IMPLEMENT A CONTRACT FARMING SYSTEM TO BENEFIT FARMERS PAGE-8 (OPINION)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 144, 13th Waxing of Tawthalin 1384 ME www.gnlm.com.mm Wednesday, 7 September 2022

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Adviser to Russian President and Executive Secretary of Eastern Economic Forum Organizing Committee Mr Anton Kobyakov

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, currently in the Russian Federation, held a meeting with Adviser to the Russian President and Executive Secretary of the Eastern Economic Forum Organizing Committee Mr Anton Kobyakov on FEFU Campus in Vladivostok of the Russian Federation in the evening local standard time yesterday.

Also present at the meeting together with the Senior General were Council Joint-Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union ministers, senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Myanmar Ambassador to Russia U Lwin Oo and Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Moe Kyaw. The Adviser to the Russian President and Executive Secretary of the Eastern Economic Forum Organizing Committee was accompanied by Deputy Minister for Defence of the Russian Federation Colonel General Alexander Vasilievich Fomin and officials.

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State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Adviser to the Russian President and Executive Secretary of the Eastern Economic Forum Organizing Committee Mr Anton Kobyakov in Vladivostok yesterday.

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State flags hung at International Space Station in honour of Heads of State to 7th Eastern Economic Forum-2022

RUSSIAN astronauts hung State flags at the International Space Station in honour of the Heads of State who will attend the 7th Eastern Economic Forum-2022 held in the Russian Federation.

Together with Russian President Vladimir Putin Chairman of the State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Prime Minister of Armenia Mr Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister of Mongolia Mr Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China Mr Li Zhanshu will attend the 7th Eastern Economic Forum-2022 to be held on 7 September.

As a gesture of honouring the Heads of State at the Plenary Session of the seventh Eastern Economic Forum-2022, Russian astronauts hung the State flags of the Russian Federation, Myanmar, Armenia, Mongolia, and China at the International Space Station. In this regard, the State flags were hung with the Earth in the background to show their distant views.—MNA

Flags of the Russian Federation, Myanmar, Armenia, Mongolia and China are pictured being attached to the Intemational Space Station.

New White Elephant lives happy and healthy with mother mammal

The Baby White Elephant is seen happily and healthily along with his mother.

A 33-year-old female elephant called Zar Nan Hla kept by the Myanma Timber Enterprise in Taungup Township of Rakhine State gave birth to one white male elephant at 6:30 am on 23 July 2022. The baby elephant was two feet and five inches in height, three feet and one inch in girth, with its birth weight of 180 pounds.

The newly-born white elephant has pearl-coloured eyes, a plantain branch-shaped back, white hair, a distinctive tail, auspicious plot signs on the skin, reddish-brown or pinkish skin, five claws on the front legs and big ears. Therefore, these features conform with seven out of eight characteristics.

Now, the baby white elephant is 45 days old and two feet and seven inches in height, three feet and five inches in girth and weighs about 202 pounds. He stays healthy and happy with his mother elephant, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. — MNA

146 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 6 September, total figure rises to 615,800

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **615,800** after **146** new cases—**11** imported and **135** local transmission—were reported on 6 September 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **593,848** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **19,442** after **one** died. —MNA

Those wishing to enter the legal fold can contact respective townships' Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in addition to reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council has released statements inviting CDM staff, students and youths, who are in border areas and ethnic armed groups, they can contact the nearest reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations if they want to enter the legal fold and the government will guarantee their lives following the rules and regulations.

In order to prevent the unnecessary loss of human resources, the State Administration Council has publicly invited the basic education staff who are absent from duty to resume their duties and those who take part in armed resistance under various names of groups, including PDFs. Meanwhile, 3,156 education workers, who were absent from their duties, another 1,009 people, who want to withdraw the cases that were opened against them, and 231 PDF members have contacted and returned to the legal fold. Then, they were given back to their parents systematically and the numbers of people who enter the legal fold and those who wish to are rising. Therefore, the government is making efforts to accept more numbers of those people.

The government opens reception centres in border areas for those who would like to return to the legal fold. Moreover, those wishing to return home can contact respective townships' Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. It is guaranteed that they will be able to lead their daily lives peacefully.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Free and fair multiparty democratic general election

THE basis for strengthening a genuine multiparty democratic system is a "free and fair multiparty democratic general election". According to the results obtained through the election, the respective Hluttaws and the government can be structured and run the state apparatus. Therefore, I would like to present that it is necessary to be able to hold elections across the country in order for those who represent various classes of people in the regions and across the country to be elected.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting (2/2022) of the National Defence and Security Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 31 July 2022

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Adviser to Russian President ...

FROM PAGE-1

Both sides frankly exchanged views on the invitation to the 7th Eastern Economic Forum-2022, thanks for the hospitality, building good relations as good friends between the Russian Federation and Myanmar and two armed forces as the 75th Anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the Russian Federation and Myanmar will fall in the coming year, construction of the history of firm relations in the civil relations and promotion of economic cooperation similar to successful cooperation in military technology, plans to unveil new cooperation sectors between Russia-Myanmar fraternal nations, arrangements for running the direct flights in order to enhance the tourism industry and promote the trade sector, and further strengthening the friendly ties between the governments and the peoples of both countries and sector-wise cooperation.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the Adviser to the Russian President and Executive Secretary of the Eastern Economic Forum Organizing Committee exchanged gifts. — MNA

The Senior General and the Adviser to the Russian President exchange gifts.

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives interview with RIA of Rossiya Segodnya News Agency

The Senior General holds an interview with the Rossiya Segodnya News Agency, RIA in Vladivostok yesterday.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, currently in the Russian Federation, received RIA special correspondent Ms Kukushkina Tatiana from Rossiya Segodnya News Agency at the Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) in Vladivostok, Russia, yesterday morning local standard time and replied to queries.

During the interview, the SAC Chairman Prime Minister gave a full explanation to the questions regarding security perceptions of the Asia-Pacific Region, political development and peaceful stability of Myanmar, efforts to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election, Myanmar's continued adherence to the policies and provisions of the ASEAN Charter, measures to upgrade military-technological cooperation between Russia and Myanmar and answered other questions. The detailed contents of the interview will be published soon. — MNA

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits exhibition of Eastern Economic Forum-2022, holds talks with officials from Rosatom State Corporations

The Senior General views round the booths displayed at the Eastern Economic Forum-2022 yesterday.

THE seventh Eastern Economic Forum-2022 was launched at the Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) in Vladivostok of the Russian Federation on 5 September by organizing discussions, signing the memorandums of understanding and holding interviews in addition to displaying the sector-wise booths.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party, currently in the Russian Federation, visited the booths of the exhibition at the Eastern Economic Forum-2022 yesterday morning local standard time. At the booth of RZD Russian Railways, the booth in charge explained to the Senior General and party railway technology and services. The Senior General asked for further information.

While visiting the booths of Rus Hydro Hydroelectric power generation company for generating electricity, VEB.RF Investment company for monetary investment and Aeroflot Airline, officials from the booths explained functions and situation of cooperation. The Senior General and party raised questions about what they wanted to know.

In the afternoon, the Senior General and party received Chief Executive Officer Mr Alexey Evgenievich Likhachev of Rosatom State Corporations owned by Russia on FEFU Campus and discussed chances for observing experiences and technologies in the nuclear energy technological cooperation arena, cooperation in the sectors beneficial for peoples of both countries, plan to adopt the roadmap for cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy for the socioeconomic development of citizens, and utilization of nuclear energy in conducting tests of science and research, manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, industrial and all sectors including generating electricity.

The Senior General and the CEO of Rosatom State Corporations exchanged gifts.

After the meeting, the MoU signing ceremony between the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Electric Power of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Russian State-owned Rosatom State Corporations followed. CEO of Rosatom State Corporations Mr Alexey Evgenievich Likhachev and Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw and Union Minister for Electric Power U Thaung Han signed the MoU in the presence of the Senior General. — MNA

The Senior General receives the CEO of the Rosatom State Corporations yesterday.

The MoU signing event between the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Electric Power and the Rosatom State Corporations is in progress.

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm
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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Union ministers and deputy ministers who accompany SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hold discussions on respective sectors

UNION ministers and deputy ministers who accompany Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held discussions on respective sectors yesterday.

Union Ministers U Win Shein and Dr Kan Zaw attended the Russia-ASEAN Business Dialogue.

Mr Ivan Polyakov, Chief Executive Officer of the Interstate Corporation for Development of the Russian Federation and Chairman of the Russia-ASEAN Business Council led the discussions, participated by Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw together with businesspersons of the Russian Federation and Indonesia and officials of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Union Ministers U Win Shein, Dr Kan Zaw and U Hla Moe, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Myo Htut met Chief Executive Officer of the Interstate Corporation for Development of the Russian Federation and Chairman of the Russia-ASEAN Business Council Mr Ivan Polyakov and party, and discussed economic cooperation between Myanmar and Russia.

Union Ministers U Win Shein, Dr Kan Zaw, U Hla Moe, CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe and MoFA Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo Htut meet the CEO of the Interstate Corporation for Development of the Russian Federation and Chairman of the Russia-ASEAN Business Council.

Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win joins the Medical Panel Session of the Eastern Economic Forum 2022.

Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win attended the Medical Panel Session of the Eastern Economic Forum-2022 and discussed difficulties in the health system, efforts to overcome these difficulties, potential for grasping opportunities through cooperation among countries, application of advanced technologies in diagnostic measures, treatment for cancer, control of rapidly infected diseases and plans to share these technologies. Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw also held discussions on salient points for reforming the measures in the post-Covid-19 education system in the Strategic Technical Alliance of the forum.

Deputy Minister for Information Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun signed an agreement between the Sputnik news agency, the State-owned media and Myawaddy TV and discussed plans to promote cooperation in the development of the media sector. — MNA

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw participates in the Russia-ASEAN Business Dialogue.

MoI Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun and the Sputnik news agency exchange the agreement document.

MoHA Union Minister meets staff, family members of departments

Home Affairs Union Minister Lt-Gen Soe Htut meets the staff and family members of the police force in Sittway in Rakhine State on 4 September 2022.

OVERPOWERED by ethnic armed organizations, members of the security police forces assigned at a border outpost sacrificed their lives, holding to the motto "Our post shall never fall until we die", they were worthy of praise, and it is necessary for members of the police force to continue to carry out security duties, hand in hand with the Tatmadaw, said Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut, also a member of the State Administration Council.

The Union minister mentioned the above in meeting with the staff and family members of the security police force at the hall of the office of the commander of the Rakhine State police force in Sittway, on the morning of 4 September and at the Control Headquarters of Border Guard Police Force in Maungtaw area on the afternoon of 5 September.

At the meetings, the Union minister explained the guidance and instructions of the Head of State, the reasons for the emergence of the State Administration Council, compulsory basic education at the expense of the State, and the important role of mothers in the improvement of children's education and life. The Union minister also advised the family members to do the farming on a manageable scale. Then, the Union minister had a frank and cordial chat with members of the security force and the families and fulfilled their requirements.

During his tour, the Union minister also met with responsible personnel at the office of the Rakhine State General Administration Department and urged them to carry out preparatory work for elections systematically and to be precise and thorough in compiling data and statistics. Moreover, the Union minister proceeded to Rakhine State Fire Brigade, met with fire brigade members and their families and inspected the maintenance of fire engines. He also visited the Sittway prison, inspected the food and accommodation for the prisoners and met their needs.

On the evening of 6 September, the Union minister had lunch with members of the security police force at the police mess in Sittway. He gave detailed information about the movements of the armed insurgents and asked about the difficulties the members of the security police force had and satisfied their requirements. — MNA

MoI opens photo shooting, editing training course 1/2022

MoI Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn makes the opening address at the training course yesterday.

PHOTOGRAPHY records the moments that never be regained and the photos reflect the history and social culture of a nation, so it needs to take records of the good history, said Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn at the opening ceremony of the photo shooting and editing training course 1/2022 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Union minister said the training was conducted for the purpose of being able to shoot and edit from the basic level to the professional level not only for the ministry but also for the trainees.

The photo shooting and editing processes are absolutely essential to the reforms of the State and ministries.

The ministry arranges proper entertainment programmes for the public and covers the true news regarding the real situation of the country for them.

Trainees should study photo editing to receive quality photos using today's technologies.

The trainees should keep learning the new inventions in addition to the photo shooting and news-related topics provided by the training and make efforts to realize the objectives of the ministry and departments.

They also should apply the experiences gained from the courses practically and share them with their colleagues.

The training that will end on 16 September is being attended by a total of 20 officers and staff of IPRD.

It will provide photo editing, indoor and outdoor shooting, the basic structure of news writing, news and features writing styles, online news announcements and information flows.

Moreover, the officials of IPRD will deliver the knowledge regarding the achievement of department, management, drafting of MoI Website, MoI App, MTube App, aims of the photographic, competition, the News Media Law, bylaws and ethics and media and information during private study time of the trainees. — MNA

MoTC Union Minister inspects Pinpet-Naungkar Railway Project

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San inspected the construction of the Pinpet-Naungkar railway project yesterday.

During the inspection, the Union minister highlighted the need to maintain the tradition of the Kalaw Railway Station that can attract tourists and keep the station building and the yard clean and tidy. Afterwards, he called for cooperation with relevant departments to renovate the station and promote tourism.

In addition, the Union minister also inspected the condition of coupling rods connected with the antique steam locomotive and the designated area to build a railway that can link to the steel manufacturing plant in Pinpet and the place to build a Pinpet railway station.

Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San met officials and staff from the Taunggyi Railway Station and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

MoTC Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San views round the Kalaw Railway Station yesterday.

Trade Mark Ads Call 09251022355, 09974424848

MoFA Union Minister, MoIC Union Minister hold virtual meeting with Myanmar Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives, Consuls-General and Charges d'affaires of embassies in foreign countries

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing co-hosted a video conferencing on clarification of the guidance of the State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister with Myanmar Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives, Consuls-General and Charge d'affaires of embassies in foreign countries, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

It was attended by the permanent secretary and directors-general of the ministry.

First, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin explained the guidance of the SAC Chairman Prime Minister.

Regarding the six-month work performance of the government, he said the SAC serves the State's responsibilities under the 2008 Constitution by laying down the five-point roadmap and nine objectives. It also practises independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy and upholds the principles of peaceful coexistence among the nations.

He also said the Myanmar Embassies in foreign countries are responsible to promote bilateral relations and protect the interests of Myanmar citizens, and so they need to show a sense of duty awesomely.

They should respond to and announce promptly the misinformation of foreign countries regarding the actions of the government.

He then highlighted the security of embassies, persons and documents and described the role of diplomats as attackers and defenders.

He also stressed the need for the heads of embassies to initiate international relations processes with a broader vision, strong stance and belief, to protect the fellows and supervise to ensure mutual respect.

He then clarified the work plans on acceptance of displaced persons from Rakhine State, work progresses, the situation between Myanmar and the UN, relations with ASEAN, stance, attitude and activities of the government.

Furthermore, Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing clarified the case being heard at the International Court of Justice, Rakhine State issue, proper progress in international countries and facts that needed to be taken into account in international relations and resolving conflicts. — MNA

Coord meeting for amendment to printing and publishing law (draft) held

A coordination meeting to amend the Printing and Publishing Law (draft) was held at the meeting room of the Ministry of Legal Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am yesterday.

Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo, Deputy Minister Deputy Attorney-General U San Lwin, the directors-general and officials attended the meeting. They discussed whether the amendment to the Printing and Publishing Law (draft) should be enacted at present. As it is necessary to supplement necessary points in the Printing and Publishing Law promulgated in 2014, the meeting decided to enact the amending law currently and finalize the provisions that are required for amendment. — MNA

Deputy Information Minister inspects information services in Ayeyawady, Bago regions

DEPUTY Minister U Ye Tint of the Ministry of Information met the district head and staff of the Department of Information and Public Relations, staff officers from Kyangin, Myanaung, Ingapu, Laymyethna and Zalun townships and the head of the MRTV retransmission station at the Hinthada District Office on 5 September.

The deputy minister then inspects the factory of the MRTV retransmission station and met the employees.

In the afternoon, he met the district head and IPRD staff, and staff officers from Paukkhaung, Shwedaung, Padaung, Thegon and Paungde townships and the in charge of the MRTV retransmission station, and gave the necessary instructions.

The deputy minister inspected the Aunglan IPRD office and met the employees on 6 September. During the meeting, he instructed the employees to take their responsibilities in performing duties and make efforts for people's participation to bring about a peaceful and developed nation. — Natmauk IPRD/GNLM

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

OPINION

Implement a contract farming system to benefit farmers

IT IS expected to end this year's monsoon this month. Nowadays, lush and green paddy plantations are thriving in farmlands across the nation, showing the progress of monsoon paddy. Hence, rainfed and irrigated monsoon paddy plantations are waiting for the days of harvesting this season.

Farmers need to make preparations to grow summer paddy after harvesting monsoon paddy. In this regard, they need to choose the best option for their farming systems. Now, they have a chance to primarily choose the contract farming system or their own arrangement.

If they choose the contract farming system, they will have granted for taking quality strains of paddy seeds, fertilizers and diesel for operating their farmlands under the contracts signed for the cultivation of summer paddy in the 2022-2023 financial year with the aim of increasing the per-acre yield of summer paddy. Moreover, the provisions for the system will be worth K200,000 per acre to be supplied by the development fund.

Farmers are a reserved force for the nation-building task of the nation. Their productivity plays a key role in the development endeavours of the nation, providing sufficient food to the entire people as well as earning incomes of foreign exchange for the treasury of the State. Hence, an emphasis must be placed on improving the living standard of farmers with the facilitation of agricultural techniques and machinery.

The Myanmar Rice Federation is making arrangements to implement the contract farming system in growing 850,000 acres of summer paddy across the nation in the 2022-23 financial year. At this juncture, summer paddy growers and rice millers and rice companies must be grouped in respective townships so as to hold coordination for implementation of the supply chain financing process.

Although the government set the target to cultivate 850,000 acres of summer paddy across the nation, a total of 28 paddy companies and associate companies of the Myanmar Rice Federation have submitted their expressions of interest for growing 485,330 acres of summer paddy only. Hence, it is necessary to strive for meeting the target of growing summer paddy in time.

Now, the contract farming system has been adopted as a good plan for the agricultural sector. As such, farmers and businesspersons such as agricultural companies and rice millers need to cooperate with each other in the farming process to be able to win the best result. They have to give a helping hand to each other in farming work. If so, they will enjoy the benefit of the contract farming system.

Farmers are a reserved force for the nation-building task of the nation. Their productivity plays a key role in the development endeavours of the nation, providing sufficient food to the entire people as well as earning incomes of foreign exchange for the treasury of the State. Hence, an emphasis must be placed on improving the living standard of farmers with the facilitation of agricultural techniques and machinery. ■

ARTICLE

Why do we need to strengthen civil service capacities?

Dr Khine Khine Win

WHILE I was attending "Management Course for Executive-Level Officials" Course No 8 at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) from 24 January 2022 to 18 March 2022, many thoughts relating to civil service came into my mind. What are the values of civil service? Why do we need to strengthen civil service capacities? What is the relationship between democracy and civil service?

Civil service has diverse meanings. My understanding is that the civil service is one of the most important government organizations as it enables a country to function properly and to deliver public services. Civil service personnel are politically impartial employees who work for a department.

Here we need to know the values of civil service. According to GoI-UNDP Project, "Strengthening Human Resources Management of Civil Services", there are four pillars for good governance and citizen-centric administration. They are Ethos, Ethics, Equity and Efficiency (4Es). Being a civil servant, understanding the civil service values and acting accordingly is important. Indeed, they need to act ethically and behave in an open, fair and transparent manner. They have to be expressed and embodied in practical, visible ways, in behaviours and actions. It is important to help staff translate each value into expected or unacceptable behaviours and to create awareness of these behaviours through different means. We need to ensure that every level in departments and ministries not only understands the values but is equipped to behave consistently with those values in every aspect of work.

As Myanmar is on the way to becoming a democratic society, it is essential to promote the better delivery of public goods and services with increased accountability and to have efficient and skilful civil servants. It is a deliberate action and the democratic character of civil service. In order to have efficient and skilful civil servants in every governmental organization, the civil services should upgrade and keep ahead to perform the statutory duties impartially.

In order to nurture efficient civil service personnel, this is the time to train civil servants who have been serving in the government's ministries and departments, at both the Union and State levels in Myanmar. The Civil Service is one of the most important institutions in every country. Almost all countries have established civil service institutions, and so does Myanmar. Conducting training and educational programmes aimed at capacity enhancement of civil service personnel is one of the missions of the Union Civil Service Board, UCSB. As the civil service is the key platform between the public and a state, civil servants have the heavy responsibility of building a Nation. Each and every civil servant must have the required skills and knowledge as well as the right values and spirit of public service.

The Management Course No 8 for Executive Level Officials was held at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) from 24 January to 18 March 2022.

Not only do civil servants attend training, but they must also update their knowledge and skills in order to perform their statutory duties impartially. All civil service personnel need to hone their abilities to improve their performance by themselves.

The government needs to encourage and motivate civil servants by giving them the necessary training and exposure to give their best. In this vein, civil service training institutions play a crucial role in improving the capacity of civil service personnel and enabling them to achieve the Ministry/Department/Organization's mission and objectives. There is therefore a demand for upgraded training institutions, and there is also a need to upgrade the skills of trainers. Civil service training and capacity development require an uplift to meet international standards and to become more effective and responsive to the needs of the public. As Myanmar raises the quality of its civil service system, it needs trainers with the right values, skills, and knowledge to be effective practitioners. Indeed, in order for a training institution to perform its responsibility of training effectively, it needs to have motivated, qualified and experienced trainers. It is vital to train the trainers for the current and future development of skills, expertise, and ability in support of their designated responsibilities.

Based on my experiences, what I found out is that UCSB is starting to cultivate the spirits of civil service personnel with new types of teaching, aiming at upgrading their abilities, fulfilling people's needs promptly, and making them take responsibility and accountability in providing service to people.

We, all learners who have attended the "Management Course for Executive Level Officials", Course No 8 boosted our skills and knowledge, which is a precious thing for us, and another precious thing is that we could cultivate good relationships among ourselves.

To conclude, civil services are the bedrock of public administration and they have assumed a more important role in democracy to ensure good governance. No government can exist without administrative machinery. As Myanmar is new to democratic institutions, it is only the stable and efficient civil service that can strengthen democracy. I do believe that effective training courses like "Management Course for Executive Level Officials and Management Course for Senior Level Officials" benefit the individuals of civil service personnel and the department as a whole, and contribute to the achievement of government policy with good performance. ■

Immense efforts are on for next-generation COVID vaccines: Top expert

AS THE COVID-19 pandemic seems to be never-ending, scientists are working on next-generation vaccines and the top health expert said that a lot of efforts are on within the country for the development of vaccines. According to **Dr NK Arora Chairperson of COVID-19 working group NTAGI**, "This whole concept of next-generation vaccine is that we don't have to give repeated doses. The second is if we give the vaccine it covers the prevailing viruses and also future viruses better and the protection remains for a long time."

Health workers wait for the start of the Covid-19 coronavirus vaccination drive at the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) in New Delhi in 16 January 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

The next-generation vaccines

The next-generation vaccines should have the capability to protect people from future viruses. He said further some people are making strain-specific vaccines, some are also trying to prepare for bivalent or two types of viruses mixed together or four types of viruses mixed together. "There is a lot of effort going on within the country. Some people are making strain-specific vaccines some are also trying to prepare for bivalent or two types of viruses mixed together or four types of viruses mixed together. So that there is a benefit of that it may take some time," Dr Arora explained on types of Covid19 vaccines expected in future. He further said that Indian companies and academics have taken up this challenge and over the next few months there will be more information about it.

In line with the other global efforts

"As I said, India is always trying to foresee and then prepare itself. So, whether we are talking about precautions similarly for next-generation vaccines. In line with the other global efforts, Indian companies and academics have taken up this challenge and over the next few months, we should hear more about it," Dr Arora added. Meanwhile, India on Friday saw a marginal decline in daily Covid-19 cases with the country recording 6,168 new infections in the past 24 hours, according to the Union Health Ministry data. The country on Thursday logged 7,946 Covid-19 cases. Currently, India has 59,210 active cases. The death toll has climbed to 5,27,932 with 21 new fatalities in the last 24 hours.

The total number of recoveries

According to the Ministry, 9,685 COVID patients recovered from the disease in the last 24 hours taking the total number of recoveries in the country to 4,38,55,365.

The recovery rate currently stands at 98.68 per cent. Additionally, under the nationwide vaccination drive, 22,40,162 doses of COVID vaccines were administered during this period taking the total number of vaccine doses jabbed so far to 212.75 crore.

SOURCE: ANI

Myanmar Red Cross Society
ကမ္ဘာ့ရှေးဦးပြုစုခြင်းနေ့
World First Aid Day
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"ရှေးဦးပြုစုအတတ်ပညာ ဘဝတစ်သက်တာသင်ယူပါ"
Lifelong First Aid Learning

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

Remittance of Myanmar citizens abroad tops $6 billion within 8 years

THE remittance of Myanmar citizens abroad reached over US$6.152 billion within eight years, said Union Minister for Labour Dr Pwint San during a coordination meeting on making remittances through official banks held on Monday.

The Union minister said the money transferred by Myanmar citizens abroad to their family members is from Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and other countries. Such remittances support the foreign currency demands of local exporters and importers.

Regarding the salaries of Myanmar citizens abroad, it is free to use the foreign currency for themselves, resell or transfer to others. Those who bought the foreign currency have to resell them to the government at the reference rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar within 21 days.

The remittances of Myanmar migrant workers play a key role in the development of the country and foreign income growth and so migrant workers are sent to foreign countries after reviewing them systematically.

The office of the Central Bank of Myanmar-CBM (Yangon Branch).

On 30 August, the Central Bank of Myanmar released a statement that Myanmar citizens abroad can use their salaries in foreign currency freely.

Arrangements are being made to open saving accounts for Myanmar migrant workers by cooperating with local private banks to prevent them from being cheated out of their salaries.

Moreover, the Internal Revenue Department announced that Myanmar citizens abroad will be exempted from paying taxes for buying vehicles, basic commodities and investments locally if they remit money via an official system. — TWA/GNLM

Myanmar-Thailand authorities negotiate entry permit for Myanmar trucks on Mae Sot side

People and trucks are seen passing over the Myawady-Mae Sot Friendship Bridge II.

THE officials concerned and private businesspersons from Myanmar and their Thai counterparts negotiated permits for delivering goods to and from Mae Sot by Myanmar trucks, according to the Information Department of Tak province.

The officials from the two countries negotiated matters regarding trade promotion on the Thailand-Myanmar border and permit on Myanmar cargo trucks on the Mae Sot side on 6 September.

Private businesspersons called for critical reflection on the previously enforced laws to the Tak provincial authorities in order to export the goods to Mae Sot and import Tak Province's products (coffee and vegetables) into Myanmar with six-wheel trucks from Myanmar.

Additionally, they requested entry permits for Myanmar citizens holding e-Visa and Visa on Arrivals through Mae Sot airport and No.2 Myawady-Mae Sot friendship bridge at the meeting.

The cross-border trade between Myanmar and Thailand grew 1.4 per cent in 2022 compared with the last year. The border trade data has indicated 107.41 per cent of growth in the Thailand-Myanmar border trade till July 2022 since early 2022. Nonetheless, inflation drives the trade down by 0.16 per cent at present, according to the meeting report. — TWA/GNLM

Weekly kitchen grocery market update

DURING the week ending 6 September, the prices of onion and Kyukok garlic varieties fell again. Local Shan potato supply is quite low and Chinese potato surpassed them at a high price. Chilli pepper price rose by K2,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes). Meanwhile, palm oil reference price rose and the market is quite slow moving with the high price.

Onion

On 2 September, onion prices hit the highest in history in the Yangon market. However, the price dropped by K150-300 on 5 September owing to the price differences between Yangon and other regions and states, low quality in the Yangon market and supply of 200,000 visses of onions to the Yangon market without demand from the border. On 6 September, only 120,000 visses of onions entered the market. The market prices stood at K2,750 -3,500 per viss of onions from Seikphyu Township and K3,000-3,700 per viss of onions from Monywa Township on 6 September.

Garlic

On 6 September, the wholesale prices of garlic moved in the range of K2,800-4,200 per viss from Shan State (Aungban area) while Kyukok garlic fetched K4,400 per viss. In the previous days, Kyukok garlic was priced at K4,800 per viss.

Potato

The Bayintnaung market saw an abundant supply of Chinese potato and a small supply of local Shan potato. The prices of Chinese potato on 6 September were higher to K2,050-2,150 per viss from K1,950-2,000 per viss recorded in the previous days. Shan potato were priced at K1,350-2,150 per viss depending on quality and size.

Chilli pepper

The prices of chilli pepper were constant at K14,000-15,000 per viss last week. During a week ending on 6 September, the price increased by K2,000 per viss in the market. The prices of chilli pepper moved in the range of K16,000 and K17,500 per viss depending on different varieties (Moehtaung, long red chilli (Panye) and green chilli), whereas the bell pepper is sold at K11,000-12,000 per viss.

Palm oil

The wholesale reference price of palm oil in the Yangon Region for a week from 5 to 11 September is set at K5,220 per viss, which is up by K310 per viss this week compared to the last week's price.

The palm oil wholesale prices in the markets slipped to K9,400-9,500 per viss on 6 September yet the trading is sluggish. Consumers prefer 18-litre jerry cans or tin oil cans in the markets.

Rice

The low-grade monsoon paddy started to enter the market. The rice prices are still stable on the high side. The wholesale prices of Pawsan rice varieties were K85,000-91,000 per bag from the Shwebo area, K68,000-70,000 from the Myaungmya area and K65,000-68,000 from the Pyapon area. Meanwhile, the prices of the Pawkywe rice variety are K52,000-54,000. The prices of low-grade rice varieties touched a high of K49,000-50,000 for short matured rice (90 days) and K42,000-43,000 for rice grown under multiple cropping.

Black gram and pigeon pea

On 6 September, the prices of black gram and pigeon peas stood at over K1,953,000 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K2,268,000 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC) and K2,175, 000 per tonne of pigeon peas (red gram) RC in Yangon markets.— TWA/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar earns $300 mln from rice export in past 5 months

MYANMAR shipped 889,991 metric tons of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the past five months this year (April-August), with an estimated income of US$302 million, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

In the past five months, approximately 44 exporter companies delivered over 731,590 MT of rice to external markets by sea, whereas over 158,400 MT were sent to neighbouring countries via border posts.

Myanmar shipped rice and broken rice to regional countries, countries in Africa and European Union member countries through maritime trade. It is also exported to neighbouring countries, China and Thailand through cross-border posts.

In the past five months, approximately 44 exporter companies delivered over 731,590 MT of rice to external markets by sea, whereas over 158,400 MT were sent to neighbouring countries via border posts.

Myanmar exported rice to over 20 foreign markets in the past months, mostly to China (108,269 MT) and the Philippines (95,019 MT).

Additionally, Myanmar primarily conveyed 138,893 MT of broken rice to Belgium and over 132,319 MT to China.

Last month, the prices rose to K60,000-K90,000 per bag for high-grade rice varieties and K35,500-K50,000 per bag for low-grade rice varieties.

The prices of low-quality white rice varieties were approximately $320-355 per MT depending on the different varieties and quality. The export price of Myanmar's rice was relatively lower than the rates of Thailand and Viet Nam, according to MRF.

Myanmar has shipped more than 1.4 million tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners between 1 October and 31 March in the past mini-budget period (2021-2022), the Myanmar Rice Federation stated.

Myanmar bagged $700 million from two million tonnes of rice exports to foreign countries in the past 2020-2021 financial year. — KK/GNLM

Border trade remains normal despite rising cases of COVID-19 in China

U Min Thein, Vice-Chairman of the Muse Rice Commodity Exchange, said that despite the lockdown due to the detection of COVID-19 infection in China, there is no impact on border trade and it goes normally.

In August, border trade was temporarily suspended over the COVID-19 infection on the Sino- Myanmar border.

"At the Myanmar border, a COVID-19 case was detected. Now, It's over. The border posts have never been closed. It's going as usual," U Min Thein said.

Currently, the Kyinsankyawt route at the Muse border trade station, which is important for China-Myanmar border trade, is operating normally, with about 50 trucks going from the Myanmar side and around 30 trucks entering from the Chinese side.

Residents at the border said that the price of exchanging Chinese yuan and Myanmar kyats at the border has risen.

Because of the rising Chinese yuan price, only around 30 Chinese trucks are entering Myanmar, and traders say that the entry of trucks is higher as it is profitable for Myanmar exporters.

U Min Thein said that rice, broken rice, rubber, food products, dried chillies, dried betel nuts, aquatic products, crabs, and eels are being exported, and goods such as construction materials, electrical equipment, and medicines are being imported.

In Myanmar, the domestic transmission of COVID-19 is increasing, and the latest strain of COVID-19 has been detected, according to the Ministry of Health.

China has alternately opened and closed border trade over the past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected trade.—TPT/GNLM

Broken rice export rising through Muse border

Exports including rice and broken rice are being delivered through the Muse-Kyinsankyawt route every day and about 50 trucks are going to China every day.

EXPORT of broken rice to China via the Muse border has increased as it generated profit over the appreciation of the Chinese yuan, says U Min Thein, Vice-Chairman of the Muse Rice Commodity Exchange.

In the past month, foreign exchange rates have risen in the domestic market and the Chinese yuan has also appreciated.

Rice and broken rice are being exported. When we send it to China, we get Chinese yuan from them. It's convenient for us. There is no more profit for importers, he said.

Exports including rice and broken rice are being delivered through the Muse-Kyinsankyawt route every day and about 50 trucks are going to China every day, he added.

At the border, more broken rice is being exported than rice, and the price of a 50-kilogram bag of broken rice is 120 yuan in Muse and rice price is between 140-150 yuan, according to market reports.

"More broken rice is exported. Sales of rice remain weak. Chinese traders give us at the normal rate," U Min Thein said.

In the domestic market, prices of rice and broken rice are strong and the quality of rice is improving over the increase in broken rice prices, said traders. — TPT/GNLM

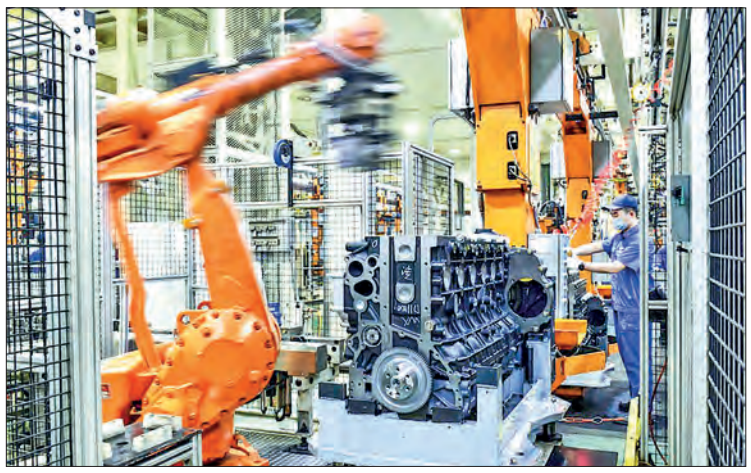
ECONOMY
WORLD

China upgrades manufacturing industry for global economy certainty

AT the intelligent manufacturing base of Goertek in Weifang City, east China's Shandong Province, tonnes of components are assembled into Virtual Reality (VR) equipment to be delivered to different countries.

According to Chang Gang, vice-president of marketing and sales of Goertek Inc., it is one of the few VR manufacturers globally to reach the production scale of one million sets. It is also one of the largest manufacturers of mid and high-end VR headsets.

Goertek is the epitome of China's advanced manufacturing industry. At the 2022 World Advanced Manufacturing Conference, which closed Friday in Jinan, capital of Shandong, enterprises and experts gathered to discuss the frontier issues of global advanced manufacturing development.



Robotic arms assemble engines at a workshop of the Weichai Power Co Ltd in Weifang City, east China's Shandong Province, 22 April 2021. **PHOTO: XINHUA/GUO XULEI**

As a major manufacturer, the steady growth and upgrading of China's manufacturing industry bring certainty to the global economy, the experts say.

Data from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology show that the added value of China's manufacturing sector increased from 16.98 trillion yuan (about 2.46 trillion US dollars) in 2012 to 31.4 trillion yuan in 2021.

To promote the transformation of the manufacturing industry, China has built a modern industrial system led by the advanced manufacturing industry, promoting the manufacturing industry to march into the middle- and high-end of the value chain.

Taking China's domestic diesel engine as an example. The thermal efficiency of diesel engines made by Weichai Holding Group Co Ltd now has exceeded 51 per cent. Compared with the primary products in the market, annual fuel consumption and carbon dioxide emissions of this engine type have been reduced by 10 per cent, respectively.—Xinhua

Germany puts two nuclear plants on standby in energy U-turn

The plants would be kept in reserve to potentially "make a further contribution to the electricity grid in southern Germany", where the development of renewable power was lagging the north. **PHOTO: LENNART PREISS/AFP**

GERMANY said Monday it would keep two nuclear plants on standby beyond the end of the year in a policy U-turn, as the shut-off of Russian gas supplies sends Europe scrambling for energy sources. Following a new network stress test, two of the three remaining power plants would "remain available until mid-April 2023 in case needed", Economy Minister Robert Habeck said in a statement. The move partly delays a nuclear exit planned under former chancellor Angela Merkel.

The plants would be kept in reserve to potentially "make a further contribution to the electricity grid in southern Germany", where the development of renewable power was lagging the north. Habeck said such a crisis was still "extremely unlikely" and assured that Germany had a "very high security of supply".—AFP

US says oil 'supply should meet demand' after OPEC+ cut

THE United States said Monday that oil production must be kept up to bolster global economic growth after the OPEC+ cartel agreed to cut supply to lift falling prices.

President Joe Biden "has been clear that energy supply should meet demand to support economic growth and lower prices for American consumers and consumers around the world," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement.

Crude oil production by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is an important factor that affects oil prices. **PHOTO: AFP**

The United States had pressed OPEC+ to increase output to bring down energy prices that have fuelled decades-high inflation.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

BRICS Industrial Innovation Contest final kicks off in Xiamen

THE final of the BRICS Industrial Innovation Contest 2022 kicked off in Xiamen, east China's Fujian Province, on Tuesday, according to the organizer.

BRICS is the acronym for an emerging-market group that includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

Contestants compete in the industrial internet, intelligent manufacturing, and green development during the contest themed "industrial innovation for stronger, greener, and healthier global development."

A total of 1,330 projects from home and abroad had been submitted, 90 of which reached the final, and the prize awarding ceremony will take place on Wednesday.

The contest offered a constructive platform for open collaboration among young talents from BRICS, said Pablo Machado, a jury member, via video link.—Xinhua

Irish data watchdog fines Instagram 405 mln euros over children

IRELAND'S Data Protection Commission on Monday said it had fined Instagram a record 405 million euros ($402 million) for breaching regulations on the handling of children's data.

"We adopted our final decision last Friday and it does contain a fine of 405 million euros," the DPC said in a statement. Full details of the decision will be published next week, it added.

The DPC launched an investigation in late 2020 into concerns about how the image-sharing social media platform handles children's personal data.

The probe centred on the "appropriateness" of Instagram profile and account settings for children, and the firm's "responsibility to protect the data protection rights of children as vulnerable persons".

It was conducted under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) -- the EU charter of data rights which came into effect in May 2018.—AFP

Australia to maintain coal and gas exports: PM

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has assured the resources industry that the country will remain a major exporter of fossil fuels under his leadership.

In a speech to the Australian Minerals Industry Parliamentary dinner on Monday night, Albanese said the federal government would work with the industry to lower its emissions but had no intention to limit coal and gas exports.

However, he said Australia would look to increase exports of alternative renewable energy sources such as hydrogen as the world transitions away from fossil fuels.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has assured the resources industry that the country will remain a major exporter of fossil fuels under his leadership. **PHOTO: AFP**

"Australia will continue to be a trusted and stable supplier of energy and resources to our key trading partners," he said.

"As we work with other nations to reduce emissions globally, we will continue to be a reliable provider of energy."

Australia is among the largest exporters of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the world, with a record 80.9 million tonnes sent overseas in 2021, according to consultancy EnergyQuest.

The resources industry posted a record 81 billion Australian dollars (55 billion US dollars) profit in the second quarter of 2022 due to high global commodity prices, according the Australian Financial Review's report on Tuesday.

Albanese's Labour government has faced calls to ban fossil fuel exports and the development of new coal, oil and gas mining projects under its climate policy.

Labour has introduced its signature emissions bill to the Senate. If passed, the bill would enshrine in law a new emissions reduction target of at least 43 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050.—Xinhua

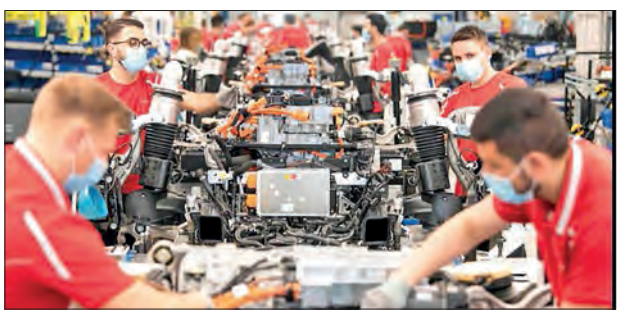
German industrial orders slide for sixth straight month

GERMAN industrial orders slumped for the sixth consecutive month in July, official data showed Tuesday, raising the spectre that a recession was looming in Europe's biggest economy.

New orders dipped by 1.1 per cent from a month ago, the federal statistics agency Destatis said in a statement.

The contraction was at 13.6 per cent compared to a year ago, when orders were at a particularly strong level.

Germany's export-oriented industry has been hammered by the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has exacerbated supply chain woes and sent energy prices soaring. —AFP



Employees of German car manufacturer Porsche work on power trains for the Taycan full-electric sportscar at the production site in Stuttgart. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Russia cancels visa-free travel for Japanese to disputed islands

RUSSIA has terminated an agreement with Tokyo on facilitating visits by Japanese citizens to the four disputed Pacific islands, a government order showed on Monday.

The agreement dating back to 1999 allowed former residents and their family members of the islands, known as the Southern Kurils in Russia and the Northern Territories in Japan, to visit the Russia-controlled islands without a visa.

The Russian Foreign Ministry announced its intention to end the visa-free trips in March in response to Japan's anti-Russian sanctions over the situation in Ukraine. — AFP

Russia new car sales sink 62.4% in August

In August, 41,698 cars and light commercial vehicles were sold, according to figures released by the Association of European Businesses (AEB). **PHOTO: AFP**

NEW car sales in Russia were down 62.4 per cent in August year-on-year, industry data showed Tuesday, as Moscow is facing a barrage of Western sanctions over its military campaign in Ukraine.

In August, 41,698 cars and light commercial vehicles were sold, according to figures released by the Association of European Businesses (AEB).

This was down 62.4 per cent from the same month in 2021, AEB said.

The collapse in car sales began in March, as Western capitals pummelled Moscow with unprecedented sanctions after Russia sent troops into pro-Western Ukraine.

Western carmakers have ventured into Russia to assemble cars over the past two decades as the country's economy expanded, but now many local car factories have been forced to shut down.

Makes that have halted Russian production include BMW, Ford, Hyundai, Mercedes, Volkswagen and Volvo.

Numerous car makers have also stopped sales of their cars or parts to Russia — including Audi, Honda, Jaguar and Porsche.

Faced with a shortage of imported parts, authorities have eased safety and emission standards for locally produced cars in May — including dropping the requirement for airbags.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CHATTANOOGA VOY.NO. (N052)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHATTANOOGA VOY.NO. (N052)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-9-2022** 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:

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Bolstering Asia ties, Putin watches military drills with China

President Putin attended the Vostok-2022 manoeuvres that are being staged in Russia's Far East. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK/POOL/ AFP**

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin attended large-scale military exercises on Tuesday involving China and several Russia-friendly countries as Moscow seeks to strengthen partnerships in Asia in the face of Western sanctions.

Russia has found itself increasingly isolated as tensions between Moscow and Western capitals soared since Russia sent troops into pro-Western Ukraine on 24 February.

Slapped with unprecedented sanctions from Washington and Brussels, Putin has pursued closer ties with countries in Africa, South America and Asia -- especially China.

Putin on Tuesday attended the Vostok-2022 manoeuvres that are being held in training grounds in Russia Far East and in the waters off its eastern coast, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told local news agencies.

Putin was meeting with Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and military chief of staff Valery Gerasimov at the Sergeyevsky military range and would later observe the final phase of the military exercises, Peskov was quoted as saying.

The drills, involving several of Russia's neighbours, as well as Syria, India and key ally China, started on September 1 and are due to end Wednesday.

According to Moscow, over 50,000 soldiers and more than 5,000 units of military equipment, including 140 aircraft and 60 ships, were to be involved in the drills.

Similar drills were last held in 2018.

Putin's visit to Russia's Far East will continue on Wednesday in the port city of Vladivostok where he is expected to address the Eastern Economic Forum.—AFP

EU chief urges new UK PM to respect 'our agreements'

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen congratulated Liz Truss on being named Britain's next prime minister Monday, but said London and Brussels must work "in full respect of our agreements".

Truss, the outgoing British foreign minister, has warned that she will push ahead to pass proposed UK legislation to tear up part of Britain's Brexit deal with the European Union.

"The EU and the UK are partners. We face many challenges together, from climate change to Russia's invasion of Ukraine," von der Leyen said, in a congratulatory tweet.

"I look forward to a constructive relationship, in full respect of our agreements," she added, in what will be seen as a reference to the Northern Ireland Protocol.

This clause, part of the agreement under which Britain left the European Union, retains the British province of Northern Ireland inside the EU customs zone and single market.

Truss, the outgoing British foreign minister, has warned that she will push ahead to pass proposed UK legislation to tear up part of Britain's Brexit deal with the European Union. **PHOTO: AFP**

This was intended to prevent the return of a trade border between the north and Ireland, which remains an EU member, and was signed and approved by Truss's outgoing predecessor Boris Johnson.

But some in Northern Ireland argue that the protocol weakens their link to the UK, and Truss supports legislation progressing through the London parliament to unilaterally dump it.

Brussels has already begun legal action attacking Britain for failure to respect parts of the withdrawal deal, and warned that ditching the protocol could torpedo the whole agreement.

Undaunted by talk of a trade war with the EU, Truss said in mid-August she was "absolutely determined" to ram the bill through in the weeks ahead. She is due to take office on Tuesday.—AFP

Navy taking on gangs in Colombia's biggest port

COLOMBIA'S Navy put on a show of force at the weekend in a town whose population is at the mercy of two warring gangs.

The "Shottas" and "Spartanos" gangs have been fighting for months over control of Buenaventura's drug trafficking trade, and other illegal activities such as micro-trafficking, extortion and kidnappings.

But the military has tried to assert some state control by coming out in force in several neighbourhoods in Colombia's main port city.

Buenaventura is where 40 per cent of the country's international trade takes place and the departure point of most of the cocaine destined for the United States. In recent years, it has become one of the most violent cities in the country, with 576 murders between 2017 and 2021, according to the Pares foundation, along with forced disappearances and kidnappings. On 30 August, the two gangs were involved in a shoot-out using automatic weapons that lasted several hours.—AFP

A Colombian navy patrol in the waters around Buenaventura, where rival gangs have turned the major port city into a living nightmare for residents. **PHOTO: AFP**

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Shelling forces Ukraine nuclear plant off grid as Zelensky warns of 'disaster'

THE last working reactor at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant was disconnected from the grid after shelling caused a fire, with the UN's atomic watchdog due to brief the Security Council about the crisis on Tuesday.

Soon after it invaded in February, Moscow largely took control of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions of southern Ukraine and is now aiming to absorb them into Russia through referendums — as it did with Crimea in 2014.

Russia also blamed Western sanctions for its halting of gas supplies to Germany and on top of the crisis in Europe, there are fears of a nuclear disaster at Zaporizhzhia — Europe's biggest atomic facility.

"Today the last power transmission line connecting the plant to the energy system of Ukraine was damaged due to another Russian provocative shelling," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in an address on Monday. "Due to Russian provocation, the Zaporizhzhia plant is one step away from a radiation disaster."

The Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant (ZNPP) has been shelled in recent weeks, with Ukraine and Russia blaming each other for the attacks as fears grow of a possible nuclear incident.

Ukraine's state-run power company Energoatom said Monday that the last working reactor — Power Unit No. 6 — was disconnected from the grid because shelling had started a fire.—AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Peru's president makes appearance in graft probe

PERU'S embattled President Pedro Castillo, the subject of six criminal investigations, appeared before prosecutors Monday to respond to accusations that he ran a corruption network from his office.

Dressed in a red puffer jacket, Castillo arrived at the public prosecutor's office in an official black car, which was pelted with eggs by people gathered outside as it pulled away.

Castillo, 52, spent more than two hours inside, after which he addressed a group of supporters at the presidential palace.

He said he told investigators "that not only do I reject and flatly deny these false accusations, but also that I will go and face" justice. Castillo described the claims as "manufactured tales" and has insisted the allegations are a political ploy to unseat him.

Castillo, who has survived two impeachment attempts since taking office in July last year, was summoned in a probe concerning the dismissal of his interior minister Mariano Gonzalez in July.

Gonzalez had authorized the arrest of Castillo allies.

Castillo was also questioned about alleged influence peddling in the purchase of fuel by state company Petroperu.

'Proclaimed his innocence'

The prosecutor's office has opened six investigations in all against Castillo, including for alleged graft and plagiarization of his university thesis.

"The president denied each of the charges, proclaimed his innocence," attorney Benji Espinoza told reporters.

He added that Castillo had not answered any questions, invoking his right to remain silent apart from making a general statement to deny the allegations. A scheduled appearance by Castillo's 49-year-old wife Lilia Paredes, accused of criminal conspiracy and money laundering as part of an alleged graft network headed by her husband — was cancelled at the last minute, her lawyer said.—AFP

Peru's President Pedro Castillo is the subject of six criminal investigations. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan to spend $12 mln on ex-PM Abe's state funeral

Shinzo Abe, Japan's longest serving prime minister, was shot dead on the campaign trail in July. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

JAPAN expects to spend around 1.7 billion yen ($12 million) on a state funeral for assassinated former premier Shinzo Abe, the government said Tuesday, despite controversy over the plan.

Abe was shot dead on the campaign trail in July, and the government expects dozens of current and former heads of state to pay condolences at the 27 September service in Tokyo.

But recent polls show about half of Japanese voters oppose the publicly funded event.

Security is expected to cost around 800 million yen, with another 600 million to be spent on hosting and 250 million for the ceremony, top government spokesman Hirozaku Matsuno said Tuesday.

"Delegates from more than 190 foreign (countries and regions) will likely participate," he told reporters at a regular briefing. The funeral will be held at Tokyo's Nippon Budokan, a venue used for concerts and sports events that also hosted Japan's last state funeral for a former prime minister in 1967.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has said the domestic and international accomplishments of Abe, the country's longest-serving prime minister, make a state ceremony appropriate.— AFP

Australia offers to fund Solomon Islands election

AUSTRALIA said Tuesday it has offered to fund Solomon Islands' 2023 election, as the Pacific nation's leader pushed ahead with a controversial bill to delay the vote over budgetary constraints.

Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare has sought to alter the constitution and delay the election by months until after the country hosts the 2023 Pacific Games, arguing that Solomon Islands cannot afford to do both.

But critics have accused Sogavare of attempting to "bulldoze" democracy by rushing the bill through parliament.

The Australian funding offer "reflects our longstanding and historical commitment to supporting democracy and democratic processes in Solomon Islands", Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong said Tuesday.

The offer has not yet been accepted but Wong told national broadcast ABC that it was "a matter for Solomon Islands as to whether they will respond and how they wish to respond".

The amount offered by Australia was not revealed, but Sogavare's secretary Jimmie Rogers previously told the Solomons state broadcaster that the election would cost more than US$49 million.

Sogavare's office has been contacted for comment. The bill to delay the election, which had its first reading on Tuesday, was "domestically controversial, Wong said, "(but) that's ultimately a matter for their parliament to resolve".— AFP

'A different Sweden': Gang shootings loom large in vote

GANG shootings have escalated and spread across Sweden, with authorities struggling to contain the war-like violence that now tops voters' concerns ahead of Sunday's general election.

"This is my son, Marley, when he was 19 years old," Maritha Ogilvie tells AFP, holding a framed photo of a smiling young man, one of many that adorn the walls of her Stockholm apartment.

"He was shot in the head sitting in a car with a friend," says the 51-year-old.

The killing, on 24 March 2015 in Varby gard, a disadvantaged concrete suburb southwest of Stockholm, has never been resolved and the case was closed 10 months later.

Murders like these are usually settlings of scores between rival gangs often controlled by immigrant clans, according to police, and increasingly taking place in public in broad daylight.

The violence is primarily attributed to battles over the drug and weapons market and personal vendettas.

It has escalated to the point where Sweden — one of the richest and most egalitarian countries in the world — now tops the European rankings for fatal shootings.

According to a report published last year by the National Council for Crime Prevention, among 22 countries with comparable data only Croatia had more deadly shootings, and no other country posted a bigger increase than Sweden in the past decade.—AFP

Sweden – one of the richest and most egalitarian countries in the world – now tops the European rankings for fatal shootings. **PHOTO: AFP**

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Nagelsmann hopes Bayern 'wake up' ahead of opening Champions League game at Inter

BAYERN Munich manager Julian Nagelsmann has blamed a lack of energy for his side's stuttering Bundesliga form, bristling at suggestions the six-time Champions League winners are missing departed striker Robert Lewandowski.

After an explosive start to the season which saw them score 20 goals in their opening four competitive matches, two consecutive 1-1 draws against Borussia Moenchengladbach and Union Berlin see Bayern occupy an unfamiliar third spot in the table.

Bayern remain overwhelming favourites to win their 11th consecutive Bundesliga title this season, but the Champions League remains their true yardstick, after a disappointing quarter final exit to Villarreal last season.

While Lewandowski's replacement Sadio Mane has scored three goals in five Bundesliga matches since arriving in the summer, Nagelsmann said his side were lacking "energy" rather than the departed Pole and drew both games despite a "proliferation" of chances.

Bayern Munich's German head coach Julian Nagelsmann says his side haven't been "awake in their heads" in recent Bundesliga draws. **PHOTO: AFP**

"Against Gladbach we had 31 shots on goal -- I think that's creative enough," Nagelsmann said ahead of Wednesday's Champions League clash with Inter Milan.

"How many goals have we scored? (Our goal difference) is plus 14, I think."

'Not awake in our heads'

Nagelsmann said his side would be able to break down the defence of last year's Serie A champions Inter provided they recaptured the energy they brought in the opening league matches. —AFP

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

(a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.

(b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

(c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

(a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

(b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.

(c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

(a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.

(b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.

(c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Myanmar to play two friendly matches against Hong Kong

Myanmar's Sithu Aung (red) tries to pass the opponent during the friendly match against Hong Kong on 24 May 2022. **PHOTO: MFF**

IN the international week designated by the International Football Federation (FIFA), the Myanmar national team and the Hong Kong national team will play two friendly matches this month.

Two friendly matches will be played in Hong Kong on 21 and 24 September.

The first match will be played behind closed doors, while the second match will be watched by fans inside the stadium. The Myanmar national team will start training for the friendly match on 15 September, and the preliminary list of players will be released within the next few days.

This is the second time that the Myanmar and Hong Kong teams have tested each other this year. The first time was a goalless draw when they played a training match in Thailand on 24 May.

After playing a friendly match in Hong Kong in 2015, the two teams will meet again this year in Hong Kong. The Myanmar national team played two international friendly matches this year, against Hong Kong and Bahrain in May. Team Myanmar played a 0-0 draw against Hong Kong but lost 0-2 to the Bahrain team. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

PSG face backlash for 'inappropriate' mockery of train plea

FRENCH football giants Paris Saint-Germain faced an angry backlash Tuesday after coach Christophe Galtier and star player Kylian Mbappe mocked a suggestion that they should take the train rather than private planes for short-haul travel.

PSG notched up an easy 3-0 away victory against Nantes to stay top of Ligue 1 on their trip to the western French city, which is a modest 380 kilometres (240 miles) from Paris.

The Qatar-owned side boasted on social media that they had made the return trip with shirt sponsors Qatar Airways but their travel choices have come under increased scrutiny over the carbon footprint.

"Paris-Nantes is less than two hours by TGV," said Alain Krakovitch, the head of state-owned railway company SNCF's TGV high-speed passenger trains, on Twitter.

"I renew our proposal for a TGV offer adapted to your specific needs in line with our common interests — safety, speed, services and eco-mobility," he added. —AFP