

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 needs to implement federalism in compliance with its nature in building the Union based on democracy and federalism



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives the peace delegation of the Restoration Council of Shan State-RCSS in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 August 2022.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a peace delegation led by General Yawd Serk, Chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS), at the parlour of Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning and

held talks about peace issues. At the talks, the Senior General said that the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) was the first to come to hold the peace talks as the State Administration Council started its peace step in its tenure of taking the State responsibilities. The Senior General explained the good results

achieved in the first talks with positive attitudes, efforts for exercising the genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and striving for building the Union based on democracy and federalism as a political vision, and plans are underway to continuously implement the peace process based on the Constitution (2008) and

the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). The Chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) and party expressed their attitudes on the construction of a Union based on democracy and federalism, peace process, regional development, exercising of federalism, solving political problems through

politics, enhancement of living standard of the people, ceasing of armed conflicts and terrorism, and future plans. In his response, the Senior General discussed the important role of the geographical condition of the State, exercising foreign policies that comply with Myanmar, SEE PAGE-3

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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 statements 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 after the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Myo Nyunt Aung	Director-General Department of Religious Affairs Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture
(2) Dr Aye Aye Khine	Rector Bago University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education

Third day of 23rd Myanmar Traditional
Cultural Performing Arts Competition
continues in Yangon Region



The third day of the 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition is in action in Yangon Region yesterday. **PHOTO : KO KO ZAW (MNA)**

Public Notice

- The Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to effectively curb corruption.
- The ACC used SMS on the mobile phone to ask the public who seek services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via Short Code No “1111” for feedbacks, including the Public Feedback Programme-PFP.
- According to the PFP, the right replies of the citizens via Short Code No “1111” will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.
- Therefore, the public should make a reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at Short Code No “1111” and such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission
Answer “1111” to fight against corruption
Answer “1111” to improve services
Let’s work together to eliminate corruption towards prosperity

THE third day of the 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition (Regional Level) was held at the Myanmar Convention Centre (MCC) on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township, Yangon at 8 am on 29 August.

In the morning, a new generation of young contestants competed in the amateur level 1 and 2 of the solo orchestra competition and the Ozi and Dobat troupe competitions in a groups.

In the afternoon, a troupe competition of the orchestra was held in separate groups, men’s and women’s events. U Bo Hein and troupe, and Pout Kyaw Ma and troupe entered the amateur level 1 competition; Zarmani Than Zaw and troupe, U Chit Su and troupe, U Aung Kyi Khaing and troupe, and Daw Myat Noe Khin and troupe entered the amateur level 2 competition. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, regional cabinet ministers, Yangon Region Advocate-General U Htay Aung in his capacity as Chairman of the Leading Organizing Committee for the 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition, State, District and Township level departmental officials, officials from the Myanmar Music and Theatrical Associations, the Committee and Sub-committee members of the competition organizing, Chairman of the Myanmar Comedians Association U Dein Daung and members, a new generation of contestants and their families and the art lovers watched the contest and cheered them.

Afterwards, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and party greeted contestants and panels of judges of the competitions, it is learnt. —Ko Ko Zaw (MNA)

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Victory in sports needs time, training and development

REGARDING sports, achievement of victory requires taking of time, improving training and development. As for the promotion of public health, the easiest way is walking, jogging and doing physical exercises. Only when people are healthy will they be able to be engaged in education, business and other activities. The construction of the sports grounds region-wise needs to be foresighted.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the coordination meeting held on 8 August 2022 in regard to matters relating to the activities being carried out by the Union Government)

Myanmar needs to implement federalism in compliance ...

FROM PAGE-1
need for Myanmar to implement federalism compatible with geographical conditions, national characters and culture of the nation although many countries exercise democracy and federalism across the world, and necessities to turn out well-educated human resources in realizing the genuine disciplined democratic system without fail. Only when the number of educated persons is on the rise can nation-building tasks be accelerated for the promotion of the education sector. So, the Senior General explained the current undertakings of development tasks in ethnic areas. They then frankly exchanged views on peace issues and regional development measures.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the Chairman of Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) exchanged gifts and they all then posed for documentary photos.

Also present at the talks were SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of



The Senior General poses for the documentary photo with the RCSS peace delegation at the event.

Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council members General Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun and Lt-

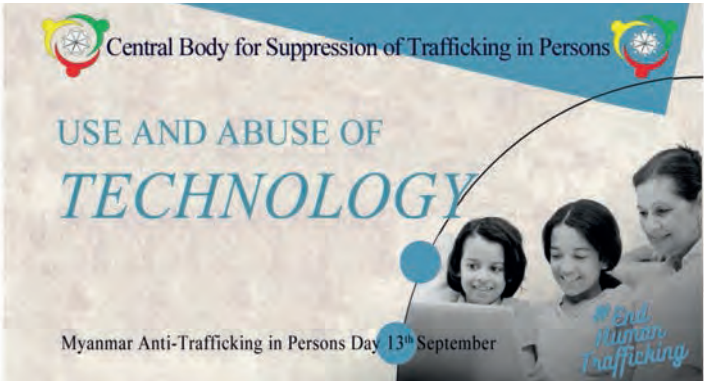
Gen Yar Pyae. The Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) Chairman was accompanied by Secretary (1) Sao Sai Ngin and Central Executive Committee

member Sao Saung Han.

The peace delegation led by the Chairman of Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) will hold talks with the Peace

Talks Team and the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee formed with Council members by the State Administration Council. —MNA

2022 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Days' Objectives



- ✧ To mobilize the participation of all citizens in combatting human trafficking as a national duty;
- ✧ To have the public instilled with awareness about and knowledge of trafficking in persons;
- ✧ To protect and care trafficked victims with empathy; and
- ✧ To strengthen cooperation and coordination among all counter trafficking stakeholders government agencies, civil society organizations, UN agencies, international organizations and general public.

68 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 29 August, total figure rises to 615,030

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 615,030 after 68 — eight imported and 60 local transmission — new cases were reported on 29 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 593,495 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,437 without more casualties.—MNA

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

SAC Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win returns from Russian Federation



THE Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief(Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, who attended the closing ceremony of the International Army Games 2022, left the Sheremetyevo International Airport in Moscow, the Russian Federation, on 28 August afternoon. Myanmar Ambassador to Russia U Lwin Oo and wife, Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Moe Kyaw and wife and officials bade farewell to the delegation.

The Tatmadaw delegation arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning and SAC members General Mya Tun Oo and Lt-Gen Soe Htut, SAC Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe, Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, senior officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air), Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Zaw Hein and officials welcomed back the delegation at the airport. — MNA

Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons holds its 1/2022 meeting

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut, in his capacity as Chairman of the Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons addressed the 1/2022 meeting of the central body in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the SAC member Union Minister said there should be a proper departmental communication system for human trafficking suppression, prevention and preparation activities focusing on the Five-Year National Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking.

He then highlighted the purpose of meeting and the need to look at what are the current forms of human trafficking, the relation between political, social, economic and trafficking, the reasons for the occurrence of trafficking against poverty, economic vulnerability and social

standards and victim recruitment of traffickers using modern technologies.

He also continued that it can uncover human trafficking using online and electronic systems under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law's Section 29 enacted on 16 June 2022. All should participate in conducting prescriptions of international and regional agreements, decisions of conferences and meetings.

In the 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report of the US, Myanmar is a Tier-3 ranking with 13 recommendations which are being carried out in Myanmar. The report does not reflect the real situation of the country. Therefore, there would be key decisions at the meeting.

Then, the chairpersons and members of the Working Group on Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Protection of Trafficked Victims, Working Group



The 1/2022 meeting of the Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons is in progress yesterday.

on Legal Affairs and Prosecution, Working Committee on Repatriation, Reintegration and Rehabilitation of victims of trafficking, the chairpersons and officials of the region and state anti-trafficking task forces reported on their respective sectors for anti-trafficking activities.

The meeting was concluded with the instructions of the Union minister. — MNA

Thilawa SEZ attracts capital expansion of \$100 mln in 18 months



Thilawa Special Economic Zone eyes foreign investors.

THE amount of total accumulated investment at the Thilawa Special Economic Zone by a total of 116 foreign enterprises was estimated at US\$2.28 billion. From 1 February 2021, Thilawa SEZ recorded capital expansions of \$100 million from one new enterprise and the existing enterprises. Twenty-one

countries made investments in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone under the Special Economic Zone Law, according to the Thilawa SEZ Committee. The new enterprise brought in \$14 million at Thilawa SEZ. Moreover, 14 businesses also expanded. The majority of them are engaged in cement and pharma-

ceutical manufacturing. Businesses in Thilawa SEZ were forced to stop in 2020 amid the pandemic. They have resumed their operations from 2021. At present, the manufacturing operations return to normal. Moreover, the construction of the SEZ is carried out with 15,000 workers for now. – TWA/GNLM

Association's restrictions on sesame exporters applying for export licences eased

AMONG the restrictions on corn, pulses, and sesame exporters, the matter of having to apply for an export licence has been eased, according to the, pulses and beans, maize and sesame producers on 27 August. In the past, various pulses were exported abroad. On 1 August, the Department of Trade issued a directive that licences will only be issued with the approval of the Myanmar Pulses and Beans, Maize and Sesame Industry Association in order to obtain an export license for the export of sesame, oil crops, and pulses. On 27 August, it was eased to apply for a licence without seeking the approval. The relaxation will start from 29 August and export licence applicants do not need to seek a letter of endorsement from the association. In July, the Ministry of Commerce stressed that exporters of pulses, corn, sesame, peanuts and oilseeds will be allowed to export only if they can show the export incomes licence along with banking documents. In addition, exporters of sesame, all kinds of pulses, corn, and oilcrops through the border trade camps must make payments only in US dollars, and the export earnings must be exchanged at the Central Bank of Myanmar at its reference rate.—TWA/GNLM

167 Myanmar nationals charged in China for various reasons transferred back

ONE hundred and sixty-seven Myanmar nationals who are serving time in China for various reasons were transferred via the border crossing by the Immigration Department of the People's Republic of China in the third week of August. The team of the Border Immigration Department from the People's Republic of China led by Sheriff Jian Kang Quxian transferred 66 men and 54 women in the evening on 25 August and 26 men and 21 women on the Myanmar-China border on 26 August in Chinshwehaw in Kokang Self-Administered zone, Shan State. Township Administrator U Thet Oo Paing and officials accepted them. They were handed over to Myanmar after being charged by the Chinese government for trespassing from the Muse border in Chinshwehaw and working in cities located in Guizhou and Hunan provinces. A woman from the transferred group, who had been trafficked, was transferred to the No 2 Anti-Trafficking Police Force. Those transferred will undergo the Covid-19 tests before sending them back to their respective places, it is reported. —TWA/GNLM

Mandalay's great musician Myoma Ko Paw passes away

MANDALAY'S famous musician Myoma Ko Paw, who composed many well-known songs including the Hna-Ko-Tu-Chit-Tha-Hmya, passed away at around midnight on 28 August, according to the Mandalay's musicians arena. The 95-year-old prominent musician U Kyaw Soe, whose pseudonym was Myoma Ko Paw, was born of U Paw and Daw Hla in Dartan Ward of Mandalay in 1289 ME. When he was 24, he entered the music field as a saxophone player of the Myoma Musical Troupe in Mandalay. In 1949, he started composing songs and worked as a cameraman for the Mandalay Film. He won the best cinematography academy award together with U Lu Kalay for the Ko-Pine-Myitta film in 1961. He served as a conductor for the Thingyan Moe movie in 1985 and wrote the Hna-Ko-Tu-Chit-Tha-Hmya song for the movie. In 1991, he also composed Aung-Say-Mingala for the movie Dandayi. He published the

Atate-Thoe-Alwan-Pyay book covering his experiences, milestones and the Myoma Musical Troupe in February 2017. Great musician Myoma Ko Paw broke his leg after falling suddenly at his house in early August and was under medical treatment before he died. He also suffered from a heart attack. The famous songs he wrote are Chit-Aryone, Hna-Ko-Tu-Chit-Tha-Hmya, Pan-Myo-Tayar, Hnote-Khun-Sat-Thingyan, Chit-Thu-Nae-Thar-So-Yin,



Myoma Ko Paw.

Chit-Kabar-Hte-Hna-Yauk-Hte, Maung-Mel-Doh-Hna-Oo and Ma-Khwal-Tan-Kyin-Mel. — TWA/GNLM

Body of man who jumped into Inya Lake found

A person jumped into the Inya Lake in Kamayut township of Yangon Region on 29 August, it is reported. According to information, the man jumped into the Inya Lake at about 2 pm yesterday, members of the Kamayut Township Fire Station Search and Rescue Team conducted rescue operations and found the body at 4 pm. An official of the Yangon Region Fire Services Department said that

the unidentified dead body was sent to the North Okkalapa Hospital and the authorities are carrying out investigations about the identity of the deceased. — TWA/GNLM

7,458 job opportunities created in Bago Region within seven months

IN the investment activities, the CMP businesses that will provide more employment opportunities for the local people are being approved, said Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win.

In addition to wind turbine energy, the region can generate electricity through solar energy, which is renewable energy, he added.

He said so at the Bago Region Investment Committee meeting (7/2022) was held at Tawwin Hantha Hall of the Bago Region Government Office on 26 August.

All must continue to encourage the investment in factories and workshops so that there are no empty plots in the industrial areas, the chief minister said.

The chief minister contin-



The seventh meeting of the Bago Region Investment Committee was held on 26 August 2022.

ued that the necessary technology and loan support must be provided for small and medium-sized industries to continue operations.

Myanmar Husheg Yanshili garment factory construction period extension with the approval of Bago Region Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, the extension of the construction period for

Huishun (Myan) Industrial Co Ltd factory leasing service, the extension of the construction period for the Brew Master Co., Ltd brewery construction project are under implementation.

The members of the regional investment committee explained the importation of new raw materials for Wiawis Myanmar Co Ltd.

Responding to the presentation, the chief minister fulfilled the needs in accordance with rules and regulations.

According to the reports of the Bago Region Investment Committee, from 1 February 2021 to August 2022, foreign investment and Myanmar national investment reached US\$123.712 million and K9,529,115 million, creating 7,458 job opportunities.

— MNA

Myanma Timber Enterprise to implement mountain viewpoints for Wanet Elephant Camp upon tourism growth

ONCE Mandalay Region sees a spike in tourism in the coming high tourism season, creating the mountain viewpoints for Wanet Elephant Camp on the way to Yeywa Dam between Mandalay and PyinOoLwin townships will be undertaken, said U Toe Aung, assistant manager, in charge of Wanet Elephant Camp under Myanma Timber Enterprise.

As the high season is approaching, we will prepare the recreation sites for homegrown visitors and tourists to enjoy the elephant ride and the natural scenic beauty. The viewpoints aim for the travellers to explore the bird's eye view of Mandalay city, Dokhtawady River and Shwesayan Pagoda. The travellers can enjoy the natural fresh air, mountain view and hiking experience.

“Under the approval of the

regional government, the camp has resumed its tourism service for the tourists and domestic visitors from 27 April 2022. It receives 20 local visitors during the weekend. The number is expected to increase three folds in the coming season. Shade trees are also planted and a bench is also installed under the trees. Recreation sites and facilities will be prepared for the visitors,” he elaborated.

There are a total of eight elephants at the camp. Elephant lovers donated the feed through digital payment. It costs K50,000 for the elephants’ feast. The visitors can observe the natural scenery by elephant ride. A short trip is estimated at K3,000 while the elephant ride for a long-distance trip costs K5,000. — Maung Aye Chan/GNLM



An elephant show at the Wanet Elephant Camp.
PHOTO: MAUNG AYE CHAN

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, cobras, restricted chemicals, urea fertilizers, consumer goods, electronics and vehicles confiscated

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

Under the instructions of the Customs Department, an on-duty team made inspections at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint on 26 August.

Officials nabbed 204 old bicycles worth K3,683,400 that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a vehicle (approximately K40 million) heading from Myawady to Monywa and K23,312,300 worth of a water purifier, rice cookers, toilet accessories and furniture that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from four trucks (approximately K280 million) and two trailers (approximately K50 million) heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, on 27 August, an inspection team led by the Hlegu Township Forest Department captured a total of 0.6718 tonne of illegal teak worth K443,388 from a Honda Odyssey car (approximately K15 million) in Hlegu township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.



Officials check seized bicycles in Mon State.

Afterwards, on 26, 27 and 28 August, a combined on-duty team made inspections at the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw Checkpoint, according to information.

They seized K327,780,000 worth of restricted chemicals from two trucks and 700 bags of urea fertilizers worth K16.8 million from two 22-wheel trucks (approximately K61 million) and a trailer (approximately K7 million) at the 6/4 Milepost on the Myitnge-Htonebo Road. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, officials impounded 800 bags of Acetic Acid Sodium Salt, 70 bags of local rice, 51 cobras worth a total of K342,610,000 from two vehicles (approximately K52 million) heading from Mandalay to Lashio at the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw Checkpoint. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Afterwards, a total of 0.9466

tonne of illegal timbers worth K66,262 were captured in Shwesat ward of Myitkyina township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 28 August, an inspection team led by Myanmar Police Force conducted inspections. They confiscated an unregistered Canda 125 motorbike (approximately K150,000) and an unregistered Yes Anbo 125 motorbike (approximately K150,000) in Indaw township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

On 29 August, a total of 5.9652 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K2,492,396 were seized in Toungoo and Nyaunglebin districts.

Therefore, 30 arrests estimated at K1,222,487,746 were made on four consecutive days from 26 to 29 August, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

YGEA decides on sales report with market price

YANGON Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) agreed on 29 August 2022 to make a sales report according to the actual market price.

The decision was made following the meeting of the Monitoring and Steering Committee on the Gold and Currency Market and also with the officials involved in gold refining businesses in Yangon, Mandalay and Mawlamyine cities on 27 August 2022. YGEA settled this under the guidance of the officials concerned, YGEA Chair U Myo Myint told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

“Our association set the gold reference price calculated on the Central Bank of Myanmar’s reference exchange rate of K2,100 for a dollar, while the gold market price was determined on the exchange rate of K3,000 in the unofficial forex market. This action implied a transaction with the actual market price which was calculated on the dollar exchange rate over-the-counter-market as the retail shops are also making transactions with the market price instead, the GNLM quoted

him as saying. Consequently, a market report to the related department must be done as per the actual market price.

“Earlier, YGEA created a voucher with the reference price. Traders can buy gold at the YGEA’s set price. However, they resell the gold at a higher price. Now, we will make a voucher using real data,” he continued.

The authorities concerned also want the daily market report, he added.

“Gold is locally mined. The officials want the real data for the gold transaction. It does not indicate taxation. The data on the amount of gold acquired by smelting and refining businesses will be forwarded to the related department,” U Myo Myint elaborated.

On 29 August, despite YGEA’s set price at K2,021,000 per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme), pure gold fetched approximately K2.8 million per tical in the markets,” the association stated.

The price rise is attributed



Jewellery is seen at one gold outlet in Yangon.

to the Kyat depreciation against the safe-haven US dollar. The exchange rate against a US dollar is worth over K3,200 in the unofficial forex market.

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

Under the guidance of the

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

The objectives of the committee are inspecting and prosecuting market manipulation, checking if there is compliance

with payment rules in the domestic market, and proceeding against those unscrupulous traders who intend to interfere with the free and fair operation of the market under the existing laws, by-laws and regulations in line with the official directives, illegal foreign currency holding, illegal trade and taking legal actions against price manipulators.— NN/GNLM

Palm oil wholesale reference price rebounds to nearly K5,000 per viss

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market increased again to nearly K5,000 per viss, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transport costs, tariffs and banking services, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

The reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market for a week from 29 August to 4 September is set at K4,910 per viss, whereas the reference price for a week ending on 28 August was set at K4,860 per viss. The figures showed an increase of K50 per viss.

However, the current market



The Ministry of Commerce is striving for consumers not to worry over the supply of edible oil. The ministry is also trying to secure edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer reasonable prices to consumers and maintain price stability.

price is higher than the reference rate.

Despite the reference rate, the traders are found to raise the price to K10,000 per viss in the markets.

To tackle this, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing

companies, in coordination with the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July in order to offer palm oil at a subsidized rate. They sell palm oil at K5,100 per viss to consumers directly. However, there are lim-

ited sources of supply although they directly sell the palm oil at a reference rate depending on the volume quota.

“The edible oil price is moving an upward spiral. We rush to queue to buy the oil when the mobile market trucks arrive in

our ward,” a housewife said. If the retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Special Goods Tax Law, MoC released a statement.

The Ministry of Commerce is striving for consumers not to worry over the supply of edible oil. The ministry is also trying to secure edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer reasonable prices to consumers and maintain price stability. The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at 1 million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/GNLM

OPINION

Efficiently spend funds for the emerald green village project

SOME 70 per cent of the total population is residing in rural areas, half of which are burdening the impacts of poverty. In implementing the plans for rural development and poverty alleviation, it needs to emphasize an increase in family incomes and enhancement of capacity in addition to the construction of infrastructures.

Hence, it is necessary to set up a fund to be disbursed at free interest or soft interest rate to run the improvement of livelihoods and increase the family incomes of the rural people. As such, the government has initiated the emerald green village project since the 2014-15 financial year in order to set up a fund without losing the primary capital to create job opportunities for rural people and operate their businesses.

The projected villages need to form the project work group elected by villagers for managing the rural development tasks and to control the allotted fund for increasing incomes based on the emerald green village project. The votes of the majority of people to form the project work group will contribute to the rural people so as to have democratic practices.

Depending on the households of the village, K30 million each is allotted for the villages with more than 100 households, K20 million each for the villages with 50-100 households and K10 million each for the villages with less than 50 households.

The projected villages need to form the project work group elected by villagers for managing the rural development tasks and to control the allotted fund for increasing incomes based on the emerald green village project. The votes of the majority of people to form the project work group will contribute to the rural people so as to have democratic practices.

That is why it is believable that the implementation of the emerald green village project is sure to carry out rural development tasks as well as upgrade the livelihoods of the rural people to have better socioeconomic status.

Building a global start-up ecosystem

THE COVID-19 pandemic in the true sense has brought a boom in the number of start-ups around the world. Start-ups are responding to changing consumer demand and are opting for sectors like fintech, education, consumer-durable and healthcare using technology.

This trend is expected to continue even after the opening up of the economies. For instance, according to a report by consulting firm RedSeer, India's consumer digital economy is expected to grow ten times from the current level in the next 10 years with a 25 per cent CAGR. From an USD 85-90 billion market in the year 2020, it is expected to touch USD 800 billion by the year 2030.

Start-ups have helped create more jobs

Being the centre of innovations, start-ups have helped cre-

ate more jobs, thus helping the economy revive. The US tops list of countries which has a favourable start-up ecosystem space. It garners almost 65 per cent share of the billion-dollar unicorns, followed by China which has around 13.8 per cent share. India ranks third with 4.1 per cent in the share in billion-dollar unicorns, according to the study conducted by the USC Marshall School of business in its 'Startup Index of Nations & Regions'.

Silicon Valley from the West Coast of US leads in the region with 39.2 per cent share in unicorns. Several Indian regions have a place in the ranking. New Delhi for instance is in the 13th position, Mumbai is in the 16th position and Bengaluru is in the 20th position with 1.7 per cent, 1.4 per cent and 1.1 per cent share respectively.

Start-up incubators and skilled workforce

Factors like government policy intervention, venture capitalists, start-up incubators and skilled workforce are instrumental in the growth of startups in any country. In the US, to help smaller businesses survive, the administration has set up efficient laws, regulations, and policies to safeguard business interests, ownership of ideas, or trade secrets.

The Indian government, since the last several years too, have tried to create a favourable start-up ecosystem with initiatives like Make in India, Vocal for Local, and Start-up India programme. It has provided tax holidays and capital gains exemption for investment in start-ups to incentivise entrepreneurship in the country.

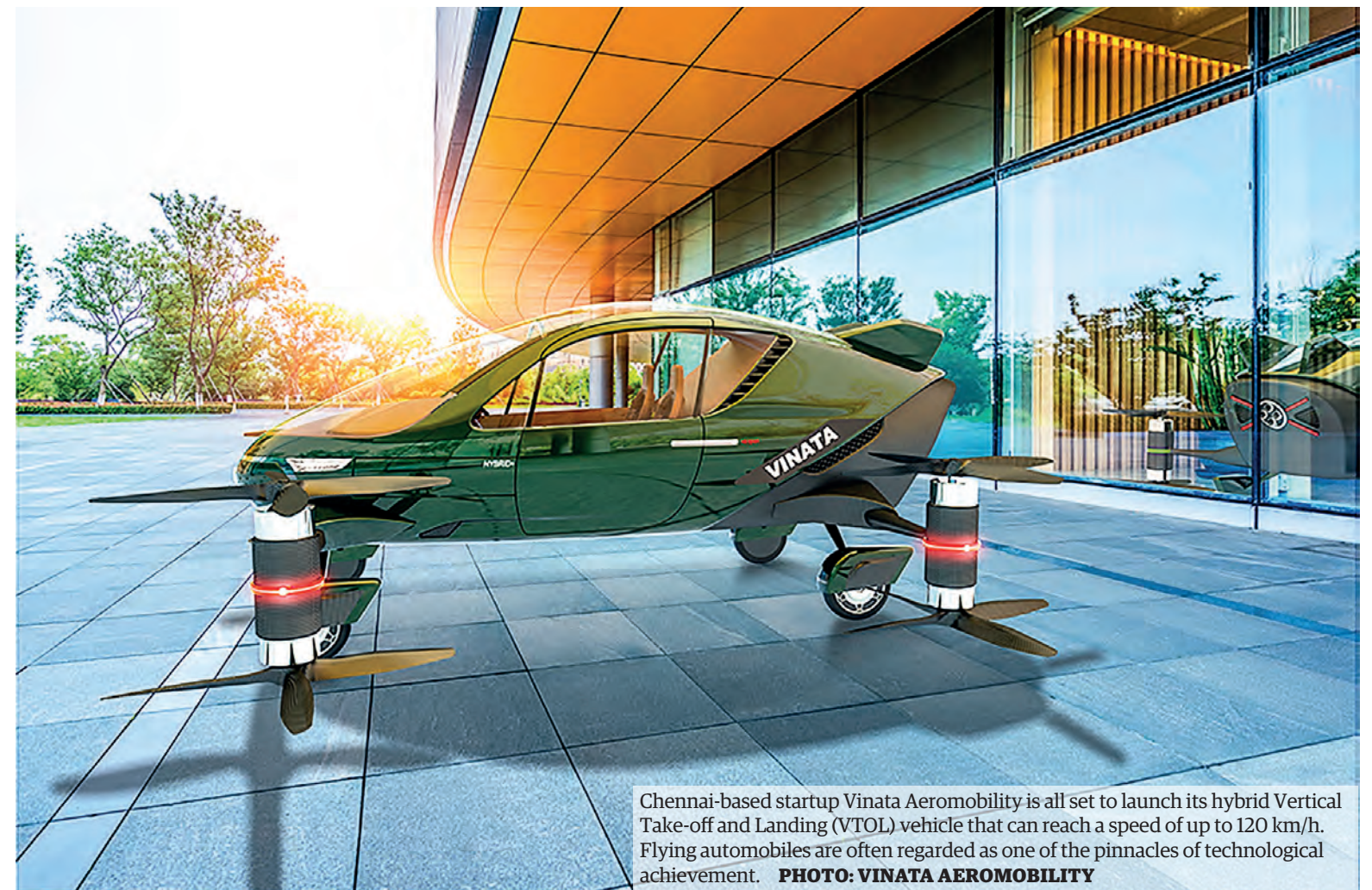
According to the Economic Survey, India at present has the world's third largest start-up eco-

system with 83 unicorns with a total valuation of USD 277.77 billion till January 2022. Most of these unicorns are in the service sector contributing approximately 50 per cent to India's GDP. The total number of recognized start-ups in the country surpassed 61,400.

Chinese Taipei striving to be a global supplier of hardware

Chinese Taipei has a vibrant start up ecosystem and ranks 30th as per Start-up Blink report. The country is already an international powerhouse in the hardware industry due to the efforts from both the public and private sectors over the last 50 years. The Chinese Taipei government has formulated an action plan which comprises of five strategies and 40 measures which will be jointly promoted by 13 government agencies.

Source : ANI



Chennai-based startup Vinata Aeromobility is all set to launch its hybrid Vertical Take-off and Landing (VTOL) vehicle that can reach a speed of up to 120 km/h. Flying automobiles are often regarded as one of the pinnacles of technological achievement. **PHOTO: VINATA AEROMOBILITY**

Twitter data indicates unemployment higher in lower-to-mid income countries post-pandemic



Supporters of South Africa's main opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, have called for more to be done to create jobs. **PHOTO: AFP**

IN contrast to higher-income nations like Canada, lower-to-middle-income countries still experience high unemployment rates in the wake of COVID-19 lockdowns and economic restrictions, according to a recent study conducted by York University in collaboration with the University of Witwatersrand in Jo-

hannesburg.

In contrast, during the global economic crisis of 2008-2009, higher-income nations suffered more from the recession than did lower-income nations.

Macroeconomic variables

The study compared macroeconomic variables including un-

employment and inflation across Nigeria, South Africa, and Canada, representing lower-middle, upper-middle, and high-income countries, respectively. It did this by using Twitter sentiments.

They discovered that all three countries' unemployment rates rose during the start of the pandemic; however, Canada was able

to reduce the rate after the first few months, in contrast to Nigeria and South Africa, which are still dealing with high levels of unemployment. Jude Kong, an assistant professor at York University and the director of the Africa-Canada AI & Data Innovation Consortium, believes that the study "indicates how vulnerable lower-middle income countries are to lockdowns and economic limits, bearing a greater loss during the COVID-19 epidemic" (ACADIC).

Nigeria's unemployment rate was lower than South Africa's before COVID-19, lockdowns, and economic restrictions, while South Africa's inflation rate was lower than Nigeria's. But compared to Canada and South Africa, unemployment and inflation rates in Nigeria have risen faster throughout the pandemic. Particularly in Canada and Nigeria, which have both had high unemployment and high prices throughout the pandemic, the inflation rate is rising in all three countries right now.

Lower economic classes

"All income country groups

have been impacted by the COVID-19 disaster. However, lower economic classes bear a disproportionately greater burden. It will be challenging to recover from this complexity, particularly for middle-income countries, warns study co-author Professor Bruce Mellado, member of the Gauteng Premier COVID-19 Advisory Committee and co-president of ACADIC. Professor Mellado is responsible for modelling at the University of Witwatersrand and iThemba LABS in South Africa. Johannesburg and Pretoria are located in Gauteng, the province with the highest population in South Africa.

"The COVID-19 pandemic management educated us about the value of data to make evidence-based judgments. As a result, the way that decision-makers see data has significantly changed. According to Mduzuzi Mbada, the interim director-general of the Gauteng Province, "We are looking forward to the utilization of more data in dealing with societal challenges."

Even while South Africa's in-

flation rate is still close to pre-pandemic levels, any measures taken to address the country's high unemployment rate are likely to result in higher inflation. Although Canada's unemployment rate is still low, the country is currently experiencing its highest inflation rate in 15 years, which may have been a result of the government's decision to offer employment insurance and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit to workers who lost their jobs as a result of COVID-19.

Various machine learning algorithms

This study is distinctive in part because the authors used various machine learning algorithms to calculate the monthly unemployment rates for South Africa and Nigeria utilizing non-traditional data including sentiment analysis from Twitter and Google Trends data. For all three nations, monthly inflation data were available, however, South Africa and Nigeria did not have monthly unemployment data.

Source : ANI

MYANMAR Daily Weather Report

(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Monday 29 August 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak to moderate over the Andaman Sea and weak over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 30 August 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region and Southern Shan, Kayin and Mon states, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, (Northern and Eastern) Shan, Chin and Rakhine states and isolated in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region and Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 - 7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight increase of rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 August 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 August 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 August 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

NASA calls off Monday launch of Moon rocket



Press photographers set up to over the Artemis I Space Launch System rocket mission at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on 29 August 2022. **PHOTO : AFP**

NASA called off the test flight on Monday of its largest-ever Moon rocket because of a temperature issue with one of the four giant engines.

“The launch director has called a scrub for the day,” the US space agency said.

Alternative dates for launch of the Artemis 1 mission, an uncrewed flight around the Moon as part of an ambitious programme

to eventually go to Mars, are Friday and next Monday.

Blastoff had been planned for 8:33 am (1233 GMT) but was put on hold because of a temperature problem with one of the four engines on the 322-foot (98-metre) Space Launch System (SLS) rocket.

Tens of thousands of people — including US Vice-President Kamala Harris — had gathered near the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida to watch the launch, which comes 50 years after Apollo 17 astronauts last set foot on the Moon. The goal of the flight is to test the SLS and Orion crew capsule that sits atop the rocket. Mannequins equipped with sensors are standing in for a crew for the mission.

Overnight operations to fill the orange-and-white rocket with

more than three million litres of ultra-cold liquid hydrogen and oxygen were briefly delayed by a high risk of lightning.

Around 3:00 am, another hiccup emerged: a potential leak was detected during the filling of the main stage with hydrogen, causing a pause. After tests, the flow resumed.

But NASA engineers later detected a problem with the temperature in one of the four RS-25 engines and put a hold on the countdown before eventually scrubbing the launch.

The rocket’s Orion capsule is to orbit the Moon to see if the vessel is safe for people in the near future. At some point, Artemis aims to put a woman and a person of colour on the Moon for the first time.

“This mission goes with a lot of hopes and dreams of a lot of people,” NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said.

Extreme temperatures

During the 42-day trip, the Orion capsule will orbit the Moon, coming within 60 miles (100 kilometres) at its closest approach, and then fire its engines to shoot out 40,000 miles — a record for a spacecraft rated to carry humans.

One of the mission’s primary objectives is to test the capsule’s heat shield, which at 16 feet in diameter is the largest ever built.

On its return to Earth’s atmosphere, the heat shield will have to withstand a speed of 25,000 miles per hour and a temperature of 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit (2,760 degrees Celsius) — roughly half as hot as the Sun. —AFP



(FILES) This file photo taken on 17 August 2022 shows people walking past a screen which is turned off to save energy in Chengdu, in China’s southwestern Sichuan province. The southwestern Chinese province of Sichuan downgraded emergency energy supply measures on 29 August 2022, restoring power to some factories after weeks of rolling blackouts due to a heatwave-induced shortage. **PHOTO : STR / AFP**

Heatwave-hit Chinese province resumes power to factories

THE southwestern Chinese province of Sichuan downgraded emergency energy supply measures on Monday, restoring power to some factories after weeks of rolling blackouts due to a heatwave-induced shortage.

Parts of Sichuan province and neighbouring Chongqing saw rainfall and lower temperatures beginning Sunday, after weeks of record temperatures higher than 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) and a crippling drought that strained hydropower generators throughout the region.

“Reservoir water levels are gradually increasing and the power supply capacity has improved,” the Sichuan government announced Monday, adding that the power supply crisis had been “alleviated to a certain extent”.

The provincial emergency energy supply response was downgraded from the highest level starting Monday, the notice said, allowing power to be gradually restored to factories.

The region is home to major auto manufacturers, including Toyota in Sichuan and Honda in Chongqing, which said they resumed operations Monday. —AFP

Skeleton of huge dinosaur unearthed in Portugal

PALAEONTOLOGISTS in Portugal have unearthed the fossilized skeleton of what could be the largest dinosaur ever found in Europe.

The remains are thought to be those of a sauropod, a herbivorous dinosaur 12 metres (39 feet) tall and 25 metres long that roamed the Earth around 150 million years ago.

“It’s one of the biggest specimens discovered in Europe, perhaps in the world,” palaeontologist Elisabete Malafaia, from the Faculty of Sciences at Lisbon University, told AFP on Monday.

The bones were uncovered by Portuguese and Spanish scientists in the garden of a house near Pombal in central Portugal at the beginning of August.

Among the bones collected, they found the remains of a rib about three metres long, Malafaia said.

Fossil fragments were first noticed at the site in 2017, when the owner was digging up his garden to make way for an extension.

He contacted palaeontologists, who unearthed part of the dinosaur skeleton earlier this month and have been examining it ever since. —AFP



In this undated handout photograph released on 29 August 2022 by the Instituto Dom Luiz (Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon), palaeontologists work on the extraction of part of the fossilized skeleton of a large sauropod dinosaur, at the Monte Agudo paleontological site in Pombal, central Portugal. **PHOTO : HANDOUT / INSTITUTO DOM LUIZ, FACULDADE DE CIÊNCIAS DA UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA / AFP**

French PM warns of ‘rationing’ risk this winter

FRENCH Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne warned company bosses on Monday about the risk of energy rationing this winter and urged them to take steps to reduce their consumption.

“If we act collectively then we can overcome the risk of shortages, but unless everyone takes part and if all the bad-case scenarios come together then we could be forced to impose reductions on consumers,” she told the Medef business group.

“If we end up with rationing, companies will be the most affected and unfortunately we

need to be prepared for it,” she continued.

Borne said the government was already drawing up contingency plans which included a “quota trading system” that would enable companies to buy and sell power quotas.

The government was also preparing measures to support companies that would be “too severely affected” by rationing.

The clear warning about the risk of shortages further underlines efforts by the government to prepare public opinion and businesses for looming difficulties caused by the ongoing war in Ukraine. —AFP



French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne (L) talks to Poland’s Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki (R) flanked by French employers’ association Medef president Geoffroy Roux de Bezieux (L) prior to the opening addresses of the Medef Summer Conference, La REF 2022, at the Hippodrome de Longchamp racetrack in Paris on 29 August 2022. **PHOTO: ERIC PIERMONT / POOL / AFP**

Elon Musk says the planet needs more oil... and babies

BILLIONAIRE tech entrepreneur Elon Musk, who has fathered 10 children, said on Monday the world needs to “make more babies” – and keep digging for oil.

The richest man on the planet, who has repeatedly warned that low birth rates pose a “danger” to civilization, said ahead of an energy conference in Norway that the world is facing a “baby crisis”.

Asked about the greatest challenges facing the world, Musk cited the transition to renewable energies but also said the birth rate was “one of my favourite... things to be concerned about.”

“We don’t want the population to drop so low that we’ll just eventually die,” Musk, founder

of American electric car manufacturer Tesla and SpaceX, told reporters in Stavanger, southwest Norway.

“At least make enough babies to sustain the population,” he added.

Many Western societies and populated countries such as China are facing declining birth rates and ageing societies.

“They say civilization might die with a bang or with a whimper,” added Musk. “If we don’t have enough kids, then we will die with a whimper in adult diapers. And that will be depressing.”

He also said the planet still needed new fossil fuel sources.

“I think realistically we do need to use oil and gas in the short term, because otherwise

civilization would crumble,” he said, adding that “some additional exploration is warranted at this time”.

He went on to advocate the maintenance of nuclear power plants, describing himself as “pro-nuclear”.

Several European countries had decided to phase out nuclear power, but following Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine in February and Europe’s subsequent push to wean itself off of Russian oil and gas, the nuclear debate has reignited.

“I know this may be an unpopular view in some quarters, but I think if you have a well-designed nuclear power plant, you should not shut it down,” Musk said. —AFP

Japan’s new daily COVID-19 cases drop to 6-week low below 100,000

JAPAN’S daily coronavirus tally totalled 95,916 cases on Monday, falling below 100,000 for the first time in six weeks.

While numbers for Mondays are typically lower than for other days due to reduced testing on the weekend, the last time the nationwide tally was below six digits was on 19 July.

Tokyo accounted for 9,880 of the cases, falling below 10,000

for the first time since 11 July. The capital’s seven-day rolling average of new infections stood at 18,800.9 per day, down 24 per cent from the previous week.

Among other prefectures, Fukuoka logged 5,729 cases, while Saitama reported 5,419.

Across Japan, patients with severe symptoms rose by one from the previous day to 628, the health ministry said.

A ministry panel approved Monday the use of US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer Inc.’s COVID-19 booster shots for children aged 5 to 11, the first for the age group in Japan.

The panel also granted special fast-track approval for the manufacturing and sale of Evusheld, a COVID-19 antibody drug by Britain’s AstraZeneca Plc. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fire extinguished on ferry off Sweden with 300 aboard

A fire that broke out on a car ferry carrying 300 people off Sweden’s coast on Monday has been extinguished and the ship will be towed to port, Swedish maritime authorities said. The blaze appeared to have started on a refrigeration lorry on the car deck of the Stena Scandica, which was sailing from Sweden to Latvia.

“The fire is out,” Swedish Maritime Administration spokeswoman Lisa Mjorning told AFP.

“The ferry will be towed to port in the next three to four hours”, she said, adding that it would be towed to Nynashamn, south of Stockholm. The 300 people on board had remained on the vessel, she added, correcting earlier information that an evacuation had begun. —AFP

Eight dead in S Leone landslide, floods

EIGHT people have been killed and more than 800 displaced by torrential rain and a landslide in Sierra Leone’s capital Freetown, authorities said Monday, warning of further damage as rains continue.

The downpours hit the city over the weekend, causing a landslide Sunday in Looking Town area.

Four men, one woman and a seven-year-old girl died in the landslide, according to the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA).

Two men were also killed in the Mount Aureol and Blackhall Road neighbourhoods when fences collapsed onto buildings, the agency said.

In the Colbert community, more than 800 people were displaced by flash flooding, Mohammed Bah, an NDMA spokesman, told AFP.

“The landslide was due to the heavy rain, no doubt, but also a combination of illegal human activities”, Bah said.

“People are cutting down trees, tampering with the forest cover... The mudslide that occurred is mainly a result of the fact that people are building (houses) beyond demarcated zones.”

Authorities have asked residents to evacuate the area of Looking Town, which is surrounded by hills, due to a “very big boulder” that is poised to fall. —AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Strike at Spain's Iberia Express grounds flights



Passengers disembark from an aircraft of Spanish low-cost airline Iberia Express at Berlin Brandenburg Airport Willy Brandt (BER) in Schoenefeld, southeast of the German capital on 16 July 2022.

PHOTO: AFP

IBERIA Express, the low-cost arm of Spain's national carrier, cancelled eight domestic flights Sunday as cabin crew launched a 10-day strike for

higher wages amid soaring inflation.

The walkout, which will run from 28 August to 6 September, is expected to involve

92 cancellations affecting more than 17,000 passengers, a spokeswoman for the USO union said.

The stoppage comes as Spain's airline sector struggles with rolling strikes by staff at budget rivals EasyJet and Ryanair.

Neighbouring Portugal also suffered a weekend of strikes by baggage handlers.

Throughout the day, eight flights were cancelled in Spain but there were no delays, a USO statement said, indicating 1,500 passengers had been affected.

Iberia Express confirmed eight "preventative cancellations", saying in a statement it had arranged alternative flights or transport for 84 per cent of affected passengers,

with the rest opting for a refund or vouchers.

On Friday, the airline had announced it would cancel 24 domestic flights during the first three days of the walkout, affecting some 3,000 passengers.

It did not immediately say how many more flights would be axed beyond those initial dates. Iberia Express connects Madrid with about 40 cities across Europe.

Spain's national carrier Iberia is owned by IAG, which also owns British Airways and Ireland's Aer Lingus.

Meanwhile, 12 EasyJet flights were also cancelled on Sunday as the airline's pilots observed their third period of strike action this month, the SEPLA union said.

The cancellations affected

flights into or out of Barcelona and Palma de Mallorca in the Balearic Islands that were connecting with various European cities. Since they began their first three-day strike on 12 August, there have been 87 flight cancellations.

The pilots are demanding the restoration of conditions they enjoyed before the pandemic and the resumption of talks for a new collective agreement. Their walkout began just two weeks after a strike by EasyJet cabin crew which resulted in a deal.

In Portugal, meanwhile, several major airports were hit by stoppages from baggage handling company Portway on the final day of a three-day wage protest affecting dozens of flights. —AFP

Ambani commits \$25 bn to launch 5G in India

INDIAN billionaire Mukesh Ambani on Monday announced an investment of \$25 billion to launch 5G networks in India, aiming to strengthen his grip on one of the world's fastest-growing smartphone markets.

In his annual speech delivered virtually to shareholders of Reliance Industries — India's most valuable company — Asia's second-richest person said he believes "digital freedom is the birthright of every Indian".

Ambani's multi-billion-dollar empire was built on oil and petrochemicals, but he has diversified into new areas including telecoms, retail and renewable energy in recent years.

The launch of telecom arm Jio — offering ultra-cheap data at high speeds — in 2016 sparked a brutal price war, forcing competitors into years of losses.

Earlier this month, Jio swept up more than a third of the available spectrum in India's first-ever 5G airwave auction, bidding 881 billion rupees (\$11 billion).

Announcing an investment of two trillion rupees (\$25 billion), Ambani said Jio will

launch 5G services in major cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai in time for the Indian festival of Diwali in late October.

A pan-India roll-out will follow, Ambani said, with an aim to cover every district in the country by December 2023 — an area of 3.3 million square kilometres.

"We are committed to make India the largest data-powered economy in the world, even ahead of China and the United States. Jio 5G will be the world's largest and most advanced 5G network," Ambani said.

Global tech giants such as Google, Facebook owner Meta, Intel and Qualcomm have invested billions of dollars into Reliance's digital unit Jio Platforms in recent years.

A newly-launched collaboration between Meta and Jio will allow users to shop for groceries via instant messaging app WhatsApp, Ambani said.

"This is our first-ever end-to-end shopping experience on WhatsApp — people can now buy groceries from JioMart right in a chat," Facebook founder and Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg said in a Facebook post. —AFP

Struggling Uniper seeks further state support as gas prices soar

GERMAN energy giant Uniper on Monday said more state-backed loans were needed to shore up its financial position as Russian gas supply disruptions and soaring prices put the group under increasing pressure.

Uniper, which accepted a government rescue package in July, said in a statement it had asked for its credit facility with the public lender KfW to be boosted "by an additional four billion euros (\$4 billion) for further stabilisation".

The Dusseldorf-based group said it had used up the nine-billion-euro line of credit agreed in the bailout as the cost for gas soared.

"Reduced Russian gas deliveries and the associated significant price increases for gas and electricity" meant Uniper needed more cash to buy extra supplies of the fuel at short notice and cover trading deposits, the group said.

One of the biggest importers of Russian gas, Uniper has been squeezed as Moscow has reduced supplies to the continent over recent months.

"As long as energy prices continue to rise in Europe, the need for liquid funds will also



(FILES) This file photo taken on 22 July 2022 shows the logo of energy supplier Uniper in the entrance hall at the company's headquarters in Dusseldorf, western Germany. Struggling German energy giant Uniper on 22 August 2022 requested extra support from the government as disruptions to the supply of Russian gas and rising prices put the group under further financial stress. PHOTO: AFP

increase," said Uniper CEO Klaus-Dieter Maubach.

Within a month, Uniper said gas prices had "approximately doubled from an already high level".

The German government will take a 30 per cent stake in Uniper as part of the rescue package agreed in July.

Uniper was in ongoing discussions with officials in Berlin and the Finnish energy group Fortum, Uniper's largest shareholder, about the "implementation of the stabilisation package", the German group said.

"We are working at full speed with the German government on a permanent solution to this emergency as otherwise Uniper will no longer be able to fulfil its system-critical function for Germany and Europe," Maubach said.

The request for further credit "secures the energy supplies we have promised our customers and stabilizes the energy markets," he added. —AFP

Asian, European markets tumble after Powell's rates warning

MARKETS sank Monday and the dollar rallied after Fed boss Jerome Powell warned of more interest rate hikes to fight inflation and poured cold water on the prospects of a cut in the new year.

The hefty selling tracked a painful day on Wall Street, where all three main indexes tanked between three and four per cent as investors contemplated an extended period of monetary tightening.

In a much-anticipated speech to global finance chiefs Friday, Federal Reserve Chair Powell said his priority was bringing inflation down from four-decade highs, even at the expense of economic growth, adding that failure to act now would cause more pain later. "Restoring price stability will take some time and requires using our tools forcefully to bring demand and sup-

ply into better balance," he told the symposium at Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

The comments dealt a blow to markets, which had in recent weeks enjoyed a bounce from June lows as weak economic data and a slowdown in price rises fanned hopes the Fed would temper its interest rate hike drive.

Analysts said the chances of a third successive 75 basis-point increase next month had risen, with US Treasury yields — a gauge of future interest rates — surging.

"The game of assessing the Fed outlook has shifted from guessing how high the peak rate might be to also understanding how long it might stay there for," Yanxi Tan, of Malayan Banking, said.

In Asian trade, investors ran for the hills as they contemplated an era of high borrowing costs with Charles Schwab & Co's Liz Ann Sonders say-



Pedestrians walk past an electronic share price board showing the closing numbers on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo on 29 August 2022. Tokyo shares sank on 29 August, tumbling 2.66 per cent, or 762.42 points, after US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell pledged to act "forcefully" against soaring inflation, signalling more rate hikes to come. PHOTO:AFP

ing that once the Fed gets to "whatever the final hike is, they're going to stay there for a while".

"The market had trouble digesting that," she told Bloomberg Television.

Tokyo, Hong Kong, Sydney, Seoul, Mumbai, Taipei, Singapore, Manila, Bangkok, Jakarta and Wellington were all well

down, though Shanghai eked out a small gain.

Paris and Frankfurt were sharply lower in the morning. London was closed for a holiday.

The dollar jumped against its major peers, closing in on the 140 yen mark not seen since 1998, while an energy crisis in Europe kept the euro depressed. —AFP

Olympus to sell microscope business to US fund Bain for \$3 bil

OLYMPUS Corp said Monday it will sell its microscope unit to US investment fund Bain Capital for 427.67 billion yen (\$3.1 billion), focusing on its more promising medical equipment operations.

The major Japanese optical equipment maker's sale of its original business that continued for more than 100 years comes as it has sought to restructure itself since being hit by an investment loss cover-up scandal that surfaced in 2011.

Olympus, founded in 1919 as a microscope manufacturer, said it will

sell all its stake in its science-centred subsidiary Evident Corp. to Bain Capital through a special purpose company, with the sale expected to be finalized by January next year.

The unit also manufactures devices such as industrial endoscopes and X-ray analyzers.

As part of efforts to reshape itself into a medical technology firm, Olympus divested its money-losing camera business in 2021 while it spun off Evident in April this year, with an eye to selling the subsidiary. —Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V VENUS C VOY.NO. (2222S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V VENUS C VOY. NO. (2222S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-8-2022** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AMIS WISDOM 1 VOY.NO. (1)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AMIS WISDOM 1 VOY.NO. (1)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** 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 BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD



A visitor walks past a booth of LG Energy Solution during the InterBattery 2021 exhibition at COEX in Seoul on 11 June 2021. PHOTO:AFP

Honda, LG to invest \$4.4 bn in US battery plant

JAPANESE auto giant Honda and South Korean battery maker LG Energy Solution announced a joint venture Monday to invest \$4.4 billion in a new US

electric car battery plant.

The move comes after California last week ruled that all new cars sold in America's most populous state must be zero-emis-

sion from 2035, with other US states expected to follow suit.

In a joint statement, the firms said they expect construction of the plant

to begin next year, aiming for "mass production of advanced lithium-ion battery cells by the end of 2025".

The tie-up was decided "based on the shared belief that expanding local electric vehicle production and ensuring the timely supply of batteries would put them in the best position to target the rapidly-growing North American EV market", the companies added.

Last month, Japanese electronics giant and Tesla supplier Panasonic announced its own \$4 billion investment to build a new battery factory in the United States for electric vehicles.

Panasonic CEO Kazuo Tadanobu said the new plant, the company's second electric battery operation in the United States, was "critical to help meet demand". —AFP

GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

Iran says nuclear deal 'meaningless' without end to watchdog's probe

THE Iranian president on Monday said reviving a 2015 deal with world powers will be pointless unless the UN nuclear watchdog puts an end to its probe of undeclared sites in the country.

Ebrahim Raisi's comments came as Tehran reviews the US response to its suggestions on a "final" text put forward by the EU to salvage the landmark deal.

The United States had remained adamant that Tehran cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency to clear up suspicions about earlier work at three undeclared sites.

"In the negotiations, safe-

guard issues are one of the fundamental ones. All of the safeguard issues must be resolved," Raisi told reporters at a press conference in the capital Tehran.

"Without resolving the safeguard issues, talking about the agreement is meaningless," he added.

Iran has repeatedly urged the IAEA to end the issue before any revived deal is implemented but US State Department spokesman Vedant Patel on Thursday said "we do not believe there should be any conditionality" between that issue and the JCPOA, as the deal is known.

Patel called on Iran to answer the IAEA's questions about the three sites.

In June, the IAEA's board of governors adopted a resolution censuring Iran for failing to adequately explain the previous discovery of traces of enriched uranium at three sites not declared by Tehran as having hosted nuclear activities.

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



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi speaks during a press conference in Tehran on 29 August 2022. Raisi today said reviving a 2015 deal with world powers is "meaningless" unless the UN nuclear watchdog puts an end to the probe on undeclared sites in the country. **PHOTO: AFP**

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

IAEA chief taking team to Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant



This picture released on 29 August 2022 on the official Twitter account of the International Atomic Energy Agency shows International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi (C) pose with a team of 13 people wearing caps and sleeveless jackets bearing the nuclear watchdog's logo. **PHOTO: @RAFAELMGROSSI ACCOUNT TWITTER / AFP**

INTERNATIONAL Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi said on Monday he was en route to inspect Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, which has been targeted by fresh shelling over the past day, according to its operator.

The Zaporizhzhia plant — Europe's largest atomic facility — has been occupied by Russian troops since the start of the war.

Moscow and Kyiv are trading blame for shelling around the complex of six Soviet-designed nuclear reactors in the city of Energodar, in southern Ukraine.

Last week the plant was briefly cut off from the national grid for the first time in its four-decade history owing to Russian shelling of the last working power line, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said.

Over the weekend, Ukrainian nuclear agency Energoatom, which operates the plant, warned of the risk of a radiation leak.

Nevertheless, "during the last day, the Russian military continued to fire at Energodar and the site of the Zaporizhzhia

nuclear power plant", the agency said on Monday morning.

Ten people were injured, including four plant workers, and as of 10:00 am (0700 GMT) the plant "operates with the risk of violating radiation and fire safety standards", Energoatom said on Telegram.

"The occupiers, preparing for the arrival of the IAEA mission, increased pressure on the personnel of the plant to prevent them from disclosing evidence of the occupiers' crimes at the plant and its use as a military base," it added.

Long-awaited visit

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has for months been asking to visit the site, warning of "the very real risk of a nuclear disaster".

On Monday Grossi said "the day has come" and that an IAEA support and assistance mission is "now on its way".

On Twitter the IAEA director general said the team from the UN nuclear watchdog would arrive at the power plant "later this week".

In a photograph accompanying his tweet, Grossi posed with a team of 13 people wearing caps and sleeveless jackets bearing the IAEA logo. —AFP

Goals not guns: in troubled DRC, football academy draws in youth

IN war-torn eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, national park authorities are hoping a football academy will persuade youngsters to take up the Beautiful Game rather than a rifle.

Around 50 children aged between 10 and 16 have signed up to the Virunga youth football training scheme at a stadium in Rumangabo, a village in North Kivu province which borders a military base and the Virunga National Park.

It is the oldest national park in Africa, famed for its gorillas and volcanoes.

Monkeys look on intrigued as the children are put through their paces, with drills, games and advice.

An estimated 120 armed groups roam the DRC's volatile east. The resurgence in the region of the M23 (the March 23 Movement), a primarily Congolese Tutsi group, is of primary concern.

After lying mostly dormant for years, the rebels resumed fighting late last year, seizing the strategic town of Bunagana on the Ugandan border in June and prompting thousands of people to flee their homes.

M23, which the DRC gov-

ernment accuses Rwanda of funding, is operating just six kilometres away from Rumangabo and poses a constant threat.

"They are there in the hills, yesterday they pillaged a health centre," said Gentil Karabuka, a prominent community member.

Young people born in a chaotic and violent environment have proved easy pickings for rebel groups looking to recruit new members.

But Dieu Boyongo, the coordinator of the football project, hopes it will be a beneficial alternative for the youngsters.

"We think that this football school, situated in a conflict zone, is a positive occupation for them," Boyongo said.

Boyongo wants the young people on the project to leave violence and misery far behind them, replacing the sound of bullets with the roar of the crowd.

The budding footballers are enjoying the project so far.

"I would like to play for Real (Madrid) or PSG (Paris Saint-Germain)," said 13-year-old Esdras before swapping his torn trousers for a new football strip. —AFP

Tens of millions battle Pakistan floods as death toll rises

TENS of millions of people across swathes of Pakistan were Monday battling the worst monsoon floods in a decade, with countless homes washed away, vital farmland destroyed, and the country's main river threatening to burst its banks.

Officials say 1,061 people have died since June when the seasonal rains began, but the final toll could be higher as hundreds of villages in the mountainous north have been cut off after flood-swollen rivers washed away roads and bridges.

The annual monsoon is essential for irrigating crops and replenishing lakes and dams across the Indian subcontinent, but it can also bring destruction.

This year's flooding has affected more than 33 million

people — one in seven Pakistanis — said the National Disaster Management Authority.

"What we see now is an ocean of water submerging entire districts," Climate Minister Sherry Rehman told AFP Monday.

"This is very far from a normal monsoon — it is climate dystopia at our doorstep."

This year's floods are comparable to 2010 — the worst on record — when more than 2,000 people died and nearly a fifth of the country was under water.

Near Sukkur, a city in southern Sindh province and home to an ageing colonial-era barrage on the Indus River that is vital to preventing further catastrophe, one farmer lamented the devastation wrought on his rice fields.

Millions of acres of rich farm-



Residents gather beside a road damaged by flood waters following heavy monsoon rains in Charsadda district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 29 August 2022. PHOTO: AFP

land have been flooded by weeks of non-stop rain, but now the Indus is threatening to burst its banks as torrents of water course downstream from tributaries in the north.

"Our crop spanned over 5,000 acres on which the best quality rice was sown and is eaten by

you and us," Khalil Ahmed, 70, told AFP.

"All that is finished."

Landscape of water

Much of Sindh is now an endless landscape of water, hampering a massive military-led relief operation.

"There are no landing strips

or approaches available... our pilots find it difficult to land," one senior officer told AFP.

The army's helicopters were also struggling to pluck people to safety in the north, where soaring mountains and deep valleys make for treacherous flying conditions. —AFP

Police box reopens in Fukushima nuclear plant town after over 11 yrs

A small police box in a town hosting the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant reopened Monday for the first time in 11 years and five months as the Japanese government prepares to lift an evacuation order imposed on the area due to high radiation levels.

A ceremony was held in Futaba, the only town still deserted due to the evacuation order, before the return of some of its residents after the lifting of the order midnight Monday.

The residential police box, located approximately three kilometres northwest of the nuclear plant, will house one officer.

"I would like to support the town by keeping the peace here so residents can return feeling secure," said Hirotaka Umemiya, 40, as he began his duty in the town.

The police box was shuttered immediately after the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that triggered meltdowns at the nuclear complex, which straddles the two coastal towns of Futaba and Okuma.



A ceremony is held to mark the reopening of a police box in Futaba, Fukushima Prefecture, on 29 August 2022. PHOTO: KYODO

Although Futaba, which hosts the Nos 5 and 6 reactors of the Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc complex, is set to welcome back residents, over 80 per cent of the municipality will remain designated as "difficult-to-return" zones.

The areas set to be reopened are located in central Futaba near JR Futaba Station, and the town's northeastern zone, where many commercial and public facilities such as the

Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum are located.

With relatively low radiation levels, people have been allowed to enter Futaba's northeastern zone since March 2020 but not to reside there.

As of late July, 3,574 people from 1,449 households, or over 60 per cent of the town's population, were registered as residents of the two zones accounting for just 15 per cent of Futaba's total area. —Kyodo

Judges' organizations appeal approval of Poland EU funds

FOUR leading European judges' organizations on Sunday filed a lawsuit against the EU Council before the bloc's top court to cancel the approval of Covid recovery funds for Poland.

The Council approved funds worth 35.4 billion euros (\$35.3 billion) in June despite criticisms against Warsaw for flouting judicial independence.

Brussels had set Poland three conditions, which the judges associations say did not go far enough and ignored earlier rulings by the European Court of Justice (ECJ).

The EU requires Poland to dismantle the Supreme Court's controversial disciplinary chamber and replace it with an independent court; to reform the disciplinary regime; and to allow sanctioned judges reviews of their cases.

The organizations said in a statement that the conditions "fall short of what is required to ensure effective

protection of the independence of judges and the judiciary" and disregard the ECJ judgements.

Their lawsuit, lodged with the ECJ, aims to establish the principle that the court's rulings on judicial independence should be implemented fully and without delay.

"The goal of the lawsuit is to establish the above-mentioned principle and to prevent a Commission decision to unblock EU funds for Poland until the CJEU judgements are fully and completely enforced," said their joint statement, referring to the ECJ by its French acronym. **A 'spillover effect'**

The legal action is to prevent the European Commission unblocking the funds until the judgments are fully enforced, the plaintiffs added.

Their position is that the council's conditions harmed the position of suspended judges in Poland. —AFP

Tens of millions battle Pakistan floods as death toll rises



SPORT

Myanmar U-19 team beat State & Region team 2-0 in friendly match

MYANMAR U-19 men's football team made a win over State & Region U-19 team 2-0 in a friendly match played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

In the first half of the

match, the preliminary Myanmar national team played with their ability, but they could not use their opportunities and end up in a goalless draw.

In the second half, both teams changed players, and

Chit Aye scored two winning goals for the preliminary Myanmar U-19 team.

The match was a warm-up match for team Myanmar ahead of the Asian U-20 qualifiers to be held in Saudi Arabia from 10 to 18 September, and head coach U Soe Myat Min had the opportunity to test the players.

The friendly match was held to ensure that players under the age of 19 who have shown their skills in the regional and state U-19 competitions will have the opportunity to play in the Myanmar National League clubs.

The State and Regional U-19 team will play a second friendly match against the preliminary Myanmar national U-19 team at Thuwunna Stadium on 31 August. — GNLM



A Myanmar U-19 player (white) eyes on the ball during the friendly match against the State & Region U-19 team at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 29 August 2022. 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.

Lewandowski bags double for 'blessed' Barca, Benzema strikes late for Real

VETERAN star strikers Robert Lewandowski and Karim Benzema both hit doubles on Sunday in contrasting victories for Barcelona and La Liga leaders Real Madrid.

Lewandowski scored twice for the second game in a row as Jules Kounde made his debut in Barcelona's 4-0 cruise past Valladolid.

Later, Real Madrid struggled for 88 minutes at Espanyol. With the scores tied and time running out, Benzema put Real ahead before sealing a 3-1 victory after 10 eventful added minutes.

Real saved their perfect start to the season and climbed

back to the top of the table on nine points after three games, ahead of Real Betis on goal difference. Barcelona rose to third, two points further back.

"To have Lewandowski in your team is a blessing," said Barca coach Xavi Hernandez.

"He's an extraordinary player. Spectacular. A natural leader. It's a blessing to have him with us, it's marvellous.

"He's a model, a born worker. He's humble, he works for the team, he helps the coaching staff, he makes the difference." —AFP

Barcelona's Polish forward Robert Lewandowski celebrates after scoring his team's first goal during the Spanish League football match between FC Barcelona and Real Valladolid FC at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 28 August 2022. PHOTO: AFP

Conte backs 'son-in-law' Son to end goal drought

TOTTENHAM Hotspur manager boss Antonio Conte has said he would be happy for Son Heung-min to marry his daughter as he defended the struggling South Korea forward.

Son has failed to hit the heights he established last term as his goalless start to the season continued during Spurs' 2-0 win away to Nottingham Forest on Sunday.

His form so far this term has been far removed from the run of 10 goals in the final nine games of last season that helped Son win the Premier League Golden Boot award.

Nevertheless, Conte said: "I understood Sonny is a really sensible player. "He's really sensible and a top man, a really good guy. If I am to make an example, if I have to find a husband for my daughter I'd like it to be a person like him. "In this moment maybe he's suffering a lot that he's not scoring. But he has to continue in this way and trust himself because in every game he has the opportunity, the chance to score and then he has to be calm."

The Italian added: "We trust him and the team-mates. You know very well the importance of this player with Harry Kane and for sure he's a bit disappointed that he's not scoring but no problem". —AFP