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SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to pay visit to Russian Federation

AT the invitation of the Eastern Economic Forum of the government of the Russian Federation, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing will pay a visit to the Russian Federation in the near future.

During the visit, the Senior General will attend the 7th Eastern Economic Forum 2022 to be held in Vladivostok of the Russian Federation from 5 to 8 September and hold talks with officials of the government of the Russian Federation in order to further cement the cooperation in friendly ties, economic and all sectors between the governments and the peoples of both countries. — MNA

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

The vision of the council: Towards Zero Together will come true if people individuals follow the road safety measures, if all vehicles are in good condition and if all the roads are safe: Vice-Senior General

THE National Road Safety Council needs to make further efforts for road safety measures under the visions and action plans of the National Road Safety Action Plan (2021-2030) drawn for the second decade, Chairman of the National Road Safety Council Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win was quoted as saying at the first meeting of the council at the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General highlighted that road accidents kill some 1.3 million people throughout the world, leaving over 50 million people injured on a yearly basis, according to the Global Status Report on Road Safety (2018), adding 18.2 per cent of 100,000 global people die of road accidents, most of whom live in Africa and

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State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the first meeting of the National Road Safety Council in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 September 2022.

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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 bor-

der 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

Ministry of Labour objects to declaration of 16 trade unions as illegal labour organizations, no more unionizing of workers for lack of legal way to register as trade union mentioned in ILO Brief "Riding out the storm: Organizational resilience of trade unions and civil society organizations following the military takeover in Myanmar"

1. The Ministry of Labour has learnt that the new report ILO Brief under the name of Riding out the storm: Organizational resilience of trade unions and civil society organizations following the military takeover in Myanmar at its Website.
 2. The ILO Brief expressed the arrest and harassment of trade union leaders in Myanmar and stated "the Ministry of Labour declared 16 trade unions as illegal labour organizations, there is no more unionizing of workers because there is no way to legally register as a trade union".
 3. Myanmar enacted the Labour Organization Law in 2011 according to Convention No 87 of Freedom of Association and it was effective on 9-3-2012.
 4. The labour organizations shall register under the provisions of Labour Organization Law if they want to organize trade unions to carry out labour affairs, and the registered labour organizations can unionize workers freely under the provisions of the Labour Organization Law.
 5. Moreover, anyone who launches terrorist acts and activities that cause unrest affecting the rule of law and security of the country will be taken action under the existing laws.
 6. The ministry did not declare the 16 trade unions as "illegal organizations", but because they were operating labour affairs without registering as trade unions at the Ministry of Labour according to the 2011 Labour Organization Law, and so they were declared as the ones that were not registered legally according to the Labour Organization Law.
 7. After 1-2-2021, the employees applied for registration of trade union at the respective township registrars and the Chief Registrar under the 2011 Labour Organization Law as usual. The certificates were granted to 26 basic labour organizations, one township labour organization and two region labour organizations between 1-2-2021 and 30-8-2022. There was the formation of new labour organizations without any restrictions under the existing laws.
 8. The registration certificates were granted to 3,100 organizations – 2,876 basic labour organizations, 160 township labour organizations, 25 region/state labour organizations, nine labour federations, one confederation of trade unions of Myanmar, 27 basic employers' organizations, one township employers' organization and one employers' federation according to the 2011 Labour Organization Law from 2012 to date.
 9. Therefore, the ministry strongly objects to the unreal facts in the ILO website that "16 trade unions were declared as illegal labour organizations" and "there is no more unionizing of workers and any organizing activity would be considered illegal by the authorities", as stated in ILO Brief under the title of Riding out the storm: Organizational resilience of trade unions and civil society organizations following the military takeover in Myanmar.
- Ministry of Labour
2 September 2022

RCSS delegation departs from Nay Pyi Taw

THE Restoration Council of Shan State-RCSS delegation led by Chairman General Yawd Serk, who came to peace talks at the invitation of State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, took a flight to Tachilek, Shan State from Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

RCSS Chairman General Yawd Serk and delegation were seen off by officials and mem-

bers of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, ethnic people of the Department of Fine Arts, departmental officials and locals, by holding miniature State flags and placards bearing: "Perpetual peace is the real aspiration of the people", "Achieving peace is the true desire of all citizens", "Let's hold talks for peace in the Union", "Only the ethnic nationalities are in unity, stability,

peace and tranquillity will be achieved" at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

The peace delegation was welcomed back by officials from Tachilek Station of the Triangle Region Command, departmental staff, political parties and local people, by carrying placards: "We support the peace talks", "We welcome the State Administration Council's peace talks", at the Tachilek Airport. — MNA



Preservation of ethnic languages and cultures needed

THE Senior General urged relevant ministries to provide education, health, economic and transport facilities for ethnic people. Hence, relevant ministries need to cooperate with each other in work processes. It is necessary to preserve the languages and cultures of ethnic people as well as Myanmar literature, language and culture.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the third-day coordination meeting held on 10 August 2022 in regard to matters relating to the activities being carried out by the Union Government)

The vision of the council: Towards Zero Together will come true if people individuals follow the road safety measures, if all vehicles are in good condition and if all the roads are safe: Vice-Senior General

FROM PAGE-1
Southeast Asia. The road accident stands eighth in the chart of the root causes of death for humans and first for deaths of people between aged 5 and 29 years, he added.

The Vice-Senior General noted that the majority of global countries face 3-5 per cent loss of their GDP in road accidents. He continued to say that the Global Ministerial Road Safety Conference released the Moscow Declaration in November

2009. Hence, he said the United Nations adopted the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020) based on the Moscow Declaration. Meanwhile, ASEAN countries adopted the ASEAN Regional Road Safety Strategic Plan. This being so, Myanmar is implementing the National Road Safety Action Plan (2014-2020).

Article 3.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals mentions arrangements for the reduction of 50 per cent loss of

lives in road accidents. Hence, Myanmar will participate in the implementation process as a dutiful country.

The National Road Safety Council needs to make further efforts for road safety measures under the visions and action plans of the Myanmar National Road Safety Action Plan (2021-2030) drawn for the second decade.

The Vice-Senior General stressed the need to study the 7s Implementation Framework

with Strategy, Structure, Skills, Shared, Systems, Staff, and Style for road safety measures. The vision of the council: Towards Zero Together will come true, if people individuals follow the road safety measures, if all vehicles are in good condition and if all the roads are safe.

Vice-Chairs of the council Union Ministers Lt-Gen Soe Htut and Admiral Tin Aung San discussed the national road safety measures.

Secretary of the council Di-

rector-General of Road Transport Administration Department U Zaw Min Oo reported on annual reports of the council in 2021 and action plans for the 2022-2023 financial year, and tasks underway and future tasks of the council.

The meeting discussions were joined by the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Union Ministers and officials. The Vice-Senior General negotiated the discussions and gave a concluding remark. —MNA

Myanmar donates 1,000 tonnes of rice to Sri Lanka

THE donation ceremony for the transfer of 1,000 tonnes of rice from Myanmar to Sri Lanka was held at Asia World Port Terminal in Yangon at 10 am yesterday.

At the ceremony, Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo of the Ministry of Commerce said that this donation shows the sympathy of the Myanmar government and people towards the people of Sri Lanka.

The Union minister continued that the friendship and cooperation between the two countries would be further enhanced and he handed over the documents related to the rice donation.

After that, the Sri Lankan Ambassador returned a letter of thanks to the president

of the Myanmar Rice Federation for organizing the export of rice and expressed special thanks to the government and officials of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

In the current situation of Sri Lanka, which is facing an economic crisis, this kind of donation is very helpful, the ambassador said.

The ambassador expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who arranged for the donation. — MNA

The MoC Union Minister along with the Sri Lankan ambassador oversee the shipment of donated rice bags.



Plan underway to resume cable car service at Kyaiktiyo pagoda in open season



PREPARATIONS are being made for resuming cable car service leading to the mountain on which the Kyaiktiyo pagoda is built in Kyaikto township this open season.

An over 2,900 feet long cable line was built of seven towers from the Yathetaung Main Station onto the Bobogyi spirit chamber. The project was run by Sky Asia Company in 2017.

Each cable car can carry eight people, and 44 cable cars and one reserved car can transport 2,500 passengers per hour,

and the journey will only take ten minutes. At the beginning of the open season, the service will be operated from Tuesday to Friday on a weekly basis, and the service working hours will be from 7:30 am to 5 pm. It will start running from 7 am on weekends.

Every Monday will be an off-day but if it coincided with a public holiday, the service may be provided depending on the demands. Fares for cable cars have been increased by K1,000 more than last year; local travellers will be charged K6,000 for

a ply and foreigners, K10,000. For a round-trip ride, the fare will be charged K10,000 per domestic tourist and K14,000 per international tourist.

The cable car project, the first in Myanmar, was implemented under a 70-year agreement over a 13.5-acre of land at the Kyaiktiyo sanctuary leased by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. The project cost US\$20 million and the cable car and related materials were imported from France. — TWA/GNLM

MoHT Union Minister receives delegation from Chamber of Commerce of Dehong Prefecture

UNION Minister Dr Htay Aung of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism met Director of Myanmar Representative Office-Nay Pyi Taw Mr Li Qigui of the Chamber of Commerce of Dehong Prefecture in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In the meeting, the Union minister discussed resuming the existing tourism businesses between Dehong Prefecture of Yunnan Province in China and Myanmar and collaborative efforts in the hotels and tourism industry.

Both sides discussed the implementation of the China-Myanmar friendship fairs, the cooperation in human re-

sources training, resumption of charter flights from Mangshi in Yunnan Province to Mandalay and Yangon, the development of the hotels and tourism industry, promotion of the tourism sector between China and Myanmar and opening the language courses.

As the China tourism market is a driving force in the world's outbound tourism market, efforts are being made to increase the number of tourists entering Myanmar.

In 2019, about 155 million Chinese tourists visited around the world and more than 1.4 million Chinese tourists entered Myanmar.—MNA



The MoHT Union Minister holds talks with the delegation from the Chamber of Commerce of Dehong Prefecture yesterday.

Tu Shin Hnwal Pyaw Gita Pwal Taw singing contest Season 2 held



The first match of Group A of the “Happy Together Music Festival” singing contest Season 2 is in action in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: KANU

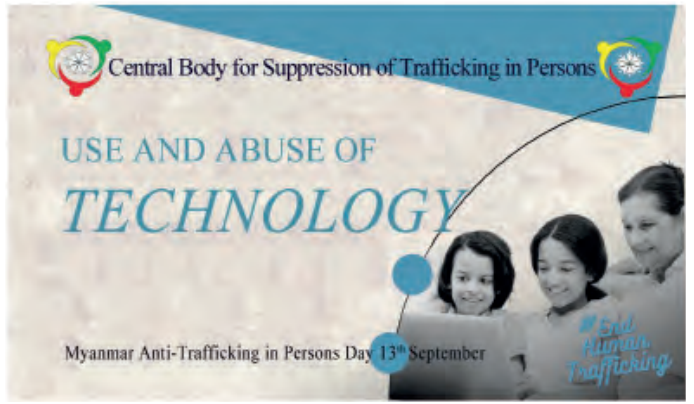
HAILING the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day, the first match of Group A of the “Tu Shin Hnwal Pyaw Gita Pwal Taw” singing contest Season 2 was held in the Studio A of the MRTV at 4 pm yesterday.

U Htay Aung, Advocate-General of the Yangon Region and ministers from the Yangon Region government, rectors and professors from National University of Arts and Culture, artistes and guests attended the contest.

Nine contestants from regions and states competed with the selected songs in the first match of Group A, level 1 in Season 2. They will compete with their favourite songs in the second match on 9 September. In 10 matches from Group A to E, contestants will present weekly with selected songs and favourite songs. Two candidates will be selected in each group, totaling ten for Level 2. Hailing the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day, the “Tu Shin Hnwal Pyaw Gita Pwal Taw” singing contest will be broadcast on MRTV HD Channel from 2 September to 30 December at 9 pm every Friday. In this competition, the first, second, third and consolation prize winners will be deservedly awarded, it is learnt. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

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.



Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

108 Myanmar citizens
repatriated from Malaysia’s
immigration detention centres

THE Embassy of Myanmar in Kuala Lumpur stated that the 108 Myanmar detainees from four detention centres in Malaysia were sent back to Myanmar on 1 September. Myanmar citizens, who were arrested in Malaysia with their sentences being served, were transferred to immigration centres. Only those who have complete identity information were sent back to Myanmar under the programme of the Myanmar Embassy.

In such doing, five persons from the KLIA Immi-

gration Detention Centre, 13 persons from the Bukit Jalil Immigration Detention Centre, 37 persons from the Lang-Kap Immigration Detention Centre and 53 persons from the Bidor Immigration Detention Centre were arranged by the embassy to return to Myanmar by MAI relief flight.

Thirty-one persons were repatriated to Myanmar on 1 June, 215 persons on 9 June, 33 persons on 15 June, 55 persons on 16 June, 29 persons on 22 June and 75 persons on 29 June, totalling 438 persons. — TWA/GNLM



Myanmar nationals are seen lining up for the repatriation process.

Yangon lacks local Shan potatoes for 2
days due to rotting, low price



The picture shows harvested potatoes among potato plants.

ALTHOUGH potatoes from Aungban Township, Shan State have not entered the Yangon Market on 31 August and 1 September, they’re back in the market on 2 September, said Ko Aung, a potato and onion retailer to the GNLM.

The Yangon retail outlet’s daily price statement indicated the price of China potatoes as K1,950-2,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) on 1 September, without mentioning the local Shan potatoes’ price. It stated that the import volume of China potatoes was 66,000 viss. After the arrival of local Shan potatoes, they were priced at K1,400-2,200 per viss based on varieties, and China potatoes at K2,000 per viss, in the wholesale

market.

“Despite the lack of local Shan potatoes in the Yangon market, potato price was stable in five consecutive days along with the availability of China potatoes, unlike the rising price of onions in the same period,” local retailer Ko Lin Htut told the GNLM.

Even though people are rushing to buy potatoes in the market on 2 September 2020, the large potato’s price fetched only K950 per viss on 3 September 2020. The price went up to K1,450 per viss on 3 September afternoon. On 4 September morning, the market price stand at K1,350 per viss and decreased to the regular price of K1,000 per viss that evening.

The rate of large local Shan potatoes has risen to K2,500 per viss in early December 2021. Except that, the highest record price till 2 September 2022 was K2,200 per viss.

China potatoes’ price reached K2,400 per viss from the middle of August 2022 to date.

August is the time to harvest potatoes that were planted in April and the time for recultivation. The production cost for one acre of potato plantation with an output of around 4,000 visses per acre is approximately K7 million. Thus, the capital for a viss of potatoes costs around K1,500-1,600, the GNLM quoted an official from NGO Potato Growers Association.— TWA/GNLM

Price of potato, Shan garlic sluggish despite high prices of Kyukok onion

ONION and Kyukok garlic market prices soared up in the Yangon Wholesale Market on 1 September 2022, said Ko Aung, a trader from the Nyaungpinlay market.

On 1 September, the wholesale prices of Seikphyu onion varied between K2,600 to 3,250 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) and the Monywa onion prices moved in the range of K3,000 to K3,650 per viss, depending on different varieties, whereas the Kyukok onion price reached to K4,900-5,000 per viss. Compared with the prices on 30 August, the prices of Seikphyu onion, Monywa onion and Kyukok onion have risen to K1,250, K550 and K500 per viss respectively.

As onion prices have been

rising for four consecutive days since 29 August the prevailing prices of onions from Seikphyu and Monywa Townships on 1 September are K450 and K750 per viss separately, thus higher

than the prices of those on 29 August.

Local retailer Ko Zaw Aung commented that the prices of special-sized large onions and Kyukok onions are only K1,950-

2,000 and K3,400 per viss on 1 August. However, their prices soared up to K1,650 and K1,500 per viss each.

The prices recorded in the same period of 2020 and 2021 (1 September) were K475, K450 per viss for large onions, and K1,800, K4,800 per viss for Kyukok onions. Therefore, the onion price on 1 September 2022 reached up to eight times the prices of the same duration in 2020 and 2021. Although the price difference of Kyukok onion is less than the same period in 2021, it was more than double the price in 2020.

Onion merchants give remarks that the highest wholesale market price of large onions, which was K3,700 per viss in early December of 2015 and 2019, will happen again these

days and a new price record will be expected three months earlier than the previous years.

There are only potatoes from China in the market, since potatoes from Aungban Township, Shan State are low in price. China potatoes were priced at K1,950-2,000 per viss in the Yangon potato market on 1 September. The price for Shan potatoes is not set because of the lack of importation.

“Though the price of Kyukok garlic which is a border import good, surged in the market due to the rise of foreign currency exchange rate. The local product, Shan Aungban garlic prices are stable in the market on 1 September,” said Ko Thein Myint, a potato and garlic retailer from Yattama Road. — TWA/GNLM



Potatoes are seen being laid out for selling in a retail outlet.

Companies registered on MyCO exceed 8,200 in past eight months: DICA

THE number of companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, topped 8,274 in the past eight months (January-August) this year, the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) indicated.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

The figures of registered companies stood at 8,011 in 2021, 15,080 in 2020, 17,380 in 2019 and 8,506 in 2018, as per statistics of the DICA.

The previously registered companies had to re-register on the MyCO and a total of 46,377 companies were re-registered



The office of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

on the MyCO between 1 August 2018 and 31 January 2019.

In addition, all registered companies need to file annual returns (AR) on the MyCO reg-

istry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

According to Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously.

All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, as per Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, over 400 companies are suspended every month for failing to submit AR forms within the due date.

As a result of this, newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns. The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Drugs seized in some townships across Myanmar

A combined team consisting of members of the Sagaing Region Police Force examined a Honda Fit car driven by Maung Dwe and a Nissan 12-wheel car driven by Nyein Chan Oo accompanied by Kyi Hlaing and Zaw Lin Naing near the Kaunghmudaw Stupa in Sagaing Township and captured 1,300,000 Pseudoephedrine pills and 360 litres of ethyl ether restricted chemicals at 4:30 pm on 30 August.

In addition, at 2:30 pm on 1 September, a combined team including the Anti-Narcotic Task Force Police examined Aung Zaw Oo (aka) Kayin on Magway Road in 9 Ward of Hlinethaya (West) Township and seized 10,000 stimulant tablets.

Similarly, at 6 am on the same day, Police searched a house of Kaw Won Chan in 4 Ward of Kutkai Township and captured 0.02 kilogramme of heroin and 2,800 stimulant tablets.

Afterwards, Police examined a motorbike driven by San Aung (aka) Bran San Aung at the Shwezarli junction on the Mantong-Mongmit Road in Mongmit Township and captured 27,380 stimulant tablets at 10:30 am on the same day.

The suspects are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA



Five arrestees are pictured along with seized drugs and vehicles.

Illegal timbers, consumer goods, foodstuffs and vehicles confiscated

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

A combined team led by the Sagaing Township General Administration Department under the instructions of the Sagaing Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections at the Yadanabon Bridge Combined Checkpoint on 1 September.

Officials confiscated K43.1 million worth of consumer goods and foodstuffs from a Nissan Canter car (approximately K25 million). The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

On 2 September, an on-duty team captured 65 old sewing machines worth K3.25 million that exceeded the Im-



Confiscated illegal items in Kayin State.

port Declaration (ID) from a vehicle heading from Myawady to Yangon at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, an inspection team led by the Region Forest Department under the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force made inspections. They seized a total of 1.9210 tonnes of illegal teak, hardwood and timbers worth K411,142 in the North Zarmayi forest reserve of Thayawady district and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, four arrests (approximately K71,761,142) were made on 1 and 2 September, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

84 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 2 September, total figure rises to 615,399

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **615,399** after **84** new cases—**five** imported and **79** local transmission—were reported on 2 September 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **593,690** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,439** without more casualties. —MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar shipped nearly 700 tonnes of honey in past four months

MYANMAR exported approximately 700 metric tons of honey in the past four months (April-July) in the 2022-2023 financial year, according to the Apiculture Division under the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

Myanmar delivered honey to the Republic of Korea, Japan, the US and Singapore by sea during the April-July period. Out of four honey varieties, jujube honey was highly demanded. Niger honey, sunflower honey and honey of various flowers were also exported. The honey export volume is estimated at 691.34 metric tonnes.

There are 31 State-owned beekeeping stations with 6,200 beehives in 31 townships and about 820 private beekeeping businesses operating with nearly

200,000 beehives. Apiculture and honey production businesses are primarily found in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions and Shan State.

Moreover, two million acres of crops yearly contribute to bee pollination every year. This year, 11 per cent of sunflower acreages are designated for pollen sources. Additionally, beekeeping businesses near the crop fields contribute to the successful yield of the crop as well as quality honey production.

Myanmar annually produces about 7,000 tonnes of honey, with a production capacity of 70 pounds per beehive. Approximately 2,600 tonnes of honey are conveyed to foreign markets every year. Myanmar's honey is priced at \$1,600 per tonne. — NN/GNLM



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Trade Dept notifies exporters of payment for terminal handling charge, inspection cost, commission from 35% of export earnings

THE Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce has notified on 29 August that exporters have to pay terminal handling charges, inspection costs and commission from 35 per cent of export earnings.

They must pay them 35 per cent of export earnings. They do not need to request approval from the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee (FESC) regarding this case, according to the committee's meeting (43/2022).

Therefore, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry has notified the related associations of the directive of the FESC.

Regarding the relaxation of the procedure, the shipping process is expected to go smoothly. However, as they must pay 35 per cent of export earnings, the amount of dollars they can sell themselves has become lower, the Myanmar Enterprise Solutions posted on its Facebook Page.

According to the CBM's notification dated 5 August 2022, exporters have to convert only 65 per cent of the hard currency they earned into local currency within one working day. The CBM issued a statement dated 16 August 2022 that exporters can use 35 per cent of export earnings or sell them to authorized dealers (banks)

or make remittances to others.

Regarding foreign accounts of the exporters at the banks, 65 per cent of earnings must be exchanged for local currency within one working day. Banks must conduct transactions from the remaining 35 per cent for the use of exporters or remittances or selling them onto ADs, and those entities (companies, institutions and individuals) must sell them to the ADs or use themselves within 30 days of earnings.

Exporters must seek the approval of the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee to carry out cross-border transactions. — NN/GNLM



Regarding foreign accounts of the exporters at the banks, 65 per cent of earnings must be exchanged for local currency within one working day.

MRF welcomes rice companies, millers to join contract farming



Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) invited rice companies and millers who want to participate in the contract farming system in the coming summer paddy season.

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) invited rice companies and millers who want to participate in the contract farming system in the coming summer paddy season.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is supervising to implement of a contract farming system on 850,000 acres of summer paddy in the 2022-2023 season, providing payment-in-kind (seeds, fertilizers, diesel) instead of cash and the summer paddy growers will be entitled to receive K200,000 worth of payment-in-kind per acre through the Agriculture Development Fund. This plan aims to boost the paddy yield through the support of agricultural inputs (fertilizers, seeds and others) and conduct supply chain financing connecting the farmers, millers and companies,

according to the MRF's statement.

The federation has already informed the companies and affiliated associations on 2 August and 28 entities (companies, businesspersons) replied with expressions of interest for 48,533 acres of summer paddy. The federation is coordinating them.

As this contract farming scheme aims to cover 850,000 acres, those interested companies and millers who meet the criteria for contract farming must submit the location and number of acres that they want to work to the federation by 3 pm on 9 September 2022. The federation will forward them to the Department of Agriculture on 12 September 2022. Those interested entities can contact MRF for further information. — NN/GNLM

Let’s make dreams in peace talks come true

A PEACEFUL and stable situation is the best for undertaking the development of a nation. This being so, the time of a peaceful and stable nation is referred to as the restoration of internal peace, the prevalence of law and order, and the safe and tranquil life of the people. Only when it can restore peace will the nation enjoy fruits of stability and tranquillity. If so, the country can implement development projects peacefully.

As such, the whole nation including the State and the people anticipate internal peace. Hence, the government is striving for emphasizing the process of perpetual peace for the whole nation in accordance with the agreements of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA.

As a Myanmar saying goes: Unity is strength, ethnic organizations and the State's Peace Talks Team join hands to overcome various challenges at different levels of negotiation in order to restore peace the State inspires. On the other hand, they have to build understanding and trust inch by inch.

It is good news which came out of the peace talks between the State's Peace Talks Team and leaders and members of ethnic armed organizations. The restoration of perpetual peace throughout the nation as expected via the peace talks reflects the genuine desire of the entire people.

As a Myanmar saying goes: Unity is strength, ethnic organizations and the State's Peace Talks Team join hands to overcome various challenges at different levels of negotiation in order to restore peace the State inspires. On the other hand, they have to build understanding and trust inch by inch.

At present, the government is emphasizing the peace and stability of the nation while striving for ensuring the food sufficiency of the people. No matter how difficult and tightened the work process is, the government is marching towards the goal with the confidence that it must overcome any challenges.

As such, all ethnic people including the government need to join hands with each other for the emergence of a stable, peaceful, tranquil, prosperous society through victories in the talks on peace issues and ceasefire.



What they are saying right now

By Yin Nwe Ko



Bee-eaters

Bee-eaters are a worrying sign

The arrival in Norfolk of a group of brightly coloured European bee-eaters has delighted bird watchers, but conservationists have warned that it is a “worrying sign” of climate change.

The starling-sized birds, which have red backs, blue bellies, and yellow throats, are usually found in southern Europe and northern Africa.

But several have now been observed making nesting burrows in a sand quarry near the Norfolk village of Trimmingham. Although the birds did not breed in the UK between 1956 and 2001, this is the sixth known nesting attempt in Britain this century. “While an incredible sight, we mustn’t forget that the arrival of these birds to our shores is due to changes to our climate and subsequent pressures on wildlife both here and across the globe,” said Mark Thomas of the RSPB, The Royal Society for The Protection of

that the ability to do so, for more than ten seconds, is an overlooked marker of health, and should be integrated into routine health screenings for older people. For the study, 1,702 Brazilians aged 51 to 75 were asked to do a balance test, and then they had their health monitored for a decade. Once the researchers had accounted for age, sex, and underlying health conditions, they found that the participants who had not been able to balance on one leg for ten seconds were 84 per cent more likely to die of any cause over the ten years than the others. Nearly one in six of the poor balancers died, compared with one in 22 of the rest; they also had higher rates of heart disease and high blood pressure. The study did not look into why poor balance might be associated with poor health outcomes, but it is not the first to find the association: previous research has shown a link between poor balance and elevated risk of dementia and stroke.

Balance test for longer life

Balancing on one leg may seem an inane exercise, but a major new study has suggested

novative “light-activated” therapy for treating aggressive brain cancer. “Photoimmunotherapy” works by forcing microscopic cancer cells to glow in the dark, making it possible for surgeons to see and remove more of them. Similar “guided” techniques are already in use, but as well as the fluorescent dye, the new therapy includes a cancer-targeting compound to boost the body’s immune response. In a trial in mice with brain cancer, it dramatically improved the visibility of cancer cells during surgery, then triggered a response that wiped out residual cells; this should make cancer less likely to recur.

Coffee makes you spend more

Shoppers who drink a cup of coffee before hitting the aisles are more likely to make impulse purchases, a study has found. Researchers from the University of South Florida set up espresso machines outside stores in France and Spain and offered more than

300 shoppers a free drink. About half had a coffee containing 100 milligrammes of caffeine, while the rest had decaf coffee or water. Those who had a hit of caffeine spent about 50 per cent more money and bought nearly 30 per cent more items than those who had drunk decaf coffee or water. “Caffeine, as a powerful stimulant, releases dopamine in the brain, which excites the mind and the body,” said lead author Professor Dipayan Biswas. “This leads to a higher energetic state, which in turn enhances impulsivity and decreases self-control.”

The price of an ideal life

Most people in Britain don’t think they would need to be richer than Croesus, a very rich man who was in the 6th-century BC king of Lydia, an ancient kingdom in what is now Türkiye, to live their dream life, a study has indicated. Most of them reckon £8m would do it. For the research, 7,860 people from 33 countries were asked

to picture their “absolutely ideal life”, and to specify the amount they thought they would have to win to afford it. In the UK, 62 per cent thought £8m or less would be adequate, and five times as many chose £800,000 (27 per cent) than opted for £800m million (14 per cent). Only 14 per cent grabbed the largest sum (£100bn), more than in China (eight per cent) but fewer than in the US (32 per cent) and Indonesia, which came top with 39 per cent. The findings, said the team, challenge the idea that humans have “unlimited wants”.

Scientists make our understanding of life expand. There’s no way we’d know as much as we do about the world without science. Every single day, there are scientists in every discipline under the sun looking. It looks at the mysteries of existence and asks ‘why?’, ‘what?’, and ‘how?’ Science looks for insight and objectivity. It takes what we think we know and seeks to prove it. In essence, science is about getting us closer to the truth. Now, scientists and their scientific endeavour help us find answers to the deepest problems and takes us further down the road to discovery.

Reference: The Week (July 2022)

EU watchdog set to approve first Omicron jabs

European nations have been keen to rush through the new generation of jabs so they can start booster campaigns ahead of a feared Covid surge this winter.

THE EU’s drug regulator is on Thursday expected to authorize the first Covid-19 vaccines for the Omicron variant, although they do not target the latest strains.

The adapted vaccines made by Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna will be discussed during an extraordinary meeting of the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

European nations have been keen to rush through the new generation of jabs so they can start booster campaigns ahead of a feared Covid surge this winter.

The two so-called “bivalent” vaccines protect against the earlier BA.1 strain of Omicron, as well as the original Covid virus that emerged in China in 2019.

They do not however target the newer and more infectious

BA.4 and BA.5 types, which have emerged in recent months as the dominant strains worldwide.

“The aim of the meeting is to conclude the evaluation of the two applications, if possible,” the Amsterdam-based EMA said.

“We will communicate on the outcomes of the meeting on 1 September.”

The agency has said it hopes to approve a separate Pfizer vaccine adapted for the BA.4 and BA.5 types “in the fall”.

The United States authorised its first anti-Omicron vaccines on Wednesday, approving Pfizer and Moderna jabs that were adapted to tackle BA.4 and BA.5.

Britain authorized the Moderna vaccine for the BA.1 type in mid-August.

New wave

The 27-nation EU is currently still using the same coronavirus vaccines that were approved nearly two years ago for use against the original strain.

While they offer some protection against newer variants, the race has been on to produce jabs that also target the milder but more infectious Omicron strains.

While previous “variants of concern” like Alpha and Delta eventually petered out, Omicron and its sublineages have dominated throughout 2022.

The BA.4 and BA.5 types have in particular helped to drive a wave of new cases of the disease in Europe and the United States in recent months.

Health authorities have

therefore been keen to get updated vaccines as soon as possible ahead of a feared new wave of the disease later this year.

All Omicron variants tend to have a milder disease course as they settle less in the lungs and more in the upper nasal passages, causing symptoms like fever, tiredness and loss of smell.

The EMA said its review of the adapted Pfizer and Moderna vaccines focused on data from laboratory studies and from tests on the immune response against the original strain and the Omicron variant.

The adapted vaccines under consideration Thursday “more closely match the original strain and the BA.1 Omicron subvariant”, the agency said.

SOURCE: AFP



The 27-nation EU is currently still using the same coronavirus vaccines that were approved nearly two years ago for use against the original strain. PHOTO: EUROPA.EU

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 2 September 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 3 September 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Southern Shan, Chin, Rakhine States, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and (Northern and Eastern)Shan, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay Region. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3 - 6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:Increase of rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Northern Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 September 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 September 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 September 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

NASA readies for Saturday Moon rocket launch attempt

THE stars appear to be aligned for NASA's Moon rocket to finally blast off on Saturday, with weather forecasts favorable and technical issues that postponed the launch earlier this week resolved.

Liftoff is scheduled for 2:17 pm local time (1817 GMT) from Kennedy Space Center in Florida, with the potential for up to a two-hour delay if necessary.

The chance for favorable weather conditions within that window sat at 60 percent Thursday evening.

"The weather looks good,"



The Artemis I unmanned lunar rocket sits on the launch pad at the Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Florida. NASA has been working to correct the technical difficulties that lead to the last-minute delay of the launch during its originally scheduled window Monday. **PHOTO: CHANDAN KHANNA/AFP**

and isn't expected to be a "show-stopper," forecast analyst Melody Lovin said at a press conference.

NASA has also been working to correct the technical difficulties that lead to the last-minute delay of the launch during its originally scheduled window Monday.

At first, it seemed that one of the rocket's four main engines was too hot, though it turned out just to be a reading from a "bad sensor," the rocket's program manager John Honeycutt said Thursday.

In the future, the incorrect information will simply be ignored.

Then a fuel tank leak had to be patched.

"We were able to find what we believe is the source of the leak and correct that," launch director Charlie Blackwell-Thompson said.

The Artemis 1 mission is an uncrewed test flight. It will be the first launch for the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket, the most powerful in the world and which has been in development for more than a decade.—AFP

Chinese scientist advocates int'l cooperation in space science



An art conception image of the Chinese Space Station Telescope slated to be launched at the end of 2023. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES - CAS**

A thousand people may have a thousand answers as to why we explore space. For 64-year-old Chinese scientist Wu Ji, exploring space has a more self-reflective meaning.

"When one enters space, one will realize that human be-

ings are an indivisible whole. Regardless of skin colour, they have far more in common than they have differences," said Wu, chairman of the Chinese Society of Space Research.

It is under this belief that for more than two decades, Wu has

been persisting in one thing — promoting international cooperation in the field of space science.

In July, at the 44th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research in Greece, Wu was awarded the International Cooperation Medal, which recognizes scientists who have made outstanding contributions to international cooperation in space science.

This is the first time in the 38 years since the award was established that it has been awarded to a Chinese scientist.

Like many space scientists, Wu's initial dream was illuminated by a "star". The sight of China's first satellite "Dongfanghong-1" in the night sky over 50 years ago lingered in Wu's memory. From then on, he began to aspire to explore space.—Xinhua

Greenpeace drops boulders on UK seabed to curb bottom-trawling fishing

GREENPEACE UK said Friday it had dropped 18 large boulders on the seabed in a marine conservation zone off the coast of southwest England to prevent "destructive" industrial fishing.

The environmental campaigners sailed to the western part of the Channel between the UK and France, loaded with the boulders of Portland limestone, each weighing between 500 and 1,400 kilograms (1,100 and 3,100 pounds).

The giant rocks were dropped on Thursday from its Arctic Sunrise research vessel in an area of the South West Deep (East) Conservation Zone, which lies some 190 kilometres (120 miles) off Land's End, the most westerly point of mainland England.

"We are placing large limestone boulders on the seabed to create a protective underwater

barrier which will put the area off limits to destructive fishing," Anna Diski, UK oceans campaigner, told AFP on board.

The action would make it "impossible for them to drag the heavy fishing gear along the seabed, destroying the habitat and disturbing the carbon", she added.

Artists created a giant ammonite sculpture — inspired by the fossil often found in Portland limestone — out of one of the boulders, which was also placed on the seabed.

The names of the action's celebrity backers and supportive politicians were also inscribed on the rocks.

"Right now, there's an industrial fishing frenzy happening in UK waters, and what's our government doing about it?" asked Greenpeace UK's head of oceans, Will McCallum.—AFP



The boulders were dropped into the South West Deep, a marine conservation zone off the coast of southwest England. **PHOTO: AFP**

Europe's fiery summer: a climate 'reality check'?

WILDFIRES and storms. Rivers at record lows. Parched crops withering in the fields. For many Europeans, this year's scorching summer means climate change is increasingly hard to ignore.

After months of cloudless days and drought, the weather has been one of the major themes of media coverage — and discussions during family gatherings — over the annual August holiday period.

"This summer has seen a series of extreme weather

events," French government spokesman Olivier Veran told a first press conference after he and the government returned to the office last week.

It had been a "complete reality check, even for the most sceptical", he said.

France experienced its second-hottest summer on record, its driest one since 1976 and the worst in terms of the loss of forestry to wildfires since 2003, he said.

In recent months, some French villages have need-

ed to be supplied with water trucks as their usual sources have dried up. Fires have repeatedly ravaged pine forests near Bordeaux.

Even in the normally verdant Alps, cheese makers complain that their cows are producing less milk than usual because their pastures are dried up.

The picture is similar across Europe.

In Italy, the collapse of the country's largest Alpine glacier in July sparked an avalanche that killed 11 people.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

US life expectancy drops for 2nd straight year, due to Covid



Americans are living shorter lives, according to new government data which showed a drop in US life expectancy in 2021 for the second straight year, due in large part to the deadly coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: ROBYN BECK/ AFP/FILE**

LIFE expectancy for Americans dropped in 2021 for the second straight year — the biggest two-year decline in a century — notably due to the Covid-19 pandemic, US health officials announced Wednesday.

US life expectancy at birth

dipped by nearly a full year from 2020 to 2021, to 76.1 years, the lowest average since 1996, according to provisional data from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

By comparison, Americans in 2020 were expected to live 77

years, a sharp drop from the 78.8 years in 2019. “The declines in life expectancy since 2019 are largely driven by the pandemic,” said the CDC’s National Centre for Health Statistics.

Coronavirus-related deaths accounted for three quarters of the drop in 2020, and about half of the decline in 2021, it said.

Some 15 per cent of the 2021 slide could be attributed to deaths from accidents or unintentional injuries, notably drug overdoses. The sharpest decline in life expectancy last year occurred among Native Americans and Alaska Natives, at 1.9 years, followed by white Americans (1.0) and Black Americans (0.7), according to the CDC.

Life expectancy for Native Americans was estimated at a mere 65.2 years in 2021, compared to 70.8 years for Black Americans and 76.4 years for white Americans.—AFP

Covid puts paid to 2023 indoor athletics champs in Nanjing

NANJING have had their hosting of the World Indoor Athletics Championships postponed for a third time due to Covid-19 and will hold them in 2025 the sport’s governing body World Athletics announced on Thursday.

Glasgow will host the next edition of the event in March 2024, with the Chinese city finally stepping in as hosts five years later than planned in 2025.

“It is with regret that the World Athletics Council has decided to postpone the World Athletics Indoor Championships Nanjing 2023, scheduled for 17-19 March 2023, until March 2025 (exact dates to be confirmed),” said World Athletics in a statement.

“This decision was taken with the agreement of both the Nanjing organizing committee and the Chinese Athletics Association (CAA), due to the ongoing pandemic conditions.”

The 2020 championships was first held over until March 2021, and then to March 2023, as the pandemic continued, with

Belgrade hosting the 2022 edition.

“We’re disappointed that we have had to postpone this event again due to circumstances beyond our control, but we have done so to give certainty to athletes and Member Federations preparing for the 2023 competition season,” World Athletics President Sebastian Coe said.

“Unfortunately, the time-

frame will prevent us from re-locating the 2023 event, but the indoor championships will return in 2024 in Glasgow.”

Coe said they had given Nanjing the slot for 2025 “because we are mindful of the substantial preparations the LOC has already done to host the event and we want to avoid potential financial losses for all parties”.—AFP



Ukraine’s Yaroslava Mahuchikh reacts after victory in the women’s high jump final during The World Athletics Indoor Championships 2022 at the Stark Arena, in Belgrade, on 19 March 2022. **PHOTO: ANDREJ ISAKOVIC / AFP**

Indonesia steps up measures to curb monkeypox spread

HEALTH authorities in Indonesia have stepped up their efforts to curb the spread of the monkeypox outbreak after the detection of the country’s first confirmed case of the virus in the capital Jakarta.

At a hearing with Indonesian lawmakers here on Tuesday, the country’s Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin said that the ministry had already ordered about 2,000 monkeypox vaccines from a biotechnology company in Denmark and was working to procure relevant medicines from the United States.

Earlier, the ministry said that it aimed at importing around 10,000 vaccines to prevent those who have been exposed to monkeypox from developing the disease.

The Southeast Asian country announced its first case of monkeypox almost two weeks ago when an Indonesian man who returned home after international travel early this month tested positive for the virus. The 27-year-old patient reportedly felt feverish with smallpox rashes on his body including his face, palms and feet.

The ministry’s spokesperson Mohammad Syahril told local media on Tuesday that the condition of the patient had already improved, but the man still needed to self-isolate at home under the supervision of a medical team. The team had also checked the patient’s families and found them not contracting the virus, Syahril added.—Xinhua



International travellers wearing face masks walk at Ngurah Rai International Airport in Bali, Indonesia, 16 Feb 2022. **PHOTO: BISINGLASI/XINHUA**

Chinese city of 21 million shuts down over Covid outbreak

AROUND 21 million people in the Chinese city of Chengdu effectively went into lockdown on Thursday as authorities raced to snuff out a new Covid-19 outbreak. China is the last major economy wedded to a zero-Covid policy, stamping out virus flare-ups with snap shutdowns, mass testing and lengthy quarantines.

Chengdu, in the southwest, became the latest city to announce a shutdown, saying in an official notice that residents must “stay home in principle” from 6:00 pm (1000 GMT) on Thursday to combat a new wave of infections.

Each household will be allowed to send one person out to buy groceries and essential

goods per day, provided they have tested negative in the previous 24 hours, the notice said.

It added that all residents would be tested for the virus between Thursday and Sunday, and urged them not to leave the city unless “absolutely necessary”. “The current state of epidemic control is abnormal, complex and grim,” the announcement said, adding that the measures aimed to “decisively arrest the spread of the outbreak and guarantee the health of all citizens”.

Chengdu recorded 157 new local infections on Thursday, of which 51 displayed no symptoms, the city government said in a separate notice.—AFP

ECONOMY

WORLD

Inflation, rising interest rates weigh on New Zealand's economic recovery

THE New Zealand economy is grappling with headwinds, primarily high inflation and rising interest rates, according to a report by the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research.

These challenges add to continued labor shortages, with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic still evident, particularly in the services sector. These factors are weighing on the economic recovery, with signs of slowing activity across many industries, the institute's principal economist Christina Leung said on Wednesday.

"Cost pressures remain intense for households and businesses, and this is driving pessimism," Leung said, adding that central banks around the world have responded to the surge in inflation by increasing interest rates at a rapid clip.

"While this is having the intended dampening effect on demand, there are concerns activity will slow to the point of pushing economies into recession," she added.

The increase in interest rates has had the most immediate effect on the housing market, with the number of house sales falling and an easing in house prices.

The latest retail sales data show a slowing in retail spending, and this is expected to continue as households hunker down to weather these latest headwinds of rising living costs and increased mortgage repayments, Leung said.— Xinhua



Shoppers queue outside a supermarket in the suburb of Devonport in Auckland on 12 Aug 2020. **PHOTO:: DAVID ROWLAND/AFP**

Mexico plans to open lithium sector to private investors

MEXICO will open lithium exploitation to private investors because there are insufficient public funds to develop the recently nationalized sector, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said on Wednesday.

"Public funding alone would not be enough. Quite a lot of investment is required," Lopez Obrador told reporters.

Opening the sector to private capital will "have a lot of support. It's of interest to national and foreign investors," he predicted. In April, Congress approved a plan to put exploration and mining of the metal — a vital material in the production of batteries for electric cars, mobile phones and other technology — under state control.

The government said at the time that it would review eight lithium exploration concessions granted by previous governments to private companies, including a firm controlled by China's Ganfeng Lithium.— AFP



Mexico's deposits of the metal are mainly found in the northwestern state of Sonora, where drug traffickers and other organized crime gangs operate. **PHOTO: BACANORA LITHIUM**

California law would make tech firms think of children



In this file photo, girls show their Facebook "wall" on their mobile devices in Jakarta. **PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/BAY ISMOYO / AFP**

CALIFORNIA legislators on Tuesday passed a bill to require tech firms to put the well-being of children over profits when designing apps or other online products.

The bill is heading to the desk of Governor Gavin Newsom whose signature is needed for the Age-Appropriate Design Code Act to become law in the state that is home to Silicon Valley titans such as Meta, Google, and Apple.

The office of Assembly woman Buffy Wicks said the bill — AB 2273 — passed by a unanimous vote. If signed into law, firms making apps or websites would have to build protections for children into products, even if they are intended for adults, according to the bill. "Businesses that develop and provide online services, products, or features that children are likely to access should consider the best interests of children when designing, developing, and providing that online service, product, or feature," the bill read.— AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brazil unemployment at lowest level since December 2015

BRAZIL'S unemployment rate stood at 9.1 per cent from May to July, the lowest level since December 2015, when it registered the same, the state-run Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) announced Wednesday.

According to the IBGE report, some 9.9 million people were out of work in July, the lowest number since the three-month period ending in January 2016.

The number of people with jobs reached a record 98.7 million from May to July, an increase of 8 million people year on year.

The labour force participation rate in the South American country was 57 per cent, 1.1 percentage points higher than in the previous three months and 4.1 percentage points higher year on year.

The underemployment rate stood at 20.9 per cent, equivalent to 24.3 million people, the lowest level since June 2016.

Informal employment in the period was 39.8 per cent, equivalent to 39.3 million people, and lower than the 40.1 per cent of the previous three months and the 40.2 per cent compared to the same period of 2021. In addition, income grew by 2.9 per cent on average during the period compared to the previous three months, reaching 2,693 reals (522 US dollars), 2.9 per cent lower than May-July 2021.—Xinhua

UK real incomes to fall 10% in next two years: think tank

UK household incomes are set to fall 10 per cent in real terms in the next two years in the steepest such drop for a century, an influential think tank forecast Thursday.

Inflation is currently at a 40-year high of 10.1 per cent with dire predictions that rates could climb to 18 per cent or more next year due to soaring energy tariffs. The Resolution Foundation, which focuses on improving living standards for low and middle-income families, published projections that median real household incomes will fall 10 per cent between 2021-22 and 2023-2024.

That equates to a loss of £3,000 (\$3,475).

It blamed "global supply shocks and war in Ukraine" but also low productivity and earnings growth over the last decade.

The drop in real income "is likely to be the worst for at least a century", the report said.

"With high inflation likely to stay with us for much of next year, the outlook for living standards is, frankly, terrifying," said one of the report's authors, Lalitha Try.—AFP

GM driverless car unit recalls vehicles after accident

GENERAL Motor’s autonomous vehicle unit Cruise recalled 80 cars and updated their software after one failed to properly predict the trajectory of an oncoming vehicle.

The company, which

is the first to have deployed driverless taxis in San Francisco in June, sent a notice this week to the US agency in charge of road safety, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

In filings which came

to public attention Thursday, Cruise explains that on 3 June one of its cars was hit from the rear by another vehicle after breaking sharply while making an unprotected left turn. The self-driving vehicle decided “a hard

brake was necessary to avoid a severe front-end collision with an oncoming vehicle”, the document said.

Two people were slightly injured, according to a report submitted to the California Department of Motor Vehicles. Police determined that the other vehicle was primarily responsible for the incident as it was not in the correct lane and was travelling over the speed limit.

The NHTSA, however, did not fully exonerate Cruise from liability, stating that the software could, “in certain circumstances when making an unprotected left, cause the ADS (automated driving system) to incorrectly predict another vehicle’s path or be insufficiently reactive.”—AFP



General Motor’s Cruise self-driving car is designed to operate on its own with no driver, steering wheel, pedals or other manual controls. PHOTO: GENERAL MOTORS/AFP/FILE

Shell not to join Russia’s new Sakhalin 2 energy project: report

BRITISH oil giant Shell PLC has informed Russia it will not participate in Moscow’s new Sakhalin 2 oil and gas energy project, Bloomberg reported Friday.

The decision by the London-based firm, which

held an approximately 27.5 per cent stake in the project in the Russian Far East, comes in line with its announcement of its exit from Russia following Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine.

Japanese trading houses Mitsui & Co. and Mitsubishi Corp., meanwhile, have decided to keep their stakes of 12.5 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively, in the new operator and have received Russian approval.

The new entity was set up in early August under a decree by Russian President Vladimir Putin. An affiliate of Russian energy firm Gazprom had a stake of around 50 per cent in the old operator. —Kyodo

India-Philippines consortium sells Cebu airport business for \$440.2 mn



The consortium of GMR Group and the Philippines’ Megawide Construction Corp will sell its interests to operate the Mactan-Cebu International Airport to Aboitiz InfraCapital Inc, a unit of a family-owned conglomerate. PHOTO: TED ALJIBE/AFP/FILE

A consortium that includes India’s GMR Group is selling its business developing and operating the Philippines’ second-largest airport for 25 billion pesos (\$440.2 million), its Filipino partner announced Friday.

The consortium of GMR Group and the Philippines’ Megawide Construction Corp will sell its interests to operate the Mactan-Cebu International Airport to Aboitiz InfraCapital Inc, a unit of a family-owned conglomerate.

Megawide said in a disclosure to the local stock exchange that the

deal includes the issuance of shares and convertible notes to acquire the company.

The listed parent firm Aboitiz Equity Ventures confirmed the deal in a separate disclosure.

The Philippine government in 2014 awarded a 25-year concession to GMR and Megawide to operate and expand the main gateway to the central city of Cebu, the country’s second-largest metropolis after Manila.

Megawide said the sale is subject to “customary closing conditions”, which includes approval from third parties and regulators. —AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (001E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (001E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S X-PRESS FEEDERS LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA RAJIN VOY.NO. (KRJN0262N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA RAJIN VOY.NO. (KRJN0262N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-9-2022** 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNIVERSE PROSPERITY

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNIVERSE PROSPERITY VOY.NO. (2207)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ELDER TRIUMPHANT SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

US, Japan, S. Korea pledge resolute response to N Korea nuke test

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and his Japanese and South Korean counterparts discussed North Korea on Thursday in Hawaii and agreed to take resolute steps in the event of another North Korean nuclear test, according to South Korean media.

Sullivan, Takeo Akiba and Kim Sung Han “agreed that there must not be naive thinking or reaction that North Korea has conducted six nuclear tests and that (a new test) will only be one more nuclear test,” Kim told reporters, according to Yonhap News Agency.

“Should North Korea conduct its seventh nuclear test, our reaction will certainly be different from those until now,” the South Korean official added, saying trilateral cooperation will be “maximized” so the North realizes conducting a seventh nuclear test was the “wrong



An unidentified mobile rocket launcher is displayed during a military parade marking the 105th anniversary of the birth of late North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung, in Pyongyang on 15 April 2017. **PHOTO: ED JONES/AFP /FILE**

decision.”

Pyongyang is believed to have completed preparations for what would be its seventh nuclear test and first since September 2017, and there is

speculation it could go ahead with it soon.

The White House said in a statement that the national security advisers “condemned the DPRK’s continued develop-

ment of its ballistic missile and weapons of mass destruction programmes,” adding that the United States reaffirmed “our commitment to extended deterrence to both countries.”—Kyodo

Man arrested for pointing gun at Argentine VP Kirchner

A man was arrested in Argentina on Thursday for pointing a gun at Vice-President Cristina Kirchner, security minister Anibal Fernandez said.

Several television channels broadcast footage of the man aiming a gun at the vice-president’s head from close range as she was getting out of the car that was taking her home in Buenos Aires.

Fernandez said police would open an investigation.

“Now, the situation has to be analyzed by our scientific people to evaluate the fingerprints and the capacity and propensity this person had,” he said. The gun did not go off as the man, who approached Kirchner as part of a crowd gathering around the politician to ask for her autograph, waved the weapon in her face.—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

‘We’re not stopping’ IAEA chief says despite strike near Ukraine nuclear plant

UN inspectors vowed to continue their visit to a Russian-held nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine on Thursday despite an early shelling attack on the town next to the facility.

“We are aware of the current situation. There has been military activity, including this morning, several minutes ago.. but we are not stopping,” IAEA chief Rafael Grossi told reporters.

His remarks came as Ukraine accused Russia of firing on Energodar, the town next to the plant which is about a two-hour drive from Zaporizhzhia.

“We know there is a grey area where the last line of Ukrainian defence and the first line of the Russian occupying forces begins, where the risks are significant,” Grossi said shortly before the team left to cross the frontline into Russian-held territory.



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Rafael Grossi speaks to media in Zaporizhzhia on 1 September 2022, as UN inspectors prepare to head to the Russian-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine. **PHOTO: GENYA SAVILOV / AFP**

“I believe we have to proceed with this. We have a very important mission to accomplish.”

An AFP team saw them leave Zaporizhzhia city at around 8:15 am (0515 GMT).

Energodar lies on the south

side of the Dnipro River, with Mayor Dmytro Orlov saying the town of 50,000 had come under sustained attack since dawn, when Russian troops had “shelled Energodar with mortars and used automatic weapons and rockets”.—AFP

Ukrainian grain reaches Djibouti

A UN-chartered ship loaded with Ukrainian wheat destined for millions at risk of starvation in Ethiopia arrives in Djibouti.

The bulk carrier MV Brave Commander carrying 23,000 tonnes of grain docked in the Horn of Africa port city, the UN’s World Food Programme says, two weeks after leaving Ukraine.

Ukraine, one of the world’s largest grain exporters, was forced to halt almost all deliveries after Russia’s invasion,

raising fears of a global food crisis.

Exports of grains, other foodstuffs and fertilizers from three Black Sea ports resumed at the start of this month under a deal between Kyiv and Moscow that was brokered by the UN and Türkiye in July.

According to the Joint Coordination Centre which manages the sea corridor, more than 720,000 tonnes of grain have already left Ukraine.—AFP



The bulk carrier MV Brave Commander carrying 23,000 tonnes of grain docked in the Horn of Africa port city, the UN’s World Food Programme says, two weeks after leaving Ukraine. **PHOTO: AFP**

Truss on brink of power as UK Tories finish voting

AFTER a gruelling nationwide tour, a dozen hustings and three televised debates, Liz Truss appears poised to take over as the UK's next prime minister heading into the close of voting by Conservative party members on Friday.

The result of the summer-long campaign pitting the foreign secretary against former chancellor Rishi Sunak will be announced on Monday, before Prime Minister Boris Johnson formally tenders his resignation to Queen Elizabeth II the next day.

Postal and online voting by the estimated 200,000 Tory members began in early August, a

month after Johnson announced his resignation, and concludes at 5:00 pm (1600 GMT).

Truss enjoys overwhelming support over Sunak in polling of the members.

But the winner faces a vanishingly short political honeymoon once they return to 10 Downing Street from meeting the queen in the Scottish Highlands.

The UK is in the throes of its worst cost-of-living crisis in generations, with inflation soaring by double digits as energy prices rocket on the back of Russia's war in Ukraine.

Millions say that with bills set to rise by 80 per cent from



British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss cheers prior to the UEFA Women's Euro 2022 final football match between England and Germany at Wembley stadium on 31 July 2022. PHOTO: AFP

October -- and further from January -- they face a painful choice between eating and heating this

winter, according to surveys.

Truss has vowed tax cuts but those would do nothing to

benefit the poorest.

For weeks, the Tory front-runner has been ruling out direct handouts, and went further at the final hustings Wednesday by repeating former US president George Bush's promise of no more taxes -- which he soon broke.

But writing in Thursday's edition of The Sun newspaper, Truss vowed to "deliver immediate support to ensure people are not facing unaffordable fuel bills" this winter. "I firmly believe, in these grave times, we need to be radical," she added, previewing her Thatcherite agenda of reform to cement Johnson's Brexit legacy.—AFP

Germany, Israel mark 50 years since Munich Olympics massacre



For years, relatives battled to obtain an official apology from Germany and appropriate compensation. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

ISRAEL and Germany's presidents will jointly commemorate the 1972 Munich Olympics attack that left 11 Israeli athletes dead,

after a last-minute compensation deal averted a feared boycott by bereaved relatives.

Around 70 relatives of vic-

tims will join in next Monday's solemn 50th-anniversary ceremony, Ankie Spitzer, whose husband Andre Spitzer counted among the dead, told AFP. Separately, the Israel Olympic Committee confirmed a delegation at the event.

The long-planned ceremony had risked descending into a fiasco over a row between relatives and the German state over financial compensation for their suffering.

But an 11th-hour deal on "historical clarification, recognition and compensation" was announced on Wednesday, with Germany offering 28 million euros (dollars) in reparations, six times the amount previously provided.—AFP

Poland asks Germany for war reparations of 1.3 trillion euros

POLAND on Thursday estimated the financial cost of World War II losses to be 1.3 trillion euros (dollars) and said it would "ask Germany to negotiate these reparations".

"It is a major sum of 6.2 trillion" Polish zloty, said Jaroslaw Kaczynski, head of the ruling Law and Justice party and widely considered to be Poland's de facto leader.

Most of this sum "is compensation for the deaths of more than 5.2 million Polish citizens," he stressed.

Kaczynski said that receiving reparations would be a "long and difficult" process.

"It is a decision we will implement," he said, speaking on the anniversary of Nazi Germany's invasion of Poland on 1 September 1939. Kaczynski

was speaking at a conference dedicated to the presentation of a report on Poland's losses in the 1939-1945 war.

Since coming to power in 2015, Poland's governing Law and Justice (PiS) party has often championed the issue of war reparations.

Work on the reparations report began in 2017, when the conservative government insisted that Germany had a "moral duty" in the matter.

German position 'unchanged'

Germany has often rejected Poland's claims, pointing to a 1953 decision by Poland to renounce claims against East Germany. The German government on Thursday turned down the Polish call to negotiate on reparations.—AFP

Angola's leader faces uphill battle after narrow win

PRESIDENT Joao Lourenco faces Herculean tasks of fixing Angola's economy and winning over its disillusioned youth as he enters his second term with decimated support, analysts say.

Lourenco's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), which has been in power for nearly half century, won 51.17 per cent of the vote in the 24 August elections for the National Assembly.

The leader of the winning

party automatically ascends to the presidency, which means Lourenco has earned a second spell at the helm. But it was also the MPLA's poorest showing since the first democratic vote in the former Portuguese colony in 1992. In 2017, it picked up 61 per cent of the ballot. The falloff will hike pressure on Lourenco to deliver on touted economic reforms and will reinvigorate the opposition, Augusto Santana of the non-profit Democracy Works

Foundation predicted.

He could face possible street protests and dissent from within the MPLA, Santana told AFP by phone from Luanda, the capital.

"He faces quite a lot of challenges," he said.

Lourenco, 68, came to power in 2017 when he took over from long-time ruler Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who bequeathed a country deep in recession and riddled by corruption and nepotism.—AFP



People wave Polish flags during an event on 1 August 2022 to mark the 78th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising. PHOTO: WOJTEK RADWANSKI / AFP/FILE



Pauk Sa to compete in two world billiards championships



Myanmar Billiard Player Pauk Sa. PHOTO: PAUK SA'S FACEBOOK PAGE

MYANMAR national billiards star Pauk Sa, who won the gold medal in the 31st Viet Nam SEA Games, will compete in two world billiards championships, according to the Myanmar Billiard and Snooker Federation.

Pauk Sa is currently taking training for the 2023 Cambodia SEA Games and will also compete in two World Billiards tournaments this year.

Myanmar star player will compete in the IBSF World

Billiards Championship in Malaysia in early October and the WPBSA World Billiards Championship in Singapore in November.

The World Billiards Tournament organized by the International Billiards and Snooker Federation (IBSF) is a tournament that Myanmar players regularly compete in, and the World Billiards Tournament organized by the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) is Myanmar's first entry.

Pauk Sa also plans to compete in the Singapore Open, which will be held in Singapore before the WPBSA World Billiards Championship.

Pauk Sa won the gold medal in the billiards individual competition in the 31st SEA Games held in May this year. He is also preparing for the upcoming SEA Games in Cambodia and has previously scored more than 1,000 points at one time. —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.

Real Madrid tackle in-form Betis ahead of Champions League opener

REAL Madrid put their perfect start to the season on the line this weekend against Real Betis, the only other La Liga team with a 100 per cent record, before kicking off their Champions League defence. Carlo Ancelotti's side top the table on goal difference above Copa del Rey holders Betis, who like Madrid have won their first three matches of the campaign. Madrid will play at the Santiago Bernabeu for the first time this season on Saturday as renovation work continues on their iconic ground.

Goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, who was nominated for the UEFA player of the year prize won last week by team-mate Karim Benzema, expects Betis to give them a difficult afternoon.

"Betis play really well. Last season we had some tough games against them. They play good football, they've got loads

of experience and we'll have to press them well, while being careful," said Courtois.

"It's going to be a good match. Then we've got the Champions League, so I hope we can keep winning with another victory in our first home game. It'll be tough, but we'll be ready."

Madrid, the record 14-time European champions, begin their European quest away to Scottish champions Celtic next Tuesday, while Betis visit HJK Helsinki in the Europa League.

Barcelona appear to be hitting their stride, with Robert Lewandowski striking twice in each of the past two outings following a goalless draw on the opening weekend. Having finally been cleared to make his Barca debut in the 4-0 win over Real Valladolid, France defender Jules Kounde could line up against his former club Sevilla on Saturday.—AFP

Manchester United cult hero Park gets job at top Korean club



Park Ji-sung, pictured in 2019, is an Asian football legend. PHOTO: AFP

FORMER Manchester United midfielder and cult hero Park Ji-sung has been named as the technical director at South Korea's reigning champions.

The 41-year-old was last December named a youth coach at Queens Park Rangers in England's second tier and

has also worked as a consultant at top K League side Jeonbuk Motors.

Jeonbuk said that in his new, elevated role at the club he will help oversee youth teams and handle transfers.

"With the transition, Park's managerial capacity will be

greatly expanded," Jeonbuk said in a statement.

Park played for Manchester United for seven seasons, winning the Champions League and four Premier League titles, before moving to QPR as a player.

The South Korean international, a hugely popular figure in his homeland, retired in 2014 after years of struggles with knee injuries.

Park hopes to bring his experience of the Premier League into his new role.

"I would like to impart elements of European football culture here to help South Korean players adapt better once they play in Europe" as international players, he said.

One of the changes he has already brought in is getting rid of dormitory life for players, who used to spend nights together at the club's dormitory.—AFP