

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 131, 14th Waning of Wagaung 1384 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Thursday, 25 August 2022

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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



The photo shows the Yedagun natural gas production rigs.

Yangon to host 7th tourism exhibition

THE seventh tourism exhibition will be held in Yangon in September 2022 to revive domestic tourism, which is suspended amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association held tourism-related exhibitions to promote tourism development. A total of six events were convened before the Covid-19 pandemic. Plans are underway to hold the seventh tourism exhibition in September.

Normally, the tourism season in Myanmar starts in October and the tourism companies used to sell programmes for domestic and international tours in September. This exhibition will take place at LOTTE hotel in Yangon on 17 and 18 September 2022 and is open to anyone. Travellers will have the chance to observe and buy domestic and foreign tour programmes. As a special programme, discounted tours will also be exhibited.

In the exhibition, information on countries tourists can visit, visa information and restrictions will be available. Flight tickets and tours will also be on sale at special prices during the travel fair by relevant airlines and travel agencies. — Myo Min Thura/GNLM

Natural gas export bags over US\$800 million from April to July

THE export of natural gas from Myanmar to neighbouring countries such as China and Thailand earned over US\$800 million during the four months of this 2022-2023 financial year, stated the Ministry of Commerce.

From 1 April to 31 July, 77.89 million kilo of natural gas were exported through gas pipelines and pocketed \$819.503 million. Myanmar

received \$135 million in April, \$194 million in May, \$286.033 million in June and \$204.47 million in July, respectively.

Natural gas was exported mainly by the four offshore natural gas production projects which are Yadana, Yedagun, Shwe and Zawtika natural gas production rigs. In April 2022, the country earned \$289.9 million from natural gas exports and \$229.2 million in April 2021.

Comparing the same period in the previous year, the income from natural gas export exceeds \$60.7 million.

During the six months of the 2021-2022 financial year from October to March (mini-budget period), more than \$1,715 million were collected from natural gas exports and the monthly export was the highest in November, according to the Ministry of Planning

and Finance.

In the mini-budget (from October to March) period of the 2021-2022 financial year, \$280.2 million in October, \$300.8 million in November, \$274.2 million in December, \$279.5 million in January, \$290.2 million in February and \$290.3 million in March, totalling \$1,715.2 million were brought in by natural gas export. — TWA/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

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Confirmed Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Soe Min Tun	Director-General Department of Promotion and Propagation of Sasana Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.
(2) U Aung Min	Managing Director Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise Ministry of Energy

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

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

DOCTORS and nurses from public hospitals, Tatmadaw medical teams, healthcare workers and volunteers are working hard to give COVID-19 vaccines in different states and regions as the vaccination programme is one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 disease.

COVID-19 vaccine is administered daily to target groups regardless of race or religion, including Buddhist monks and nuns, local people over the age of 40, students, religious leaders, prisoners, people with disabilities, ethnic armed groups, people with chronic diseases, people in IDP camps and over 12-year-old students, respectively.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 89 people from Tamway Township in Yangon Region, 10,332 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 4,672 people from eleven townships in Rakhine State, and 8,038 from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

Similarly on that day, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 3,507 students from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 2,337 students from five townships in Rakhine State and 1,993 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



A local in Tamway Township, Yangon Region gets a COVID-19 vaccine shot on 24 August.



A student in Kyaukphyu Township, Rakhine State is seen receiving a vaccine for COVID-19 on 23 August.

63 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 24 August, total figure rises to 614,811

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 614,811 after 63 new cases— 40 imported and 23 local transmission—were reported on 24 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 593,355 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 23-8-2022, a total of 30,331,704 people above 18 have been vaccinated. A total of 6,318,535 people under 18 have been vaccinated. —MNA

Our country must now build a stronger Union system for ensuring its long-term existence

OUR country is a nation where ethnic people have been residing for many years. From before losing independence, the whole country was under the administrative system of centralization, although the types of administration were different in regions and areas. Thus, when we gained independence, the whole nation, the whole Union collectively gained independence.

Hence, our country, which had been formed through the Union system since historical times, must now build a stronger Union system for ensuring its long-term existence.

(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)

State Peace Talks Team continues its 2nd-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw



The second-day meeting between the State Peace Talks Team and the delegation of PNLO, LDU and ALP is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE second-day meeting between the State Peace Talks Team and the peace delegation of PNLO, LDU and ALP was held at the conference hall of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 August.

The meeting was attended by SAC Member Union Minister at the Union Government Office Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Team Member SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung, committee members: Lt-Gen Min Naing, members Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein and Lt-Gen Aye Win, and Chairman Khun Thurein and Vice-Chairman Khun Tun

Tin of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO, Lahu Democratic Union-LDU Chairman Kyar Solomon and General Secretary Kyar Ya Kok, ALP Vice-Chairperson Saw Mra Raza Lin and Member of the Central Executive Committee Khine Soe Mra.

At the second-day meeting, NSPNC member Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein explained the studies on the agreements of Part I, II and III of the Union Accord in order to check whether they conform with the existing laws of the 2008 Constitution.

Afterwards, participants discussed and negotiated their points of view and adjourned the second-day meeting. The third day of the meeting will continue on 25 August. — MNA

MoH Union Minister meets GAVI-The Vaccine Alliance delegation

UNION Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win of the Ministry of Health received the delegation led by Managing Director Mr Thabani Maphosa of the GAVI-The Vaccine Alliance Office, based in Geneva, Switzerland, at the ministry's reception hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the Union minister said that the GAVI-The Vaccine Alliance, United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) need to cooperate closely with the Ministry of Health in Myanmar's routine vaccination activities; the ministry will accept and welcome any kind of assistance without any strings attached, and the assistance will also be used effectively un-

der the leadership of the Ministry of Health.

Managing Director Mr Thabani Maphosa of the GAVI-The Vaccine Alliance said that they will provide the vaccines for Covid-19 disease that only need to be injected once to be used for remote areas, and continue to supply the vaccines needed in Myanmar's regular vaccination activities. UNICEF and WHO will also cooperate closely with the Ministry of Health to support vaccination activities.

At the meeting hall of the Ministry of Health on 23 August, Deputy Minister Dr Aye Tun, Director-General of the Public Health Department and officials from the central vaccination project mutually discussed with the GAVI-The



The GAVI-The Vaccine Alliance delegation calls on MoH Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Vaccine Alliance, WHO and UNICEF officials, regarding the issues to cooperate in the future for Myanmar's routine expansion of vaccination activities and Covid-19 vaccination activities, and collaborative solutions to the needs that may be encountered. — MNA

Entrepreneurs should establish public companies to increase numbers of listed companies without relying only on bank loans, says MoPF UM



The seventh meeting of the Myanmar Securities and Exchange Commission is underway.

THE stock exchange accepts the public companies as listed companies to trade the shares and the business people should not rely only on bank loans and should establish more public companies in international standards, and the commission should keep eye on the opera-

tions to increase the numbers of listed companies, said Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein during the 7/2022 meeting of the Myanmar Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday.

It permits the Pre-Listing Board (PLB) a secondary market of the Yangon Stock Exchange to increase the numbers of listed companies and some restrictions are eased for the SMEs to register at the PLB. Such action can support the capital market growth and economic development of the country.

Moreover, the increase of listed companies at YSX plays a key role to improve the capital market and they should be well-organized and firm public companies. On the other hand, the investors can grab the chances to change their purchased stock shares of listed companies of YSX into their investors, the Union minister said.

Currently, the shares of seven listed companies are trading through six Securities Companies. A total of 44,809 people opened accounts at these companies and it shows 4.1 per cent of growth per year. The market investment value of seven listed companies is K581.515 billion as of end-July. — MNA

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

The following telephone numbers, fax and email address can be reached to safely report information in connection with illegal trade.

- Auto telephone number - 067 409 883
- Mobile phone - 09 404339969
- Fax - 067 409 886
- Email address - antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

Regarding the "request for money from departmental organizations in conducting trade", the following numbers can be reached to safely report such information.

- Auto telephone number - 067 409 881
- Mobile phone - 09 699611116
- Fax - 067 409 887
- Email address - antiillegaltradeoffice@gmail.com

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

Coop Dept allows farmers to buy Agri machinery with 30% down payment

FARMERS in regions/states including Nay Pyi Taw can purchase the agricultural machinery by paying 30 per cent of the total cost of the machines at the offices of the Cooperative Department.

The department receives permission to distribute 119 tractors and power tillers out of ten types of machinery using the State budget for the 2022-2023FY.

Farmers can buy the agricultural machinery in instalment and the government will bear 50 per cent of the costs and cooperative member farmers will have to pay the remaining 50 per cent by instant payment or 30 per cent of the down payment.

It aims to use the machinery widely to grow crops in time due to fewer numbers of farmers and climate change.

It has permitted to allocate 75 machines to ideal villages in nine regions/states including Nay Pyi Taw under Union Budget and



The walking tractor driving training course is in action in the Myaukchaung village of Buthidaung Township in Rakhine State.

44 machines to Kachin, Shan and Chin states including Ayeyawady Region under the region/state budget.

Currently, the department has sold 99 machines and those who are interested to buy can contact the department's offices. A total of K330 billion out of the K400 billion State Economic Promotion Fund. It allocated K170 billion to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, K60 billion to the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, K10 billion respectively to Kayah, Chin and Rakhine states for Myasein-yaung projects, K8 billion each to Kachin, Kayin states, Taninthayi region, Mon and Shan states and K5 billion each to Naga, Danu, Pa-O, Palaung, Kokang Self-Administered Zones and Wa Self-Administered Division. — TWA/GNLM



231 corruption cases filed from 1 February 2021 to end of July 2022

THE Anti-Corruption Commission stated that 231 cases of corruption were prosecuted due to the identification of complaints from 1 February 2021 to the end of July 2022 during the period of the State Administration Council.

Among these case the persons from those of former Union government ministries and regional and state governments were in political position. According to the commission statement, there were 108 cases of corruption involving authorities, and the loss of K259,670 million and US\$13,326,746 due to these cases.

Corruption in government projects such as construction work, violation of financial regulations on regional and state development activities, failure

to comply with the terms of the agreement signed with the State, violation of existing laws, rules and regulations, disobeying orders, seeking personal gains, and abusing the country's land assets are also included, according to the statement.

Two hundred and thirty-one reported corruption cases in the SAC term and among these, 185 were serious crimes and 45 were minor crimes.

During the term of the previous government, some persons were notorious for corruption but scrutiny and taking action were weak. So, only three cases were related to prosecuted for the loss of the State funds from 2019 to 31 January 2021, exposing losses of K20 million and 255,930.69 euros. —TWA/GNLM

Highway van service providers tolerating fuel price spike

THE price of diesel hit a record high of K3,000 per litre of diesel in the retail market on 24 August 2022, U Aung Zaw, a truck owner, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

On 24 August, fuel prices were K2,440 per litre of Octane 92 and K2,525 per litre of Octane 95. There was a price gap of K355 per litre between Octane 92 and Diesel on 7 August. Then, the gap widened to K560 per litre on 24 August.

On 22 August, Octane 92 was priced at K2,400 while diesel was worth K2,820 per litre. The figures indicated a rise of K40 for Octane 92 and K180 for diesel against the rates recorded on 24 August.

The prices of diesel tremendously rose from K8,944 per gallon on 7 August to K13,620 per gallon on 24 August.

The ferry service for the 200-mile-long Yangon-Mawgyun trip hiked the price up to K6,000 per passenger. Furthermore, the frequency of ferry service dropped this month as only one ferry is running. When two ferries ran last year, the passenger was charged only K2,000, the GNLM quoted

Ma Khin Khin Aye, a passenger from Mawgyun, as saying.

The freight charge for the Yangon-Pyapon ferry trip increased from K200 to K300 per rice bag, U Ohn, an operator of a double-decker elaborated.

Similarly, 48-mile-long Yangon-Kyaiklat ferries also raised the ferry ticket price from K3,000 to K4,000 last month. Freight costs also doubled from K500 to K1,000 per basket of goods such as eggs, coconut and banana, Daw Aye Than, a seller of eggs, coconut and banana from Kyaiklat told the GNLM.

On 23 August 2022, fuel retail prices per litre in Yan-

gon stood at K2,390 for Octane 92, K2,480 for Octane 95 and K2,865 for diesel. On 24 August, Octane 92 price was up by K50, while the diesel price showed a big jump by K135.

In spite of the fuel price rises, the prices of highway van services that use Octane remain unchanged. Highway van operators reported that a passenger is charged K10,000 for a Yangon-Mawgyun trip and the price stays the same.

Nonetheless, transport costs of diesel-fuelled trucks and ferries are higher due to the price hike of diesel, highway truck operators and ferry commuters said. —TWA/GNLM



A highway van is pictured running for the Yangon-Mawgyun trip.

Local Shan potato surpasses Chinese potato in price

THE prices of local Shan potatoes go higher than Chinese ones. On 23 August, the Chinese potato was priced at K2,050 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), whereas the local Shan potato from the Aungban area fetched K1,400-2,200 per viss.

On 24 August, Chinese potato prices were estimated at K2,000 per viss while potatoes from the Aungban area moved in the range of K1,400 to K2,150 per viss. Chinese potato prices were higher than Shan potatoes from 16 to 18 August. The price of Chinese potato stood at K2,350 in those three days, while Shan potato fetched K2,150 per viss, a trader Ko Chit Ko told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Chinese potato is mostly utilized in curry but Shan potato is

commonly used in potato chip businesses. Shan potato is larger than Chinese one and the price is greater these days, the GNLM quoted Ko Swe Win, a trader, as

saying.

Earlier, a popular brand potato chip business needed 500 potato bags per day. This year, potato sales to those businesses

declined amid the high prices of potatoes and palm oil.

The potatoes cultivated in April are being harvested in August. Some growers commence potato cultivation. The price collapse in 2020 drove the potato plantation acres down. In 2021, the number of growers rose again.

There are around 16,000 acres of potatoes in Shan hill. The yield rate per acre is estimated at 4,000 visses in the rainy season. The cultivation cost per acre is around K6 to 7 million. Therefore, the capital for potato cultivation is K1,500-1,600 per viss. In 2020, the production cost per acre was K2.5 million, that is, K500-700 per viss, according to a report cited by an official of the Naungtaya area Potato Growers Association

during a TV interview broadcast on 12 August.

The rising cost of agricultural inputs pushed the potato price to K1,700 per viss in the Yangon market.

The potato price hit a record high of K2,500 per viss in the wholesale market during the second week of December 2021, allowing the growers to earn well, the onion and potato warehouses stated.

As rotten potatoes can make others rot easily, rotten potatoes are removed from the warehouses. The damaged potatoes are priced at K3,000-4,000 per bag. Some resell those potatoes after cutting off the rotted part of the potato, Ko Aye Myint involved in processing potatoes told the GNLM. —TWA/GNLM



Potatoes are separated in lines by sizing at a farm.



Livestock dept adopts Unit Plan to boost meat, dairy production

THE Yangon Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department implements the Unit Plan project for the expansion of cattle and buffalo farming in the region to increase dairy cattle and beef cattle in the region.

The slaughterhouses in Sin-malaik and Ywathagyi slaughter about 300 cows for daily consumption of meat and the Insein and Tamway milk markets distribute the milk for export and local consumption.

The department adopted the Unit Plan starting April 2022 and allocated 100 cattle to Mingaladon and Thongwa townships respectively to increase to 200 cattle per year. The plan will be implemented in Taikkyi and Hmawby townships in October.

The department also grants a one-year loan to chicken/pig/



The Unit Plan project is underway for the expansion of cattle and buffalo farming in Yangon Region.

PHOTO : KANU

duck farmers and a three-year loan to cattle/buffalo farmers at low-interest rates under the My-

aseinyaung livestock sector using revolving State budget funds. The farmers who breed about

300 cows under Unit Plan can get a K30 million loan and they are urged to participate in the

Myaseinyaung livestock sector.

The beef cattle are marketable after three years and so it makes more profits as it saves the costs of feed for two years compared to five years of breeding previously. The brahman, Shweni, Pyasein, and Indo-Brazil are the beef cattle and Jersey and Friesian are dairy cattle.

It can breed 10 cows per acre and so there will be difficulties regarding the pastures. There are over 140,000 beef cattle and about 3,000 heads per month in the Yangon region. Therefore, the beef cattle can disappear from the market in the long run and it can rely on the ones from Bago and Ayeyawady regions. The department implement such a Unit Plan to improve dairy and beef cattle farming in the region. — Nyein Thu(MNA)/GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, charcoal, petroleum, materials, foodstuffs, consumer goods, boats and vehicles confiscated

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

A Coast Guard patrol vessel 566 under the instructions of the Taninthayi Region Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force conducted inspections on 18 August.

Officials nabbed K12 million worth of an illegal fishing boat and related materials about six miles northeast of Kyunpyagyi island in the Kawthoung district. The action was taken under the Myanmar Marine Fisheries Law.

Similarly, on 23 August, a combined team led by the Myanmar Police Force captured 180 jerrycans of edible oil (made in Thailand) worth K10.8 million and 20 cartons of instant vermicelli

packets worth K960,000 from a Nissan car (approximately K25 million) heading from Myeik to Mawlamyine. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, on 21 August, a combined inspection team under the management of the Magway Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force confiscated a total of 22.5432 tonnes of illegal teak worth K14,653,080 in Kam-ma township and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Forty-eight gallons of crude oil worth K96,000 were seized in Minhla township and the action was taken under the Myanmar Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

On 22 August, an on-duty



Confiscated illegal foodstuffs in Taninthayi Region.



Seized items at Yangon International Airport.

team made inspections at the warehouse of Yangon International Airport and captured K11,035,250 worth of industrial material parts that had arrived 92 days before an approved licence and K10.5 million worth of an X-ray machine and related materials that had arrived 65 days before an approved licence. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Afterwards, a total of 0.9102 tonne of illegal teak parquets worth K600,732 from a Nissan AD Van car (approximately K30 million) were confiscated in North Okkalapa township and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 23 August, a combined

on-duty team impounded K1,750,000 worth of foodstuffs that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a vehicle heading from Myawady to Yangon at Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint and 800 pairs of lady shoes worth K3,360,000 that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a vehicle heading from Myawady to Yangon at the Thanlwin Bridge Combined Checkpoint. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, an inspection team confiscated 271 bags of charcoal worth K810,000 that were illegally carried at the Yadanabon Bridge Combined Checkpoint.

On 24 August, a team led by the head of the Bago Township Customs Department under the management of the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted unexpected inspections near the Phayagyi Tollgate.

They captured K15,119,000 worth of foodstuffs without official documents from a Mitsubishi Fuso 12-wheel truck (approximately K40 million) heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures. Therefore, 20 arrests (approximately K176,684,062) were made on 18, 21, 22, 23 and 24 August, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Corn price slump persists

FARMERS said that due to the decrease in corn exports to Thailand, the domestic corn price is heading downwards and is around K500-800 per viss.

The domestic corn price peaked at around K1,100 in 2022 and then declined.

“Now the price is low. I don’t know if I will lose if new corn is harvested,” said a corn farmer.

The market of corn exported to Thailand has decreased due to the issuance of export licences after the receipt of export earnings for the export of corn, the setting of exchange for the export and sale of goods in US dollars only, and the sale of foreign currencies exported only at the Central Bank’s exchange rate.

In the first six months of 2022, due to the exchange rate and purchasing conditions in Thailand, the price of corn rose

from K950 to K1,100 per viss. Since July, exports have been decreasing, and the price also depends on the region.

As corn prices continue to fall, farmers are worried that the corn will be harvested in October.

A corn farmer said that if the price is up to K700 per viss, it is the basic price of the farmers and only if it is above this price, there will be profit.

This year, China is also officially planning to import corn, and many companies are preparing to obtain export licences to China, so they hope to be able to export.

In 2022, corn farmers will have to double their agricultural inputs and spend an average of K800,000 per acre on purchase of inputs, so they need to make a profit without the price falling.—TPT/GNLM



This year, China is also officially planning to import corn, and many companies are preparing to obtain export licences to China, so they hope to be able to export.

Sugarcane offered K80,000 per tonne for upcoming sugarcane season



A female worker is seen collecting the harvested sugarcane.

THE price of sugarcane is quoted at K80,000 per tonne for the upcoming sugarcane season, U Win Htay, vice chair of Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane Related Products Association told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Last year, the opening price of sugarcane was K50,000 per tonne. The association raised the price to K80,000 per tonne this year.

Despite the price rise, growers are not doing a roaring business amid the higher prices of agricultural inputs (fertilizers and fuel prices), the growers stressed.

“The growers are struggling

with the rising costs of fertilizer. The price of fertilizer is estimated at K110,000-120,000 per bag. Growers need to apply five to ten bags of fertilizer per acre. As the sugarcane is offered at K80,000, it will not make a profit along with the soaring fuel and fertilizer prices. The diesel price stands at over K10,000 per gallon. Consequently, it elevated the costs of farm machinery and transportation. The number of sugarcane acres last year decreased. There are only three months left until the sugarcane season. Therefore, some new growers are now taking into account the market conditions whether to grow it or not. The sugarcane can be harvested

for three years after one year of cultivation. Those who will start growing the sugarcane this year are not certain about profitability. However, those growers who planted in the previous years will make a profit as there is no cultivation cost,” said U Win Htay.

Approximately, 450,000 acres of sugarcane are cultivated across the country with an annual production of 450,000 tonnes of sugar. Sugar was conveyed to China and Viet Nam in the past years beyond self-sufficiency. Now, it is only shipped to Viet Nam, according to the Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane Related Products Association.

Sugarcane is commonly found in the upper Sagaing Region, followed by northern Shan State. It is also found in the western and eastern Bago Region, Yangon Region and Mandalay Region.

The sugarcane is grown in December-January. It can be harvested from November to February of the following years. The sugarcane growing rotation cycle lasts for four years in Myanmar.—NN/GNLM

Price of Yingwe mango weak in domestic market

SOME farmers said that due to the rains in southern Shan State, the price of Yingwe mango for export and sale in the local market is only around K10,000 per patch.

At present, only Yingwe mangoes are produced, and most of them are conveyed to the Yangon market.

“The rains are heavy and the fruits are falling. The price is not good. It is lower than the previous year,” said a mango farmers based in Yatsawk.

“We only exported mangoes such as Seintalone and Machitsu to China, while Ying-

we mangoes rely only on the Yangon market and do not get a good price because of their quality,” said farmers.

The price of a patch of 60 mangoes is only around K10,000, and the price decreased from around K20,000 last year.

In addition, some of the newly ripe mangoes are falling as heavy rain hit the Shan State.

Farmers said that there is little profit in the mango market this year over the situation of not being able to export to China and not buying it.—TPT/GNLM



A shopper is pictured buying mangoes in the market.

Wait and see the beautiful, pleasant Inlay Lake

INLAY Lake located in Nyaungshwe Township of Shan State is the second largest lake in Myanmar with an estimated surface area of 24 square miles in 63 square miles of the lake area, and one of the highest at an elevation of 2,900 feet. During the dry season, the average water depth is seven feet, with the deepest point being 12 feet. During the rainy season, this can increase by some five feet.

In 2015, the United Nations added Inlay Lake to its World Network Biosphere Reserves. There are a total of 651 sites in 120 countries on this network, but Inlay Lake is the first biosphere reserve to be added to Myanmar.

Recently, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation decided to implement the greening and sustainable development of the lake in the 2022-23 financial year in order to attract local and foreign travellers at all times.

The watershed area for the lake lies to a large extent to the north and west of the lake. The water from the lake flows out to the Balu Creek on its southern end while 29 creeks flow into the lake. The lake is wonderfully decorated with floating plants. The lake is home to more than 35 native species of fish and various freshwater water creatures.

The creeks conveying sand and silt in water erosion and landslides along their courses finally lay into the lake. Hence, the lake gradually faces silting problems whereas water courses linking villages are also silting. At a time when the water level at the lake is down, waterway transport is very difficult among the local people.

In addition, the water hyacinth, a plant not native to the lake, also poses a major problem in water courses. It grows rapidly, filling up the smaller streams and large expanses of the lake, robbing native plants and animals of nutrients and sunlight.

As such, the ministry is carrying out dredging sand and silts from the lake, building embankments to deter silting and removing floating plants as part of conserving the lake. Families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) have donated two aquatic weed harvesters worth US\$2,460 each for the conservation of the lake environs.

The financial year 2022-23 will be auspicious for Inlay Lake. The ministry will spend the capital expenditure on greening and beautifying Inlay Lake. So, not only local people but foreign travellers can seek the beautiful and pleasant Inlay Lake in a near future.



Sarpay Beikman

Yesterday,

Today,

Tomorrow

(In honour of the Diamond Jubilee, 75th Anniversary of Sarpay Beikman which falls on 26 August 2022)

By Maung Hlaing



The "Sorrento Villa" came to be the venue of the Burma Translation Society as well as its printing and publishing facility in its early days of formation.

BIRTHDAYS usually are happy occasions. Almost everyone wants to celebrate his or her birthday every year. People celebrate their birthdays by holding family parties, giving presents, visiting friends and attending religious services.

As for the Sarpay Beikman, the edifice which was born of the independence struggles, it is incumbent upon us to hold a ceremonial occasion.

If we cast a glance at a panoramic view of the Sarpay Beikman, we cannot help thinking of Bogyoke Aung San who gave birth to the historic institute – Sarpay Beikman. Now, it has reached 75 years in existence this year.

Sarpay Beikman ... Yesterday

"We have to open more craft schools. We must encourage vocational skills and general handicraft skills. We must hold it in our minds to translate important books for the public and useful books for mass production. We must open a translation department. We must send scholars to study abroad". (An excerpt from the Perspective of the Global New Light of Myanmar, 2 January 2020, P8.)

The day was 7 June 1947. On that day, Bogyoke Aung San, the architect of Myanmar's independence delivered a speech at a rehabilitation conference at the Sorrento Villa Building on Pyay Road in Yangon. In order to implement what Bogyoke said, the Sarpay Beikman (Institute) emerged.

The Sarpay Beikman was known until early 1959 as the Burma Translation Society (BTS). In the beginning, the name was translated into English as 'Palace of Literature'.

Starting essentially as a translation society, Sarpay Beikman has become truly a publishing house with a wide variety of functions. In its early days, although it received occasional government subsidies because of the educational nature of its work, the Sarpay Beikman was not a government department. It was a private, non-political institute governed by a Managing Council.

The institute cooperated with a number of international organizations and philanthropic and, cultural groups from other countries.

During 1952 and 1953, the United States Technical Coop-

eration Administration provided a Printing Advisor and much of the equipment needed to begin the printing plant. From 1954 to 1956, the Ford Foundation provided, at the institute's request, an advisor to help map out an overall developmental plan.

In addition to the Senior Advisor, Marketing Advisor, Research Advisor, and Layout and Design Advisor under the Ford Foundation-supported programme ending in 1960, UNESCO provided from 1956 to 1958 a Book Production Specialist. UNESCO fellowships were awarded to certain of the institute's staff.

In 1957, Sarpay Beikman was host to a four-nation UNESCO Seminar on the production of

Reading Materials for the New Reading Audience. A number of UNESCO fellows were sent to the institute for periods of training, and even the Government of Viet Nam sent a team of high-level Ministry of Education officials to study Sarpay Beikman's work, with a view to starting their own publishing and translation society.

At that time, the Sarpay Beikman was made up of the following divisions and sections:

1. The Editorial Division,
2. The Burmese Encyclopaedia Division,
3. The Popular Science Division,
4. The Textbook Division,
5. Sarpay Beikman Monthly

6. Magazine,
7. The People's Handbook Series,
8. Children's Books,
9. The Terms Bank and Editorial Reference Library,
10. The Publications Research Division,
11. The Printing Division,
12. The Production Office,
13. The Art Department,
14. The Marketing Division,
15. The General Administration,
16. The Accounts Division,
17. The Motor Transport Section,
18. The Public Relations Division,
19. The Sarpay Beikman Public Library,
20. The Extra-Mural Activities

Division.

The Editorial Division

As chief executive, the Council of the Institute designated the Director who was in charge of supervising and coordinating all phases of the Institute's activities. The editorial programme, in turn, is under the direction of a Chief Editor and a Deputy Chief Editor.

The Burmese Encyclopaedia Division

The completion of the Encyclopaedia was begun in 1949. It was a milestone in Myanmar's progress towards making world knowledge available to all. Although the compilation of the

subject matter for each volume of the Encyclopaedia was done in the division itself, special articles were written by outside scholars and experts. The entire programme is under the advice and guidance of an Encyclopaedia Planning Committee composed of leading scholars, and this committee took an active role in all phases of the compilation of the Encyclopaedia.

The Popular Science Division

The division was to compile, in Myanmar, a Pictorial Encyclopaedia of Popular Science. The name of the Myanmar edition was 'Ludu Theikpan Kyan' (Science for the Masses). The purpose of this project was to make the general public science-minded. The books of the Ludu Theikpan Kyan series were printed at Djambatan Ltd., Amsterdam, Holland.

The Textbook Division

The division became the largest educational publisher in Myanmar in producing books for primary and secondary schools, and teachers' training schools. The Editor and staff members of the Textbook Division were constantly reviewing the books produced by the Institute with a view to bringing out improved editions and providing new titles.

Sarpay Beikman Monthly Magazine

Since 1952, the Institute had published a monthly magazine, appropriately called Sarpay Beikman. The purpose of the magazine was to develop the physical, intellectual, economic, social and moral strengths of the nation. Sarpay Beikman magazine, through the medium of the vernacular language, could seek to narrow the gulf between the people and the outside world.

The People's Handbook Series

The Series produced small books which were intended to communicate ideas and information effectively so as to bring about changes in the way of life of the rural people and thereby raise their social and economic levels. To make the books more acceptable, they were written in an easy-to-read, entertaining style.

Children's Books

Two Children's Series, one for the 4-8-year-old group and a second for the 9-14-year-old group, completed the Institute's programme for providing trade books for all reading audiences in Myanmar. Two books in each series were released each month, selling for twenty-five pyas a copy. These Children's Books were developed by the Institute's author-editors rather than by outside authors.

The Terms Bank and Editorial Reference Library

The Terms Bank and Editorial Reference Library were the two departments that served as important adjuncts to the Editorial Department. The Terms Bank was the section of the Institute which helped the editorial staff translate various subjects into Myanmar. This section generally held four to six sectional meetings each Saturday. The work of the Terms Bank was invaluable not only to the editorial staff of the Institute but also to other authors who wrote in specialized subjects in Myanmar.

The Editorial Reference Library provided both reference and general material for the various divisions. (At that time, there were approximately 7,500 books in English, 4,000 Books in Myanmar, 4,000 magazines and journals and twenty-one general and specialized sets of encyclopaedias in English.)

The Publications Research Division

The division owed its growth to the impetus given by the Educational Publications Study Group sponsored by the Sarpay Beikman. The purpose of the division was two-fold: -

To carry out evaluation studies which would give the Institute an indication as to how effective its books were in communicating

ideas to various potential audiences, and

To carry out studies of a fundamental nature which would help all interested in communicating through the mass media in Myanmar to better understand their task.

The division conducted the following two major projects:-

An opinion survey of all-Burma (Myanmar) teachers on textbooks published by the Institute, and

An intensive survey of leisure patterns in Myanmar villages, particularly the reading habits of villagers, with a view to putting this knowledge to use in the Institute's marketing programme.

Printing Division

The Production Office and Printing Plant played a key role in the development of the Institute and in the success of its mission as an educational publisher. Almost half of the entire Institute staff was occupied with the manufacture of books. Capital investment and budget allocations were naturally the heaviest in this division and included the importation of hundreds of tonnes of paper a year.

The Printing Plant

Between 1949 and 1952, a modest start towards a Sarpay Beikman Printing Plant was made with the local purchase of mainly second-hand equipment. A very welcome opportunity to enlarge printing facilities came in 1952 when the US Government under TCA made available equipment (worth approximately K800,000) to the Institute. It was noteworthy that several plant foremen were sent to the United States and the United Kingdom for training and that a UNESCO Printing Production Specialist arrived in 1956.

The Production Office

The Production Office, conceived and set up with the advice of the UNESCO Specialist, provided better direction and management through all stages of book production. It was headed by the Producing Manager. It included the Sarpay Beikman Art Department with its own department head, a Production and Stock Control Section, and a Costing Section.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

All systems go for Artemis 1 mission to Moon

FIFTY years after the last Apollo mission, the Artemis programme is poised to take up the baton of lunar exploration with a test launch on Monday of NASA's most powerful rocket ever.

The goal is to return humans to the Moon for the first time since the last Apollo mission in 1972 — and eventually to Mars.

The 322-foot (98-metre) Space Launch System (SLS) rocket is scheduled to blast off at 8:33 am (1233 GMT) from the Kennedy Space Centre (KSC) in Florida.

The mission, more than a decade in the planning, may be uncrewed, but is highly symbolic for NASA, which has been under pressure from China and private rivals such as SpaceX.

Hotels around Cape Canaveral are booked solid with between 100,000 and 200,000 spectators expected to attend the launch.

The massive orange-and-white rocket has been sitting on KSC's Launch Complex 39B for a week.

"Ever since we rolled out to the pad last week, you can feel the excitement, the energy," said Janet Petro, director of KSC. "It's really, really palpable."

The objective of the flight, baptized Artemis 1, is to test the



Temporary work spaces are set up near the Vehicle Assembly Building ahead of the Artemis 1 moon rocket launch at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. **PHOTO: AFP**

SLS and the Orion crew capsule that sits atop the rocket.

Mannequins equipped with sensors will take the place of crew members, recording acceleration, vibration and radiation levels.

Cameras will capture every moment of the 42-day trip and include a selfie of the spacecraft with the Moon and Earth in the

background.

Splashdown in Pacific

The Orion capsule will orbit around the Moon, coming within 60 miles (100 kilometres) at its closest approach and then firing its engines to get to a distance 40,000 miles beyond, a record for a spacecraft rated to carry humans.—AFP

Whistle blows in Germany for world's first hydrogen train fleet

GERMANY on Wednesday inaugurated a railway line powered entirely by hydrogen, a "world premiere" and a major step forward for green train transport despite nagging supply challenges.

A fleet of 14 trains provided by French industrial giant Alstom to the German state Lower Saxony has replaced diesel locomotives on the 100 kilometres (60 miles) of track connecting the cities of Cuxhaven, Bremerhaven, Bremervörde and Buxtehude near Hamburg.

"We are very proud to put this technology into operation together with our strong partners as a world premiere," Alstom CEO Henri Poupart-Lafarge said in a statement.

Hydrogen trains have become a promising way to decarbonize the rail sector and

replace climate-warming diesel, which still powers 20 per cent of journeys in Germany.

Billed as a "zero emission" mode of transport, the trains mix hydrogen on board with oxygen present in the ambient air, thanks to a fuel cell installed in the roof. This produces the electricity needed to pull the train.

Regional rail operator LNVG said the fleet, which cost 93 million euros (dollars), would prevent 4,400 tonnes of CO2 being released into the atmosphere each year.

Run for its money

Designed in the southern French town of Tarbes and assembled in Salzgitter in central Germany, Alstom's trains — called Coradia iLint — are trailblazers in the sector.—AFP



The trains will initially use hydrogen derived from fossil fuels, but the hope is hydrogen made using renewable energy will become available. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Boiling heat and no water: taps run dry in southern Iraq



Children in al-Aghawat use a broken fridge to cool down: authorities blame drought for the current water shortages, but also dams built upstream on some rivers and tributaries in neighbouring Türkiye and Iran. **PHOTO: AFP**

YOUNES Ajil turns on the tap in his home but nothing comes out: dozens of villages are without running water in drought-hit Iraq, surviving on sporadic tanker-truck deliveries and salty wells.

For everything from drinking to bathing and washing dishes and clothes, Ajil and his eight children wait at their home in Al-Aghawat for trucked-in water from the Diwaniyah provincial authorities once or twice a week.

In burning summer temperatures that at times approach 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit), he said he hasn't bathed for four days.—AFP

Flood toll tops 800 in Pakistan's 'catastrophe of epic scale'

RECORD monsoon rains were causing a "catastrophe of epic scale", Pakistan's climate change minister said Wednesday, announcing an international appeal for help in dealing with floods that have killed more than 800 people since June.

The annual monsoon is essential for irrigating crops and replenishing lakes and dams across the Indian subcontinent, but each year it also brings a wave of destruction.

Heavy rain continued to pound much of Pakistan Wednesday, with authorities reporting more than a dozen deaths — including nine children — in the last 24 hours. "It has been raining for a month now. There is nothing left," a woman named Khanzadi told AFP in badly hit Jaffarabad, Balochistan province.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE

Anthony Fauci, face of US Covid fight, to step down in December

ANTHONY Fauci, the top infectious disease expert who became the face of America's fight against Covid-19, announced Monday he will leave government service after more than 50 years in December, stepping down as advisor to President Joe Biden.

In the chaotic early days of the pandemic, Fauci became the nation's most trusted expert on Covid — but his clashes with former president Donald Trump over the virus response drew anger from the right, and he now lives with security protection following death threats against his family.

The 81-year-old, who has served under seven presidents beginning with Ronald Reagan, said in a statement he would be leaving both his position as di-



Anthony Fauci testifies during a House Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis hearing. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

rector of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), and that of chief medical advisor to Biden.

But he added: "I am not retiring." Instead Fauci, who had said he would leave by the end of Biden's current term, said he

now intended to "pursue the next chapter of my career".

Biden extended his "deepest thanks" to Fauci in a White House statement, adding that the country is "stronger, more resilient, and healthier because of him".—AFP

US New York loosens COVID-19 rules for K-12 schools

THE US state of New York on Monday announced the discarding of some COVID-19 control rules for students from kindergarten to grade 12 in the upcoming new school year.

The new guidance will align the state's COVID-19 control rules with the latest guidance from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"The big news is no more

quarantining, no more test-to-stay, and the days of sending an entire classroom home because one person was symptomatic or test positive, those days are over," said New York State Governor Kathy Hochul.

Both students and staff don't have to quarantine following exposure to someone with COVID-19 but are recommended to wear a well-fitting mask and get

tested, according to New York State authorities.

Still, "students and staff with symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting or diarrhoea should be sent home or directed to stay home," said a release of the New York State Department of Health on frequently asked questions in this regard.—Xinhua

Israel to offer free, voluntary COVID-19 PCR tests to arrivals

ISRAEL'S Health Ministry announced on Monday free and voluntary COVID-19 PCR tests will be offered to inbound passengers at Ben Gurion International Airport beginning Wednesday.

"There is a real likelihood of another COVID-19 morbidity wave in the winter, combined with a flu outbreak," the min-

istry explained.

"PCR tests, unlike antigen ones, allow the detection of variants and are therefore recommended for arriving passengers," it added.

Passengers will receive a text message encouraging them to take the PCR test upon landing at the airport, according to the ministry.—Xinhua

China's Hainan to resume fishery production as COVID-19 wanes

FISHERY production in south China's Hainan Province will be gradually resumed from Tuesday, as some areas on the island have seen no new COVID-19 cases in the community for several consecutive days, local authorities said at a press briefing on Sunday.

The cities and counties of

Wenchang, Haikou, Qionghai, Chengmai and Changjiang will be the first to restore their fishery production at sea as the pandemic situation in those areas has been effectively curbed, according to the provincial department of agriculture and rural affairs.—Xinhua



To reduce epidemic's impact on fishermen, the province decided to gradually allow fishing boats back to the sea in batches. **PHOTO: CHINA DIALOGUE OCEAN.NET**

2022 MONKEYPOX OUTBREAK

US reports over 15,000 monkeypox cases

THE United States has confirmed over 15,000 monkeypox cases, according to the latest data from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

A total of 15,433 known monkeypox cases had been reported nationwide as of Monday, CDC data showed.

New York had the most cases, with 2,910, followed by California with 2,663 and Florida with 1,588, according to CDC data.

The Biden administration has been facing criticism in its response to the monkeypox outbreak, including failure to order enough vaccines, speed treatments and make tests available to head off the outbreak.—Xinhua

Türkiye records 11 monkeypox cases so far: minister

TÜRKIYE has so far detected 11 monkeypox cases in total, Turkish Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said Tuesday.

"It is not a disease to be feared for Türkiye ... Monkeypox is a disease that is transmitted by staying in the same environment for a longer period of time," Koca was quoted by semi-official Anadolu Agency as saying.

The monkeypox virus poses neither a pandemic nor an endemic for Türkiye, he noted.

Monkeypox, which was usually known to be endemic in parts of Africa, is spreading in several European and North American countries. Its symptoms include fever, headache, muscle aches and exhaustion.

Elaborating on the COVID-19 cases in Türkiye, Koca



A Turkish woman walks from pharmacy on the Istiklal avenue, the main shopping street of Istanbul. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

said the recent wave reached its peak three to four weeks ago and the daily infections have already dropped to 10,000.

But there might be a new wave of infections between November and December, Koca warned.—Xinhua

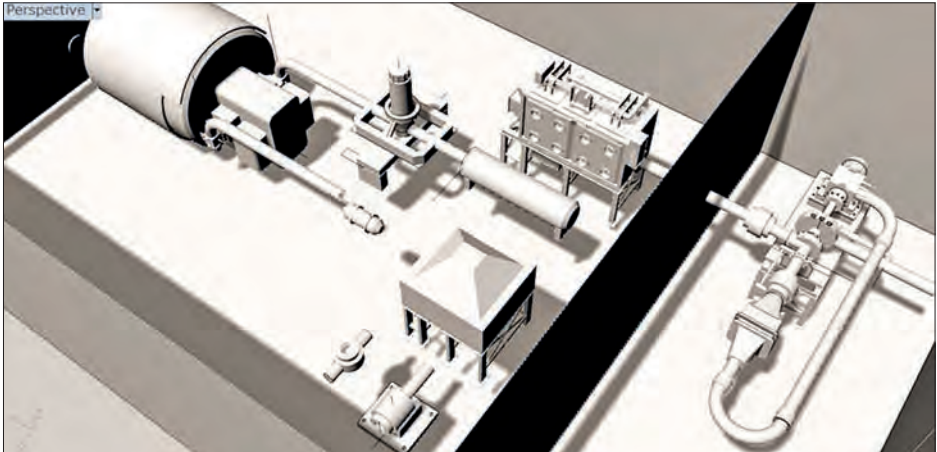
ECONOMY/AD WORLD

Japan considers building new nuclear plants in major policy shift

THE Japanese government said Wednesday it is considering constructing next-generation nuclear power plants to support its goals of reducing carbon emissions and providing a stable supply of electricity, marking a major shift in its policy of no new nuclear energy. Extending the maximum service period for the country's existing nuclear reactors beyond 60 years is also under consideration in the plan. Japan was reluctant to concretely discuss

nuclear power policy after the March 2011 devastating earthquake and tsunami, which crippled the Fukushima Daiichi plant. "The government will take the lead in various measures to restart our nuclear power plants," Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said at a conference on industrial transformation and decarbonization the same day. The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry has been studying the devel-

opment of next-generation nuclear power plants and previously released the envisioned development process of upgrading reactors with enhanced safety features in the 2030s. The government may adopt this plan. It is also expected to consider effectively extending the operational life of nuclear power plants by not including the periods in which they were shut down while under review by the Nuclear Regulation Authority.—Kyodo



Supplied photo shows a rendering of the first experimental plant in Japan to generate power through nuclear fusion to be built by Kyoto Fusioneering Ltd. **PHOTO: KYOTO FUSIONEERING LTD. /KYODO**

Indonesia raises rates for first time since 2018

INDONESIA'S central bank hiked its key interest rate Tuesday for the first time in nearly four years to combat rising inflation stoked by the Covid-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine. Bank Indonesia raised the policy rate to 3.75 from 3.5 per cent, a move that went against the majority of analysts' predictions. Its two other main rates were also raised by 25 basis points. Rates were hiked for the first



A chilli vendor waits for customers at a market in Surabaya, Indonesia, where inflation is rising. **PHOTO: JUNI KRISWANTO/AFP**

with Russia's invasion driving up global energy and food prices and pushing millions into poverty around the world. "The decision to raise the rates was taken as a pre-emptive and forward-looking step to mitigate risks from the hikes in core inflation and expectations of inflation because of the increase in non-subsidised fuel prices and volatile food inflation," Warjiyo told reporters in an online press briefing.—AFP

S.Korea's business sentiment improves in August

SENTIMENT among South Korean businesses over economic situations improved in August due to the eased measures against the COV-

ID-19 pandemic, central bank data showed Wednesday. The business sentiment index (BSI) added 1 point over the month to 81 in August,

marking the first increase in four months, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK). The improved sentiment came as the government lifted all

anti-virus measures, except an indoor mask mandate in April, and thus contributing to boosting the services industry.—Xinhua

Ministry of Energy

Invitation for Letter of Expression of Interest for Long-term Leasing of the Fertilizer Plants

- The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar hereby announces an Invitation for Expression of Interest - EOI to the local and foreign investors for renovating, upgrading and long-term leasing works of the following Fertilizer Plants which are being operated under Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE) to augment the in-country capabilities for production of fertilizer.
 - No.(4) Fertilizer Plant (Myaungdagar)
 - No.(5) Fertilizer Plant (Kangyidaunt)
- The interested parties are cordially invited to submit the Letter of Expression of Interest- LOEI together with Constitution of Company, Certificate of Incorporation, Audited Financial Statement or Financial Report for last three years, Detail Track Record for fertilizer production experiences (if Consortium, Detail Track Record for fertilizer production experiences of Consortium Members), Company's Organization Structure constituted with Experts and Professionals and related documents. One set of Original Hard Copy, (3) Sets of Hard Copies attached with the Soft Copy of the aforementioned documents shall be submitted in person to the following address not later than (12:00) PM of 27-9-2022.

Director General
Oil and Gas Planning Department
Ministry of Energy
Office No.6, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone: 067 3 411046/ 067 3 411134
Email: moe.planttender2022@gmail.com
- Regarding the required information for the preparation of the Letter of Expression of Interest, the explanation will be made at Oil and Gas Planning Department, Office No.6, Nay Pyi Taw on 8-9-2022 at (14:00) PM.
- The interested parties can contact the following addresses for any inquiry.
 - Director General**
Oil and Gas Planning Department
Ministry of Energy
Office No.6, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone: 067 3 411046/ 067 3 411134
Email: moe.planttender2022@gmail.com
 - Managing Director**
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Ministry of Energy
Office No.44, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone: 067 3 411059
Email: mpeict@gmail.com
- The internet website page www.energy.gov.mm of the Ministry of Energy is available for any viewers.

Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee
Ministry of Energy

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MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS MYANMA RAILWAYS INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

- Open Tender is invited for supply of the following item in Euro.

Sr No	Tender No	Description
1.	15(T)5/MR(E)/Euro 2022-2023	Spare Parts for Automatic Levelling, Lining & Tamping Machine, Profile Ballast Regulating Machine and Flash Butt Welding Machine (126) Items
Closing Date & Time –		8-9-2022 (Thursday) (14:30)Hrs
- Tender documents are available at our office starting from 25.8.2022 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department,Myanma Railways, Corner of 51th Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung,Yangon, Phone-95-1-291985, 291994

Ford confirms cutting 3,000 jobs as it pushes towards electric

US auto giant Ford confirmed Monday it is eliminating around 3,000 jobs, mainly in North America and India, as the company pushes to accelerate its transition to electric vehicles.

Challenged by Tesla and other start-ups, traditional carmakers have accelerated production of their electric models in recent years.

The restructuring involves 2,000 salaried positions and 1,000 contractors mostly in the United States, Canada and India but does not affect factory workers, a spokesman told AFP.—AFP



Ford is cutting spending on traditional vehicles as it switches its focus to electric cars. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Bali tourism continues to recover despite FMD re-emergence

THE Indonesian popular resort island of Bali continued to revive its tourism sector from COVID-19 pandemic despite the ongoing foot and mouth disease (FMD) re-emergence in the Southeast Asian country.

International tourists have started returning to Bali since February after a hiatus of more than two years due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Indonesian government has recently expressed its optimism about an overall target of 3.6 million foreign visitors in the archipelago this year, although the country is still grappling with the FMD, which re-emerged



A dancer interacts with a girl during a traditional Balinese dance performance in a cultural park in Bali, Indonesia, 10 July, 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/XU QIN

in April.

The FMD, which causes extreme lameness and death in all cloven-hoof animals such as cattle, sheep, and goats,

ed and more than 6,000 animals killed, according to the country's National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB).

Indonesia's neighbouring countries, including Australia and New Zealand, were concerned and had imposed travel advisories on their citizens since the FMD can spread by mechanical transfer via fomites, apart from by direct contact with animals, animal products, as well as by airborne route.

However, the warnings did not prevent holidaymakers from those countries from visiting Bali, one of the world's best travel destinations. —Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V RICH SEAWAY VOY.NO. (028W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RICH SEAWAY VOY.NO. (028W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V B TRADER VOY.NO. (232W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V B TRADER VOY.NO. (232W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3215S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3215S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (241N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (241N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-8-2022** 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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (22015S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (22015S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S X-PRESS FEEDERS LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNIVERSE HARMONY VOY.NO. (2207)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNIVERSE HARMONY VOY.NO. (2207)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MKH** 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

GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

US says Iran eased demands for nuclear deal

THE United States said Tuesday that Iran has agreed to ease key demands that had held up the revival of a 2015 nuclear deal, with all eyes on what President Joe Biden in turn is offering.

The United States is expected shortly to respond to Iran through European Union mediators, after a year and a half of indirect diplomacy that just weeks ago looked on the verge of collapsing.

US officials said Iran dropped demands to block some UN nuclear inspections after also relaxing on insist-



Media watch a demonstration of a monitoring camera used in Iran during a press conference of Rafael Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in June 2022. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

ence on a key sticking point — that Washington remove its powerful Revolutionary Guards from a terrorism blacklist.

“Gaps still remain, but should we reach an agreement to return to the deal, Iran would have to take many significant steps to dismantle its nuclear programme,” a senior official in the Biden administration said.

Biden has supported returning to the accord trashed by former president Donald Trump and Iran has pressed hard in negotiations in Vienna. But with Iran also claiming

diplomatic wins, the US official insisted that Tehran ultimately “made concessions on critical issues.”

Iran had sought to shut down a probe by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) into three undeclared nuclear sites where the watchdog says it has questions related to nuclear work that has since ended.

In June, Iran disconnected a number of IAEA cameras after the UN body’s board censured Tehran for not adequately explaining previous traces of uranium.—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Ukraine will fight ‘until the end’, Zelensky says on Independence Day



Ukrainian volunteer fighters prepare a mortar launcher at a position along the front line in the Donetsk region. PHOTO: AFP

SIX months into war, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky vows that Ukraine will fight until it gains all its territory back.

Ukrainian President Volo-

dymyr Zelensky on Wednesday vowed in an Independence Day address that his country would fight Russia’s invasion “until the end” and would not be making

“any concession or compromise”.

“We don’t care what army you have, we only care about our land. We will fight for it until the end,” Zelensky said in a video address on Wednesday, which also marks six months since the invasion began.

“We have been holding strong for six months. It’s tough but we have clenched our fists and we are fighting for our destiny,” he said.

“Every new day is a reason not to give up. After such a long journey we do not have the right not to go on to the end,” he said.

“For us Ukraine is the whole of Ukraine. All 25 regions, without any concession or compromise.”—AFP

Nearly 9,000 Ukrainian troops killed so far, says Kyiv

NEARLY 9,000 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed since Russia invaded, the country’s top military officer said Monday, as Moscow accused Kyiv over the assassination of the daughter of a leading hardliner.

The European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell meanwhile told reporters in Spain that the bloc was considering military training for Ukraine’s forces.

General Valeriy Zaluzhny, Ukraine’s commander-in-chief, said Ukraine’s children needed particular attention “because their fathers have gone to the front and are maybe among the nearly 9,000 heroes who have been killed”. Zaluzhny’s comments on the Ukrainian death toll, reported by Interfax-Ukraine news agency, was the first indication of Kyiv’s military losses since April.—AFP

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No mercy’ for killers, Russia warns

RUSSIA’S Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov vows “no mercy” for the killers of Daria Dugina, the daughter of an ultranationalist intellectual, as hundreds gather for her funeral following her death in a car bomb blast over the weekend.

Moscow says Ukrainian intelligence is behind the attack — a claim dismissed by Kyiv. Alexander Dugin — a vocal supporter of the Kremlin’s military campaign who has claimed to be close to Russian President Vladimir Putin — may have been the intended target of the attack that killed his 29-year-old daughter.

Dugina was killed Saturday when a bomb placed in her car went off as she drove on a highway outside Moscow.—AFP

Ukraine football season kicks off

UKRAINE launches its new football season despite Russia’s ongoing invasion, in an apparent attempt to give a morale boost to the war-ravaged nation.

In the first match of the Ukrainian Premier League, Shakhtar Donetsk drew 0-0 with Metalist 1925 from Kharkiv at the Olimpiysky stadium in Kyiv.

In a pre-match ceremony, the players of both teams and the referees entered the pitch wrapped in Ukrainian flags and unfurled a banner that read “We are of the same courage”. The first symbolic kick of the ball was made by a Ukrainian soldier.—AFP

Bulgaria seeks Gazprom talks to resume deliveries

BULGARIA’S government announced Monday that it would seek talks with Russian energy giant Gazprom to resume deliveries of natural gas ahead of the winter season.

Gazprom cut deliveries to Bulgaria in late April after the EU member’s previous centrist government refused to pay in rubles. President Vladimir Putin decided that Russia would no longer accept gas payments in

currencies other than the rouble in retaliation for the West’s economic sanctions against Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine.

Bulgaria is almost totally dependent on Russia for its annual consumption of 3.0 billion cubic metres of natural gas, and has been scrambling to secure alternative deliveries since the cut.

“In practice, it is now inevitable to negotiate with Gazprom Export to resume deliveries,”

interim energy minister Rosen Hristov told a press conference.

“We obviously have to turn to them... Gazprom Export right now becomes an absolutely valid option,” he added.

While the European Union has imposed a ban on most Russian oil imports and a coal embargo, it has avoided sanctions on gas as the bloc is highly reliant on Russian supplies of the fossil fuel.—AFP

Court suspends Thai PM Prayut from office

THAILAND’S Constitutional Court on Wednesday suspended Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha from office while it considers a legal challenge that could see him thrown out months before an expected general election.

The court agreed unanimously to hear a case brought by opposition parties who argue Prayut has reached the end of his eight-year term limit as prime minister.

Judges also agreed by five votes to four to suspend Prayut from office until the case is decided, the court said in a statement.

“The court considered the petition and supporting documents and deems the facts according to the request indicate reasonable grounds to suspect that there is a case as requested,” the statement said.

“Thus, a majority vote (five against four) for (Prayut) to be suspended as prime minister,



If the court agrees to hear the case, Prayut could be suspended and an acting prime minister appointed. **PHOTO: AFP**

effective 24 August 2022, until the court issues a verdict.”

A caretaker will be appointed to lead the government, with current Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan among the favourite candidates tipped for the role.

Legal wrangle

It is not the first time the

Constitutional Court has played a role in Thai politics — it cancelled the results of general election in 2006 and 2014.

The kingdom’s 2017 constitution bars the prime minister from serving more than eight years in total, and opposition parties say Prayut, who took power in a 2014 coup, has reached the limit.—AFP

Cost of living crisis dominates UK leadership campaign



Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss are vying to succeed Boris Johnson as leader of the UK’s ruling Conservative party. **PHOTO: AFP**

WITH double-digit inflation and an economy teetering on the brink of recession, the cost-of-living crisis has dominated the race for Downing Street.

But the two candidates vying to succeed Boris Johnson as Conservative party leader and UK prime minister have differing approaches to the problem.

Cost of living

UK inflation is currently at 10.1 per cent — the highest level in 40 years — with predictions that it could climb to 13 per cent in October.

Analysts at Citibank believe it could even surge beyond 18 per cent next year on the back of soaring energy costs.

A new energy price cap is due to be announced on Friday, as some experts predict

certain households could soon be paying an eye-watering £6,000 (\$7,100) a year for gas and electricity.

A University of York study suggested that more than half of UK households or 15 million people will be unable to keep their homes heated properly by January next year.

The leadership front-runner Liz Truss has promised tax cuts and reversing increases in National Insurance contributions that fund the public health service and welfare payments.

She is also proposing to axe taxes on fuel which pay for the transition to cleaner energy and rejected “sticking plaster” solutions to the cost-of-living crisis such as direct government aid.

Supporters of the current foreign secretary say she is planning an emergency budget within weeks if she wins the internal party vote.—AFP

Singapore to announce new initiatives to attract top talent: PM

SINGAPORE will soon announce new initiatives to lure and retain top global talent in an effort to build itself into a hub of innovation, entrepreneurship and growth, said Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

In his English speech delivered at the National Day Rally on Sunday, Lee said that Singapore has already had schemes to attract and retain top talent, especially in the technology industry. “But we need to do more, especially in the sectors with good potential.”

Lee said that the new initiatives

to be announced by the Ministry of Manpower, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and economic agencies will not only help attract top talent globally but also make the city-state’s own talent want to stay in Singapore and participate in building a dynamic and outstanding nation.

Singapore must build a world-class talent pool by developing its own talent while attracting and retaining top talent, Lee said. “This is an age where talent makes all the difference to a nation’s success,” he added.—Xinhua



Luo Yifei, PhD student at Nanyang Technological University’s (NTU) School of Materials Science and Engineering, attaches an electrode on the surface of a Venus flytrap plant. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Argentina’s Kirchner goes on offensive over graft trial

ARGENTINE Vice-President Cristina Kirchner launched a long and politically charged defence Tuesday against corruption charges, for which prosecutors have asked that she face 12 years in jail and a lifetime ban from politics. Kirchner, 69, is accused of fraudulently awarding public works contracts in her stronghold in Patagonia.

She said Tuesday in a live social media broadcast that her political ideology, Peronism, was on trial and that prosecutors had already “written the sentence”.

“Nothing, absolutely nothing that they have said was proven,” said Kirchner, a lawyer by trade who was president from 2007 to 2015 having succeeded her late husband, Nestor Kirchner.—AFP

Portugal becomes fastest aging country in EU: Study

PORTUGAL currently registers 182 elderly (aged 65 and above) for every 100 young people (aged up to 14), becoming the fastest aging country in the European Union (EU), according to a study published by the Contemporary Portugal Database Pordata on Sunday.

In the past three decades, the elderly population tripled in the country, according to the study, based on data from the Portuguese National Statistics Institute (INE) and published by Publico newspaper.

In 1990, Portugal registered 66 elderly for every 100 young people. Portugal recorded an annual aging rate of 3.6 per cent, higher than all EU countries, the study noted.—Xinhua



States & Regions U-19 team to play friendly matches against Myanmar U-19 team

THE U-19 team, which is made up of players from the recently concluded 2022 States & Regions U-19 tournament, and the preliminary Myanmar U-19 team will play two friendly matches at Yangon's Thuwunna Stadium. The friendly matches will be held at 3:30 pm on 29 and 30 August.

The States & Regions U-19 Football Team is made up of 29 players and headed by coaches U Thein Zan, who assisted the Kay-

in State team to win the States & Regions U-19 tournament in 2022, and Mon State team coach U Min Thu, who assisted the team winning second in the previous tourney. U Thura Naing from the Kay-in State team will be in charge of the goalie coach.

The preliminary Myanmar U-19 team is composed of 35 players, with U Soe Myat Min as the head coach, U Min Min Tun and U Sa Htet Naing Win as assistant

coaches, and U Sein Aye is in charge as the goal coach. The preliminary Myanmar U-19 team is currently competing in the Myanmar National League 2 under the name Junior Lions and will compete in the Asian U-20 qualifiers in September. The States & Regions U-19 Football Team is currently preparing for the upcoming friendly match at the Myanmar national team dormitory at Thuwunna Stadium. — GNLM



The Myanmar U-19 football team is seen listening to lectures on techniques by head coach U Soe Myat Min. PHOTO: MFF

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.

Real Madrid and rivals await Champions League draw in Istanbul

TITLE holders Real Madrid and the rest of Europe's elite clubs will be able to start plotting their route to Champions League glory when the draw for this season's group stage is made in Istanbul on Thursday from 1600 GMT.

All going to plan, the journey will end back in the Turkish city on June 10 next year for the final at the Ataturk Olympic Stadium, the same venue where Liverpool defeated AC Milan on penalties in 2005.

Istanbul was supposed to host the final in 2020 and again in 2021, but on each occasion UEFA moved the game to Portugal due to pandemic-related restrictions.

Another late change was required last season, with Saint-Petersburg being stripped of the final after Russia invaded Ukraine, and Paris instead stepping in to host Madrid's 1-0 victory over Liverpool. —AFP

Fulham suffer shock League Cup exit against fourth-tier Crawley

FULHAM suffered an embarrassing League Cup exit as the Premier League side were beaten 2-0 by Crawley in a second round shock on Tuesday.

Marco Silva's side are 83 places above League Two Crawley and beat Brentford 3-2 in the Premier League on Saturday.

But the Fulham manager's decision to make 10 changes backfired badly at the Broadfield Stadium as struggling Crawley upset the form book.

Former Fulham striker Kevin Betsy, who has taken only a single point from his first five matches as Crawley manager, masterminded a memorable victory thanks to goals from Tom Nichols and Liverpool loanee James Balagizi.

The Cottagers joined Norwich and Leeds on the list of top-flight clubs who have suffered cup embarrassment at Crawley in recent years.

Silva handed debuts to Issa Diop, Marlon Fosse and 17-year-old academy graduate Luke Harris, while Shane Duffy and Kevin Mbabu made their first starts. —AFP



Fulham suffered an embarrassing League Cup exit as the Premier League side were beaten 2-0 by Crawley in a second round shock on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP