOTO: MARCO VERCH/AFP**

NEARLY half of cancers worldwide can be traced back to a known risk factor, primarily tobacco or alcohol, a huge global study found on Friday, which said that behavioural changes can help reduce the threat of disease.

The study -- published in the Lancet and conducted as part of a vast research programme funded by the Bill Gates Foundation -- concluded that 44.4 per cent of cancer deaths worldwide were attributable to a known risk factor.

The Global Burden of Disease Study is a comprehensive regional and Global research programme involving thousands of researchers from most countries across the world.

The study analysed the impact of 34 risk factors and confirmed what is already widely known — that tobacco is by far the biggest contributory factor to cancer, accounting for 33.9 per cent of cases, followed by alcohol with 7.4 per cent.

More than half of all male cancer deaths were attributable to such risk factors, and over a third of female deaths, the study found.

And since "the leading risk factors contributing to Global cancer burden in 2019 were behavioural... reducing exposure to these modifiable risk factors would decrease cancer mortality" worldwide, the study concluded.

That also meant greater emphasis should be placed on prevention, the study found. — AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

MEDICAL RESEARCH NEWS

Rat race: What rodent drivers can teach us about mental health

THE girls can't hide their excitement as they're brought out to the racing arena.

"Black Tail" is up first, taking a few seconds to sniff her surroundings before placing her paw on a lever and zooming away. After storming to the finish line, she devours a well-earned Froot Loop hanging on a "treat tree."

Black Tail is one of the University of Richmond's rat drivers — a group that first dazzled the world with their ability to operate tiny cars back in 2019.

Now, the rodents serve as ambassadors for the school's Behavioral Neuroscience Laboratory, headed by Professor Kelly Lambert.

"It gets people's attention about how clever and teachable these animals are," explained Lambert, who has to balance her affection for the furry speedsters with the need for scientific detachment -- naming them only by the Sharpie colors that mark their tails.

The idea of racing rodents started out as a playful challenge from a colleague.

But far from being a novelty act, the animals are part of a boundary-pushing project exploring the ways in which environmental enrichment sculpts the brain — and could in turn hold potential for solving human mental health challenges.

Rats that learned to drive had biomarkers of greater resilience and lowered stress – which Lambert suggests might be linked to the satisfaction of acquiring a new skill, like a human mastering a new piano piece. **PHOTO: AFP**

For Lambert, one of the great failings of modern medicine has been its inability to cure mental illness through drugs, even as pharmaceutical companies have reaped in huge profits.

These pharmaceutical approaches have faced increasing scrutiny since a landmark study published in July questioned the theory that chemical imbalances, especially a lack of serotonin, cause depression.—AFP

2022 MONKEYPOX OUTBREAK

Indonesia records first case of monkeypox virus

Vehicles drive past an electronic billboard (top L) showing COVID-19 coronavirus related images as they crowd a main road leading out of the capital during the early evening rush hour in Jakarta on 30 November 2021. **PHOTO: BAY ISMOYO /AFP**

INDONESIA recorded its first case of monkeypox in a 27-year-old man who returned from travelling overseas, the country's Health Ministry said on Saturday.

The World Health Organisation designated the outbreak of the virus an emergency last month – something it reserves for diseases of highest concern.

Indonesian Health Ministry spokesman Mohammad Syahril said the patient had a "high awareness and knowledge of the disease".

"So when he got the symptoms, he immediately checked it (with) the doctor.

The result came (back) positive within a day," Syahril told reporters, adding that the man was now in isolation in the capital Jakarta.

Symptoms of monkeypox – which is endemic in parts of Central and Western Africa – include lesions, fever, muscle ache, and chills.

It has only been fatal in rare cases.

The patient arrived in Indonesia on 8 August and developed symptoms of fever and rashes a week later. —AFP

Cuba's first monkeypox case recorded in Italian tourist

CUBA reported its first case of monkeypox Saturday in an Italian tourist who is in "critical" condition, the health ministry said.

The patient, who arrived in Cuba Monday and was hospitalized three days later, "is in critical condition with his life in danger," the health ministry said in a note broadcasted by National Television News.

After feeling unwell Wednesday, the patient's health worsened and by Thursday he was transferred to the hospital for "intensive treatment, arriving in cardiac arrest from which he recovered."

The tourist had stayed in a rental house and "visited several places in the country's western provinces," the ministry said. It did not provide the patient's age or other details.

The ministry said it would carry out an approved protocol for dealing with monkeypox.—AFP

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE

Philippines logs 3,715 new COVID-19 cases, 47 more deaths

THE Philippines reported 3,715 new COVID-19 infections on Saturday, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in the Southeast Asian country to 3,852,170.

The Department of Health (DOH) said the number of active cases fell to 36,146, and 47 more patients died from COVID-19 complications, taking the death toll to 61,308.

Metro Manila tallied 1,185 new cases. The Philippine capital region of over 13 million people remains under alert level 1, the lowest of the 5-tier COVID-19 alert levels.

The Philippines reported its highest COVID-19 single-day tally of 39,004 new cases on Jan. 15. — Xinhua

Japan logs record over 260,000 daily COVID-19 cases

JAPAN reported 261,029 new COVID-19 cases nationwide on Friday, setting a record high for the second day in a row, as the country faces the seventh wave of infections.

The daily tally eclipsed the previous record of 255,534 cases registered on Thursday, with 19 of the country's 47 prefectures seeing record high numbers of daily infections, including Hokkaido with 8,632, Nagasaki with 4,611, Miyagi with 4,567, Hiroshima with 8,775 and Fukuoka with 15,726.

The number of infected people hospitalized with severe symptoms came to 627, up 17 from Thursday, with 294 new fatalities confirmed in the country.

The Tokyo metropolitan government reported 27,676 new cases, an increase of 223 from Thursday. Twenty-eight new deaths related to COVID-19 were reported in the capital.

The health ministry's coronavirus experts said at a meeting on Thursday that Japan is continuing to see "the highest infection levels so far," and warned that COVID-19 deaths could increase further.

Japan reported 1,395,301 cases in the week from 8 August to 14 August, the highest weekly number of new cases in the world for the fourth week in a row, followed by South Korea and the United States, local media Kyodo News reported. — Xinhua

PCR tests for COVID-19 are offered at Haneda Airport in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

ECONOMY
WORLD

NEWS IN BRIEF

Travel plans disrupted in UK as strikes bring transport to halt

AT Central London railway terminus Paddington on Friday, transport disruption was a headache for Jacob, a passenger from Colchester in southeast England. He was scheduled to travel on Saturday but had to make it one day earlier because of ongoing strikes. "It's really inconvenient," he told Xinhua. "It means that people can't travel. People can't get to work or holiday or whatever they're doing. It's disruptive to everyone."

This summer, when many Britons opted for a getaway and transport hubs across the United Kingdom (UK) were already under pressure, another series of strikes threw public transport into further chaos this week.

More than 50,000 workers from railway, tube and bus networks went on strike over pay and working conditions from Thursday well into the weekend. – Xinhua

German producer prices rise faster than ever in July

PRODUCER prices in Germany rose at a record pace in July, with industrial products 37.2 per cent more expensive year on year, the country's Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) said on Friday.

Energy prices more than doubled, and continued to be "mainly responsible" for the surge in factory gate prices, Destatis said. Without the rise in energy costs, producer prices in Germany would only be up 14.6 per cent. Natural gas prices saw a particularly sharp increase of 163.8 per cent. For German industry, gas prices in July almost tripled year on year, while power plant operators saw prices more than double. Last month, the German government saved the country's largest gas importer Uniper from insolvency by taking a 30 per cent stake in the company. Further aid was also given by extending an existing credit line from 2 to 9 billion euros (9.09 billion US dollars).– Xinhua

Projects totaling 1.5 bln yuan inked at China tea expo

Villagers pick tea leaves at a tea garden in Dawan Village of Jinzhai County, east China's Anhui Province, 11 May 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/DU YU**

SOME 30 projects, collectively worth over 1.52 billion yuan (around 224 million U.S. dollars), have been signed at an ongoing tea industry expo in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province.

The 15th Anhui International Tea Industry Expo kicked off on Thursday in Hefei and will last for four days. More than 600 tea companies and over 1,600 buyers across the country are promoting and purchasing tea-related products at an exhibition center covering 33,000 square meters.

In 2021, the tea plantation area in Anhui covered 213,330 hectares, and its comprehensive production value neared 61.5 billion yuan. Anhui ranked second among China's provincial-level regions in terms of tea export volume, and more than 3 million people were engaged in the tea industry last year in the province, according to the expo's organizing committee.— Xinhua

Over half of US companies to lay off employees: Bloomberg

MORE than half of all U.S. companies are planning to lay off employees, the Bloomberg reported on Thursday, citing a survey by consultant PwC.

The survey, which polled more than 700 US executives and board members across a range of industries, found half of respondents are reducing headcount, and 52 per cent have implemented hiring freezes.

More than 40 per cent companies are rescinding job offers, the report added.

The layoffs and hiring freezes are becoming more widespread in the United States, and notable companies including Walmart, Apple and Oracle have announced cutbacks in recent weeks, the report said.— Xinhua

An employee cleans the grounds behind the closed gates of Disneyland Park on the first day of the closure of Disneyland and Disney California Adventure theme parks, in Anaheim, California, on 14 March 2020. **PHOTO: DAVID MCNEW /AFP**

UN emergency fund injects 10 mln USD to help Somalia cope with drought

UNITED Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths has released 10 million US dollars from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to ramp up emergency aid in Somalia, which is looking into the abyss after its worst drought in 40 years, according to a press release issued Friday.

Somalis who have lost everything to the drought often end up in one of thousands of makeshift settlements like this one in Luglow, outside the southern town of Kismayo. **PHOTO: OBI ANYADIKE/ THE NEW HUMANITARIAN/FILE**

For the first time since 2017, famine-like conditions have been declared in the country, with 213,000 people living in famine-like conditions and 7.8 million people acutely food insecure.

"The clock is running down for people in Somalia. If we don't step up in force now, it'll run out and the malnourished children are likely to die first," warned the UN humanitarian chief.

"This new funding will help humanitarian agencies get supplies and staff in place as soon as humanly possible to help avert a further catastrophe in Somalia. But it is no solution. We need all hands on deck and all resources mobilized to prevent famine," Griffiths said.

Over 1 million Somalis have been displaced by the drought since 2021, and 1.5 million children under age 5 are malnourished. They include 386,400 who will require emergency nutrition treatment to survive.

Humanitarians have reached over 4 million people with CERF funds in the first half of the year, and they continue to scale up to prevent the worst.

With this latest funding, CERF has allocated a total of 41 million dollars to the drought response in Somalia this year.— Xinhua

BIZ WORLD

Cambodia attracts over 740,000 int'l tourists in first 7 months

CAMBODIA has attracted more than 740,000 international visitors in the first seven months of 2022, an increase of 560 per cent compared to the same period last year, the Ministry of Tourism said in a news release on Saturday.

Tourism Minister Thong Khon said the re-opening of all socioeconomic activities has boosted growth at some major tourist destinations in capital city Phnom Penh, the cultural province of Siem Reap and the coastal province of Preah Sihanouk.

"In the first seven months of 2022, we have received more than 740,000 international tourists, up 560 percent compared to the same period in 2021 during the COVID-19 crisis," he said.

During the January-July period this year, neighboring Vietnam topped the chart of international tourist arrivals to the kingdom, followed by Thailand and China.

Cambodia is hoping to attract at least 1 million international tourists in 2022, much higher than only 200,000 in 2021, Khon said, adding that the number will hit 2 million in 2023 and reach the pre-COVID-19 level in 2026 or 2027.

In the pre-pandemic era, the kingdom welcomed 6.6 million international tourists in 2019, generating 4.92 billion U.S. dollars in revenue, according to the ministry.

Tourism is one of four pillars supporting the economy in the Southeast Asian nation.— Xinhua

Sambor Prei Kuk temple is a World Heritage Site. **PHOTO: KT/VALINDA AIM**

Art market pushes on with rocky crypto romance

THE closest most people get to owning a world-famous artwork is to buy a cheap poster from a gallery, but art dealers are determined to harness technology to draw in new collectors.

Anaida Schneider, a former banker based in Switzerland, is among those promoting new ownership schemes — for a small fee, investors can buy a digital chunk of a painting and share in the profits when she sells.

"Not everyone has $1 million to invest," she told AFP. "So I came up with the idea to split, to make like a mutual fund but on the blockchain."

Each buyer gets an NFT, the unique digital tokens created and stored on the blockchain, the computer code that underpins cryptocurrencies.

Although cryptoassets have been routed this year with plunging values, collapsing projects and widening scandals, the NFT art sector has weathered the storm better than other parts of the crypto world.— AFP

Cameroon bans skin whitening products

CAMEROONIAN Minister of Public health Manaouda Malachie on Friday banned skin whitening products in the country.

The minister said in a statement that importation, production and distribution of cosmetic products containing three bleaching agents — hydroquinone and its derivatives and corticosteroids — have been prohibited in the Central African nation.

The minister last week suspended a drinkable skin whitening product that had become popular in the country, warning that substances contained in the drink could be poisonous.

Products that are not regulated could cause skin cancer, skin irritation or other health risks, he warned. The Central African nation has seen a rise in the number of people using skin whitening products in recent months, but medical experts and dermatologists have warned the practice can be potentially dangerous.— Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V NEGAR VOY.NO. (SCY1136)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NEGAR VOY. NO. (SCY1136)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-8-2022** 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

On track: Cairo metro employs Egypt's first women train drivers

AS it prepares to expand to serve a population now exceeding 20 million, the Cairo metro has recruited Egypt's first female train drivers, a novelty in a country where few women have formal jobs.

Since April, commuters on the network's newest line have seen women take the controls in the driver's cab, with reactions ranging from raised eyebrows to outright disapproval, according to the two pioneers.

Egyptian women have had the right to vote and stand for office since 1956, but patriarchal legislation and a male-dominated culture have severely limited personal rights.

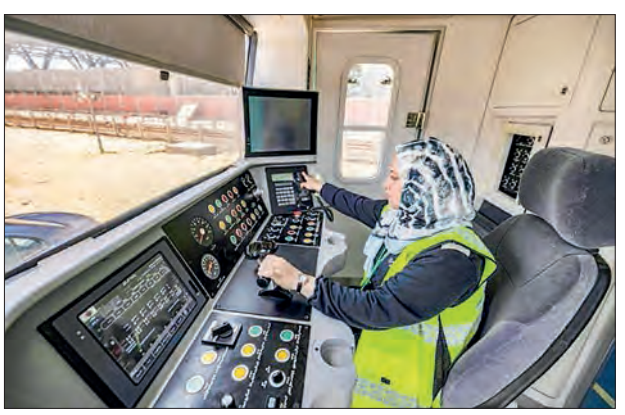
The Cairo metro itself provides reserved carriages for women who do not wish to ride with men in an attempt to provide protection against sexual harassment.

Business graduate and mother of two Hind Omar said she had rushed to apply to be a train driver, eager to be a pioneer in a country where only 14.3 per cent of women are in formal employment, according to 2020 figures.

"I have several thousand lives in my hands every day," the 30-year-old told AFP, proudly wearing a fluorescent jacket emblazoned with the RATP-Dev logo of the foreign operations arm of the Paris metro beneath her black and white headscarf.

Omar acknowledged that she had been lucky to have the support of her family.

"My parents found it strange at first but they ended up supporting me," she said.— AFP



Hind Omar, shown in a full-size train simulator, is one of the first two women hired to take the controls of trains on Cairo's metro. **PHOTO: AFP**

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Estee Lauder Cosmetics Ltd., a company incorporated and existing under the laws of Canada, and having its principal office at 161 Commander Blvd Agincourt, Ontario CANADA M1S3K9 hereby declares that the Company is the Owner and Sole proprietor of the following Trademark:

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Ex-president dos Santos' body lands in Angola

THE body of Angola's Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who died in Spain last month, arrived in Luanda on Saturday, ending a weeks-long feud over the repatriation of the ex-president's corpse.

A plane carrying the remains landed in the Angolan capital from Barcelona in the evening, AFP reporters at the scene said.

Only a few dozen people had gathered at Luanda's airport to welcome the former president's casket.

"I was told he was going to arrive, so I came to greet him. It was a nice welcome," said Wilson Miguel, one of those in attendance.

Several of dos Santos' children and his widow, Ana Paula, were also present. Ana Paula appeared teary as she got into a vehicle outside the airport.

Some people clapped as the coffin wrapped in an Angolan flag was taken away followed by a convoy of black cars.

More came out on the streets to watch the convoy pass by. Some cheered, others chanted "Ze Du!", dos Santos's nickname, footage posted on social media showed.

Dos Santos, who ruled the oil-rich African nation with an iron first from 1979 to 2017, died in Barcelona on 8 July at the age of 79 after suffering a cardiac arrest.—AFP

Cuba sees surge in foreign tourists, hopes for more Russians

Tourists enjoy the sunshine at Jibacoa Beach, in Cuba's Mayabeque Province, on 1 August 2022; the country says tourism is recovering from a dropoff the last two years. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE number of foreign tourists visiting Cuba so far this year is up nearly sixfold from the 2021 period but remains below pre-pandemic levels, the government said Saturday.

Officials say they are hoping to see more Russian tourists once flights canceled because of Covid-19 and the Ukraine war are restored this year.

The National Statistics Office (ONEI) said 834,891 tourists visited the island from January through July, compared to 141,293 visits in the first seven months of 2021.

International tourism represents Cuba's second-leading economic activity, after the sale of medical services, but the pandemic, along with continuing travel curbs from the US, saw the numbers collapse in 2020 and 2021.

The total number of foreign visitors plunged from 4.2 million in 2019 to one million a year later.—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Car bomb kills daughter of Kremlin hardline ideologue

THE daughter of Alexader Dugin, a hardline Russian ideologue close to President Vladimir Putin, has been killed in a car bombing on Moscow's outskirts, authorities said on Sunday.

According to family members quoted by Russian media, Dugin — a vocal supporter of Kremlin's offensive in Ukraine — was the likely target of the blast as his daughter borrowed his car at the last minute.

Daria Dugina, born in 1992, was killed when a bomb placed in her Toyota Land Cruiser went off as she drove on a highway near the village of Bolshie Vyzyomy, some 40 kilometers (25 miles) outside Moscow, Russia's Investigative Committee said in a statement.

Dugina died on the scene and a homicide investigation has been opened, said the committee, which probes major crime cases in Russia.

Dugin, sometimes called "Putin's Rasputin" or "Putin's brain," is an outspoken Russian ultranationalist intellectual.—AFP

12 wounded in Russia strikes on south Ukraine: prosecutor

Russian forces have struck the city of Voznesensk, located near the South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant (NPP). **PHOTO: AFP**

TWELVE Ukrainians, including three children, were wounded Saturday after Russian forces attacked an apartment block and several houses in the city of Voznesensk, near a key nuclear plant, prosecutors said.

"According to preliminary information, 12 people including three children were injured. Two children are in a serious condition," the prosecutor's office said on Telegram.

Regional governor Vitaly Kim had earlier said on Telegram that nine people were injured, including four children aged between three and 17, and were "all in serious condition".

Voznesensk is located about 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the nuclear plant at Pivdennoukrainsk, Ukraine's second largest, and 70 kilometres from Mykolaiv, the regional capital.

A Russian strike in the 30 kilometres zone around the plant "is another cynical act of nuclear terrorism by Russia", Ukraine's nuclear operator Energoatom wrote on Telegram. —AFP

Russian crops, fertilizer must move 'unimpeded': UN chief

The Joint Coordination Center oversees the implementation of the Ukrainian grain export agreement signed in July by Kyiv and Moscow with the United Nations and Tűrkiye as guarantors. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

RUSSIAN fertilizers and agricultural prod ucts must be able to reach world markets "unimpeded" or a global food crisis could strike as early as next year, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said Saturday.

"It is important that all governments and the private sector cooperate to bring them to market," he said from the Joint Coordination Center.

The JCC oversees the implementation of the Ukrainian grain export agreement signed in July by Kyiv and Moscow with the United Nations and Türkiye as guarantors.

The agreement also guarantees Russia the right to export its agricultural products and fertilisers despite Western sanctions.

"What we see here in Istanbul and in Odessa is only the more visible part of the solution. The other part of this package deal is the unimpeded access to the global markets of Russian food and fertiliser, which are not subject to sanctions," Guterres said, adding that despite this, Russian fertilizer and agricultural exports still faced "obstacles." "Without fertilizer in 2022, there may not be enough food in 2023. Getting more food and fertilizer out of Ukraine and Russia is crucial to further calm commodity markets and lower prices for consumers," he said.—AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Japan mulls long-range missile upgrades due to China threat: report

JAPAN is considering the deployment of more than 1,000 long-range cruise missiles to increase its ability to counter growing regional threats from China, local newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun reported on Sunday.

The country plans to upgrade its existing surface-to-ship missiles to extend their range from 100 kilometres (62 miles) to about 1,000 kilometres (620 miles), which would be enough to reach Chinese coastal areas as well as North Korea, the newspaper reported, citing unnamed sources.

Upgrades would also need to be made to allow Japan's existing ships and aircraft to be able to fire the new missiles, which could hit land-based targets, the newspaper reported.

The missiles would be deployed in and around the southwestern Kyushu region and on the small islands that dot Japan's southwestern waters near Taiwan, Yomiuri reported.

Japanese officials could not immediately be reached for comment on the issue.

The plan is part of Japan's attempt to narrow the missile capacity gap with China, while also addressing threats from North Korea, the newspaper said.

Japan's military is not officially recognised under the country's post-war constitution and defence spending is limited to funding nominally defensive capabilities.—AFP

The country plans to upgrade its existing surface-to-ship missiles to extend their range from 100 kilometres (62 miles) to about 1,000 kilometres (620 miles). **PHOTO: AFP**

UK leadership hopeful Truss downplays prospect of recession

Liz Truss (pic) has vowed immediate tax cuts rather than direct financial handouts to help people struggling to pay their surging bills, drawing stinging criticism from Rishi Sunak, his allies, and others. **PHOTO: AFP**

TORY leadership favourite Liz Truss on Sunday downplayed the prospect of a UK recession, while the man tipped to be her finance minister vowed "help is coming" over the soaring cost of living.

Truss, the frontrunner in polls to beat rival Rishi Sunak and become Britain's next prime minister, pledged in an interview to lead a "small business and self-employed revolution" if in power.

"There is too much talk that there's going to be a recession," Truss told The Sun on Sunday tabloid.

"I don't believe that's inevitable. We can unleash opportunity here in Britain." She argued that the United Kingdom should create the economic conditions to produce "the next Google or the next Facebook".—AFP

Somalis anxiously await news of loved ones as hotel siege ends

SOMALIS anxiously waited to know the fate of their missing relatives on Sunday as emergency workers attempted to clear debris after a deadly 30-hour siege by Al-Shabaab jihadists at a hotel in the capital Mogadishu.

At least 13 civilians lost their lives and dozens were wounded in the gun and bomb attack by the Al-Qaeda-linked group that began on Friday evening and lasted over a day, leaving many feared trapped inside the popular Hayat Hotel.

On Sunday morning, the area surrounding the hotel was quiet and the roads blocked by a heavy security presence as emergency workers and bomb disposal experts sought to clear the premises of any explosives and remove rubble.—AFP

The attack underscores the challenge of trying to crush the 15-year insurrection by Al-Shabaab. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Abandoned yacht carrying guns sparks terror scare in India

AN unmanned yacht carrying assault rifles and ammo triggered a brief security scare after it mysteriously washed up on the Indian coast, officials said.

Three AK-47 rifles and an ammunition cache were recovered from the Lady Han after it drifted ashore Thursday in a sparsely populated corner of western Maharashtra state, close to the location of a deadly seaborne terror attack in 2008.

Anti-terrorism investigators seized the UK-flagged boat after it was spotted by fishermen, but authorities established later that day the vessel belonged to an Australian couple who abandoned it at sea after an engine failure on July 26. British maritime security company Neptune P2P Group claimed ownership of the weapons and said it had been engaged to protect the vessel against pirates during its voyage through the Indian Ocean, Gulf of Aden and Southern Red Sea.

"We would also like to thank the Indian authorities for their investigation and handling of the matter and remain on hand to fully cooperate with them and secure the retrieval of our security equipment," the firm said in a Thursday statement.—AFP

Thai nightclub inferno death toll reaches 20

THE death toll from a Thai nightclub fire has risen to 20, health officials said, as victims continue to receive medical treatment.

The blaze broke out August 5 at Mountain B Club in Chonburi province - roughly 150km southeast of Bangkok. Authorities found 13 charred bodies inside the venue. Seven others have since died from their injuries, with the latest fatality a 50-year-old man, Chonburi provincial public health officials said.

All the victims were Thai nationals.

There are 25 injured who are still receiving medical treatment in hospitals, with nine on ventilators, the local health authority said.

Flammable acoustic foam on the walls of the club accelerated the blaze and it took firefighters more than three hours to bring it under control. A Chonburi province senior police officer confirmed today that the club owners, a father and son, have been charged with causing death through recklessness and operating a pub without a licence.—AFP

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Japan mulls long-range missile upgrades due to China threat: report

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Ayeyawady United player (red) dribbles the ball against Myawady player during their Myanmar National League Week-9 match at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 21 August 2022. **PHOTO:MNL**

Naing Zin Htet's hat-trick helps Myawady FC win over Ayeyawady

THE second day of the Myanmar National League 2022 Week-9 continued yesterday at the Thuwunna Stadium, where the Myawady FC won against the Ayeyawady United 3-1.

This season, the Myawady FC, which has shown its strength, defeated the Ayeyawady and secured the third place after the first round.

The Myawady FC scored two goals in the first 12 minutes of the game and was able to lead the game, and won with a hat-trick by Naing Zin Htet.

If the Ayeyawady team wins this match, they will be able to stand in third place in the standing table, but they suffered a loss. Both teams used core players from the start.

At the beginning of the game, taking an advantage of the slowness of the Ayeyawady United, the Myawady FC played a high attack, and Naing Zin Htet scored two consecutive goals in the 4th and 12th minutes.

After conceding two goals, the Ayeyawady United tried to equalize and in the 21st minute, defender Zaw Lin scored an equalizer.

In the 55th minute, Naing Zin Htet scored a hat-trick and the third goal for the Myawady FC. The Ayeyawady team tried hard to score one more equalizing goal, but the Myawady goalkeeper Tun Nandar Oo was able to save with skill.

After all the matches of the first round, the Myawady FC scored 18 points while the Ayeyawady scored 14 points.

Rakhine United will take on Mahar United today as the third day match of the Myanmar National League Week-9.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

(a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.

(b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

(c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

(a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

(b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.

(c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

(a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.

(b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.

(c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Usyk beats Joshua by split decision in heavyweight title fight

UKRAINE'S Oleksandr Usyk won his rematch against Anthony Joshua by split decision to retain his world heavyweight titles in just his fourth fight in the division in Saudi Arabia on Saturday.

Usyk, 35, who dismantled the defending champion in London last year, faced an improved Joshua but outboxed him once again to set up a potential unification bout with Britain's Tyson Fury.

"I want to thank God for the help that he gave me today," Usyk told the crowd at the 12,000-seat King Abdullah Sports City Arena in Jeddah.

"I give this victory to my country, to my family, to my team and to all the military who are defending the country," he added.—AFP

Inter stroll past Spezia on Lukaku's San Siro return

INTER made it two from two in Serie A with Saturday's comfortable 3-0 win over Spezia on Romelu Lukaku's return to the San Siro, while Domenico Berardi fired Sassuolo to a 1-0 win over Lecce.

Lautaro Martinez, Hakan Calhanoglu and Joaquin Correa struck in front of a large and enthusiastic home crowd to ensure a perfect six points for Simone Inzaghi's Inter as they bid to reclaim the league title from local rivals AC Milan. Champions Milan make the short trip to Atalanta on Sunday in the weekend's headline match. Lukaku might not have scored in front of his adoring fans before being substituted in the 68th minute, but he was key to Inter's first two goals. His perfect knock-down from Nicolo Barella's clipped pass allowed Martinez to break the deadlock 10 minutes before half-time, lashing home his opening goal of the season.

It was the first sign of the rebirth of a partnership which devastated Serie A during Lukaku's first spell at Inter before his disastrous big-money move to Chelsea last summer.

"We're happy because we played well. We have six points," said Martinez when asked if he was pleased the combo nicknamed 'LuLa' was back in action. Belgium forward Lukaku then began the move which led to Calhanoglu doubling the hosts' lead seven minutes after the break.—AFP

Inter made it two from two in Serie A with Saturday's comfortable 3-0 win over Spezia on Romelu Lukaku's return to the San Siro, while Domenico Berardi fired Sassuolo to a 1-0 win over Lecce. **PHOTO: AFP**