EXPECT A GREATER, BRIGHTER FUTURE WITH VIGOROUS EFFORTS IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR 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.

Rights of ethnics and regions can be discussed at the Hluttaw as the political platform: Senior General

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting 6/2022 of the Union government in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 August 2022.

THE proper education system needs to implement the teaching of good democratic practices but democratic politics, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 6/2022 of the Union government at the Office of SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Restoration of peace

Peace is essential for building the Union. It is important for ceasing the armed conflicts in the nation. Now, the government is implementing peace talks with armed organizations under the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and the Constitution (2008). Several talks will be held with these groups to reach agreements.

Rights of ethnics and regions can be discussed at the Hluttaw as the political platform. The government will assist ethnic armed organizations to do business under the law as they wish. If they continue performing the arms services, they will be allowed to join the Tatmadaw or the border guard forces. But, if they commit suffering and loss to the people, they have to solve it in line with the demand of losers.

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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

Rights of ethnics and regions can be discussed at the Hluttaw as the political platform: Senior General

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International relations

Myanmar is upholding the firm foreign policy. The ASEAN Charter mentions paying respects to each ASEAN country on liberty, sovereignty, equality, territory and national characters. These ASEAN member states do not interfere in the internal affairs of other member states. They abide by the prevalence of law and order, good governance, and running of the government formed under democratic principles and the constitution. These facts highlight the current situation in the ASEAN region. Union ministers need to rebut the necessary points in the international relations arena.

Cementing the disciplined multiparty democratic system

In the 2020 general election, priority was given to the party's interests, seeking the State's power in the long run, and prioritizing the interests of the persons who backed the party. Such malpractices showed mental suffering for the persons who wish for democracy and Union interests and nation-builders. Hence, the current government decided to achieve success in implementing the adopted objectives.

Important role of education sector in uplifting socioeconomy

It is necessary to implement an education system which cannot harm the national characters and culture of the nation. The proper education system needs to implement the teaching of good democratic practices but democratic politics.

Regarding economy

The manufacturing process comes into normalcy in regions and states except for some parts of Chin State, Sagaing Region and Kayah State. PDFs and EAOs are interested in far-flung areas of the Sagaing Region which are under restriction of transport facilities. Hence, they collect more arms and ammunition. All need to take security knowledge and conscience as EAOs shape the situations of fighting outside their areas.

With regard to the enhancement of the economic sector, the Senior General said: **"Some amounts of money have been collected for prevention of Covid-19 since 2020. It amounted to more than K400 billion. Some amounts of it were spent at that time. I allotted many funds for the prevention and treatment of Covid-19 disease. Cash assistance was given for the preparation period and upgrading of hospitals. But, there remained a lot of money. It was not an ordinary health expenditure. It is a separate fund. In fact, saving money is not proper. Circulation of money is the best. So, it is necessary to circulate the money. When I consider how to efficiently spend the money instead of saving, I thought that spending the money on agriculture and livestock farms would be the best. So I held meetings with some ministers. I wanted to do so for spending that money. They suggested proper titles of accounts for spending that money. So, the State economy enhancement fund emerged. I allotted it to regions and states. But, as it is the fund of the State, they should take care of the fund not to be lost. If so, the money will return to the government directly. Moreover, it needs to spend the fund on enhancing the people's life without the direct effort of the government. After considering two ways, I chose paddy and bean cultivation for contributing back to the State through the agriculture sector. At that time, I also considered the cultivation of cotton. But, cotton is not in time to catch the fund. So, we decided to provide assistance for the cultivation of paddy and green gram, contributing much to all regions and states. So, I sought data and figures for estimating the possibilities. In this regard, I saw almost all regions and states enjoying contributions. But, it depends on amounts and volumes. So, I allowed chief ministers as well as self-administered regions to implement the plans on their own ways. They turn it to implement the emerald green village project. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development are successfully implementing the project. How wonderful it is! It actually supports the farmers in their life. We put a force into the project, dubbing as a booster, indeed. Likewise, the State invests the money in the cultivation of green gram and summer paddy. After having benefits, they need to pay back the debt to the State. Then, some farmers need to pay back 25 per cent of agricultural loans taken from the benefit of the project to the State. They have to leave 75 per cent of the loan and enjoy the benefit. After the cultivation of one more crop, they have to pay back 25 more per cent of loans to the State. After the completion of four seasons, they will be free from loans. We expect it. So, Union ministries, region and state chief ministers and leading bodies of self-administered regions need to have success in a correct way."**

> It is necessary to implement an education system which cannot harm the national characters and culture of the nation. The proper education system needs to implement the teaching of good democratic practices but democratic politics.

The government adopted future tasks, visions, national goals and political goals. The government is mainly responsible for achieving the goals with the participation of political parties and citizens. Such tasks should not burden the nation while management must be systematically implemented.

Union ministers reported on respective sectors.

In his conclusion, the Senior General stressed the need to establish office district offices in necessary areas as well as the offices to the uplift socioeconomic status of the people in self-administered zones and division. An emphasis must be placed on declining commodity prices and raising currency value. Levying suitable taxes for raising the State fund will help stabilize the State economy. — MNA

Our public security system will accelerate efforts to stabilize the politics and security of the country

IN order to hold a free and fair election, the nation must be peaceful and stable. The entire people will need to cast their vote as they wish without being exposed to threats, coercion and pressures in any form. The coming election must be held in all parts of the nation freely and fairly. To ensure there is no unfairness, threats or coercion in the coming election, armed conflicts must cease. To be able to hold the elections, our public security system will accelerate efforts to stabilize the politics and security of 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 1 August 2022.)

As all the people reside under the coverage of the State together, they all must strive for the implementation of the national cause in unison: Senior General

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives the peace delegation represented by the leaders of the PNLO, LDU and ALP in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received the peace delegation led by Chair of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO Khun Thurein, Chair of the Lahu Democratic Union-LDU Kyar Solomon and Vice-Chair of the Arakan Liberation Party-ALP Saw Mra Razar Lin at the parlour of Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning to talk about peace issues.

Also present at the talks were SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council members General Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun and Lt-Gen Yar Pyae. Chair of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO Khun Thurein, Chair of the Lahu Democratic Union-LDU Kyar Solomon and Vice-Chair of the Arakan Liberation Party-ALP Saw Mra Razar Lin were accompanied by PNLO Vice-Chair Khun Tun Tin, LDU General Secretary Kyar Ya Kok and ALP Central Executive Committee member Khaing Soe Mra.

At the peace talks, the Senior General explained exercising the genuine multiparty democratic system, efforts being made for building the Union based on democracy and federalism as the political vision, need for more ethnic representatives to join the political platform to demand and discuss regional and ethnic interests under the law, preparations for ethnics to join the political platform in the future and assistance of the government, situations of political parties depending on the various types for enabling the ethnics and the persons representing the various strata of the people in the Hluttaw on a wider scale. The Senior General stressed that as all the people reside under the coverage of the State together, they all must strive for the implementation of the national cause in unison. The Senior General also explained the future plan to continuously restore the peace based on the Constitution (2008) and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

Chair of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO Khun Thurein, Chair of the Lahu Democratic Union-LDU Kyar Solomon and Vice-Chair of the Arakan Liberation Party-ALP Saw Mra Razar Lin and party discussed understanding the armed conflicts and disagreements which cannot shape development of the nation, and plans to restore peace for undertaking development tasks, plans to discuss shaping the peace progress beneficial for restoring peace of the nation and development of all regions, emergence of a good situation for the current government and the Tatmadaw to bravely take responsibilities for peace of the nation and development undertakings, efforts for clearly showing the genuine goodwill of the Head of State over the nation, the people and ethnic armed organizations in implementing the peace process, necessary to carry on the peace tasks to have success as emergence of a white elephant may be a good fortune for ensuring peace, tranquility and development of the country at a time when the peace talks are in progress, exercising the multiparty democratic system, and same attitudes on building a Union based on democracy and federalism and reported on regional development undertakings.

In his response, the Senior General discussed the State Administration Council's efforts in fulfilling the development of ethnic regions while serving the State responsibilities, the need for ethics to firmly grasp that opportunity to be fully utilized for regional development, seeking the best solution based on same attitudes as a single region or an ethnic group may have different attitudes and stances, needs of striving for the development of the nation in unison via regional level, prospects to shape a future developed Union State through united strengths of all ethnic people, the undertaking of future tasks based on attitudes and desires resulted from the second peace talks, taking an adequate time for seeking and negotiating the agreements in advance for the future political trend, and allotment of K330 billion from the State economic enhancement fund for the development of the ethnic regions. They frankly exchanged views on peace issues and regional development tasks.

After the talks, the Senior General presented gifts to the peace delegates who returned the domestic gifts. Next, they posed for documentary photos.

The peace delegation will hold peace talks with the Peace Talk Team and the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee formed with council members by the State Administration Council. — MNA

Families of Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) office grow plants for third time

THE third tree-planting ceremony (2022) of the families of the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) was held near the Yezin Dam in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning and State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla planted teak saplings on the occasion.

Present on the occasion were SAC Vice-Chairman and Deputy Commander-in-Chief (Army) of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union Ministers, the Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air), the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and their wives, trainees of the National Defence College and the staff and their families of the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and they also planted saplings.

The Senior General pours water onto the teak sapling.

The Vice-Senior General waters onto the sapling.

Then, the Senior General and party looked around and cordially greeted the families of officers and other ranks collectively planting trees.

Between 2011 and 2022, a total of 181,357 trees, including teak, have been planted around the Yezin Dam to protect and conserve the environment and ecosystem.

Similarly, trees, including teak, industrial crops and shade trees, are planted at the command headquarters in the rainy season every year and a total of 230,670 trees have been grown by the entire Tatmadaw up to now. — MNA

Judgements given to one special criminal appeal case, four special civil appeal cases; one special criminal appeal case, four special civil appeal cases heard

THE special appeal court composing Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and Supreme Court Judges U Aung Zaw Thein, U Tin Hone, U Thaung Naing and U Thein Ko Ko gave an interim order on two special civil appeal cases – No 28/2020 (Shan) and No 41/2020 (Mon), and also delivered judgements on one special criminal appeal case No 1/2022 (Rakhine) and four special civil appeal cases No 37/2020 (Ayeyawady), No 42/2020 (Yangon), No 19/2021 (Yangon) and No 7/2021 (Yangon), at the office room 1 of the Union Supreme Court yesterday morning.

Moreover, they heard one special criminal appeal case No 7/2022 (Shan) and four special civil appeal cases No 2/2022 (Yangon), No 12/2021 (Mandalay), No 3/2022 (Yangon) and No 6/2022 (Mandalay) following the COVID-19 health rules. — MNA

42 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 22 August, total figure rises to 614,696

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **614,696** after **42** new cases—14 imported and 28 local transmission—were reported on 22 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **593,254** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,437** without more casualties. —MNA

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

Volatile fuel prices pose difficulties for freight forwarding businesses

FUEL price fluctuation in recent days wreaked havoc on the freight forwarding businesses, Ko Htaw Gyi, a truck operator on the Yangon-Pathein Road told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

On 22 August, the price of diesel was K2,820 per litre. It was priced at K2,850 per litre in Pathein city. A six-wheel truck (16 tonnes capacity) needs 20 gallons for 230 miles long Yangon-Pathein round trips. Fuel cost is around K256,000 per truck, a driver Ko Maung Yu told the GNLM.

The retail reference rate of fuel oil per litre stood at K1,965 for Octane 92 and K2,325 for diesel on 4 May 2022. The daily reference fuel oil prices were recorded at K2,250 for Octane 92 and K2,690 for diesel on 20 June, K1,700 for Octane 92 and K2,130 for diesel on 18 July, K1,615 for Octane 92 and K1,970 for diesel on 7 August and K2,365 for Octane 92 and K2,820 for diesel on 16 August respectively, according to the official reference prices' data.

The minimum price was K1,610 per litre and the maximum price was K2,410 for Octane 92, while the diesel reached the lowest of K1,970 and the highest of K2,820 per litre.

During the four months (May-August), there is a gap of K795 for Octane 92 and K850 for diesel. The price gap widened in August. The price of diesel inched higher to nearly K4,000 per gallon this month.

As a result of this, the fuel cost adds to K80,000 for Yangon-Pathein round trips. The freight rate of rice increased from K850 to K1,100 per bag on the Pathein-Yangon route. However, the rate remains unchanged at K750 per rice bag on the Hinthada-Yangon route, the GNLM quoted Ko Aung Thet, a truck owner, as saying.

Cargo lorries are seen at the Bayintnaung wholesale market.

It is hard to raise the price when the volume of the goods to be delivered is usually low in the rainy season.

The truck fare is K240,000 for the Yangon-Pathein route and K220,000 for the Pathein-Yangon Road. The gross income is K460,000 for the Yangon-Pathein round trip. When labour wages, food and fuel cost and toll rates for bridges and highways are deducted, only K50,000 are left for each route, U Htaw Gyi, a truck owner, stressed.

If fuel prices had stayed at the rate recorded in July 2022, we would have made a profit of K100,000 for each trip, said a truck owner Ko Cho.

A six-wheel truck needs about 90 litres of diesel for Yangon-Pathein round trips.

For the 190 miles long Yangon-Hinthada round trip, the truck operator generates a gross income of K350,000. However, the profit is extremely low at K10,000 for that route.

We are struggling with volatile fuel prices. Despite the low profit, we managed to run the freight forwarding operations to maintain good relationships with customers and create jobs for our drivers, the GNLM quoted Ko Zaw, a truck operator, as saying.

Only some trucks are running at present.

Moreover, a truck operator Ko Nay said "We have less chance to put aside for the consequences of vehicle malfunctions and maintenance despite the low profitability." — TWA/GNLM

MR resumes Yangon-Bagan express, reaching Pyay station

THE Yangon-Bagan express trains No 61 up and No 62 down resumed their services to the Pyay station on 20 August, according to the Myanma Railway.

The Yangon-Bagan train departs from the Yangon Central Railway Station at 9 pm every day and the train will depart from the Pyay station at 7:30 am. The route was closed during the Covid-19 period and restarted its operation to the Pyay station on 20 August.

In the Yangon-Pyay section, the scheduled time of the up and down trains has been slightly modified starting from 20 August; the service will be moved from the Kyimyindine station to Pyay station. Therefore, the train will be reached from the Pyay station to the Kyimyindine station.

Tickets are set at K6,450 for the upper class and K3,250 for the ordinary class and six up/down trains are running in the Yangon-Pyay section. — TWA/GNLM

A carriage of the Yangon-Bagan express train.

Onion wholesale price jumps nearly to K3,000 per viss

THE wholesale price of onion in the Yangon market reaches nearly K3,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), Ko Aung, a buyer at Nyaungpinlay market, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

That price is five times higher than the prices recorded in the corresponding period of 2021 and 2020. The onion price increased from K2,050 on 1 August to K2,700 on 20 August, indicating the price rise of K650 per viss, Ko Aung said.

On 1 August, the wholesale prices stood at K1,350-1,950 per viss of onion from Seikphyu Township and K1,400-2,050 per viss of onion from Monywa Township.

The prices climbed to K2,000-2,600 per viss of onions from Seikphyu Township and K2,150-2,700 per viss of onions from Monywa Township on 20 August.

About 100,000 visses of onions are daily supplied to Yangon markets. The highest prices of onions in regions and states other than Yangon is K2,500 per viss of onion from the Seikphyu area and K3,000 from the Pakokku area.

Stacked onion bags are seen at a warehouse in the Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Market.

On 20 August 2021, the wholesale prices were K360-475 per viss. During the same period in 2020, the onions were priced at K450-500 per viss.

The prices hit a record high of K3,700 per viss in 2015 and 2019. However, the onion prices registered on 20 August of the years 2015 and 2019 were still lower than the current market price, a market observer U Khin Maung Win shared this information with the GNLM.

Approximately 1.8 million visses of onions are stockpiled in the warehouses of Pakokku Township, a resident Ko Lay Aung speculated.

On 21 August 2022, no onion truck was seen at the Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Market, Ma Ei from the onion warehouse on Yetama Street said.

Onion traders are expecting the price to rise to K3,000 per viss. When onion price skyrockets, imported onions are likely to flood the domestic market, a trader shared his opinion. —TWA/GNLM

2nd ASEAN-Russia Consultations of High Representatives for Security Issues seminar held via videoconferencing

THE second ASEAN-Russia Consultations of the High Representatives for Security Issues seminar was held through videoconferencing yesterday afternoon. The seminar was attended by high-ranking officers from Russia and ASEAN member countries and U Htet Aung, Second Permanent Secretary of the Ministry at Union Government Office 1.

In the seminar, coordination officer Lieutenant-General Hun Manith, Director-General of the General Department of Research and Intelligence, Ministry of Defence, Cambodia, and Security Council Secretary of Russia Mr Nikolai Patrushev delivered greeting speeches. Regarding the political and security situation in the Asia-Pacific region, various countries participating in the discussion put forward country-by-country presentations.

In the discussion, U Htet Aung, Second Permanent Secretary of the Ministry at the Union Government Office 1 discussed implications for security in the Asia-Pacific region, including strategic stability, and the political and security situation in the Asia-Pacific region at a time of rising tensions between regional powers.

The 2nd ASEAN-Russia Consultations of High Representatives for Security Issues seminar in progress online.

Afterwards, Security Council Secretary of Russia Mr Nikolai Patrushev and coordination officer Lieutenant-General Hun Manith, Director-General of the General Department of Research and Intelligence, Ministry of Defence, Cambodia made the closing remarks, it is learnt. —MNA

Nawnghkio Gyi resort eyes domestic and foreign visitors in open season

The picture shows the beauty of the cloud sea in the morning at the Nawnghkio Gyi resort. **PHOTO: KANU**

PREPARATIONS are underway at the hotels and recreational areas to lure local and foreign travellers with the beauty of the cloud sea and the Dokhtawady river in Nawnghkio Gyi village of Nawnghkio Township in northern Shan State, and 90 per cent of operations has been completed.

A total of ten resorts were opened in 2019 and it hosted over 20,000 visitors and became well known as the Second Kalaw in Myanmar and ASEAN tourism sectors. It also created job opportunities and supported the economy of that region. There were only about 2,000 visitors in 2020 and about 1,000 visitors in 2021 due to COVID-19 preventive measures. Therefore, the government makes preparations at the resorts for the local and foreign visitors in the open season of 2022.

It takes about 45 minutes to get to cloud sea resort from Nawnghkio township and it is a little difficult to travel in open season. If there is proper electricity access, the rural tourism sector will be improved together with the development of the region.

"We expect more local visitors this open season, and also the foreign tourists. For three years, there were so few tourists here except officials of the embassies. The people like Myanmar Bachelor's Chicken Curry and grilled chicken in an iron box as well as traditional Shan food. The people are fond of watching the picturesque views of the cloud sea in the morning and the Dokhtawady river in the evening. We construct hotels and make heavy maintenance on the guesthouses as we expect large numbers of visitors this year. Now, we complete 90 per cent of operation and are ready to open in November," said Daw Yu Nandar Mai, CEO of Nawnghkio Gyi Cloudy Villa.

The local people usually pay a visit to beaches, Inlay, Pindaya and May Myo. When they have experienced a breath of fresh air over the mountains view the cloud sea and enjoy the peace and natural beauty of Nawnghkio Cloudy Villa at dawn and night, they visit here yearly. The residents also hope to increase their income from the arrival of foreign travellers this open season.

European countries and some ASEAN countries are earning foreign currency through the influx of foreign tourists. Myanmar's tourism industry is recognized by foreign travellers for its warm smile and pure hospitality.

Officials are making efforts in preparing the domestic tourism sector and the beauty of the cloud sea, hills at the Nawnghkio Gyi resort, the Dokhtawady river and sweet smiles of ethnic people always welcome the travellers. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

Myanmar workers depart for Thailand under MoU system

ACCORDING to the process of sending Myanmar workers to Thailand under the MoU system, of the Department of Labour under the Ministry of Labour, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, a total of 197 Myanmar workers: 100 men and 97 women, had left for work in Thailand under the MoU system yesterday morning.

Those Myanmar workers were arranged by the Hnin Oo Wai Co Ltd which is an overseas employment agency (Thailand), a licensed agency, to work for the Thailand company Golden Line Business Co Ltd under a two-year contract.

They were recruited by flight to Kawthoung city via Yangon and planned to send to Thailand by sea through the Kawthoung International Border Checkpoint. Thus, the Kawthoung District Department of Labour, Kawthoung District Office of the Department of Immigration and Population and responsible organizations carried out the tests for them and the officials of the employment company properly transported them to the company where they will work in Thailand, it is learnt. — Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)/GNLM

Officials make immigration process for MoU workers.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Monywa Agriculture Dept sells 1,200 urea fertilizer bags at fairer price

A total of 1,200 bags of urea fertilizer are sold to approximately 700 farmers at a fairer price which is K70,000 lower than the current market price, said U Phyo Wai, deputy staff officer of the Agriculture Department in Monywa Township.

In addition to the urea fertilizer public distribution scheme by the Sagaing Region government at the subsidized price, a seven-day intensive training course on the use of making natural fertilizer and fungicide is being conducted starting on 21 August at Monywa Township Agriculture Department

Farmers are pictured attending the fungicide-making training.

"The farmers are entitled to purchase two bags of urea fertilizer per paddy acre and half of the bag per acre of cotton and sunflower. The township department is allowed to distribute 1,200 bags of urea fertilizer. The sales period is a week. The growers need to contact the department to get access to the public distribution system. The current market price of urea fertilizer is K100,000, while the department offers it at K34,100 per bag by adding transport charges of K4,100 from the fertilizer factory (Myaungtaga) in Yangon to Monywa Township Agriculture Department," U Phyo Wai elaborated.

The department firstly provides training courses and then, they offer practical training and sell the urea fertilizer. On 22 August, assistant director U Myint Lwin of the Agriculture Department (plant protection division) discussed pests that threaten paddy and prevention methods. After that, deputy officer U Phyo Wai talked about methods of natural fertilizer and fungicide-making and their application and demonstrated how to make natural fungicides for the growers. — Lu Lay/GNLM

Sesame body opens centre to buy GAP-certified sesame in Magway Region

THE Magway Region Sesame Farmers Development Association is opening a centre to buy the sesame cultivated under Good Agricultural Practice.

The association aims to create a sesame collective selling event for the growers through a centre.

At present, the association is purchasing quality sesame at the Thityakauk centre between 8:30 am and 5 pm except for Sunday from 15 August to 30 September.

Those companies that signed an agreement to buy the sesame make transactions in front of the growers transparently through virtual competitive bidding.

If the growers can present a GAP certificate, GAP-certified sesame will be offered K500 higher than other sesame seeds. Depending on the standard quality shown on 10 August, there is a gap of K1,500 per 15-viss basket among the sesame varieties, according to the contract.

Additionally, immediate transactions will be made for GAP-certified sesame after the quality assessment process.

The growers need to focus on removing impurities such as dust, weed, and small stones. They must take care of post-harvest management to meet the prescribed criteria for the moisture content and acid content.

On 18 August, the sesame prices moved in the range of K75,600 and K92,300 per basket depending on varieties. — NN/GNLM

On 18 August, the sesame prices moved in the range of K75,600 and K92,300 per basket depending on varieties.

Gold price hits K2.65 mln per tical despite YGEA's set price at K2.045 mln

Varieties of gold jewellery are seen in the gold outlet in Yangon.

THE prices of pure gold gained over K2.65 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) in the markets although Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association set the price at K2.04 million per tical, gold traders said.

The association determined the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate against a dollar at K2,100, U Myo Myint, chair of YGEA told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The exchange rate against the US dollar over-the-counter-market is K2,800. There is a large gap of around K600,000 between the current market price and the YGEA's set price. As a result of this, the black market grows again. Furthermore, the continuous Kyat depreciation in the local forex market against the hard currency resulted in the suspension of gold bar transactions, U Myo Myint elaborated.

The authorities also interrogated some gold traders and currency exchange operators in end-July.

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

Under the guidance of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, the Monitoring and Steering Committee on the 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

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OPINION

Expect a greater, brighter future with vigorous efforts in the agricultural sector

IN the economic sector, exporters can earn incomes for their businesses as well as pay relevant taxes to the government. Hence, it can be said that exportation is beneficial not only for the businesspersons but for the government.

In this regard, the government needs to always monitor the economic level of the nation by checking the booming of businesses being operated by the government itself and the private sector. The government is responsible for adjusting the tax rates and exemptions for businesses in the nation.

Only when the government flexibly eases the restrictions in the economic sector will the businesspersons have convenience in operating their businesses. If so, they can earn greater profits in trading. Consequently, the government can levy necessary taxes on the incomes of businesses for raising the fund for the State.

> The government has pledged to deliver farming machinery to farmers not for spending any coins on agricultural tasks. If so, farmers will have greater benefits and the government as well. Consequently, farmers will have higher living standards if their agricultural tasks achieve success.

Only when the government has a chance to raise its funds will it manage and implement development projects for the nation and the nationals. That is why a vicious circle of the economic sector spotlights the income, tax and budget of the nation respectively.

Currently, the government decides to encourage farmers to grow rice and beans in order to directly contribute to the State economy. So, priority is being given to the cultivation of summer rice and green gram which can have a quick win in the agricultural sector.

On the other hand, the government transferred K400 billion from the National Natural Disaster Management Fund to the State economic development fund. In the working process, the State allotted the fund to relevant ministries, regions and states as well as self-administered zones for the cultivation of summer rice and green gram.

The government set an aim for farmers to spend the allotted fund on the cultivation of summer rice and green gram so as to bag the incomes in a short time for paying back the remaining agricultural loans disbursed by the government for many years.

The government has pledged to deliver farming machinery to farmers not for spending any coins on agricultural tasks. If so, farmers will have greater benefits and the government as well. Consequently, farmers will have higher living standards if their agricultural tasks achieve success.

It may be seen that the agricultural sector of the nation will have a doubled increase at the end of 2024. If so, it is sure that a greater and brighter future will wait for all Myanmar people in the future. ■

ARTICLE
Weather Report

Natural compounds show potential in creation of Covid-19 medicines

ACCORDING to a study, three natural chemicals found in food products such as green tea, olive oil, and red wine are possible candidates for the creation of coronavirus medicines.

In a comprehensive screening of a large library of natural substances at DESY's X-ray source PETRA III the compounds bound to a central enzyme vital for the replication of the coronavirus.

All three compounds are already used as active substances in existing drugs, as the team headed by Christian Betzel from the University of Hamburg and Alke Meents from DESY reports in the journal Communications Biology. However, if and when a corona drug can be developed on the basis of these compounds remains to be investigated.

Karachi Library of Natural Compounds

"We tested 500 substances from the Karachi Library of Natural Compounds if they bind to the papain-like protease of the novel coronavirus, which is one of the main targets for an antiviral drug," explains the study's main author Vasundara Srinivasan from the University of Hamburg. "A compound that binds to the enzyme at the right place can stop it from working."

The papain-like protease (PLpro) is a vital enzyme for virus replication: When a cell is hijacked by the coronavirus, it is forced to produce building blocks for new virus particles.

These proteins are manufactured as a long string. PLpro then acts like a molecular pair of scissors, cutting the proteins from the string. If this process is blocked, the proteins cannot assemble new virus particles.

Cell's self-defence

"However, PLpro has another vital function for the virus," says Srinivasan. "It blocks a protein of the immune system, called ISG15, and that severely weakens the cell's self-defence. With inhibiting PLpro we can also enhance the cell's immune response."

For the experiments, PLpro was mixed with each of the 500 natural substances in a solution, giving them the chance to bind to the enzyme. It is not possible to see if a substance binds to the enzyme with a conventional light microscope. Instead, tiny crystals were grown from the mixtures. When illuminated with the bright X-rays from PETRA III at the experimental station P11, the crystals produced a characteristic diffraction pattern from which the structure of the enzyme can be reconstructed down to the level of individual atoms.

All three compounds are already used as active substances in existing drugs. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ANI**

"From this information we can produce 3-dimensional models of the enzyme with atomic resolution and see if and where a substance binds to it," explains Meents.

Three phenols bind to the enzyme

The screening showed that three phenols bind to the enzyme: hydroxyethylphenol (YRL), isolated for the experiments from the henna tree Lawsonia alba, is a compound present in many foods such as red wine and virgin olive oil and used as anti-arrhythmia agent.

Hydroxybenzaldehyde (HBA) is a known anti-tumour agent and accelerates wound healing. It was isolated from the copperleaf Acalypha torta. Methyldihydroxybenzoate (HE9), isolated from the French marigold Tagetes patula, is an anti-oxidant with anti-inflammatory effect and is found in green tea.

In subsequent lab tests, established and performed by Hevila Brognaro in Betzel's group, the three phenols reduced PLpro's activity by 50 to 70 per cent in living cells. "The advantage of these substances is their proven safety," says Betzel, who is also a member of the cluster of excellence CUI: Advanced Imaging of Matter. "These compounds naturally occur in many foods.

However, drinking green tea will not cure your corona infection! Like it will not heal your wounds or cure your cancer. If and how a corona drug can be developed from these phenols is subject to further studies."

Thousands of existing drugs

In a different screening, a team consisting largely of the same scientists had already screened thousands of existing drugs at PETRA III as possible inhibitors of the coronavirus' main protease (Mpro), also a molecular pair of scissors and a main potential drug target. The screening identified several corona drug candidates, and the most promising have entered preclinical testing. "The corona initiative from DESY and University of Hamburg is one of the very few worldwide that investigated both of Covid-19's main targets," emphasises Betzel.

SOURCE: ANI

Aussie researchers strive for "universal" vaccine for all COVID-19 variants

AUSTRALIAN medical researchers are working towards creating a booster vaccine capable of dealing with the ever-growing array of COVID-19 variants.

Explaining the potential breakthrough at a public seminar at the Westmead Institute for Medical Research (WIMR) on Friday, a part of the ongoing Sydney Science Festival, leading virologist Prof. Sarah Palmer said the goal was a single vaccine to target the shared features that lurk within all forms of SARS-CoV-2.

"SARS-CoV-2 makes errors when they replicate which leads to the development of new variants," Palmer said.

"This means the vaccines developed based on the 2019 virus will be increasingly less effective over time as the virus mutates and produces ever more variants."

"So, rather than constantly developing variant specific vaccines, what we need is a 'universal' one which attacks essential, unchanging parts of the virus that exist in all those variants."

More than 95 per cent of people over the age of 16 are fully vaccinated in Australia, where few people now wear a mask or take measures to socially distance. **PHOTO: AFP**

The principle behind their line of attack

The principle behind their line of attack is based on prior work the team did analyzing the virus causing another pandemic, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Before COVID-19 struck, the researchers had developed a computer algorithm that enabled them to identify essential regions of HIV proteins shared among that virus' many variants or subtypes.

"These regions are critical for the HIV virus to survive, otherwise, the proteins would fall apart," Palmer said.

Having identified the regions, a messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) vaccine will be developed which, the virologist said, could "educate and activate" a type of immune cell called "killer T cells" that the body produces.

"Killer T cells travel through our body eliminating cells that have been affected by lots of different pathogens," Palmer said.

The mRNA vaccine will "educate or train" the killer T cells to recognize HIV-infected cells and eliminate them.

The same ingenious strategy has now been used to battle the latest pandemic with the researchers using computer algorithms to sift through the SARS-CoV-2 data to locate the shared proteins within the variants.

The team has found two such areas, one being the notorious spike proteins featured in all COVID-19 illustrations, the other is called a nucleocapsid protein that allows the virus to replicate quickly.

Palmer said the WIMR researchers have been working closely with multidisciplinary teams from several Australian institutions including Monash University.

Creating an mRNA vaccine

The Monash University pharmaceutical biologists were tasked with creating an mRNA vaccine capable of educating the killer T cells to target those shared regions of SARS-CoV-2 and eliminate any infected cells.

Palmer concedes there remains "a long road ahead" until the vaccine was available for the public, but early indications are most promising.

Preliminary tests have indicated the vaccine's effectiveness and it will next be experimented on mice.

"People say it takes a village, a community, to raise a child," Palmer said of the collaborative nature of their project.

"Likewise, it will take a community of researchers to achieve a future breakthrough against HIV and SARS-CoV-2."

SOURCE: XINHUA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 22 August 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 23 August 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Magway region and Kachin State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Mon State and isolated heavyfalls in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi regions and Chin, Rakhine and Kayin states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (30-35) mph. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate Monsoon.

Flood Warnig

(Issued at 4 pm MST on 22-8-2022)

ACCORDING to the 3:30 pm MST observation yesterday, the water level of Bago River at Bago is observed as about (1½) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next two days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Bago Township to take precaution measure.

Ooredoo Myanmar introduces "Let's Go to World Cup" Lucky Draw Campaign

OOREDOO Myanmar, an international telecom operator in Myanmar, has unveiled the latest version of My Ooredoo App to respond to customers' evolving needs along with the "Let's Go to World Cup" Lucky Draw Campaign.

The new version of My Ooredoo App allows the users to apply the M-Pitesan Mobile money wallet for transferring money to anybody in Myanmar within 20 seconds.

In the campaign, users of the newest My Ooredoo app are eligible to win a chance to go to the World Cup 2022 in person. The campaign begins on 15 August 2022 and ends on 30 September 2022, allowing customers to win incredible rewards including 30 tickets with a round trip arrangement to watch the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

During the campaign, Ooredoo will deliver over 15,000 prizes including Cashback (Ks) in M-Pitesan, Cashback for On-net Calls/SMS, and Voice Onnet Calls valid for 5 days and world cup tickets as the grand prizes.

All coupons will be placed into the weekly Lucky Draws which will be held every Thursday for five weeks starting from 25 August and a mega Lucky Draw on 1 October.

Dial *565# and update to the most recent version of My Ooredoo App to enjoy the greater customer experience and enter the campaign. — GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, consumer goods, foodstuffs, unregistered motorbike and vehicles confiscated

Officials check a teak log.

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

Under the instructions of the Mon State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, an on-duty inspection team made inspections at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint.

Officials confiscated K2,097,900 worth of consumer goods that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a Mitsubishi Fuso 12- wheel truck (approximately K20 million) heading from Kawthoung to Yangon on 19 August and K14,399,000 worth of edible oil without official documents from a Sunlong passenger bus (approximately K50 million) heading from Myawady to Mandalay on 20 August. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, on 21 August, a combined team led by the Myanmar Police Force conducted inspections under the management of the Sagaing Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force.

They captured an unregistered New Annbo motorbike (approximately K150,000) in Monywa township and an unregistered Hijet car (approximately K3 million) at the Yadanabon Bridge Combined Checkpoint. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Similarly, an inspection team led by Customs Department nabbed K6,660,000 worth of consumer goods that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a Nissan Diesel 22-wheel truck (approximately K32 million) heading from Lweje to Mandalay at the 1/3 Milepost near the Shwegyin Tollgate and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 22 August, a combined on-duty team under the supervision of the Customs Department captured 142 old mobile phones worth K5.2 million without official documents from a Toyota Fielder car (approximately K20 million) at the Yepu Permanent Checkpoint in Shan State. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Afterwards, a total of 11.8960 tonnes of illegal teak were captured in the Khabaung forest reserve of Toungoo district. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 13 arrests estimated at K157,432,580 were made on 19, 21 and 22 August, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Two killed in 22-wheeler truck accident

Rescuers are pictured clearing the wreckage.

A 22-wheeler truck plunged into the roadside cliff while coming down along the PyinOoLwin-Mandalay Road in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Region on 22 August, the Fire Services Department stated.

Around 1:07 pm on 22 August, the 22-wheeler truck was unable to control its speed and overturned in the cliff, located near the Mile Post 25 of the PyinOoLwin-Mandalay Road. The Fire Services Department declared that the driver and a companion died at the scene.

Firefighters from the Central Fire Academy, PyinOoLwin District Fire Station and Yadanabon satellite Town Fire Station, and social welfare associations came to the rescue at the scene and conveyed the dead bodies of two victims to the PyinOoLwin Public Hospital by the PyinOoLwin funeral services' vehicle. Over 3,533 car accidents occurred from January to July 2022 nationwide, leaving over 1,730 dead and 4,841 injured. — TWA/GNLM

Drugs seized in some townships

A combined team consisting of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a Sunlong express driven by Ko Maung accompanied by Kyaw Zin Aung and Ye Win Paing (aka) Ye Gyi at the Tadakyoe checkpoint, Yaykyawgyi village-tract in Kawkareik township at 11:30 am on 20 August. The team found 1,000 kilogrammes of Ammonium Nitrate and as an interrogation result, the team searched No 2 Friendship Bridge Road, No 5 ward in Myawady. They found 2,000 kilogrammes of Ammonium Nitrate from a Canter vehicle driven by Kyaw Myo Min (aka) Pho Kyaw (aka) Kyaw Gyi. Then, the Anti-Drug Police Special Task Force searched Racho, who is suspicious near Huaysai village, Katpha village-tract in Kengtung Township at 12 noon on the same day. They found 9,200 stimulant tablets from him. Similarly, the combined task force searched Sai Aung Kham (aka) Aung Kham's house, which is situated at Sengsai A ward in Tachilek raided at 6 pm on 19 August. They found Sai Aung Khan (aka) Aik Lon, Sai Yi Kyauk (aka) Htit, Sai Yi Tit (aka) Arrpha and Sai Aung Kham (aka) Aung Kham with 24 kilogrammes of ketamine, 0.2 kilogramme of ecstasy powder, 0.423 kilogramme of Happy Water, 33 9mm rounds of blind ammunition, 27 9mm rounds of ammunition, 250 kilogrammes of Caffeine and accessories. Furthermore, the combined team consisting of security forces searched Sai Shen's house, situated at Wanna village, Mongphong A village-tract in Tachilek Township at 9 pm on 19 August. They seized two kilogrammes of Ice and as an interrogation result, the team seized Sai Shen Kham (aka) Aik Pyan, who is a drug dealer, at his house, situated at Wanna village, Mongphong A village-tract in Tachilek township at 5 pm on 20 August.

A arrestee is seen along with seized drugs and a vehicle.

They are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the Myanmar Police Force stated. —MNA

Philippine classrooms reopen after more than two years

MILLIONS of children in the Philippines returned to school as the academic year started on Monday, with many taking their seats in classrooms for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic hit.

The Philippines is one of the last countries in the world to resume full-time, in-person lessons — sparking warnings that the prolonged closure of classrooms had worsened an education crisis in the country.

Children in masks and uniforms lined up for a temperature check and squirt of hand sanitiser at Pedro Guevara Elementary School in Manila, which had shut classrooms since March 2020.

The school has adopted a hybrid system of in-person and remote learning as it transitions its nearly 6,000 students back to face-to-face classes by November — a deadline set by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr soon after he took office two months ago.

Grade six student Sophia Macahilig said she was "excited" to meet her classmates and teachers after two years of Zoom lessons.

"We used to have fun and now I can have fun again," 11-year-old Macahilig told AFP.

But many students have a lot of catching up to do.

Even before the pandemic, nine out of 10 Filipino children could "not read a simple text with comprehension" by age 10, the World Bank and other agencies said in a recent report.

Only 10 countries were worse off, including Afghanistan, Laos, Chad and Yemen.

This handout photo taken and released on 20 August 2022 by the Philippine Quick Response System shows people receiving medical attention after getting hurt in a crush for educational cash aid ahead of the reopening of schools, in Zamboanga City. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / PHILIPPINE QUICK RESPONSE SYSTEM / AFP**

Lagging behind

After Philippine schools closed, a "blended learning" programme involving online classes, printed materials and lessons broadcast on television and social media was introduced. As face-to-face classes resume, old problems persist: large class sizes, outdated teaching methods, poverty, and lack of basic infrastructure — such as toilets — have been blamed for contributing to the education crisis.

Pedro Guevara science teacher Ethel Tumanan, 32, said she was worried that students had missed out on valuable learning over the past two years. "As a teacher, we really prefer face-to-face, at least we are the ones who can gauge and assess where our pupils are at."

In the lead-up to the reopening of classrooms, the government has been ramping up a vaccination drive and will provide students with free public transport until the end of the calendar year. —AFP

Kishida resumes work remotely after contracting COVID-19

Photo taken on 22 August 2022, shows the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo, from which Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is working remotely after testing positive for the novel coronavirus. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida commenced working remotely Monday, a day after testing positive for the novel coronavirus at the end of his summer break.

The 65-year-old prime minister, who has only shown mild symptoms, took part in a meeting remotely from his official residence in the morning, according to Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno.

As the prime minister must remain isolated until 30 August, the top government spokesman said Kishida's virtual participation in the eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, to be held in Tunisia on 27 and 28 August, is being considered.

"We are making arrangements so the prime minister can join as many events as possible online and through other means," Matsuno said at a press conference. Kishida's planned visit to the Middle East following TICAD is likely to be cancelled.

Chinese President Xi Jinping sent Monday a telegram wishing Kishida a speedy recovery and expressed willingness to work with the Japanese leader to build a bilateral relationship that "meets the requirements of the new era", ahead of the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties next month, China's state-run media said.— Kyodo

DR Congo investigates suspected Ebola case

THE Democratic Republic of Congo is investigating a suspected case of Ebola in its violence-racked east, the World Health Organization said Saturday, just weeks after the end of a previous epidemic.

The DRC early last month declared its latest Ebola outbreak over, more than two months after the virus re-emerged in the northwestern Equateur province.

There were four confirmed cases and one probable case — all of whom died — in what WHO said was the country's 14th outbreak since the disease was discovered there in 1976.

Now the authorities fear that a 46-year-old woman who died on Monday in the eastern province of North Kivu could have contracted it too.

She was treated in hospital in the town of Beni "initially for other ailments, but subsequently, exhibited symptoms consistent with Ebola virus disease", WHO said in a statement.

Samples have been sent to a lab for testing.

"WHO is already on the ground supporting health officials to investigate the case and prepare for a possible outbreak," WHO's regional director for Africa Matshidiso Moeti said in a statement.

The government on Saturday urged caution and said a "stock of vaccines" was available in North Kivu.

Ebola is an often fatal viral haemorrhagic fever. The disease was named after a river in Zaire, as the country was known when it was discovered.

Human transmission is through body fluids, with the main symptoms being fever, vomiting, bleeding and diarrhoea.

The DRC's deadliest epidemic killed 2,280 people in 2020.

WHO said Friday that two existing treatments dramatically reduce deaths from Ebola.

Over 120 militias roam the DRC's mineral-rich but volatile east, where attacks on civilians are routine.—AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

Markets mostly drop as traders mull Fed outlook, gas price spike

WORLD stocks mostly sank Monday and the dollar rallied on concern the Federal Reserve will stick to its interest rate-hiking plans to combat runaway inflation.

Eurozone equities also tanked as spiking natural gas prices sparked fears that winter energy shortages could spark recession, helping push the euro back under parity against the greenback.

Oil dipped on speculation over an Iran nuclear deal that could ease a supply crunch caused by producer Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

All eyes are on this week's symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where Fed boss Jerome Powell will deliver a speech that traders will follow for an idea about the US central bank's next moves.

Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell speaks during a news conference in Washington, DC, on 27 July 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

'Critical moment'

Stocks "began Monday in downbeat mood ahead of what could prove to be a critical moment for markets at the end of this week", said AJ Bell investment director Russ Mould.

"The Jackson Hole summit of central bankers and finance ministers is widely expected to see Powell take to the floor — and puncture optimism which has built up over hopes the Fed may be nearing the point at which it pivots away from rate hikes."

A dip in price rises and signs of economic slowdown had raised hopes policymakers would ease up — and possibly cut rates next year — after two successive, 75-basis-point hikes, helping equities rally globally.

But that optimism has slowly been eroded in recent weeks as Fed officials, including Powell, have warned that the battle against inflation was far from won, particularly as the jobs market remained resilient.

The euro is under additional pressure after Russia's Gazprom said late Friday that the Nord Stream pipeline would be closed for maintenance at the end of the month, cutting Europe's daily gas deliveries.

As a result, Europe's Dutch TTF Gas Futures contract soared on Monday to almost 293 euros per megawatt hour, not far from record highs hit after Russia launched its assault on Ukraine.

'Recessionary risk'

"European gas prices pushed higher again ... on renewed concerns about flows through Nord Stream 1," Rabobank analyst Jane Foley told AFP.

"This focussed attention on recessionary risk for the eurozone. A clear break of parity risks a moves towards $0.95," she added.— AFP

QUICK SUMMARY

US to host Indo-Pacific economic framework minister talks in Sept

THE first in-person ministerial meeting of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework involving 14 countries including Japan and the United States is expected to be held early next month in Los Angeles, Japanese government sources said Sunday.

Japan's Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura will be among the attendees at the two-day meeting from 8 September, as the delegates aim to push forward negotiations under the US-led trade initiative launched in May, the sources said.

The framework, known as the IPEF, is aimed at balancing Beijing's rising economic clout in the fast-growing region. It also includes Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam.

The framework will center on four pillars — fair trade, supply chain resilience, infrastructure and clean energy, and tax and anti-corruption.— **Kyodo**

Iran stock exchange suspends largest steel-maker after fraud claims

TEHRAN'S stock exchange has suspended Iran's largest steel-maker from trading following a parliamentary report alleging corruption to the tune of $3 billion, local media reported.

Trading of the Mobarakeh Steel Company's stocks has been suspended "due to uncertainties about the transparency of information", said the Tehran bourse's chief executive Mahmoud Goudarzi, quoted by the Fars news agency.

Trading in the company will not resume "until the necessary information is clearly obtained", he said, according to the news report late Saturday. Located in central Isfahan province, Mobarakeh plays a major role in Iran's economy and is the owner of local football team Sepahan. The firm and several of its subsidiaries are subject to US Treasury Department sanctions. Fars said the decision came days after the release of a 295-page parliamentary report alleging widespread corruption among the firm's senior management between 2018 and 2021.—AFP

British cinema chain mulls US bankruptcy filing

Pedestrians walk past the entrance of a Cineworld cinema in London, on 22 August 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

BRITISH-BASED cinema chain Cineworld confirmed Monday that a US bankruptcy filing is among options for the debt-laden group, which has been slammed by dwindling audience numbers.

The group, which operates hundreds of cinemas mainly in the United States, revealed last week that it was "evaluating various strategic options" to boost liquidity and potentially restructure, with demand below expectations since reopening from the pandemic.

Cineworld said in an update on Monday that those options "include a possible voluntary Chapter 11 filing in the United States and associated ancillary proceedings in other jurisdictions".

The London-listed group added it was holding talks with "many of its major stakeholders including its secured lenders".

A Chapter 11 filing "would be expected to allow the group to access near-term liquidity and support the orderly implementation of" debt reduction, it noted.

Cineworld would maintain its normal operations with "no significant impact" on staff, under such an outcome.

However, it also warned of a "very significant dilution of existing equity interests".

Further announcements would be made when appropriate, it added.

Cineworld's share price has collapsed since the start of this year to stand at just three pence on Monday.

Analysts argue that its 2018 takeover of American peer Regal left it saddled with too much debt. The chain, whose second biggest market is Britain, was then hit hard by pandemic fallout and the booming popularity of streaming.—AFP

BIZ WORLD

Toyota truck arm Hino halts more shipments in data fraud scandal

HINO Motors Ltd. suspended more of its shipments Monday as the truck-making subsidiary of Toyota Motor Corp revealed fresh details of engine data falsification going back as far as 2003.

Hino had already halted shipments of medium- and large-sized trucks since the scandal concerning its emissions and fuel efficiency tests came to light in March. With the latest decision, shipments of around 76,000 Hino Dutro small trucks became subject to the suspension, the Japanese company said.

The move came after the transport ministry found additional evidence of data falsification during recent onsite inspections.

"We deeply apologize once again for causing great concern," Hino President Satoshi Ogiso said in an online press conference.

Toyota sent Ogiso to head Hino, which became its subsidiary in 2001. It is almost certain that the parent company will be forced to take some of the responsibility for the falsification and play a role in Hino's recovery.—Kyodo

Hino Motors Ltd President Satoshi Ogiso speaks at an online press conference on 22 August 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Vodafone agrees to sell Hungary unit for 1.8 bn euros

BRITISH telecoms group Vodafone agreed Monday to sell its Hungarian division to local peer 4iG and state-owned holding company Corvinus Zrt for 1.8 billion euros ($1.8 billion).

The London-listed giant added in a statement that the proposed sale would create Hungary's second largest fixed-line and mobile telecoms operator.

"This combination with 4iG will allow Vodafone Hungary ... to play a major role in the future growth and development of the sector as a much stronger scaled and fully converged operator," added Chief Executive Nick Read in the statement.

"The combined entity will increase competition and have greater access to investment to further the digitalization of Hungary."

The sale "also supports the Hungarian state's goal of creating a national ... champion" in information and communications technology.

A Vodafone spokesman said proceeds will be used to deleverage its balance sheet, or cut debt, as it looks to build scale in other markets.

A pedestrian passes a Vodafone store in west London on 15 May 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

European heavyweight Vodafone, which has been restructuring for several years, expects the sale to complete at the end of 2022.

As part of this strategy, Vodafone spun off and listed its phone masts division Vantage Towers on the German stock market last year. —AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR SOLO VOY.NO. (969N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR SOLO VOY.NO. (969N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V JIN HAI ZHONG VOY.NO. (2207)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V JIN HAI ZHONG VOY.NO. (2207)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-1** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ELDER TRIUMPHANT SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD

Advertisement to be known by public

It is advertised as follows to be known by public according to the instruction of U Than Lwin (12/Ka Ta Ta(Naing)004924), residing at No. 32, Nat Mauk Street, Tamwe Township, Yangon City.

Regarding with landplot, No. 95, Tamwe Street, Bahan Township, Yangon City, freehold landplot, area (0.283) acre, landplot No. (449 C/3), land survey ward No. (2G1), Bahan Township, Yangon City, original owner U Than Lwin (12/Ka Ta Ta (Naing) 004924), residing at No. 32, Nat Mauk Street, Tamwe Township, Yangon City assigned to U Aung Htwe (12/Ma Ga Ta (Naing) 077220) (Great Cairo Construction Co., Ltd) to construct condo apartment with mutual benefit and special power No. 26030, dated (22-9-2014) was authorized at Yangon City Deeds Registration Office to U Sein Win (12/Ma Ga Da (Naing) 036589), residing at No. 198, (5) Ward, 37th Street (middle), Kyauktada Township, Yangon City instructed person by him. That special power was withdrawn at Yangon City Deeds Registration Office on (9-4-2020) due to breach of contract by U Aung Htwe (12/Ma Ga Ta (Naing) 077220) (Great Cairo Construction Co., Ltd) and withdraw was advertised in mirror newspaper dated (10-4-2020). Therefore, it is advertised together with special notice to be known by public to take action according to law seriously on money borrowing commercially sell in domestic and abroad, acceptance of advance money to sell, submitting as guarantee in bank (or) any insurance organization, mortgage, gift, donate, lease, making mutual benefit with any organization, construction proposed building, to take money for business requirement, to do based on "mutual construction contract of condo apartment" without any permission of landlord related with this landlord and all beneficiaries on that landplot. This advertisement had been advertisedin inland mirror newspaper page - 27 dated (23-9-2020).

According to the instruction

Daw Kumudra, LL.B, D.B.L, D.I.L, IDCS
Advocate (Serial - 14899)
Ph : 09-420099656

Advertisement to be known by public

It is advertised as follows to be known by public according to the instruction of Daw Nweni Lwin (12/Pa Ba Ta(Ei)000633), residing at No. 32, Nat Mauk Street, Tamwe Township, Yangon City.

Regarding with landplot, No. 95, Tamwe Street, Bahan Township, Yangon City, freehold landplot, area (0.283) acre, landplot No. (449 C/3), land survey ward No. (2Gl), Bahan Township, Yangon City, original owner Daw Nweni Lwin (12/Pa Ba Ta (Ei) 000633), residing at No. 32, Nat Mauk Street, Tamwe Township, Yangon City assigned to U Aung Htwe (12/Ma Ga Ta (Naing) 077220) (Great Cairo Construction Co., Ltd) to construct condo apartment with mutual benefit and special power No. 23386, dated (22-9-2014) was authorized at Yangon City Deeds Registration Office to U Sein Win (12/Ma Ga Da (Naing) 036589), residing at No. 198, (5) Ward, 37th Street (middle), Kyauktada Township, Yangon City instructed person by him. That special power was withdrawn at Yangon City Deeds Registration Office on (9-4-2020) due to breach of contract by U Aung Htwe (12/Ma Ga Ta (Naing) 077220) (Great Cairo Construction Co., Ltd) and withdraw was advertised in mirror newspaper dated (10-4-2020). Therefore, it is advertised together with special notice to be known by public to take action according to law seriously on money borrowing commercially sell in domestic and abroad, acceptance of advance money to sell, submitting as guarantee in bank (or) any insurance organization, mortgage, gift, donate, lease, making mutual benefit with any organization, construction proposed building, to take money for business requirement, to do based on "mutual construction contract of condo apartment" without any permission of landlord related with this landlord and all beneficiaries on that landplot. This advertisement had been advertisedin inland mirror newspaper page - 27 dated (23-9-2020).

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

UK dock workers' union threatens further strikes

A trade union on Monday warned of more strikes at the UK's largest container port if pay demands are not met, threatening to cause further disruptions to the supply chain.

Workers at Felixstowe port in southeastern England began an eight-day strike over pay on Sunday, in the latest industrial action as decades-high inflation intensifies the country's cost-of-living crisis.

They say the pay offer they received does not keep up with inflation — which has surged above 10 per cent — and includes a one-off lump sum payment.

"If we don't achieve what we're trying to achieve, there will be more strikes," Robert Morton, national officer for the Unite union, told Sky News.

"We've been asking for a minimum of the rate of inflation," Morton said.

Piles of containers are pictured on the deck of the Ever Alot container ship docked at the empty UK's largest freight port, in Felixstowe, on 22 August 2022, during a dock workers eight-day strike over pay. **PHOTO: AFP**

Nearly 2,000 unionized employees at the port in eastern England, including crane drivers, machine operators and stevedores, are involved in the first strike at Felixstowe since 1989.

It comes amid stoppages over pay and working conditions across various UK industries, with railway workers just the latest to strike on Thursday and Saturday this week.

The strike comes after Covid and post-Brexit labour shortages have already hit the UK supply chain.

Morton said he accepted that further strikes at Felixstowe would mean "the supply chain will be severely disrupted", while saying the strike will end as soon as the port agrees to meet for negotiations.

The Port of Felixstowe said in a statement Friday that it was "disappointed" the walkout had gone ahead and called its offer of salary increases of on average eight per cent "fair".

It said it "regrets the impact this action will have on UK supply chains". Pal Davey, head of corporate affairs at the port, told Sky News on Monday that average pay at the port is "40 per cent higher than national average" and workers had been given a "very fair offer".—AFP

Angola's ruling party faces tight poll test

Supporters of Joao Lourenco, Angola's President and presidential candidate of the the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) gather during a campaign rally in Luanda on 20 August 2022, ahead of the Angola elections scheduled for 24 August 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

MILLIONS of Angolans will vote on Wednesday in polls expected to be the most competitive since the country's first multiparty vote in 1992 but with electoral fraud a concern among voters.

A youthful and largely poor electorate will decide whether to continue with the liberation movement that has ruled since independence or embrace change with the opposition led by a charismatic coalition-builder.

Eight political parties are standing, but the real contest is between the ruling People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and its long-standing rival and former rebel movement the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

Stakes are high for MPLA now led by incumbent President Joao Lourenco, who was first elected in 2017 and is seeking a second term.

Many Angolans are weary of the party that has held power since the country won independence from colonial power Portugal in 1975. —AFP

Pope 'concerned' after Nicaraguan bishop detained

POPE Francis said Sunday he was "concerned" by rising tensions between the state and the Catholic church in Nicaragua, two days after bishop and regime critic Rolando Alvarez was detained. Francis said he was following "closely with concern and sorrow" the situation in Nicaragua, amid a worsening standoff between the Church and a government accused of increasing authoritarianism. "I would like to express my conviction and hope that through open and sincere dialogue, the basis for respectful and peaceful coexistence can still be found," the head of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics said after the Angelus prayer.— AFP

Western leaders urge 'restraint' around Ukraine nuclear plant

THE leaders of Britain, France, Germany and the United States on Sunday urged military restraint around the Moscow-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in Ukraine, as they vowed to maintain their backing for Kyiv in the war.

In a phone call, the four leaders also called for a "quick visit" to the nuclear site by independent inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's spokesman.

A flare-up in fighting around the Russian-controlled nuclear power station — with both sides blaming each other for attacks — has raised the spectre of a disaster worse than in Chernobyl.

On Friday, the French presidency said Russian President Vladimir Putin has agreed that IAEA inspectors can travel to the nuclear plant for an inspection. During their talks on Sunday, Scholz, US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson also "agreed that support for Ukraine in its defence against Russian aggression would be sustained".—AFP

This handout satellite image courtesy of Maxar Technologies released on 19 August 2022, shows the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, situated in the Russian-controlled area of Enerhodar, eastern Ukraine. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / SATELLITE IMAGE ©2022 MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES / AFP**

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

S Korea-US hold joint drill to boost defence against N Korea

SOUTH Korea and the United States commenced a regular joint military exercise Monday in a move to boost defence and deterrence against possible provocations by North Korea.

The name of the drill, scheduled to be held through 1 September, has been changed to Ulchi Freedom Shield. It revives large-scale field training that had been suspended under the previous administration of South Korean President Moon Jae In to ease political tensions with Pyongyang and later due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The first five days of the exercise will focus on defending Seoul and neighbouring areas against North Korean attacks, and the remaining four days will be spent on counterattack operations, according to South Korea's Defence Ministry.

North Korea, following a cruise missile launch last week, is expected to show strong opposition to the military drill. South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has suggested "audacious initiatives," including economic aid in various fields, could be provided to North Korea if the country takes practical steps toward denuclearization, an offer dismissed by Pyongyang.— Kyodo

South Korean protesters hold a placard reading "Stop the joint military exercise!" during a rally against the joint military exercises between South Korea and the United States in front of the War Memorial of Korea in Seoul on 22 August 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

First Palestinians to fly from Israel's Negev desert airport arrive in Cyprus

A group of Palestinians from the occupied West Bank flew abroad from an airport in Israel's Negev desert for the first time Monday, arriving in Cyprus under a newly launched pilot scheme.

"This is the first trip for us from Ramon" airport, said Sofiane, a Palestinian pharmacist who declined to provide his surname.

"We got this opportunity for the first time as Palestinians," he said, adding that the group was made up of pharmacists from around the West Bank.

An AFP correspondent said around 25 Palestinians arrived on Israel's Arkia airlines flight from Ramon airport, near the southern Israeli resort city of Eilat, into Larnaca airport on Monday afternoon.

A spokeswoman for the Israel Airports Authority had earlier told AFP that around 40 Palestinians were expected to be on board. While residents of Israeli settlements in the West Bank can travel abroad from Israel's main international airport near Tel Aviv, the vast majority of Palestinians from the territory are banned from doing so.

Palestinians must instead make an overland crossing from the West Bank to Jordan, before boarding a flight in the country's capital Amman.— AFP

(FILES) A file photo taken on 21 January 2019 shows a partial view of the international Ramon Airport, located some 18 kilometres north of the southern Israeli Red Sea resort city of Eilat. **PHOTO: AFP**

CEO of Israeli Pegasus spyware firm to step down

ISRAEL'S NSO Group, which makes Pegasus spyware that is controversial worldwide, said Sunday its CEO was leaving his post as part of a reorganization.

The indebted, privately owned company also said it would focus sales on countries belonging to the NATO alliance.

In July last year, a multinational journalistic investigation revealed that Pegasus spyware had been sold by NSO to governments around the world and used against human rights activists, politicians, reporters and others.

"NSO Group announced today the company will reorganize and CEO Shalev Hulio will step down," a company spokesperson said in a statement.

The firm's chief operating officer Yaron Shohat will now "take the lead" and manage the reorganization process, the spokesperson added.

The reorganization "will examine all aspects of its business, including streamlining its operations to ensure NSO remains one of the world's leading high-tech cyber intelligence companies, focusing on NATO-member countries," a reference to the 30-member North Atlantic Treaty Organization political and military alliance.

Pegasus spyware is used to infiltrate mobile phones and extract data or activate cameras or microphones.

NSO Group says the software is only sold to government agencies to target criminals and terrorists, and sales require Israeli government approval.— AFP

Iran slams US 'delay' in response to nuclear proposals

IRAN on Monday criticized the US for what it said was a slow response to proposals aimed at restoring the 2015 nuclear deal between the Islamic republic and major powers.

The United States and the European Union have been studying Iran's response to a "final" draft agreement on reviving the landmark accord for the past week.

"What is important is the delay by the US side for issuing its response," Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said.

"We acted in this regard in a timely manner and always showed that we are responsible," he told reporters in Tehran.

"The US government is responsible for the current situation, and if it shows its political determination in action seriously and alongside promise and comment, acts responsibly, we can move toward the next stage."

Since taking office in 2021, President Joe Biden has sought to return the US to the deal that was unilaterally abandoned by his predecessor Donald Trump in 2018.

Talks on reviving the accord started in April 2021, and took a pause following the election of ultra-conservative Ebrahim Raisi as Iran's president in June that year, before resuming in November.

The 2015 agreement between Iran and six world powers — Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States — gave the Islamic republic sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear programme.

The deal formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, was designed to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon — something it has always denied wanting to do.

The British, French, German and US leaders spoke about the Iran nuclear issue during a phone conversation on Sunday, according to a White House statement.

They "discussed ongoing negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme, the need to strengthen support for partners in the Middle East region, and joint efforts to deter and constrain Iran's destabilising regional activities," the statement said.— AFP

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

S Korea-US hold joint drill to boost defence against N Korea

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A Rakhine United player (white jersey) runs with the ball during the Myanmar National League Week 9 match against Maha United at Thuwunna Stadium on 22 August 2022. **PHOTO: MNL**

Maha United celebrates victory in MNL Week 9

THE third day of the 2022 Myanmar National League continued on 22 August at the Thuwunna Stadium, where Maha United beat Rakhine United by 2:1.

As it was an important match for the relegation zone, both teams played to their full potential and Maha United won with goals scored in the first half.

Maha United have nine points from all first-round matches and is in a good position to climb out of the relegation zone as they sit three points clear of the relegation zone.

As for Rakhine United, they lost all their first-round matches to MNL clubs including Mahar United and it has become difficult for them to get out of the relegation zone. Both teams used core players to play with full potential. Both teams started attacking from the beginning of the game, but the Mahar United team played better at the beginning of the game, and striker Soe Min Naing scored the opening goal in the sixth minute.

Even after the goal, Mahar United managed to control the game and in the 20th minute, Kyaw Swa Min scored a header over the assist of Htike Htike Aung and got the second goal.

After that, the Rakhine United team tried harder to equalize and Than Kyaw Htay scored an equalizing goal in the 35th minute, so Maha United won by two goals to one goal after the first half. In the second half, the Rakhine United team tried to equalize, but the Maha United team made no mistakes, so the match ended with a 2-1 win for Mahar United.

Yangon United will take on GFA on 24 August while ISPE FC will face Yadanabon FC on 25 August.—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.

Thet Htar Thuzar eliminated from 1st round of World Badminton Championships

MYANMAR badminton champion Thet Htar Thuzar was eliminated from the first round of the Total Energies BWF World Championships 2022, held in Japan, which started on 22 August.

In the first round, Thet Htar Thuzar lost to Canada's Badminton player Zeng Wan Yu by 2:1.

Thet Htar Thuzar was defeated by 21-7 points in the first game but won back with 21-11 points in the second game.

Therefore, the third game became decisive and Thet Htar Thuzar was defeated by 21-19 points.

Thet Htar Thuzar competed in the World Badminton Championship for the second year in a row. In addition, she is competing in Badminton World Federation (BWF) tournaments this year. —Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Mbappe scores in record time as Ligue 1 hits red cards high

HAT-TRICK star Kylian Mbappe matched one Ligue 1 record by scoring after just eight seconds in Lille to set Paris Saint-Germain on their way to a 7-1 victory on Sunday, while the division hit a modern high with 11 red cards in one weekend.

Mbappe equalled a 30-year-old record when he burst into space, collected a pass from Lionel Messi and surprised Lille goalkeeper Leo Jardim with a lob to score his second league goal of the season.

The goal matched Michel Rio's strike for Caen against Cannes on 15 February 1992, although statisticians Mister-Chip calculated that Rio was slightly faster, scoring after 7.9sec to Mbappe's 8.3.

Paris Saint-Germain's French forward Kylian Mbappe scores his team's first goal during the French L1 football match between Lille OSC and Paris-Saint Germain (PSG) at Stade Pierre-Mauroy in Villeneuve-d'Asq, northern France on 21 August 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Mbappe then hit a post when facing an open goal, but Messi, Achraf Hakimi and Neymar all scored before half-time as PSG tore apart the only other club to win the French title in the last five seasons.

Stories of tensions between two of PSG's superstars, Mbappe and Neymar, had swirled around the club this week but the Brazilian scored twice and Mbappe three times.

"It's a real satisfaction to see them happy on the field, playing for each other," PSG coach Christophe Galtier said.

"Obviously there is talent, and when this talent comes together, it makes for a very enjoyable match." Neymar added a fifth early in the second half. After Jonathan Bamba replied for Lille, Mbappe struck twice, set up both times by Neymar.

The match ended a weekend when French football saw red, as referees applied a new "firmness order".—AFP