

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Myanmar strongly condemns and rejects statements issued on anniversary of August 2017 incidents in Rakhine State

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has learnt the issuance of statements by certain countries and organizations including the spokesperson of the United Nations Secretary-General on the anniversary of the incident that took place in Rakhine State on 25 August 2017. The contents and facts contained in their statements not only lack authenticity and are of unverifiable sources but are also found to be one-sided and interfering in the internal affairs of Myanmar.

The incidents that started on 25 August 2017 in Rakhine State were triggered by the coordinated and simultaneous attacks of the ARSA (Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army) terrorist group on 30 police outposts and a Regiment Headquarters. Those terrorist attacks resulted in casualties of both security personnel and innocent civilians. In this regard, with a view to ensuring prevalence of security, peace and stability of the locality and the people, the security personnel had to take necessary measures in accordance with the existing rules and regulations.

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A sunflower plantation was seen in Taikkyi Township in 2021. PHOTO: KANU

Over 8,400 acres of golden sunflowers to be planted in Yangon Region

A scheme to grow more edible oil crops in regions and states is being implemented to ensure sufficiency for local consumption through domestic oil crops production in accordance with the instructions of the Prime Minister of the country. Therefore, it is estimated to grow over 8,400 acres of sunflowers in the Yangon Region.

8,465 acres of sunflower cultivation

A total of 2,686 farmers from 297 villages in 15 townships will grow the oil crops such as peanut, sesame and winter sunflower between the last week of October and the first week of November. In 2021, there were over 139 acres of sunflowers in Yangon Region and it is expected to grow up to 8,465 acres in 2022.

Yangon Region with golden sunflower plantations

“The winter sunflower will be planted across the nation and we will grow 8,465 acres in the region under the guidance of the region government.

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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

Over 8,400 acres of golden sunflowers to be planted in Yangon Region

FROM PAGE-1

We will keep growing in the villages where beans and sesame were grown previously. The villages that started planting sunflowers this year have been earmarked for cultivation in the last week of October after harvesting the monsoon paddy. Some grow as intercropping and some grow sunflowers. We can see the golden sunflower fields in Yangon this year,” said Deputy Director Daw Hla Kyi of the Yangon Region Agriculture Department.

Harvest

Peanut and sesame were grown on 3,763 acres and 5,061 acres of respectively in Yangon in 2021. The two oil crops will be planted this year as usual. The proper oil corps

will be planted in the townships that grow only sunflowers and other townships that grow peanut, sesame and sunflower as intercropping depending on their soil type, and the sunflower will be harvested after 85 days of cultivation.

Local oil crops security

In 2021, the department planted 139 acres of winter sunflower in Yangon and 69 acres in Taikkyi Township. This year, most of the sunflowers will be grown in Taikkyi. It also aims to implement 8,464 acres of sunflower in Yangon Region to ensure sufficient oil crops with the target of expanding the oil crops in regions and states in 2022. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

Diamond Jubilee event of Sarpay Beikman to be broadcast live

DIAMOND Jubilee event of Sarpay Beikman of Printing and Publishing Department under the Ministry of Information will be held at the Sarpay Beikman Hall at the corner of Merchant Road and 37th Street, Yangon at 9:45 am on 26 August.

The Diamond Jubilee Event will be broadcast live on Myanmar Television (MRTV HD), MRTV News Channel, MWD HD Channel, MWD Variety HD Channel, MITV, MOI Website, MOI YouTube, and MRTV Website and aired live on Radio Myanmar starting from 9:45 am. — MNA

Myanmar Armed Forces Cultural Troupe wins 3 first prizes, 1 second prize and 4 third prizes in Int’l Army Games-2022 held in Russia

MYANMAR Tatmadaw participates in Tank Biathlon (Tank Crews Competition), Sniper Frontier, Military Medical Relay Race (Medical Staff Competition), and Army of Culture in the International Army Games-2022 organized in the Russian Federation from 15 August.

Meanwhile, the members of the Myanmar Armed Forces Cultural Troupe competed in various competitions with traditional cultural teams from 12 countries and won the first prize in the Myanmar Traditional Orchestra competition, the first prize in dual singing competition (Russian song), third prize in dancing competition (four eras), second prize in the female single singing competition, the third prize in a performance highlighting the country’s culture, the third prize in Folk National Instrument playing competition, the third prize for traditional culture gallery and



the first People’s Choice Award in online fan voting.

The Myanmar Tatmadaw Cultural Troupe has been taking part annually in the Creative Competition since 2018 and won the best dual dance award, the best dual music award, the best traditional costume award in 2018; the best singing, dancing and music awards in 2019; the third prize in dancing event, the best Russian singing performance award in 2020, the third prize in single Russian singing contest, the first prize in Traditional Costume Performance and second People’s Choice Award in 2021. — MNA



Myanmar Tatmadaw Cultural Troupe pose for the documentary group photo at the event.

Join the official political platform

I will hold meetings with ethnic armed organizations for the second time. At the same time, I invite other EAOs that have yet to hold talks to participate. If they actually want to serve the interests of their regions and ethnic people, hold discussions, make requests, and join the official political platform, we have kept the door wide open. I would like to invite them to bravely walk in.

(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 Months of the Assumption of State Duties by the State Administration Council on 1 August 2022)

Myanmar strongly condemns and rejects statements issued on anniversary of August 2017 incidents in Rakhine State

FROM PAGE-1

The ARSA terrorist group had deliberately orchestrated such incidents to make the people in Rakhine State flee to the other side of the border. They also inflated the numbers of the people who fled due to the terror-threat of ARSA. The Myanmar Government is systematically carrying out verification

process to repatriate those who fled the country in accord with the bilateral agreements. The Government and people of Myanmar do not recognize and accept the use of the term “Rohingya”. Such term is not included in the historical evidence and lacks legal basis. Those using the term are found to be doing so for political purposes. The Myanmar Government is granting ap-

propriate status of citizenship to those eligible after systematic verification in accordance with the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law, irrespective of race or religion. The statements issued were found to be not only concealing the ARSA's terrorist acts with regard to the incident of 25 August 2017 and ignoring to objectively observe the situation of eth-

nic people in Rakhine State but also disregarding constructive measures taken by the Myanmar Government. The contents contained in the statements were based on unverifiable sources merely to exert pressure on Myanmar and tantamount to the interference in the internal affairs of Myanmar. As such, Myanmar strongly condemns and rejects those statements. — MNA

Third-day meeting of State Peace Talks Team continues in Nay Pyi Taw

THE State Peace Talks Team continued its third-day meeting with the peace delegation of PNLO, LDU and ALP at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre's meeting hall on the morning of 25 August.

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, 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, Arakan Liberation Party-ALP Vice-Chairperson Saw Mra Raza Lin and Member of the Central Executive Committee Khine Soe Mra participated in the meeting.

During the third-day meeting, NSPNC member Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein reported on the list of



The third-day meeting between the State Peace Talks Team and the delegations from the PNLO, LDU and ALP is in progress yesterday.

Union legislation – Table 1 and the list of regional or state legislation – Table 2 in the Constitution in respective sectors and presented the studies on the agreements of Part III of the Union Accord to check whether they comply with the existing laws and the 2008 Constitution. Then, NSPNC member Lt-Gen Min Naung clarified the phased implementations – Table 2 and post-2020 procedures to be discussed according to the ninth JICM resolution. Afterwards, the attendees exchanged their points of view and closed the third-day meeting. It is learnt that the fourth day of the meeting will continue on 26 August. — MNA

Delegation led by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) arrives back from 16th ASEAN Navy Chiefs' Meeting-16th ANCM

THE delegation led by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung who attended the 16th ASEAN Navy Chiefs' Meeting-16th ANCM held in Indonesia arrived back in Yangon by air yesterday evening.

They were welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe and party.

During the trip, the Myanmar naval delegation attended the 16th ASEAN Navy Chiefs' Meeting-16th ANCM and held bilateral calls with ASEAN Navy Chiefs, attended by chiefs of ASEAN navies, the Deputy Chief of General Staff (Army) of Laos and officials.

First, Admiral Yudo Mar-gono, Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Navy, extended greetings at the meeting. The minute of the 15th ASEAN Navy Chiefs' Meeting was approved. ANCM Permanent Joint Secretary pre-



Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung poses for the documentary group photo with attendees at the event.

sented a brief report on regional maritime security.

The chiefs of ASEAN navies exchanged country-wise views on the Roles of ASEAN Navies

in Addressing Maritime Challenges. Admiral Moe Aung discussed the construction of a safe and stable maritime arena by collectively solving the regional

maritime challenges, capacity enhancement of the Tatmadaw (Navy) through training, and the important role of teamwork to be exercised by ASEAN navies.

Chiefs of ASEAN Navies exchanged views on further promotion of cooperation among navies and harmonious cooperation in maritime security measures.

They focused on the exchange of experiences in training sessions of the ASEAN navies. They were invited to the joint naval exercises, international maritime defence equipment expo and meeting programmes among navies to be held in 2023.

The meeting ended with the remark of the Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Navy.

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) held talks with the Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Navy, the Chief of Staff of the Vietnamese People's Navy, the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Navy, the Commander of the Royal Cambodian Navy and the Deputy Chief of General Staff (Army) of Laos separately and discussed naval cooperation between two countries each. —MNA

Yangon Mayor inspects water flow improvement tasks

ACCOMPANIED by responsible officials, Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor U Bo Htay made an inspection tour of water flow improvement works in the staff housing compound of No (3) Steel Mill at the corner of Bayintnaung Street and Pale Street in Yangon Region yesterday.

Then, the Yangon mayor observed the drain dredging operation in City Golf Course in Thiri Mingala Street and instructed officials to dig the creek as deep as possible to improve the water flow, to con-

tinue to clean the drains, plant coconut trees in vacant land areas of drains and conduct landscape operation.

Then, he viewed the Aungtheikdi creek retaining wall construction from Taw-win to Aungtheikdi streets, abolishing the pipe culvert, removing rubbish and silt out of the Min Dhamma drain, and paving the interlock over the Min Dhamma drain. He finally inspected preparations for the 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. – MNA



33 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 25 August, total figure rises to 614,844

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 614,844 after 33 new cases—six imported and 27 local transmission—were reported on 25 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 593,365 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,437 without more casualties. —MNA

Passenger details
required for highway
bus tickets

THE Ministry of Transport and Communications has issued an instruction to highway bus terminals to record the exact personal data of passengers before selling the tickets.

The bus lines must take the record of passengers' names, CSC numbers, addresses and contact phone numbers, place the passengers as per the seating plan after checking the data again and check the CSC cards and passengers.

"We cannot buy the tickets as we want. It needs a recommendation letter and a copy of the CSC card. We cannot buy for others. Although we can purchase tickets online previously, we have to give our personal information at the bus stations now," said Ko Khin Tun from Lanmadaw Township.

A total of 564 express buses of 211 highway bus lines were operating from Yangon to other regions/states in early August and transported 8,400 passengers. According to data on 23 August, 525 express buses of 206 highway bus lines transported 7,053 passengers. Figures showed a decline of over 1,300 passengers compared to the numbers of early August.

"We, gate officials fill the name of passenger and CSC no in the seating plan sheet and show it to officials along the trip. Now, we have to sell tickets after recording the personal data," said an in charge of the bus station. — TWA/GNLM



Highway bus ticket sale counters are seen in Nay Pyi Taw.

Prices of palm oil, onion, potato, chilli
pepper, pigeon peas slip



A grocery store is pictured retailing a range of commodities.

SOME commodities prices declined on 25 August although the kitchen budgets continued rising in recent days, the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) quoted U Kyaw Lwin, a grocery retailer from Nyaungpinlay Market, as saying.

The wholesale reference price of palm oil in Yangon is set at K4,860 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) for a week ended 28 August, showing a sharp rise of K720 per viss compared to the rate of the previous week. Meanwhile, the wholesale price hit K9,700 in the markets. Yet, the price slipped to K9,200 per viss on 24 and 25 August.

The price gap between the current market price and the reference price narrowed from K5,500 to K4,300 per viss on 24 August, Ko

Kyaw Lwin pointed out.

On 23 August, onion prices jumped to K3,000 per viss at the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market. However, the prices were down by K100-150 per viss on 25 August depending on the sizes, said Ko Chit, a trader who delivers the goods to the regions outside Yangon.

On 24 August 2022, the prices of onions were just K2,300-2,900 for onions from Seikphyu Township and K2,450 -3,000 for Monywa township. This being so, the prices were down by K100 per viss on 25 August 2022.

As locally produced onions are fetching a high price, onions from foreign markets enter the market, onion traders report. Shan potatoes were priced at K1,400-2,200 per viss and the price showed a small

decrease of K50-150 per viss, Ko Thein from the potato warehouse on Yetama Street told the GNLM.

In the first week of August, the wholesale price of chilli pepper processed in cold storage touched a high of K19,000-19,500.

On 25 August, the selling price was only K16,000 per viss yet the offering price was just K14,000 per viss.

Meanwhile, the price of black gram (FAQ/RC) was K1,856,000 per tonne, while the black gram (SQ/RC) was worth K2,156,000 per tonne and pigeon peas (red gram) were offered K1,930,000 per tonne on 25 August.

The daily pulses prices data indicated a sharp decline of K35,000-40,000 per tonne in two days. — TWA/GNLM

Soaring fuel prices batter taxi drivers

ON 25 August 2022, the retail price of fuel stood at K2,490 per litre of Octane 92, K2,570 for Octane 95 and K3,055 for diesel.

The prices soared from K1,615 per litre of Octane 92 and K1,970 per litre of diesel recorded on 7 August. The figures showed an increase of K875 per litre and K3,972 per litre of Octane 92.

A taxi uses three gallons per day. The drivers face an additional cost of K12,000 per day, Ko Oo, a taxi driver from North Okkalapa Township told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Taxi drivers are struggling with the soaring fuel prices. They

have to pay the bill to the owners to keep the taxi. When the price is up by K875 per litre in 20 days, their daily income declines by around K10,000, he added.

It is hard for the taxi driver to raise the fare for the passengers as some of the drivers use gas. Meanwhile, other Octane-fueled taxi drivers cannot push the price up, the GNLM quoted U Kyaw Win, a taxi driver from Hlaing Township, as saying.

Gas-fuelled taxi drivers have to pay K16,000 to the owners per day while Octane-fuelled taxi drivers have to pay only K8,000. Although the taxi drivers who



Taxis are seen in Yangon City.

use Octane can save K8,000, the fuel price hike causes an extra cost of K25,000 per day, U Kyaw Win, an Octane-fuelled taxi driver continued.

Those who own the taxi need not worry about that bill and they can run the taxi to cover the fuel price.

Therefore, the taxi service hour is quite lower than those of the taxi drivers who do not own the vehicles, said Ko Than Win, an owner of vehicles near Sanpya Cinema.

The Octane taxi drivers are expecting the price not to spike again. — TWA/GNLM

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 30,308 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 2,607 people from eight townships in Rakhine State, and 16,516 from seven districts in Mandalay Region, and 265 from Toungoo and Bago Townships in Bagon Region, respectively.

Similarly on that day, healthcare officials gave the vaccines



A local in Kangyidaunt Township, Ayeyawady Region receives a vaccine for COVID-19 on 25 August.



A local in Toungoo Township, Bago Region gets COVID-19 vaccine shot on 25 August.

to 978 students from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 264 students from Kyaukphyu and Thandwe Townships in Ra-

khine and 1,793 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

CRIME NEWS

Illegal teak, petroleum, restricted chemicals, industrial materials, foodstuffs, consumer goods and vehicles confiscated

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

An on-duty team under the instructions of the Shan State Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force conducted inspections at the Yepu Permanent Checkpoint on 22 August.

Officials confiscated a total of 10,130 kilogrammes of Iron Pipe worth K18,600,000 that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a Man Tgx 22-wheel truck (approximately K43 mil-

lion) and a Volvo FH 22-wheel truck (approximately K43 million) heading from Muse to Mandalay. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, on 23 August, a combined team under the Magway Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force captured 124 gallons of illegal crude oil worth K210,428 in Minbu township. The action was taken under the Public Property Protection Law.

In addition, a total of 55.0986 tonnes of illegal teak worth K36,365,076 were seized and the action was taken under the

Forest Law.

A combined on-duty team made inspections at the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw Checkpoint of Mandalay Region and captured 170 litres of restricted chemicals – suspected Toluene liquid – worth K2,380,000 from a Toyota HiAce car (approximately K35 million) and K12,500,000 worth of industrial materials and consumer goods that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a Nissan Diesel car (approximately K13 million). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.



Officials check confiscated illegal teak logs in Bago Region.



Seized foodstuffs in Bago Region.



Confiscated illegal commodities in Shan State.

Afterwards, on 23 August, an inspection team conducted unexpected inspections at the Phayagyi Tollgate.

Official seized 86 jerry cans of edible oil worth K4.3 million and instant noodles and snacks worth K2,080,000 without official documents from a Sunlong bus (approximately K45 million) heading from Myawady to Yagon. The action was taken under

the Customs Procedures.

In addition, a total of 0.4500 tonne of illegal teak worth K148,500 was impounded in the Yoma protected forest in Yedashe township and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 28 arrests (approximately K255,584,004) were made on 22, 23 and 25 August, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Trade value of China-Myanmar Wang Ding route reaches US\$560 million

ACCORDING to Chinese news on the border, during the first half of 2022, the export and import trade value of the China-Myanmar border region reached 560 million US dollars.

From January to June 2022, China-Myanmar exports and imports amounted to 6,228,000 tonnes with a trade value of 3.798 billion Chinese yuan (US\$560 million), according to the news agency of China's Dehong Dai.

In June 2022, 90,000 trucks were entering and exiting the country through the Manman route of the China-Myanmar Wang Ding border crossing, and 304 trucks were entering and leaving the country every day.

It is reported that the value of transportation trade during the month reached 1.3 billion Chinese Yuan (nearly

\$192 million).

Compared to 2019 before the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the daily volume of goods transported through the Wang Ding border on the Manman route has recovered 55.5 per cent, and the daily trade volume has increased.

Through the Wang Ding border post, agricultural produce including sugarcane, mango, watermelon, fish and crabs are reported to be exported.

According to the report of the Ministry of Commerce of Myanmar, from 1 January to 1 July 2022, the value of China-Myanmar border trade has reached more than \$1.036 billion, and the trade value of Muse border trade has reached more than \$819 million.

China-Myanmar border trade from January to 5 Au-



The Kyinsankyawt-Wang Ding border post.

gust 2022 was worth more than \$1.25 billion, and more than \$1 billion can be traded from the Muse border, according to the

ministry's statistics.

Among the routes on the Muse border, only the Wang Ding checkpoint is being used

for trade, and the driver replacement system is being used. — TPT/GNLM

Soaring fuel price hits K3,000 per litre of diesel

SOARING fuel prices reached a record high of K3,000 per litre of diesel, according to market research on the petrol and fuel industry.

On 23 August 2022, the prices of domestic fuel prices stood at K2,390 per litre for Octane 92, K2,480 for Octane 95, K2,940 for premium diesel and K2,865 for diesel. The prices increased to K2,440 for Octane 92, K2,525 for Octane 95, K3,080 for premium diesel and K3,000 for diesel on 24 August, showing a small increase of K50 per litre of Octane 92 and 95 and K140 per litre of diesel and premium diesel within one day.

"Fuel prices are volatile. The market sees a small decline yet a big jump in fuel prices. We are struggling with the rising price," a taxi driver told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated that the domestic fuel price follows the price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in southeast Asia.

The Central Bank of Myanmar raised the reference exchange rate for a dollar from K1,850 to K2,100, whereas the exchange rate against the US dol-



A petrol boy is pictured filling fuel oil into a vehicle.

lar hit K2,900 in the grey market.

The fuel price experienced an upward spiral shortly after Kyat devalued at K3,000 against the dollar in early August. Consequently, some fuel stations in regions and states allegedly faced a shortage of supply.

Nonetheless, some petrol stations are allegedly suspending fuel sales and setting limited sales on the possible shortage of fuel oil, sparking consumers' concerns and raising fuel prices. They are taking advantage of the consumers' concerns for their benefits, according to the statement released by the Central

Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods on 16 August.

The committee has assured adequate fuel supply until this month. It is also working together with Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association to ensure a steady fuel supply in order for the energy consumers to mitigate concerns.

Therefore, the consumers can complain about the halt in fuel sales and limited sales through the contact numbers of the respective regions and states if they find those stations that violate the rules, the committee

stated.

The committee is governing the fuel oil storage and distribution sector effectively not to have a shortage of oil in the domestic market and ensuring price stability for energy consumers.

The Petroleum Products Inspection and Supervision Department, under the guidance of the committee, is issuing the daily reference rate for oil to offer a reasonable price to energy consumers. The reference rate in Yangon Region is set on the MOPS' price assessment, shipping cost, premium insurance, tax, other general costs and

health profit percentage.

The rates for regions and states other than Yangon are evaluated after adding the transportation cost and the retail reference rates daily cover on the state-run newspapers and are posted on the media and official website and Facebook page of the department on a daily basis starting from 4 May.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. The domestic fuel price is highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss between the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than in Myanmar. Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also poses only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. — NN/GNLM

OPINION

Prepare to raise the Myanmar-Russia trade volume

THE good news in recent months came out that a plan is underway to promote the Myanmar-Russian trade in which both countries set an aim each to reach a trading volume worth US\$1 billion this financial year.

As a reference, a meeting on Myanmar and Russia trade promotion was held through videoconferencing meeting at the annexe of the Ministry of Commerce on 11 July this year. On this occasion, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Commerce unveiled that it was necessary to find the proper ways to strategically penetrate the Russian market for Myanmar exporters.

It is because both countries handled the trade volume worth US\$60 million only in the 2019-2020 financial year. Hence, the ministry set a vision to earn \$1 billion in trade. On the other hand, it is necessary to build friendly relations in order to implement bilateral cooperation in both countries and private sectors.

As such, an emphasis must be placed on implementation of agreements between governments of both countries and memoranda of understanding between the business organizations of two countries. If so, trading and business processes can be undertaken in a smooth manner.

Currently, relevant ministries and private sectors of both countries are jointly drawing the Strategy for the Development of Russian Myanmar Economic Cooperation into the final stage. In fact, the strategy comprises seven prioritized arenas: information technology, banking and monetary affairs, healthcare service and pharmaceutical production, infrastructure, geology, energy and industrial sectors with potential for cooperation between the two countries.

Relevant government departments, UMFCCL, the export associations and companies sending products to Russia need to study the possible challenges in trading and export process of agricultural produce and further export items and seek the best way to penetrate the Russian market.

To have greater success, the government of Myanmar and the private sector need to rely on each other to extend further items of export goods for the Russian market and ease trade restrictions for businesspersons. Meanwhile, businesspersons need to support the plan of the government to improve trade management.

The plan of raising the bilateral trade between the private and public sectors of Myanmar and Russia is the potential for having a good result. If so, a larger trade volume between the two countries will surely benefit the governments and the peoples. Especially, a large trade volume between Myanmar and Russia will contribute much to increasing the GDP of the nation as well as alleviating the poverty of the people.

(CONTINUED FROM
YESTERDAY)

The Art Department

The Art Department was responsible for designing and illustrating Sarpay Beikman publications in consultation with the editorial department. A Pictorial Reference File or picture, and a trained photographer and Institute Photo Laboratory, completed the services of the Art Department to the Institute.

The Marketing Division

The Marketing Division was responsible for the sale and distribution of the books and magazines its printing presses turned out. When the Institute was first founded in 1947, there was no Marketing Division, which was a major department in any publishing house. After the Institute's reorganization in May 1957, it was determined that to be able to stand on its own legs firmly, the Institute must concentrate on sales as its main source of income. Thus, the Sales Department came into existence as a separate entity. A Sales Manager was appointed, with direct responsibility to the Director.

The General Administration

The Director, with his assistants, directed and coordinated the programme of the Institute without the policy laid down by the Council. In addition, the various administrative divisions provided the services necessary to the management of the organization of (over 450) employees.

The Accounts Division

The Accounts Division scrutinized and recorded all financial transactions. The accounting procedures of the Institute were based on commercial practices. In addition, some government accounting rules and regulations (e.g. Fundamental Rules) were observed. Annual consolidated income and expenditure accounts and balance sheets were audited by a certified external auditor.

The Motor Transport Section

As transportation was a major undertaking at the Institute, no less than 25 vehicles of all types then were in daily use. An officer was in charge of the Motor Transport Section which had to handle an increasing volume of

work.

The Public Relations Division

When this division was first formed in 1955, it was called the Publicity and Distribution Department. However, by 1957, it was determined that both public relations and distribution were major areas in themselves. Therefore, with the creation of a Marketing Division, this division was given responsibility for handling the Institute's public relations. The division aims to promote good public relations between the Sarpay Beikman and the public.

Another function of this division was to see that visitors were cordially received. One other important function of the Public Relations Division was working with the membership of the Institute itself.

The Sarpay Beikman Public Library

In March 1956, the Managing Council of the Institute established the Sarpay Beikman Public Library, one of the few free public libraries in Myanmar. The primary purpose of this library was to make books published by the Institute, as well as other educational Myanmar and English books freely available to the public with a view to promoting mass education. The Librarian, who acted as Secretary to the Library Advisory Committee, was in charge of Library Administration under the direction and review of the Director and Chief Executive Manager.

An integral part of the Library was a Children's Branch, situated on the ground floor of the Institute building at Merchant Street. Children's Library programmes were presented every Saturday and included film shows, easy competitions, debates, magic painting competitions, indoor games,



Sarpay Beikman is located at 529-531, Merchant Rd., Corner of 37th St., Kyauktada Tsp, Yangon.

story-telling and other activities that many children came to enjoy. (At that time) There were 3,000 volumes of children's books, story books and comics.

The Extra-Mural Activities Division

This Division was founded in March 1954, originally with a view to releasing some of the extra duties of the Administration Department. The main functions of the division were (i) to give yearly literary awards; (ii) to hold cultural talks and to exhibit cultural shows regularly during the non-raining period of the year; (iii) to hold public classes on different subjects not usually taught in ordinary schools.

There were BTS Evening Classes providing public lectures on such useful subjects as Public Speaking, Fundamentals of My-

anmar Prose Writing, Principles of Economics, Domestic Science, World Affairs, World History, and the World We Live In, and Printing Classes were held on composing, machine minding, bookbinding, and photo-engraving. They were aimed at improving the knowledge of printing for both Institute staff and outsiders. It was noteworthy that a yearly Journalism School, administered jointly with the Burma Journalists Association, helped to improve journalistic writing.

Honestly, I got these facts and figures from the booklet 'SARPAY BEIKMAN' (Palace of Literature), September 1958. These excerpts will reveal the Golden Age of Sarpay Beikman in the past. I am not dwelling too much upon the past of the institute. I am not making up but it is a true story.

Sarpay Beikman ... Today

As Sarpay Beikman is under the management of the Printing and Publishing Department (PPD), we should have known the brief history of the latter.

The Printing and Publishing Department stemmed from the central Press which carried out the printing jobs for the secretariat of the Government of Myanmar in 1880 and it was administered by the Superintendent of Printing. It existed as Printing and Stationery Department in 1928.

After the advent of the Revolutionary Council Government, it was transformed into Central Press.

In 1963, the Burma Translation Society (BTS) was abolished and the Governing Body of Sarpay Beikman was formed in accordance with the law promulgated.

Soon after the private-owned printing presses had been nationalized in order to establish the socialist economy, the Supervisory Board for Nationalized Printing Presses and Their printing Jobs was formed.

In 1971, the Central Press, the Sarpay Beikman and the nationalized private-owned presses were reorganized as 'Printing and Publishing Corporation' which was placed under the control of the Ministry of Information (MOI). Then again after the Tatmadaw Government took the responsibilities of the State in 1988, 'The Printing and Publishing Corporation' was renamed 'Printing and Publishing Enterprise' (PPE) and the Managing Director took the charge as the departmental head.

From 1 April 2016 onwards, the 'Printing and Publishing Enterprise' was reorganized, as the 'Printing and Publishing Department' (PPD) and the Director-General took the charge of the Department. The PPD was made up of five divisions - Administration, Printing, Production, Accounts, and Sarpay Beikman.

In this way, Sarpay Beikman which is now made up of seven sections is now placed under the management of the PPD. According to the new constitution, the editorial programme is under the direction of a Chief Editor and a Deputy Chief Editor under them are Executive Editors and Editors and the staff are performing the tasks of rendering services for the development of Myanmar literature and enhancement of knowledge for the reading public.

The literary activities that the Sarpay Beikman has to implement are:

Selecting and presenting the 'National Literary Awards' for 18 genres of the books published in a calendar year;

Selecting and Presenting

the 'Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards' for 13 genres, inviting the manuscripts once a year;

Presenting the Pakpku Literary Awards Founded by Pakokku U Ohn Pe;

Holding occasional paper reading sessions, books fairs, Literary talks, literary exhibitions, etc.

The routine literary works are being carried out by seven Sections - Myanmar Encyclopaedia Year Book, People's Handbook Series, Thuta Padetha or Magazine of General Knowledge, Shwe Thway or Children Journal, Translation Section, Sarpay Beikman Public Library and Sales Branch.

Myanmar Encyclopaedia Year Book

This section has been carrying out the annual publication of the Myanmar Encyclopaedia of Year Book since 1978 to supplement the 15 volumes of Myanmar Encyclopaedia.

People's Handbook Series

This section publishes the manuscripts that win the 'Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award' and the 'Pakokku Literary Award Founded by Pakokku U Ohn Pe' and other reading materials.

Thuta Padetha

This section emerged in 1973 as a quarterly magazine, presenting the translated works. Today, it has become a monthly magazine that carries both translated and original works.

Shwe Thway Journal

This journal is a weekly children's Journal which came out on 4 January 1969. It became a bilingual (Myanmar and English) Journal in October 1979.

Translation Section

In order to carry out its primary objectives more successfully and to make sure that it performs translation effectively as has been envisaged since it was founded, this section was established in 2013. The section carries out its routine works of translation (from English to Myanmar and from Myanmar to English).

Sarpay Beikman Public Library

The Sarpay Beikman Public Library emerged on 5 March 1956. It became an e-library on 1 October 2001 and the Children's Library could be opened on the same day. Similarly, another public

library was opened in Mandalay on 21 March 2001.

Sales Branch

Although the Sales Branch is one of the sections under the Production Division, it is placed under the management of the Chief Editor. It has opened book shops (book centres) in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay to sell all kinds of books published by private sectors besides the books published by the PPD.

Sarpay Beikman ... Tomorrow

'Sarpay Beikman' has been bequeathed to us by our predecessors who paved the way for literary development in Myanmar.

Our predecessors spared no effort to make the Sarpay Beikman stand tall in the literary world of the nation. They gave birth to the motto 'Light, where darkness was'. In its early days, the Institute became truly a publishing house with an excellent reputation. No one can deny that.

To be able to maintain such a reputation is a gigantic task for the successors of today.

"The goal of our Institute is clear... to produce interesting and enlightening books in Burmese, and to market these books so vigorously that each home in the Union will be, in truth, a small 'Palace of Literature'."

The literary pioneers said so in the conclusion of the booklet 'SARPAY BEIKMAN' (Printed in September 1958).

It is incumbent upon those who are now working together under the roof of the Sarpay Beikman to achieve this goal.

May 'Sarpay Beikman' stand tall till doomsday!

Reference - (1) SARPAY BEIKMAN, Palace of Literature, Rangoon, 1958.
(2) Through the Window of Saypay Beikman by Maung Swe Ngae, Naingant Gon-ye, Yangon, 2021

Note: - The author U Maung Hlaing joined the Sarpay Beikman in 1980 and worked as an Assistant Editor, Editor, Deputy Chief Editor and Editor-in-Chief. After his retirement, he worked as a Technical Consultant and is still working for Sarpay Beikman by participating in literary teams organized by the Ministry of Information.

ENVIRON
WORLD

Half of China hit by drought in worst heatwave on record

A crippling drought exacerbated by a record heat wave has spread out across half of China and reached the normally frigid Tibetan Plateau, according to official data released ahead of more searing temperatures on Thursday.

The world’s second-largest economy has been hit by heatwaves, flash floods and droughts — phenomena that scientists say are becoming more frequent and intense due

to climate change.

Southern China has recorded its longest continuous period of high temperatures since records began more than 60 years ago, the agriculture ministry said this week.

Experts have said the intensity, scope and duration of the heatwave could make it one of the worst recorded in global history.

A chart from the National Climate Centre showed Wednesday

that swathes of southern China — including the Tibetan Plateau — were experiencing “severe” to “extraordinary” drought conditions.

The worst-affected area — the Yangtze river basin, stretching from coastal Shanghai to Sichuan province in China’s southwest — is home to over 370 million people and contains several manufacturing hubs including the megacity of Chongqing.— AFP



Southern China has recorded its longest continuous period of high temperatures since records began more than 60 years ago. **PHOTO: AFP**

California set to ban fossil fuel cars by 2035

ALL new cars sold in California by 2035 will have to be zero emission under plans set to be adopted by the state this week, as the biggest economy in the United States drives a nationwide fossil fuel evolution.

Proposals to be debated by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) this week will formalize targets set by Governor Gavin Newsom — and will likely prod other US states in the same direction.

The plans, which board member Daniel Sperling recently told CNN he was “99.9 per cent” confident would be adopted, also include incremental steps mandating more than a third of 2026 car sales in the state be zero emission, and over two-thirds by 2030.

“This is monumental,” Sperling told CNN. “This is the most important thing that CARB has done in the last 30 years. It’s important not just for California, but



California’s environmental policies, including ones around car emissions, can, in effect, set national standards as the state’s 40 million people make up the United States’ largest market. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

it’s important for the country and the world.”

California’s more-than 40 million consumers make it the biggest market in the United States.

As such, rules imposed there impact manufacturers’ production plans across the country, as well as further afield, because

they cannot afford to miss out.

This means California can, in effect, set national standards.

The likely ruling Thursday comes on the heels of a climate law signed last week by US President Joe Biden, which sets aside hundreds of millions of dollars in incentives for clean energy programmes.—AFP

NEWS IN
BRIEF

Global warming may cause greater wheat yields, steeper price spikes: study

WHAT will a hotter Earth bring to wheat consumers and farmers? A new study predicts that global prices for the grain will exhibit steeper spikes at 2 degrees Celsius warming despite a slight increase in production.

Wheat is the world’s major grain crop, providing 20 per cent of the protein and calories for more than 3.5 billion people worldwide.

The Paris climate agreement aims to keep the global average rise in temperature below 2 degrees Celsius. Scientists believe that even if the target is fulfilled, global warming will alter wheat yields and prices in the coming years.—Xinhua

Israel unveils 1,200 year-old desert mansion

ISRAELI archaeologists unveiled a 1,200 year-old mansion on Tuesday, broadening knowledge of the southern desert region where a mosque was recently discovered.

Described as a “luxurious rural estate” by the Israel Antiquities Authority, the home boasted a marble-paved hallway and walls decorated with frescoes.

The first building of its kind to be found in the southern Negev desert, according to the IAA, it contained vaulted rooms around a central courtyard. The remains of oil lamps were unearthed in storage rooms underground, along with a cistern.—AFP



A woman walks along a promontory in Al-Namas in Saudi Arabia: thanks to its altitude and strong winds, Al-Namas escapes the worst of the hot weather. **PHOTO: RANIA SANJAR/AFP**

Sweltering Saudis escape to mountainous ‘City of Fog’

AS Saudi Arabia swelters in sizzling desert temperatures, some are escaping to the “City of Fog” — a mountainous oasis of cool where warm clothing is needed even in summer.

Sitting with friends on a picnic blanket, under light rain and a thick, swirling mist in Al-Namas, Abdullah Al-Enizi wears a body-warmer over his

traditional white robes to guard against the chill. The retreat, 2,800 metres (9,200 feet) above sea level in Saudi Arabia’s rugged south, is in stark contrast to other parts of the vast, largely desert country where summer heat of up to 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit) is an annual challenge. At Al-Namas, humid monsoon weather keeps

temperatures below 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit), dropping as low as 15 degrees Celsius (59 degrees Fahrenheit) at night, as fog blocks out the sun over verdant hills. “It’s 46 degrees in Riyadh and only 20 here, it’s 26 degrees lower,” says Al-Enizi at the holiday destination, about 850 kilometres (530 miles) south-west of the Saudi capital.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE

China to resume visa issuance for Japan students after 2-yr hiatus

CHINA has said it will resume issuance of student visas to Japan-based applicants for the first time since March 2020, when the coronavirus pandemic was in its early stages, according to the Chinese Embassy in Tokyo.

The embassy said Tuesday that applications for student visas could be accepted at its visa service centres and consulates

general in Japan as Beijing gradually eases its COVID-19 regulations by shortening the quarantine period for overseas arrivals and resuming some direct flight operations.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a press conference last Friday that Beijing has made “active arrangements” for the resumption

of student visa issuance. “We welcome the return of international students to China to resume their studies,” he said.

According to the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China, at least 220 Japanese students who have enrolled in Chinese universities have not been able to travel to China due to visa restrictions.—Kyodo



A wide range of courses is offered at Peking University to over 40,000 students including more than 6,000 international students. Photo taken on 21 April 2022 shows the interior view of Peking University Library in Beijing, capital of China. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Covid was ‘a disaster’ for badminton, says federation chief

BADMINTON is finally emerging from a pandemic that was “threatening the sport”, world federation chief Thomas Lund told AFP, but China’s zero-Covid policy means it may face further damaging disruption.

Badminton World Federation secretary general Lund said the coronavirus pandemic made 2020 and 2021 “a disaster” for the game, forcing tournament cancellations worldwide and slashing finances to the bone.

The situation is gradually returning to normal and in June the BWF announced an expanded calendar for the next



The coronavirus pandemic was ‘threatening’ badminton’s existence, according to federation chief Thomas Lund. **PHOTO: KAZUHIRO NOGI/AFP**

four years that adds four more tournaments to the world tour.

But Lund also warned that three events scheduled for the end of this year in China, as well as one each in Hong Kong and Macau, could be moved if Covid restrictions make them unworkable.

China is traditionally the pre-eminent force in badminton and a vast, lucrative market crucial to the sport.

But most international sports in China has been cancelled in recent years because of the country’s strict zero-Covid strategy.—AFP

Singapore to further ease its anti-COVID indoor mask rule

SINGAPORE is further easing its mask rule imposed to combat the spread of COVID-19, making wearing masks in most indoor settings optional, the Health Ministry said Wednesday.

The change of the safety rule, which takes effect next Monday, comes after the COVID situation has improved in the country, with the number of daily cases falling to just over 3,000 from the recent peak of 15,000 in mid-July.

The government had already allowed people to go without masks outdoors since the end of March. —Kyodo

2022 MONKEYPOX OUTBREAK

Monkeypox vaccine maker and WHO ink Latin America deal

THE Danish maker of the only authorized monkeypox vaccine said Wednesday it had signed a deal with the World Health Organization (WHO) to facilitate distribution in Latin America and the Caribbean. “Deliveries of the vaccines are expected to begin in September,” Bavarian Nordic said in a statement, as the company seeks to boost production to meet high global demand for the vaccine. The agreement with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) — the WHO’s regional office for the Americas — will “facilitate equitable access to the company’s monkeypox vaccine for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean”, Bavarian Nordic said. A surge in monkeypox infections has been reported since early May outside the endemic African countries.

The WHO declared the situation an international public health emergency on 23 July, and some 40,000 cases have now been reported. The Danish company’s smallpox vaccine, marketed as Imvanex in Europe, Jynneos in the United States and Imvamune in Canada, is a third-generation serum (a live vaccine that does not replicate in the human body).—AFP

Swiss to buy monkeypox vaccines after criticism over delay

SWITZERLAND, which until now has had no access to monkeypox vaccines, will buy a total of 100,000 doses, including 40,000 jabs aimed to rein in the current outbreak, Bern said Wednesday.

The procurement decision comes after LGBTQ groups and others have in recent weeks criticized the slow Swiss response after monkeypox in May began spreading rapidly far beyond the West and Central African countries where it is usually found.

So far, more than 400 cases of the disease, which causes fever, muscular aches and large boil-like skin lesions, have been registered in Switzerland.

But while vaccines have been

available in a range of European countries, no jabs have until now been available in Switzerland.

The Swiss government said in a Wednesday statement that

it would purchase vaccine doses from Bavarian Nordic, the Danish maker of the only authorized vaccine for use against monkeypox.—AFP



A man takes a photo of the snow falling over the forest leaning out of Gornergrat Bahn train, Zermatt, Switzerland. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ECONOMY
WORLD

Sri Lanka widens import ban as economic crisis persists

SRI Lanka tightened import restrictions Wednesday with a ban on more than 300 additional items, as an economic crisis that has created months of shortages and toppled a president refuses to abate.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who replaced Gotabaya Rajapaksa after his ouster in July, slapped a ban on goods including home appliances, tools and sports gear.

The South Asian island nation of 22 million people has been suffering dire shortages of many essentials due to a lack of foreign currency.

The new bans come despite the central bank an-

nouncing last week that the foreign exchange shortage was easing thanks to better inflows.

However, Sri Lanka's economy is projected to contract this year by a worse-than-expected 8.0 per cent, according to the bank, with inflation forecast to peak at a record 65 per cent by September.

The lack of foreign currency pushed Sri Lanka into defaulting on some of its \$51 billion external debt pile in April.

A delegation from the International Monetary Fund was due on Wednesday to continue talks with Sri Lankan officials on a bailout.— AFP



Trucks carrying fertilizer arrive at a port in Colombo. Sri Lanka has been experiencing acute shortages of a range of goods. **PHOTO: AFP**

Germany, Canada partner on transatlantic hydrogen trade

THE leaders of Canada and Germany signed a green hydrogen deal on Tuesday, laying a path for a transatlantic supply chain as Europe seeks to lessen its dependence on Russian energy.

"It's a vote of confidence for Canada as a leader in clean energy," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said during a joint press conference with visiting German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

"We cannot as a world continue to rely on authoritarian countries that will weaponize energy policy, as Russia is, that don't concern themselves



Hydrogen is an all-rounder and can be used in many different ways. It is not only an energy carrier, but also used as a raw material for industrial purposes. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ EE-IP-ORG**

with environmental outcomes or labour rights or even human rights," Trudeau added.

Moscow has slashed its energy exports to Europe in response to punishing West-

ern sanctions over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, forcing countries to scramble for alternatives.

Scholz said there was a need to discuss "short-term constraints and LNG (liquefied natural gas) but in the long run, the real potential lies in green hydrogen from the wind-rich, thinly populated Atlantic provinces."

Canada aims to become a major producer and exporter of hydrogen and other related clean technologies to displace climate-warming fossil fuels, with Germany lined up to become a first customer.— AFP

Cyprus says major gas find could boost European supplies



A drilling ship is seen off the Cypriot coastal city of Larnaca. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

A new gas discovery off Cyprus could speed up exploitation of untapped resources and help se-

cure supplies to Europe, Cypriot Energy Minister Natasa Pilides said Tuesday.

Italian giant Eni and France's TotalEnergies announced on Monday a "significant gas discovery at the Cronos-1 well, in Block 6, offshore Cyprus".

Cyprus's energy ministry said preliminary estimates indicated the reservoir holds about 2.5 trillion cubic feet (70 billion cubic metres) of natural gas.

With Russia threatening to cut off gas supplies to the European Union, Nicosia was in talks with Brussels to become part of the bloc's energy plan to reduce reliance on Moscow, Pilides told state radio.

The minister said she had contacted Eni and TotalEnergies

to "find ways to optimally exploit this discovery".

The gas find was located 165 kilometres (about 100 miles) off the southwest coast of Cyprus.

In 2018, Eni discovered the large Calypso-1 gas field in the same block, containing an estimated 4.5 trillion cubic feet of gas.

The Cypriot energy ministry said Monday more drilling had begun in a new well called Zeus-1 in Block 6, where additional quantities of gas could be discovered.

Nicosia has granted drilling licences for seven blocks to the Eni-Total consortium.— AFP

NEWS IN
BRIEF

S. Korea raises interest rates again to combat soaring inflation

SOUTH Korea's central bank on Thursday raised its benchmark interest rate again, following its first "big-step" rate hike the previous month, to further fight soaring inflation amid increased economic downside risks.

The Bank of Korea decided at its monetary policy board meeting to raise its rate by 0.25 percentage point to 2.5 per cent, judging that rate hikes need to be maintained as the country continues to deal with accelerating price gains.—Kyodo

South African inflation hits new 13-year high

INFLATION in South Africa accelerated to its highest level in 13 years in July, pushed mainly by surging prices for food, transport and electricity, official data showed on Wednesday.

Consumer prices rose to 7.8 per cent in July after reaching 7.4 per cent in June, the national statistics agency StatsSA said in a statement.

Inflation has been soaring in worldwide, fuelled supply chain disruptions after the easing of Covid restrictions as well as surging energy and food prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.— AFP

Mitsui, Mitsubishi to
keep stakes in Russia
Sakhalin 2 energy project



File photo taken February 2009 shows pipes extending from a liquefied natural gas terminal (back) in Sakhalin Oblast, Russia, to a carrier ship. PHOTO: KYODO

JAPANESE trading houses Mitsui & Co. and Mitsubishi Corp. plan to retain their interests in the Sakhalin 2 oil and gas project and will notify Russia by the end of the month, Mitsubishi and sources familiar with the matter said Thursday.

The companies' decision to invest in the new operator, set up by Moscow to take control of the natural resources project in the Russian Far East, was made in light of Japan's aim to secure a stable supply of liquefied natural gas amid market disruptions following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Mitsubishi said its board approved the plan on Thursday "from a comprehensive perspective af-

ter careful consideration," while Mitsui said it is co-operating with the Japanese government and its partners.

The new operator, established on 5 August under a decree by Russian President Vladimir Putin, has offered the same contractual terms to energy companies. An affiliate of Russian energy company Gazprom has a controlling stake in the new operator.

Shareholders in the previous operator of the project need to apply for stakes in the new entity by 4 September, with applications to be reviewed within three days of receipt. Mitsui and Mitsubishi held 12.5 per cent and 10 per cent stakes in the previous operator, respectively.—Kyodo

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER
ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE
(Tender No. EPGE PV 04/ 2022-2023)

In accordance with section 8.2 "AMENDMENTS" of Request for Proposals (RFP) of EPGE PV 04/2022-2023, EPGE herewith would like to announce that Bid Submission Date shall be amended as 16th October 2022 and the Addendum No.1 shall be issued.

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER
ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE
(Tender No. EPGE PV 03/ 2022-2023)

In accordance with section 8.2 "AMENDMENTS" of Request for Proposals (RFP) of EPGE PV 03/2022-2023, EPGE herewith would like to announce that Bid Submission Date shall be amended as 30th September 2022 and the Addendum No.3 shall be issued.

Russian tech giant Yandex sells media assets

RUSSIAN IT giant Yandex announced Tuesday the sale of its media assets to state-affiliated rival VK, the owner of Russia's largest social network.

The transaction is the latest sign of increasing government control over

internet platforms available to a Russian audience, as Moscow continues the military intervention in Ukraine.

Yandex "has entered into a binding agreement with VK, one of Russia's largest social media

businesses, to sell Yandex's news aggregation platform and Zen information service," the company — often dubbed "Russia's Google" — said in a statement.

Yandex will also be selling its main page Yan-

dex.ru and relocating its search engine, mail and other non-media services to a new domain — ya.ru.

The VK group in a statement confirmed the deal, adding it should be finalised by the end of the year. —AFP

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, **Pilarquim (Shanghai) Co.,Ltd**, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from **Margamin Co.,Ltd** to **Myanmar Gold Medal Crop Co.,Ltd**. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Pilar-Argon	Pyraclostrobin 10% + Tebuconazole 20% SC	Provisional	P2022-4757
2	Pilar-Guard Two	Clothianidin 10% + Pymetrozine 10% SC	Provisional	P2022-4661

Myanmar Gold Medal Crop Science Co.,Ltd
Tel: 09-784772103

Ads
TradeMark
Call
09251022355
09974424848

Ministry of Energy

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

1. 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.

(a) No.(4) Fertilizer Plant (Myaungdagar)
(b) No.(5) Fertilizer Plant (Kangyidaunt)

2. 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

3. 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.

4. The interested parties can contact the following addresses for any inquiry.

(1) **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

(2) **Managing Director**
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Ministry of Energy
Office No.44, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone: 067 3 411059
Email: mpeict@gmail.com

5. 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

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Six Continents Limited, a company incorporated in United Kingdom and having its registered office at Broadwater Park, Denham, Buckinghamshire UB9 5HR, UNITED KINGDOM is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademarks:

IHG ONE REWARDS

Reg. No. 4/5878/2022 (Date 01-08-2022)

In respect of "Customer loyalty services; customer incentive program services; administration of customer loyalty program; administration of customer incentive programs; promoting hotel, resort, travel, and vacation services through a customer loyalty program; promoting hotel, resort, travel, and vacation services through a customer incentive program" in **International Class 35**.

The above mark has been filed as Mauritius Trademark Application No. MU/M/2021/35191, on Dated 16 December, 2021.

IHG ONE REWARDS

Reg. No. 4/5877/2022 (Date 01-8-2022)

In respect of "Customer loyalty services; customer incentive program services; administration of customer loyalty program; administration of customer incentive programs; promoting hotel, resort, travel, and vacation services through a customer loyalty program; promoting hotel, resort, travel, and vacation services through a customer incentive program" in **International Class 35**.

The above mark has been filed as Mauritius Trademark Application No. MU/M/2021/35192, on Dated 16 December, 2021.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Marks shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw Aye Myint Soe, Advocate,
For Six Continents Limited,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road,
Botataung Tsp, Yangon,

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated 26th August 2022
ams@kcyangon.com

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Lebanon to investigate recording threatening Saudi embassy

LEBANESE authorities will investigate an audio recording shared online threatening to attack the Saudi Arabian embassy in Beirut, the interior ministry said in a statement Wednesday.

“Following the spread of an audio recording... threatening the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Beirut with an act of terrorism,” the interior minister ordered an investigation, the ministry said.

The minister also ordered the arrest of those found responsible for the threats, it added.

The ministry said Ali bin Hashem bin Salman Al-Haji, a

Saudi national wanted by Riyadh for “terrorist crimes”, was the likely author of the recording.

Al-Haji has been residing in Lebanon for years, a security source told AFP.

He participated in events organized by Saudi opposition groups and attended by high officials from Hezbollah, a group backed by Saudi Arabia’s arch-foe Iran, the source said.

He is currently on a visit to Syria, the source added.

Beirut’s ties to Riyadh — formerly a major investor in cash-strapped Lebanon — have taken a blow in past years

as Hezbollah’s influence has grown.

The latest incident comes months after Riyadh announced the return of its ambassador to Beirut, following a diplomatic crisis last year between Lebanon and Gulf Arab states.

Riyadh also suspended fruit and vegetable imports from Lebanon in April last year, saying shipments were being used for drug smuggling and accusing Beirut of inaction.

The police identified the man only by his initials, but a security source told AFP it was dissident Maneh al-Yami.—AFP



Lebanese authorities will investigate an audio recording shared online threatening to attack the Saudi Arabian embassy in Beirut. **PHOTO: ANWAR AMRO/AFP/FILE**

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

US says Ukraine grain exports near pre-war levels

UKRAINE is on course to ship nearly as much grain this month as it did before the Russian invasion, in a triumph for international efforts to ease food shortages, a US official said Tuesday.

Ukraine is one of the world’s largest exporters of wheat, corn, barley and sunflower oil, shipping around five million metric tons of grain each month before the war. Its exports ground to a trickle after the 24 February invasion, contributing to a spike in global food prices that has hit poor nations especially hard.

“Thanks to intensive international cooperation, Ukraine is on track to export as much as four million metric tons of agricultural products in August,”



The first UN-chartered vessel, MV Brave Commander, loads more than 23,000 tonnes of grain to export to Ethiopia, in Yuzhne, east of Odessa on the Black Sea coast, on 14 August 2022. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

a senior US State Department official told AFP.

Ukraine and Russia in July reached a first wartime agreement through the mediation of

Turkey and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, with guarantees for ships to sail out of Ukraine’s Black Sea ports.—AFP

Six months on, shelling becomes new normal in Mykolaiv



A Ukrainian soldier, accompanied by a dog, keeps position on the front line in Mykolaiv region on 23 July 2022, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. **PHOTO: BULENT KILIC / AFP**

SIX months since the start of Russia’s invasion, residents of Mykolaiv feel dread and resignation as the daily shelling of

their city in southern Ukraine becomes the new routine.

In the city’s Sukhii Fontan (Dry Fountain) district, a dozen people holding empty canisters chat as they stand in line for drinking water.

Fighting in April put a water pipeline out of service.

The water has started running again but it is salty and the only way to get drinking water now is to go to distribution points set up in each district.

But water is far from the main concern.—AFP

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Kyiv accuses Moscow of illegal adoptions of Ukrainian children

KYIV accused Moscow on Tuesday of having organized illegal mass adoptions of Ukrainian children after transferring them from occupied territories to Russia.

Since the beginning of the war, Kyiv has been accusing Moscow of “deporting” Ukrainians, saying Ukrainians from occupied territories have been forced to go to Russia rather than other regions of Ukraine.

“The Russian Federation continues to abduct children from the territory of Ukraine and arrange their illegal adoption by Russian citizens,” Ukraine’s foreign ministry said in a statement.

“Over 1,000 children from Mariupol,” a southern Ukrainian city occupied by Russian troops, “were illegally transferred to outsiders in Tyumen, Irkutsk, Kemerovo, and Altai Krai” (in Siberia), the statement read, referring to different areas of Russia.

The foreign ministry said it had based its findings on information from local authorities in Krasnodar, a southern Russian city near Ukraine.—AFP

Lithuania eyes possible regional ban on Russian visas

LITHUANIA could seek a “regional solution” for banning Russian tourists if EU member states fail to agree on a bloc-wide sanction, Lithuania’s foreign minister said Tuesday.

Gabrielius Landsbergis said he expected talks with Latvia, Estonia, Finland and Poland on the issue in Prague next week on the sidelines of an EU foreign ministers’ meeting.

“We seek a European solution in the first place, because it is the most sustainable and legally correct,” Landsbergis told reporters in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius.

“If we don’t reach one, we do not rule out the possibility of looking for a regional solution that would include the Baltic states, Poland and potentially Finland,” he added.

The minister said there should be no Russian tourists in the EU “as if nothing happened”.

Eastern EU countries stopped issuing new tourist visas to Russians shortly after Moscow began its invasion of Ukraine on 24 February.

But Russians with visas issued by other EU countries are allowed into all EU states because of the bloc’s rules on free movement.—Xinhua

Japan police chief to step down over ex-PM Abe's assassination

THE top bureaucrat of the Japanese police said Thursday he will step down to take responsibility for the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Itaru Nakamura, commissioner-general of the National Police Agency, expressed his intention at a press conference where the agency announced the results of its investigation into the police's failure to protect Abe when he was fatally shot while delivering a street speech during an election campaign.

"As we advance new security arrangements, it is a matter of course to go at it with a new lineup of people," Nakamura said.

The agency said Tomoaki Onizuka, head of the Nara prefectural police, was punished the same day with a 10 per cent pay cut for three months, adding that he has also offered to step down.

In announcing the results of its review of the case, the



Shinzo Abe was Japan's longest-serving prime minister. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

agency said a sudden change in the placement of police officers just before Abe's speech created "space" in the area behind him that was left unguarded, enabling the attacker to fire two shots from behind.

When Abe gave a stump speech in the western city of Nara on 8 July, ahead of an up-

per house election, one officer dispatched from the Tokyo metropolitan police force and several local police officers were in his immediate vicinity. However, none were able to stop the assailant before he fired two shots at the former prime minister from behind, according to the agency.—Kyodo

'I cannot accept it': Bali bomb survivors fume after attacker's term cut



Umar Patek was sentenced to 20 years in jail over acts of terror related to the 2002 Bali bombings. **PHOTO: AFP**

ALMOST two decades after the Bali bombings left Thiolina Ferawati Marpaung with permanent eye injuries, news that one of the masterminds could be released early has caused fresh trauma.

Indonesia's latest reduction to Umar Patek's prison sen-

tence — revealed last week by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and confirmed by AFP — means the bomber could be released on parole before the island marks the 20th anniversary of the attacks in October.

That is a galling prospect

for survivors of the attack, which killed 202 people, including 88 Australians.

"It is not that I don't respect other people's rights, but he has hurt the survivors and families with his evil and inhumane acts," Marpaung told AFP by phone from Denpasar, the resort island's biggest city.

The smell of smoke triggers vivid memories of the blasts that sent shards of broken glass tearing into her eyes, Marpaung said.

Patek — a member of an Al Qaeda-affiliated group who was captured in the same Pakistani town where Osama bin Laden was killed — should be kept locked up, she said.

"Please let him serve what he deserves as a terror convict, not like a chicken thief whom we can easily forgive," the 47-year-old said.—AFP

China, S. Korea mark 30th anniv. of ties amid delicate power balance

LEADERS of China and South Korea called Wednesday for a boost in relations on the 30th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties, as Seoul faces a delicate balancing act between its security ally, the United States, and its largest trading partner.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Chinese President Xi Jinping exchanged congratulatory letters, with Yoon expressing hope that "new ways of cooperation" can be found over the next 30 years and Xi calling for "a substantive friendship" with the anniversary as the new starting point, the South Korean presidential office said.

Xi pointed out the need for

the two sides to heed "each other's core interests and major concerns" and "eliminate interference" so as to create a better future for bilateral relations, apparently keeping the United States in mind, according to Chinese state-run media.

Yoon also asked China to play a constructive role in solving issues concerning North Korea's nuclear development and deepen cooperation in such areas as economic security, including measures to strengthen supply chains, and climate change.

The South Korean leader voiced hope to meet with Xi to have discussions in person so they can improve bilateral ties for the next 30 years.—Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Former Pakistan PM Khan granted bail by anti-terror court: party

PAKISTAN'S former prime minister Imran Khan was granted bail Thursday on charges brought under the country's anti-terrorism act, a party official said, leaving him free to continue his nationwide rallies calling for early elections.

Khan's court appearance is the latest twist in months of political wrangling that began when he was ousted by a vote of no confidence in the national assembly in April.

But the former cricket star retains widespread support, staging mass rallies railing against the establishment and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government, which he says was imposed on Pakistan by a "conspiracy" involving the United States.—AFP



Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan was granted bail Thursday on charges brought under the country's anti-terrorism act, a party official said, leaving him free to continue his nationwide rallies calling for early elections. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Murdoch sues small Australian news outlet for defamation

FOX News boss Lachlan Murdoch has sued a small Australian media outlet for defamation over an opinion piece that linked his media empire to the US Capitol riots.

The scion of the Murdoch media empire is seeking damages, accusing Crikey staff of tarnishing his reputation and "covertly using another media organisation to harass" him.

Murdoch — whose Fox News Channel regularly rails at threats to free speech — also asked the court to permanently ban the site from publishing anything suggesting he "illegally conspired with Donald Trump" around the events of 6 January.—AFP



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.

Yadanabon FC garners victory in final match of MNL 1st round

THE final week of the first round of the 2022 season of the Myanmar National League continued on 25 August at the Thuwunna Stadium, and Yadanabon won against ISPE FC by 3-1.

At the end of the first round, the Yadanabon team achieved a series of good results and was able to move up to 4th place.

This match was an important match for the 4th place, and because ISPE FC suffered a defeat, it was only able to stand in 6th place after the first round.

Both teams used core players for the decisive match.

After the return of Hline Bo Bo, the team's midfield plays improved, and in this match, they were able to control the midfield

from the start of the game.

In the first three minutes of the match, Yadanabon made an opener and Thet Naing scored the opening goal through an assist from Ye Yint Aung.

After scoring the goal, the Yadanabon team dominated the game Thet Naing scored another goal at 31 minutes and Ye Yint Aung scored the third or winning goal at 44 minutes. Yadanabon FC led the first half with 3-0.

ISPE FC did not show their usual performance in this match and struggled due to conceding a goal at the beginning of the match. In the second half, the Yadanabon team was able to show better performance and had many opportunities to score

more goals, but they were unable to capitalize on them.

An equalizing goal for ISPE was scored by Kyi Soe in extra time.

After the first round, defending champion Shan United is still leading the standing table with 25 points while Yangon is following Shan with 19 points.

Myawady FC is in third place with 18 points and Ayeyawady and ISPE FC are standing in fourth with 14 points each.

Hanthawady United is fifth with 11 points and Maha United has earned nine points and stands in sixth. GFA FC has collected sixth points in total while Rakhine United has no win. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



ISPE FC players (yellow) pass over Yadanabon players (blue) during their final match of the Myanmar National League 1st round match at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. PHOTO: MNL

Mawyawady draws against Dagon Star FC in MNL II



A Mawyawady FC player (red) poises to kick the ball during their Myanmar National League Week II match against Dagon Star FC at Thuwunna Training Ground I in Yangon on 25 August 2022. PHOTO: MNL

MAWYAWADY FC played a goalless draw match against Dagon Star FC in the Week-4 of Myanmar National League-2 match at Thuwunna Training Ground I in Yangon yesterday.

Dagon Star FC who is leading the table managed to play a draw against Mawyawady FC and this is their second draw match this season.

In the previous match, Mawyawady FC suffered a big loss to Junior Lions FC and thus they used their full energy in yesterday's match against Dagon Star.

After their Week-4 match, Dagon Star FC earned eight points in four games while Mawyawady FC has four points from three matches.

As a final match of the Myanmar National League II Week 4, University Team will take on Junior Lions today. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM