

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.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Announcement of Central Committee
on Prevention, Control and Treatment
of Coronavirus Disease 2019
(COVID-19)

5th Waxing of Tawthalin 1384 ME
30 August 2022

AS it is necessary to continuously control infection of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), it is hereby announced that public requests, orders, notifications and directives (except for easing the restrictions) released by the Union-level organizations and Union ministries up to 31 August 2022 have been extended until 30 September 2022 for prevention, control and treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

State Peace Talks Team meets RCSS delegation in Nay Pyi Taw

A meeting between the State Peace Talks Team and the peace delegation led by the Chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State-RCSS was conducted at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre's meeting hall yesterday morning.

State Administration Council 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 and members: SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee-NSPNC, and RCSS Chairman General Yawd Serk, Secretary (1) Sao Sai Ngin and Central Executive Committee Member Sao Saung Han attended the meeting.

Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and RCSS Chairman General Yawd Serk gave opening speeches at the meeting.

Afterwards, NSPNC mem-



The meeting between the State Peace Talks Team and the peace delegation of the Restoration Council of Shan State-RCSS is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 August 2022.

ber Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein presented the list of Union legislation – Table 1 and the list of regional or state legislation – Table 2 in the 2008 Constitution sector-wise and NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung interpreted the phased implementations – Table 2 and post-2020 levelled procedures to be discussed as per the ninth JICM resolution. Then, the attendees mutually discussed their opinions and closed the first-day meeting. The second day of the meeting will be held on 31 August. — MNA

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar

State Administration Council

Law Amending the Union Attorney-General Law

State Administration Council Law No 43/2022

5th Waxing of Tawthalin 1384 ME
30 August 2022

THE State Administration Council has hereby enacted this law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

1. This law shall be called the “Law Amending the Union Attorney-General Law”.
2. Sub-Sections (i), (j) and (k) shall be supplemented after Sub-Section (h) of Section (2) of the Union Attorney-General Law, as follows: -

(i) The Ministry means the Ministry of Legal Affairs of the Union Government.

(j) The Attorney-General of the Union means the Union Minister for Legal Affairs and the Attorney-General of the Union.

(k) The Deputy Attorney-General means the Deputy Minister for Legal Affairs and Deputy Attorney-General.
3. All words of “Office of the Attorney-General of the Union” mentioned in the Union Attorney-General Law shall be substituted with the word “Ministry”.
4. In Section 12 of the Union Attorney-General Law-

(a) Sub-Sections (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), (p) and (q) after the Sub-Section (h) shall be supplemented as follows: -

(i) If the relevant prosecution body seeks legal recommendations before prosecuting the criminal cases, it shall give legal recommendations.

(j) If the relevant government departments or government bodies seek legal recommendations in the civil cases in which the State is involved as a plaintiff or a defendant, it shall give legal recommendations.

(k) It shall scrutinize and recommend for
- demanding the recommendations over the initially drafted bills related to the measures managed by relevant government departments or government bodies, and if necessary, it shall coordinate with relevant government departments and government bodies for these measures.

(l) It shall coordinate with relevant government departments or government bodies in scrutinizing legal affairs reported by citizens, and if necessary, it shall give recommendations.

(m) It shall discuss legal affairs related to measures of economic treaties not concerning disputes between relevant government departments or bodies and local and foreign investors.

(n) Law offices at different levels shall be urged to submit the legal recommendations and general law recommendations in time before prosecution and law offices at different levels shall be supervised for making preparations for all measures under the law.

(o) Law offices at different levels shall be supervised to abide by the prescribed restrictions related to appeal, amendment and general pleas.

(p) It shall conduct the propagation of legal knowledge and legal research.

(q) It shall guide and supervise the systematic management and deployment of human resources for capacity enhancement of
- law officers.

(b) Sub-Sections (i) (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), (p) and (q) shall be changed as Sub-Sections (r), (s), (t), (u), (v), (w), (x), (y) and (z).

5. Sub-Sections (h) and (i) shall be supplemented after Sub-Section (g) of Section 13 of the Union Attorney-General Law as follows: -

(h) If necessary, relevant government departments and government bodies shall submit the report to the office of the Union government for implementation of the legal recommendations of the ministry.

(i) It shall scrutinize copies of international, regional or inter-country treaties, internal and external investment treaties and other treaties signed and sent back under the recommendations of the ministry, and if necessary, the report attached to the legal recommendations shall be submitted to the office of the Union government.

6. In Section 26 of the Union Attorney-General Law-

(a) Sub-Section (n) shall be supplemented after Sub-Section (m) as follows: -

(n) Propagating legal knowledge and conducting legal affairs

(b) Original Sub-Section (n) shall be changed to Sub-Section (o).

I hereby sign it under Section 419 of the Constitution.

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing

Senior General

Chairman

State Administration Council
- Public notice for wearing of face masks,

COVID-19 vaccines, booster shots
1. The number of COVID-19 cases is rising internationally and in neighbouring countries. Myanmar also reports the Omicron subvariant of COVID-19 after testing the returnees from foreign countries and local patients, and the local transmission rate has become high recently.

2. The Ministry of Health issued the COVID-19 preventive measures to reduce the infection rate such as –

(a) People must wear face masks when being close to one person in a room; being in crowded places such as travelling in vehicles used by the public; hospitals/health centres used by the public; offices, schools, markets, shopping centres, and nursing homes;

(b) People must report to the nearest health department if they suffer from COVID-19 symptoms like illness, cough, sneezing, stuffy nose, sore throat, and must wear face masks;

(c) People must follow the COVID-19 health rules distributed to the office departments especially for offices and workplaces without fail;

(d) All people aged above five are needed to be vaccinated against COVID-19 fully and those above 18 should get booster shots after six months of the final dose as the vaccines cause less infection, severe illness and fewer deaths;

3. Therefore, the ministry urges the people to follow the COVID-19 health rules, wear face masks systematically and receive COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots contacting the nearest health departments and village/ward administrative offices.
- Ministry of Health
30-8-2022
- Objectives of 23rd

Myanmar Traditional

Cultural Performing Arts

Competitions 2022
- (a) To uplift national prestige and integrity and to preserve the cultural heritage and national characteristics

(b) To discover, preserve and uplift the traditional cultural heritage of performing arts of ethnic nationals and national cultural characteristics

(c) To preserve traditional cultural performing arts in order to further revitalize adoration of the State and hand it down to new generation youths

(d) To contribute much to the restoration of perpetual peace
- Advertise with us/ Hot Line : 09974424848

The need stressed to export rice and green gram

LOCAL food sufficiency is crucial in regions and states, stressing that priority must be given to paddy cultivation so as to increase per-acre yield. It is necessary to encourage the manufacturing of products based on agriculture and livestock farms. As the Ministry of Planning and Finance set up a separate fund of K400 billion allotted from the National Natural Disaster Management Fund for the economic development of the nation, the government will arrange to spend the fund on the supply of fertilizers, quality seeds of crops and fuel for the farmers for the cultivation of summer paddy and green gram this year on the first priority.

The Senior General stressed the need to export rice and green gram from these farmlands under the leadership of the government. Depending on the yield of paddy and beans, farmers will have a chance to gain proper benefits.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the coordination meeting held on 9 August 2022 in regard to matters relating to the activities being carried out by the Union Government)

FAO Representative to Myanmar presents her Credentials to Union Minister for Foreign Affairs

THE Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to Myanmar, Dr Yuka Makino, paid a courtesy call on and presented her Credentials to U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw at 10:30 am on 30 August 2022.

Also present at the meeting were senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. —MNA



Republic of the Union of Myanmar Central Bank of Myanmar Notification No 39/2022 Nay Pyi Taw 5th Waxing of Tawthalin 1384 ME 30 August 2022

1. The Central Bank of Myanmar has hereby announced this notification by exercising the authority entrusted under Sub-Section (b) of Section 49 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law.
2. Wages or salaries earned in foreign exchange by Myanmar citizens abroad remitted to the country via the licensed banks (authorized dealers of foreign exchange) shall be spent on their own, transferred to others and sold to banks independently.
3. The persons, companies or organizations which bought the aforesaid wages or salaries shall not be allowed to sell again. But they shall spend and sell it to AD licensed banks independently.
4. In such doing under Para 2 and Para 3, the period starting from the flowing the foreign exchange into the AD licensed banks to finally selling it shall not exceed 21 days.
5. This notification shall be effective from 1 September 2022.

Than Than Swe
Governor

MoHT Union Minister meets Lumbini Garden Foundation delegation

THE delegation led by Chairman Mr Jose Maunel Vilanova Aleman of the Lumbini Garden Foundation based in Spain called on Union Minister Dr Htay Aung of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism concerning the Great Maha Karuna Project to be carried out in Spain in a bid to develop Buddhist-based Asian-European tourism. It was held at the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism in Nay Pyi Taw at 9 am yesterday.

At the meeting, Lumbini Garden Foundation Chair Mr Jose Maunel Vilanova Aleman discussed constructing pagodas, stupas and religious build-

ings from Buddhism countries such as Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bhutan, and Thailand including the world's largest 47-metre-high Buddha Image in Caceres of Spain.

The LGF chairperson stressed the need for collaboration efforts since Myanmar plays an important role in the successful implementation of the project.

Afterwards, the Union minister urged the LGF chair to share his personal experiences when he arrives back in Spain after seeing the actual situation of the country during his visit to Myanmar. The ministry would continue its efforts



The MoHT Union Minister receives the delegation of Lumbini Garden Foundation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

to cooperate in the propagation of Buddhism, tourism development and the strengthening of friendly relations, the Union minister added. — MNA

87 new cases
of COVID-19
reported on 30
August, total
figure rises to
615,117

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **615,117** after **87** — **14** imported and **73** local transmission — new cases were reported on 30 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **593,567** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,437** without more casualties.—MNA

Mekong-Lancang Project's Data Centre launched in Myanmar

THE opening ceremony of the Mekong-Lancang Project's Data Centre for projects implemented under the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund (2018) was organized in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo, Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Tin Oo Lwin, Council Member Col Min Naung, Dr Zheng Zhihong, Charge d'affaires of Chinese Embassy to Myanmar and departmental officials.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister said the Mekong-Lancang Project's Data Centre will be connected for projects data and index of agriculture, livestock, marine industry, farming and rural sectors through an information exchange corridor among Mekong-Lancang regions.

The centre staff should draft the framework for capac-



The MoALI Union Minister and dignitaries take the documentary group photo at the event.

ity building and communication systems among the countries. The data centre can improve the habit and experiences in compiling, making lists and evolution of data on food production in Myanmar and strengthen the interconnection between coun-

tries.

Then, Mr Zhen made a greeting speech and the vice-chairman of the Coordination Team of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Project (2018) presented the ongoing project sectors.

The director-general of the Department of Agricultural Farmland Management and Statistics reported on the establishment of a corridor for agricultural and rural statistics to support the food security, data review and index being conduct-

ed by MLC Special Fund (2018).

Then, the Union minister, Mr Zhen and the director-general exchanged gifts.

Afterwards, the Union minister, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, Mr Zhen and officials cut the ribbon and pressed the electric button to inaugurate the Mekong-Lancang Project's Data Centre.

Officials also sprinkled scented water on the bronze signboard of the data centre and viewed around the centre.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is implementing 31 projects under Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund which is established based on mutual respect, trust, equality and understanding among Mekong-Lancang countries including Myanmar, China, Cambodia, Laos, Viet Nam and Thailand along the Mekong River, and the Mekong-Lancang Project's Data Centre opened yesterday was part of the project. — MNA

Pigeon peas (red gram) hit record price of K2 mln per tonne

ON 30 August, the prices of black gram and pigeon peas (red gram) soared and reached the highest in 2022.

Moreover, pigeon peas prices touched a three-year high. The current price is a one-time price increase compared to the rate registered in the corresponding period in 2020, according to the three-year market data.

On 30 August, pulses price stood at K1,956,000 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K2,258,000 per tonne of (Special Quality/RC) and K2,025,000 per tonne of pigeon pea (RC), daily market statistics indicated.

The highest prices of pigeon peas stayed at K1,990,000 before 30 August 2022. On 30 August, it rose to K2,025,000 per tonne, said Ko Thet, a trader.

The pigeon peas were

priced at K1,977,500 per tonne on 20 August, K1,970,000 on 23 August, K1,935,000 per tonne on 24 August, K1,930,000 on 25 August, K1,940,000 on 26 August and K1,990,000 on 27 and 28 August, respectively.

Following the price rise, 20 containers of black gram (480 tonnes) and five containers (120 tonnes) were traded on 27 August, as per the market data.

However, there is no transaction on 30 August. Black gram RC price hit an all-time high of K2,456,000 per tonne in mid-October 2015 and the current price has not reached the record high. Nonetheless, pigeon peas went up the highest.

Furthermore, there is an unusual case the pigeon pea price is higher than the black gram price in August 2022, Ko Soe, a trader aired his opinion. — TWA/GNLM

MoNREC designates Pale protected public forest in Saw Township

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has designated the area of 2,617 acres in Saw Township of Gangaw District, Magway Region as "Pale Protected Public Forest" as of 26 August 2022, under Notification No 132/2022 by exercising the authority conferred under Sub-section (c) of Section (6) of the Forest Law promulgated in 2018.

The Pale Protected Public Forest is formed to conserve the spring water sources used by nearby villages, fulfil the needs of local people and protect the grazing wildlife creatures.

There are many valuable trees such as ironwood, htaukram and sal in the Pale Protected Public Forest.

The Pale Protected Public Forest is not only a place where various kinds of wood and valu-



An aerial view of the Pale protected public forest.

able trees such as ironwood, htaukram, sal, lamnea coromandelica, garuga pinnata, haldina and zounpalway grow as well as a habitat for wild animals such as muntjacs, jungle cats and wild boars, including birds such as quail, francolinus pintadeanus, Phasianinae, dove and reptile animals like monitor lizards, agamid lizards and snakes. Thus, the area is declared a protected public forest area for the need to manage forest resources systematically.— MoNREC

Sagaing Region receives 53,157 tourists, homegrown visitors in six months

SAGAING Region Tourism Committee reports a total of 53,157 visitors between February and July 2022.

There are six tourist destinations in Sagaing Region. In the past six months, 52,434 homegrown visitors and 723 tourists arrived in Sagaing Region, totalling 53,157.

The committee ensures the comfortable accommodation and safety of the visitors.

The famous tourist sites are Sagaing Hill, Sun U Ponnyashin, Umin Thonze (30 tunnels) Temple, Kantalu Pagoda, Kyauknaga Pagoda and Sheinmakar area. Mingun Yokesone monastery, Mingun bell and Myatheintan Pagoda. It is the low season. Yet, a high number of homegrown visitors are seen. Most of them go on a day trip. Some go back to Mandalay and some continue their journey to Monywa. The hotels and lodges are not expensive as well," Ko Zaw



The photo shows travellers visiting the Mingun Pahtodawgyi (monument stupa).

Win, a tour operator working on a manageable scale, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

There are 60 hotels and lodges operating under the Sagaing Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism in 11 townships. In six months, tourism income accumulated K686.861 million and \$14,665.

The committee directed

fair price of hotels and lodges, providing good service, making the hotel environments clean during the rainy season, advertising travel destinations in the region on the website or other forms of ads such as pamphlets, conducting fresher courses for tourist guides and making the concerted efforts to effectuate the tourism development in Mingun area. — TWA/GNLM

MoH announces 37 kinds of unsuitable food to eat

ACCORDING to laboratory tests, thirty-seven kinds of food that are unfit for consumption were announced by the Department of Food and Drug Administration under the Ministry of Health.

The FDA department examines these foods from the markets and school canteens and they found restricted preservatives, restricted food dyeing, and food additives that exceeded the allowed limit of usage. Long-term consumption of these foods can destroy the stomach, liver and kidneys,

and cause cancer diseases. The FDA announced that people should not eat those foods until the next announcement.

The announcement further exhorted the producers and distributors of unsuitable foods not to use restricted food dyeing, restricted preservatives, and use in the limit of allowed food additives. Unless they follow the announcement, action will be taken against them under Section 28(a) of the National Food Law. — TWA/GNLM

173 Myanmar migrant workers transferred back from Thailand

A total of 173 Myanmar migrant workers, 123 males and 50 females, who had done time in Thailand for various reasons, arrived in Kawthoung on 27 August via Ranong, Thailand by boat.

It is reported that they were handed over to the responsible organizations. Myanmar migrant workers were stuck in Thailand for various reasons during the COVID-19 outbreak

and were being prosecuted.

Kawthoung District and Township Administration officials, Public Health Departments and departmental staff and NGOs are examining the COVID-19 infection. Imported and local transmission were also screened for the virus and provided with food, healthcare, and necessary assistance.

Those who had been vacci-

nated twice received the third dose while those who had never been vaccinated or vaccinated once were tested for infection. They have to undergo surveillance for three days separated by men and women at three quarantine centres in Kawthoung. Then, they will return to their homes unless they are infected.

Similarly, officials of Mae

Weekly update of kitchen grocery market

DURING the week ended 30 August, the prices of onion, palm oil, black gram, pigeon peas and chickpeas climbed up.

Onion

Approximately 96,000 visses of onions were supplied to Bayintnaung Wholesale Market on 29 August and the price went up. Onion wholesale prices continue to rise on 30 August, with a supply of 120,000 visses. The prices stood at K2,400 -3,000 per viss of onions from Seikphyu Township and K2,600-3,200 per viss of onions from Monywa Township. The prices increased from K2,200-2,900 per viss depending on varieties and sizes on 25 August. The onion prices reached the highest of K3,000 per viss in Seikphyu depot and K3,100 in Pakokku depot.

Potato

On 30 August, local Shan potatoes moved in the range of K1,300-2,100 per viss depending on qualities, while potatoes from China were valued at K1,950-2,000 per viss.

Garlic

Garlic produced in Aungban town, Shan State fetched K2,400-4,000 per viss depending on the size in wholesale markets, while Kyukok garlic variety peaked at K4,350 per viss.

Chilli pepper

Supply exceeds demand in the market. The wholesale prices of chilli pepper were K14,000 per viss, while the Mohtaung variety from the Pyawbwe area with some

moisture content is priced at K13,500.

Palm oil

The wholesale reference price of palm oil in the Yangon Region is up by K50 per viss this week compared to the last week's price.

The palm oil wholesale prices in the markets slipped to K8,800 per viss on 27 August. The palm oil price slightly rose to K9,100-9,200 per viss on 29 August.

Rice

In the week ended 30 August 2022, the prices of both high-grade and low-grade rice remained unchanged. The wholesale rice prices per bag were K75,000 per bag from the Myaungmya area and K72,000 from the Pyapon area. There is a price gap of K10,000 between Yangon and other regions and states.

Pawsan variety from Bogale Mawgyun area fetched only K65,000 per bag in Yangon wholesale markets and K55,000 in Mawgyun area.

Chickpea, black gram and pigeon pea

The prices of black gram and pigeon peas rebounded this week. On 30 August, pulses price stood at over K1,953,000 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K2,258,000 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC) and K2,025,000 per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) RC, whereas Chickpea prices rose to K4,300-4,500 per viss in the wholesale markets. — TWA/GNLM



Immigration processes are underway for the returnees.

Sai, Thailand, led by the immigration officer, handed over 46 Myanmar citizens in Tachilek

township at 10 am on 29 August via the No 2 Thailand-Myanmar bridge. — TWA/GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Illegal teaks, consumer goods, electronics, raw industrial materials, machinery parts 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 Yangon Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, a combined inspection team made inspections on 28 August.

Officials captured a total of

0.5222 tonne of illegal raw teak parquet pieces worth K344,652 from a Toyota Probox (approximately K13 million) between the 18/4-Milepost and 18/5- Milepost on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in Hlegu township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 29 August, an on-duty

team under the Customs Department took a vehicle, which passed at the Yepu Permanent Checkpoint, to the Lashio Township Customs Department and conducted inspections.

Official seized K12,029,123 worth of two-wheel tractor parts that were different from the Import Declaration (ID) and were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a Hino Profia Sh1edx car (approximately K43 million). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, an on-duty team made inspections at the Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal Container Checkpoint. They confiscated K7 million worth of a generator and 5,000 kilogrammes of the strengthening agent without the Import Declaration (ID). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, a combined team led by the Lewe Township Forest Department seized a total of 0.1690 tonne of illegal sawn teak



Confiscated illegal machinery parts in Yangon Region.



Seized commodities in Kayin State.

parts and raw teak temple worth K111,540. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Afterwards, the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint captured K4 million worth of tiles and slim bags that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from two vehicles on 29 August and K1,560,000 worth of men slippers

without the Import Declaration (ID) on 30 August. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Therefore, 10 arrests estimated at K81,045,315 were made on three consecutive days from 28 to 30 August, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Drugs seized in Myawady, Hpa-an, PyinOoLwin, Nawnghkio townships

A combined team consisting of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a suspected Ma Aye Aye Phyu (aka) Ma Phyu with a motorbike on Myittar Street in Myawady township at 1:45 pm on 29 August and captured 39,000 stimulant tablets.

According to the investigation, Police seized the traffickers, Myo Htet (aka) Gadone (aka) Anyartha and Saw Myint Htun (aka) Phu Phu, with a Honda fit car and a motorbike near a restaurant in 4 Ward of

Myawady at 2:15 pm.

In addition, a combined team consisting of the Kayin State Police Force stopped and examined a Super Custom car driven by Khin Maung Htwe accompanied by Ma Mya Mya on the Hpa-an-Htoneine Road in Hpa-an at 2 pm on the same day and seized 2,571 stimulant tablets.

Similarly, at 7:30 pm on the same day, a combined team including the Anti-Drug Police Force inspected a motorbike

driven by Ma Ei Ei Phyo accompanied by Ma Hnin Hnin and seized 3,000 stimulant tablets on Lashio-Mandalay Road.

At 4:15 pm on the same day, Police searched a motorbike driven by Aung Chit (aka) Ko Chit on the Yaksawk-Nawnghkio Road in Nawnghkio and impounded 2,000 stimulant tablets.

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

Over 117 tonnes of illegal timbers confiscated in Nay Pyi Taw, regions/states



Officials measure the confiscated timbers.

THE Forest Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation is implementing various ways and methods including the community monitoring and reporting system (CMRS) to control illegal timbers and forest products.

According to the data collected by relevant forest de-

partments, a total of 117.6442 tonnes of illegal timbers – 49.9988 tonnes of teak, 7.7466 tonnes of hardwood and 59.8988 tonnes of others — were impounded in regions/states and Nay Pyi Taw from 22 to 28 August, and the department stated that they arrested 17 suspects along with 18 vehicles. — MNA



Three arrestees are pictured along with a saloon and two motorcycles.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Fuel prices remain upward spiral, up by K750-1,100 per litre within month

THE fuel prices are spiking and indicating a sharp increase of K750-1,100 per litre within one month, according to the fuel market.

On 1 August 2022, the fuel prices in the Yangon market stood at K1,820 per litre for Octane 92, K1,890 for Octane 95, K2,195 for premium diesel and K2,135 for diesel. The prices jumped to K2,570 for Octane 92, K2,635 for Octane 95, K3,335 for premium diesel and K3,255 for diesel on 30 August, showing a rise of K745-750 per litre of Octane 92 and 95 and K1,120-1,140 per litre of diesel and premium diesel respectively.

Fuel price spike made it difficult to create a better living, a taxi driver told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

“Taxi fare was only K3,000 for a distance between downtown and Kyauktaing in Thakayta Township. Now, the rate has doubled. So, I have to take a bus,” said a company staff member.

The Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated that domestic fuel prices is following the price index set by the 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 dollar hit over K3,500 in the grey market.

Since early August, the fuel prices have gradually increased tracking the soaring safe-haven dollar value against the Kyat. 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 fuel prices are spiking and indicating a sharp increase of K750-1,100 per litre within one month, according to the fuel market.

the energy consumers to mitigate concerns, the statement mentioned.

Therefore, the consumers can complain about halts in fuel sales and limited sales through the contact numbers of 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 sta-

bility 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 costs, premium insurance, taxes, other general costs and profit per cent.

The rates for regions and states other than Yangon are

evaluated after adding the transport costs and retail reference rates daily cover on the state-run newspapers and are posted on the social 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

Trading activities temporarily closed at Wang Ding route



According to the Ministry of Commerce’s statistics, China-Myanmar trade worth more than US\$1 billion was transacted through the Wang Ding border.

TRADERS said that the trading activities have been closed since 26 August due to the de-

tection of the Covid-19 infection at the Wang Ding crossing in Kyinsankyawt on the China-My-

anmar border.

“Covid-19 infection has been found at Wang Ding. Trading ac-

tivities have been closed temporarily,” a Mandalay-based rice trader said on his social media page.

Wang Ding is the only trading post on the Muse border that has the right to trade between China and Myanmar.

A merchant said that due to the detection of Covid-19 infection in Wang Ding, China-Myanmar border, Ward (1) was placed under lockdown and the Shweli-Wang Ding Bridge was also temporarily closed.

As for the trucks that have arrived in Wang Ding, they are going through the border post regularly and will be medically checked on 27 and 28 August 2022. If no more infections are found, the Shweli-Wang Ding Bridge will be reopened, traders said.

China will suspend the entry

and exit of trucks through the Wang Ding checkpoint, highway checkpoint, Jiangqiao checkpoint and Heishanmen checkpoint starting from 26 August over the discovery of the virus in the country, according to a businessman in the border area.

China has closed the Muse border trade since 2020 because of the Covid-19 disease and only reopened the Wang Ding trade this year.

According to the Ministry of Commerce’s statistics, China-Myanmar trade worth more than US\$1 billion was transacted through the Wang Ding border.

The Wang Ding route, which is currently closed by China, is used for trade and is the place where the alternative driver system is used. It is the main export route for Myanmar’s agricultural produce. — TPT/GNLM

Shape a democratic nation by forging the spirit of good citizens

PLAN to build a Union based on democracy and federalism by exercising the genuine disciplined multiparty democratic system in fairness was inserted into the political objective. In the democratization process, all citizens are responsible for the implementation of the non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of sovereignty and the perpetuation of sovereignty as the Our Three Main National Causes.

According to the nature of democracy, all citizens shall enjoy inborn rights and equal terms of rights. Any citizen shall have a chance to equal terms of rights under the Constitution and the framework of laws enacted by the legislative power. Hence, they

As such, all citizens residing in Myanmar need to give a helping hand to each other and realize mutual trust, respect and understanding for participating in the building of a democratic nation by culturing the spirit of good citizens so as to emerge a disciplined prestigious democratic nation without prioritizing self-interests.

ernized nation. It is impossible to rely on external forces for shaping the prestigious people and the nation in the establishment of a democratic country. The government, the people and all organizations need to implement a check and balance system for one another and to march forward through internal united strength.

As such, all citizens residing in Myanmar need to give a helping hand to each other and realize mutual trust, respect and understanding for participating in the building of a democratic nation by culturing the spirit of good citizens so as to emerge a disciplined prestigious democratic nation without prioritizing self-interests.

A Historical Conundrum of Genocide

By Moe Myint

THE Americans have now come to interfere blatantly in the internal affair of Myanmar, concerning a race which has never existed throughout the history of Myanmar and has never been recognized as a race. Indeed, the government has been launching anti-terrorism attacks on those directly or indirectly involved in the inhumane and atrocious slaughter of thousands of innocent people. This being so, America's unjust criticism of the anti-terrorism activities being carried out by the Myanmar government is indicating that the so-called notorious world police are merely encouraging terrorism.

Their encouragement is reflected in the statement timely released by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, whose irresponsible remarks mentioned on the occasion that marks the 5th Anniversary Genocide in Myanmar can be considered simply to be the exertion of political pressure on the country of Myanmar as well as on the people of Myanmar. And the statement happens to coincide with the prevailing situations in Myanmar. The US has been persistently putting political, economic and military pressures upon Myanmar through the employment of biased, unethical media. The statement is

found to contain the following clichés: Myanmar military; cruel and ruthless; destruction of villages; persecution; terrorism; by the thousands; men, women and children killed; and deserting home etc. Employing such clichés, they would dramatize the simple events to be able to meddle in the affairs of our country. They are always aligned, taking the side of the non-existent race.

Their partial allegation against Myanmar is quite obvious in the event that occurred on 25 August 2017, which surprisingly happened to coincide with the date on which Mr Kofi Annan submitted his report. On that day, the terrorist group known as ARSA launched simultaneous attacks on 30 security camps and the Headquarters of a regiment. It is the terrorists who started the attacks; the Myanmar army was defensive only. And these defensive attacks were launched in concordance with the existing Rules of Engagement (RoE). When the ARSA terrorist retreated, being unable to bear the counter-attacks by the military, they set fire to the houses belonging to the Bengalis. Nevertheless, they spread fabricated news to make people think that the arson was committed by the military. The whole scenario was closely watched by the International Crisis Group (ICG) whereas the Human Right Watch (HRW) put the fuel to the fire. Additionally, the international media launched propaganda to lobby against the Myanmar government. Matter-of-factly, they have exerted collaborative effort to force the Bengalis to flee to another country, making systematic arrangements to create drama.

Nonetheless, the number of Bengalis who have fled to another country and that of those Bengalis who were killed were not correct – it is a mere exaggeration, based on wrong data and statistics. Rakhine State Affair has been a concocted plot, which has continued to exist until today, requiring a peaceful settlement. I wonder why they are using a race which does not hold a valid document concerning their identity to insult the people of Myanmar. They must have a reason. Should the Bengalis be provided with a separate area, they will demand autonomy or a self-administrative region someday. They will establish a separate entity. They must have big dreams. This is the reason why they are causing instability in the west of Myanmar, and this is the reason why they are creating situations that will damage the image of Myanmar security forces, fabricating the genocide plot. They are accusing

the government of committing genocide against a minority race, killing the people en masse, and causing the exodus of the Bengalis. It can only be assumed that international law is being used to enable secession.

This game is being played by the following international players who are pulling the strings from behind: OIC, US, CIA, George Soros, UN, EU, UK, ICG, ICJ, HRW, the international media led by RFA and DVB etc., the NGOs and the INGOs. The said international actors and individual actors and entities within and without the country of Myanmar are orchestrating the performance. As for the US, it is quite certain that they are meddling in our internal affairs as part of their China Containment Policy. This is the reason why they are creating instability in the west and north of Myanmar, which are the sea exits of China, the arch-rival of the US. Such activities are aimed at destroying the strategic long-term interests of China.

When it comes to genocide, the world police would accuse those who are not on good terms with the US of their commitment to genocide. As they are shouting at the top of their voice over democracy and human rights, behaving as if they are the activists

and advocates for those causes, massacre, forced displacement and persecution are things that have nothing to do with their country. They are creating such an image. Nonetheless, if one casts a glance at the world's history, one will behold that the US has also committed genocide, which is forgotten by the US leaders these days.

If one throws looks at the commencement of the history of the US, one will witness that the US army committed inhumane, atrocious acts against the Red Indians. Not only the United States but also the European Colonizers committed genocide. They have also accused one another of such commitment. In 1915, the Turkish committed genocide against Armenians. This is revealed by the Americans. Again, eminent world historians have exposed the American genocide in the Civil War that broke out in their post-independence period.

According to the Geneva Convention, genocide is defined as deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; forcibly transferring children of the group to another group. I will discuss this on the basis of

historical evidence only. From 1622 to 1775, the Americans expanded their colonies. In their 13 colonies, the Americans drove the resident Americans out of their native places and occupied their territories. The number of the aggressors had risen from only 2,000 to 2.4 million people. In 1776 when the United States became independent, the aggressors moved into the west to settle, occupying the places of six resident groups, and attacking them. Under the federal system, the resident Indians have had to live miserable life from generation to generation. Before such incidents, the European colonizers had also caused suffering to those native residents in the west of the US. About 100 million natives were either killed or had met with untimely deaths. Between 1492 and 1900, when there was no definite territory in the US, about 12 million natives were killed for various reasons. The aforesaid facts and statistics are suggesting that the US committed genocide.

Between 1899 and 1902, the US troops invaded the Philippines during the US-the Philippines Civil War, resulting in the death of about 200,000 civilians. The deaths were attributed to

famine and diseases. Throughout world history, a multitude of people has lost their lives because of the US army. Just before the end of World War II, about 214,000 innocent civilians lost their precious lives. Between 1950 and 1953, there broke out the Korean War, killing about 2.5 million innocent civilians. And these deaths could be attributed in part to the US.

Again, the Americans were involved in the Viet Nam Civil War, resulting in the death of about two million civilian Vietnamese. The US bombers air-dropped 16.2 gallons of insecticide liquid called Orange Agent. As a consequence, about half a million Vietnamese children suffered from genetic disorders whereas about 0.4 million adults were killed in the battles. Because of the involvement of the United States in the Cambodia and Laos Civil Wars, people were killed en masse with the death toll numbering 4.2 million in toto, according to the records kept.

Turning to the Middle East, similar events were found to have taken place. Commencing from the 9/11 Attack in 2001, the US invaded countries in the Middle East. The Americans invaded Afghanistan. In 2003, the US intrud-

ed into Iraq. During the battles fought in the war zones of Iraq and Afghanistan, the civilians had fallen victim to the aggressors by the millions. According to the statistics recorded, about one million Iraqis and three lakh Afghans lost their lives during the battles.

The aforementioned facts and the data are only those available to me. They do not include those data and statistics beyond my reach. How can I obtain the data and information related to the regime changes created by the CIA from behind the scene? The said list, therefore, cannot include those killed in the coups.

To sum up, the accusation of genocide made against Myanmar is analogous to playing the old gramophone record. This is not something new. What counts is for our people to be able to see who is behind the scene, how they are spreading the fabricated news and the way they are being involved in the creation of false allegations. It is also important to know that the nations around the world, the individuals and the political parties are exploiting the situation under the pretext of genocide. What matters is for our people to be united. If our national races and the citizens are not united, our own affairs will be ignored and the blame will be on us. Let me conclude by saying why people are migrating to a country which is accused of committing genocide. That's a big conundrum to solve.

Translated.

'Crying all the time': Monkeypox patients reveal psychological scars

THE monkeypox virus may cause intense pain but the psychological scars of the illness can be just as devastating, say sufferers and those who are treating them.

"You do not come out unscathed from a disease that has hurt you so much... as well as the additional burden of discrimination," said Corentin Hennebert, one of the first cases in France.

Since May the virus has rapidly spread across the world, overwhelmingly among men who have sex with men, provoking fears of a repeat of the stigma faced by gay men seen during the AIDS epidemic.

Nathan Peiffer-Smadja, an infectious disease specialist at the Bichat-Claude Bernard Hospital in Paris, who has coordinated research on monkeypox patients, said the "psychological distress is linked to several aspects" of the disease.

Monkeypox can be very painful, particularly due to lesions which commonly appear on the genitals, anus or face.

The "after-effects, particularly aesthetic", are distressing for many who fear they could be left with long-lasting scars, Peiffer-Smadja said. Then there is the impact of being suddenly hit by "a disease people had never heard of" after

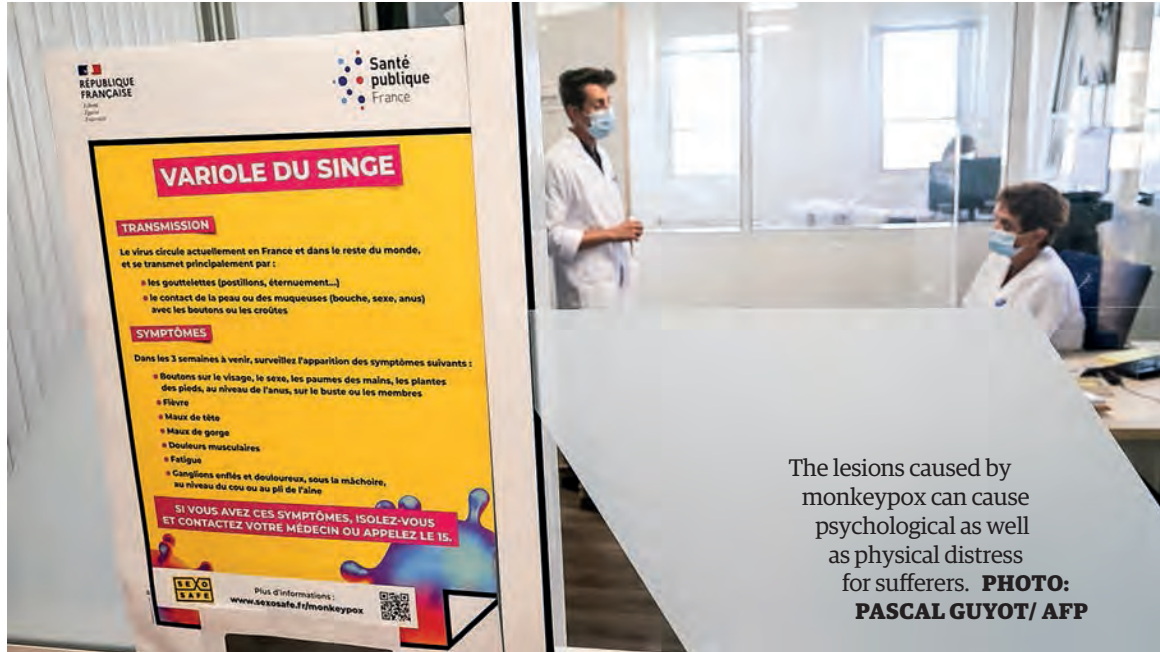
two years of the Covid pandemic, with the three-week monkeypox isolation period reviving bad memories of lockdowns.

A small number of patients can develop internal lesions, particularly inside the anus, which can be "extremely painful", Peiffer-Smadja said.

'End of their tether'

That was unfortunately the cases for Hennebert.

"I constantly had the impression that razor blades were being thrust into me — I can't think of any other comparison, (the pain) was so strong," the 27-year-old told AFP. Before he was given the



The lesions caused by monkeypox can cause psychological as well as physical distress for sufferers. PHOTO: PASCAL GUYOT/ AFP

powerful painkiller tramadol, he lost seven kilos (15 pounds) in just three days because he was not eating. "All I could think about was the pain," he said.

"And I'm not the only one, others have contacted me to tell that they were at the end of their tether, that they were crying all the time."

After recovering, Hennebert went on to become the spokesman for a group of monkeypox patients demanding swifter action against the disease.

Sebastien Tuller, a 32-year-old LGBT activist, said he was "very anxious" when monkeypox lesions began to appear on his face.

"It was really ugly and I didn't

know what to do," he said.

Michel Ohayon, head of the Paris sexual health centre 190, said that "as soon as a disease is visible, it is frightening because it becomes potentially stigmatizing."

He compared the monkeypox lesions to those from kaposi sarcoma cancer, a visible "symptom of AIDS".

'Homophobia'

The global monkeypox outbreak has "reawakened the trauma of HIV" despite the disease being far less deadly, said Nicolas Derche of the French LGBT group SOS.

SOURCE: AFP

ENVIRON WORLD

Greenland already locked in to major sea level rise: study



A boat carrying tourists floats near icebergs in Disko Bay, Ilulissat, in western Greenland. **PHOTO: AFP**

EVEN without any future global warming, Greenland's melting ice sheet will cause major sea level rise, with potentially "ominous" implications over this century as temperatures continue to rise, according to a study published Monday.

Rising sea levels -- pushed up mainly by melting ice sheets on Greenland and Antarctica -- are set to redraw the map over centuries and could eventually swamp land currently home to hundreds of millions of people, depending on humanity's efforts to halt warming.

The Greenland ice sheet is currently the main factor in swelling the Earth's oceans, according to NASA, with the Arctic region heating at a faster rate than the rest of the planet.

In the new study, published in Nature Climate Change, glaciologists found that regardless of any future fossil fuel pollution, warming to date will cause the Greenland ice sheet to shed 3.3 per cent of its volume, committing 27.4 centimetres to sea level rise.

While the researchers were not able to give an exact time-

frame, they said most of it could happen by 2100 -- meaning that current modelled projections of sea level rise could be understating the risks this century.

The "shocking" results are also a lowest estimate because they do not take future warming into account, said lead author Jason Box of the National Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland.

"It's a conservative lower bound. The climate has only to continue warming around Greenland for more commitment," he told AFP.—AFP

European CO2 storage project signs 'milestone' deal

A carbon storage project owned by three major European oil firms has secured its first commercial deal in what they billed Monday as a "major milestone" in the decarbonization of heavy industry.

Northern Lights -- owned by France's TotalEnergies, Norway's Equinor and Anglo-Dutch giant Shell -- reached an agreement to transport and store carbon dioxide captured from Yara Sluiskil, an ammonia and fertilizer plant in the Netherlands.

From early 2025, 800,000 tonnes of CO2 per year will be captured, compressed and liquefied in the Netherlands.

It will then be transported by ship to the Northern Lights site in Norway to be buried some 2,600 metres (8,530 feet) under the seabed off the coast of Oygarden.

"This agreement, the first of its kind worldwide, is a major milestone in the decarbonization of heavy industry in Europe, paving the way for international CO2 transport and storage as a service," TotalEnergies said in a statement.

Northern Lights managing director Borre Jacobsen said the agreement "will establish a market for CO2 transport and storage". —AFP



Northern Lights has agreed a deal to transport and store carbon dioxide captured from Yara Sluiskil, an ammonia and fertilizer plant in the Netherlands. Yara switched to green hydrogen at this ammonia plant in Porsgrunn, Norway. **PHOTO: YARA**

Ecuador investigates killing of four Galapagos giant tortoises

PROSECUTORS in Ecuador on Monday announced an investigation into the alleged hunting and killing of four giant tortoises on the Galapagos Islands, a unique and fragile ecosystem considered a world heritage site.

The prosecutor's office said on Twitter it was investigating the "suspected hunting and killing of four giant tortoises in the Galapagos National Park wetland complex."

A unit that specializes in environmental crimes is collecting testimonies from national park agents and appointing experts to carry out autopsies on



Giant tortoises can reach some 225 kilogrammes and are among the famous creatures of the Galapagos Islands. **PHOTO: AFP**

the tortoises.

The park management has filed a complaint over the death

of the animals, the Environment Ministry said on its WhatsApp channel.—AFP

African nations call out climate injustice ahead of COP27

AFRICAN countries on Monday called for an end to a "climate injustice" saying the continent causes less than four percent of global CO2 emissions but pays one of the highest prices for global warming.

Government officials, international organizations, NGOs and the private sector from more than 60 African nations attended Monday's opening of Africa Climate Week in Gabon's capital to prepare for the COP27 UN climate conference in Egypt in November.

Host President Ali Bongo Ondimba told the gathering the continent has to speak with one voice and offer "concrete" proposals for COP27.

"The time has come for Africans to take our destiny into our own hands," he said, deploring the global failure to meet climate targets. "Our continent is blessed with all the necessary assets for sustainable prosperity, abundant natural resources... and the world's youngest and largest working population," he said.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Japanese bath houses find new ways to stay afloat

JUST before it opens each afternoon, elderly residents gather outside one of Tokyo's last remaining old-style bath houses carrying flannels, soap and shampoo for their regular soak.

With its communal naked tubs, bright mural of Mount Fuji and sliding wooden entrance under a pointed roof, Inariyu is a classic example of a Japanese public bath, or sento.

Once ubiquitous in crowded urban areas, sentos are now closing quickly as more people take baths at home and owners struggle with faltering machinery, high gas prices and a lack of successors, tempting them to sell their valuable land.

Nationwide, the number of bath houses has plunged to around 1,800 from a peak of nearly 18,000 in the late 1960s.

But some such as Inariyu have been given a new lease on life through renovations, while others are reinventing themselves as trendy hangouts or using data analysis to boost



This picture shows a general view of the Kanamachi, which is a "sento" or public bath, in Tokyo. **PHOTO: AFP**

business.

One person pushing to save neighbourhood baths is Yasuko Okuno, who discovered them as a way to unwind after working late. "Day after day, my mind was tired. Even when I went home, I couldn't forget about work," said the 36-year-old writer for the Tokyo Sento Association.

"Then I went to a sento for the first time in a while, and it felt like a weight had lifted. There was a large bath, and the regulars greeted me kindly," she told

AFP. Over time, "it began to feel like a home from home."

Japan has never imposed a strict Covid-19 lockdown, and places such as gyms and sentos remained open even when many offices switched to home working and restaurants shortened opening hours.

Masks are commonly worn on trains and in other public places, but there is no requirement to wear them in sentos, although social distancing and quiet bathing are encouraged. —AFP

US reports over 17,000 monkeypox cases



A medical worker gives a dose of monkeypox vaccine to a recipient in Chicago, the United States, 26 Aug 2022. The United States has confirmed over 17,000 monkeypox cases, according to data released by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Friday. **PHOTO BY VINCENT D. JOHNSON/XINHUA**

THE United States has confirmed over 17,000 monkeypox cases, according to the latest data from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

A total of 17,432 known monkeypox cases had been reported nationwide as of Friday, CDC

data showed.

California had the most cases, with 3,291, followed by New York with 3,124 and Florida with 1,739, according to CDC data.

So far, the United States has the world's highest tally of monkeypox cases. Although monkeypox cases are still in-

creasing nationally, the speed of the outbreak appears to be slowing, said CDC Director Rochelle Walensky.

US officials said additional monkeypox vaccines could be made available to the public as soon as September, according to a report of CBS News.

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

"We should have been able to contain monkeypox — it was detected early and already had tests, a safe vaccine and an effective treatment. But a chronically underfunded public health system, often lacking even basic supplies like testing swabs and syringes and depleted by two-plus years of the COVID-19 pandemic, failed this most basic test," said a report of The Hill.—Xinhua

Aussie state distributes free COVID-19 tests to concession card holders until October

FROM Monday, pensioners and other concession card holders in Australia's New South Wales (NSW) state are able to access up to 10 free rapid antigen tests (RATs), according to the state's government.

"Although we are heading out of winter, the risk of COVID-19 remains and we want to ensure RATs are easily accessible for pensioners and concession card holders," Victor Dominello, minister for customer service and digital government of the NSW government, said Monday in a media release.

Under the new programme, which will run until the end of October, those eligible mainly include such groups as pensioners, veterans and people with low income.

"This builds upon our ear-

lier commitment to pick up the Federal Government's Concessional Access Programme, which it dropped at the end of last month," said NSW Minister for Multiculturalism and Minister for Seniors Mark Coure.

A factsheet from the country's Department of Health showed that from January to July of this year, the Australian government launched a temporary RAT concessional access scheme, allowing concession card holders 20 free tests over the six-month period.

By Monday morning, Australia has recorded 9,976,582 confirmed cases and 13,648 deaths by the count of the national broadcaster ABC News, as the seven-day moving average of daily increase nears 12,000 cases per day. —Xinhua



Thirty-seven people have died with COVID-19 and 1,834 people are being treated in hospital for the virus across New South Wales on August 30. **PHOTO: PETER PARKS/AFP**

India's daily COVID-19 caseload falls to 9,436

ACCORDING to federal health ministry data released on Sunday morning, 9,436 new cases of COVID-19 were reported during the past 24 hours, taking the total tally to 44,408,132 in the country.

The cases reported on Sunday mark a slight decrease compared to the daily caseload of Saturday which was 9,520.

With the reporting of fresh cases, India's active caseload currently stands at 86,591.

The country also logged 157 related deaths during the past 24 hours, pushing the overall death toll to 527,754 since the beginning of the pandemic, the

ministry said.

The ministry said so far 43,793,787 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals, of whom 9,999 were discharged during the past 24 hours.

According to the health ministry, the cumulative COVID-19 vaccination coverage in the country has exceeded two billion doses and until Sunday morning, 2,116,635,408 doses were administered.

Over 885 million COVID-19 tests have been conducted across the country, out of which 322,551 tests were conducted on Saturday alone.—Xinhua

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

China state support for economy this year exceeds 2020, premier says

STATE support for China's economy this year is now greater than it was in 2020, Beijing's premier has said, surpassing help given at the height of the coronavirus pandemic as the country grapples with the impacts of its zero-Covid policy and a property sector crisis. Economists have widely predicted that China will fail to meet its 5.5 per cent GDP growth target, blaming record youth unemployment, ballooning developer debt and manufacturing disruptions from frequent Covid lockdowns.

"In response to new chal-



A technician checks hanging clocks at a workshop of a clock company in Yantai, Shandong province, China, on 15 December 2020. **PHOTO: STR/AFP**

lenges, (we have) decisively launched a package of policies to stabilize the economy. Their strength surpasses those of 2020," Premier Li Keqiang said during a Monday State Council conference. China's economy has also been battered by the two-month lockdown of Shanghai, a nationwide mortgage boycott, and a severe drought and heatwave which shut down manufacturing hubs and severely impacted the agricultural sector.

The grim economic outlook underscores the difficulty of balancing economic growth with the

country's strict zero-Covid policy, with targeted lockdowns, travel restrictions and mass testing depleting fiscal revenues and causing disruption to everyday life.

Li hinted at this fact earlier in August, telling officials "the number of people in difficulty has seen an increase" due to the virus and recent natural disasters.

Real estate sales, a major economic driver, fell 22 per cent in August, year on year, while new home prices have fallen for 11 months straight, according to data released earlier this month.—AFP

Moment of truth as Japan eyes review of foreign "trainee" workers

DESPERATE to secure labour for his small factory, Toshiaki Funakubo turned to Chinese "trainees", who came to Japan to acquire technical expertise and skills, for about two decades until around 2010, the time when China overtook Ja-



A technical intern trainee from Vietnam works at a seafood processing firm in Yamada, Iwate Prefecture, on 4 August 2020. **PHOTO: KYODO**

pan as the world's second-largest economy.

He treated them just like other workers. He invited them to his house for New Year's celebrations, and they went on trips together. But he now believes relying on such trainees, just because labour is in short supply, would not make small and midsize companies stronger because they could only stay a limited number of years.

He fears that Japan is losing its appeal as an ideal place to live and work in the first place. At 78, he raises the alarm that it is imperative for Japan, known for its strict immigration policy, to tackle the issue of foreign labourers head-on.

It is a matter of when, not if Japan will accept more foreign workers as immigrants to keep the economy going, he says.

"We need a unified system to take in foreign workers and integrate them into society," said Funakubo, whose company that manufactures testing materials for industrial products accepted over 20 Chinese trainees in the past.

In the coming months, the government is expected to review the programme, which has been in place for about three decades. It allows foreign nationals to work at Japanese companies as trainees for up to five years and transfer the technical expertise and skills acquired during their stay.—Kyodo

S.Korea proposes US\$475 bln budget for 2023



South Korean artists perform on Korea Day at the al-Wasl Dome of Expo, during the visit of their country's president, in the Gulf emirate of Dubai, on 16 January 2022. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SOUTH Korea on Tuesday proposed a budget of 639 trillion won (475.2 billion US dollars) for 2023 in the lowest fiscal spending growth in six years.

The proposed budget was endorsed at the cabinet meeting, according to the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

It was up 5.2 per cent from this year's budget of 607.7 trillion won (452 billion US dollars), marking the lowest gain in six years since 2017.

The 2023 proposal represented a 6-per-cent fall compared to this year's total fiscal expenditure of 679.5 trillion won (505.4 billion US dollars) including two rounds of supplementary budgets.

The budget proposal was planned to be submitted on Friday to the National Assembly for approval.

The government of President Yoon Suk-yeol, who took

office in May, had vowed to adopt an austerity policy after an expansionary fiscal spending was kept in place under the previous government to tackle an economic downturn from the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the austerity policy, the Yoon government will slash non-core fiscal expenditure by a record 24 trillion won (17.8 billion US dollars) next year.

Fiscal deficit in 2023 was estimated at 58.2 trillion won (43.3 billion US dollars), or 2.6 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). It almost halved compared to this year's deficit estimate of 110.8 trillion won (82.4 billion US dollars), or 5.1 per cent of the GDP.

The country's national debt was forecast to grow to 1,134.8 trillion won (844 billion US dollars) in 2023 from 1,068.8 trillion won (794.9 billion US dollars) in 2022.—Xinhua

As crisis bites, Spain pushes to become EU energy hub

WITH Europe facing a major energy crisis, Spain wants to become the new gateway for gas through an ambitious trans-Pyrenees pipeline and is hoping supply-starved Germany will pressure a reluctant France.

Madrid has long been hoping for the revival of plans to build a pipeline connecting the Iberian Peninsula via France to central Europe, which was

abandoned in 2019 over regulatory and funding issues.

But Russia's war on Ukraine and its reduction of gas deliveries to Europe has revived interest in the project, notably from Germany, with Chancellor Olaf Scholz saying such a pipeline could make "a massive contribution" to easing the supply crisis.

He has invited Spain's Pedro Sanchez for talks on Tues-

day with energy likely to be a key issue.

Beyond the gas crisis, Spain is hoping that improving its connectivity with the rest of Europe will open the way for it to become the European Union's new hub for green hydrogen — a key energy source of the future.

And for that, a pipeline across the Pyrenees would be crucial.—AFP

YouTube generated 350 bln yen for Japan’s economy in 2021: survey

VIDEO-SHARING platform YouTube generated over 350 billion yen (\$2.5 billion) in economic effects in Japan last year, partly through advertising revenues paid to content creators, a private-sector survey showed Tuesday.

Increased usage of the website due to the coronavirus pandemic has helped boost the economic impact



Photo illustration shows the Youtube logo on a smartphone screen. **PHOTO: SOPA IMAGES/LIGHTROCKET/GETTY/KYODO**

from 239 billion yen in the previous year, according to results from the survey commissioned by the US company to British research firm Oxford Economics.

The platform, which allows people to post videos on a wide variety of genres as well as companies to distribute news and entertainment, also helped create the equivalent of more than 100,000 full-time jobs. The economic effects were also calculated through revenues generated through product advertisements and purchases made for equipment and services needed for content production.—Kyodo

Russia’s Gazprom further cuts gas deliveries to France

FRENCH energy firm Engie said Tuesday that Russian energy giant Gazprom was slashing its natural gas deliveries “due to a disagreement between both sides over the execution of contracts”.

Engie added in a statement that Russian gas supplies had already been reduced drastically after Russia invaded Ukraine in February.

“Engie had already secured the necessary volumes to guarantee supplies for its clients and for its own needs,” it said.

Russia gas accounted for 4.0 per cent of its overall energy supplies at the end of July, the group said.

Warnings from the French government have



Many European countries are facing severe supply problems as Moscow turns off the gas taps in response to EU military and diplomatic backing for Ukraine. **PHOTO: NORD STREAM/FILE**

mounted in recent days about possible difficulties this winter due to energy shortages and galloping inflation. Many European countries are facing severe supply problems as Moscow turns off the gas taps in response to EU military and diplomatic backing for Ukraine. French President Emmanuel Macron is to gather ministers for a special cabinet meeting on Friday in order to “prepare for all eventualities this autumn and winter,” his office said.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ORIENTAL HERO VOY.NO. (2282)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ORIENTAL HERO VOY.NO. (2282)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-2** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S NEW HIGHEST MARINE CO LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (260N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (260N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-8-2022** 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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0272-727N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0272-727N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ALVAN VOY.NO. (SCY1135)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALVAN VOY. NO. (SCY1135)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BIG DOG VOY.NO. (233W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BIG DOG VOY. NO. (233W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SEALAND MAERSK AISA PTE LTD

The Global New Light of Myanmar
www.gnlm.com.mm

သတင်းစာ ဖုန်းနံပါတ်ကို ခေါ်ဆိုပါ
09 454 237 515

သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာခံချိန်မီ ပို့ဆောင်ပါ
01 860 4530

ကြော်ငြာခွင့်များနှင့် ကြော်ငြာခေ့ရှင်များ ကြော်ငြာ ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက ထိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ် ဆွေးနွေးနိုင်ပါသည်
09 974 424 848

Truss tipped to prevail as UK leadership race nears end

THE race to become Britain's next prime minister is in its final week, with Liz Truss appeared poised to secure the top job, along with daunting challenges.

Foreign Secretary Truss, 47, has consistently outrun 42-year-old former finance minister Rishi Sunak by wide margins in polls of Conservative party members who will decide the contest, which started in early July.

An estimated 200,000 Tory grassroots have been able to vote since earlier this month for their preferred candidate, before postal and online ballots close on Friday.

The winner will be announced next Monday and replaces outgoing leader Boris Johnson in Downing Street the following day — only to face immediate crises over the spiralling cost of living.

The unenviable job of leading Britain through its highest inflation in 40 years and warnings of an imminent recession arose after Johnson announced in early July that he would be standing down.

It followed months of scandals that eventually triggered Sunak and dozens of other ministers to resign from government,



In this file photo taken on 17 August 2022, contender to become the country's next Prime Minister and leader of the Conservative party British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss poses for a photograph with the Harland and Wolff shipyard cranes at a Conservative Party leadership campaign event at Artemis Technologies in Belfast Harbour, Belfast. **PHOTO: AFP**

forcing his departure.

However, some ministers and MPs — including Truss — remained loyal to the end, arguing Johnson deserved more time to turn around his controversy-tarred three-year tenure.

Nearly 10,000 Tory members are reportedly so angry at his enforced resignation they are pushing the ruling party to allow a vote over whether to accept it.

The Tory hierarchy is resisting the move while Downing Street has distanced itself from the campaign, insisting Johnson will back the winner of the leadership fight. —AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Foreign forces arrive for military drills in eastern Russia

SOLDIERS from several countries have arrived in eastern Russia for joint military drills that China will take part in,

Russia's defence ministry said Monday, amid tensions between Moscow and Western capitals.

Servicemen from Krem-

lin-friendly countries including close ally Belarus, India, Mongolia and Syria will participate in the drills. The exercises will take place between 1 and 7 September and will be spread across seven military training grounds in Russia's east as well as in the waters of the Sea of Okhotsk and Sea of Japan. Similar drills were last held in 2018.

China's defence ministry confirmed earlier this month it would be taking part but did not say how many troops it is sending. Beijing insisted its participation in the joint exercises was "unrelated to the current international and regional situation". —AFP



Military hardware arrives for 'Vostok-2022' exercises at the Sergeevsky training ground at Primorsky Krai of the Russian Far East. **PHOTO: HANDOUT/ AFP**

EU plans to suspend deal easing Russian visa requests

THE European Union plans to make it harder for Russians to travel to the bloc by suspending a deal that eases their visa applications, an EU diplomat said Monday.

"We cannot continue the visa policy as it has been up to now," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity ahead of a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Prague to discuss Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"Tourism is not a human right," he added, underlining the symbolic importance of the 2007 visa facilitation agreement, which marked an attempt to build more positive engagement

with Moscow.

The measure, which could come into force in October if approved by member states,

does not amount to a formal ban on tourism visas demanded by some of Russia's EU neighbours. — AFP



It would complicate the process of obtaining travel permission and could slow the flow of Russians travelling to Europe, increasing Moscow's international isolation. Helsinki Airport is the largest airport in Finland. **PHOTO: ALESSANDRO RAMPAZZO/AFP**

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Ukraine launches offensive in south

UKRAINIAN forces pressed their counter-offensive to retake the Russian-occupied southern region of Kherson, while a team of UN experts were en route to inspect the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant which was targeted by fresh shelling over the weekend.

The coastal region of Kherson and its capital city of the same name have been contested by Russian troops since the war broke out six months ago.

"Ukrainian armed forces have launched their offensive in several areas in the south," the head of the regional administration, Yaroslav Yanushevych, said on the Telegram app.

In his daily address Monday night, President Volodymyr Zelensky did not specifically mention the counter-offensive but said they would oust the occupying forces "to the border".

"If they want to survive, it is time for the Russian military to flee. Go home," he said.

Russian forces seized Kherson, a town of 280,000 inhabitants, on 3 March.

It was the first major city to fall following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February. —AFP

Ukraine students brace for underground school year

FIVE metres beneath a Kyiv classroom, headmaster Mykhaylo Aliokhin puts the finishing touches on the bunker where his students will spend much of their time once Ukraine's school term starts later this week.

The study hall above is still littered with school bags abandoned since 23 February — the last day before Russia invaded and school bells fell silent, replaced by the skirl of the air raid siren.

Down here, there are no windows. Desks, display boards, colourful books and globes all remain upstairs. This was once a changing room, but as shelling remains a threat in the capital it now serves as a shelter.

"As soon as a siren goes off, staff will immediately bring the children down to the basement regardless of the activity at the time," Aliokhin told AFP. "As much as possible, they'll carry on with their work in a relaxed way." — AFP

Kishida to hold news conference over ex-PM Abe’s state funeral



Kishida announced on 14 July his decision to hold a state funeral for Abe, who was fatally shot by a lone gunman on 8 July while giving an election campaign speech in the western city of Nara. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida plans to hold a news conference Wednesday to explain his decision to hold a controversial state funeral next month for slain former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the top government spokesman said. Kishida, who has been working remotely from his official residence since he was found to be infected with the

novel coronavirus on 21 August, is scheduled to resume normal working on Wednesday. “The prime minister wants to explain (his decision) using various occasions,” said Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno at a regular news conference Tuesday, when asked whether Kishida would attend parliamentary committee sessions regarding the state fu-

neral as requested by the main opposition party. The Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan on Monday urged the prime minister to attend the sessions to explain the grounds for holding the 27 Sept event, as the public is split over his decision given Abe’s divisive political legacy and scandals. Parliament’s last session ended in early August, but even if it is not in session important issues can be debated by parliamentary committees. Kishida announced on 14 July his decision to hold a state funeral for Abe, who was fatally shot by a lone gunman on 8 July while giving an election campaign speech in the western city of Nara. The government has allocated 249 million yen (\$1.8 million) of taxpayers’ money for the state funeral at an indoor arena in Tokyo.—Kyodo

No choice: Colombia’s ex-guerrillas revert to coca, crime

WHEN he laid down arms at the end of Colombia’s decades-long civil conflict, Eiber Andrade did not expect to ever return to a life of crime. Yet a mere five years later, the 24-year-old ex-guerrilla fighter makes a living from coca — from which cocaine is derived — in a region where the government’s post-conflict commitment to peace and better living has yet to bear fruit. After the 2016 peace agreement that saw the disarmament of the FARC guerrilla group and its withdrawal from the Catatumbo region near the border with Venezuela, Andrade tried his hand at agriculture. The region is home to the world’s largest concentration of coca crops — a total of 40,084 hectares under cultivation in 2020 according to the UN. It is also fertile ground for coffee, cacao and bananas, but none of these are as profitable. Short on skills and capital,



Former FARC guerrilla fighter Eiber Andrade harvests coca leaves to make ends meet. **PHOTO: AFP**

Andrade’s brief foray into food farming failed — making him one of many among the 13,000-odd disarmed FARC combatants unable to find a way to make a legitimate living. Andrade, who became a guerrilla fighter at the tender age of 10, said he felt let down by the government. The money he and other disarmed fighters were to have

received as part of the peace deal never materialized. And in the end, Andrade told AFP, he had no choice but to re-join the criminal underworld and become a coca harvester. He has a three-year-old daughter to take care of. “The presidents we have had have not given us any help,” Andrade said.—AFP

Most Americans want stricter gun laws: poll

MOST US adults believe gun violence is increasing nationwide and want to see gun laws made stricter, The Associated Press (AP) has reported, citing a new poll. The poll by the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and The Associated Press-NORC Centre for Public Affairs Research shows 71 per cent of Americans say gun laws should be stricter, including about half of Republicans, the vast majority

of Democrats and a majority of those in gun-owning households, said AP. Overall, 8 in 10 Americans think that gun violence is increasing around the country, and about two-thirds say it is increasing in their state, it shows. The poll was conducted between 28 July and 1 August, after a string of deadly mass shootings and a 2020 spike in gun killings that have increased attention on the issue of gun violence.—Xinhua



People line up in January 2021 to buy guns and ammunition at the Ready Gunner gun store in Orem, Utah. **PHOTO: GEORGE FREY/ AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Biden’s student loan relief “unfair, outrageous,” says The Hill

US President Joe Biden’s announcement last week of a student loan relief programme is the “most unfair, outrageous, and disgraceful decision” made in years, The Hill has reported. “This plan is estimated to cost taxpayers 330 billion US dollars ... His proposal is also regressive and inflationary, and possibly unconstitutional,” said the report published Sunday. On Wednesday, Biden announced a plan to cancel up to 20,000 dollars for federal student loan borrowers who received a Pell Grant, a form of federal financial aid issued to lower-income students that does not have to be repaid, and up to 10,000 dollars for those who did not receive a Pell Grant.— Xinhua

Lithuania completes Belarus border fence

LITHUANIA on Monday said it had finished building a fence along its border with Belarus to fight illegal immigration which the West accuses Minsk of orchestrating. Illegal immigration has soared in EU member Lithuania this year, with around 4,200 migrants mainly from the Middle East and Africa crossing the border from neighbouring Belarus. The West has accused Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko’s regime of manipulating the migrant flows with its ally Russia as part of “hybrid” warfare, which Minsk denies. A barrier four metres (13 feet) high and made up of barbed wire stretches across around 550 kilometres (342 miles) of the two countries’ shared border.— AFP

Kishida to hold news conference over ex-PM Abe's state funeral

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SPORT

Myanmar team fixed in AFF Cup 2022 Group B



Myanmar is fixed in Group B of the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022. PHOTO: AFF

THE group draw of the AFF Cup 2022, the most advanced competition in the ASEAN region, was held on 30 August in Bangkok, Thailand, and the Myanmar team is placed into Group B.

The competition will be divided into two groups of five teams.

Thailand, the Philippines,

Indonesia, Cambodia, and the qualifying team (Timor-Leste or Brunei) are placed in Group A while Myanmar, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Laos and Singapore are included in Group B.

The ASEAN Football Confederation has allowed nine of the highest-ranked Southeast Asian teams to compete directly in the tourney, while

the two lowest-ranked teams, Timor-Leste and Brunei, will play in the qualifiers and only the winner will qualify for the finals.

According to the announcement of the ASEAN Football Federation, the qualifiers will be held in November, and the tourney will run from 20 December 2022 to 16 January 2023.

The tourney will be held with a home and away system and the semi-finals and finals will be played in a two-round format – the home and away play.

As the Myanmar team is in the same group as Viet Nam, Malaysia, and Singapore, they are likely to struggle to qualify for the next round.

In the last 2020 competition, the Myanmar team is the only team that was placed in the same group and is meeting the Singaporean team again.

— Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- (c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Serena wins US Open first round on emotional night

SERENA Williams swept into the US Open second round on Monday on an emotional night in New York in what is expected to be the 23-time Grand Slam title winner's final tournament.

The 40-year-old defeated Danka Kovinic of Montenegro 6-3, 6-3 in front of more than 23,000 fans on Arthur Ashe Stadium Court. Former world number one Williams had won just one match on tour all year and seen her ranking slip to 605.

That kind of form prompt-

ed Williams to reveal that she was on the brink of retirement from the sport in which she played her first match as a professional in 1995. On Monday, Williams, who arrived on court in a diamond-encrusted black dress and jacket which sparkled under the lights, overcame a nervy first game for a hold of serve.

The American star brought the crowd to their feet with a break for 2-0, chasing down a net cord to hit a winner.—AFP



US player Serena Williams celebrates after her victory over Montenegro's Danka Kovinic at the US Open. PHOTO: AFP

Bournemouth sack Parker days after 9-0 Liverpool humiliation

ENGLISH Premier League strugglers Bournemouth on Tuesday sacked head coach Scott Parker, days after they were thrashed 9-0 at Liverpool.

In a parting shot at Parker, owner Maxim Demin said in a statement that "in order for us to keep progressing as a team and a club as a whole, it is unconditional that we are aligned in our strategy to run the club sustainably.

"We must also show belief in and respect for one another. That is the approach that has brought this club so much success in recent history."

He added: "Our search for a new head coach will begin immediately." Parker had taken several public swipes at Bournemouth's management over their failure to strengthen the squad after the south coast club's return to the top flight.

He was especially blunt following the Liverpool match, saying the Cherries were "ill-equipped" following a rout which came after a 4-0 loss at champions Manchester City and a 3-0 defeat by Arsenal. —AFP



Scott Parker cut a disconsolate figure on the touchline as his Bournemouth side lost 9-0 at Anfield. PHOTO: AFP