THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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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.

State Peace Talks Team meets KNU/ KNLA (PC), DKBA delegations

THE meeting between the State Peace Talks Team and delegations of the Karen National Liberation Army (Peace Council) KNU/KNLA (PC) and the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army-DKBA was held at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre's meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

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Black gram worth K9.36 bln transacted in second week of September

BETWEEN 1 and 15 September 2022, 195 containers of black gram (FAQ/RC) (4,680 tonnes) were traded with an estimated value of K9.36 billion.

On 15 September 2022, the price of black gram (FAQ /RC) inched higher to over K2 million per tonne and pigeon pea (red gram) was priced at K2.1 million per tonne.

Despite the price rise, 40 container loads of black gram (960 tonnes) were transacted, according to daily market data.

The prices of black gram and pigeon peas are fluctuating every day. The black gram prices moved at K1,953,000 per tonne on 30 August, K2.1 million on 31 August, K1,953,000 on 6 September, K2,035,000 on 10 September and K1,985,000 per tonne on 14 September respectively.

Similarly, the prices of pigeon pea (red gram/RC) stood at K2,150,000 per tonne on

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Female farm workers are pictured picking black grams in the field.

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

Information Team
State Administration Council

259 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 15 September, total figure rises to 617,998

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **617,998** after **259** new cases were reported on 15 September 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **594,721** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **19,444** without casualties.

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 been vaccinated at all and have not been fully vaccinated	**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



Plan underway to pay only through banking system on sales of gold bars

ACCORDING to the press release of the Central Bank of Myanmar, if gold bars are sold in the domestic gold market, only the banking system will be used to pay.

The Gold and Financial Market Monitoring and Supervisory Committee and the Central Bank governor met on 14 September 2022.

In the meeting, the CBM governor talked about the conditions that will be brought to stabilize the gold and currency markets, the plans that banks will provide so that the trading of gold bars can be paid through the banking system and the plans that ministries and the Central Bank will provide to stabilize gold and currency.

According to the current daily gold price of the YGEA, a tical of Academy Gold is K1,985,000.

However, there is no detailed information on when the banking system will be implemented. — Chin Lay/GNLM

Our country must now build a stronger Union system for ensuring its long-term existence

OUR country is a nation where ethnic people have been residing for many years. From before losing independence, the whole country was under the administrative system of centralization, although the types of administration were different in regions and areas. Thus, when we gained independence, the whole nation, the whole Union collectively gained independence.

Hence, our country, which had been formed through the Union system since historical times, must now build a stronger Union system for ensuring its long-term existence.

(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)

State Peace Talks Team meets KNU/KNLA (PC), DKBA delegations

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SAC Member Union Minister at the Union Government Office Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Leader of the State Peace Talks Team Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and members: SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Lt-Gen Min Naung, the NSPNC secretary and Chief of Staff Saw Steel of the DKBA, Adjutant-General Saw Sein Win, KNU/KNLA (PC) Vice-Chair Dr Naw Kapaw Htoo and General Secretary Saw Kyaw Nyunt attended the meeting.

At the meeting, SPTT Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and DKBA Chief of Staff Saw Steel, on behalf of EAOs present at the meeting, made opening remarks. Then, NSPNC member Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein clarified the list of Union legislation – Table 1 and the list of regional or state legislation – Table 2 in the 2008 Constitution sector-wise and interpreted the phased implementations and post-2020 levellized procedures - Table 2.

Afterwards, attendees exchanged their opinions and adjourned the first-day meeting. The second day will continue on 16 September, it is learnt. — MNA



The first-day meeting between the State Peace Talks Team and the peace delegation from KNU/KNLA (PC) and DKBA is in progress.

Union Health Minister delivers Virtual Speech at 4th China-ASEAN Health Cooperation Forum



The video speech of MoH Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win is virtually played at the forum.

THE opening ceremony of the fourth China-ASEAN Health Cooperation Forum (Towards A Health Silk Road) in Nanning, People's Republic of China, was held yesterday morning through a hybrid method.

At the ceremony, the People's Republic of China vice governor of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the deputy minister of the National Health Commission of China, Ministers of Health from the ASEAN Member States, the secretary-general of the ASEAN, the deputy director-general of the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific delivered keynote speeches.

At the opening ceremony, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win delivered a video keynote speech at the forum on public health from ASEAN member countries and China. He said he was delighted to see the cooperation among the medical professionals in their respective specialities.

"The cooperation of not only the region but also the world to strengthen the health infrastructure will strengthen the response to public health threats.

Myanmar is trying to prevent, control and treat the COVID-19 epidemic, and has received a lot of medical supplies, including COVID-19 vaccines, from the neighbouring country, the People's Republic of China," he added.

If the Health Silk Road can be established and implemented through the cooperation of China and ASEAN member countries, health knowledge, information, sharing experiences in real-time, strengthening the public health system and cooperation in science and technology will be improved.

Among the many cooperation activities between China and Myanmar, one important opportunity is the construction of the Myanmar Centre for Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases, which is currently under construction, he said.

China and ASEAN countries have the same goals and efforts have been carried out with good results. He said that he believes that, in the future, more ambitious programmes and deeper relations will be built.

After that, officials approved the fourth China-ASEAN Health Cooperation Forum Joint Declaration.

Maternal and child health, hospital management, sub-forums such as dental health forums, and forums on the prevention and control of infectious diseases will be held from 14 to 16 September on a daily basis, and officials from the Department of Public Health, will attend the forums according to the relevant subjects. —MNA

MoE Union Minister joins 40th AMEM and its Associated Meetings

THE 40th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) and Associated Meetings were hosted by Cambodia via videoconferencing on 15 and 16 September and Union Minister for Energy U Myo Myint Oo joined the events.

It was also attended by the Energy Ministers of ASEAN member countries and dialogue partners, officials of the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Centre for Energy and international energy agencies.

They openly discussed the energy security in ASEAN countries under the ASEAN Plan of Actions for Energy Cooperation - APAEC Phase II (2021-2025), expanding the natural gas pipeline network, upgrading grids, coal and clean coal technologies, effective use of energy and saving of energy, enhancing the use of renewable energy, energy policy and better plans, urban nuclear power, further cooperation work among the ASEAN countries, ASEAN and dialogue countries/members, and released the urban nuclear technology.

The Associated Meetings of 40th AMEM: ASEAN and the US Energy Ministers Meeting, ASEAN and International Renewable Energy Agency Meeting and ASEAN and International Energy Agency Meeting were held and discussed the cooperation work for energy, policy and procedures and approved the draft versions the 7th ASEAN Energy Outlook and the 2nd ASEAN Renewable Energy (RE) Outlook.





The 40th AMEM and its associated meetings are in progress online.

The ASEAN Energy Ministers Meetings and ASEAN +3 (Japan, Korea and China) Ministers on Energy Meeting will be held on 16 September and they will focus on the development of the energy sector.

Moreover, the ASEAN Energy Business Forum (AEBF) and ASEAN Energy Award-Giving Ceremony were held and Union Minister U Myo Myint Oo announced the prize-winning companies and delivered the speech.

The Union minister attended the meetings along with Deputy Minister for Energy U Thant Sin and relevant officials. – MNA

Myanmar representative attends 2022 ASEAN Media Partners Forum virtually





THE 2022 ASEAN Media Partners Forum was convened in the Wuxiang Resort in Nanning, China on the morning of 15 September.

The forum is hosted by the People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region-GZAR and China Media Group-CMG and co-planned by the China CPC Information Committee and headquarters of CMG Guangxi under the theme "Intelligence, Collaboration, Cohesion" with the following purposes: to deepen the media integration in China and ASEAN countries, promote cooperation among member countries and build a closer China-ASEAN community.

Those invited by media organizations including officials from China, heads of media from ASEAN member countries, the secretary-general of the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN secretary-general designate, Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union-ABU and the general secretary participated in the conference and Chairman of SCI-Myanmar Director-General U Ye Naing of the Myanma Radio and Television, Ministry of Information joined the forum online.

The start-up plan for a new phase of cooperation between CMG and ASEAN countries, external and online communication promotion programme and signing programme for the strategic cooperation agreements between CMG and GZAR were included in the forum.

Myanmar acting as a country coordinator who is responsible for negotiating with China for ASEAN and dialogue partner countries and participating in the 2022 ASEAN Media Partners Forum can accelerate collaboration, it is learnt. — MNA

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

The following telephone numbers, fax and email address can be reached to safely report information in connection with illegal trade.

Auto telephone number - 067 409 883
Mobile phone - 09 404339969
Fax - 067 409 886
Email address - antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

Regarding the "request for money from departmental organizations in conducting trade", the following numbers can be reached to safely report such information.

Auto telephone number - 067 409 881
Mobile phone - 09 699611116
Fax - 067 409 887
Email address - antiillegaltradeoffice@gmail.com

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

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

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Black gram worth K9.36 bln transacted in second week of September

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1 September and then fell to K2,040,000 on 8 September. The price regained to K2,115,000 per tonne on 15 September.

When the pulses requirement for consumption by the main buyer India grew in 2015, the black gram price hit only K1.4 million per tonne. The market price recorded in mid-September 2022 is K600,000 higher than that of 2015. However, the black gram price reached an all-time high of K2,456,000 per tonne in mid-October 2015.

In mid-September 2022, the FOB price of the black gram FAQ is US$795-815 per tonne only. As a result of this, India's demand is a main contributing factor to the price rise of black gram, Ko Thet, a trader, said.

Black gram is cultivated as intercrop after the harvest of monsoon paddy. It is mixed with chilli pepper and summer paddy.

According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from the 2021-2022 financial year to the 2025-2026FY. Although the prices of agricultural inputs (fuel oil and fertilizer) are rocketing, the black gram growers can reap a great profit on account of the high price in domestic markets and strong foreign market shares. —TWA/GNLM

90-day rice price hits K1,300,000 per 100 baskets

WHILE a price hike in the old rice, 90-day new rice hit a good price at K1,300,000 per 100 baskets, according to the farmers of the Ayeyawady Region.

When the rain-fed rice production began last year the rice price was K650,000-K700,000 per 100 baskets, but, the 90-day new rice reached K1,300,000 per 100 baskets this year.

According to the rice growers, it is the 90-day rice species which was planted in June and has a normal yield. The rice price rose as the input costs increased.

There was a small production of rain-fed rice in Kyaiklat and Maubin townships of Ayeyawady Region in August and Ayeyawady Pawsan will be yielded in Pyapon, Bogale, Labutta, Myaungmya and Pathein areas in late November and December.

This year, the price of Emahta rice is around K1,200,000-K1,300,000 per 100 baskets and fresh rice is priced at around K1 million per 100 baskets, according to rice growers and rice dealers from Bogale township of Ayeyawady Region. – TWA/GNLM



Paddy is prepared to convey them to the rice mill.

YCDC expands downtown drainage to avert floods

THE officials are working on extending the drainage system near San Pya Cinema along Anawrahta Road in Lanmadaw Township where the floods happen during the monsoon season, Ko Thant Sin who lives near the operation area told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The township Department of Engineering (Water and Sanitation) is conducting the extension of the drainage system between Phonegyi and Mawtin streets during this rainy season under the budget of YCDC. They also construct the new culverts

During the second week of September, they carried out the new drainage system between the 11th and 10th streets. There are two strange things in these operations, said Ko Pu Lay who works near the operation sites.

The new drains are expanded two times. Before 2020, the officials extended the drainage system and renewed the manhole covers and pavements for the first time.

In doing so, it is not easy to expand the drains to a certain extent due to the brick bonding structure of the pre-war era and it can be seen only the upper section of the drain and the inner parts remain unchanged. Therefore, the drain looks like a ladder, said the people who saw the works.



Roads in Lanmadaw Township were flooded due to the high tide of the Yangon River last year.

For the second time, in 2022, the officials expanded the drain below Anawrahta road into about 6 inches and the unfinished work on the formally expanded place into over one ft can be seen at the top of the 11th street, Ko Win Tun, who passes the road daily, told the GNLM.

The new site is located near the Kyonegyi Myaung (drain). After the heavy rain, the Kyonegyi Myaung is flooded and also the 11/12 streets near San Pya Cinema from Anawrahta road to 11/12 streets (middle) and back alley. The people have to walk between Anawrahta and Maha Bandoola road with 1 ft of water level, said the residents.

The officials are expanding the drains in most of the streets and along three main streets of Lanmadaw Township. They install new drains and culverts for better water flow.

However, the officials pumped the water into the river after the heavy rain and if there is a high tide near Ywathit Chaung, Wadan, Mawtin, Phone Gyi Street and Lanmadaw river bank which are the water outlets of Yangon River. The officials stick the public notices regarding the time and water level of the river which is high twice a day.

This year, the exceptionally high tide of the Yangon River is lower until the full moon day of Tawthalin and the roads are not flooded so far, said Ko Maung Hla who works in Yangon from Dala. – TWA/GNLM

539 YBS buses charged for collecting higher bus fares

ACTION has been taken against a total of 539 YBS buses for charging higher bus fares, according to the Yangon Region Transport Committee (YRTC).

YRTC officials conducted surprise checks and took action against 539 buses of 15 YBS lines such as CNG permit suspension for three months, six months and one year suspension against the buses that collect over K500 bus fares and deploy conductors.

YRTC is carrying out surprise road checks for bus lines not to violate rules and regulations including charging higher fares. Currently, there are about 50,000 YBS passengers who use the YPS card system. Officials are also taking trial measures for billing bus fares depending on bus stops.

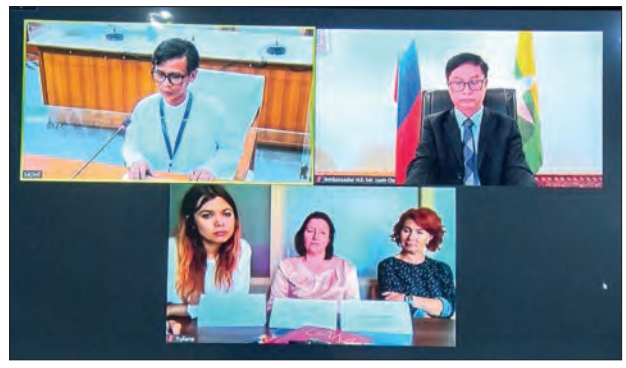
A total of 3,250 buses of 116 bus lines provide services for 1.3 million passengers daily in Yangon. – TWA/GNLM



YBS buses are seen in the Yangon downtown area.

MoHT Union Minister receives Chief Editor of Ural Airlines Magazine





MoHT Union Minister Dr Htay Aung receives the chief editor of the Ural Airlines Magazine online.

WITH Russian tourists being granted visa-free travel to further strengthen the friendship between Myanmar and Russia, Union Minister Dr Htay Aung of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism virtually received the chief editor of the Ural Airlines Magazine from Russia yesterday in order to support the development of the Russian tourism market in Myanmar.

During the meeting, the Union minister frankly discussed the issues to cooperate in the promotion of Myanmar tourism in Russia, inclusion of destinations in Myanmar in the onboard magazines of Ural Airlines and the invitation for media trips to Myanmar by the Ural Airlines Magazine delegation.

U Lwin Oo, Myanmar's Ambassador to Russia, directors-general and officials from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and the chief editor of the Ural Airlines Magazine, the sales promotion manager and the flight marketing manager also attended the meeting. — MNA

Myanmar focuses on challenges in solving drug problems between Myanmar and Bangladesh





The fifth Myanmar-Bangladesh Virtual Bilateral Meeting on Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is in progress virtually.

GREATER efforts must be made for conducting drug abuse control more than now as quality and cheap manmade narcotic drugs come out, said Police Brig-Gen Win Naing, Commander of the Drug Enforcement Division of the Myanmar Police Force as well as Joint Secretary of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control of Myanmar, at the 5th Myanmar-Bangladesh Virtual Bilateral Meeting on Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

The meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday hosted by Myanmar focused on challenges in solving drug problems, seizures of drugs, further cooperation between Myanmar and Bangladesh, exchange of information, joint patrol measures, and the responsibility of Bangladesh to host to organize the 6th meeting.

On the other hand, the Police Brig-Gen continued to say that drug gangs taking advantage of technological improvement are trafficking narcotic drugs and precursor chemicals in various forms. Proceeds from drug trafficking are supplied to terror attacks, arms smuggling, and root causes of transnational crimes harming the peace and stability of the border regions, he said, adding all countries need to closely cooperate with each other in tackling the drug problems. He underscored that 39 kinds of precursor chemicals used in drug production will be restricted emphasizing abuse of the chemical precursors in Myanmar. The meeting was also virtually attended by Director-General Mr Md Abdul Wahhab Bhuiyan of the Department of Narcotics Control and party of Bangladesh. — MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, coal, consumer goods and vehicles confiscated

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

Under the instructions of the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, an on-duty team made inspections on 12 September.

Officials nabbed K10,285,000 worth of consumer goods without official documents from a Mitsubishi Fuso 12-wheel truck (approximately K30 million) heading from Mawlamyine to Kyaukpadaung. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 15 September, a combined inspection team led by the Bago Region Forest Department captured a total of 13.9922 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K5,152,084 in the Bago, Toungoo and Thayawady districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, a team led by the Myanmar Police Force confiscated an unregistered car (approximately K2 million) between the 138/3 and 138/4 mileposts on the Yangon-Pyay Road in Nattalin township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Similarly, a total of 7.9636 tonnes of illegal teak doors worth K5,254,788 were seized in Hinthada township and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 13 September, an inspection team led by the Investigation and Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force of the Customs Department conducted inspections on the Myawady-Hpa-an-Yangon Road, according to information. They confiscated K35,478,366 worth of consumer goods that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a Hino Profia 12-wheel truck (approximately K25 million) near the No 2 Highway junction of Zayatkwin village in Hlegu township. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 14 September, a total of 2.8590 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K628,700 was captured in Thandwe and Taungup townships of Rakhine State. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Afterwards, an unregistered Yamaha FZ motorbike (approximately K500,000) in Homalin township and an unregistered Kenbo 125 motorbike (approximately K150,000) in Shwebo township were seized and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

A combined inspection team under the Magway Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force confiscated a total of 37.3060 tonnes of illegal charcoal worth K350,000 from a vehicle (approximately K35 million) in Natmauk township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.



Officials confiscate illegal teak.

Similarly, the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint captured K1,560,000 worth of clothes that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a truck and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Therefore, 18 arrests (approximately K151,358,938) were made on consecutive days from 12 to 15 September, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Imports including consumer goods drop

THE value of imports including consumer goods has plummeted, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 April and 2 September in the current financial year 2022-2023, goods worth $6.266 billion by sea and goods worth $884.948 million were imported into the country. Imports of consumer goods, capital goods, and raw materials by CMP businesses accumulated to US$7.151 billion.

In the corresponding period last FY, Myanmar imported goods worth $5.84 billion from foreign trade partners, with maritime imports valued at $4.614 billion and sea trade worth $1.226 billion.

Import value by sea rose over the past five months compared to that of the year-ago period. Yet, import via cross-border trade was down by $341.561 million.

The value of imports via land borders is attributed to the depreciation of Kyat against the currencies of neighbouring countries like China and Thailand, importers said.

The exchange rate is currently estimated at K90 for a Thai Baht, K490 for Yuan and K3,500 for a US dollar in the local forex market.

Last August, Kyat drastically fell against the foreign currencies. Consequently, the imports were on the verge of suspension, traders stressed.

At present, the prices of agricultural inputs such as fertilizer and fuel oil are soaring.

Therefore, agricultural machinery and related equipment were exempted from obtaining an import licence from 1 September, the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce notified on 31 August.

In a bid to support the country's agricultural development and facilitate the imports of agricultural machinery, 70 HS lines concerning the agricultural machinery and equipment were eased from licensing requirements. – NN/GNLM



Samples of broken rice are seen at the rice retail outlet.

Broken rice price up by K5,000 per bag in 15 days

THE prices of broken rice have risen by K5,000 per bag within 15 days, according to the Wadan Rice Wholesale Centre.

The price of broken rice was K32,000 per 108-pound bag on 1 September. The price climbed up to K37,000 per bag on 15 July, reflecting a significant increase of K5,000 per bag within 15 days.

Domestic and foreign demands pushed up the broken rice price.

Additionally, the prices of rice also remain on upward trends. On 15 September, the prices of high-grade Pawsan rice varieties were constant at K93,000 per bag from the Shwebo area, K63,000 from the Dedaye area, K65,000 from Pyapon, Myaungmya and Pathein areas and K61,000 from other areas. Meanwhile, the prices of short matured rice (90 days) touched a high of K48,000 per bag. The prices of low-grade rice varieties such as Ngasein and Emahta moved in the range of K39,000-K41,500 per bag respectively.

Therefore, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association, Myanmar Rice Millers Association, and traders involved in rice wholesale centres (Wadan and Bayintnaung) have offered the rice at cheaper rates from 3 August every day between 9 am and 3 pm except for office holidays.

Ayeyawady Pawsan, Shwebo Pawsan, Pawkywe and short-matured rice varieties (90 days) will be sold at a cheaper price between K35,000 and K77,000 per bag.

Each household is entitled to buy one rice bag only and those resellers, traders and retailers are excluded from this scheme. – NN/GNLM

Advertise with us/ Hot Line : 09974424848

KBZ exchanges K3,000 per dollar for inward remittances of foreign salary with Hana Bank

MYANMAR migrant workers can carry out inward remittances of foreign salary at K3,000 for a dollar from Hana Bank to KBZ Bank, Hana Bank Myanmar released a statement on its social media Facebook page on 15 September 2022.

The exchange rate against the US dollar is set at K3,000. There is a two-step verification for the money transfer, the bank shared its statement on the page.

There is no red tape like paper works and token system. The amount of money that can be withdrawn is unlimited as well. For any inconvenience, the customers can directly contact the representatives from the KBZ.

"For the salary remittance through the Hana EZ app, the customers must select SALARY in the purpose box when they register the recipient account. This way, the detailed banking information will mention SALARY or code no "5200". When those people who have filled in the information just like that make international remittance, 1 US dollar will be exchanged at K3,000," the Hana Bank's official confirmed this on 15 September.

"If they select other options except for SALARY, they will not receive the said exchange rate. They can re-register the recipient account and enjoy the aforementioned rate for sure," Hana Bank Myanmar stated.

There is no token system required to withdraw money with special accounts or other saving accounts. The money withdrawal is limitless as well. For registration of the new recipient account, the customers can visit https://youtu.be/nuK1BGrruOI). To delete the recipient account, customers can learn via https://youtu.be/9vmriTwLX34.

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has recently directed local private banks to purchase the sailors' foreign wages that are directly paid to their designated bank accounts at the maximum rate, as per the statement of the Myanmar Seafarers Federation (MSF). As a result of this, seafarers can receive a high exchange rate for local currency only when they put their foreign income into local banks. If they directly withdraw Kyat through regional agents in their own ways, the federation is uncertain about the amount of money that will be exchanged, as per the MSF's statement.

Myanmar migrant workers' remittances amounted to US$6.152 billion over the past eight months, said Dr Pwint San, Union Minister of the Ministry of Labour.

The remittance flows started in 2014 and the reports sent by the Central Bank of Myanmar stated that international remittance was carried out from Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and other countries. – TWA/GNLM

OPINION

Avoid bad impacts causing depletion of the ozone layer

THE ozone layer covers the planet Earth with a fragile shield of gas, to be able to stay away from the harmful rays which fall from the Sun. Thanks to the ozone layer, all living beings can be alive on Earth in safe and sound situations.

Many kinds of chemicals and gases such as halogen atoms (fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine) may cause ozone depletion due to bad impacts of methyl bromide, methyl chloroform, carbon tetrachloride and families of chemicals known as halons, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) based on chlorine and bromine.

Depletion of the ozone layer may bring climate change and global warming which may cause catastrophes, natural disasters and unexpected diseases to the global society. As human beings are the most vulnerable among all living beings on Earth, they cannot or are unable to avoid the bad impacts of consequences triggered by the loss of the ozone layer.

As part of efforts to join the programmes for protecting the ozone layer, Myanmar ratified the Vienna Convention for the protection of Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on 24 November 1993. Its country programme preparation was approved in 1994. Myanmar has been marking the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer since 1995.

But, human beings have the might of critical thinking on how to overcome the challenges of losing the ozone layer as well as how to manage the recovery of the ozone layer. It is very important. That is why global people including scientists and environmentalists are working in concert to prevent the loss of the ozone layer which protects human health and ecosystems by limiting the harmful ultraviolet radiation from reaching the Earth.

As part of efforts to join the programmes for protecting the ozone layer, Myanmar ratified the Vienna Convention for the protection of Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on 24 November 1993. Its country programme preparation was approved in 1994. Myanmar has been marking the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer since 1995.

According to the restrictions in the convention, global peoples are trying to halt the use of some 100 kinds of objects which may cause ozone depletion through the timeframes step by step. Their efforts show off the gradual progress of projects. First, China halted the production of Freon which causes the ozone layer.

That is why the ozone layer is located 9 to 19 miles above the Earth. The ultraviolet which falls from the ozone layer may cause skin cancer and cataract in humans. Due to numerous bad impacts of losing the Ozone layer, the 28th meeting of the Montreal Protocol adopted the Kigali amendment for halting the use of powerful greenhouse gas HFCs by developed countries starting from 2019 to 2022 and developing countries including Myanmar from 2029 to order to control the depletion of the ozone layer and mitigate climate change.

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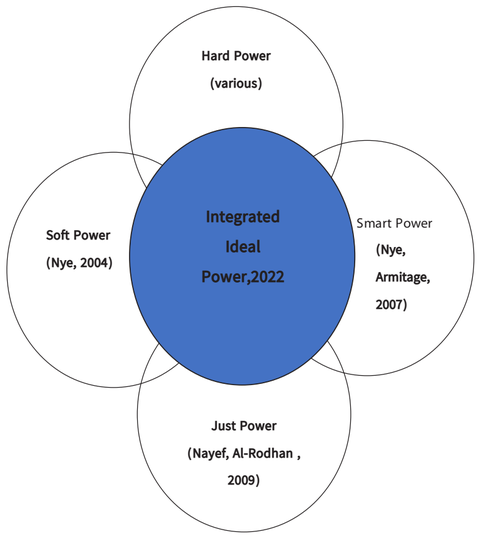
ARTICLE

Integrated Ideal Power

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

THE state's power plays an important role in international relations. Every country is striving for strengthening its power. A country wields influence over international relations when its power becomes strong. The state's power is the capacity of a country to be able to implement its local and foreign policy. The state's power is also a combination of strengths and weaknesses in strategic military, economic, political and psychological affairs.

National power is of utmost importance in international relations. A powerful state is often in a position of wielding influence over international relations. Therefore, every country is trying to strengthen their national power. In that regard, it needs to know the definition of power. Power carries a variety of definitions. The most explicit definition of power is measuring the capability of an organization that could control the behaviour of other organizations.



Integrated Ideal Power Management Course for Executive-Level Officials No.9 Civil Service Academy (Upper Myanmar), 2022

To ensure a strong national power for a nation, it is necessary to combine hard power and soft power into smart power and just power. Effective and appropriate strategies and policies need to be formulated in order to implement national power.

Soft Power

Joseph Nye introduced the concept of "soft power" in the late 1980s. For Nye, power is the ability to influence the behaviour of others to get the outcomes you want. There are several ways one can achieve this: you can coerce them with threats; you can induce them with payments, or you can attract them. This soft power – getting others to want the outcomes you want.

Hard Power

In politics, hard power is the use of military and economic means to influence the behaviour or interests of other political bodies. This form of political power is often aggressive (coercion), and is most immediately effective when imposed by one political body upon another of lesser military and/or economic power. Hard power contrasts with soft power, which comes from diplomacy, culture and history.

According to Joseph Nye, hard power involves "the ability to use the carrots and sticks of economic and military might to make others follow your will". Here, "carrots" stand for inducements such as the reduction of trade barriers, the offer of an alliance or the promise of military protection. On the other hand, "sticks" represent threats - including the use of coercive diplomacy, the threat of military intervention, or the implementation of economic sanctions. Ernest Wilson describes hard power as the capacity to coerce "another to act in ways in which that entity would not have acted otherwise".

Smart Power

Smart Power consists of Soft Power and Hard Power. It clearly recognizes that even the world's strongest military cannot prevent deadly attacks perpetrated by non-state actors dressed in civilian clothing; it cannot halt environmental degradation and pollution causing hundreds of thousands of deaths every year; nor is it able to promote employment and prosperity. Rather, sustainable power in international affairs belongs to those states that are able and willing to contribute to the good of the international community as a whole. These are states that drive the development of clean technologies, promote economic integration and strengthen international institutions that promote global security.

Just Power

The concept of just power holds that state power needs to be employed in accordance with basic principles of justice at all times. This needs to be done not necessarily for moral reasons, but because it is the only sustainable way to promote national interests and achieve national security. By promoting justice and thus the interests of the international community as a whole, a state will be able to make its influence over others sustainable and achieve its own national interest. Consequently, it will be able to count on the support and cooperation of other states when needed. As argued in previous work, the use of military power alone will not provide lasting security if it leads to real or perceived injustices. If a state or groups within a state feel that the use of hard power by another state has left them off worse than before, opposition and disgruntlement against the perpetrator of hard power will remain, this in one form or another will come to haunt it. By pursuing justice, even the world's most powerful state will be able to marginalize extremist ideologies directed against its dominance, as these ideologies will lose their mass appeal. The pursuit of justice is a prerequisite for long-term security.



The trainees of the Management Course No 9 for Executive-Level Officials, Civil Service Academy (Upper Myanmar) (Photo-CSA-UM)

We, altogether with 22 participants from different ministries attended the Management Course for Executive Level Officials No.9 at Civil Service Academy, Upper Myanmar (CSA-UM) from 25th April 2022 to 17th June 2022. The CSA-UM provided necessary suggestions for holistic perspectives of Administration and Management. During the training period, we submitted Strategic Power Thinking in the context of Myanmar for National Development in the 21st Century: Integrated Ideal Power as an innovative idea.

A new concept of Power-Integrated Ideal Power (IIP)

IIP is the combination of 4 powers which includes soft power, hard power, smart power and just power. In this set of combinations, smart power plus just power is the special issue of IIP.

The IIP calls for strengthening National power and security in the respective sector on a regular basis to assist with the implementation of the national development. This IIP provides power effectiveness and readiness in Myanmar and key points, in general, to be considered in envisioning the IIP strategy for national development in the 21st century.

In addition, we can apply these 4 powers as an Integrated Ideal Power in the context of Myanmar for National Development in the 21st century in line with the policies of the State Administration Council.

Ref: *Group Presentation by Management Course for Executive-Level Officials No 9, Civil Service Academy (Upper Myanmar)*

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Health workers take swab samples from residents to be tested for COVID-19 in Chengdu, in China's southwestern Sichuan province on 1 September 2022. **PHOTO: CNS/AFP**

End of Covid-19 pandemic in sight: WHO

Organization publishes six policy briefs to help countries do what is needed to rein in virus

THE number of newly reported Covid-19 cases has dropped dramatically, the World Health Organization (WHO) said yesterday, urging the world to seize the opportunity to end the pandemic.

Newly reported cases of the disease, which has killed millions since being identified in late 2019, last week fell to the lowest level since March 2020, said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"We have never been in a better position to end the pandemic," he told reporters.

"We are not there yet, but the end is in sight."

But the world needs to step up to "seize this opportunity", he added. "If we don't take this opportunity now, we run the risk of more variants, more deaths, more disruption, and more uncertainty."

According to WHO's latest epidemiological report on Covid-19, the number of reported cases fell 28 per cent to 3.1 million during the week ending September 11, following a 12 per cent drop a week earlier.

Underestimate

But the agency has warned that the falling number of reported cases is deceptive, since many countries have cut back on testing and may not be detecting the less serious cases. "The number of cases that are being reported to WHO we know are an underestimate," Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO technical lead on Covid-19, told reporters. "We feel that far more cases are actually circulating than are being reported to us," she said, cautioning that the virus "is circulating at a very intense level around the world at the present time". Since the start of the pandemic, WHO has tallied more than 605 million cases, and some 6.4 million deaths, although both those numbers are also believed to be serious undercounts.

A WHO study published in May based on excess mortality seen in various countries during the pandemic estimated that up to 17 million people may have died from Covid-19 in 2020 and 2021.

Van Kerkhove noted that going forward there will likely be "future waves of infection, potentially at different time points throughout the world, caused by different sub-variants of Omicron or even different variants of concern". But, she added, "those future waves of infection do not need to translate into future waves of death".

SOURCE: AFP

ENVIRON WORLD

Poorest nations to push on compensation at climate talks

THE world's poorest countries say they will insist that the UN's upcoming climate talks push ahead with proposals for a fund to compensate vulnerable nations for climate-inflicted damage.

Ministers and experts from the 46-nation Least Developed Countries (LDC) bloc, meeting in Dakar, said their countries were most exposed to climate impact but least to blame for the carbon emissions that cause it.

In a statement issued late Wednesday ahead of the November climate talks, they said that setting up a funding mechanism for loss and damage was of "crucial importance".

They also reiterated a call for "all parties, particularly major emitters" to make swift and deep cuts in carbon emissions, and for rich economies to honour past pledges on climate aid.

COP27 -- the 27th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) — runs in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh from 6-18 November.

The annual parlays are dominated by often fierce debate on national pledges on emissions curbs and on funding.

Wealthy countries have previously promised billions of dollars to help poorer nations avert carbon emissions and build resilience against climate ch nge.

The LDC bloc, gathering countries mainly from Africa and Asia, is campaigning in particular for compensation for vulnerable countries which suffer from climate-related damage such as floods and rising seas.—AFP



Ministers and experts from the 46-nation Least Developed Countries (LDC) bloc, meeting in Dakar, said their countries were most exposed to climate impact but least to blame for the carbon emissions that cause it. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Patagonia founder gives away company to save planet

THE founder of outdoor retailer Patagonia, known for his environmental stances, announced Wednesday he has given away his company in an effort to do even more for the planet.

Yvon Chouinard, 83, could have sold the brand — valued at $3 billion, according to The New York Times — or taken it public.

Instead, he, his wife and their two children agreed to transfer all of Patagonia's voting shares, or stock that gives the holder voting rights, in the company to a trust in charge of ensuring the brand's environmental values are respected. All of Patagonia's nonvoting shares have been transferred to a nonprofit dedicated to fighting against climate change and for nature protection and conservation. Company profits will also be donated to the nonprofit.—AFP

Typhoon Muifa lashes eastern China, forcing 1.6 million from their homes



Waves generated by Typhoon Muifa break along the coast in Lianyungang in China's eastern Jiangsu province on 14 Sep 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

HIGH winds and heavy rain lashed China's densely populated east coast on Thursday, after Typhoon Muifa forced around 1.6 million people to leave their homes and grounded most flights at Shanghai's main airports.

Muifa is the strongest tropical cyclone to hit Shanghai -- home to more than 25 million people -- since record-keeping began in 1949, state broadcaster CCTV said.

However, there were no immediate reports of any deaths or casualties.

At least 426,000 people were evacuated in Shanghai and another 1.2 million people were taken to temporary shelters in neighbouring Zhejiang province, CCTV added.

Heavy rainfall led to traffic tailbacks and floods in several areas of the Yangtze river delta region, a major global manufacturing hub. Giant waves were seen crashing onto the coastline in Hangzhou bay, to the south of Shanghai, and national radio reported a landslide in Ninghai County in Zhejiang province.

Packing winds of up to 125 kilometres (78 miles) per hour, the storm made landfall at 12:30 am Thursday (1630 GMT Wednesday) in Shanghai's Fengxian district.

It had earlier led to the cancellation of all flights to China's biggest financial hub.

Muifa previously hit the city of Zhoushan in Zhejiang on Wednesday, according to state news agency Xinhua.

Air travel slowly resumed in Shanghai as the storm moved north, but most flights from the city's two main airports were cancelled Thursday morning, according to aviation data provider Flightradar24.

Operations at some of Asia's largest container shipping ports in Shanghai and neighbouring Ningbo that were halted because of the typhoon were scheduled to resume later Thursday, according to statements from port officials.—AFP

Ethereum blockchain completes 'monumental' overhaul

LEADING cryptocurrency figures hailed on Thursday the completion of one of the biggest software upgrades the sector has ever attempted, an overhaul of the Ethereum blockchain aimed at reducing its massive energy consumption.

Developers had spent years working on an energy-efficient version of Ethereum, a digital ledger that underpins tens of billions of dollars worth of cryptocurrencies, digital tokens (NFTs), games and apps.

Ethereum is the second most important blockchain after bitcoin, but it has faced criticism for burning through more power each year than New Zealand.

"And we finalized!" tweeted Ethereum's co-creator Vitalik Buterin, calling it a "big moment for the Ethereum ecosystem".

Buterin quoted research claiming that the "merge", as developers have called the software upgrade, would reduce global electricity consumption by 0.2 per cent.

Enthusiasts hope a more energy efficient Ethereum will spur wider adoption of blockchain technology, particularly for banks and financial firms to automate backend processes.

But so far the technology has been used largely to create speculative financial products.—AFP



Enthusiasts hope a greener ethereum will spark wider acceptance. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

China lockdowns weigh on global oil demand: IEA

CHINA'S REPEATED Covid lockdowns and a slowdown in developed economies are weighing on the growth of global oil demand this year, the International Energy Agency said on Wednesday (14 Sep).

The deceleration of demand for crude is partly offset by a switch from gas to oil for power generation, as soaring gas prices have prompted countries to change fuels, said the IEA.

Global oil demand is now expected to grow by two million barrels per day this year, slightly down from the previous forecast of 2.1 mbd.

Total demand is projected to reach 99.7 mbd in 2022 before returning to pre-Covid levels next year, at 101.8 mbd, if China reopens to the world, said the Paris-based agency, which advises developed countries on energy policy.



A general view of the refinery at the state oil company, Sonangol, in Luanda, Angola on 7 June 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

"A deteriorating economic environment and recurring Covid lockdowns in China continue to weigh on market sentiment," the IEA said in its monthly report on global oil demand.

China is the world's biggest importer of crude, so a slower economic activity there affects global demand for the fossil fuel.

Meanwhile, Russian oil production and exports "have proved resilient", with August levels only 400,000-450,000 barrels per day under pre-war levels, the IEA said, despite Western sanctions against the country over the Ukraine conflict.

The rerouting of Russian oil to India, China, Turkey and other countries "has mitigated" the losses in other markets, including a 2.0 mbd drop in shipments to Europe, the United States, Japan and South Korea since the start of the year, the report said.

But a European Union embargo on Russian crude oil that comes into effect in December is expected to result in deeper declines, the IEA said.—AFP

Oral, Nasal samples critical for Monkeypox diagnosis, finds ICMR study

THE OPS/NPS specimen as well as possibly urine specimens should be considered as critical specimens for Monkeypox diagnosis in cases with no active skin lesions, according to a study. The ICMR - NIV pre-print study based on laboratory investigations of the Monkeypox death from Kerala has confirmed the death was due to Monkeypox.

The study has also mentioned that it was the first fatal case of Monkeypox reported from India and Oropharyngeal swabs (OPS) and Nasopharyngeal swabs (NPS) should also be considered in diagnoses of Monkeypox. "This case highlights the importance of maintaining a high index of suspicion to diagnose MPXV in those presenting with atypical manifestations, exanthematous fever with epidemiological linkage from MPXV endemic or outbreak countries. In conclusion, the overall findings of the case and the history confirm that the case to be infected with MPXV," read the findings of the study.—ANI



The study reports that in cases with no active skin lesions, oropharyngeal swabs (OPS), nasopharyngeal swabs (NPS) and urine samples should be considered as critical specimens for monkeypox diagnosis. **PHOTO: PIXABAY/ANI**

Five minute walks best way to comfort crying babies, says study

SCIENCE has perfected the answer to calming a crying baby: Hold and walk with them for five minutes.

The evidence-based soothing strategy was derived from experiments carried out in Japan and Italy, which were analyzed and published in the journal Current Biology on Tuesday.

The paper's authors said they hoped the finding could benefit stressed parents, particularly the inexperienced.



Women push babies in strollers through a Beijing park during a public holiday. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE**

"I have raised four children," senior author Kumi Kuroda of the RIKEN Centre for Brain Science in Japan said in a video statement.

"But even I couldn't foresee the key results of this study until the statistical data came up," she added.

The team had previously studied the "transport response" in mammals that give birth to young that are unable to care for themselves, such as mice, dogs, monkeys and humans.

When these animals pick up their babies and start walking, the young become quiet and docile, and their heart rates slow. Kuroda and colleagues wanted to explore this further in humans, and to compare the effect against other comforting behaviours such as rocking in one spot.

They recruited 21 mother-baby pairs aged 0-7 months, and tested them under four conditions: carrying while moving, held still by their sitting mothers, lying in a still crib, or lying in a rocking cot.—AFP

Croatia's PM tests positive for COVID-19 a second time

CROATIAN Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic has tested positive a second time for COVID-19 in less than two years, the government said on Wednesday.

Plenkovic has been isolating and conducting his duties virtually, while War Veterans Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Tomo Medved presides over government sessions, the government said in a press release.

It said the prime minister had been vaccinated, and stressed that the vaccine protects people from severe symptoms but does not completely prevent infection.—Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

Chinese, foreign experts discuss food security at wheat congress

MORE than 900 experts from 67 countries came together at the 2nd International Wheat Congress (IWC) in Beijing on Monday to exchange ideas on how to improve the development of the wheat industry worldwide, calling for global cooperation on wheat science and technology innovation to ensure global food security.

Jointly hosted by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, the conference is focused on key issues of wheat research, such as increasing wheat yields, reducing environmental risks, new breeding technologies, optimized production systems, and improving the nutritional quality of wheat.

Themed "Future Wheat: Resilience and Sustainability," the conference was launched Monday night, adopting a hybrid form of on-site and virtual lectures, as well as online broadcasts.

Experts agreed on the great importance of promoting the high-quality development of the wheat industry, especially bearing in mind the challenging international situation.

According to Wu Weihua, vice-chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee and an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), food security is an important guarantee for world peace and development. However, the global economic recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, regional conflicts and extreme weather have posed serious challenges to global food security.

As one of the world's most populous countries, China has taken effective measures to ensure global food security, he added.

"We must transform our agri-food systems to be more efficient, more inclusive, more resilient and more sustainable," said Qu Dongyu, director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, via video link at the opening ceremony.

"I look forward to the outcomes of this congress, which will provide suggestions on the future of wheat, with a focus on resilience and sustainability," he added.



A harvester shuttles through wheat fields in Qingzhou City, east China's Shandong Province, 7 June 2022. **PHOTO: WANG JILIN/XINHUA**

The FAO's forecast for global cereal production in 2022 is 0.6 per cent short of the global output in 2021, and the forecast for global wheat production has been one per cent lower year on year, Qu added.—Xinhua

Damaging US rail strike looms as W.House pushes for deal



Any rail strike threatens travel disruption and more supply chain chaos, two months before crucial US midterm elections in November 2022. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE Biden administration ramped up its efforts Wednesday to avoid a major strike by US freight railroad workers this weekend, which threatens to disrupt travel and supply chains two months before crucial midterm elections.

Pressure was growing on both sides to reach a deal ahead of a Friday deadline, with Amtrak cancelling passenger routes in anticipation of disruption as farmers and retailers warned of supply chain chaos and called on Congress to intervene if necessary. Negotiations are concentrated on provisions for vacation and sick days, with employees complaining they sometimes have to work long hours because of staff shortages.

Freight railroad companies and two unions representing mainly train conductors were called to a meeting at the Labour Department in Washington on Wednesday, two days after President Joe Biden sought to mediate the dispute.—AFP

Niger seeks renewables route to electrification

NIGER, with World Bank support, on Tuesday launched a major electrification programme, employing renewable energy, with the goal of reaching 80-percent coverage by 2035.

The $317.5-million "Haske" project, ("Light" in the local Hausa language) aims to "accelerate access" to electricity for urban and rural households as well as to health and education establishments and businesses, Energy Minister Ibrahim Yacoubou said at the launch in Niamey.

The scheme includes the expansion of the use of solar photovoltaic energy, which is in abundant supply in the landlocked West African nation.

Currently, wood-burning provides nearly 80 per cent of the energy used in Niger households for lighting and cooking.

Two-thirds of the impoverished country of 22 million people is desert, and the "harmful effects of climate change" are making matters worse, the minister said. The current rate of access to electricity throughout the country is just 17.5 per cent, according to the energy ministry.

The new drive will help that rise to 30 per cent by 2026 and to 80 per cent by 2035, the ministry said. To free itself from its heavy energy dependence on neighbouring Nigeria, Niger is also working to complete its first dam on the Niger River by 2025.—AFP

German investor confidence falls, fuelling recession fears

GERMAN investor confidence fell in September for a third straight month, a closely watched survey showed on Tuesday, fuelling fears of a looming recession in Europe's biggest economy.

The ZEW institute's economic expectations index dropped 6.6 points from the previous month to minus 61.9 points, as soaring inflation and a shutdown of Russian gas supplies ring alarm bells.

For its survey, ZEW quizzes experts about the current economic situation and the outlook for the coming six months. A negative reading means that most experts are pessimistic.

"The outlook for the next six months has deteriorated further," said the group's president Achim Wambach.

"The prospect of energy shortages in winter has made expectations even more negative for large parts of the German industry."

Investors' assessment of the current economic situation in Germany also fell by 12.9 points in September from the previous month, to minus 60.5 points, according to the survey.

LBBW bank analyst Jens-Oliver Niklasch said a recession in Germany was "almost a foregone conclusion.—AFP



A man fills his car's tank with fuel at a gasoline station in Germany's capital Berlin on 8 Sept 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Thai Supreme Court dismisses final Toyota appeal over tax bill

THAILAND'S Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed a final appeal by the local subsidiary of car giant Toyota over a disputed $270 million import tax bill following a decade of legal wrangling.

The case relates to Toyota Motor Thailand's importation of parts for its Prius model at a reduced tax rate between 2010 and 2012 under a Japan-Thailand trade agreement.

Thai authorities said Toyota's imports were not included under that agreement and estimate the company owes roughly 10 billion baht ($270 million).



Japanese car giant Toyota has operated in Thailand since 1962. **PHOTO: AFP**

While the country's Central Tax Court ruled in favour of Toyota in 2017, the decision was later overturned.

On Thursday the Supreme court issued a final ruling against Toyota, stating the firm was not eligible for the 30 per cent import duty reduction.

In a statement Toyota Motor Thailand said it "respects the Supreme Court's ruling".

But it noted that a 2012 customs ruling -- later upheld by the Supreme Court -- reinterpreted previously agreed import rules, "resulting in a much higher tax on TMT".—AFP

Metaverse, VR in spotlight as Tokyo Game Show opens

THE Tokyo Game Show opened to media and industry figures Thursday, with the general public permitted to attend in the coming days for the first time since the outbreak of the coronavirus, bringing the latest in metaverse and virtual reality titles and technologies into the spotlight.

The annual extravaganza for video-game lovers, one of the biggest of its kind in the world, is being held at Chiba's Makuhari Messe convention center, near Tokyo, through Sunday. The general public can access the show from Friday afternoon.–Kyodo

Ford unveils newest Mustang, extending gasoline-powered life

FORD unveiled Wednesday its seventh-generation Mustang in a brash and boisterous launch event in downtown Detroit that pointed to the staying power of gasoline-powered vehicles. The big reveal had been teased for months by company officials and organized as a celebration of the 58-year-old model. The event, organized for Ford employees and Mustang mavens, featured pulsating music, slickly produced videos on wide screens and a light projection of the brand's horse logo onto a city building that loomed in the background.—AFP


Bill Ford, Executive Chair of Ford Motor Company, speaks during the debut of the next generation 2024 Ford Mustang at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan on 14 September 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

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Notice for Changing the Trade Name of Pesticides

We, **Zhejiang E-Tong Chemical Co., Ltd** would like to change the Pesticide's Trade Name of the following products, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-secretary Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
K4-Cyper 25 EC	E-T Cyber 25 EC	Cypermethrin 25% EC	F2017-1477
K.4-Quiza	E-T Que 5 EC	Quizalofop-P-ethyl 5% EC	P2017-3802
K.4 Acephate 75 SP	E-T ACE 75 SP	Acephate 75% SP	F2018-1490
Gly Min	E-T Glyphosate 48 SL	Glyphosate 48% SL	F2018-1489

Yonta Myanmar Co., Ltd.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (234W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (234W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V RICH SEAWAY VOY.NO. (029W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RICH SEAWAY VOY.NO. (029W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (150N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (150N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (203W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (203W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Putin, Xi meet for high-stakes talks in challenge to West

RUSSIA'S Vladimir Putin and China's Xi Jinping gather with other Asian leaders in the ancient Silk Road city of Samarkand from Thursday for a regional summit touted as a challenge to Western global influence.

Xi and Putin will be joined by the leaders of India, Pakistan, Türkiye, Iran and several other countries for the meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in the Uzbek city on Thursday and Friday.

The main summit day will be Friday, but it is a meeting of the Russian and Chinese leaders on Thursday that will be the most closely watched.

For Putin, the summit is a chance to show that Russia cannot be isolated internationally, at a time when Moscow's forces are facing major battlefield setbacks in Ukraine.



People stand in front of the Registan square in downtown Samarkand on 13 September. A regional summit this week where Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet China's Xi Jinping and other Asian leaders will showcase an 'alternative' to the Western world. **PHOTO: ALEXANDER NEMENOV/AFP**

For Xi -- on his first trip abroad since the early days of the coronavirus pandemic -- it is an opportunity to shore up his credentials as a global statesman ahead of a pivotal congress of the ruling Communist Party in October.

And for both leaders, the summit will be a chance to thumb their noses at the West, especially the United States, which has led the charge in imposing sanctions on Russia over Ukraine and angered Beijing with recent shows of support for Taiwan.

"The SCO offers a real alternative to Western-centric organizations," Kremlin foreign policy adviser Yuri Ushakov told reporters in Moscow this week.

"All members of the SCO stand for a just world order," he said, describing the summit as taking place "against the background of large-scale geopolitical changes".— AFP

Tears as British public pays respects to queen's coffin

THOUSANDS queued overnight into Thursday to pay their last respects to Queen Elizabeth II, with many choking back tears after seeing her coffin lying in state in London.

Britain's longest-serving monarch, who died on 8 September aged 96 after 70 years on the throne, is at rest in the capital's Westminster Hall ahead of Monday's state funeral at Westminster Abbey.

After waiting in all weathers for more than 48 hours, the first public mourners were allowed into the vast mediaeval hall on Wednesday after the coffin left Buckingham Palace for the last time, in a ceremonial procession witnessed by tens of thousands.

Thursday marks the first full day of Queen Elizabeth II's lying-in-state -- a last chance to say a personal farewell to a much-loved sovereign admired around the world for her steadfast sense of duty.

The casket, draped in the Royal Standard flag and bearing the Imperial State Crown plus the Orb and Sceptre, was raised high on a platform, with tall, flickering candles at each corner.

The coffin was being guarded by soldiers in ceremonial uniform, in a constant vigil.

'At peace'

In sombre scenes, many people stopped and bowed or curtsied towards the coffin. Others crossed themselves, or removed their hats.

Some prayed towards the casket or wiped away tears with tissues. Some brought their infants in pushchairs. Old soldiers stopped and gave one last salute to their former commander-in-chief.

Sue Harvey, 50, an accountant, was among those in tears after filing past the coffin.—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Chance for peace 'minimal,' UN chief says after Putin call



A pedestrian in Moscow walks past a billboard displaying a Russian soldier with a slogan reading 'Glory to the Heroes of Russia'. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE prospects for peace in Ukraine are "minimal" at present, the United Nations chief lamented Wednesday after a telephone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he and Putin discussed efforts to overcome "obstacles" that remain related to Russia's food and fertilizer exports, but warned it would be "naive" to believe there has been sufficient progress towards a rapid end to the war in Ukraine.

"I have the feeling we are still far away from peace. I would be lying if I would say it could happen soon," Guterres told a press conference.

"I have no illusion; at the present moment the chances of a peace deal are minimal," he added, noting that even a ceasefire is "not in sight".—AFP

France rejects appeal against seizure of yacht linked to Putin ally

A French court has rejected an appeal placed by an offshore holding company against the seizure of a superyacht linked to a key ally of President Vladimir Putin, according to a ruling published on Wednesday.

The Amore Vero, which the French authorities maintain is owned by a company linked to the chief executive of Russian state oil giant Rosneft Igor Sechin, was seized by France in early March.

The seizure of the vessel was part of EU sanctions imposed against Russian oligarchs over the 24 February Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The vessel, some 86 metres (282 feet) long, with a swimming pool that can be transformed into a helipad and an estimated value exceeding 100 million euros, is held in the port of La Ciotat outside Marseille where it had been undergoing works. The company Kazimo Trade and Invest Limited, based in the British Virgin Islands and which presents itself as the owner of the Amore Vero, had in July asked the Marseille court to order the release of the ship, saying the move was "without foundation".

Kazimo Trade and Invest Limited insisted that it is the owner of the yacht and not "a sanctioned person", apparently referring to Igor Sechin. In his order, seen by AFP, the court judge declared himself "incompetent" to decide on the lifting of this seizure, saying that the company should apply to the administrative court. —AFP



The vessel, some 86 metres (282 feet) long, with a swimming pool that can be transformed into a helipad and an estimated value exceeding 100 million euros, is held in the port of La Ciotat outside Marseille where it had been undergoing works. **PHOTO: NICOLAS TUCAT/ AFP**

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Australia PM says republic not top priority

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Thursday his priority is to hold a referendum on Indigenous people's political rights, not to remove the monarch as head of state.

The centre-left Labour Party leader is an avowed republican but has refused to be drawn into that debate in the aftermath of Queen Elizabeth II's death.

Instead, Albanese says he is focused on a planned referendum to give Indigenous people the right to be consulted by lawmakers on matters that affect them, a so-called Voice to Parliament.

"I want Australians to concentrate on the Voice to Parliament," he said when asked why the country could not also consider its future under the monarchy during his initial three-year term.

"We should be proud of the fact that we share this continent with the oldest continuous culture on earth, at least 65,000 years.

"That should be something that needs to be fixed before other matters are debated."

Australia was a British colony for more than 100 years. The country gained independence in 1901 but kept the monarch as head of state.

In 1999, Australians narrowly voted against removing the queen.

However, some supporters of a republic voted against removing the queen because they opposed the proposed new model in which members of parliament would choose her replacement, not the public.—AFP



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese says his current priority is to hold a referendum on Indigenous people's political rights, not to remove the monarch as head of state. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tutankhamun: Egyptians bid to reclaim their history



The golden sarcophagus of the Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamun in a restoration lab at the newly-built Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza. **PHOTO: AFP/KHALED DESOUKI/FILE**

IT'S one of the 20th century's most iconic photos: British archaeologist Howard Carter inspecting the sarcophagus of Tutankhamun in 1922 as an Egyptian member of his team crouches nearby shrouded in shadow.

It is also an apt metaphor for two centuries of Egyptology, flush with tales of brilliant foreign explorers uncovering the secrets of the Pharaohs, with Egyptians relegated to the background.

"Egyptians have been written out of the historical narrative," leading archaeologist Monica Hanna told AFP.

Now with the 100th anniversary of Carter's earth-shattering discovery — and the 200th of the deciphering of the Rosetta Stone which unlocked the ancient hieroglyphs — they are demanding that their contributions be recognized.

Egyptians "did all the work" but "were forgotten", said chief excavator Abdel Hamid Daramalli, who was born "on top" of the tombs at Qurna near Luxor that he is now in charge of digging.

Even Egyptology's colonial-era birth — set neatly at Frenchman Jean-François Champollion cracking the Rosetta Stone's code in 1822 — "whitewashes history", according to specialist researcher Heba Abdel Gawad, "as if there were no attempts to understand Ancient Egypt until the Europeans came." The "unnamed Egyptian" in the famous picture of Carter is "perhaps Hussein Abu Awad or Hussein Ahmed Said," according to art historian Christina Riggs, a Middle East specialist at Britain's Durham University.

The two men were the pillars, alongside Ahmed Gerigar and Gad Hassan, of Carter's digging team for nine seasons. But unlike foreign team members, experts cannot put names to the faces in the photos.—AFP

South Korea arrests woman over dead children in suitcases in New Zealand

SOUTH Korean police said Thursday they have arrested a woman accused of murdering her two children, whose remains were found in suitcases in New Zealand last month.

The 42-year-old — reportedly a South Korean-born New Zealand national — was arrested in the southeastern city of Ulsan and will be transferred to the capital Seoul to face extradition proceedings, police said.

"Police arrested the suspect at an apartment in Ulsan on Thursday following a stakeout with tips on her whereabouts and CCTV footage," South Korea's National Police Agency said in a statement.

"The suspect is accused by the New Zealand police of having murdered her two children — aged seven and 10 at the time — in around 2018 in the Auckland area."

"She's been found to have arrived in South Korea after the crime and has been in hiding ever since," it added.—AFP



A woman has been arrested in South Korea relating to the discovery of the remains of dead children found in suitcases in Auckland. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Angola's Lourenco to be sworn in after disputed win

ANGOLAN President Joao Lourenco is to be sworn in for a second term on Thursday amid tight security after a disputed electoral win last month. The inauguration will be held on the historic palm tree-lined Praca da Republica square in the centre of the capital, Luanda.

Large numbers of police and military forces patrolled the streets ahead of the ceremony, AFP correspondents saw -- a presence the main opposition party said aimed at stifling dissent.

"This setup aims to intimidate citizens who want to demonstrate against the election results on the day of the inauguration of a president without legitimacy," the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) said in a statement.— AFP

Sweden conservatives to form new government after narrow election win

THE leader of Sweden's conservatives, Ulf Kristersson, was working to form a new government on Thursday after a narrow election win by a coalition of right and far-right parties.

"I now begin the work of forming a new and strong government," Kristersson said on Wednesday as vote tallies were being finalized. "Now we will restore order in Sweden!"

With 176 seats — 73 of them going to the far-right Sweden Democrats — the four-party coalition will have a slim majority over the left, which won 173, according to a tally by the country's elections authority that includes 99.9 per cent of voting offices.— AFP

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Putin, Xi meet for high-stakes talks in challenge to West

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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 inves tment 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.

Potter gets early introduction to issues he faces at Chelsea



Graham Potter's reign at Chelsea got off to an underwhelming start with a 1-1 draw against Salzburg. **PHOTO: AFP**

GRAHAM Potter got an early indication of the reasons Thomas Tuchel was sacked as Chelsea were held 1-1 by Red Bull Salzburg in the English coach's debut in the Champions League.

The Blues have just one point from their opening two games in Group E and Potter has little time to settle in ahead of a crucial double-header against AC Milan next month.

However, Potter does have 16 days before Chelsea play again to get his ideas across after their match with Liverpool this weekend was postponed due to policing arrangements around Queen Elizabeth II's funeral in London.

Score more goals

Even in the heyday of the Tuchel era when Chelsea won the Champions League in 2021, goals were not free-flowing.

In eight games this season, the Blues have scored just nine times.

Raheem Sterling has four of them, including the first goal of Potter's reign, as the England international has quickly delivered on his £50 million ($58 million) move from Manchester City.

But Chelsea need Pierre Emerick-Aubameyang to do likewise despite the shock of seeing his reunion with Tuchel last just one game.— AFP

LIV Golf's Norman has 'no interest' in talking to PGA Tour

LIV Golf kingpin Greg Norman Thursday said he was no longer prepared to negotiate with US PGA Tour chiefs while denying the Saudi-funded circuit was a "breakaway" league. In an interview with The Australian newspaper, Norman said he had offered to meet with PGA Tour officials but they had repeatedly declined, instead focusing on reforming their tour to hang on to leading players. "That's why we are where we are today," Norman claimed.

"We tried awfully hard, I know I did personally for the past year... when we knew we were never going to hear from them, we just decided to go."—AFP

Allegri's credit runs out as 'worried' Juve flounder

MASSIMILIANO Allegri is public enemy number one among Juventus fans after a humbling home defeat at the hands of Benfica dealt a heavy blow to their Champions League hopes.

Juve supporters made their feelings heard loud and clear on Wednesday night, a barrage of whistles and boos which greeted the 2-1 loss the culmination of months of discontent with the man who guided them to five Serie A titles.

Zero points from two games has left Juve floundering in Group H, six behind both Benfica and leaders Paris Saint-Germain, and the message "Allegri Out" is reaching a crescendo among fans on social media.

On Thursday the Gazzetta Dello Sport described Juve's disjointed performance as "the end of an era" for Allegri, the coach having "used up all the credit accumulated when winning all those trophies and getting to Champions League finals". —AFP



Massimiliano Allegri is havingg a tough return to Juventus. **PHOTO: AFP**