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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.

High commodity prices persist amid declines in gold price, exchange rate



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Tax revenues exceed K1,900 billion in first four months



Female workers are pictured processing the export seafood, one of the commercial businesses in Myanmar.

MYANMAR tax revenue totalled K1,900.574 billion in the first four months of 2022, according to the statement issued by the Central Statistical Organization under the Ministry of Planning and Finance citing a temporary report of the Internal Revenue Department.

In January 2022, Myanmar collected K47.592 billion in special goods tax, K98.867 billion in commercial tax, K257.902 billion in income tax, K9.931 billion in stamp duty and K2.374 billion in lottery tax.

In February, K94.657 billion of special goods tax, K161.388 billion of commercial tax, K104.584 billion of income tax, K7.709 billion of stamp duty and K768 million of lottery tax were reported.

In March, Myanmar's tax revenue accumulated K143.695 billion in special goods tax,

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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

Leaders from EAOs arrive in Nay Pyi Taw for peace talks



The Democratic Karen Benevolent Army-DKBA peace delegation is welcomed on their arrival in Nay Pyi Taw.

AS SAC Chairman Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing called for peace talks with ethnic armed organizations-EAOs, peace delegations led by Vice-Chair Dr Naw Kapaw Htoo of the Karen National Liberation Army (Peace Council) KNU/KNLA (PC) and Chief of Staff Saw Steel of the Democratic Karen Benevolent

Army-DKBA arrived in Nay Pyi Taw from Hpa-an, Kayin State on 14 September afternoon.

On arrival at the Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw by car, members and officials of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, ethnic people from the Department of Fine Arts, departmental staff

and local people welcomed delegations by holding miniature State flags and placards bearing “Perpetual peace is the real aspiration of the people”, “Achieving peace is the true desire of all citizens”, “Let’s hold talks for peace in the Union”, “Only the ethnic nationalities are in unity, stability, peace and tranquillity

will be achieved”.

The first discussions with the KNU/KNLA (PC) delegation were made from 26 to 28 May 2022 and the DKBA delegation from 19 to 21 June 2022 for peace talks. At the talks, all parties agreed to strengthen the multi-party democratic system, build the union based on the demo-

cratic and federal system, and strive for peace and development of the Union.

In the second discussions, all EAOs including those who have not yet come to the peace talks were welcomed to frankly discuss their political interests and future processes unconditionally. — MNA



The Karen National Liberation Army (Peace Council) KNU/KNLA (PC) peace delegation is welcomed on their arrival in Nay Pyi Taw.



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WORLD
TOURISM
DAY 2022

RETHINKING
TOURISM
27 SEPTEMBER

“RETHINKING TOURISM”

“ခရီးသွားလုပ်ငန်းဖွံ့ဖြိုးဖို့ ပြန်လည်ကြံဆဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့”

Daily imports of essential Anti-Covid-19 equipment managed in smooth process

THE Ministry of Commerce supervises the import of essential medical supplies and anti-Covid devices as well as Covid-19 prevention, control and treatment activities through border trade posts, international airports and seaports.

A total of 1,824 test kits were imported via the international airport.

Officials from relevant departments provided necessary facilities in order to beef up the standard operating procedures-SOP for the import process.

The public can browse the Ministry's Website – www.commerce.gov.mm – for notifications on the importation of medicines and related accessories. —MNA

If the ethnic armed organizations come to the peace talks, the future politics of the nation will be assured

THE 4th of January 2023 will be the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day of Myanmar. We will continue to prioritize the cessation of armed conflicts. As 2022 has been set as the year of peace, it is necessary to implement the peace process in a pragmatic way. Thus, I myself invited the leaders of ethnic armed organizations-EAOs to join the peace talks. These talks brought good results for the regions and the nation, so, if the ethnic armed organizations come to the peace talks, the future politics of the nation will be assured.

(The excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on the Occasion of the Eighteen Months of the Assumption of State Duties by the State Administration Council on 1 August 2022)

54th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting and related meetings held



MIFER Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw poses for the group photo at the event in Cambodia.

A delegation led by Myanmar AEM Lead, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw participated in the 54th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting and related meetings which were held in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

The opening ceremony for the 54th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting and related meetings was conducted at 8 am local time in Cambodia. At the ceremony, Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen delivered opening speech and Mr Pan Sorasak, Minister for Commerce of Cambodia gave welcoming speech. Before the ceremony, the Prime Minister of Cambodia met ASEAN Economic Ministers and Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations

also joined the session.

After the opening ceremony, the 54th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting and related meetings continued. The 36th ASEAN Free Trade Area Council Meeting commenced at 10 am local time in Cambodia. At the meeting, the Ministers discussed the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) and provided necessary guidance on the preparations for the ATIGA Upgrading Negotiations for further expanding regional trade cooperation. In addition, the Ministers encouraged all member states to fully issue e-Form D through the ASEAN Single Window System.

During the meeting, Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw discussed the matters pertaining to My-

anmar's implementation status for the commitments under the ASEAN Free Trade Area, national Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) programmes and the custom integration process.

At the ASEAN Investment Area Council Meeting, the Ministers discussed the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement and, welcomed the launch of the ASEAN Investment Report (AIR) (2022). In addition, the Ministers noted the report of the Senior Official to the ASEAN Investment Area Council Meeting and preparations for the ASEAN Investment Roadshow which will be conducted during the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (ABIS) 2022. The Ministers endorsed the ASEAN Investment Peer Review Report

2022 at the Meeting.

At the Meeting, the Union Minister underscored the preparations for investment liberalization during the Covid-19 pandemic and the promotion of potential investment in the post-pandemic period.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister joined the ASEAN Economic Ministers and ASEAN Business Advisory Council Consultations which were attended by the ASEAN Economic Ministers and the members of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC) from the ASEAN Member States. The ASEAN Business Advisory Council briefed the Meeting on the progress of the ABAC's 2022 activities. The Ministers provided the necessary guidance for strengthening private sector engagement in future economic cooperation.

In the evening, Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw attended the 54th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting. At the meeting, the Ministers noted the progress of the Priority Economic Deliverables (PED) for Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2022. Afterwards, the Ministers provided the policy recommendations, and guidance on the findings of the practical study titled "Enhancing Container Circulation to Support Maritime Transportation of Selected ASEAN Member States". In addition, the Ministers announced the launch of negotiations for the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Competition. During

the Meeting, the Union Minister highlighted Myanmar's close cooperation in the implementation of the PED.

The working dinner for the 54th AEM Meeting was held on 13 September 2022. At the dinner, the Ministers exchanged views on the post-pandemic recovery efforts of each member state and the implementation status of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework.

The Meetings were chaired by Mr Sok Chenda Sophea, Minister attached to the Prime Minister, Secretary-General of the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC), Mr Pan Sorasak, Minister for Commerce of Cambodia and Mr Vongsey Vissoth, Minister attached to the Prime Minister, Permanent Secretary of State of the Ministry of Economy and Finance and, attended by ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM), ASEAN Free Trade Area Council Ministers, ASEAN Investment Area Council Ministers, Senior Economic Officials (SEOM), ASEAN Business Advisory Council Members, Secretary-General of the ASEAN and representatives. The Meetings were joined by Dr Marlar Myo Nyunt, Myanmar SEOM Lead, the director-general of the Foreign Economic Relations Department and responsible persons together with the Union Minister.

The 54th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting and related Meetings will continue until 18 September 2022. — MNA

384 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 14 September, total figure rises to 617,739

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 617,739 after 384 new cases were reported on 14 September 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 594,552 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reaches 19,444 with one death.

Among the positive cases during the period from 28 January to 7 September 2022, 80 per cent of infected persons have not totally received vaccination, 15.9 per cent received vaccination once, four per cent fully vaccinated and 0.1 per cent booster dose.—MNA

Preliminary analysis of COVID-19 vaccination of positive patients and deaths

ACCORDING to the analysis of the COVID-19 vaccination rate of positive patients between 28-1-2022 and 7-9-2022, 80 per cent of patients have not been vaccinated at all while 15.9 per cent are inoculated one time, four per cent have been fully administered with vaccines and 0.1 per cent received booster shots.

COVID-19 infection rate and vaccination

Out of Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patients			
80 per cent	15.9 per cent	4 per cent	0.1 per cent
			
have not been vaccinated at all	have been vaccinated one time	have been fully vaccinated	have received booster shots

According to the analysis of the COVID-19 vaccination rate of deaths between 28-1-2022 and 7-9-2022, 84.1 per cent have not been vaccinated at all and have not been fully vaccinated, 14.4 per cent have been fully inoculated and 1.5 per cent received booster shots.

COVID-19 death toll and vaccination

COVID-19 deaths		
84.1 per cent	14.4 per cent	1.5 per cent
 		
have not fully vaccinated and been vaccinated one time	have been fully vaccinated	have received booster shots

Therefore, according to the analysis of the COVID-19 vaccination and COVID-19 cases/deaths in Myanmar, it causes less severe illness and fewer deaths among those who are fully vaccinated and those who receive booster shots. The people should follow COVID-19 health rules, wear face masks and contact the nearest health departments, and village/ward administration offices to receive vaccines and booster shots.

Ministry of Health
(12-9-2022)

Yangon Region celebrates 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition



The Yangon Region chief minister presents the prize to the awardee.

A total of 737 contestants participated in 25 genres of the Yangon Region 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition. One hundred and eleven gold medals, 69 silver medals and 59 bronze medals, totalling

239 were awarded to winners.

The awarding ceremony was held at the government office's theatre hall at noon on 14 September according to the COVID-19 health rules.

The ceremony was attended by the patron of the organizing committee for the 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and wife, Commander of the Yangon Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe and wife, Chief Justice Daw Sandar Thwe of the Region High Court, military officers and their wives, regional government ministers and their wives, rectors from universities, region-level departmental officials, responsible personnel from the Myanmar Music Association, the panel of judges of the

competition, contestants and guests.

First, Chief Minister U Soe Thein in his opening speech praised the diligence and efforts of the contestants which will pave the way for State-level competitions and urged younger generations of fine artistes to keep making efforts to preserve the prestige and integrity of the nation with their talents.

Next, Yangon Region Advocate-General U Htay Aung gave words of thanks, followed by showing recorded video clips of the competition and giving a performance with the competition song "That-Win-Hlote-Shar-Kyal-Pwint-Lay-Myar" (Motivating Stars).

Afterwards, officials including the chief minister and his wife awarded prizes to the winners. — MNA

Daily newspapers available online

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Tax revenues exceed K1,900 billion in first four months

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K216.914 billion in commercial tax, K328.146 billion in income tax, K13.413 billion in stamp duty and K2.218 billion in lottery tax.

In April, tax revenues were collected from K49.05 billion on special goods, K110.326 billion on sales of goods and services, K233.472 billion on income, K10.232 billion on sales of stamps and K840 million on the lottery. In the first four months, tax revenue recorded in March is the highest with K709.208 billion.

The Central Statistical Organization under the Ministry of Planning and Finance citing a temporary report of the Internal Revenue Department stated that Myanmar's tax revenue amounted to K2,931.269 billion in the 2021-2022 six-month mini-budget period. — TWA/GNLM



A bicycle, slippers and some personal items were left behind on the bridge.

Man jumps from Kamarkyi Bridge, Thakayta

AN unknown man jumped from the Kamarkyi Bridge in Thakayta Township into the Ngamoeyek Creek at 10 am on 14 September, according to the charity team of Thakayta Township. There has been no confirmation of the identity of the man who left his bicycle, slippers and utensils by the bridge.

Police forces and members of charity teams are still searching for that man, who jumped from the bridge. The charity team official stated that their teams from Thakayta Township are still searching and have not found him yet.

A number of suicides took place in regions and states during the last week of August, including the Yangon Region. — TWA/GNLM

High commodity prices persist amid declines in gold price, exchange rate

IN the second week of September, the price of gold and the exchange rate significantly fell yet the prices of commodities and consumer goods remain in upward trends, housewives stressed.

The domestic pure gold price and exchange rate tremendously jumped in August due to different reasons, which are way higher than the reference prices. As a result of this, the prices of daily food products and the majority of consumer goods dramatically rose.

Although the goods to be imported with the high exchange rate have not arrived in the markets, the businesspersons have already raised the commodity prices in their hands, according to the exchange rate. Import process including applying for import licence and freight shipping transit time takes 15 days at least. However, the businesspersons set the prices of commodities unanimously in advance.

The prices of imported goods and related goods have increased accordingly. Although it is beneficial for the businesspersons who keep the stocks in their hands, the consumers are bitterly battered by inflation pressures.

Locals are facing the burden of



Commodities are seen in the shopping centre.

high commodity prices. Consumers are struggling with the impacts of colusive pricing.

However, they do not intentionally respond to the slides on the foreign exchange rate in recent days. That being so, the consumers are suffering the impacts of inflation with advanced pricing. The prices of wheat and edible oil affected the prices of daily food products like Yu Char Kway, Naan, instant noodle, bread, and products made of wheat. Similarly, imported dairy products are also priced higher.

Food products and consumer goods without price inflation are rarely found in the markets. Inflation increases the cost of living yet their income remains unchanged. Therefore, inflation falls hardest on low-income households when they are struggling with the soaring prices of food.

Thus, the prices of food products and consumer goods should have been reduced in consequence of the slides in the exchange rate. Inflation is pushing up the burden of mounting living costs on consumers. — TWA/GNLM

Mixed jaggery enters domestic market

WITH the commodity prices soaring, counterfeit foods made of cheaper substances are allegedly flowing into the market and mixed jaggery is among them.

The wholesale prices of organic palm jaggery prices were K3,450 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the NyaungU area, K3,050 in the Mahlaing area, K3,150 in the Pakokku area and K3,550 in the Yesagyo area on 13 September 2022.

When sugar prices plummeted below K1,000 per viss in the years 2018 and 2019, jaggery prices hit K1,500 per viss. At that time, organic jaggery and jaggery combo were sold in the markets, Ko Thet Tun, a trader who delivers the sugar to regions outside Yangon, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The jaggery combo mixed with sugar was K300-400 cheaper than the organic one then. They can be identified as a jaggery combo only when we taste it, said a buyer. During those years, jaggery producers in the central Myanmar regions made jaggery combos. Carbon steel wok should be used in making organic jaggery. Instead, cast iron woks are utilized in jaggery

combos and they are unhealthier, Ko Naing Win, a jaggery maker from the Pakokku area, told the GNLM.

When the wholesale price of jaggery stood at only K1,000 per viss, it did not cover the general cost including the wages of the palm tree climbers in production. As the business is physically demanding but less secure financially, the local people migrate to foreign countries for jobs. The shortage of workers prompted some palm plant owners to cut down the trees for commercial purposes. Consequently, it is hard to find organic jaggery in the markets.

In the past decade, the jaggery price jumped four or five times. How-

ever, organic jaggery is mingled with fake ones in competitive markets.

Mixed jaggery consists of 50 ticals of wheat flour, a cup of palm sap and three visses of sugarcane sap, fresh jaggery, rice powder and chemical substance. Before it is completely cooled down, jaggery is shaped into a circle.

It takes one hour and a half to make a wok of organic jaggery, while a four-wok load of mixed jaggery can be made during this time. As it uses forged ingredients unlike pure palm sap, it is unhealthy.

A palm jaggery lover called for an inspection of the fake ingredients to check whether it has health impacts or not. — TWA/GNLM

A jaggery maker is seen working on a manageable scale in Mahlaing Township.



MNA to operate Yangon-Gaya-Yangon Charter Flight every Sunday from Nov

THE Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) will operate Yangon-Gaya-Yangon Charter Flight every Sunday starting November to April 2023, according to the launching ceremony jointly conducted by Gracious Vacation Company Limited and its partner company Wow India Travel at the Round House in Yangon yesterday.

“During the COVID-19 period, the flight services for Gaya were suspended. Starting November 2022, we will resume the pilgrimage and the season usually lasts between six and seven months. We will start the operation in November as there might be fewer passengers. Normally, we sell the flight ticket for the Yangon-Gaya-Yangon trip separately and the travel agents buy them here. The trip takes one week and the 7 nights/ 8 days trip includes significant places in India and Nepal. There are also 15-day/14-night trips. They are normal trips,” said Chairman of Gracious Vacation Company Limited U Naung Naung Han.

The Bodh Gaya trip started in 2013 and was suspended in February 2020 for the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The trip will be resumed this November. The Charter Flight can carry 158 passengers and it costs \$420 per pilgrim and \$400 if they make a group trip.

“Every Buddhist intend to pay a visit to Bodh Gaya, where the Buddha was born, in his lifetime. In India, there are the



One aircraft of the MNA fleet. PHOTO : SOE MYINT AUNG

places where the Buddha was born and He preached the first sermons. We call these places Phwar, Pwint, Haw, San (Birth, Enlightenment, Teaching and Parinibbana of the Buddha). They are boasts the birthplace of Buddha, the place where the Buddha attained the Enlightenment, where He preached the sermons and where He died. So, the birthplace of Buddha is located in Nepal and so the Nepal trip is an essential one,” he added.

The officials of over 100 local travel agencies attended the Charter Flight service launching ceremony. — Pwint Thitsa/GNLM

Myanmar’s female seafarers head for open seas but still fewer



The talk show on female seafarers is in progress.

THE number of Myanmar female sailors serving abroad is still fewer as they are worried about the challenges and it is a main reason for the low numbers, said Naw El Dee Nar San (aka) Dee De.

“For women in the catering sector on ships, they have to start as the stewardesses and there are also housekeepers and they can work in galleys onboard. The number of Myanmar female seafarers are still fewer than other countries. Women have been allowed as seafarers in Myanmar recently. People think that the sailors are only for men so far. Some make questions about it. In Myanmar, women are left behind in experiences, languages, finances and poor of knowledge of how to make preparation. It is not easy to get CDC Seafarer’s certificate. Candidates need to attend many courses and they have to make the instalment payment for these fees. Therefore, women cannot do it in a long run or they may be disappointed and women cannot go signing on the ship. Therefore, I want to share my experience to urge Myanmar women. I will serve on board for the third time by the end of this month,” she said at the talk show held at the Myanmar Seafarers Federation Office in Kyauktada Township in Yangon on 7 September.

There are over thousands of Myanmar women who are working on international passenger ships. President of Myanmar Seafarers Federation Captain Soe Min Aung, members of the federation and women seafarers attended the talk show. — Pwint Thitsa/GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, consumer goods, auto parts and vehicles confiscated

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

An inspection team led by the Customs Department made inspections on the Yangon-Hpa-an—Myawady Road on 12 September.

Officials confiscated K20,165,624 worth of car tyres and consumer goods that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from two trucks and a trailer (approximately K70 million) near the Bago Industrial Zone Entrance on the bypass road. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, a combined team under the Magway Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections and captured a total of 1.3804 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K364,402 in Thayatpinkwat village of Magway township. The action was taken under the Forest Law. On 13 September, a total of 0.5280 tonne of illegal teak worth K80,000 in Lewe township of Dekkhina district were seized

and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Afterwards, on 14 September, an on-duty team made inspections at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint. They captured K2,250,000 worth of motorbike tyres without declaration in the Import Declaration (ID) from a vehicle. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, an inspection team led by the Myanmar Police Force captured an unregistered Hijet car (approximately K3 mil-



Officials check the seized illegal teak.

lion) between the 6/3 Milepost and 6/4 Milepost on the Yangon-Mawlamyine Road (Moppalin) and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

A team led by the Bago Region Forest Department captured a total of 10.6100 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K4,449,612 in the Toungoo and Nyaunglebin districts and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 11 arrests estimated at K100,309,638 were made on three consecutive days from 12 to 14 September, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Fuel oil price remains elevated despite decrease in Kyat-dollar exchange rate

FUEL oil price continues an upward spiral even after the Central Bank of Myanmar tried to stop the depreciation of the Kyat against safe-haven dollars, the fuel market's data indicated.

In late August, Kyat weakened against the strong dollar at over K4,500. At present, the exchange rate slid to around K3,200.

The fuel prices continued to spike. The prevailing fuel prices touched a high of K2,485 per litre for Octane 92, K2,575 for Octane 95, K3,065 for premium diesel and K3,150 for diesel.

The CBM also announced on 30 August that it will provide more than US\$200 million through the foreign exchange market according to the decision made by Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee in order to ease the commodity inflation triggered by fuel price spike. Later, the fuel prices slightly declined. At present, fuel prices have risen in the domestic market.

The Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated that domestic fuel prices follow the price index set by Mean of Platts

Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in Southeast Asia.

The committee is governing the fuel oil storage and distribution sector effectively not to have a shortage of oil in the domestic market and ensuring price stability for energy consumers.

The Petroleum Products Regulatory Department, under the guidance of the committee, is issuing the daily reference rate for oil to offer a reasonable price to energy consumers. The reference rate in Yangon Region is set on the MOPS' price assessment, shipping cost, premium insurance, tax, other general cost and health profit per cent.

The rates for regions and states other than Yangon are evaluated after adding the transportation cost and the retail reference rates daily cover on the state-run newspapers and are posted on the media and official website and Facebook page of the department on a daily basis starting from 4 May.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10



The Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated that domestic fuel prices follow the price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in Southeast Asia.

per cent is produced locally. The domestic fuel price is highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss between the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distrib-

ute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are

about 60 per cent cheaper than in Myanmar. Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also poses only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. – NN/GNLM

Myanmar sugar needs G-to-G pact for legitimate export to China



The sugarcane is grown in December-January. It can be harvested from November to February of the following years. The sugarcane growing rotation cycle lasts four years in Myanmar.

EXPORTERS call for a government-to-government agreement to have a legitimate sugar export to China, U Win Htay,

vice-chair of the Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane-related Products Association told the Global New Light of Myanmar

(GNLM).

Myanmar earlier sent surplus sugar to China through a cross-border channel. The ex-

port was conducted with the state-level Memorandum of Understanding, he continued.

“China issues a quota on sugar imports for some countries, for instance, Laos and Cambodia. Those countries can export the sugar under the quota which is officially allowed. We still cannot reach an agreement on a quota limit. So, we carried out a deal only with the state-level agreement,” U Win Htay elaborated.

However, sugar export to China came to a halt suddenly due to the COVID-19 policy of China.

“Earlier, Myanmar exported both sugar and syrup to China. The virus impact suspended the sugar exports in border areas,” he stressed.

At present, Myanmar's syrup is also conveyed to Viet Nam via maritime trade this year, the association stated.

Some local companies offered the sugarcane price at K90,000 per tonne for the upcoming 2022-2023 sugarcane season, the association stated.

Approximately, 450,000 acres are covered with sugarcane across the country, with an annual production of 450,000 tonnes of sugar, according to the Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane-related Products Association.

Sugarcane is commonly grown in the upper Sagaing Region, followed by northern Shan State. It is also found in the western and eastern Bago Region, Yangon Region and Mandalay Region.

The sugarcane is grown in December-January. It can be harvested from November to February of the following years. The sugarcane growing rotation cycle lasts four years in Myanmar. — NN/GNLM

Adjust population with food supply for sufficiency

A COUNTRY needs to have availability of adequate food volume, supply of foods at fair prices and distribution of 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 a growing population with raising the food demand, changes in food prices, shortages or disappearance of crop varieties, effects of climate change, disadvantages of the scarcity of water and declining land areas for agriculture and livestock farms, waste and extinction of foods, and waste of the foods based on various reasons.

As the global population rose in past years with longer life expectancy, it is expected that the world's population would reach eight billion in coming November 2022. Researchers and experts estimated that the figures for the world's population would reach 8.5 billion in 2030, 9.73 billion in 2050 and 10.4 billion in 2100. Hence, the growing population should be calculated depending on the prospects of food sufficiency.

In fact, the population really affects the sufficiency of the food supply. Although many countries are operating agricultural businesses producing agricultural produce and livestock products to be supplied to the global population, their production cannot cover the growing population. Food production must be adjusted to the increasing population. Homeless and people in the poverty field are not still inclusive of food supply and do not enjoy the fruits of food security.

Food supply is crucial in the daily requirement for every person but clothing and accommodation. So, it is necessary to emphasize solving the food problem of global people. Food demand will be higher and higher together with a growing number of population day by day. Especially, basic staple foods such as rice and wheat, oil and oil crops, meat and meat products, milk and dairy products as well as crops will face remarkably high demand in societies.

with a growing number of population day by day. Especially, basic staple foods such as rice and wheat, oil and oil crops, meat and meat products, milk and dairy products as well as crops will face remarkably high demand in societies.

In order to meet the demands, it is necessary to expand the cultivable lands under various kinds of crops and livestock farms. If so, farming products will cease the starvation and famine of human beings in society. On the other hand, all food producers and suppliers need to take care of food security for all humans to be free from the impacts and dangers of inappropriate food supplies.



Green Care, Clean Air

By Chit Ko Pe



Origin of a true nature shall remain intact, and shall not be spoilt and ruined. Enjoyment of true nature is a basic right for the next generations who shall not be put precarious and perilous in a spoilt environment.

PHOTO: SDG KNOWLEDGE HUB

the primary sources of air pollution—traffic, diesel generators, construction works, power plants, factories, burning of waste, and slash-and-burn agricultural practices. Myanmar, as

a whole, has often experienced more intense floods, cyclones and droughts becoming one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the impacts of climate change.

It is largely detrimental to human health with nine out of ten persons globally living in areas with poor air quality, an annual casualty of seven million premature deaths including 600,000 children under the age of five, and more than two billion people still relying on the polluting cooking systems according to the report of the World Health Organization (WHO). To these health effects, people more vulnerable than others are children, pregnant women, older adults and the elderly, people with heart disease, lung disease or respiratory problems and those of all ages who exercise or work vigorously outdoors as they expose themselves to ozone more than others.

Therefore, it is crucial and critical to protect people's

health, well-being, and quality of life from the impacts of air pollution. First of all, we shall start with a transformative change in our lifestyles and in work execution practices at jobs so as to reduce air pollution as far as possible and manageable.

Some industries here and abroad have been adopting the so-called green approaches such as a reduce-reuse-recycle practice to minimize waste, energy conservation with electrical light fittings, air conditioning systems, appliances, equipment and devices that bear energy-efficient or green label marks as well as the use of solar cells or other alternate energy eg. bio-diesel, wind.

Individuals' involvement in such a noble move will make a difference to restore the origin of nature by –

- growing more trees,
- turning off lights, computers and engines when not in use,
- unplugging electronic gadgets when they are off,
- walking or riding a bike,
- avoiding open-burning of debris or waste, and
- saving water.

At a national level, the following awareness activities shall be regularly organized in communities, schools, universities, business settings, public offices and institutions.

- distribution of brochures,
- educational talk shows televised / radio broadcast,
- practical demonstrations,
- poster exhibitions,
- conferences and seminars,
- publication of articles in newspapers, journals and magazines,
- timely updates and discussion on social media,
- development of policies, guidelines and planning for air pollution control,
- natural resources management and environmental sustainability,
- action plan for transboundary haze pollution control,
- capacity development and international cooperation, and
- people's awareness and participation events.

Legislations prompt the control measures for environmental and air quality management that Myanmar strictly follows with an array of environmental laws enacted like other member countries of the UN.

All people, global citizens, shall mind the importance of a sustainable environment and strive for the eternal existence of our earth with clean air through green care.



Second US monkeypox death as virus linked to brain inflammation

A SECOND US death was linked to monkeypox on Tuesday as health authorities published a study describing how two previously healthy young men experienced inflammation of the brain and spinal cord as a result of the virus.

There have been nearly 22,000 US cases in the current global outbreak, which began in May, but new infections have been falling since mid-August as authorities have distributed hundreds of thousands of vaccine doses.

The latest fatal case involved a severely immunocompromised resident of Los Angeles County who had been hospitalized, the local health department said, without revealing further details about the case.

“Persons severely immunocompromised who suspect they have monkeypox are encouraged to seek medical care and treatment early and remain under the care of a provider during their illness,” the department said.

The first US death linked to the viral illness occurred in Texas and was announced on 30 August, although authorities said that as the person was severely immunocompromised, they were investigating what role monkeypox had played.

The current global outbreak is primarily affecting men who have sex with men.

Historically, the virus has been spread via direct contact with lesions, body fluids and respiratory droplets, and sometimes through indirect contamination

via surfaces such as shared bedding.

But in this outbreak, there is preliminary evidence that sexual transmission may also play a role.

Brain and spinal cord inflammation

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention meanwhile published a report about two unvaccinated men in their 30s who experienced brain and spinal cord inflammation after testing positive for the virus.

The first, patient A, was a gay man in his 30s from Colorado whose symptoms began with fever chills and malaise but progressed to rashes on his face, scrotum and extremities, with swabs of lesions testing positive for the virus.

He also developed lower extremity weakness and numbness, was unable to empty his bladder, experienced a persistent and painful erection, and was hospitalized.

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) revealed brain and spinal cord inflammation, and he was treated with the oral monkeypox antiviral tecovirimat as well as other drugs, and began to improve at two weeks.

He was released but continued to have left leg weakness and required an assistive walking device at one month followup.

A second person, patient B, was also a gay man in his 30s from the capital Washington. His fever, rashes and muscle pain progressed to bowel and bladder incontinence and progressive

flaccid weakness of both legs.

Brain and spinal cord inflammation was confirmed on MRI and he was intubated in an intensive care unit, where he was treated with intravenous tecovirimat, as well a drug to reduce inflammation, and finally blood plasma exchange.

He remains in hospital but can walk with the assistance of a device.

The report said the underlying mechanism behind the two cases was unclear — it might have been direct invasion of the central nervous system, or an autoimmune response triggered by monkeypox infection elsewhere in the body.



SOURCE: AFP

Hospitals around the world are treating people for monkeypox. PHOTO: NOAH SEELAM/AFP

TECH/ENVIRON WORLD

SpaceX says likely won't need 42,000 satellites for Starlink internet

SPACEX, which has requested authorization to deploy up to 42,000 satellites to provide its Starlink satellite internet service, probably won't need to launch that many into orbit, its chief operations officer said Monday.

Starlink — the satellite internet service of tech billionaire Elon Musk — offers high-speed broadband service to customers in areas that are poorly or not served by fixed-line or mo-

bile telecoms operators via a constellation of satellites in low earth orbit.

"We definitely want to put up more satellites as more people want to use the service," Gwynne Shotwell told reporters.

"I don't think we'll need 40,000 satellites to provide good service globally," she added.

Next generation satellites equipped with bigger antennae and with better capacity such as

those SpaceX is getting ready to launch into orbit mean fewer are needed, Shotwell said.

A sharp rise in the number of satellites especially at several hundred kilometres in altitude has sparked fears about low earth orbit congestion.

Astronomers have raised concerns about their impact on ground-based astronomy.

SpaceX has deployed nearly 3,000 Starlink satellites since 2019.—AFP



Next generation satellites equipped with bigger antennae and with better capacity such as those SpaceX is getting ready to launch into orbit mean fewer are needed. **PHOTO: SPACEX/AFP**

Indonesia, Norway ink deal to reward rainforest protection

INDONESIA and Norway signed a deal Monday to reward deforestation reduction months after the collapse of a similar \$1-billion agreement that was part of a UN-backed global initiative criticized for its ineffectiveness.

Protecting trees is key to meeting climate goals but environmentalists blame Indonesia — home to the world's third-largest rainforest area — for a deforestation free-for-all by allowing companies to clear land for new plantations.

Jakarta claims it has made progress by reducing the rate of primary forest loss for five straight years and Oslo will now reward it with "results-based contributions" for cutting emissions, Norway's ministry of climate and environment said in a statement.

"Today we are proud to embark on a new partnership to support the Indonesian government's impressive results and ambitious plans," said Norwegian Minister for Climate and Environment Espen Barth Eide in a statement. But environmental activists say the deal will not change the situation in Indonesia with vast swathes of rainforest still being destroyed to make way for palm and timber plantations that threaten endangered species and push indigenous people off their lands.— AFP



This picture taken on 9 May 2017 shows a team of Indonesian forest rangers making their way through the Leuser ecosystem rainforest, located mostly within the province of Aceh on the northern tip of the island of Sumatra. **PHOTO: AFP/CHAIDEER MAHYUDDIN**

France sees record heat for September

FRANCE saw record temperatures for September hit the country, notably the south west, amid a heatwave drifting up from Morocco, the Météo-France weather service said Monday.

The thermometer hit 39.1 degrees Celsius (102.4 degrees Fahrenheit) at Mont-de-Marsan in the southwestern Landes department and 39C at nearby Dax.

Regional capital Bordeaux saw 37.5C — topping a previous September high of 37C in 1987 — while Tarbes further south

in the Pyrenees saw 37.2C, more than a degree up on the 35.8C seen in 1964.

Neighbouring Pau managed to beat that with a baking 38.9C, easily surpassing the 36.3C it had seen in 1970.

Even some 600 kilometres (370 miles) further north, in Nantes, temperatures were a barely less scorching 35.1C, unheard of for the area in September.

The intense heat — coming on the back of a scorching sum-

mer which saw a series of horrific wildfires in the southwest — results from "hot air coming up from Morocco and propelled by a depression, the post-tropical cyclone Danielle, currently off the coast of Portugal", a Météo-France forecaster told AFP.

France saw three heatwaves between June and August, the result of an air depression in the Atlantic Ocean as scientists lined up to blame the phenomenon at least partly on climate change.— AFP

'Pet' kangaroo blamed for Australian's death

A wild kangaroo is suspected of killing a 77-year-old man who was keeping it as a pet, Australian police said Tuesday — reportedly the first fatal roo attack in 86 years.

The man, who has not been identified, was found by a relative on Sunday afternoon with "serious injuries" at a property in the sparsely populated southern town of Redmond in Western Australia, police said. "It is believed the man had been attacked by the kangaroo earlier in the day," a state police spokesman said.

An ambulance crew raced to the scene, but the man died there.

"At the property there was a kangaroo that was preventing the ambulance crew from accessing the injured man," the police spokesman said.

Police said they had to shoot and kill the animal, as it "was posing an ongoing threat

to emergency responders".

The kangaroo was believed to be a wild animal being kept by the man as a pet, police said.

Though the kangaroo species was not identified, the Great Southern region of Western Australia is home to the western grey.

The male western grey can grow up to 2.2 metres (more than seven feet) long and weigh up to 70 kilogrammes (154 pounds).

Australian media said the last reported fatal attack by a kangaroo was believed to be in 1936.

In that incident, the Sydney Morning Herald reported that a 38-year-old man, William Cruickshank, had died in hospital in New South Wales, months after being attacked as he tried to rescue two dogs from a large kangaroo. The attack left him with a broken jaw and extensive head injuries.—AFP



Kangaroos possess powerful hind legs, a long, strong tail, and small front legs. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE/AFP/FILE**

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Health groups calls for fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty



Journalists and MPs tour a green hydrogen plant in Germany. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP**

AROUND 200 health organizations and more than 1,400 health professionals on Wednesday called for governments to establish a binding international treaty on phasing out fossil fuels, which they said pose “a grave and escalating threat to human health”.

A letter proposing the “fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty” said it could work similarly to the World Health Organization’s Framework Convention on Tobacco Control — except this time the harmful controlled substances would be coal, oil and gas.

The WHO was among the health organizations from around the world who signed the letter.

“The modern addiction to fossil fuels is not just an act of environmental vandalism. From the health perspective, it is an act of self-sabotage,” WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement.

The letter called on national governments to develop and implement a legally binding mechanism that would immediately stop all future fossil fuel expansion, as well as phasing out

existing production.

It emphasized that the transition should be carried out in “a fair and equitable manner”, and that high-income countries should support lower-income nations to ensure the change “reduces poverty rather than exacerbating it”.

Air pollution, mostly from burning fossil fuels, has been linked to the deaths of seven million people a year.

Climate change has also spurred more frequent and severe extreme weather events, which can have a lasting impact on health even beyond those initially affected by the disasters, including smoke from wildfires and diseases spread after floods.

The letter also pointed to the heightened health risks faced by the workers who extract, refine, transport and distribute fossil fuels and related products.

Phasing out fossil fuels would prevent 3.6 million deaths a year from air pollution alone, the letter said, adding that “the same cannot be said for proposed false solutions, such as carbon capture and storage”.—AFP

S.Africa reports two deaths linked to Covid vaccine



So far, 37,544,120 vaccines have been administered in South Africa. A total number of 9,210,329 J&J vaccine doses have been administered. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SOUTH Africa’s medicines regulatory authority says it has recorded two fatal cases of the rare Guillain-Barre syndrome in people who had received a Johnson & Johnson Covid jab.

The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) reported its first case in August and the second on Monday.

“SAHPRA has been in-

formed of a second fatal case of Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) following vaccination with the Covid-19 vaccine Janssen,” it said in a statement, using the vaccine’s commercial name.

In a response to AFP Tuesday, Johnson & Johnson said “very rare cases of the neurological disorder, Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) have been reported following vaccination with the Janssen Covid-19 vaccine with most occurring during the first 42 days following vaccination”. “GBS is a very rare but severe adverse event that is associated with the administration of various vaccines and other medicines and can also be triggered by infections such as SARS-CoV-2,” it said, but made no direct reference to the South African cases.—AFP

Syria cholera outbreak at risk of spreading: WHO

THE World Health Organization warned Tuesday of a “very high” risk of cholera spreading across Syria after the country recorded its first cases since 2009.

“The risk of cholera spreading to other governorates is very high,” the WHO said, after cases were recorded in at least five of the country’s 14 provinces. “The source of infection could be linked to people drinking water from untreated sources,” or “food contamination due to irrigating plants with contaminated water,” the WHO said in a statement.

On Monday, the Syrian health ministry reported two cholera deaths in government-held areas.

On Saturday, Kurdish au-

thorities reported three deaths in areas of northern and eastern Syria under their control.

The WHO said the cases were the first reported in Syria since 2009, when 342 cases were confirmed in the eastern province of Deir Ezzor and the northern province of Raqa.

The disease is generally contracted from contaminated food or water, and causes diarrhoea and vomiting.

It can spread in residential areas that lack proper sewerage networks or mains drinking water. A decade of civil war has damaged two thirds of Syria’s water treatment plants, half of its pumping stations and one third of its water towers, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has said.—AFP



Yemenis wait outside a tent where patients infected with cholera are receiving treatment at Sabaeen Hospital in Sanaa on 24 June 2017. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Biden order to bolster US biotech industry

PRESIDENT Joe Biden will sign an executive order Monday seeking to bolster the trailblazing US biotech sector’s efforts to take on growing commercial rivals in China, officials said.

The order will bring federal support for “areas that will define US biotechnology leadership and our economic competitiveness in the coming decades,” a senior Biden administration official told reporters.

The official said that while US biotech research leads the world, the industrial applications are increasingly in the hands of other countries. “Unless we translate biotechnology innovation into economic and societal benefits for all Americans, other countries, including and especially China, are aggressively investing in this sector”, posing a “risk”, the official said.

Biden will discuss the executive order during a Monday speech in Boston on administration plans to ramp up the US scientific and health care-based fight against cancer.—AFP

ECONOMY

WORLD

ASEAN economic ministers’ meeting expected to bring about benefits, closer cooperation



Aerial photo taken on 28 Aug 2022 shows a view of Qinzhou Port in Qinzhou City, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Launched in 2017, the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor is a trade and logistics passage jointly built by provincial-level regions in western China and ASEAN members. **PHOTO: XINHUA/ZHANG AILIN**

THE upcoming 54th ASEAN Economic Ministers’ meeting (AEM) and related meetings will bring about economic benefits and closer cooperation among all countries involved, a senior Cambodian official has said.

The 54th AEM and related meetings, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) ministers’ meeting, the East Asia Summit (EAS)

economic ministers’ meeting and the AEM-Dialogue Partners Consultations, will be held both in person and virtually from 14 to 18 Sept. in the cultural province of Siem Reap in northwest Cambodia. In a recent interview with Xinhua, the Ministry of Commerce’s Undersecretary of State and spokesman Penn Sovicheat said it will be another historic milestone for Cambodia to host

the AEM for the third time since the kingdom joined the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) family in 1999.

He said the participants will discuss the progress of achieving the ASEAN Economic Community integration, the progress of Priority Economic Deliverables, post-COVID-19 economic recovery, and ASEAN external economic relations.—Xinhua

Google loses appeal against record EU antitrust fine

THE European Union’s second-highest court on Wednesday overwhelmingly upheld the EU’s record fine against Google over its Android operating system for mobile phones, slightly reducing the fee for technical reasons.

In a statement, the EU’s General Court said it “largely confirms the commission’s decision that Google imposed unlawful restrictions on manufacturers of Android mobile devices” in order to benefit its search engine.

The court, however, said the fine should be slightly reduced to €4.125 billion (RM18.6 billion), instead of the €4.3 billion decided by the commission in 2018 after reviewing the duration of the infringement.

The levy remains the EU’s biggest ever despite Google’s arguments that the commission’s case was unfounded and falsely



The European Union’s second-highest court will decide whether Brussels stepped over the line it delivering a record-breaking fine to Google for an antitrust case. **PHOTO: AFP**

relied on accusations it imposed its search engine and Chrome browser on Android phones.

The company also pushed the case that the EU was unfairly blind to the strength of Apple, which imposes or gives clear

preference to its own services such as Safari on iPhones.

Google insisted that downloading rival apps was only a click away, and that customers were in no way tied to Google products on Android.—AFP

Sri Lanka to establish Cabinet subcommittee on economic revival

SRI Lanka’s Cabinet of ministers has approved the establishment of a Cabinet subcommittee on economic revival, Cabinet spokesman Ramesh Pathirana said on Tuesday.

Addressing the media in Colombo, he said that the subcommittee will be empowered to take swift decisions to revive the country’s economy.

A number of agencies are working on various aspects of economic recovery, and the

subcommittee can oversee them and provide strategic guidance, the minister said.

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe will chair the subcommittee, and five other ministers including Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena will be members of the subcommittee. Pathirana said that the subcommittee members will also review the public recruitment process and take steps to fill up the vacancies. —Xinhua



Staff members work on the production line of organic teas at Stassen Exports Private Limited in Colombo, Sri Lanka. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lebanese pound slides to new low

THE Lebanese pound slid to a new low against the US dollar as the country continues to suffer from a steep financial crisis.

The exchange rate of the Lebanese pound on Tuesday declined to 36,600 against the dollar, down from the previous record low of 35,500 on 2 September, reports Xinhua news agency.

Patrick Mardini, president of the Lebanese Institute for Market Studies, attributed the continuous depreciation of the local pound to the central bank’s policy to finance the government deficit and deposit withdrawals at commercial banks.—Xinhua

Pakistan’s economy continues to sink despite international support

DESPITE support from Saudi Arabia and International Monetary Funds (IMF), Pakistan is on the verge of economic collapse with a lack of funds.

The political instability, deteriorating business environment and mismanagement of the economy have pushed the country into investment fatigue from the traditional partners exposing the country to economic risks as well as political uncertainty, reported Asian Lite International. Initially, there was hope for Pakistan, when on 29 August, the Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) completed the combined seventh and eighth reviews under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Pakistan, allowing the authorities to draw the equivalent of SDR 894 million (USD 1.1 billion). But the recent floods and heavy monsoons in the country have dampened the hope of a quick revival from the economic crisis, reported Asian Lite International.—ANI

Lufthansa back in private hands as govt sells rescue stake



Back in profit: The German government supported Lufthansa during the Covid-19 pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

LUFTHANSA said Wednesday the German state had sold the stake it took in the airline as part of a rescue package at the peak of the Covid pandemic, and booked a healthy profit in the process. In the spring of 2020, borders were shutting worldwide, forcing airlines everywhere to

ground planes and put staff on forced leave. To save Lufthansa from bankruptcy, the German government took a 20-per cent stake in the group under a nine-billion-euro (dollar) state aid package. Under the deal, the government agreed to sell the stake by October 2023.

But with the airline's finances stabilizing as travel resumed, Berlin was able to start selling its holdings as early as November last year. —AFP

Japan central bank conducts 'rate check' as yen sinks: reports

JAPAN'S central bank on Wednesday conducted an operation often seen as a precursor to currency intervention, local media said, as the yen continues to crater against a strengthening dollar. The financial daily Nikkei and other local me-

dia said the Bank of Japan (BoJ) carried out a "rate check". A Bank spokesman contacted by AFP declined to comment. —AFP

Foxconn strikes \$19.4 bln deal to make chips in India

TAIWANESE electronics giant Foxconn will invest \$19.4 billion to make semiconductors in India with local conglomerate Vedanta, backed by New Delhi's push to boost tech self-reliance after a global chip shortage.

Semiconductors are an essential component of nearly all modern electronics, from smartphones to kitchen appliances and

cars, but the coronavirus pandemic kneecapped global production and leading manufacturers are still struggling to meet demand.

India approved a \$10 billion incentive plan last December to kickstart its own domestic industry by covering up to half of all project costs.

The deal announced Tuesday is the scheme's

most ambitious investment to date and will see a manufacturing facility built in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat.

"India's own Silicon Valley is a step closer now," Vedanta group chairman Anil Agarwal tweeted on Tuesday, thanking the government for helping "tie things up so quickly".

Vedanta, one of India's biggest mining companies, will take a 60 per cent share in the joint venture for its first step into chip-making.

Foxconn, the world's top iPhone assembler, will take the minority stake.

"The improving infrastructure and the government's active and strong support increases confidence in setting up a semiconductor factory," Foxconn vice-president Brian Ho said in a statement. —AFP



Chinese workers assemble electronic components at the Taiwanese technology giant Foxconn's factory in Shenzhen, China. PHOTO: AFP

CHANING THE NAME OF INSECTICIDE TRADING

The foregin manufacture Shandong Kesaijinong Biotechnology Co.Ltd will import and distribute the following insecticide registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing trading name.

Sr	Old Name	New Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Eagrow King	Eagrow Shwe Pyaung	Atrazine 20% + Mesotrione 5% OD	Provisional	P2022-5643

It is Therefore announced to come and rejezt within two weeks to Joint Secretary Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address- KESAI EAGROW MYANMAR CO., LTD Block (58), No(1), Mayflower Street, Nawaday Garden Housing, Hlaing Tharyar Township, Yangong, Myanmar.
Ph - 09;768080088/ 09;940585888

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB236A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB236A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

TUG; NAUTILLUS BG; SINGA BESAR 2801

Consignees of cargo carried on **TUG; NAUTILLUS BG; SINGA BESAR 2801 (V.22/09-01MM)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-1** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LTD

Ads

Call

09251022355
09974424848

Invitation to Bid for In-house Consultancy Services

RFP No. 15 / In-house Consultancy Services / 2022-2023

1. Department of Hydropower Implementation (Client) intends to select consulting firm for In-house Consultancy Services for Feasibility Study, Basic Design, Tender Design, Construction Design Review and Scope of Works mentioned in Section-5 of RFP for the Hydropower Projects.
2. The Client requests for proposals to the qualified, well experienced international consulting firms in hydropower projects on the basis of open tender announcement in order to carry out In-house Consultancy Services described in RFP.
3. A consulting firm will be selected under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method and procedures as described in the RFP. This RFP has been addressed to European and Japanese Consultant Firms.
4. The proposals shall be submitted in six sets (one original and five duplicates/ copies) in two separate and sealed envelopes clearly made "Technical Proposal" and "Financial Proposal" on or before 1:30 pm on 15th November,2022 (Myanmar Local Time) to Tender Receiving and Scrutinizing Committee, Department of Hydropower Implementation.
5. Only technical proposals will be opened on the same day of submission of proposals at meeting room, Department of Hydropower Implementation, in the presence of authorized representative of the firms. Absence of the representative of the firm shall not hinder the opening of the proposal.
6. A complete set of RFP documents with detailed information shall be available from 16-9-2022 to 14-10-2022 at the following address during office hours.
Tender Receiving and Scrutinizing Committee, Department of Hydropower Implementation, Ministry of Electric Power, Office No (27), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, Phone: + (95) 067 8104184, Email : dd1officedhpi@gmail.com
7. The bid announcement form can also be accessed on the Ministry of Electric Power website www.moee.gov.mm.

Tender Receiving and Scrutinizing Committee
Department of Hydropower Implementation
Ministry of Electric Power

GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

Japan, India hold maritime drills amid China concerns in Indo-Pacific

JAPAN'S Maritime Self-Defence Force said Tuesday it has been conducting exercises with the Indian Navy in waters off the South Asian nation's east coast amid China's growing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region.

The MSDF helicopter carrier Izumo and destroyer Takanami have joined the weeklong drills that began on Sunday in the area stretching from the Andaman Sea to the strategically important Bay of Bengal in the Indian Ocean, with India's

destroyer Ranvijay and frigate Sahyadri also participating.

The exercises come after Japan and India held "two-plus-two" security talks in Tokyo last Thursday, where their foreign and defense ministers agreed on enhancing bilateral defence cooperation, including joint exercises.

The two countries also agreed to conduct their first joint fighter jet drill at an early date.

Conducting drills would "contribute greatly to the realiza-

tion of a free and open Indo-Pacific," Adm. Ryo Sakai, chief of staff of the MSDF, said at a press conference on Tuesday, vowing to "continue efforts to strengthen cooperation between Japan and India".

India has also sent aircraft to the drills, which will last until Saturday.

According to the MSDF, the ongoing training includes exercises against submarine and aerial attacks and shooting drills.—Kyodo



The Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force's Izumo helicopter carrier refuels an Indian Navy frigate (back) in the Bay of Bengal on 11 Sept 2022. **PHOTO: JAPANESE MARITIME SELF-DEFENSE FORCE / KYODO**

French court to rule on deadly 2009 Yemenia Airways crash

A French court on Wednesday will issue its verdict on involuntary homicide charges against Yemenia Airways over a 2009 crash that killed 152 people – but miraculously left a 12-year-old girl alive. The Yemeni national airline faces a maximum fine of €225,000 (RM1.01 million) if found guilty of insufficient pilot training that led to fatal mistakes by the crew onboard, as prosecutors have alleged. On 29 June 2009, flight Yemenia 626 was on approach to Moroni, the capital of the Comoros islands that lie between Mozambique and Madagascar, after departing from the airport in the Yemeni capital Sanaa.

France's overseas territory



Crash survivor Bahia Bakari (left) arrives at The Paris' Courthouse in Paris, for the opening hearing in the case of the 2009 crash of a Yemenia Airways flight that killed all 152 of her fellow passengers and crew. **PHOTO: AFP**

of Mayotte is also part of the Comoros archipelago in the Indian Ocean off the eastern coast of

Africa. Among the 142 passengers and 11 crew were 66 French citizens.—AFP

77th session of UN General Assembly opens

THE 77th session of the UN General Assembly was declared open on Tuesday by new General Assembly President Csaba Korosi.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in his opening remarks, called for solidarity among member states to address common challenges.

The many challenges that defined the 76th session of the General Assembly are still very much around as the new session starts, he said. "We face a world in peril across our work to advance peace, human rights and sustainable development, from conflicts

and climate change to a broken global financial system that is failing developing countries, to poverty, inequality and hunger, to divisions and mistrust."

"Addressing common challenges will require continued solidarity as we demonstrate the great promise and potential of this organization," he added.

The United Nations is the home of cooperation. And the General Assembly is the life within that home. The months ahead will continue testing the strength and durability of the multilateral system this organization represents, he told delegates. —Xinhua

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Energy crisis to dominate EU chief's annual speech



Hiking LNG imports, mainly from the US and Qatar, could be crucial to alleviate Europe's energy crisis in the short term. **PHOTO: AFP**

EUROPE'S fears of a long winter with scarce energy supplies because of Russia's war in Ukraine are expected to top an annual

speech by EU chief Ursula von der Leyen on Wednesday.

The "State of the European Union" address to the Euro-

pean Parliament is to focus on ways her European Commission can mitigate the looming crisis, which is being worsened by soaring inflation.

Among those listening to the speech will be Ukrainian First Lady Olena Zelenska, wife of President Volodymyr Zelensky, invited as von der Leyen's guest of honour.

"The courage of the Ukrainian people has touched and inspired the world. Europe will stand with you every step of the way," von der Leyen tweeted alongside photos of her and Zelenska in Strasbourg.—AFP

Pressure builds on Berlin to send battle tanks to Ukraine

GERMAN Chancellor Olaf Scholz faces pressure at home and abroad over weapons deliveries to Ukraine, with Kyiv blasting his refusal to send battle tanks that would boost Kyiv's counter-offensive against Russia. **Disappointing signals**

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba on Tuesday slammed "disappointing signals from Germany" on the supply of more armaments.

"Not a single rational argument on why these weapons cannot be supplied, only

abstract fears and excuses," Kuleba said in a post on Twitter.

"What is Berlin afraid of that Kyiv is not."

After initially refusing to provide Kyiv's forces with lethal weapons at the outbreak of war, Germany has since upped its arms deliveries to Ukraine.

Piles of ammunition and rocket launchers have been sent to the Ukraine from arms-makers and the German army's own stores, as well as dozens of tanks and howitzers. —AFP

Crime unites voters in Swedish far-right stronghold

CONCERN over soaring crime has united voters in the small town of Sjöbo, where the far-right Sweden Democrats, the big winners in Sunday's election, posted their strongest score.

Hama Abdulla, a 49-year-old immigrant from northern Iraq, is packing away the fruit stand he runs on Sjöbo's main square.

He won't say who he voted for, but he's not surprised the nationalist and anti-immigration Sweden Democrats (SD) scored big on Sunday.

"Burning cars, shootings... It happens in Stockholm, Gothenburg and the other places I read about in the papers. But it's in (the southern county of) Skane where it happens most," Abdulla says.

"People get sick of it. I have many friends who are immigrants and still voted SD," he adds.

Once shunned by other political parties, the Sweden Democrats surged to become the second-largest party with around 20 per cent of votes, trailing only the



Once shunned by other political parties, the Sweden Democrats surged to become the second-largest party. PHOTO: AFP

Social Democrats — which have dominated Swedish politics since the 1930s — at 30.5 per cent.

In Sjöbo, a small town in Skane with 20,000 inhabitants in the greater municipality, 42.7 per cent of people voted for SD.

It has been an SD bastion since the party first entered parliament in 2010, boosted by anti-immigration sentiment.

Here, cafes, hair salons and pizzerias dot the quiet cobblestone main street lined with

trees, resembling many small towns in Sweden.

Scattered with tidy houses and farmsteads, the municipality is the biggest employer, running schools, healthcare and elderly care.

A 40-minute drive away is Sweden's third-largest city Malmö, where gang shootings and bombings have become almost daily occurrences, especially in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.—AFP

Venezuela agrees to help in Colombia peace talks



Members of the Ernesto Che Guevara front, belonging to the National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrillas, shoot during training in the jungle, in Chocó department, Colombia, on 26 May 2019. PHOTO: RAUL ARBOLEDA/AFP/FILE

LEFTIST Venezuela has agreed to be a guarantor of future peace talks between Colombia and its last guerrilla group, both countries said Tuesday night.

This is the latest move towards strong new relations that had been severed until Gustavo

Petro took power this month as the first leftist leader ever in Colombia.

Colombia has asked the Venezuelan government of President Nicolas Maduro to be guarantor of talks with the National Liberation Army, or ELN, the

last active rebel group in a country torn by decades of conflict.

In a speech, Maduro said, "Of course we agree!"

It thus joins Chile and Cuba as guarantors of talks that the Bogota government hopes to hold with the ELN.

Colombia and its largest rebel group, the FARC, signed an historic peace accord in 2016 after decades of war.

Venezuela took part in that peace process, with Maduro involved at first as foreign minister in the government of the late socialist icon Hugo Chavez, then after 2013 as his successor.

"Peace in Colombia is peace in South America," Maduro said Tuesday.

Petro wants to resume talks with the ELN that his conservative predecessor Ivan Duque had started. They broke off after a rebel attack in 2019 that left 22 people dead.—AFP

One dead, two wounded in shooting at Thai military facility

A gunman killed one person and wounded two others in a shooting at a military facility in Bangkok on Wednesday, Thai police told AFP.

Deputy national police spokesman Kissana Phathanacharoen said a suspect had been detained after the incident at the Army Training Command Department, part of a large complex of military buildings in the north of the capital.

Local media reported that the suspect is a soldier, though the motives for the shooting were not immediately clear.

"The shooting caused

one death and two injuries, local police have taken control of the situation," Kissana Phathanacharoen told AFP.

"We are able to detain a suspect already." In 2020, a soldier gunned down 29 people in a 17-hour rampage and wounded scores more before he was shot dead by commandos in an incident that shocked Thailand.

That mass shooting was linked to a debt dispute between gunman Sergeant-Major Jakrapanth Thomma and a senior officer, and the military top brass were at pains to portray the killer as a rogue soldier.—AFP



Police cars parked outside the gates after an alleged shooter was detained in the Army Training Command Department in Bangkok. PHOTO: AFP

Pro-Iran faction in Iraq sticks to its pick for premier

THE main coalition of pro-Iran parties in Iraq said Monday it would keep its candidate for the post of prime minister, despite a backlash from its main Shiite rival.

The country is at a political impasse, with the two main Shiite groups clashing since October 2021 elections over who will be the next premier and how to appoint him.

The group headed by firebrand cleric Moqtada Sadr wants parliament dissolved and early elections, but the Coordination Framework alliance of pro-Tehran factions wants a government to be put in place first. On Monday, the Coordination Framework said it had reached an "understanding" with other political factions on how to proceed.

In a press release published by the INA state news agency, the Coordination

Framework reiterated "its total commitment to its candidate presented for the post of Prime Minister, Mohammed Shia al-Sudani".

The group's nomination of Sudani as premier had previously angered Sadr, whose supporters stormed parliament in late July, demanding fresh elections. They then staged a weeks-long sit-in outside the legislature.

On Monday, the Coordination Framework claimed to have reached "understandings with the national forces".

It said it would "continue dialogue with all the parties ... to form a government endowed with full powers". The Coordination Framework also welcomed a declaration by Sunni-backed parliament speaker Mohammed al-Halbussi and the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (KDP).— AFP



Klopp mocks Boehly plan for Premier League all-star game



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp. PHOTO: AFP

JURGEN Klopp has poured scorn on the idea of a US-style all-star Premier League game floated by new Chelsea chairman Todd Boehly, asking whether the Harlem Globetrotters will be also be involved.

Blues' new co-owner Boehly, who also has stakes in the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team and LA Lakers basketball team, told a New York conference he has already floated the idea with Premier League counterparts.

Both Major League Baseball and basketball's NBA have all-star exhibition games featuring the best players from the different leagues and conferences.

Boehly, speaking at a SALT "thought leadership" conference, suggested that money raised could be used to fund lower levels of the game.

"People are talking about more money for the pyramid -- in the MLB All-Star Game this year we made \$200 million (£173 million) from a Monday

and a Tuesday," Boehly said.

"So we're thinking we could do a north versus south all-star game for the Premier League, for whatever the pyramid needed quite easily." But Klopp strongly criticized Boehly's proposal, pointing to the already congested English football calendar.

"He doesn't wait long," said the Liverpool manager. "When he finds a date for that he can call me. "In American sports these players have four-month breaks. Does he want to bring the Harlem Globetrotters (exhibition basketball team) as well?"

"Maybe he can explain that. I'm not sure people want to see that — (Man) United players, Liverpool players, City players, Everton players all together. It is not the national team. Did he really say it?"

Boehly, whose consortium completed its takeover of Chelsea in May, also lifted the lid on the club's sacking of Thomas Tuchel.— 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.

Three detained in France over assault on football star

FRENCH police on Wednesday arrested three men over last year's assault on Paris Saint Germain and national football team star Kheira Hamraoui that rocked the women's game in the country, prosecutors said.

The three men, at least one of whom has a criminal record, were detained at their homes at two different addresses outside Paris, Versailles prosecutors said in a statement to AFP.

According to a source familiar with the case, the three young men are suspected of having participated in the attack on Hamraoui in November 2021 outside Paris. Hamraoui was dragged from a car and beaten on the legs with an iron bar near the French capital. —AFP

Ayeyawady United smash Yadanabon FC 2-1 in MNL

AYEYAWADY United beat Yadanabon FC 2-1 in the Week 11 Match of Myanmar National League at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

The clash between Yadanabon and Ayeyawady, which have been the main rivals since the beginning of MNL, was very competitive and Ayeyawady took advantage yesterday.

Both teams launched an open attack from the start but there were no goals till the 40-minute mark.

At 43 minutes, Ayeyawady FC players made a big mistake in the penalty area of the opponent, thus Yadanabon team got a penalty shoot.

The penalty foul ball was successfully kicked by Ye Yint Aung at 43 minutes to break the deadlock.

Three minutes later, the Ayeyawady team found an equalizer and Yan Kyaw Htwe touched the ball into the net.

Both teams drew 1-1 at the first half ended. Ayeyawady were better in the second half with power play plus counter-attack.

Ayeyawady found their second or winning goal at 57 minutes and the goal was beautifully finished by Yar Zar Aung.

After 2-1 result, Ayeyawady United changed defensive play so as to block Yadanabon's attacks.

The result did not change till the final whistle as Yadanabon could not use their opportunities into goals.

— GNLM



Ayeyawady United's Yan Naing Lin looks for the space to pass the ball to his teammates during the match against Yadanabon FC in the Week 11 Myanmar National League match at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 14 September. PHOTO: MNL