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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 President of Russian Federation Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, currently in the Russian Federation to attend the 7th Eastern Economic Forum-2022, held talks with President of the Russian Federation Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin on the FEFU Campus in Vladivostok yesterday afternoon local standard time.

Also present at the talks together with the Senior General were Council Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Myo Htut and Myanmar Ambassador to Russia U Lwin Oo. President of the Russian Federation Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin was accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Mr Sergey Lavrov, Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nikolay A Listopadov and officials of the Russian government.

At the talks, President of the Russian Federation Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin said that a plan is underway to hold the



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing exchanges the greetings with President of Russian Federation Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin in Vladivostok on 7 September 2022.

ceremony in honour of the diplomatic relations between the Russian Federation and Myanmar which will turn 75 years in 2023. Myanmar is a reliable long-last-

ing partnership country in the Southeast Asian region. Relations and cooperation between the two countries see great progress. Good potential can be

seen in cooperation in trade and economy. The Russian President expressed his thanks to the Senior General for his attendance at the Eastern Economic Forum.

In his response, the Senior General expressed his thanks to the Russian President for holding the talks.

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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

Appointment of Nepalese Ambassador to Myanmar agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Harishchandra Ghimire as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Nepal to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in succession to Mr Bhim K Udas.

Mr Harishchandra Ghimire was born on 12 June 1967 in Kathmandu, Nepal. He received his School Leaving Certificate (SLC) in 1985.

He received Bachelor's Degree in Management in 1994, Bachelor's Degree in Law in 1997, a Master's Degree in Business Administration with specialization in Human Resources Management and Industrial Relations in 2001, a Master's Degree in Public Administration with special-

ization in Human Resource Development Area in 2006 from Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal.

He joined the Nepalese foreign services in 1998 and started working at the section office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal. He served in various positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal such as Under Secretary in 2009, Director of the Department of Hospitality from 2009 to 2011, at the same period as Liaison Officer attached at the Office of the President of Nepal, Director of the Department of Consular Services from June to December 2015, Under Secretary of Mid Asia, West Asia and Africa Division from January to June 2016. Currently, he has been serving as Joint

Secretary, Division Head of the Central Asia, West Asia and Africa Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal since July 2019.

He also served in several Nepalese missions abroad such as Second Secretary at the Embassy of Nepal in Yangon, Myanmar from 1999 to 2003, First Secretary at the Embassy of Nepal in Washington, DC, the United States from 2006 to 2009, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Nepal in Riyadh in Saudi Arabia from May 2011 to May 2015 as well as Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of Nepal in Beijing, China from June 2016 to July 2019.

He speaks Nepali, English, Hindi, Urdu, Arabic and Chinese. He is married with a son.—MNA

Passengers can get 15% discount from King Power duty-free shops: MNA

PASSENGERS can get a 15 per cent discount from King Power duty-free shops in Thailand when they show their boarding pass, according to Myanmar National Airlines.

For the first purchase of any of the selected items can get a 15 per cent discount in King Power shops. The pro-

motion period was from 1 September to 31 December.

In cooperation with MNA and King Power, passengers can get a 15 per cent discount at the shops such as King Power Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, Chiang Mai, Phuket, U-Tapa Airports King Power Rangnam, Srivaree, Pattaya and Phuket. — TWA/GNLM



The King Power duty-free shop at Don Mueang Airport.

Appointment of Ambassador of Kuwait to Myanmar agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Mubarak M A Aladwani as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Kuwait to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Yangon.

Mr Mubarak M A Aladwani was born in 1964. He obtained a Bachelor's degree in Political Science with a major in Public

Administration from Kuwait University in 1994. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait in 1995. From 1998 to 2002, he served as an Attaché at the Kuwait Mission to Syria, and from 2002 to 2005, as Third Secretary at the Kuwait Mission to Algeria. From 2005 to 2009, he was assigned as Second Secretary at the Kuwait Mission to Belgium, and from 2009 to 2012, as First Secretary at the

Kuwait Mission to Uzbekistan. From 2012 to 2015, he served as an Adviser in the Economic Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait. From 2015 to 2019, he was assigned as a Counsellor at the Kuwait Mission to Canada. Since 2019, he has been serving as Minister Plenipotentiary at the Kuwait Mission to Poland.

He is married with six children. —MNA

223 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 7 September, total figure rises to 616,023

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 616,023 after 223 new cases — 14 imported and 209 local transmission — were reported on 7 September 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 593,983 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,442 without more casualties.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 6-9-2022, a total of 30,412,443 people above 18 and a total of 6,464,093 people under 18 have been vaccinated. —MNA

Our government is working towards the welfare of the people and the future of the Union

“TODAY, the Tatmadaw is taking on national responsibility and is acting in accordance with the Constitution. This happened because officials of the previous government, political representatives and election officials violated the constitution and existing laws. Our country’s founding democratic system has withered. These issues should not happen again. Action must be taken to prevent abuse of democracy, the establishment of a dictatorship in the name of democracy, and the establishment of personal influence over the institution. Action must be taken to prevent major vote fraud in the elections. For this, we need to build the foundations now. The basics need to be strong. In order to do these things, our government is working towards the welfare of the people and the future of the Union.

(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 President of Russian ...

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The bilateral relations between the two countries will turn 75 years as His Excellency President said, and it is a great relationship based on its significant history. Both countries have passed various challenges along their relationship history. As of the last two decades, bilateral relations are gaining momentum. The Russian Federation is a country with a great tradition in its history. Although Russia faced crises 30 years ago, it is vividly seen that the Russian Federation becomes a world powerhouse during the decade the President assumes the responsibilities. Myanmar sees the righteous acts of the Russian President in solving all issues of the world. Myanmar decided to further promote cooperation in all sectors with the

Russian Federation.

Next, the President of the Russian Federation and the SAC Chairman Prime Minister frankly exchanged views on cooperation in all sectors including cooperation between the Russian Federation and Myanmar in diplomatic relations, political, economic, social, education, health, monetary and banking sectors, cooperation in science and technology, aerospace and satellite technological cooperation, development of tourism sectors in both countries, the invitation to investments from Russia to Myanmar, peaceful utilization of nuclear energy for the development of socioeconomic measures.

After the talks, the Senior General and the Russian Federation President cordially greeted each other. — MNA



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin yesterday.

Union ministers who accompany SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing conduct discussions on relevant sectors

UNION ministers who accompany Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime

Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing conducted discussions and meetings on relevant

sectors on 7 September. In such doing, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw of

the Ministry of Science and Technology met the representatives led by Director-General Mr Yuri Borisov, the Chief of the State Space Corporation “ROSCOSMOS” of the Russian Federation and made discussions relating to the bilateral cooperation between two countries in the development of science and technology, and aerospace sectors.

Afterwards, the Union minister and the Chief of “RO-

SCOSMOS” exchanged their commemorative gifts and posed for documentary photos.

Similarly, Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win of the Ministry of Health met the deputy minister for Health of the Russian Federation at the Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) in Vladivostok and frankly discussed the matters concerning the despatching of graduate students, the acceptance of undergraduate students, the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for the cooperation between the Universities of Medicine from two countries, the rapid pandemic control and investment opportunities in the health sector of Myanmar. — MNA



MoST Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw meets the delegation of the State Space Corporation “ROSCOSMOS”.

Small countries become victims of dollars manipulated by big countries: Senior General

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing participates in the plenary session of the 7th Eastern Economic Forum-2022

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday afternoon participated in the Plenary Session of the 7th Eastern Economic Forum-2022 held on the campus of Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) in Vladivostok of the Russian Federation.

The plenary session was attended by President of the Russian Federation Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, Prime Minister of Armenia Mr Nikol Pashinyan, Mongolian Prime Minister Mr Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China Mr Li Zhanshu and delegation members, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing together with Council Joint-Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Ministers U Win Shein, Dr Kan Zaw, U Hla Moe, U Khin Maung Yi, U Thaung Han, Dr Myo Thein Kyaw and Dr Thet Khine Win and Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe, Ambassador of Myanmar to Russian Federation U Lwin Oo and business delegates from more than 90 countries.

At the plenary session, President Mr Vladimir Putin discussed the current development of Russia's eastern region,



the situation to support the improvement of competitiveness in investment, the establishment of special economic zones for attracting cooperation of investors from Asia and the Pacific Region, efforts for the emergence of a port with the improvement of communication technologies to admit docking of cargo ships, and a plan underway to emerge a northern sea route which will link Asia with Europe.

In his discussions under the title "The important role of Myanmar in the food security sector and good opportunities in investment", the Senior General said that as the energy necessary for the daily life of a human is obtained from foods, food security is the most crucial and most important for all human beings across the world. Food security was defined for many decades

as the sufficient supply of food to all living beings residing in a country. But the definition has changed this era as every country produces foodstuffs in compliance with the developing trade measures. Especially, global countries import foodstuffs from the international market due to a lack of capability to produce them at home, so financial security gradually influences food security.

In trading inputs such as fuel and fertilizers necessary for agriculture which plays a key role in food security, some countries utilize dollars as a tool because of the status of dollars in connection with financial security. As such, small countries become victims of dollars manipulated by big countries. It can be seen that those small countries are unable to defy the political and

economic sectors against the big countries. Myanmar can use currencies such as rouble, yuan and rupee in the placement of dollar. Moreover, the dollar can be substituted with a barter system. If so, small countries can overcome the difficulties of monetary bullying. Hence, the Senior General requested the powerful friendly countries to give a helping hand to them.

A country needs to have availability of adequate food volume, foods at fair prices and healthy foods in implementing food security. If healthy foods can be sufficiently purchased at fair prices in a country, such a country can be identified as a food sufficient country. The main challenges related to the food security of a country are growing population, rising the food demand, changes in food prices,

shortages or disappearance of crop varieties, climate change, scarcity of water and lands for agriculture and livestock farming, food waste and extinction and wasting of foods for various reasons.

As the global population rose in past years with increasing life expectancy, the number of the world's population will reach 8 billion in coming November 2022. Researchers and experts estimate that the world's population will reach 8.5 billion in 2030, 9.73 billion in 2050 and 10.4 billion in 2100. Food supply is crucial for the daily requirement of every person, not clothing and accommodation. So, it is necessary to emphasize solving the food problem. Food demand will be higher together with the growing number of population, and especially, basic staple foods such as rice and wheat, oil and oil crops, meat and meat products, and milk and dairy products as well as crops will face remarkably high demand.

Myanmar is located in Southeast Asia as a strategic area geographically bridging two large oceans, playing an important role in the Indo-Pacific region. Likewise, ASEAN member states are playing a significant role in restoring regional peace and stability, standing as the countries with many opportunities for economic development.

The ASEAN comprising 10 member states is home to more than 660 million population. It produced more than 191 million metric tonnes of rice, more than 45 million MT of maize, more than 144 million MT of sugarcane



and more than 79 million MT of tapioca in 2020. ASEAN countries are able to produce a large volume of basic foodstuff with exportation to foreign countries, taking a leading role in the world food security measure. In the trade sector, ASEAN countries possessed a trade value worth some US\$2.6 trillion in 2020 in trading with the countries outside the ASEAN arena but scored some US\$550 billion of trading among them. Hence, ASEAN outside trading remarkably exceeded rather than inter-ASEAN trading.

ASEAN region allots more than 139 million hectares of net cultivable lands, more than 23 million hectares of which are placed under paddy farms in Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. Hence, all need to undertake the cultivation of paddy in all farmlands in all seasons.

Myanmar is endowed with good resources for agriculture and livestock farming such as cultivable lands, natural forests, natural rivers and creeks, lakes and coastal lines. There are more than 13 million hectares of cultivable lands in the country that exports rice, bean and maize. As there are plentiful water sources, Myanmar mostly grows paddy, pulses and beans, maize, sesame and cotton crops. In order to produce food for food security, it needs to have quality strains of crops, fertilizers, agricultural water and techniques, and primarily, the country needs fertilizers and diesel to be used in operating the farming work. If the friendly countries fulfil the needs of Myanmar, it can double agricultural production, contributing much to food security. As Myanmar has been possessing the local sufficiency of foods for successive eras and exporting surplus agricultural and livestock products to neighbouring countries and global countries. Taking an opportunity, the Senior General disclosed that Myanmar possesses a good tradition of producing basic foodstuffs with the plan to sustain the traditions.

Regarding the oil and natural gas sector, Myanmar has 51 off-shore blocks and, at present,

natural gas is being explored from eight blocks and sold to the markets at home and abroad. Moreover, a natural gas deposit of two trillion cubic feet has been found in the Bay of Bengal and natural gas will soon be produced commercially. There is also potential to explore a bigger natural gas deposit soon. Therefore, natural gas-based industries will develop more in Myanmar in the coming three years and those who would like to make investments in Myanmar were invited. In addition, Myanmar has many oil and natural gas deposits still unexplored and production industries that can export copper, iron and tin to the global markets.

Myanmar is exporting agricultural produce and fishery products to Russia and, at the same time, arrangements are being made to import fertilizers, fuel oil and other petrochemical products from Russia. If we increase cooperation in these sectors, our mutual interests will also be enhanced. We would like to invite the businessmen attending this forum to invest in Myanmar's economic sectors such as oil and natural gas, mining, farming, value-added foodstuffs production, energy, tourism, infrastructure development, rubber-based industrial production, renewable energy, science and technology, information and communication, finance and banking. We can offer opportunities for external trade.

Cooperation programmes like this Eastern Economic Forum-2022 can improve relations between partners in Eurasia and, in this way, we can resist the western influence over the east in the field of international relations. International North-South Transport Corridor-INSTC will materialize by establishing close and strong relations among countries in Asia. From there on, better trade and investment will develop and strengthen the geopolitical stability of the Asia-Pacific region. We believe that the establishment of a strong relationship between China, India, ASEAN and BIMSTEC nations and Russia will encourage the development of countries in Asia,



including Myanmar.

In the present day, the Asia-Pacific region is continuously developing and so it is a region suitable for making investments. As the ASEAN lies at the strategic point of the Asia-Pacific region, it is in a position to lead regional diplomatic relations and economic forums. Moreover, the ASEAN centrality is obvious as it is between rivalries of the world powers, plays a major role in political, military and economic fields and world trade routes have to cross the Southeast Asian region.

We notice that the shortest land route between the ASEAN region and the middle part of Russia and the road between the ASEAN region and Russia across South Asia, the Gulf, and central Asia. It can be implemented in combination with China's Belt and Road Initiative. Myanmar, an ASEAN member nation, is situated at the geographically strategic point for trading with the countries in Southeast Asia and South Asia and establishing inter-relations with the countries in Western Europe and East Asia. Myanmar has enacted the laws necessary for the convenience of foreign investors. Therefore, if foreign investors come to invest in Myanmar, they will be able to export their products to global markets easily and quickly and, in this way, they will enjoy con-

siderable benefits. Therefore, we would like to invite foreign investors as they can also contribute to world food security.

Next, the Prime Minister replied to the questions raised by the master of ceremonies regarding his speech and Russian Federation President Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin gave complementary remarks.

Prime Minister of Armenia Mr Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister of Mongolia Mr Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China Mr Li Zhanshu cordially greeted each other and the ceremony came to a close.

President of the Russian Federation Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin said that Eastern Economic Forum has been held seven times since 2015 to enhance the economic development of the eastern part of Russia and cooperation with the Asia-Pacific region, that the eastern part of Russia is in the far east of Eurasian countries, that it is in the centre of connection with countries in the Asia-Pacific region, that it is the strategic point for regional economic cooperation and global economic integration. He added that the forum was held in accordance with COVID-19 restrictions laid down by the WHO for the health and safety of the participants. The forum was attended by representatives, diplomats, business tycoons and the media from more than 90 countries. — MNA

The President of the Russian Federation replied in detail to the questions raised by the master of ceremonies regarding the current developments in the world and the stance of the Russian Federation.

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Myanmar joins "International Conference on Cultural Property Protection: The Prevention of the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Properties: An ASEAN Perspective"

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko joined the "International Conference on Cultural Property Protection: The Prevention of the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Properties: An ASEAN Perspective" hosted by the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts of Cambodia via videoconferencing.

During the first session, the International Meeting and Superior Officials' Meeting were held and attended by Superior Officials, cultural heritage conservation experts of ASEAN countries and experts of NGOs.

During the meeting, the officials exchanged views on challenges to promote the protection of cultural property and combat illicit trade.

They also discussed the

brief statement (draft) to be issued at the Meeting of the ASEAN Minister Responsible for Culture and Arts and the Media Statement to be released by Cambodia.

During the second session, the ASEAN Level Ministers' Meeting was held and the leaders discussed the completions, ongoing processes and further work plans to combat the illicit trafficking of cultural properties, challenges and difficulties and advantages of cooperation with international organization.

Then, Union Minister U Ko Ko said Myanmar boasts cultural heritages and tries hard to ensure the sustainability of cultural properties by conserving systematically and socio-economic development.

The country also signed the UNIDROIT Convention



on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects to work with the members of the UN in accordance with the international criteria in promoting the protection of cultural properties.

Moreover, the country makes a closer relationship at the ASEAN level in addition to the UNESCO level.

The conference, held on 5-6 September, was attended by the

experts led by Director-General Dr Kyaw Oo Lwin of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. — MNA

MoI Deputy Minister inspects IPRD offices, schools in townships



DEPUTY Minister U Ye Tint of the Ministry of Information inspected the Information and Public Relations Department offices in Taungdwingyi and Natmauk townships on 6 September and met the employees.

The deputy minister, accompanied by the IPRD director and the education officer of Magway Region, inspected

the Natmauk community centre and viewed the exhibition. He also observed the essay competition held by teachers and students to commemorate Anti-Trafficking Day.

Afterwards, the deputy minister encouraged students who were taking the computer training course in the computer room and those who come to read and study in the children's reading room and the library.

Next, the deputy minister met the headmistress, teachers and students of the Aunglan Basic Education High School No 1 and discussed educational matters. It was participated by the Aunglan district administrator, district-level officials and the education officer of Aunglan Township.

Similarly, he visited the Natmauk Basic Education High School No 1 together with Regional Education Officer U Thet Lay Oo, IPRD Director U Myo Zaw, officials, the headmaster, teachers and students and called for the improvement

of the education of students.

The deputy minister handed over books and journals donated by the Ministry of Information for school libraries and sports equipment for football, volleyball, Sepak Takraw, Chinlone (cane ball) and badminton sports at the No 1 Basic Education High Schools of Aunglan and Natmauk Townships.

MoI Deputy Minister U Ye Tint urged all students and teachers to accumulate their knowledge and skills as they are the future of the State. Teachers, parents and those who have responsibility need to assure all students are educated under the guidance of the Head of State: up to KG+9 and they need to do their best in the education sector for the benefit of the State. — Township IPRD/GNLM

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

DOCTORS and nurses from public hospitals, Tatmadaw medical teams, healthcare workers and volunteers are working hard to give COVID-19 vaccines in different states and regions as the vaccination programme is one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 disease.

COVID-19 vaccine is administered daily to target groups regardless of race or religion, including Buddhist monks and nuns, local people over the age of 40, students, religious leaders, prisoners, people with disabilities, ethnic armed groups, people with chronic diseases, people in IDP camps and over 12-year-

old students, respectively.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 121 people from Tamway Township, Yangon Region, 9,519 people from twenty-six townships in

Ayeyawady Region, 715 people from Kyaukphyu and Thandwe townships in Rakhine State, 5,404 from seven districts in Mandalay Region, and 84 from Toungoo Township, Bagon Region, respectively.

Similarly on that day, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 697 students from twenty six

townships in Ayeyawady Region, 1,806 students from six townships in Rakhine and 465 students from seven districts in Mandalay Region.

It is reported that officials from the respective Region and State visited the site and coordinated the necessary work. — MNA

MoI Union Minister makes inspection tours in Sagaing Region

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, accompanied by Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw paid homage to Shwegyin Nikaya Upa Chairman Maha Nayaka Joint Shwegyin Sangharaja Chancellor of the Sitagu International Buddhist Academies and Sitagu Hospitals Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara at the academy in Sagaing yesterday.

The Union minister and the chief minister donated offertories, cash, books and journals published by MoI to Sayadaw. Then, the region chief minister explained the construction of Ponnyashin Beikman expanding the western platform of Soon Oo Ponnyashin Pagoda.

Afterwards, the Sayadaw delivered words of advice.

The Union Minister and party then viewed the Samvezaniya religious hall where the life circle



MoI Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views the Samvezaniya religious hall.

of Buddha was depicted using the ten flowers of art and culture of Myanmar and the library of the Sayadaw.

They then inspected the

MRTV retransmission station in Sagaing Region and met with the townsellers and departmental officials at Sagaing District Agriculture Department.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said some unethical media outlets spread misinformation and false news to mislead the public, especially using social

networks.

Although the ministry makes efforts to fulfil the rights of people to know the information and fight false news in various ways, there is still bullying and harassment using technology. Today, people are weak to uphold moral and ethical principles. Surely, Sagaing Region is proof of the propagation of Sasana and there should be peace in the region. Currently, the destructionists uttered threats, carried out arson attacks and committed murder in some areas of the region and all should participate in preventing such doings. The Union minister also went to the IPRD office of Sagaing District in the morning session and inspected the kids' reading room, public library, Mini Museum and computer room, and met with the staff at Community Centre and provided cash assistance. — MNA

Air pollution causes 7 mln premature deaths every year



MoNREC deputy ministers and officials attend International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies event.

ACCORDING to the report of WHO released in September 2021, air pollution was estimated to cause seven million premature deaths per year and half of them were in developing countries. The deaths were caused by the effects of air pollution, mainly from chronic conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and heart disease, said Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Tun Ohn during the ceremony of the 2022 International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the

Deputy Minister said this year's theme of "the air we share" focuses on the transboundary nature of air pollution, stressing the need for collective accountability and action.

The country conducts air quality measurements in Union Territory/Region/State monthly and announces in state-run newspapers starting May 2022.

He continued that it should use renewable energy in industry, and the transport sector, proper technologies that are conformity with the environment, conserve the quality of the environment and also should draft the national lev-

el air quality standards, air pollution prevention strategy and plans to help reduce air pollution.

Then, the documentary video of the 2022 International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies was presented.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Min Thu, the permanent Secretary, directors-general, managing directors, departmental officials and relevant officials of Nay Pyi Taw/Region/State Environmental Conservation Department. — MNA

Auxiliary bridge of New Thanlwin Bridge (Kunlong) handed over

THE auxiliary bridge was handed over to the Ministry of Construction from the Lancang government of China to be used during the construction of the new Kunlong Bridge over the Thanlwin River yesterday.

The bridge is 155 metres long with a withstanding capacity of 50-tonne weight and has been completed on 20 October 2021.

The auxiliary bridge handover ceremony was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Construction in Nay Pyi Taw virtually.

At the ceremony, Deputy Minister for Construction U Win Pe said that the flow of goods in both countries will be facilitated and the socioeconomic life will be developed when the construction of the new Kunlong Bridge is completed.

Then, Lancang People's Government Committee Secretary Mr Zhang Zhizheng, U Thawda Aung from the Myanmar Consulate-General in Kunming and Economic Counsellor Mr Tan Shufu from the Chinese Embassy gave speeches respectively.

Afterwards, officials signed a joint inspection record regarding the completion of the Kunlong Auxiliary Bridge as the executive deputy mayor of Lancang also spoke on the occasion and the deputy minister gave the concluding remark. —MNA



The handover ceremony of auxiliary bridge to the Ministry of Construction from Lancang government of China in progress online.

OPINION

Share knowledge and learning practices with each other forever

GLOBAL countries have been celebrating International Literacy Day since 1967 as part of reminding the public of the importance of literacy. The international community tries to raise a more literate and sustainable society as a matter of dignity and human rights.

In Myanmar, the 3-Rs courses — reading, writing and arithmetic — were conducted as literacy campaigns across the nation to raise the literacy rate so as to broaden the horizon of the people in order to analyze what is wrong and what is right.

From the 1970s, young people especially university students and those who had already passed the basic education high school examination joined the literacy campaign, going right down to the grassroots level for volunteering to teach the people to be literate.

Myanmar's literacy campaign did not need permanent classrooms but learning stations for local people. Volunteer teachers lured them to join the 3-Rs activities, leaving a reading, writing and arithmetic legacy to them. Those volunteers left respective societies higher whenever the literacy campaigns were completed.

Consequently, families of those literates who tasted the fruits of literacy comprehensively understood how to nurture and encourage their offspring to become educated persons. Only when these families are capable of widening their scopes based on literacy will their future be brighter. Actually, literacy campaigns were launched in Myanmar in successive eras.

Myanmar gained Mohammad Riza Pahlavi Prize in 1971 and the Noma Prize in 1983 presented by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in honour of its strenuous efforts in the campaign.

Up to now, these prizes are symbols of Myanmar's endeavours to fight the past illiteracy situation.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, include literacy as a major component. One of the aims of Sustainable Development Goal Four is to ensure that all young people obtain reading and numeracy, as well as those adults who lack these abilities are allowed to learn them.

Now, everybody in Myanmar knows what way of life is the best and how to choose the best way and how to take it. Myanmar people need to practically take the measures of raising the literacy rate identified as nation-building endeavours through education for enjoying a better society. They all need to acknowledge International Literacy Day in annual celebrations, without derailing from the correct way to an educated society by sharing knowledge and learning practices with each other forever.

■

Army 2022 International Military and Technical Forum: Russia shows the world its newest weapons

By Htet Myat



Chukavin sniper rifle

FROM 15 to 21 August, Russia hosted the Army 2022 International Military and Technical Forum organized by the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation. On the same days, the Army International Games and the 10th Moscow Conference on International Security were held. The Army 2022 events took place at the Patriot Convention and Exhibition Centre, Kubinka Airfield, Alabino Military Training Ground, as well as in all military districts and in the Northern Fleet. The Army Forum is traditionally the most important international platform where the latest armament solutions are presented and relevant issues are discussed.

This year's novelties, in particular, were the Kh-69 multi-functional stealth precision-guided airborne cruise missile, Viking

SAM system's target acquisition radar, Planshet-M-IR mobile automatic gun/mortar/MRL fire control system and the new-generation Orlan-30 unmanned aircraft system with a multifunctional electro-optical mission payload. The Su-57 fifth-generation fighter jet, placed directly in front of the main exhibition halls, was in the visitors' focus of attention. In total, 1,000+ pieces of armament and military equipment were on display at the forum sites. Almost two million people became guests of the exhibition.

Rosoboronexport, Russia's only state intermediary for the export and import of the entire range of military and dual-use products, technologies and services, held a number of negotiations during the exhibition and made a statement on its results.

"In 2022, Rosoboronexport

has organized a rich business programme on the sidelines of the Army Forum. We held more than 70 negotiations, during which we discussed various military-technical issues with representatives of 30 partner countries. We concluded several export contracts and also laid the groundwork for contracts worth more than \$14.5 billion," said Alexander Mikhnev, Director-General of Rosoboronexport. "The company made presentations of about 350 Russian products to the delegations of partners who came to the forum. They showed particular interest in the Su-57E fifth-generation fighter, T-14 Armata tank, Ka-52E attack helicopter, Tor-E2 SAM system, Kornet-E ATGM system, and the K-17 Boomerang wheeled infantry fighting vehicle".

Rosoboronexport conducted a live demonstration of Russian armoured vehicles and air defence systems at the Alabino Training Ground according to a scenario developed by the company jointly with the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation. Nineteen pieces of equipment, including the BMD-4M airborne assault vehicle and the K-17 Boomerang IFV, demonstrated their running and firing capabilities.

Rostec CEO Sergey Chemezov: "Despite the persistent desire of Western countries to

isolate Russia, Rostec continues to work effectively in the field of military-technical cooperation. This year we have already signed contracts with a number of foreign customers worth more than one trillion roubles," he said, noting that this figure exceeds some annual figures over the past 10 years.

For his part, Dmitry Shugayev, Director of Russia's Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation (FSMTC), said that foreign partners have significantly increased interest in Russian weapons after assessing their effectiveness during Russia's special military operation in Ukraine.

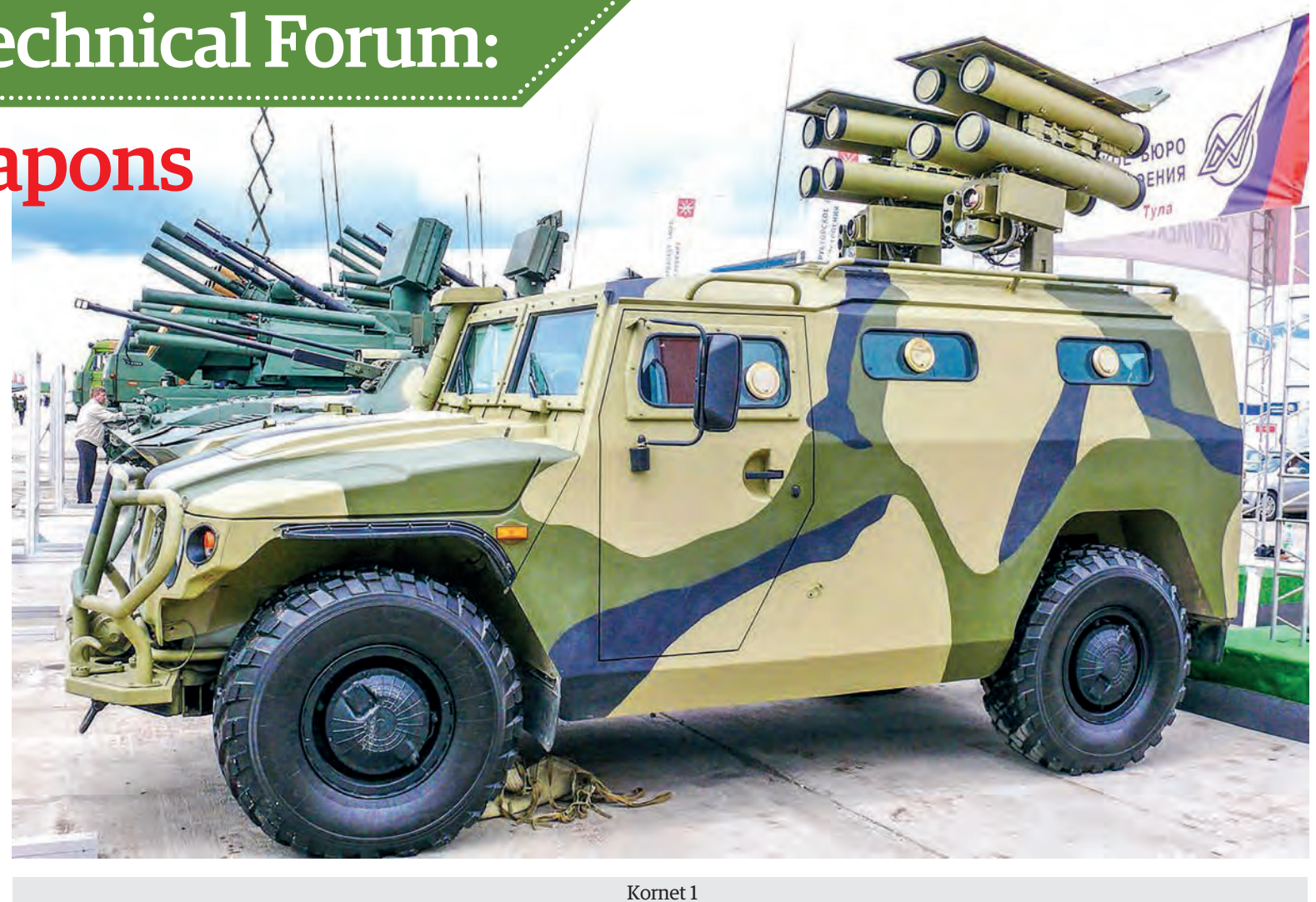
"The special military operation in Ukraine has resulted in a serious surge of interest of foreign partners in Russian weapons. Many of them evaluated their effectiveness during combat use relying on available data. In addition, they made sure once again of the high quality, reliability, durability and maintainability of Russian-made military products, drawing the attention of new potential buyers in Africa, Latin America and other regions of the world," Dmitry Shugayev said.

He noted that in the first half of 2022, military products were exported according to shipping schedules and agreements with foreign partners. In total, the products were delivered to more than 30 states, the head of FSMTC said.

Latest products

A highlight of this year was the demonstration of the Su-57 fifth-generation aircraft system in the immediate vicinity of the Patriot Centre building. The Su-57 advanced multirole fighter jet is designed to conduct missions against air, ground and surface targets day and night using modern and advanced guided and unguided weapons. The aircraft is equipped with the latest avionics, armament and self-defence systems.

In the category of aircraft armament, the absolute novelty



Kornet 1

of Army 2022 was the Kh-69 multi-functional stealth airborne cruise missile, showcased at the Tactical Missile Armament Corporation's (KTRV) exhibit. As follows from KTRV's official presentation materials, the Kh-69 is designed to destroy a wide range of fixed ground targets with known coordinates before launch, including those that do not have radar, infrared and optical contrast with respect to the surrounding background. One or more flight missions can be entered into the missile control system to enable missile assignment to different targets immediately before launch. The operational range of the Kh-69 is 290 kilometres, the flight altitude above the earth's surface is 50-300 metres, and the speed is 750-1,000 km/h.

Another Russian product that received a lot of positive feedback and was exhibited at Army 2022 is the T-14 tank based on the Armata universal combat platform.

"The vehicle has incorporated unprecedented design solutions, in particular, the T-14 has an uninhabited turret, and the crew is in an armoured capsule separated from the ammunition. The tank is equipped with an active protection system and explosive reactive armour; a remotely-controlled weapon station (RCWS)

with a powerful gun and an automatic loader. Electro-optical surveillance, sighting and target acquisition sensors are installed along the perimeter of the turret and the hull," the press service of the developer of the T-14 tank, Uralvagonzavod Corporation, reported.

Aircraft

Almost the entire line of United Aircraft Corporation's (UAC) military aircraft Su-34, Su-35, Su-57, Su-30SM, Yak-130, Il-78MK-90A, Il-76MD-90A, MiG-35, MiG-29K, Be-200, etc was showcased.

The Su-30SM super-maneuvrable multirole fighter was demonstrated. The aircraft is able to effectively penetrate air defence and has great fighting capabilities owing to the large weight of the delivered weapons load and super-maneuvrability that gives it an edge over the air enemy in close air combat.

Russian experts also note the following key advantages of this and other Sukhoi fighter jets: lethal guided missiles and unguided rockets plus a 30-mm autocannon; autonomous basing and in-flight refuelling capability; open architecture of the avionics and weapons systems.

In the segment of military transport aircraft, a new Rus-

sian Il-76MD-90A military transport aircraft was on display. It is based on the Il-76MD production aircraft, which is widely used around the world, and is designed to further improve this type of aircraft and expand its transport capabilities by upgrading its wing and installing more powerful, fuel-efficient and low-noise engines PS-90A-76 instead of D-30KP-2 engines.

The Ka-52 scout/attack helicopter was shown at Army 2022 in the Ka-52K Katran shipborne version. It can be deployed on ships and on land and is fitted with an ejection & shock absorbing system.

Another exhibit item of the forum was the Mi-28NE combat helicopter, equipped with the latest guided missile systems and equipment to communicate with unmanned aerial vehicles, which enhances its capabilities to engage enemy targets covered by air defences.

The Mi-28NE's "neighbour" in the exhibit located in Patriot Park was the Mi-35P transport/attack helicopter based on the Mi-24P helicopter. The Mi-35P inherited the advantages from its predecessor, including its excellent speed, transport/combat capabilities and combat survivability features. The Mi-35P can be

equipped with guided weapons, as well as the President-S airborne defensive aid suite. A feature of the Mi-35P is its capability to operate in the highlands, in hot and humid climates.

First unveiled at the Army exhibition, the Orlan-30 UAV is capable of conducting various missions depending on its payload version – patrolling, surveillance, the guidance of precision weapons, target illumination, post-attack analysis, etc. The vehicle can be transported in a special container.

Ground Forces Equipment

Visually, the Army Forum is often associated with tanks – indeed, it is rare to see such a variety of armoured vehicles in such a limited area at the exhibition.

Uralvagonzavod presented its most advanced armoured vehicles at Army 2022: the T-14 MBT on the Armata platform, T-90MS MBT and the BMPT-72 tank support fighting vehicle.

"The T-90MS is the newest vehicle in the T-90 family and another example of the great growth potential of armoured vehicles manufactured in Tagil. The modernization was so multilevel that the T-90MS can rightfully be considered a new combat vehicle.

(TO BE CONTINUED)



Sosna

Shwenyaung-Taunggyi railway upgrading project inspected

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San accompanied by the Shan State chief minister, minister for transport and officials inspected the construction work of the Shwenyaung-Taunggyi railway upgrading project yesterday.

During the inspection, the Union minister met officials at the meeting room in the Pawmu Railway Station of the Shwenyaung-Taunggyi railway section and officials presented their work implementation, challenges encountered, and further plans. The Union minister gave instructions where necessary.

Afterwards, the Union minister made the inspection tour along the way of the Shwenyaung-Taunggyi railway upgrad-

ing project.

Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San met township officials of the Ministry of Transport and Communications at the Taunggyi Railway Station in the afternoon.

The Union minister also warmly greeted local passengers who ride on the No 154 down train from Taunggyi to Banyin.

The Union Minister and his party proceeded to the Heho airport and met officials. After hearing the report from the airport in charge, he gave the necessary instructions. — MNA

MoTC Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San inspects the upgrading works.



Tamarind, jaggery prices increase in early September

THE price of tamarind, which stayed flat over H1, started rising in early September; Ko Hla Han, an owner of the tamarind from the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Only the seedless tamarind is priced higher at K2,800-4,200 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) depending on quality in the wholesale market in Yangon, whereas the price of tamarind with seeds has remained unchanged at K2,100-2,200 per viss for eight months.

Between January and August 2022, the prices of tamarind hit the highest of K3,500-3,600 per viss only.

In 2022, although kitchen grocery food items inflated, tamarind prices were stable. There is a saying that tamarind prices stay low when the prices of other commodities climb up. However, tamarind price goes up when



Tamarind and jaggery are stockpiled at a warehouse in the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market before being distributed in the retail market.



other price indices are constant, Ko Min Ko, a tamarind vendor on Kayay Street, told the GNLM.

On 14 January, fresh tamarind entered the Yangon mar-

kett with the wholesale price of K2,000 per viss. The price slid to K1,850 per viss on 24 January. The seeded tamarind prices have stayed at K2,100-2,200 per

viss since then. Meanwhile, the prices of seedless tamarind gradually increased from K2,950 per viss. In the first week of September, it peaked at K4,200 per viss.

In the corresponding period 2021, the prices of seeded tamarind were K1,400-1,500 per viss and the seedless tamarind were priced at K1,900-2,400 per viss. During the same period of 2020, the prices stood at K2,100-2,200 per viss of seeded tamarinds and K2,800-3,500 per viss of seedless tamarinds. The seedless tamarind prices were estimated at K2,800 per viss in late 2021 and K3,900-4,000 per viss in December 2020, the market data indicated.

Traders from regions outside Yangon speculated about the good price of tamarind in the harvest season in early 2022, while traders involved in Bayintnaung Wholesale Market predicted the different opinions

from it.

The wholesale prices of jaggery started to inch higher this month. On 7 September 2022, the jaggery prices moved in the range of K2,600 and K3,400 depending on the qualities and jaggery producing area. The prices indicated a sharp increase of K250-300 per viss compared to the previous week (the last week of August), Ko Kyin from a jaggery warehouse located on Nguwah Street.

The jaggery prices stood at K1,425-2,000 per viss on 7 September 2020 and K1,900-2,400 per viss in the year-ago period (2021) respectively.

Thus, the jaggery price hit a three-year high in early September 2022. The inflation of commodity prices is seen in the kitchen grocery market in Yangon, said a trader who delivers the goods to the regions and states. — TWA/GNLM



Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons

USE AND ABUSE OF
TECHNOLOGY



Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day 13th September

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.

CURRENT
AFFAIRS

55 cargo ships of 14 international shipping lines
scheduled to arrive at Yangon Port

IN September 2022, 55 cargo ships carrying many containers, operated by 14 international shipping lines, were scheduled to enter terminals in Yangon Port, according to a notification of the Myanmar Port Authority.

The number of cargo ships entering Yangon Port stands at 49 of 13 lines in January, 48 of 13 lines in February, 50 in March, 52 of 14 lines in April, 54 of 12 lines in May, 53 of 15 lines in June, 49 of 15 lines in July and 55 ships in August respectively.

Earlier, the larger ships had draft problems preventing their sailing on the Yangon River. The draft extension is up to 10 metres with the new navigation channel accessing the inner Yangon River. Yangon inner terminals and the outer



MV. Express Argentina cargo ship from Viet Nam docked at Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa with 8.1 drafts on 12 January 2022 **PHOTO: MITT**

Thilawa Port have received larger ships of 30,000 DWT (Deadweight tonnage) after the draft limit was extended up to 10 meters. Terminals in Yangon Port handled a total of 410 cargo ships in the past eight months. — TWA/GNLM

Agencies are
fully responsible
for despatched
workers: MoL
Union Minister

AGENCIES are fully responsible for the workers from departing time to when they return home, said Union Minister Dr Pwint San in the meeting of the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation-MOEAF executive members on 6 September.

He pointed out that agencies need to go and solve the trade disputes at workplaces in respective countries between the owners and workers as well as cases of accidents, injuries and deaths within 30 days. They have to report the workers' issues and unusual incidents to authorities in order to receive collaborative efforts from the labour attaches. It is necessary to coordinate with relevant ministries and region/state governments in order to ensure the safe travel of workers sent under the MoU system.

Around 30,000 and 40,000 workers have been sent to Thailand through the MoU system since 10 May. —TWA/GNLM



MoU workers to Thailand.

Myanmar aquaculture products export generates
over \$260 mln as of 26 August



The picture shows fish and shrimp covered with ice on a vessel.

THE value of Myanmar's seafood exports as of 26 August in the current financial year 2022-2023 was estimated at over US\$260 million since 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's data indicated.

The figures showed a small decrease of \$1.65 million in nearly six months as Myanmar's fisheries export bagged \$261.733 million in the corresponding period of the 2021-2022 mini-budget period.

Myanmar exports raw aquaculture products from farms and is caught by onshore and offshore fishing businesses to the external markets. Additionally, aquaculture products are also exported after being processed at cold storage facilities. The Department of Fisheries and Myanmar Fisheries Federation are working together for

fishery export promotion and local consumption.

Myanmar annually shipped fisheries products to 45 foreign countries. In the livestock sector, only live cattle are exported to neighbouring countries through cross-border trade channels. Myanmar has been importing shrimp larvae from a neighbouring country to execute the commercial shrimp culture. The public-private partnership is, therefore, required to conduct induced breeding of shrimp, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. — TWA/GNLM

Oil bowser overturned on
PyinOoLwin-Lashio Road

AN oil bowser overturned on the PyinOoLwin-Lashio Road in Mandalay Region on 6 September, according to the Myanmar Fire Brigade Headquarters.

The bowser was on the PyinOoLwin-Lashio Road when it overturned due to the brake failure near Yaythashaut village between milepost 51 and

milepost 52 at 5:30 pm.

A fire engine and a water tanker from the fire station of PyinOoLwin District, a fire engine and members from the PyinOoLwin Township fire station carried out the cooling work at the scene. No one was injured in the incident. — TWA/GNLM



Fire brigade members are making hard efforts to cool down the bowser.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Sesame prices skyrocketing due to low yield, Kyat depreciation

THE prices of sesame seeds are edging up in the domestic market on account of the low yield and Kyat depreciation against foreign currencies in the local forex market, the traders said.

The price of black sesame seeds hit over K200,000 per 45-viss bag in early 2022, while it was priced at approximately K255,000-K320,000 per bag on 7 September. The prices were K315,000-320,000 per bag of white sesame, K350,000-360,000 per bag of Japanese sesame and K240,000-250,000 per bag of brown sesame.

Those sesame seeds which pass the acid test level are primarily traded. It is hard to maintain sesame quality in the monsoon season, the growers from Sagaing Region said.

Additionally, after Myanmar's export ban on oil crops reversed, the prices of peanut and sesame prices inflated. The local millers are also increas-

ingly purchasing them, scaling the stocks down, according to the commodity depots.

Myanmar's sesame was earlier exported to China, South Korea, Japan, Singapore and China Taipei (Taiwan). However, it is now relying solely on China and the shipments to other foreign countries have certain difficulties.

Sesame is cultivated in the country throughout the year. Magway Region, which has gained a reputation as the oil pot of Myanmar, is the main producer of sesame seeds. The seeds are also grown in Mandalay and Sagaing regions.

Of the cooking oil crops grown in Myanmar, the acreage under sesame seed is the highest, accounting for 51.3 per cent of the overall oil crop plantation. Approximately 600,000-800,000 tonnes of sesame seeds are produced yearly. — KK/GNLM



Of the cooking oil crops grown in Myanmar, the acreage under sesame seed is the highest, accounting for 51.3 per cent of the overall oil crop plantation. Approximately 600,000-800,000 tonnes of sesame seeds are produced yearly.

Raw gold metal imports improbable this monsoon season



Gold mines usually collapse in the rainy season. To avoid an unnecessary shortage, the association stated in May that raw gold metal would be imported this rainy season. A gold mine and mine workers in Shan State (South).

RAW gold metal is unlikely to be imported from foreign countries in the current rainy season, said Chairman U Myo Myint of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

Gold mines usually collapse in the rainy season. To avoid an unnecessary shortage, the association stated in May that raw gold metal would be imported this rainy season.

Nonetheless, global gold prices surged to US\$1,800 per ounce in May and June. Although the prices have stayed below \$1,800 per ounce since early August, Kyat's depreciation against the US dollar forced the importers to suspend the plan.

"The import plan is yet to come. The association is still discussing with the officials concerned about dollar transactions. Only when we can buy dollars from the government can raw gold metal be imported. We are still seeking approval from the Central Bank of Myanmar," said U Myo Myint.

At present, raw metals from some gold mines of the regions and states other than Yangon and the resales of imperfect items and scrap metals are circulating on the market. Although raw gold metal import is improbable for now, there is a sufficient stock of raw metal in the domestic market, he continued.

Additionally, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation declared the sales of gold coins weighing one tical, 0.5 tical and 0.25 tical through state-run media on 2 September. The gold coins can be available every day except for the office holiday.

The floor price set by YGEA was below K2 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) yet the gold price peaked at K3.1 million per tical in the markets.

Additionally, the CBM's reference exchange rate against a US dollar is set at K2,100, while a dollar is valued at K3,600 in the unofficial market. — NN/GNLM

Directors, shareholders in absence of AR disallowed to set up new companies

SHAREHOLDERS and directors of those companies which failed to file annual returns (AR) are not allowed to set up new companies, according to the Business and Finance Consulting Team of Myanmar Enterprise Solutions.

In recent days, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration responded to those businesses seeking a business permit to resubmit only after they have tackled failing AR cases in line with the Myanmar Companies Law, companies received that remark.

"The directors and share-

holders of those suspended companies which failed to submit AR are no longer granted to set up a new one. It is a kind of warning. The authorities want the companies to deal with the old ones first," Myanmar Enterprise Solutions posted on its Facebook page.

However, there is no certainty whether directors and shareholders of the companies that have been struck off the register are blacklisted or not.

This action aims to avoid unnecessary bloated business operations, according to Myan-

mar Enterprise Solutions.

As a result of this, directors and shareholders of the companies are required to strictly adhere to the laws than before. They should not have stayed as the company struck off, and should have followed a systematic dissolution process.

Therefore, companies are encouraged to check their status via <https://www.myco.dica.gov.mm/corp/search.aspx> by entering their company name or registration number in the search box if they are found to be suspended, they need to deal

with this as soon as possible.

At present, there are thousands of companies that fail to file AR before the due date and over 400 are declared suspended every month for the absence of AR.

As per DICA's report, 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 that 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, totalling K250,000.

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

Real life, right now —
photo app claims to
capture authenticity

IT'S not all sunsets and selfie smiles — people are flocking to a new social network app that calls on users to share true glimpses of their lives rather than cherry-picked moments.

Once a day, BeReal simultaneously prompts users to take photos of what they are doing, giving them two minutes. The app uses front and rear facing cameras on phones, putting shared “selfies” into context.

The app shuns software filters that add glossy special effects or touch-up effects.

The approach is a sharp contrast to the carefully cultivated images common on Instagram and Facebook that often focus on parties, holidays,

fancy food and perfect weather. “The ideal of BeReal is you are just in a moment — where are you and what are you doing right now,” said Jennifer Stromer-Galley, a professor at Syracuse University school of information studies in the United States.

“Our lived lives, not our best lives — maybe you are walking the dog or in your pajamas eating cereal.” Launched two years ago by French entrepreneurs, BeReal has seen its popularity surge in recent months.

It was the most downloaded app in the United States at start of September, and ranked among the top three in Britain and France, according to figures provided by market tracker Data.ai.—AFP



Photo-sharing app BeReal invites users to share glimpses of their real lives rather than carefully staged moments, winning fans with the bid for authenticity. PHOTO: AFP

El Salvador marks 1st year of Bitcoin
use as confidence wanes

A year ago, El Salvador began accepting Bitcoin as legal tender following a controversial and much criticized decision by President Nayib Bukele.

All seemed rosy for the first few months as citizens enthusiastically embraced the new opportunity, but Bitcoin's value has plummeted since and some experts say the

move has been a failure.

Maria Aguirre, 52, a shopkeeper in the El Zonte seaside resort that has been a major centre for Bitcoin use, says things were going well last year as Bitcoin's value rose from \$52,660 at opening on 7 September 2021, to briefly over \$68,000 a couple of months later.

“But over the last

five months it's been only falling,” said Aguirre, who continues to accept Bitcoin transactions.

Bitcoin has dipped under \$20,000 for most of this September.

In El Zonte, around 60 kilometers southwest of capital San Salvador, Bitcoin was already being used before Bukele's move, which was designed

to encourage a population where only 35 per cent of people owned an account at a financial institution in 2021, according to the World Bank.

El Salvador became the first country to accept Bitcoin as legal tender, alongside the US dollar that has been the official currency for two decades.—AFP

Nissan, Honda to boost battery
procurement amid electric vehicle push

TWO Japanese automakers on Wednesday unveiled measures to boost their capacity to procure batteries, with Nissan Motor Co saying it will acquire one of its key suppliers, as the producers look to accelerate the development of electric vehicles. While Nissan has announced its acquisition of lithium-ion battery maker Vehicle Energy Japan Inc, Honda Motor Co said its Chinese unit will set up a joint venture later this month with local automakers to jointly procure EV batteries.

The announcements come as automakers worldwide expand their efforts to roll out less-polluting, electrified cars amid stricter environmental



In 2020, Japan had a total of 29,855 charging stations (21,916 slow chargers and 7,939 fast chargers). PHOTO: KYODO

regulations.

Nissan said it will acquire Vehicle Energy for an undisclosed sum to secure a stable supply of batteries and facilitate the development of next-generation batteries. The au-

tomaker said it will buy the 47 per cent stake in Vehicle Energy held by the state-backed fund INCJ Ltd., and purchase more shares to be issued by the battery maker.

Vehicle Energy—

which is based in Hitachinaka, Ibaraki Prefecture — is currently providing lithium-ion batteries to Nissan vehicles such as its flagship compact car. With the deal, Vehicle Energy will become a consolidated subsidiary of Nissan, and its existing shareholders Maxell Ltd., another battery manufacturer, and Hitachi Astemo Ltd., an auto parts maker, will continue to hold their stakes, according to Nissan.

Honda also said Wednesday a venture will be established in Beijing later this month with Dongfeng Motor Corp and Guangzhou Automobile Group Co for the procurement of EV batteries.—Kyodo

Juul agrees to pay \$438 mln in US over
marketing vapes to youth

JUUL Labs will pay \$438.5 million to settle a probe by 34 US states that found the vaping company marketed to underage smokers, state officials announced Tuesday.

Under the agreement, which is still being finalized, Juul would provide payments over the next 6-10 years to individual US states and pledge to not

employ cartoons in ads or otherwise market to younger consumers.

The probe was led two years ago by state officials in Connecticut, Oregon and Texas and joined by other states.

The investigation “revealed that Juul wilfully engaged in an advertising campaign that appealed to youth, even though its

e-cigarettes are both illegal for them to purchase and unhealthy for children,” according to a press release from the Oregon Department of Justice.

Juul “relentlessly marketed to underage users with launch parties, advertisements using young and trendy-looking models, social media posts and free samples,”

the press release said, adding that the company used age verification techniques “that it knew were ineffective.”

“The conduct that led to this settlement was reprehensible and demonstrates pure corporate greed at its most damaging,” said Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC TOKYO VOY.NO. (2246S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SITC TOKYO VOY.NO. (2246S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-9-2022 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

New Israel strikes put Aleppo airport out of service: Syria state media

ISRAELI strikes hit Syria's Aleppo airport on Tuesday evening, damaging the runway and putting the facility out of service, the official SANA news agency said.

It is the second reported Israeli strike on the airport in northern Syria in less than a week.

"At around 8:16 pm (1716 GMT), the Israeli enemy fired missiles from the Mediterranean Sea... targeting Aleppo International Airport, damaging the runway and rendering it out of service," it said.

SANA said earlier that Syrian air defences had intercepted some missiles, and reported material damage.

Syria's private airline Cham Wings announced that all flights to and from Aleppo would be routed to the capital Damascus due to the strikes.

The Syrian Observatory for



Israeli strikes hit Syria's Aleppo airport on Tuesday evening, damaging the runway and putting the facility out of service. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, said several explosions were heard near Aleppo airport, "resulting from Israeli strikes on warehouses of Iran-affiliated militias".

The monitor, which has a vast network of sources on the

ground in Syria, said at least two missiles destroyed the depots, causing a fire and "heavy material damage".

On Wednesday last week, SANA said Israeli strikes hit Aleppo airport, causing "some material damage".—AFP

Australia, East Timor sign defence agreement amid regional tensions

AUSTRALIA and East Timor on Wednesday signed a defence cooperation agreement that will allow greater military cooperation between the neighboring countries amid rising competition in the Indo-Pacific.

The deal, inked on a visit to Australia by East Timor President Jose Ramos-Horta, will facilitate increased defense and security cooperation, particularly in the maritime domain, where the two countries share a border in the resource-rich Timor Sea.

"We have been working towards a (defense cooperation agreement) for over a decade and today's signing is a significant step forward in our partnership," Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said in a statement following the signing.

Ramos-Horta and Albanese met in the capital Canberra earlier Wednesday to discuss issues including common security, economic cooperation, labour mobility and skills, and Australia's support for East Timor's bid to join the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the statement said.

Wednesday's signing follows Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong's visit to East Timor last week, as Australia looks to strengthen ties with countries in the region amid China's growing presence.

The Southeast Asian nation inked a series of development assistance agreements with China in June, during Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's tour of eight Pacific island nations.—Kyodo

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia 'regrets' IAEA report did not blame Ukraine: UN envoy

RUSSIA on Tuesday voiced regret that a report by the UN nuclear watchdog warning of risks at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia plant did not blame Kyiv for shelling the Moscow-occupied site.

"We regret that in your report... the source of the shelling is not directly named," Russian Ambassador Vasily Nebenzya told a Security Council session attended virtually by Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"We do understand your position as an international regulator, but in the current situation it's very important to call things by their name," he said.

The IAEA in a report released earlier Tuesday called for a demilitarized zone to be set up outside Europe's largest nuclear plant, which was seized by Russian troops during their invasion of Ukraine.

Both sides have blamed



Russia's ambassador to the UN, Vasily Nebenzya, expressed regret at a UN Security Council meeting on 6 September 2022, that an IAEA report on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant did not blame Ukraine for shelling the Russian-occupied Ukrainian facility. **PHOTO: AFP**

each other for shelling, which took place again Tuesday despite the watchdog's recommendations.

"If the provocations by the Kyiv regime continue, there is no guarantee that there won't be serious consequences, and the responsibility for that lies

fully with Kyiv and its Western backers and all other members of Security Council," Nebenzya said.

Western powers voiced dismay at his remarks, saying that the fundamental issue was Russia's invasion of and occupation of the plant.—AFP

Russia buying huge amounts of N.Korean ammunition for Ukraine: US

RUSSIA is buying potentially millions of artillery shells and rockets from communist North Korea to replenish its stocks depleted by invading Ukraine, the White House said Tuesday.

"Our sense is you could include literally millions of rounds, rockets and artillery shells," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters. Kirby, citing declassified US intelligence, stressed that the purchases were not yet completed.

"We don't have any indication that the purchase has actually occurred yet, so it's

difficult to say what it's actually going to end up looking like," he said, adding that there are "certainly no indications that that materiel, those weapons, are being used inside Ukraine."

According to Kirby, massive purchases of artillery ammunition from the deeply isolated and repressive North Korean government, as well as a deal to purchase military drones from Iran, show the dire straits Russia faces after months of Western economic and technological sanctions aimed at crippling its war machine.—AFP



Rescuers clear rubble from a mall in Kremenchuk, on 28 June 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Divisive campaign clouds party as Brazil turns 200

BRAZIL celebrates the 200th anniversary of its independence Wednesday, with the festivities clouded by a divisive election race and accusations that President Jair Bolsonaro is using the festivities to bolster his campaign.

Trailing in the polls to leftist ex-president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva ahead of October's elections, Bolsonaro is planning a massive show of strength to mark the occasion, including military parades in Brasilia and Rio de Janeiro and rallies by his supporters

in cities across the country.

Last year on Brazil's national day, the far-right president triggered an outcry with a fiery speech saying "only God" could remove him from office and vowing to stop heeding rulings by Supreme Court Justice and top electoral official Alexandre de Moraes, whom Bolsonaro considers an enemy.

That year, Bolsonaro supporters broke through a security cordon in Brasilia on the eve of the festivities and threatened to invade the Supreme Court.

The race for the 2 October election has left Brazil deeply divided as it marks the anniversary of the date in 1822 that Dom Pedro I, then the sprawling South American colony's regent, declared its independence from Portugal.

Bolsonaro is trailing Lula in the polls heading into the first-round election, which will be followed by a runoff on 30 October if no candidate wins more than half the valid votes.

But the incumbent looks determined to flex his muscle on Independence Day.—AFP



Every year, 7 September in Brazil is a day of colourful parades, military demonstrations and national pride. **PHOTO: AFP**

One century on, cult of Mussolini persists in Italy

ONE hundred years after he took power, the cult of Benito Mussolini persists in the small Italian town of Predappio, where his tomb draws tens of thousands of visitors each year.

Many are just curious but others are driven by nostalgia for a past that weighs heavily on the party tipped for victory in the general election on September 25 — Giorgia Meloni's post-fascist Brothers of Italy.

A white marble bust of "Il Duce" adorns the crypt in the family chapel in the cemetery of this northeastern town, where Mussolini was born, while his sarcophagus is draped with the tricolour Italian flag.

"We will never forget you!" says one message in the gold



Mussolini's tomb draws tens of thousands of visitors each year. **PHOTO: AFP**

book of condolences, while others say: "We will be reborn" and "Come back!" One young visitor with a shaved head, visibly moved, brushed the tombstone

with one hand before giving the Fascist salute to the man described on one of the ribbons in the crypt as the "father of the country". —AFP

12 dead, 11 injured in Vietnam karaoke bar fire



The blaze engulfed the second and third floors of the building. **PHOTO: VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY/AFP**

A fire tore through a karaoke bar in southern Vietnam killing 12 people and leaving 11 injured, a local official said Wednesday.

The blaze engulfed the second and third floors of the building on Tuesday night, trapping customers and staff members as

dense smoke filled the staircase and blocked the emergency exit, state media reported.

Many crowded onto a balcony to escape the flames, which grew quickly as they caught the wooden interior; and others were forced to jump from the building, the reports added.

Photos showed plumes of smoke billowing out of the bar — located in a crowded residential neighbourhood in Thuan An city, north of commercial hub Ho Chi Minh City — as firefighters on cranes tried to extinguish the fire.

A local official confirmed to AFP that 12 people were dead and 11 injured in the blaze.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

FBI found intel on foreign govt's nuclear readiness at Trump home: report

ONE of the classified documents seized by the FBI at former US president Donald Trump's Florida residence described the nuclear capabilities and military defenses of a foreign power, The Washington Post reported Tuesday.

The newspaper, citing unnamed sources familiar with the case, said that some of the documents found in Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence were so highly classified that only the president and cabinet or near-cabinet level officials would be cleared to authorize other government officials to access them.

It did not name the country whose defense and nuclear capabilities were cited in the document.

According to the Post, such documents require special clearances on a need-to-know basis, rather than a generic top-secret clearance. There were no details as to where in the residence, which also serves as a private members club, the highly sensitive material was found, or under what type of security.

Trump is facing mounting legal pressure, with the Justice Department saying top secret documents were "likely concealed" to obstruct an FBI probe into Trump's potential mishandling of classified materials.—AFP

Chile's president changes ministers after referendum rout

CHILE'S leftist President Gabriel Boric reshuffled his cabinet Tuesday in response to voters resoundingly rejecting a draft text backed by him to replace the country's dictatorship-era constitution.

Two days after the draft was voted down in a referendum, Boric changed his ministers of the interior, health, science, energy and the presidency, opting for individuals closer to the centre of the political left.

The new Interior Minister Carolina Toha, and minister of the presidency Ana Lya Uriarte both occupied top positions under former centre-left president Michelle Bachelet.

On Sunday, a first draft of a new constitution was rejected by nearly 62 per cent of voters in a mandatory referendum that analysts say was also a report card on Boric's performance since taking office in March with promises of installing a "welfare state".

He described the rejection Tuesday as perhaps "one of the most difficult moments politically that I have had to accept".—AFP



SPORT

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 Women's League to launch on 3 October

THE Myanmar National League will hold the women's league in October, according to the women's football authorities.

The women's league will run from 3 October to 27 November, and seven or eight teams will compete.

The women's league was suspended after the 2018-2019 season and will resume this year.

The league started at the

end of 2016 and lasted until the 2019 season, but was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Myanmar National League is confirming the participating teams, and most of the teams that participated in the last 2018-2019 season are expected to compete again.

The women's league will be held in two rounds and will be held at M3 Stadium and Thuwunna Training Ground in

Yangon.

In the last three times, only two teams have won the championship – the Myawady team in the 2016-2017 season and the 2017-2018 season, and the ISPE team in the 2018-2019 season.

The Myanmar U-18 women's team, which is preparing to compete in international competitions, also plans to compete in the women's league to gain competition experience. — GNLM



The file photo shows the celebrating ISPE FC players as they win the championship title of the Myanmar Women's League in 2018. PHOTO: MWL

Chelsea sack Tuchel after poor start to the season

CHELSEA on Wednesday sacked manager Thomas Tuchel just seven games into the new season, hours after they suffered a chastening Champions League defeat at Dinamo Zagreb.

The former Borussia Dortmund and Paris Saint-Germain boss leaves Stamford Bridge after a tumultuous period at the club, which included a Champions League triumph and the end of Roman Abramovich's reign.

Chelsea said they would move "swiftly" to appoint a replacement, with former Tottenham and PSG boss Mauricio Pochettino and Brighton manager Graham Potter among the early favourites.

"On behalf of everyone at Chelsea FC, the club would like to place on record its gratitude to Thomas and his staff for all their efforts during their time with the club," the Premier League club



Chelsea have sacked manager Thomas Tuchel. PHOTO: AFP

said in a statement.

"Thomas will rightly have a place in Chelsea's history after winning the Champions League, the Super Cup and Club World Cup in his time here." —AFP

Real Madrid see off Celtic to begin Champions League defence

REAL Madrid shrugged off the loss of Karim Benzema to an early injury as the holders got their defence of the Champions League off to a winning start with a 3-0 victory at Celtic.

The Scottish champions were left to rue not making the

most of a bright start as Calum McGregor rattled the post.

However, the Hoops had no response once Vinicius Junior, scorer of the winner in last season's final, broke the deadlock with a calm finish on 56 minutes.

Four minutes later a nonchalant finish from Luka Modric with the outside of his foot doubled Madrid's lead before Eden Hazard struck to continue a 100 per cent start to the season for Carlo Ancelotti's men. —AFP

Khachanov downs Kyrgios to set-up Ruud duel for US Open final spot

KAREN Khachanov set-up a US Open semi-final duel with Casper Ruud on Tuesday when he battled past "devastated" Nick Kyrgios in a big-hitting five-setter, shattering the Australian crowd-pleaser's dreams of a maiden Grand Slam title.

Russian 27th seed Khachanov triumphed 7-5, 4-6, 7-5, 6-7 (3/7), 6-4 over the Wimbledon runner-up to make the last-four at a major for the first time.

Earlier Tuesday, Norwegian fifth seed Ruud defeated Italy's Matteo Berrettini 6-1, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) to make his second Slam semi-final of 2022 having finished runner-up to Rafael Nadal at the French Open.—AFP



Breakthrough: Karen Khachanov celebrates after defeating Nick Kyrgios. PHOTO: AFP