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SPTT continues its 2nd-day meeting with KNU/KNLA-PC, DKBA delegations



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

THE State Peace Talks Team conducted the second-day meeting with the Karen National Liberation Army (Peace Council) KNU/KNLA (PC) and the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army-DKBA delegations at the meeting hall of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi

Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by 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, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung and DKBA Chief-of-Staff Saw Steel, Adjutant-General Saw Sein Win, KNU/KNLA (PC) Vice-Chair Dr Naw Kapaw Htoo and General Secretary Saw Kyaw Nyunt.

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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.

Truck freight forwarding businesses thrive on diesel price slump

A drop in diesel price increased the profits of the truck freight forwarding businesses, the traders said.

From the second week of September 2022, the prices of diesel that are used in trucks have been declining. Diesel price stood at K2,615 per litre on 16 September.

On 26 August 2022, the diesel price rose to K3,225 per litre. Therefore, the price was down by K610 per litre, K2,792 per gallon (4.54 litres) and K140,000 per 50-gallon barrel in three weeks, a truck operator said.

Despite the price slide, the current price is still K635 higher than the rate (K1,970 per litre) recorded on 7 August.

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The picture shows freight trucks that deliver commodities to the warehouses at the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market.

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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

305 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 16 September, total figure rises to 618,303

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 618,303 after 305 new cases were reported on 16 September 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 594,984 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.

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 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

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

Public notice

THE Central Bank of Myanmar make efforts for the emergence of a secure and quality national payment system, and as the technologies are well developed the money transfer services can be made easily through mobile payment.

Meanwhile, unscrupulous people do not fill correct data to commit illegal money transfers and swindling of money using mobile payments. In solving such fraud, it can be resolved only when people fill in their personal data correctly. Moreover, it should follow the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism procedures in making cross-border payments.

According to the international standards for the Electronic – Know Your Customer (e-KYC) processes, the user names, citizenship scrutiny card no and sim-card no filled in mobile payment accounts will be checked with the e-ID Database of the Ministry of Immigration and Population and SIM Registration

Database of the Posts and Telecommunications Department.

Therefore, the users need to fill up the correct data for KYC. The mobile payment accounts will be closed forever if the users fail to fill up the data within the fixed duration.

The users of bank-led mobile payments, banks and enterprises allowed for mobile banking, mobile banking services and merchant acquiring should go to the nearest agents/banks to make a Level 2 upgrade in time and those who do not want to upgrade to Level 2 can contact the banks and mobile banking service counters to ensure the proper ways to use the remaining balance.

Central Bank of Myanmar
(16-9-2022)

Join the official political platform

I will hold meetings with ethnic armed organizations for the second time. At the same time, I invite other EAOs that have yet to hold talks to participate. If they actually want to serve the interests of their regions and ethnic people, hold discussions, make requests, and join the official political platform, we have kept the door wide open. I would like to invite them to bravely walk in.

(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)

SPTT continues its 2nd-day meeting with (KNU/KNLA-PC), DKBA delegations

FROM PAGE-1 Attitudes from both sides on the prior meeting were discussed at the second-day meeting. Later, SPNC member Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein put forward the studies on the agreements of Part I/II and III of the Union Accord to check whether they reconcile with the existing laws of the 2008 Constitution. Then, the second-day meeting was adjourned after participants mutually discussed their views and opinions. It is learnt that the third-day meeting will continue on 17 September. — MNA

19th China-ASEAN EXPO, Business & Investment Summit held in Nanning, China



The video message from Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo of the Ministry of Commerce is played at the event.



ON 16 September, the 19th China-ASEAN EXPO (CAEXPO) and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (CA-BIS) took place in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in China, and Union Commerce Minister U Aung Naing Oo sent a video message on the occasion.

The opening ceremony was attended by Vice-Premier Han Zheng of the People's Republic of China, the Governor of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, ambassadors from ASEAN countries based in China, consul-generals of China and ASEAN-China traders. Heads of government from ASEAN countries, deputy prime ministers, ministers and the ASEAN secretary-general conveyed their video messages as well.

The 19th China-ASEAN EXPO (CAEXPO) will be held from 16 to 19 September. Thus, Myanmar participated in its showroom and Myanmar representative galleries in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership countries' gallery area. In order to increase the export of Myanmar products, a total of 30 galleries including gemstones, wooden furniture, agricultural products and food products were displayed in the exhibition hall. — MNA

MoH Union Minister receives IOM Chief of Mission

UNION Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win of the Ministry of Health met Mr Dragan Aleksoski, Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration-IOM at the ministry's hall on 16 September.

Both parties discussed matters concerning the vaccination of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand and migrant workers travelling through land borders for Covid-19, prevention and treatment of infectious diseases such as malaria and TB for

migrant workers returning from border areas, cooperation in maternal and child care and greater collaboration for the healthcare of trafficked women.

Deputy Union Minister Dr Aye Tun, directors-general and officials also attended the meeting. — MNA

The IOM Chief of Mission for Myanmar calls on the MoH Union Minister.



MoTC Union Minister sends video message to 5th China-ASEAN Information Harbour Forum

IT is important to protect the citizens and their interests in raising the digital transformation, said Admiral Tin Aung San, Union Minister for Transport and Communications in his video message sent to the fifth China-ASEAN Information Harbour Forum which was jointly held by the Chinese Cyberspace Administration, Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

He also said that there would be various misinformation, hate speech, cyberattack and cyber crimes on social media platforms. The forum can find the proper solution for such issues. Personal data and documents play key roles to discuss at the forum and they should cooperate for basic



The video message of MoTC Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San is played at the forum.

infrastructure protection.

He continued that the forum is an essential one to find out the ways for deep cooperation between China and ASEAN countries in sharing information, digital economy and digital trans-

formation and cyberspace sectors and so on. Digital technology and service are kind of borderless naturally and so it needs to work together to grab the advantages of digital transformation and the challenges to be resolved. Today's

efforts are in conformity with this year's theme "Building digital silk road towards a shared future in cyberspace".

Then, the Union Minister explained the development of Myanmar's communication and ICT

sector and the work plans of the Digital Economy Development Committee and expressed thanks to the Chinese government for its support to ASEAN and Myanmar on behalf of the entire Myanmar people and hope for strong collaboration in future.

The Chinese government held the first China-ASEAN Information Harbour Forum in 2015 while the second forum in 2016, the third forum in 2018 and the fourth forum in 2020 aiming to cooperate in the digital economy, exchange views and expand bilateral relations with ASEAN countries.

The forum was attended by Chinese ministers of relevant ministries and commissions and the experts in the digital economy and ASEAN ministers sent their video messages. — MNA

MoI closes photo shooting, editing training course 1/2022



MoI Deputy Minister U Ye Tint gives the concluding address at the closing ceremony.

NEWS and photographs are interrelated and pictures are important in presenting news. It is also imperative that the photographer's mindset is reflected in the content of the news coverage, said Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint at the concluding ceremony of the photo shooting and editing training course 1/2022 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

He further said the topic of shooting and editing photo-

graphs was taught by external instructors in addition to indoor and outdoor shooting exercises. Instructors from the News and Periodicals Enterprise also gave lectures on the basic structure of news, the writing of news and news articles, online posting of news items and reciprocal flow of news.

The deputy minister exhorted the trainees to keep learning more improved presentation of

photographs and to shoot quality pictures in line with the content of the news by using today's technologies.

Then, the deputy minister gave certificates to a leader of trainees and viewed the documentary photos taken by trainees. The training was held from 6 to 16 September and attended by 20 IPRD departmental personnel in Nay Pyi Taw Council, regions and states.—MNA

Bean prices likely to rise on monetary policy change

A bean trader at the Bayintnaung Commodity Centre in Yangon said that the price of beans is rising over the change in the domestic monetary policy, and if there are further changes, the price could rise.

Mung bean prices reached high in the domestic market as demand and monetary policy changed.

"The current transaction has cooled down a bit. The reason is because of the monetary policy," said a bean trader.

A trader said that due to changing in the current exchange rate from K1,850 to K2,100 per US dollar and allowing 35 per cent of exports to be traded freely, the mung bean price has reached more than K200,000.

Demand for beans from India is also good and it is expected that the demand will increase in September and

October.

In addition, it is said that there will be further changes in the domestic monetary policy, so if it is done, prices and demand will strengthen.

It is estimated that there will be around 200,000 tonnes of mung bean left in the country, and according to the Indian demand situation and the changes in the domestic currency policy, the demand is strong and the price is likely to rise, according to the traders.

India has signed a bilateral MoU to import 250,000 tonnes of mung bean and 100,000 tonnes of black-eye beans from Myanmar annually through the private sector from FY2021-2022 to FY2025-2026.

Myanmar exported 6.9 million tonnes of pulses in the 2022-23 financial year, earning more than US\$544 million. — Chin Lay/GNLM

Second day of 40th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM), its Associated Meetings continues

THE 16th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting-EAS-EMM and the 19th AMEM+3 meeting were held virtually on the second day of the 40th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) and Associated Meetings, and Union Minister for Energy U Myo Myint and Deputy Minister U Thant Sin joined the meetings.

During the meeting, the leaders discussed the energy security in ASEAN regions, oil and natural gas technology and basic infrastructure development, the use of clean energy and renewable energy resource, energy market stability, Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) Technical growth, coop-

eration work in hydrogen and ammonia energy technical, further cooperation between ASEAN and East Asian countries, ASEAN and Japan, Korea and China, policies and procedures.

Then, the Union minister said natural gas plays a key role in Myanmar's energy sector in future. The government is making efforts to improve the oil and natural gas production at inland and offshore blocks to meet the country's energy needs. It also tries to meet the goals of the ASEAN energy sector. It also arranges to generate electric power from renewable energy such as small-scale hydropower, wind and solar in remote villages from the national grid. The

policies are being laid down to use the energy effectively, save energy, promote the use of renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions. The country also participates in CCUS Technical and hydrogen-ammonia energy technical activities with the ASEAN countries, ASEAN's dialogue partners and International Energy Agency.

Then, officials released the "The Joint Ministerial Statement (JMS) of the 16th EAS-EMM" and "The Joint Ministerial Statement (JMS) of the 19th AMEM+3".

Indonesia will host the 41st ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) and Associated Meetings in 2023. — MNA



The second day of the 40th AMEM and its associated meetings is in progress virtually.

Truck freight forwarding businesses thrive on diesel price slump

FROM PAGE-1

The minimum prices of fuel oil stood at K1,615 per litre of Octane 92 and K1,970 per litre of diesel on 7 August. The fuel oil prices were estimated at K2,365 per litre of Octane 92 and K2,615 per litre of diesel on 16 September. The figures indicated a sharp drop of K750 for Octane 92 and K645 for diesel within three weeks, said U Htaw, a truck owner.

The amount of fuel consumed for the Yangon-Pathein Road (226 miles) by the six-wheel truck (16-tonne capacity) is 20 gallons of diesel. The truck operators can save around K50,000 per round for that route these days.

The profit also doubled to K100,000 for a round trip. Normally, the freight forwarding business does not prosper in the rainy season. When the fuel price slides, the operators can generate greater income. That being so, the truck owners are expecting not to have a price rise again.

After monsoon paddy in delta regions is harvested, rice delivery frequency to Yangon

markets will go up for sure. Tracking the slide in fuel oil prices, the prices of some construction materials started to decrease to a certain extent, according to the construction materials market.

However, the prices of auto parts such as tires, lubricant oil, engine oil and brake fluid are still on the high side.

Last year, engine oil was priced at only K25,000 per five-litre container. The price doubled this month. Similarly, the prices of six-wheel truck tyres (steel wheel rim) 8.25-20 increased from K380,000 to K550,000 this month. Those truck tyres have a maximum lifespan of ten months with eight trips per month. About 10 litres of lubricant oil has to be used for a truck every month, Ko Oo, a truck owner, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The freight cost for rice is still high at K1,100-1,200 per bag for the Pathein-Yangon Road in recent days. Only when the fuel oil price will not climb can the freight rate decrease, the GNLM quoted Ko Zaw, an owner of trucks, as saying.—TWA/GNLM

Dr Khin Maung Nyunt, Myanmar citizen literati, historian-cum-culturist, and founder of the International Relations Dept, passes away



Sayagyi Dr Khin Maung Nyunt and his book "I am Mr Burma".

AGGA Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja, Sithu Sayagyi Dr Khin Maung Nyunt, Myanmar citizen literati, historian-cum-culturist, founder of the International Relations Department, passed away at 8 pm on 15 September.

The remains of the Sayagyi were cremated at 1 pm on 16 September.

Dr Khin Maung Nyunt was born to U Thein and Daw Kyi in Chanayethazan of Mandalay on 13 May 1929. He was the second son of his parents. He learned at Buddha Sasana Nuggaha Boys' school, Thante School and St Peter School in Mandalay and passed the matriculation examination in 1948.

He passed the Intercourses of Arts at Mandalay College in the 1948-49 and 1949-50 academic years. In 1952, he won the gold medal after passing the Bachelor of Arts at Mandalay College. He served as Chair of the History Association at Mandalay College, executive of Myanmar Association and editor in the English section of the annual magazine.

During the period from 1952 to 1955, he served as a tutor at the Modern History and Political Science Department of Yangon University and then, as a teaching tutor to Assistant Lecturer in the same department. Meanwhile, he obtained BA (Honours) (History) and MA (History). He served as hall tutor and hall in-charge.

As he secured the scholarship award from the government, he attended the International Relations course at the London University of England from 1956-1960 and was conferred the doctoral degree in 1960.

From 1960 to 1975, he served as Lecturer-cum-Head of History Department at Mawlamyine College, University of Education and Workers' College while compiling the historical textbooks. He also wrote books on the customs of ethnic Chin and Shan.

From 1975 to 1982, he served in various capacities till the post of Director-General at the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture and the State Historical Research Department. During the period, he led cultural delegations to foreign countries according to the assignments of the government.

From 1982 to 1987, he served as Professor at the History Department and International Relations Department of Mandalay University. From 1987 to 1989, the government appointed him as Director-General of the Department of Archaeology Department. Meanwhile, he represented Myanmar and attended archaeological conferences in relevant countries.

From 1990 to 1994, he chaired the Myanmar Historical True Events Compilation Committee.

From 1994 to date, he has been serving as a member of the Myanmar Historical Commission while compiling research papers on historical events. He also serves as the Chief Editor of the Myanmar Perspective magazine published in the English version from 1996 to date and wrote historical and cultural articles.

The Sayagyi writes articles in daily newspapers and monthly-published Guardian Magazine including The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM). He also talks about Myanmar culture and historical issues in the English language on the air at the English section of Radio Myanmar every Saturday.

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Myanmar attends SEACEN-BIS High-Level Seminar, 21st SEACEN Executive Committee Meeting

THE South-East Asian Central Banks-SEACEN Centre, Bank for International Settlements-BIS and the State Bank of Viet Nam held the SEACEN-BIS High-Level Seminar on Thursday and the 21st SEACEN Executive Committee-EXCO Meeting on Friday in the hybrid format (both in person and virtual).

Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Zaw Myint Naing joined the seminar and meeting.

During the SEACEN-BIS High-Level Seminar, Deputy-Governor Mr Pham Thanh Ha of the State Bank of Viet Nam, Managing Director Dr Mangal Goswami of the SEACEN Centre and Chief Representative Mr Tao Zhang of BIS made greeting speeches.

The seminar discussed “Current Inflation Challenges facing the Global Economy in-



cluding Emerging and Frontier Markets”, “Macro-Financial Stability Frameworks for EMEs”, “Macro-Financial Stability Frameworks in Asian EMEs”, and “The SEACEN Perspective on Challenges and Options in Managing Capital Flows for Small, Open and Financial-

ly Integrated Economies” and “Managing Macro-Financial Stability”.

Then, the deputy governors of 19 SEACEN members, managing directors of SEACEN and participants exchanged views on their opinions and experiences.

At the 21st SEACEN Executive Committee-EXCO Meeting, SEACEN Managing Director Dr Mangal Goswami and Deputy-Governor of the State Bank of Viet Nam Mr Pham Thanh Ha reported on the prioritized work plans in 2023, budget status, strategic plans of the SEACEN Centre, the appointment of directors for the SEACEN Centre, management of the SEACEN Centre, employment of External Auditor for the 2023-2025 financial year and deputy-governors of 19 SEACEN members coordinated the discussion. — MNA

Global Fisheries Forum and Seafood Expo Russia to benefit country’s livestock and agriculture sector

GLOBAL Fisheries Forum and Seafood Expo Russia, which will be held in the third week of September in Russia will focus on the improvement of Myanmar’s livestock and agricultural activities according to the relevant sector, and efforts will be made for the agricultural improvement according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

White saltwater shrimp from Myanmar in the world market is being raised in Taninthayi Region and exported abroad.

If the market develops, 500 shrimp ponds will be extended to more than 2,000 to increase breeding and production. It will develop the interests of the two countries plus the export sector.

“It’s a global expo, and after listening to everyone’s discussion, we will focus on how they will cooperate with

Myanmar in the seafood sector.

“The Fisheries Federation will attend Education and Business sectors in the forum.

“We will discuss manufacturing and re-exporting of the sea fish from their country in Myanmar as value-added products, technology and investment for aquatic products, and fish and shrimp breeding that will benefit the aquatic sector are to be discussed as well.

“We want to invite them to invest in Myeik Islands because it is a good place to breed blue and yellow tuna for the world market.

“Since it is a global forum, it is beneficial for Myanmar’s aquatic products, and we will try to develop these sectors,” said Senior Vice-President of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation Dr Toe Nandar Tin.

Myanmar, which is based on agriculture and livestock, has agricultural land, natural

forest areas and four major rivers and sea coasts.

“Along with the main exports of rice, beans, corn, fresh water and saltwater products, the total cultivated land in Myanmar is more than 13 million hectares. In the technical sector, we are working hard to export the value-added products abroad in partnership with developed countries,” he added.

Southeast Asia is situated in the central area which is connecting big two oceans.

It plays an important role in the Indo-Pacific region because of connecting Asian countries and Asia-Pacific countries, and the centre became Russia.

From the upcoming Global Fisheries Forum and Seafood Expo, Myanmar-Russia bilateral economic relations will develop with stronger friendship, according to the reports.

— Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

Dr Khin Maung Nyunt,...

FROM PAGE-5

He has been serving as Professor at the Buddhism and Buddhist Cultural History Department of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, a retired professor at the History Department of Yangon University and an instructor of the Diplomatic Skill Course of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since December 1998.

The Professor is an executive member of the Myanmar Writers Association and the Myanmar Journalists Association. He was a winner of the National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement.

The government conferred Peace and Tranquillity Medal, Good Servant Medal, Excellent Performance in Social Field (Second Class) in 1992, Excellent Performance in Administration Field (First Class) in 2001, Excellent Performance in Arts Field (Second Class) in 2003 and Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title in 2006 on the veteran. He also won the Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary Award in 2005, Thuta Swesone Lifetime Literary Award in 2007, Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary Award in 2012, Sithu title in 2012, National Literary Award in 2016, Excellent Performance in Arts Field (First Class) in 2021 and Pyinnya Tazaung honorary award in 2021.

The significant books compiled by the veteran are I am Mr Burma in 1986, and the Seventh Myanmar Traditional Cultural Regatta Festival (1996). An Outline History of Myanmar Literature (1999), Sule Pagoda = Kyaik Athok Ceti (2000), An Anthology of Conference Papers (2002-2003), Selected Writings (2004), Radio Talks on Myanmar Culture (2006), Myanmar Traditional Monthly Festivals (2005), Myanmar Gems (2008), Myanmar Superlatives (2012) and The Historic Bells of Yangon? (2016). — TWA/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar's avocado industry gearing up for exports to Dubai, Singapore

MYANMAR Avocado Producer and Exporter Association are preparing to ship marketable Hass avocados to Dubai, the UAE and Singapore, said U Myo Nyunt, vice-chair of the association.

We have received a purchase order on Hass avocado from those countries. The association is making observations on prices between the offering price by those countries and the buying price from the growers. It will be harvested in December and the association is planning to export the Hass avocado as per the purchase order.

"The trade partners from those countries have already sent purchase orders to us. At

present, the price is still under negotiation. Only Hass avocado will be exported. Hass is the commercially important avocado variety in international markets. As the avocado will be abundantly harvested year over year, the association is trying to connect with international buyers. Avocados have been listed as the export items in Myanmar's National Export Strategy. When we started to cultivate avocado of foreign origins, it was aimed for exports," he elaborated.

Myanmar's avocado industry has connected with trade partners from Dubai to export about 30 tonnes of avocado by air every 15 days. Similarly, approximately 30 tonnes of avocado



Avocados have been listed as the export items in Myanmar's National Export Strategy.

will also be delivered to Singapore throughout the avocado season. Myanmar has planned

to meet avocado demand from those countries. Furthermore, it is also gearing up for export

market expansions. – Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

Domestic pure gold price remains strong at over K2.9 mln despite tumbles in international gold markets

ALTHOUGH the international markets experienced a big slump in gold prices, the domestic pure gold price stayed high at over K2.9 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme).

On 14 September, the spot gold market reported US\$1,700 per ounce. Then the price slid to \$1,650 per ounce on 16 September.

The spot gold market prices show a decrease of \$50 per ounce in two days.

Despite the fall in international markets, the domestic gold market did not track the prices of the spot gold market and hit approximately K3 million. The prevailing price of precious yellow metal is about K2,930,000 per tical.

This is attributed to the high Kyat-Dollar exchange rate in the local forex market. The US dollar appreciates around K3,400 against the local currency.

In late August, the dollar hit a tremendous high of over K4,500 in the unofficial markets. Following the depreciation of Kyat, the pure gold price reached a record-high of K3.7 million per tical.

The governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) and officials of the Monitoring and Steering Committee on the Gold and Currency Market discussed matters regarding the stability of



Although the international markets experienced a big slump in gold prices, the domestic pure gold price stayed high at over K2.9 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme).

the gold and currency market on the afternoon of 14 September in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, the governor of the CBM remarked the further coordination of the departments concerned, gold bar transactions to be made with the banking system and operations of the banks, further support of the ministries concerned and the CBM to achieve price stability, and further cooperation between gold businesspersons and the officials.

Last week of September 2021, a dollar value hit a peak of over K3,000 in the black market, pushing the pure gold up to K2,220,000 per tical.

Under the guidance of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, the Monitoring and Steering Committee on the Gold and Currency Market was

formed on 17 December 2021 as gold and currency market stability plays a crucial role in trade facilitation.

The objectives of the committee are inspecting and prosecuting market manipulation, checking if there is compliance with payment rules in the domestic market, and proceeding against those unscrupulous traders who intend to interfere with the free and fair operation of the market under the existing laws, by-laws and regulations in line with the official directives, illegal foreign currency holding, illegal trade and taking legal actions against price manipulators.

Furthermore, the officials concerned will crack down on those people involved in charging a percentage for money withdrawals at the banks as shadow money. — NN/GNLM

Diesel price plummets by K450 per litre in two days

THE fuel market saw a sudden downtick in the price of diesel by K450 per litre within two days.

On 14 September, fuel prices stood at K2,485 per litre for Octane 92, K2,575 for Octane 95, K3,065 for diesel and K3,150 for premium diesel.

The prices slid to K2,365 per litre for Octane 92, K2,455 for Octane 95, K2,615 for diesel and K2,700 for premium diesel.

The figures showed a decrease of K120 per litre of Octane 92 and Octane 95 and K450 per litre of diesel and premium diesel respectively.

The domestic fuel prices are following the decline in the price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in southeast Asia, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

The committee is steering the oil 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 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 distribute 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

Prioritize the safety of patients in healthcare and medication

GLOBAL action on patient safety recognizes patient safety as a global health priority and endorses the establishment of World Patient Safety Day to be observed on 17 September on a yearly basis.

Naturally, patients are vulnerable in society although they are actually members of society. It is because they are suffering from any kinds of diseases or health disorders with weakness and low resistance against impacts of diseases as well as strong effects of medicines. As such, families, caregivers, communities, health workers, health care leaders and policy-makers wishing to provide assistance for the patients need to improve the safety of patients as much as possible. As such, their efforts must be contributing to the daily moves of patients to be able to heal their sufferings.

Hence, World Patient Safety Day calls for global solidarity and concerted action by all countries and international partners to improve patient safety. In this regard, patients must have to enjoy the support of the caregiver and medication safety. It is because medications are the most widely utilized interventions in healthcare and medication-related harm constitutes the greatest proportion of the total preventable harm due to unsafe care. As such, it is necessary to approach patients with safe healthcare and proper medication care. Consequently, patients receiving treatment for registered health problems only can be free from secondary health complaints.

In this regard, patients on their part need to take care of checking the caregivers such as nurses, nurse-aids, companions and health staff whether they follow personal hygiene

in the workplace, for example wearing face masks, surgical masks, surgical suits, sterilized healthcare suits and washing hands. Only when those health staff fully follow the prescribed health protocols will the patients be safe in receiving medical treatment.

Practically, medication harm accounts for 50 per cent of the overall preventable harm in healthcare services. As such, health staff members need to hold up the concept that their personal hygiene activities will be a kind of treatment for patients. Hence, they have to culture sympathy for the patients and understand their health and hygienic activities are crucial for health improvement and health safety of the patients.

Thoughts on the 1592nd anniversary of St. Augustine’s Death

By Dr Myint Zan

A High School with St. Augustine’s name in Burma/Myanmar

The Christian theologian and philosopher (Saint) Augustine (13 November 354-28 August 430) fell asleep in Jesus on 28 August 430 – 1,592 years ago.

Augustine of Hippo is one of the foremost theologians in Christianity. His influence is such that in Burma (Myanmar) in the city of Rangoon (Yangon) there is a school named St. Augustine’s High School, apparently established by Catholic missionaries. In 1964 the then Revolutionary government nationalised all private schools and hence its formal name now is ‘State High School No 2, Kamayut (a township in Yangon)’. Notably, in Burma, there is no High School named after St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-7 March 1974) another Christian theologian who had discoursed, among others, on law-related matters.

The difference in years between Augustine’s and Aquinas’ deaths

Augustine was born more than 1,660 years ago and Aquinas less than 800 years ago. Yet only the exact dates of birth and death of Augustine are known with certainty. Why is that? Is it because Augustine was, overall, both within and outside of Christendom more influential than Aquinas? In his 1992 book, *The Hundred A Rank-*

ing of the Most Influential Persons in History author Michael H. Hart ranked Augustine as ‘No 54’ and Aquinas is mentioned only as an ‘honourable mention’ (along with nine other personages) with a brief explanation as to why Aquinas should not be considered so influential as to make it to the ‘top 100’.

The difference in years between Augustine’s death (in the 5th century Common Era, CE) and Aquinas’s death (in the 13th century CE) is about 833 years but only 738 years had elapsed between now (August 2022) and Augustine’s death in March 1274! Aquinas would have access to Augustine’s writings in the original Latin. Augustine and Aquinas would have access, in Latin translations, to aspects of the writings of the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle (384 to 322 Before the Common Era, BCE). Both Augustine and Aquinas ‘used’ or perhaps extended or stretched Aristotle’s ‘teleology’ to their own theological ends (so to speak).

Latin as a medium of communication in the writings of Augustine and Aquinas

Augustine and Aquinas wrote their treatises in Latin. Since they flourished about eight centuries apart one wonders whether there were differences in style, syntax and grammar in the Latin used by these two theologians. Was Aquinas able to comprehensive-

ly and relatively easily discerned what was written by Augustine eight centuries earlier in the Latin language? This writer did not understand medieval English in works such as *The Canterbury Tales* (first written 14th century, a century after Aquinas) or *Beowulf* (first written a few centuries before Aquinas). He had to extensively consult the explanatory notes in modern English to get the ‘drift’ of these works. My mother tongue is Burmese. I can only understand modern Burmese ‘translations’ and indeed English translations (made by other scholars) of two stone inscriptions written in medieval Burmese. These stone inscriptions were inscribed in 1113 and 1249 respectively. (When the stone inscription of 1249 an edict on theft by a Burmese king in the ancient city of Pagan was transcribed Aquinas was a 14-year-old youth in Italy).

Perhaps Latin, the *lingua franca* of medieval and modern Christianity and Pali (ancient India-based language) *lingua franca* of Southeast Asian Buddhism are not like medieval Burmese or English: perhaps they had in a sense remained grammatically, lexically, and syntactically much the same. I am subject to correction and to be educated on this.

Augustine’s and Marx’s philosophy of history

An aspect of Augustine’s philosophy of history is discernible in his monumental *The City of God*. Augustine in so few words claimed

that the ‘city of Rome’ (which apparently fell to the invading ‘barbarians’ during Augustine’s time) is not as important as the ‘City of God’. Despite setbacks, Christians had suffered during Augustine’s time Christianity will ultimately triumph (‘at the end of history’?). Would it be ungenerous of me to say that this idea can be described as ‘Christian triumphalism’?

Fast forward over 1,400 years to the mid to late 19th century. Karl Marx (5 May 1918-14 March 1883) predicted the eventual triumph of socialism/communism. This writer’s curial and also political curiosity is: Had Marx read the Augustine’s *City of God* in German or English translations? If so, did Marx substitute Augustinian (Christian) triumphalism with Marxian/Communist triumphalism?

Jus ad bellum in the International Law of War

Arguably a less theological doctrine of Augustine is his concept of just and unjust wars. In modern international law of war, there is, in Latin, *jus ad bellum* (under what circumstances and conditions can a war be started) and *jus in bello* (regulating the conduct of combatants, use of weapons etc. during the war). About 1,200 years before the publication of *On the Law of War and Peace* in 1625 by the modern ‘father of international law’ Hugo Grotius (10 April 1583-28 August 1645) Augustine had laid down his own standards to gauge the legal-

ity or otherwise of war. (Grotius died 1,215 years to the day after Augustine died on 28 August 430). **Aquinas’ four categories of law, just and unjust laws**

In addition to his landmark and massive *Summa Theologica* Thomas Aquinas also made contributions to legal philosophy. According to Aquinas, there are four categories of law: *lex aeterna* (‘eternal law’ of God known only to the Deity and those touched by Him), *lex divina* (the law laid down in the Christian Scriptures), *lex naturalis* (natural law which can be reasoned out by men and perhaps only men) and *lex humana* (man-made law mainly through legislation and custom).

Aquinas also posited what are just and unjust laws and the criteria to assess their justness and unjustness. He also elaborated under what circumstances and conditions unjust laws have per ‘the clutch of circumstance’ to be obeyed and under what conditions they should be defied. Seven centuries after Aquinas, in a ‘Letter from Birmingham Jail’ dated 16 April 1963 the American civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. (15 January 1929-4 April 1968) quoted Aquinas’ statement that ‘an unjust law is no law at all’ (a slightly different English translation that I had read, Aquinas stated: ‘unjust laws are perversions of law’).

Aquinas ‘Levitating’ and belief in miracles by both Augustine and Aquinas

As theologians both Augustine

and Aquinas believed in miracles. But it was Aquinas and apparently not Augustine who was said to have ‘levitated’. Online sources mentioned that Aquinas stated that heavenly beings (in Heaven above) can ‘see’ (all the way down) to ‘Hell’ and the beings in Hell, so to speak.

One mischievously wonders if both Augustine and Aquinas were to come back to the year 2022 and showed the images taken by the James Webb telescope of galaxies, black holes and stars far (far) away (indeed millions of light years away) what would they have said? Would they have recited, in Latin, the Biblical passage ‘Whenever I consider the Heavens the work of thy fingers ...’ (Psalm 8:3, King James version)

Dante and ancient Indian Buddhist texts’ narrations of visits to Heaven and Hell

The Italian literary figure Dante Alighieri (1265-14 September 1321) a younger contemporary of Aquinas published his *Divine Comedy* in 1320 in the Italian language. Aquinas did influence Dante. Dante had read aspects of Aquinas’ theology. *Divine Comedy* deals with visits to Hell, Purgatory and Paradise.

Around 1500 years before Aquinas and Dante’s time there were ancient Indian Buddhist texts generically known as *Jataka* tales’. Of particular significance is a Jataka tale *Nay-mi Zattaw* နေမိဇာတ်တော် (in Burmese) dealing with one of the last

ten lives of Gautama Buddha the embryo or would-be Buddha. In that *Jataka*, the embryo Buddha in a previous life as a King visited the ‘layers’ of Buddhist heavens and Hell (In Dante’s *Divine Comedy* the –Christian Hell also had various ‘circles’). Around the year 1787, the Buddhist monk U Awbatha (circa 1759-1799) translated *Naymi Zattaw* from Pali to Burmese.

Almost certainly, neither Augustine nor Aquinas nor Dante would have been –no fault of them– aware of ancient Indian Buddhist texts. Even though there are religious, theological, and metaphysical differences the ideas of ‘heaven’, ‘paradise’ and ‘hell’ can be discerned across different cultures, geographies, histories and religions.

Inter-religious dialogue and (only) ‘through a glass darkly’

Augustine converted to Christianity at the age of 32 from Manicheanism which is now virtually an extinct religion. The late Professor Melford Spiro (26 April 1920-18 October 2014), an anthropologist and Myanmar scholar wrote me by e-mail around 2012 that he was a free-thinker not adhering fully to any religion but ‘if forced to identify with a religion he stated that he had said he was ‘a Theravada Buddhist’. In 2006 he wrote to me (also by e-mail) ‘not to discuss religion, especially with a convert’. Augustine was a convert though apparently Aquinas was born a Christian (I am not sure whether

Aquinas, in 20th-century parlance, can be described as a ‘born again’ Christian.) In parts of Aquinas’ *Summa Theologica* there are discussions made by three Islamic scholars Averroes, All Ghazali and Avicenna. Of course among others ‘the philosopher Aristotle’ and the ‘theologian Augustine’ were in the ‘Dialogue’ and in ‘The Conversation’ of the *Summa*. If Augustine were to come back to the 13th century and as per the strength, tenacity and dogmas of converts what would Augustine have said to his junior (by eight centuries!) Aquinas’ inclusion in the *Summa* adherents of ‘other’ religions as ‘discussants’? What would these theologians comment about the Eastern religions including but not limited to Hinduism and Buddhism if the tenets of these religions were available to them? There is no strong historical record (subject to correction with evidence) that Augustine and Aquinas were aware of the Buddhist and Hindu treatises in Pali and Sanskrit languages or even the existence of these religions. Even if they had almost *mirabile dictu* read parts of the treatises of these Eastern religions in Latin translations, Augustine and Aquinas to quote a Biblical phrase, might have seen them ‘only through a glass darkly’ (Corinthians 13:12, King James version).

This article is dedicated to the memory of my mentor the late Professor Malcolm D. H Smith (21 August 1945-22 June 2006) of the University of Melbourne Law School in Australia. I wrote this article on what would have been Mal’s 77th birthday on 21 August 2022.

Older adults infected with COVID-19 might be at higher risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease: Study

ACCORDING to a study, older persons who were infected with COVID-19 have a much greater risk of getting Alzheimer’s disease within a year–up to 50 per cent to 80 per cent higher than a control group. In a study published today in the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease, researchers report that people 65 and older who contracted COVID-19 were more prone to developing Alzheimer’s disease in the year following their COVID diagnosis. And the highest risk was observed

in women at least 85 years old. **The risk for developing Alzheimer’s disease**

The findings showed that the risk for developing Alzheimer’s disease in older people nearly doubled (0.35 per cent to 0.68 per cent) over a one-year period following infection with COVID. The researchers say it is unclear whether COVID-19 triggers new development of Alzheimer’s disease or accelerates its emergence. “The factors that play into the development of Alzheimer’s disease

have been poorly understood, but two pieces considered important are prior infections, and especially viral infections, and inflammation,” said Pamela Davis, Distinguished University Professor and The Arline H. and Curtis F. Garvin Research Professor at the Case Western Reserve School of Medicine, the study’s coauthor. “Since infection with SARS-CoV2 has been associated with central nervous system abnormalities including inflammation, we wanted to test whether, even in the short

term, COVID could lead to increased diagnoses,” she said. **The anonymous electronic health records**

The research team analyzed the anonymous electronic health records of 6.2 million adults 65 and older in the United States who received medical treatment between February 2020 and May 2021 and had no prior diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease. They then divided this population two groups: one composed of people who contracted COVID-19 dur-

ing that period, and another with people who had no documented cases of COVID-19. More than 400,000 people were enrolled in the COVID study group, while 5.8 million were in the non-infected group. “If this increase in new diagnoses of Alzheimer’s disease is sustained, the wave of patients with a disease currently without a cure will be substantial, and could further strain our long-term care resources,” Davis said.

SOURCE: ANI



SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Long lost moon could have been responsible for Saturn's rings

DISCOVERED by Galileo 400 years ago, the rings of Saturn are about the most striking thing astronomers with small telescopes can spot in our solar system.

But even today, experts cannot agree on how or when they formed.

A new study published Thursday in the prestigious journal *Science* sets out to provide a convincing answer.

Between 100-200 million years ago, an icy moon they named Chrysalis broke up after



Saturn, the sixth planet from the Sun. **PHOTO: HUBBLE/AFP**

getting a little too close to the gas giant, they conclude.

While most of it made impact with Saturn, its remaining fragments broke into small icy chunks that form the planet's signature rings.

"It's nice to find a plausible explanation," Jack Wisdom, professor of planetary sciences at MIT and lead author of the new study, told AFP.

Saturn, the sixth planet from the Sun, was formed four and a half billion years ago, at the

beginning of the solar system.

But a few decades ago, scientists suggested that Saturn's rings appeared much later: only about 100 million years ago.

The hypothesis was reinforced by observations made by the Cassini probe, which orbited Saturn from 2004 to 2017.

"But because no one could think of a way to make the rings 100 million years ago, some people have been questioning the reasoning that led to that deduction," said Wisdom.—AFP

Plastic garbage covers Central American rivers, lakes and beaches

A blanket of multi-coloured plastic waste flowing in from tributaries covers Lake Suchitlan in El Salvador.

It is a sorry scene that has also become an all too common sight on the Caribbean beaches of Honduras, where thousands of tonnes of rubbish arrive from neighbouring Guatemala.

Fizzy drink bottles, medication packets, tattered flipflops: all sorts of plastic rubbish can be found floating on 13,500-hectare (52 square mile) Lake Such-

itlan, which serves as a reservoir for a power plant and is considered by UNESCO to be a wetland of international importance.

Local fishermen say the pollution forces tilapia and cichlid fish deeper into the artificial lake — the largest body of freshwater in the country — where they cannot be reached with fishing nets.

"It has been more than two months since we've been able to fish," angler Luis Penate, 25, told AFP.

To make ends meet he has

started ferrying around tourists in a boat owned by another fisherman.

Ducks clear paths through the rubbish, little tortoises climb on top of floating bottles to sunbathe and skinny horses wade into the lake to drink the contaminated water.

This contamination is unprecedented, says Jacinto Tobar, the mayor of Potonico, a small village 100 kilometres north of San Salvador in Chalatenango department.—AFP

'Like a new planet': Volcano draws visitors to Spanish isle

WHEN the volcano erupted in La Palma last year, Teodoro Gonzalez Perez rushed to the Spanish island to see the lava flows with

his own eyes — now he's back for another look.

This time, he's here to see the volcano closer up now it has

quieted down.

"It's like walking on the surface of a new planet," said the 54-year-old nurse from the nearby island of Tenerife while hiking through a lush pine forest carpeted with black ash to reach the site. "Visiting a volcano which recently erupted is an opportunity that only arises once in a lifetime," he told AFP.

Since the volcano erupted on 19 September 2021, spewing rivers of molten rock and ash plumes into the air, interest in visiting La Palma is booming.

The island is normally one of the less visited ones of Spain's tourism-dependent Canary Islands off Africa's northwestern coast.—AFP



The eruption of the volcano in La Palma a year ago — spewing rivers of molten rock and ash plumes into the air — has sparked tourism to the Spanish island. **PHOTO: AFP**

Air Canada orders 30 Heart Aerospace electric planes



The 30-passenger planes, which generate zero emissions while flying on battery power, are expected to enter service on Air Canada regional and commuter routes in 2028. **PHOTO: AIR CANADA**

CANADA'S flagship carrier Air Canada announced Thursday it has ordered 30 electric-hybrid aircraft under development by Sweden's Heart Aerospace, as well as purchased shares in the company.

The 30-passenger planes, which generate zero emissions while flying on battery power, are expected to enter service on Air Canada regional and commuter routes in 2028.

They have a range of up to 200 kilometres (125 miles), which can be doubled if supplemented by generators.

"The introduction into our fleet of the ES-30 electric regional aircraft from Heart Aerospace will be a step forward to

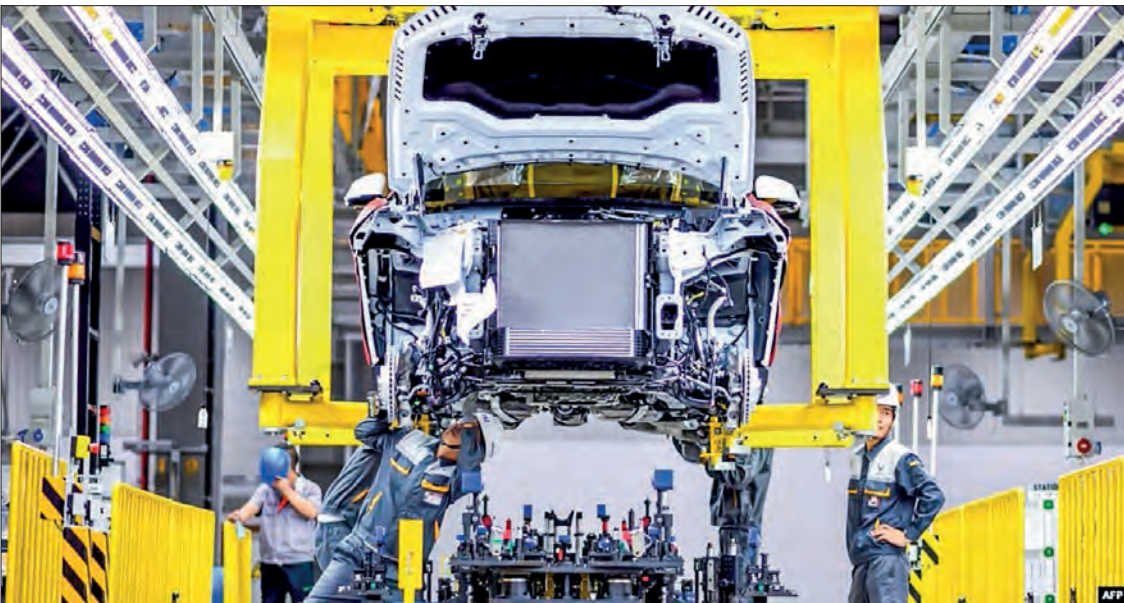
our goal of net zero emissions by 2050," Air Canada chief executive Michael Rousseau said in a statement.

Air Canada and Saab, the Swedish aerospace and defence company, said they each also acquired a US\$5-million equity stake in Heart Aerospace.

Meanwhile, Heart Aerospace unveiled plans to build a production and test facility at the Sæve airport in Gothenburg, Sweden, as well as to nearly quadruple its current 130-person workforce by 2025. "We have a plan and it's not just to build a new electric airplane, but a whole new industry," said its founder and chief executive Anders Forslund.—Xinhua

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

CLMV economic ministers' meeting aims to boost post-pandemic economic recovery



While the Covid-19 pandemic has driven the global economy into a recession, Vietnam has maintained real GDP growth at 2.91 per cent and attracted nearly US\$29 billion (HK\$226 billion) in FDI in 2020. Workers operate the car assembly line at the new automobile plant of VinFast, Vietnam's first homegrown car manufacturer in Haiphong on 14 June 2019. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE forthcoming 14th Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) Economic Ministers' Meeting aims to promote the post-COVID-19 economic recovery among the four least developed countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Cambodian officials and experts said.

The meeting is scheduled for 16 Sept in northwest Cambodia's Siem Reap province, on the sidelines of the 54th ASEAN

Economic Ministers' Meeting. Ministry of Commerce's Undersecretary of State and spokesman Penn Sovicheat said the CLMV are the least developed countries in the 10-country ASEAN, which also comprises Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. "The annual meeting will give a good opportunity for the CLMV economic ministers to discuss and explore ways to broaden trade and investment

relations in the post-pandemic era," he told Xinhua in a recent interview. He said the meeting would also find ways to reduce the development gap between the four poor and six rich ASEAN countries.

"We're looking into possibility to make use of new technology, science, information technology, digital business, and e-commerce to boost trade and investment ties," Sovicheat said.—Xinhua

Over 14.6 mln US children infected with COVID-19

OVER 14.6 million children in the United States have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic, according to the latest report by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Children's Hospital Association.

Over 340,000 of these cases have been added in the past four weeks. Approximately 6.7 million reported cases have been added in 2022, according to the report.

For the week ending 8 Sept, about 83,300 child COVID-19 cases were reported, but the reported cases are likely a "substantial undercount" of COVID-19 cases, according to the report.

There is an urgent need to collect more age-specific data to assess the severity of illness related to new variants as well



An information sign is displayed as a child arrives with her parent to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children 5- to 11-years-old at London Middle School in Wheeling, a village in Cook and Lake counties in the US state of Illinois on 17 Nov 2021. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

as potential longer-term effects, said the AAP.

"It is important to recognize there are immediate effects of the pandemic on children's health, but importantly we need to identify and address the long-lasting impacts on the physical, mental, and social well-being of this generation of children and youth," said the AAP.—Xinhua

New sub-variant of COVID-19 Omicron detected in South Africa

THE National Health Department on Thursday confirmed the detection of a new sub-variant of COVID-19 Omicron called BA.2.75 but said that the new sub-variant has not had any impact at present.

Health department spokesperson Foster Mohale said that this sub-variant was first detected in July in one sample in Gauteng and since then, it was yet to be detected in other areas again.

"It is of interest, and not of concern. Thus, it has not had any impact and severity

as compared to the dominant sub-variants BA.4 and BA.5," Mohale said.

Mohale told Xinhua that BA.4 and BA.5 continued to be the most dominant sub-variants in South Africa but they were less severe due to higher levels of immunity. The department called on the public not to panic. With South Africa having lifted all major COVID-19 lockdown restrictions as new cases continued declining, the health department, however, said the pandemic was not over.—Xinhua



People wait to take the COVID-19 test in Johannesburg, South Africa, 1 Feb 2021. **PHOTO: XINHUA/CHEN CHENG**

US CDC launches monkeypox vaccine equity programme

THE US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has launched the Monkeypox Vaccine Equity Pilot Programme to support innovative, non-traditional ways to address disparities in monkeypox vaccination, said the agency on Thursday.

Starting from Thursday, local, state, and territorial health departments, as well as tribal governments and local non-governmental organizations, can partner together and begin submitting requests to access monkeypox vaccine through the program.

This new pilot programme is intended to reach populations that may face barriers to monkeypox vaccination, which may include differences in language, location of vaccination

sites, vaccine hesitancy, mistrust of government, lack of access to on-line scheduling technology, disability issues, immigration status, and stigma, said the CDC.

"We have a responsibility to address inequities that have been highlighted by this outbreak, and this programme will help make a difference," said CDC Director Rochelle Walensky.

Up to 50,000 doses of JYNNEOS monkeypox vaccine have been allocated for the Monkeypox Vaccine Equity Pilot programme, according to the CDC. As of Wednesday, a total of 22,774 monkeypox cases had been confirmed in the United States, according to the latest CDC data. —Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

G-7 trade ministers pledge to boost supply chain resiliency

TRADE ministers from the Group of Seven advanced economies agreed Thursday to bolster supply chain resiliency for vital products, including critical minerals, amid Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine.

The ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, plus the European Union, said in a statement after their meeting in Germany that recent crises have drawn attention to "systemic vulnerabilities to chronic risks and acute supply chains shocks" that hamper economic growth and security.

"We, the G-7 Trade Ministers, underline that diversifying trade and expanding trading relations on a mutually beneficial basis is key to ensuring well-functioning supply chains and to improving the resilience and sustainability of our economies."

Factories in Europe and elsewhere began reporting pro-



European manufacturers are increasingly strained by global supply-chain problems. The logos of automobile companies are pictured at the entrance to the Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) at the Fiat Mirafiori car plant in Turin, northern Italy. PHOTO: MARCO BERTORELLO/AFP

duction problems in the early months of 2020 following the spread of the coronavirus in China, and disruptions spread along global supply chains, compounded by the restricted movement of logistics. The situation was made worse by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February this year.

The statement criticizes Russia's war, including its attacks on Ukraine's production and exports, as causing particular concern about food security for developing and least-developed countries.—Kyodo

OPEC and allies alert to changes in crude oil market: official



An oil tanker prepares to dock at Khark Island in the Persian Gulf. PHOTO: ATTA KENARE/AFP/FILE

THE secretary-general of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Haitham Al-Ghais, on Wednesday said the bloc and its allies remain "alert" to any possible changes in the global oil and gas market during his visit to Venezuela.

The OPEC and non-OPEC

Ministerial Meeting is "ready to convene as soon as needed to agree on any changes in market conditions, if necessary," Al-Ghais said.

Al-Ghais on Wednesday participated in an official ceremony marking OPEC's 62nd anniversary, along with Venezuelan Oil Minister Tareck El

Aissami and other Venezuelan government figures.

There are signs that invite "optimism" in the market, he said, such as OPEC projections that the global economy will grow by 3.1 per cent in 2022.

Recent geopolitical events in Europe and other parts of the world, however, have led to "restrictions" that are "extremely harmful to both producers and consumers," the OPEC chief said.

According to the organization's forecast, global oil demand will see "an increase of 13 million barrels per day to reach 110 million barrels per day in 2045", said Al-Ghais.

With that in mind, he said, Venezuela stands to play a "key role" in the future of global energy, given that it has the largest crude oil reserves in the world, estimated at about 300 billion barrels.—Xinhua

France's EDF faces 29-blneuro hit from nuclear woes

FRENCH state energy firm EDF said Thursday that lower electricity production due to stoppages of nuclear reactors would sap its operating profit by 29 billion euros (\$29 billion) in 2022, worse than previously forecast.

Almost half of France's reactor fleet is offline for maintenance pushed back during the coronavirus crisis, or because of problems with corrosion uncovered in some emergency cooling systems.

The company now estimates it will produce "on the low end of a range between 280-300 terawatt-hours" of electricity from its nuclear plants this year, well short of the 360 TWh generated in 2021.

The financial hit is five billion euros higher than the previous estimate of 24 billion euros.

While 26 of EDF's 56 reactors are currently offline, EDF executive director Cedric Lewandowski told lawmakers Wednesday that five should restart in September, five more in October and seven in November, with the rest online by February.

But the firm still forecasts nuclear output below 2021 levels in 2023 and 2024.—AFP



Workers walk past a reactor building at the third-generation European Pressurized Reactor project (EPR) nuclear reactor in Flamanville, Normandy, France on 14 June 2022. PHOTO: SAMEER AL-DOUMY /AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fuel prices jump in Kenya after subsidies cut

FUEL prices in Kenya surged to record highs on Thursday after the new government slashed subsidies, piling on misery for a population already facing deep economic hardship.

The price of petrol increased by 20 shillings to 179.30 (about \$1.50) per litre while diesel and kerosene prices are up by 20 and 25 shillings respectively, the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) said.

The new price regime that will remain in force until 14 October was announced shortly after Kenya's new President William Ruto took office on Tuesday vowing to scrap food and fuel subsidies.

"The interventions in place have not borne any fruit," Ruto said in his inauguration speech.—AFP

Spain arrests 'one of Europe's biggest money launderers'

POLICE have arrested "one of Europe's biggest money launderers" after a raid in southern Spain, saying the British-Irish suspect is believed to have shifted more than 200 million euros (\$200 million) in illicit cash.

He was detained Monday "as a result of an international law enforcement operation led by the Spanish Guardia Civil. Two of his associates were also arrested in Spain, and one in the United Kingdom", Europol said in a statement.—AFP

US industrial output dips in August on drop in electricity output

A drop in electric power generation and a modest uptick in manufacturing led to a small decline in overall US industrial production in August, the Federal Reserve said Thursday.

Total output slipped 0.2 per cent, worse than economists expected, on the 2.3 per cent drop in utilities, which was the second straight decline.

Manufacturing edged

up 0.1 per cent, while mining output was flat after five consecutive months of gains, the report said.

Rubeela Farooqi of High Frequency Economics noted the downside surprise in the data. "Momentum in factory activity has slowed," she said. "Supply chain constraints and price pressures appear to be easing, which is a positive for manufacturing.

"But factory activity is likely to moderate in response to slowing demand amid a rising interest rate backdrop," she added.

Production of vehicles and parts fell 1.4 per cent, and the big gain in July was cut in half after revisions, the data showed.

A 3.5 per cent jump in petroleum output and a 2.1 per cent increase in aerospace and other



US auto manufacturing fell in August, contributing to a drop in overall industrial production. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

transportation equipment helped offset other losses, the report showed.

Overall industrial production is up 3.7 per cent compared to August 2021, while manufacturing output is 3.3 per cent higher, according to the figures.

Industrial capacity in use slipped to 80 per cent, from 80.2 per cent, in the prior month, the report said.—AFP

Wave of Lebanon bank 'heists' to seize back frozen savings



A Lebanese man carrying a gun and a jerrican of fuel withdrew his frozen savings at gunpoint Friday, the third such incident in the crisis-hit country this week. PHOTO: AFP

A man held up a Lebanese bank to withdraw his frozen savings Friday, the latest in a string of "depositor heists" in the

crisis-hit country that have garnered wide public support.

Lebanon has been mired in an economic

crisis for more than two years, since the value of its currency began plummeting and banks started imposing draconian restrictions on withdrawals.

The holdup of a Beirut bank on Wednesday by an activist who filmed herself using a toy gun appears to have sparked a series of copycat raids by people fed up at being unable to withdraw their savings.

There were another three such incidents in the country on Friday.

In one of them, a man carrying a gun and jerrican of fuel demanded staff at a branch of the Byblos

bank in the southern town of Ghaziyeh hand over his deposit.

Accompanied by his son, the man in his 50s threatened bank staff with the gun, which a Lebanese television channel said may have been a toy, before making his demand.

"He emptied a jerrican of fuel on the floor," a bank security guard told an AFP correspondent.

The man walked away with about \$19,000 in cash but turned himself in to police moments later as a crowd formed in front of the bank to support him.—AFP

French traffic controllers' strike disrupts European air travel

AROUND 1,000 flights to and from France were cancelled Friday as the country's air traffic controllers went on strike, with their action also causing delays across European airspace.

France's DGAC civil aviation authority said 16 airports were operating a skeleton service, as were traffic control centres guiding planes overflying French territory at high altitude.

But several regional airports were closed and the DGAC warned of "cancellations and significant delays across the country".

At Paris' enormous Charles de Gaulle hub, only

a few cancellations were listed on departures boards among morning flights mostly going ahead, and staff in high-visibility vests were directing passengers.

"I thought we'd have lots of travellers coming to see us, but it hasn't turned out that way, I'm surprised... I suppose most people were forewarned," one worker told AFP, asking not to be named.

But Christina Shari-kadze, waiting at the Air France ticket desk, said "we didn't get any message, nothing at all... we're trying to figure something out" to replace a cancelled flight home to Georgia.—AFP

India's Adani briefly listed as world's second-richest person

INDIAN industrialist Gautam Adani briefly became the world's second-richest person on the Forbes real-time billionaire tracker on Friday, weeks after becoming the first Asian to break into the top three.

The self-made billionaire's net worth surged \$4 billion overnight to \$154 billion, according to Forbes, ranking him ahead of LVMH's Bernard Arnault and Amazon's Jeff Bezos.

Tesla founder Elon

Musk remained well out in front with a fortune of more than \$270 billion.

Arnault — who at times held the top spot in May 2021 — and Adani traded the number two position during the day as the share prices of their companies fluctuated.

Adani, 60, made his fortune in ports and commodities trading and now operates India's second-largest conglomerate with interests ranging from coal mining and edible oils to airports and

news media.

His ballooning net worth reflects a stratospheric rise in the market capitalization of his publicly listed companies, as investors back the Adani Group's aggressive expansion of old and new businesses.

Shares in the flagship Adani Enterprises -- of which the billionaire owns 75 percent -- have soared more than 2,700 percent since March 2020, and doubled in value in the past six months.

Stock price surges in other group companies including Adani Transmission, Adani Power, Adani Ports and Adani Green Energy catapulted Adani past fellow Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani this year.

Analyst estimates indicated the market capitalization of Adani's seven listed companies also briefly overtook those of the Tata group on Friday morning, making the Adani Group India's largest conglomerate.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (179N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (179N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-9-2022** 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

Xi calls for ‘international order in a more just and rational direction’



CHINA’S President Xi Jinping on Friday called for regional countries to reshape the international order at a summit in Uzbekistan touted as a challenge to Western global influence.

Leaders should “work together to promote the development of the international order in a more just and rational direction”, Xi said at a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization including the leaders of Russia, Iran and central Asian countries.

The SCO — made up of China, India, Pakistan, Russia and the ex-Soviet Central Asian nations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan — was set up in 2001 as a political, economic and security organization to rival Western institutions.

Xi told the summit that members should “abandon zero-sum games and bloc politics”, as well as “uphold the international system with the United Nations at its core”. —AFP

Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, and Kazakhstan’s President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev review an honour guard during a welcome ceremony at the Ak Orda Presidential Palace in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, 14 September 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Germany takes control of Russian firm Rosneft’s operations in the country

BERLIN said Friday it had taken control of the German operations of Russian firm Rosneft to secure energy supplies which have been disrupted after Moscow invaded Ukraine.

Rosneft’s German subsidiaries, which account for about 12 per cent of oil refining capacity in the country, were placed under trusteeship of the Federal Network Agency, the economy ministry said in a statement.

“The trust management will counter the threat to the security of energy supply,” it said.

The move covers the companies Rosneft Deutschland GmbH (RDG) and RN Refining & Marketing GmbH (RNRM) as well as three refineries: PCK Schwedt, MiRo and Bayernoil.

Fears had been running high particularly for PCK Schwedt, which is close to the Polish border and supplies around 90 per cent of the oil consumed in Berlin and the surrounding region, including Berlin-Brandenburg international airport.—AFP

EU chief in Kyiv for talks on closer cooperation

EU commission president Ursula von der Leyen said Thursday she was in Kyiv for meetings with officials, including President Volodymyr Zelensky, to discuss closer cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union.

“In Kyiv, for my 3rd visit since the start of Russia’s war. So much has changed. Ukraine is now an EU candidate,” von der Leyen said on Twitter.

“I’ll discuss with Zelensky and (Prime Minister) Denys Shmygal how to continue getting our economies and people closer while Ukraine progresses towards accession,” she said.

Ukraine gained EU candidacy status in June, a decision that Moscow said was part of efforts to contain Russia internationally.

EU countries have staunchly supported Ukraine since Moscow invaded in February by hitting Russia with waves of economic penalties. Many members of the bloc have supplied Kyiv with advanced weapons.—AFP

Putin condemns ‘attempts to create unipolar world’ in talks with Xi



Putin and Xi will be joined by the leaders of India, Pakistan, Türkiye, Iran and several other countries for the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in the Uzbek city of Samarkand. **PHOTO: AFP**

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Thursday blasted attempts to create a “unipolar world” and praised China’s “balanced” approach to Ukraine, as he met Chinese President Xi

Jinping in Uzbekistan.

Holding their first in-person talks since the start of the Ukraine conflict, Putin took a clear broadside at the United States, saying: “Attempts to create a unipolar world have recently acquired an absolutely ugly form and are completely unacceptable.”

Putin and Xi sat across from each other at the centres of two long rounded tables, flanked by their delegations on either side, as they met on the sidelines of a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in the Uzbek city of Samarkand.—AFP

Large part of Ukraine grain storage lost in war: report

UKRAINE has lost nearly 15 per cent of its grain storage capacity in the war with Russia, threatening its role as a key food supplier to the world, a new report said Thursday.

The US government-backed Conflict Observatory said Russians had seized 6.24 million tonnes’ worth of food storage capacity, and that another 2.25 million tonnes of capacity in Ukrainian hands had been destroyed.

In total, the war has removed around 8.5 million of Ukraine’s 58-million-tonne



Wheat storage silos near Riznykivka in Donetsk Oblast, eastern Ukraine, currently under Ukrainian control. **PHOTO: AFP**

storage capacity, threatening the country’s future ability to get crucial supplies of wheat, corn and sunflower oil to the world market, according to the report.— AFP

Biden hosts anti-extremism ‘summit’ at White House

PRESIDENT Joe Biden on Thursday will address a White House conference on “hate-motivated violence” in his latest bid to call out what he sees as a dangerous tide of extremism across the country, officials said.

The event, dubbed “the United We Stand Summit,” will highlight “the corrosive effects of hate-fueled violence on our democracy and public safety,” the White House said in a statement.

The statement cited a deadly racist attack on a Black church in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2015, a mass shooting targeting Latinos in El Paso, Texas, in 2019, and another gun massacre, this time targeting African Americans, in Buffalo, New York, in May this year, as the kind of “hateful attacks” threatening the nation.

The summit comes just eight weeks ahead of midterm elections in which Republicans are seeking to take control of Congress.

It also comes just two



Thousands of gun control advocates join the March for Our Lives rally as they protest against gun violence near the Washington Monument on the National Mall in Washington, DC, on 11 June 2022. **PHOTO: SAUL LOEB / AFP**

weeks after Biden delivered a fiery speech denouncing the “extreme ideology” of former president Donald Trump, whose supporters overran the Capitol to try to overturn the 2020 election and who continues to promote far-right conspiracy theories.

A White House official told reporters that Thursday’s event,

which will feature a panel with both Republican and Democratic mayors, was not political and would “demonstrate that we can unite across partisan lines.”

A cross-section of civil rights activists, religious leaders, academics and elected officials such as mayors will be among those attending, with Biden set to deliver the main address.—AFP

Some embassies in Haitian capital close citing unrest



Police remove a truck which had been used as a barricade following a violent demonstration which caused two deaths in Petit-Goave in southern Haiti on 29 August 2022. The demonstrators were protesting the rising cost of living and insecurity as the country, the poorest in the Western hemisphere, is mired in gang violence and political turmoil. **PHOTO: RICHARD PIERRIN / AFP**

SEVERAL countries said this week they were temporarily shutting their embassies in Haiti’s capital, amid unrest over fuel price hikes.

That move has sparked demonstrations in one of the Americas’ poorest countries, where the government is struggling to take on powerful gangs

and provide basic services.

The embassy of the Dominican Republic, which shares the Caribbean island of Hispaniola with Haiti, said it was closing its “doors to the public until further notice” due to the “deterioration of public safety” in the neighbouring country.

The Canadian embassy

also announced its closure from Thursday.

Mexico said Tuesday that its embassy would remain closed until further notice, while the Spanish embassy took similar measures on Wednesday.

The Haitian demonstrations include road blocks while public transport stopped and many shops and businesses closed for fear of looting.

On Sunday, Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry said the state did not have the funds to continue government fuel subsidies, saying gasoline and other fuel prices would rise sharply.

The prices of diesel and kerosene will almost double, going from around 350 gourdes (2.9 euros) to nearly 670 gourdes (5.5 euros). Relations are already tense between the Dominican Republic and Haiti, particularly over Santo Domingo’s opposition to Haitian migrants amid acute Haitian economic distress.—AFP

South Korea repatriates remains of 88 Chinese soldiers

SOUTH Korea repatriated on Friday the remains of 88 Chinese soldiers killed during the Korean War, the first such ceremony since South Korea’s President Yoon Suk-yeol took office in May.

South Korean honour guards handed over wooden caskets with the remains during a ceremony at Incheon airport near Seoul, where they were loaded onto a Chinese air force cargo plane, a live video of the event showed.

The remains were received hours later in China’s northeastern city of Shenyang in a military ceremony attended by Chinese veterans of the three-year conflict.

This was the ninth such

handover since the two countries — former Cold War-era foes — signed a 2014 agreement on the issue, and brings the total sets of returned Chinese remains to 913.

Friday’s repatriations are also the first to take place since the inauguration of South Korea’s Yoon, who has sought to maintain a friendly relationship with Beijing even as he moves to deepen ties with major security ally Washington. “Our yearly handovers of the remains of Chinese troops are held on a humanitarian basis, but also symbolize friendly cooperation between South Korea and China,” Lee Do-hoon, South Korea’s second vice-foreign minister, said at the event.—AFP



Chinese Ambassador to South Korea Xing Haiming (R) places his country’s flag over caskets containing the remains of Chinese soldiers killed in the Korean War, during the handing over ceremony at South Korea’s Incheon International Airport. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ceasefire holds on Armenia-Azerbaijan border after deadly clashes

A ceasefire was holding Thursday on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, Yerevan said, after the worst clashes since 2020 killed dozens of troops and jeopardized a fledgling peace process.

The clashes that erupted on Tuesday ended “thanks to the international involvement” overnight on Thursday, Armenia’s security council said, after earlier failed attempts from Russia to broker a truce.

Baku and Yerevan have traded accusations of initiating the violence along their

shared border, which saw 105 Armenian troops and 50 Azerbaijani servicemen killed and hundreds of Armenian civilians flee their homes near the frontier.

The escalation comes as Yerevan’s closest ally Moscow is distracted by its nearly seven-month war in Ukraine.

A delegation of the Collective Security Treaty Organization — a Moscow-led grouping of several ex-Soviet republics — is due in Yerevan later Thursday, Armenia’s foreign ministry said.—AFP



SPORT



Shan United twin players Zwe Khant Min and Zwe Htet Min are seen in their dressing room before their match against Yangon United in Week 11 of the Myanmar National League. — SUFC

Twins play for Shan United in Myanmar National League Week 11 match

THE Yangon United vs Shan United match played this week was full of memories for the twins from Shan United, according to the team statement.

“The twin brothers – Zwe Khant Min and Zwe Htet Min – participated and played together on that day. Usually in previous matches, only one would be on the lineup, and the other one plays as the sub-

stitute.

“On our Saturday match, both brothers got their first opportunity to play together and this is the first time in the life of a senior team member,” team officials said.

“The younger twin, Zwe Htet Min got the best player award, bringing joy and honour to the team. With Zwe Khant Min playing centre back and

Zwe Htet Min playing right back, both brothers played harmoniously and showed their potential,” Shan United officials stated on their official social media page.

Fans are invited to encourage the 23-year-old youths who boldly faced new challenges to their next achievements, Shan United officials continued. — GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- (c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Federer hails 'incredible adventure' as he announces retirement



Roger Federer celebrates the last of his eight Wimbledon titles in 2017. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

ROGER Federer will retire following next week's Laver Cup after admitting his battles with a knee problem had forced him to call time on his historic tennis career. Tributes poured in for the 41-year-old Swiss legend from rivals such as Rafael Nadal, while Serena Williams welcomed him to the “retirement club”. Federer, a winner of 20 Grand Slam titles and one of the best players of all time, has been out of action since a quarter-final loss at Wimbledon in 2021, after which he underwent his third knee surgery in 18 months.—AFP

Most World Cup fans back compensation for Qatar migrant workers: poll



A picture taken on 20 December 2019 shows construction workers at Qatar's Lusail Stadium, around 20 kilometres north of the capital Doha. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

A majority of World Cup fans support FIFA compensating migrant workers for rights abuses during preparations for the 2022 tournament in Qatar, a poll commissioned by Amnesty International and released on Thursday showed.

Qatar has repeatedly faced

criticism over conditions for migrant workers, but insists it has made major improvements in recent years.

The YouGov poll surveyed more than 17,000 adults from 15 countries — mostly in Europe, but also the United States, Mexico, Argentina, Morocco and Ken-

ya, Amnesty said in a statement.

Seventy-three per cent of respondents said they “strongly support” or “tend to support” football's governing body using some of its 2022 World Cup revenues to compensate migrant workers, according to the figures.

Out of those who said they were likely to watch at least one game, 84 per cent backed the proposal.

“There is still time for FIFA to do the right thing,” Amnesty's Steve Cockburn said in a statement calling on it “to set up a remediation programme... before the tournament kicks off” on 20 November.

“Supporters don't want a World Cup that's indelibly tainted by human rights abuses,” Cockburn added.

In response, FIFA said it took note of the poll but cautioned that “respondents may not be fully aware of the measures implemented in recent years by FIFA and its partners in Qatar to protect workers involved in the delivery of the FIFA World Cup”.

“Workers have been compensated in various forms where companies failed to uphold the workers' welfare standards,” it said in a statement.—AFP