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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.

MoH release COVID-19 rules to be followed in places where people gather



Health and security staff perform health care services for the people under the health protocols of Ministry of Health. **PHOTO: MAY THANDA (IPRD)**

THE Ministry of Health announced on 17 September 2022 the rules that must be followed by people in crowded areas due to the increase in the number of cases of COVID-19 in the country.

The Ministry of Health has issued a notification as it is necessary to pay particular attention to the prevention and control of infectious diseases, including the COVID-19 disease at nursing homes, orphanages, charity centres, welfare organizations, monastic schools and courses, hostels, athlete training camps and prisons where most crowded people live.

Therefore, people aged five and older living in the crowded areas must receive a full dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and those aged 18 and older who have completed the six months' vaccination period must receive an additional vaccine without missing a beat.

In addition, people must always wear a mask when they are with other people in a closed room, or if there are outside visitors in the room.

Similarly, hands should be properly washed with water, soap or alcohol (60 per cent) for 20 seconds.

Sudden sneezing and coughing must be covered with the elbow to secure the mouth and nose.

When eating, the Ministry of Health issued a notification to avoid group eating, face-to-face eating, and talking while eating as much as possible.

Also, if there is a person with suspected symptoms of COVID-19, the relevant duty staff must be immediately informed according to the statement.

Similarly, visitors who come to meet people who live in crowded areas must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and must also wear a mask during the visit.

SEE PAGE-2

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Elephant lovers provide feeds online in Palin Kanthaya elephant camp

PAGE-3



LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar's black gram market sees prospects amid decline in India's pulses output

PAGE-7



ARTICLE

US researchers develop method to identify future SARS-CoV-2 mutations affecting rapid antigen test

PAGE-8-9

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

234 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 18 September, total figure rises to 618,898

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 618,898 after 234 new cases were reported on 18 September 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 595,385 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reaches at 19,446 with two death.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 17-9-2022, a total of 30,489,734 people above 18 and a total of 6,549,730 people under 18 have been vaccinated.

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

MoH release COVID-19 rules to be followed in places where people gather

FROM PAGE-1

Body temperature must be taken upon entering and exiting the building.

Similarly, if you are suffering from illness or other suspected symptoms of COVID-19 disease, the Ministry of Health has issued a notification that you must not

visit, eat together, and avoid crowds.

The Ministry of Health has confirmed that people with suspected COVID-19 have been in close contact with laboratory-confirmed patients, and those with travel restrictions are being tested for COVID-19.

A total of 9,533 laboratory samples were examined and 234 new laboratory-confirmed patients were found from 8 pm of 17-9-2022 to 8 pm of 18-9-2022.

Therefore, it is reported that the percentage of infection detected on 18 September is 2.45 per cent.—TWA/GNLM



PHOTO ZEYA HTET (MINBU)

Investment capital must be supported for broiler and pig farms

CONCERNING livestock breeding, breeding of broiler and pigs for the purposes of production of meat is a business which can yield early return on investment, and so, such businesses must be supported with investment capital. The chief ministers, on their part, are required to focus on the development activities that cover their entire region and state. Only when the socioeconomic life of the rural people develops will the national development progress faster.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the coordination meeting held on 8 August 2022 with regard to matters relating to the activities being carried out by the Union Government)

Deputy Minister meets members to Global Fisheries Forum, Seafood Expo Russia Forum

DEPUTY Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Gyi, met the members of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation and representatives of saltwater shrimp farmers who will attend the Global Fisheries Forum and the Seafood Expo Russia Forum to be held in the Russian Federation at the federation, Insein Township, Yangon Region yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, the Deputy Minister said that in the Global Fisheries Forum and the Seafood Expo Russia Forum, the Fisheries Federation of Myanmar will discuss the two sectors to export sea fish from Russia as a value-added product to Myanmar.

“We will discuss various sectors that will benefit the



Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi meets delegates to Global Fisheries Forum and Seafood Expo Russia Forum to be held in Russia, on 18 September. PHOTO: KANU

aquatic product sector; technology for water products, including investment of fish and shrimp breeding technology,” he said.

“Myeik Archipelagos is a good place to farm blue and yellow tuna for the global market and is an attractive place for investment.

“In the aquatic products sector, the development of the fish and shrimp sector will be harnessed from the cooperation between the two countries. Rules and regulations were pre-

scribed for inshore and offshore fishing activities in Myanmar. There is strict regulation to ensure compliance with existing laws, and there is a need to make efforts develop farming and production businesses applying modern technology, including GAQP,” he added.

Further, the officials of the Fisheries Federation presented the information to be discussed in the forum and asked the Deputy Minister to fill in the necessary information.

Officials from the ministry, members of MFF and representatives of the fishing industry will leave on 19 September to attend two forums to be held in the Russian Federation from 21 to 23 September.—Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

Elephant lovers provide feeds online in Palin Kanthaya elephant camp



Elephants join elephant buffet at Palin Kanthaya elephant camp. PHOTO: KO KYEMON

ELEPHANT lovers from across the country are feeding the elephants in Palin Kanthaya elephant camp online, according to the officials. The camp, located near the west Palin village beside the Myingyan-Pakokku road in NyaungU Township, was opened by the Myanma Timber Enterprise of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. During the closure of the elephant camp, the number of people feeding the elephant buffet has increased to more than 470 times, and there is more booking online.

A total of 22 elephant camps have been opened in regions and states of the country, and the elephant feeding can be done by contacting the elephant camps’ pages. The buffet includes sugarcane, grass, banana, watermelon, pumpkin, cucumber, mango, coconut and corn and seasonal crops. It costs K30,000 to K50,000 per meal, and K100,000 can be donated for seven elephants a day.

Those who would not coming to the camp, can contact from camp social media page and like to donate can contact Assistant Manager dialing 09793820532. In COVID-19 pandemic, there are 470 times of feeding have been donated. The elephant camps set up for the development of community-based tourism are in short supply. Elephants in forest and mountain camps are not difficult to find feedstuff and water, explained U Saw Wah Wah, a ranger at the Palin Kanthaya elephant camp.—Ko Kyemon/GNLM

Daily newspapers available online

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GNU/KNLA (PC), DKBA delegations depart from Nay Pyi Taw

THE Karen National Union/ Karen National Liberation Army-Peace Council (GNU/KNLA-PC) delegation led by Vice-Chair Dr Naw Kapaw Htoo and the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army-DKBA delegation led by Chief of Staff Saw Steel, who came to peace talks at the invitation of State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, left Nay Pyi Taw by car yesterday morning.

The delegations were seen off by officials and members of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, ethnic people of the Department of Fine Arts, depart-



Ethnic people and departmental staff see off the Karen National Union/ Karen National Liberation Army-Peace Council (GNU/KNLA-PC) delegation led by Vice-Chair Dr Naw Kapaw Htoo and the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army-DKBA delegation led by Chief of Staff Saw Steel on their departures on 18 September.

mental officials and locals, by holding miniature State flags and placards bearing : “Perpetual peace is the real aspiration of the people”, “Achieving peace is the true desire of all citizens”, “Let’s hold talks for peace in the Union”, “Only the ethnic nationalities are in unity, stability, peace and tranquility will be achieved” at the Horizon Lake View Resort.—MNA

MADB Mandalay to loan K1,800 mln for farmers to purchase agri equipment this FY

A total of K1,800 million will be earmarked and lent to farmers in 23 townships in Mandalay Region this financial year, through a JICA (Two-Step Loan) to purchase and use agricultural equipment, said U Soe Ko Ko Win, Manager of the Myanma Agricultural Development Bank Branch in Mandalay Region.

For local farmers to transition from manual farming to mechanized farming, officials have provided agricultural machinery and large tractors in cooperation with the Myanma Agricultural Development Bank and JICA. Various types of farming machines and other agricultural equipment will be loaned out to the farmers to buy and use them according to the type of machine they need.

“The farmers in the region are being supported from one side so that they can transform

from manual farming system to mechanized farming system that they have been working on for generations,” U Soe Ko Ko Win said.

“In this way, the life of the farmers will be developed and the standard will be raised.

“Officials are lending with a low-interest rate with the instalment system for at most five years and at least three years. A maximum of K70 million per farmer is allowed.

“We are providing services for farmers so that they can purchase and use the necessary type of machinery that they can use conveniently in their workplace,” he added.

As agricultural equipment can be purchased and used, the farmers will be able to carry out their work in a short period, as well as be able to plant on time during the planting season.



A combine harvester seen in operation at paddy farm.

In addition, it is also reported that crop damage and wastage will be reduced, and human resources and labour shortages will also be reduced. The agricultural equip-

ment will be loaned to the farmers in the townships named Chanayethazan, Amarapura, Madaya, Singu, Thabeikkyin. Singaing, TadaU, Thazi, Myingyan, Natogyi,

Kyaukse, Meiktila, Wundwin, Myittha, NyaungU, Taungtha, Patheingyi, Yamethin, Pyawbwe, Kyaukpadaung, Ngazun, PyinOoLwin and Mahlaing. — Maung Aye Chan/GNLM

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CRIME NEWS

Illegal teaks, consumer goods, household electronic devices, industrial materials, heavy machinery parts, vehicles seized

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

An on-duty inspection team under the supervision of the Customs Department inspected at the airport cargo garage at the Yangon International Airport on 14 September. Officials found Button punching machine and CMP accessories at an estimated value of K9,330,300, not declared in the ID. Then, officials found supplementary medicines, estimated at K6,364,530 from the Asia World Container checkpoint on 15 September. The total worth of the seizures amounted to K15,694,830 and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

An on-duty inspection team under the supervision of the Customs Department of Mon State inspected at the Mayanchaung checkpoint on 15 and 16 September. They

found air conditioners, vehicle accessories and ceramic tile at an estimated value of K11,348,058, not declared in the ID and three vehicles estimated at K260 million, carrying the goods. The total worth of the seizures amounted to K271,348,058 and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

A combined inspection team, under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force of Nay Pyi Taw council area, led by respective township Forest Departments inspection at Tatkon township and Pyinmana township on 16 and 17 September. They found 6.784 tonnes of illegal timbers estimated at K244,640 and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

A combined inspection team, under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force of Kayin State, inspected at Kawkareik (Tadakyō) on 17 and 18 September. Offi-

cials found detergent powder packets and ceramic tiles, not declared in the ID and estimated at K3.4 million from two vehicles. An on-duty inspection team inspected at Myawady trade zone and found commodities estimated at K5,722,500. The total worth of the seizures amounted to K9,122,500 and the action was taken under the Customs procedures.

An inspection team, under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force of Sagaing Region, led by Myanmar Police Force inspected at the near Kantalu electricity office, Sagaing Region on 18 September. They found 13.3001 tonnes of teak glass panes, estimated at K8,778,066 and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 13 cases at estimated value of K305,188,094 were taken action from 14 to 18 September, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. —MNA

Information team of State Administration Council to hold 20th Press Conference

THE Information Team of State Administration Council will hold its 20th Press Conference at the meeting hall of Minister Office of Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm on 20 September 2022 and local and foreign media are invited to the press conference. —MNA

Objectives of 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2022

- (a) To uplift national prestige and integrity and to preserve the cultural heritage and national characteristics
- (b) To discover, preserve and uplift the traditional cultural heritage of performing arts of ethnic nationals and national cultural characteristics
- (c) To preserve traditional cultural performing arts in order to further revitalize adoration of the State and hand it down to new generation youths
- (d) To contribute much to the restoration of perpetual peace

Palm oil market sees slight rise

THE wholesale prices of palm oil touched a high of K8,500-K8,600 per barrel on 10 September, when the reference price in Yangon for a week ending 18 September was set at K4,730 per viss.

On 14 September, the price slid to K7,600-K7,800 per viss. However, the price rebounded to K8,700-K8,800 on 17 September; Ko Aung Ko, a seller at Nyaungpinlay market in Yangon, told the GNLM.

Those involved in deep-frying snack businesses said they purchased palm oil at K8,200 in the retail market on 14 September and K8,900 on 17 September. The price bounced back from a three-day fall in the domestic markets, causing the sellers to face some hurdles.

The price peaked at K9,700 per viss in the wholesale market. After two weeks, the price dropped to K7,600-K7,800 per viss. The price increased again

to K8,700-K8,800 per viss on 17 September.

When the palm oil prices were volatile in the first 15 days of September in the Yangon market, the price index showed downward in the major producing country Indonesia, according to the edible oil market's reports.

Between 1 and 15 September, the current export tax for crude palm oil is \$74 per tonne, with the reference price set at \$929.66 per tonne. For a 16-30 September period, the reference price was set at \$846.32 and the export tax for the crude palm oil was \$52, according to Indonesia's official statement released on 15 September.

Similarly, a tonne of palm oil was priced at 3,481 Ringgit on 9 September. When it is exchanged to local currency, palm oil is worth only K2,620 per viss. On 8 September, palm oil price hit 3,615 Ringgit. On 25 August, it soared



Palm oil to be sold in the market is seen.

to 4,294 Ringgit per tonne (\$945) and (K2 million). Yet, the price was valued at only K3,250 per viss, according to Malaysia's palm oil market data.

On 12 September, the CIF price of palm oil was US\$989 per metric tonne. If it is calculated on the foreign exchange rate of K2,703, the original price of palm

oil is only K4,639 per viss and K2.8 million per tonne, according to non-governmental edible oil dealers' association.

On 17 September, the wholesale price climbed to K8,800 per viss in the markets. Therefore, the palm oil was worth K5.4 million per tonne when it is calculated on the market price.

Between 29 August and 4 September, the CIF price was \$1,088. The original price was K4,814 per viss and the reference price was K4,910 per viss then. The wholesale price of palm oil for a week from 5 to 11 September was set at K5,220 per viss, according to the reference price official release every Monday.

While the palm oil was priced around K1.6 million per tonne in foreign markets, the original price was K2.8 million per tonne in the Yangon market. The wholesale price peaked at K5.4 million per tonne.

Only a small number of consumers have access to the mobile market trucks that offer the palm oil at subsidized rates. Most of the consumers are forced to purchase the oil in the retail markets at the higher prices which is about double of the reference prices, the buyers stressed. —TWA/GNLM

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Over K135 million subsidies provided to 39,297 persons with disabilities from February 2021 to 13 September 2022



Official of District SWD office presents cash assistance to the person with disabilities in Ingapu Township of Ayeyawady Region in January 2022.

SUBSIDIES worth K135.441 million have been provided to 39,297 persons with disabilities from February 2021 to 13 September 2022, said Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine at the event of grant giving to 650 persons with disabilities from Pobbathiri and Hlinethaya townships on 13 September.

In the event, a total of K19.5 million were provided to 650 persons with disabilities with K30,000 per one. Disability classification and registration project is firstly carried out in four pilot project areas such as Pobbathiri township of Nay Pyi Taw, Hlinethaya township of Yangon, Hpa-an township of Kayin State and Hopong township in Pa-O Self-Administered Zone of Shan State and continuously to cover all townships in the nationwide.—TWA/GNLM

Five deaths murder case occurs in PyinOoLwin

A five-death murder case happened at the chicken farm of Sikar village of Anisakhan in PyinOoLwin on 18 September and the officials are conducting investigation over the case.

Two males, two females and one child of around 10 years old were found with cuts and bruises on the head and neck, according to the Tuthita charity team.

One of the members of charity team said they may be worker of poultry farm, four was dead at the scene, one is on the way to PyinOoLwin hospital. They cooperate with other charity team.

Regarding the murder process, the case was opened at the Anisakhan police outpost in PyinOoLwin. The police are still investigating the case to arrest the perpetrators. —TWA/GNLM



Photo shows dead bodies of five persons.

Free business and management courses for the blind to be opened in October



A workshop on promoting employment opportunities for people with disabilities in 2020.

BUSINESS and management diploma courses for the visually impaired in Myanmar will be offered free of charge from October, according to the Myanmar Association of the Blind.

The courses will be taught online in collaboration with the Myanmar Association of the Blind and Strategy First University Extension SFUX.

Those who want to attend the certificate course must have a high level of basic education, and those who want to attend the diploma course must be those who have passed matriculation examination or those who have attended university

or have graduated.

After completing the Unit Ending Test and Course Ending Test conducted by SFUX, participants of the diploma course must prepare and submit a business plan.

The diploma awarded by SFUX will be awarded only if the business plan is recognized by SFUX.

Therefore, if interested persons want to know further information about the courses, they can browse <https://sfuxstrategyfirst.edu.mm/courses>.

Those who want to attend the courses can send applications to the association's Viber number 09-262247078 by 4 pm on 29 September.—TWA/GNLM

Prices of both Chinese and local onions fall

THE prices of large sized local onions in the Yangon market jumped to K3,850 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) on 2 September 2022. Dumping through a free market perspective naturally occurs and Chinese onions are seen flooding Yangon markets at cheaper rates on 13 September.

The prices of Chinese onions plunged into K2,500 on 14 September, K2,100 on 15 September and K1,800 on 16 September respectively, Ko Lwin, a buyer of onions and potatoes, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Prior to 2020, Chinese onions will be as large as apples. This year, the size of Chinese onions is relatively similar to the local ones, a buyer U Shwe Win told the GNLM. For the local onions, the big one fetched the highest price in the domestic markets. The housewives prefer the medium ones of good



Pic shows a female grower in the green onion field.

quality.

On 2 September 2022, onion prices ranged between K3,000 and K3,850 per viss. On 16 September, the price plummeted to K2,300-K2,800 per viss. Approx-

mately 36,000 viss of onions were supplied to the Yangon market on 17 September. However, the prices stood at K2,500-K3,000 per viss respectively.

This year, monsoon on-

ions were cultivated too soon in some regions. The locals guessed that newly harvested onions are likely to enter the market in the upcoming two months. The harvest season

is expected to start early. The growers did not reap a handsome profit due to low stocks amid the record prices of onion this month. Yet, the high price becomes a strong motivation for the monsoon growers, Ko Tun Tauk, a buyer of onions told the GNLM.

There are only two months remaining for the monsoon onions to flow into the market. Yangon markets require only 70 viss during that period.

The price movements of onions answer whether there is an adequate supply in the domestic market or not, U San Myint, a market observer, told the GNLM.

When the local products are priced high in the domestic market, foreign ones can set foot in the Yangon market. If the export volume of onions is quite normal, the consumers do not need to be concerned over onions. —TWA/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar seaborne trade value grows 32 per cent as of 9 Sept

MYANMAR'S seaborne trade with international trade partners showed an uptick of 32 per cent between 1 April and 9 September in the current financial year 2022-2023. The value of maritime trade soared to US\$11.5 billion, reflecting a sharp rise of \$2.8 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Seaborne trade rose from \$8.7 billion during the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

While seaborne exports were valued at \$5.037 billion, imports were registered at \$6.486 billion. Both exports and imports by sea have risen as compared to the year-ago period.

Myanmar's seaborne trade generated \$19.8 billion out of an overall trade value of \$29.5 billion in the previous FY 2020-2021, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

In September 2022, 55 cargo

ships carrying many containers, operated by 14 international shipping liners, were scheduled to enter terminals in Yangon Port, according to a notification of the Myanmar Port Authority.

Terminals in Yangon Port handled 410 cargo ships in the past eight months. The number of cargo ships entering Yangon Port stood at 49 in January, 48 in February, 50 in March, 52 in April, 54 in May, 53 in June, 49 in July and 55 ships in August respectively.

Myanmar Port Authority and Yangon inner terminals are providing services to ensure the fast and reliable cargo handling and withdrawal of the containers.

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



Hteedan Port in Yangon handles freight at ocean liners.

and the outer Thilawa Port have received larger ships of 30,000 DWT (Deadweight tonnage) after the draft limit was extended up

to 10 meters. Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished indus-

trial goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials.—KK/GNLM

Myanmar's black gram market sees prospects amid decline in India's pulses output

AS the yield of the pulses produced in India declines, Myanmar's black gram market sees potential, according to Ayeya Trade Centre (ATC) under Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

At present, newly harvested monsoon black gram (urad in India) from a major-pulse producing state Madhya Pradesh entered the market. Yet the pulses output declined and the growers found it hard to cover the cultivation cost. Moreover, the black gram's quality is not good enough to fetch a good price.

Torrential rain in most of the states in India affected the harvest of pulses; especially black gram and green gram (moong).

The price of black gram FAQ slightly rises in Chennai, India yet the price is normal in other states. The price of pigeon pea (tur) also increased a bit.

The stock of Myanmar's black gram shrinks. The price is fluctuating daily, tracking the Kyat-Dollar exchange rate and gold price, according to ATC.

The prevailing market prices of pulses stood at K2,035,000 per tonne of black gram and K2,125,000 per tonne of pigeon pea.

The ATC remarked that the



Samples of black gram and other beans are seen at wholesale centre of the market.

current market price is possibly to inch higher following dollar rate and gold price. However, there is a gap between the reference exchange rate and the unofficial rate when export earnings are exchanged.

The Foreign exchange earned by locals in Myanmar must be deposited in accounts at the authorized banks and exchanged for the local currency at the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference rate of K1,850 within one working day, according to notification released on 3 April.

On 5 August, the reference exchange rate was raised to K2,100.

Regarding foreign accounts of the exporters at the banks, 65

per cent of earnings must be exchanged to local currency within one working day. Banks must conduct transactions of the remaining 35 per cent for the use of exporters or remittance or selling them onto the authorized dealers, according to a statement released by the CBM on 16 August.

The CBM set the reference exchange rate for the US dollar at K2,100, whereas the dollar is valued at around K3,300 in the unofficial FX market.

During the corresponding period in 2015, black gram prices hit K2.1 million per tonne when Kyat weakened against the dollar at 1,000. However, India's policy changes on import and anti-dumping duty imposed by

India emerged. As a result of this, traders must be aware of situations where they could not expect the same level of profit as before, ATC elaborated.

As there is a home currency risk, the traders are likely to keep the stocks in hands. Black gram is a lucrative cash crop on the back of strong demand by India and low stocks.

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 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY.

The prices of black gram in Myanmar is highly correlated with India's demand, fuel price hike and Kyat value against the hard currency US dollar. On 31 August, the dollar against Kyat peaked at K4,500 in the grey market. Following that, the black gram price reached a record high of K2.1 million per tonne.

Last September 2021, the prices hit a record high of K2 million per tonne when the US dollar exchange rate with Myanmar currency hit over K3,000 in the local forex market. This year's market price made a new record.

Myanmar conveyed over 723,043.9 tonnes of various beans and pulses worth \$564.637 million to foreign trade partners between 1 April and 9 September 2022 in the current financial year 2022-2023. The country shipped over 580,691 tonnes of pulses and beans valued \$468.283 million to foreign markets by sea, and over 142,352 tonnes valued \$96.354 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land border. Myanmar exported over 2 million tonnes of various pulses worth US\$1.57 billion to foreign trade partners last financial year 2020-2021. The country shipped 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and beans valued \$966.4 million to foreign markets through sea route, and 786,920 tonnes worth \$604.3 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land border.

Myanmar yearly produces approximately 400,000 tonnes of black gram and about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas. Myanmar is the top producer of the black gram that is primarily demanded by India, while pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are cultivated in Australia and African countries beside Myanmar.—NN/GNLM

OPINION

Efficiently apply social media to escape from the lives of trafficked victims

ALTHOUGH the scientists aimed to benefit society through the creation of social media, it brings unprecedented many bad results to society with varieties of dangers. However, some information items mentioned that millions of people are using social media Facebook in Myanmar up to now.

Most Facebook users apply such social media with more than one account. So, they share information collected from various friend accounts with further friends in a short time. That is why an item of information which has not been approved or verified yet can spread to society. Similar ways of streamlining the information can be seen in other social media such as Twitter, Tik Tok, Instagram, Telegram and so on.

Whatever it may be, both government and people are now responsible for the suppression of trafficking in persons by combatting the human traffickers while searching for the victims to be able to rescue their lives not to fall under the trafficking in persons again.

women to seek jobs abroad. Hence, human traffickers lure them with incentives of high salary amounts for their employment. Those who could not understand the tricks of human traffickers became the trafficked victims.

Local authorities in various parts of the country in cooperation with the Anti-human Trafficking Police Force under the Myanmar Police Force perform salvage of trafficked victims at home and abroad thanks to police and officials of neighbouring countries as well as Interpol. Those bodies save the lives of victims of human traffickers but some of the victims were willing to suffer from the bad impacts of human traffickers as their original lives were worse than the trafficked victims. Hence, they unavoidably chose lives with lesser dangers and suffering.

Whatever it may be, both government and people are now responsible for the suppression of trafficking in persons by combatting the human traffickers while searching for the victims to be able to rescue their lives not to fall under the trafficking in persons again.

■

US researchers develop method to identify future SARS-CoV-2 mutations affecting rapid antigen test

The research team funded by the NIH has shown that commercially available rapid antigen tests can detect past and present variants of concern, and has identified potential mutations that may impact test performance in the future.

US researchers have developed a method to evaluate how mutations to SARS-CoV-2 can affect recognition by antibodies used in rapid antigen tests, according to a release of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) on Thursday.

As new variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus continue to emerge, concerns have been raised about the performance of rapid antigen tests.

Rapid antigen tests

The research team funded by the NIH has shown that commercially available rapid antigen tests can detect past

and present variants of concern, and has identified potential mutations that may impact test performance in the future.

Most rapid antigen tests

Since most rapid antigen tests detect the SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid protein, or N protein, the team directly measured how mutations to the N protein impacted diagnostic antibodies' ability to recognize their target, according to the NIH.

"Rapid antigen tests remain an important COVID-19 mitigation tool, and it is essential to ensure that these tests can detect the SARS-CoV-2 virus as it continues to evolve,"

said Bruce J. Tromberg, director of the US National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering.

"Considering the endless cycle of new variants, the data from this study will be useful for years to come," he said.

SOURCE: XINHUA

People wait in line at a COVID-19 testing site in New York, the United States, 28 March 2022. PHOTO: MICHAEL NAGLE/XINHUA



Excessive smartphone use linked to earlier puberty onset

Several studies in recent years have reported an increase in the beginning of early puberty in girls, particularly during the COVID-19 epidemic.

THE results of a rat study, which were presented today at the 60th Annual European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology Meeting, suggest that regular exposure to blue light from tablets and smartphones may affect hormone levels and raise the risk of premature puberty.

Exposure to blue light

A longer period of exposure to blue light was linked to the early onset of puberty in female rats, who also displayed decreased melatonin levels, elevated levels of several reproductive hormones, and physical alterations to their ovaries. The use of mobile devices that emit blue light has already been related to children's sleep patterns being disturbed, but current results imply that there may be additional dangers for foetal development and future fertility.

The increasing usage of devices that generate blue light,

such as tablets and smartphones, has been linked to poorer sleep quality in children and adults. Blue light slows the rise

in melatonin levels that occurs in the evenings to prepare our bodies for sleep and rest, which is thought to interfere with our

body clock. Pre-puberty has generally higher melatonin levels than puberty, which may contribute to the postponement of the

onset of puberty. The intricate process of puberty necessitates the coordination of numerous bodily functions and hormones.

Early puberty in girls

Several studies in recent years have reported an increase in the beginning of early puberty in girls, particularly during the COVID-19 epidemic. Increased screen time, as that experienced during the pandemic restrictions, may be contributing to this reported rise, as the relationship between blue light exposure and reduced melatonin levels suggests. However, evaluating this in kids is quite challenging.

Researchers from Ankara, Turkey, Dr Aylin Kilinc Uurlu and colleagues, used a rat model to examine the effects of blue light exposure on levels of reproductive hormones and the timing of puberty development. Three groups of six female rats each received either a normal light cycle, six hours of blue

light, or twelve hours of blue light.

Both groups were exposed to blue light, and both groups' first signs of puberty started noticeably earlier. The longer the duration of exposure, the earlier the beginning of puberty. In addition, rats exposed to blue light saw morphological changes in their ovarian tissue, decreased melatonin levels, and higher levels of two particular reproductive hormones (oestradiol and luteinizing hormone). These alterations are all consistent with the start of puberty. Rats exposed for 12 hours also exhibited some evidence of ovarian inflammation and cell damage.

Sufficient to change melatonin levels

We have discovered that blue light exposure, which is sufficient to change melatonin levels, is also capable of changing reproductive hormone levels and causing earlier puberty

onset in our rat model, says Dr Aylin Kilinc Uurlu. Additionally, the sooner they start, the longer the exposure.

Despite the fact that Dr Aylin Kilinc Uurlu issues the following warning: "Since this was a rat study, we cannot be certain that these findings would be duplicated in children," the data point to blue light exposure as a potential risk factor for earlier puberty onset.

Although it is challenging to simulate in rats the same levels of blue light exposure as a child using a tablet, the age at which rats reach puberty is fairly comparable to that of humans when taking into account the shorter lifespan of rats.

Female rats go through similar hormonal and ovulation changes as humans during pre-puberty and puberty. Therefore, despite the study's limitations, these findings are in favour of future research into the potential effects of blue light

exposure on hormone levels and the start of puberty in young people.

Inflammatory consequences

Since the cell damage and inflammatory consequences associated with prolonged blue light exposure have the potential to have long-term repercussions on reproductive health and fertility, the team plans to look into these implications. Additionally, they will examine whether using "night light" mobile device capabilities that minimise blue light will lessen the impacts seen in the rat model.

Despite the lack of proof, Dr Aylin Kilinc Uurlu continues, "We would advise limiting the usage of blue light emitting devices in pre-pubertal children, especially at night when exposure may have the most hormone-altering effects."

SOURCE: ANI

ARTICLE WEATHER REPORT



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 18 September 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 19 September 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing Region and Eastern Shan and Kayah states, fairly widespread in Mandalay, and Magway regions and (Northern and Southern)Shan and Chin states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Magway, and Taninthayi regions and Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squall with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) mph. Wave height will be about (8-10) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of thundery activities in the Northern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 September 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 September 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 September 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

China doubles down on coal as energy crunch bites

CHINA has stepped up spending on coal in the face of extreme weather, a domestic energy crunch and rising global fuel prices — raising concerns Beijing’s policies may hinder the fight against climate change.

The country is the world’s biggest emitter of the greenhouse gases driving global warming, and President Xi Jinping has vowed to reduce coal use from 2026 as part of a broad set of climate promises.

Beijing has committed to peaking its carbon emissions by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2060.

Overall carbon emissions in



Coal loaded on trains at a coal plant in Huaibei, in China’s eastern Anhui province, on 23 June 2022 — coal power still makes up most of China’s energy supply. **PHOTO: STR/AFP/FILE**

China have fallen for four consecutive quarters on the back of an economic slowdown, research reported by climate monitor

Carbon Brief showed in early September.

But at the same time, slowing growth has led authorities to

rely on smokestack industries in an effort to boost the economy.

The push to shore up coal power — which still makes up most of China’s energy supply — has alarmed analysts who warn that it will make an eventual transition to a renewables-dominated energy mix more difficult.

Spooked by an energy shortage last autumn, Chinese authorities in spring ordered coal producers to add 300 million tonnes of mining capacity this year — the equivalent of an extra month of coal production for the country.

In just the first quarter of 2022, regulators endorsed the equivalent of half the entire coal-fired power plant capacity approved in 2021, according to Greenpeace.

Inefficiencies

Authorities have also burned and mined more coal in recent weeks in order to meet increased air conditioning demand and make up for shrunk hydropower dams during China’s hottest-ever summer.

Premier Li Keqiang in June called for “releasing advanced coal capacity, as much as possible, and implementing long-term coal supply”. —AFP

In Italy floods, mud tsunami swallowed victims alive

ADRIANA Pianelli called out to her husband and son as they disappeared under a sea of mud in the underground carpark, during a deadly storm that devastated villages in central Italy.

“I saw them, I called Andrea! Giuseppe! But the water had risen so fast, and was so thick with mud, they had no chance,” she said, the arms of her pink jumper pulled down over clenched fists.

Andrea, 25, had been nearly out of the garage when he turned back to help his father, 65-year old Giuseppe, who had slipped over. All three had gone out in the heavy rain to move their car to safety.

The father and son were just two of an estimated 10 people killed in the Marche region by the flash floods.

“It was like a tsunami.

They were there, then they were gone,” said Adriana, who had been waiting for them on higher ground, at the entrance to the garage.

Down the street, Pasquale Avallone said he had almost died when the waters gushing into his house rose in seconds up to his neck.

“The front door burst off its hinges and I was thrown up against the wall. I just managed to climb onto of a cupboard and there I waited, for death,” he said.

LOST EVERYTHING

The warehouse worker, 30, choked back tears as he picked his son’s dinosaur toys out of the mud and tossed them onto the nearest pile of ruined sofas, beds and tables lining the street in Pianello di Ostra. —AFP



The civil protection agency said about 15.75 inches of rain — one third of the average annual amount — fell in a matter of two to three hours. **PHOTO: ALBERTO PIZZOLI/AFP**

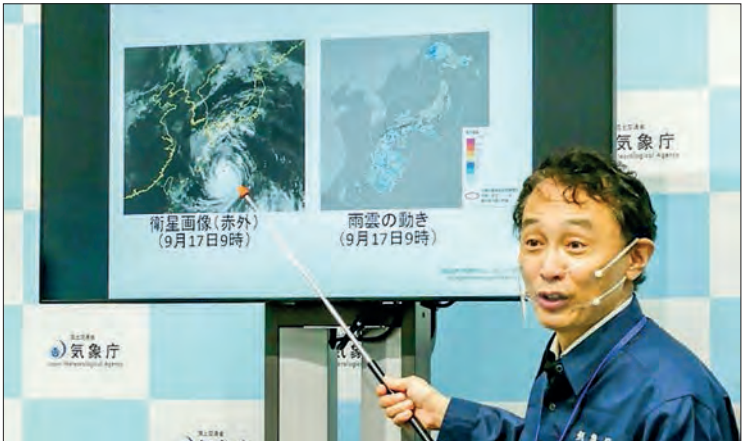
Thousands in shelters as Japan braces for dangerous typhoon

THOUSANDS of people were in shelters in southwestern Japan on Sunday as powerful Typhoon Nanmadol churned towards the region, prompting authorities to urge nearly three million residents to evacuate.

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) has issued a rare “special warning” for the Kagoshima region in southern Kyushu prefecture — an alert that is issued only when it forecasts conditions seen once in several decades.

By Sunday morning, 25,680 households in Kagoshima and neighbouring Miyazaki were already without power, while regional train services, flights and ferry runs were cancelled until the passage of the storm, local utilities and transport services said.

The JMA has warned the region could face “unprecedented



Japan’s weather agency has warned Typhoon Nanmadol will be a dangerous storm. **PHOTO: JIJI PRESS/AFP**

danger from high winds, storm surges and torrential rain.

“Maximum caution is required,” Ryuta Kurora, head of the JMA’s forecast unit said on Saturday.

“It’s a very dangerous typhoon.”

“The wind will be so fierce that some houses might collapse,” Kurora told reporters, also warning of flooding and landslides.

So far, 2.9 million residents in Kyushu have been issued with evacuation warnings, according to the government’s Fire and Disaster Management Agency, and Kagoshima officials said over 8,500 people were already in local shelters by Sunday morning. —AFP

Tunisian ‘hanging garden’ farms cling on despite drought

HIGH in the hills of northwestern Tunisia, farmers are tending thousands of fig trees with a unique system of terracing they hope will protect them from ever-harsher droughts.

But the “hanging gardens” of Djebba El Olia have been put to the test this year as the North African country sweltered

through its hottest July since the 1950s.

That has exacerbated a long drought that has left Tunisia’s reservoirs at just a third of their capacity.

The gardens are supplied with water from two springs high in the mountains.

The water is fed into the orchards by a network of canals that are opened and shut at set times, according to the size of the orchard. Crucially, a wide variety of crops provides resilience and in-built pest control, unlike the monocultures that dominate modern agriculture and require huge inputs of pesticides to survive. —AFP

China releases report on food, nutrition

THE Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) released a report on China's food and nutrition development on Saturday.

The report summed up the trends of China's food and nutrition in recent decades, and presented a series of problems and suggestions.

Since the reform and opening-up, China's food production and supply have increased significantly, with its annual per capita grain supply reaching 600 kilograms, according to the report.

The daily energy supply of Chinese residents has reached 3,400 kcal per person, while the energy, protein and fat supply has continued to increase, said the report, adding that Chinese residents' overall energy supply

has reached the average level of middle and high-income countries around the world. The report also pointed out various problems with the food and nutrition of Chinese residents.

The unreasonable dietary structure of Chinese residents is a prominent problem. Excessive intake of oil, salt and sugar has brought health risks. In addition, the excessive processing of food has led to a loss of nutrition.

In view of the problems, the report put forward a series of policy recommendations.

The report suggested speeding up the transformation of the food system and developing nutrition-oriented agriculture.

The innovation of key and core technologies in poultry and aquaculture industries should be



A resident buys meat at a supermarket in Songjiang District of east China's Shanghai, 10 May 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/LI HE**

strengthened to increase white meat production and promote healthy diets among residents, the report said.

The report is based on data including the National Bureau of Statistics' macro statistics, the National Health Commission's population nutrition monitoring data, as well as typical sample survey data of rural and urban areas in China. —Xinhua

LNJP Hospital confirms 8th case of Monkeypox in Delhi



Passengers maintain social distance inside a compartment of a metro train in New Delhi, India, on 7 September 2020. **PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/PARTHA SARKAR/XINHUA/FILE**

THE Managing Director of the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital (LNJP) confirmed the 8th case of Monkeypox in Delhi, on Friday.

Dr. Suresh Kumar, medical director of LNJP Hospital on Friday said that the 8th case of Monkey Pox has been detected in Delhi and the majority of cases

are of African origin.

"One female was admitted two days back, her case tested positive yesterday. A total of eight patients tested positive for monkeypox in Delhi.

One was Indian and the rest were of African origin. There is no recent travel history of the new monkeypox patient and the government is trying to do contact tracing," Dr Kumar told ANI.

Dr Kumar also mentioned about the symptoms of Monkey Pox patients and said, "Early symptoms are like light fever, mouth ulcer, genital ulcer, weakness, skin lesions, body ache and eye irritation. No patient had major complications. Most patients had a low-grade fever." —ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

China records first monkeypox case

CHINA recorded its first case of monkeypox on Friday 16 September in a person who had recently entered the country, officials said. Health authorities in the southwestern city of Chongqing said the person displayed symptoms while undergoing quarantine for COVID-19.

Under China's zero-COVID policy, people entering the country must typically complete between one and two weeks of isolation on arrival.

The monkeypox patient was diagnosed after developing symptoms including a skin rash, the city health commission said in a report, categorising the case as an "imported infection".

The patient "is undergoing centralised isolation at a designated hospital and is in a stable condition", the report said.

Because the patient had been immediately isolated upon entering the city, "there are no traces of social transmission, and the risk of transmission is low", it said.

Last week, Hong Kong logged its first monkeypox case in a 30-year-old man who showed symptoms while undergoing the city's three-day COVID-19 quarantine period for arrivals. —AFP

Germany's largest folk festival reopens after COVID-19 break

GERMANY'S Oktoberfest, the largest folk festival in Germany, started Saturday here in Munich, Bavaria, after a two-year COVID-induced break.

Covering an area of 34.5 hectares, the festival is expected to receive millions of visitors from all over the world with special Oktoberfest

beers and hearty specialties like fried sausages and pork knuckles.

At noon, the Mayor of Munich Dieter Reiter tapped the first Oktoberfest beer barrel, marking the opening of the Munich Oktoberfest, which will last until 3 October.

The first Oktoberfest took



People drink beer in a festival tent on the first day of the 186th Oktoberfest 2019, one of the world's largest folk festivals, in Munich, Germany, 21 September 2019. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

ECONOMY WORLD

China-ASEAN Expo to create new opportunities for regional growth — experts

THE 19th China-ASEAN Expo and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit, which opened here Friday, will help deepen cooperation between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and create new opportunities for reviving regional economic growth, experts say.

The four-day expo themed “Sharing RCEP New Opportunities, Building a Version 3.0 China-ASEAN Free Trade Area,” will last till Monday as this year marks the first year of implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) free trade agreement.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Malaysian companies

from various sectors including food, health and services join this year’s expo and look forward to building strong and lasting business relations with Chinese companies, Mohd Mustafa Abdul Aziz, chief executive officer of the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation said at a seminar held before the China-ASEAN Expo.

So far, the 19th China-ASEAN Expo has attracted a total of 1,653 enterprises to its offline event. Meanwhile, the online expo has attracted the participation of more than 2,000 enterprises.

“It’s my third time in Nanning to participate in the expo, and the exhibition is very lively,” said Caroline Ong, a Filipino



Photo taken on 16 September 2022 shows the view of Nanning International Convention and Exhibition Center and its surrounding areas in Nanning, capital of south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. **PHOTO: XINHUA/CAO YIMING**

businesswoman who brought her skincare products to the expo.

She told Xinhua that the expo provides a good platform

for promoting cross-border cooperation and she hopes to introduce more high-quality products into the Chinese market through

other platforms such as the China International Import Expo and the China International Fair for Trade in Services. —Xinhua

Russian central bank cuts rate again



The Russian Central Bank headquarters, in Moscow, on 28 February. **PHOTO: NATALIA KOLESNIKOVA/AFP**

RUSSIA’S central bank cuts its main interest rate again on Friday as it seeks to support the economy, bucking a global trend

of rising borrowing costs.

The Bank of Russia lowered the rate by 50 basis points to 7.5 per cent as inflation slowed in

the country.

The bank had raised its rate drastically from 9.5 per cent to 20 per cent after the country was hit with Western sanctions over Russia’s military operation in Ukraine.

But it has been cutting borrowing costs in recent months.

“Developments in business activity are better than the Bank of Russia expected in July,” the bank said in a statement.

“The external environment for the Russian economy remains challenging, invariably putting significant constraints on economic activity.” —AFP

Bolivia’s president avows economic sovereignty, rebuffs IMF proposals

BOLIVIAN President Luis Arce on Friday declined recommendations from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) aimed at redirecting Bolivia’s economy, and reaffirmed the independence and efficacy of the economic model followed by his government.

“Our ‘Economic, Social, Community, Productive Model’ is sovereign and continues to demonstrate its success in reducing social and economic

inequalities,” Arce posted on social media.

“That is why we do not accept the proposals of the #IMF, which would be detrimental to the people, especially the working class,” Arce added.

In a report released Thursday, the IMF recommended Bolivia reassess the exchange rate between its national currency and the US dollar, which has remained the same since 2011, and government subsidies of fuel and

certain economic sectors.

Bolivian Minister of Economy and Public Finance, Marcelo Montenegro, on Thursday said the IMF’s recommendations regarding subsidies were contradictory and the government had no plans to follow them.

He dismissed the IMF’s formulas as outdated, saying they were applied in past decades by neoliberal governments, but are no longer viable today, especially in Bolivia. —Xinhua

Return of major garden festival a boost for Canberra economy

HUNDREDS of thousands of people are expected to flood into Canberra’s spring festival, Floriade, after it opened on Saturday.

Floriade, one of the Australian Capital Territory’s signature events, opened in the Commonwealth Park on Saturday for the first time in three years with the theme Sounds of Spring.

In 2019 – prior to the coronavirus pandemic – more than 500,000 people visited the month-long festival.

Chief Minister Andrew Barr said the re-opening of Floriade, which is celebrating its 35th anniversary, was a sign

Canberra is “back” after the pandemic.

“There is a real sense of vibrancy and activity in the city again at almost every level,” he told The Canberra Times.

Visitors to Floriade will be treated to more than 1 million blooming flowers, live music, cultural celebrations and horticultural workshops.

For the first time between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. every day, there will be no music or performances, allowing visitors to explore the gardens in peace.

Head gardener Tim Howard said high rainfall through winter has been good for the festival. —Xinhua



Visitors take a selfie at the festival event of Floriade in the Commonwealth Park in Canberra, Australia, 17 September 2022. **PHOTO: CHU CHEN/XINHUA**

Products of
New Zealand,
Vanuatu
shipped to
China for
import fair

A shipping container loaded with products of New Zealand and Pacific Island nation Vanuatu left Port of Tauranga, the largest port in New Zealand, on Saturday for the fifth China International Import Expo (CIIE) 2022 to be held in Shanghai on 5-10 November.

More than 200 companies from New Zealand have participated in the previous four editions of the expo in China, which is by far New Zealand's largest trading partner.

Chen Zhiyang, economic and commercial minister-counselor of the Chinese Embassy in New Zealand, said China encourages more New Zealand companies to embrace the business opportunities presented by the CIIE. —Xinhua

Crisis-hit
German
toilet paper
maker turns
to coffee
grounds

CHOKED by soaring energy and wood pulp costs, German toilet paper maker Hakle is turning to waste from coffee production to stay afloat and help the environment.

Just two years ago, at the height of the coronavirus pandemic, the firm profited from a stampede of consumers rushing to stock up on essentials.

But with the health crisis abating, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has sparked skyrocketing energy costs, forcing Hakle to file for insolvency recently.

Innovation could now be the key to survival. —AFP

Hopes grow for win-win effect of inbound
tourism in Japan, weak yen

JAPANESE policymakers expect that a further reopening of Japan's borders to foreign visitors will breathe life into inbound tourism that had been hit by COVID-19 travel restrictions.

The hope is that a weaker yen will be an additional boost, providing a win-win situation for foreign tourists, who would be compelled to splurge by taking advantage of the currency effect, and for Japan, where the negative side of the yen's slide, especially against the US dollar, has become all the more visible.

Japan has raised its daily entry cap on arrivals to 50,000 from 20,000 in early September and has begun accepting foreign travelers on tours without a



The coronavirus pandemic has hampered Japan's efforts to boost inbound tourism as an engine of economic growth. PHOTO: KYODO

guide in a further relaxing, albeit at a gradual pace, of its COVID-19 border control steps criticized as being too stringent.

Facing growing calls for more easing, on par with other Group of Seven advanced economies, the government is considering

eliminating the daily entry cap even as the number of new coronavirus cases remains high.

The coronavirus

pandemic has hampered Japan's efforts to boost inbound tourism as an engine of economic growth, and it remains uncertain how quickly foreign tourists will return. Japan ranked first as the best travel destination in the travel and tourism development index by the World Economic Forum in 2021, despite the country being closed to foreign tourists. If more restrictions are removed, including those on individual and spontaneous trips, as well as the daily entry cap on arrivals, Japan is expected to see spending by inbound tourists recover to about 2.5 trillion yen (\$17.5 billion) in a year, or around half of the pre-pandemic level in 2019, according to economists at SMBC Nikko Securities Inc. —Kyodo

Invitation to Bid for In-house Consultancy Services
RFP No. 15 / In-house Consultancy Services / 2022-2023

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

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

Advertise with us/ Hot Line : 09974424848

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- Class 36: Insurance and Financial This class include mainly services rendered in financial and monetary affairs and services rendered in relations to insurance contracts of all kinds.
- Class 38: Communication This class includes mainly services allowing at least one person to communicate with another by a sensory means. Such services include those which; allow a person to talk to another, transmit messages from one person to another, and place a person in oral or visual communication with another (radio and television).

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Kazakhstan limits presidential term, renames capital

KAZAKHSTAN'S president on Saturday signed a law limiting presidential terms and reverting to the old name of the Central Asian country's capital, in the latest step of breaking with the legacy of his predecessor.

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev signed a bill limiting presidential mandates to a single seven-year term, a day after parliament approved the measure.

The bill also reinstated the capital's name to Astana. The name was changed to Nur-sultan in March 2019, in honour of outgoing president Nursultan Nazarbayev.

The change is effective immediately, according to a decree on the presidential website.

Tokayev took over from Nazarbayev in 2019 and has gradually distanced himself from the man who had ruled the energy-rich nation with an iron fist for three decades.

Tokayev has launched reforms and called for "completely new standards for a political system with fair and open rules of the game". In January, riots erupted in the country, eventually leaving more than 200 people dead.



In January, riots erupted in the country, eventually leaving more than 200 people dead. Peacekeepers acting with Kazakhstan's law enforcement forces took control over the Almaty airport. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tokayev has called for snap presidential elections this autumn — though there is no confirmed date yet. —AFP

UK cost-of-living crisis unmoved by queen's death



Shoppers walk through the rain on Oxford Street in London. **PHOTO: LESLEY MARTIN / AFP**

MANY things are on pause while Britain mourns Queen Elizabeth II, but the concerns of shoppers at a popular London market highlighted that the cost-of-living crisis was not among them.

"Now, you have to check every invoice, and everybody checks the prices before buying anything," said 62-year-old Carole Bayllie, who sells kitchen utensils at a small market stall in Walthamstow, northeast London.

Spiralling inflation and falling purchasing power dominated the media and political agenda before the death of the queen, which was announced hours after new Prime Minister Liz Truss last week unveiled a landmark policy to freeze energy prices.

Politicians had only just returned from their summer break, which was consumed by the battle to replace Boris Johnson as prime minister, when they were once again sent home from parliament, unable to act on the crisis.

Aslam Jan, owner of a computer and money transfer store in the market, said that underlying economic concerns were hitting his business. —AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

China, Russia to hold meetings on security, law-enforcement

NIKOLAI Patrushev, Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, will travel to China for the 17th round of China-Russia strategic security consultation and the 7th meeting of the China-Russia law-enforcement and security cooperation mechanism from 18 to 19 September, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning announced on Sunday. —Xinhua

Mexico to 'insist' US extradite suspect in journalist's murder

MEXICO will "insist" the US extradite the alleged mastermind behind the murder of journalist Javier Valdez, its attorney general's office said yesterday after the suspect was released from an American prison.

DAMASO Lopez Serrano, a drug trafficker known as "Minilic", is accused of ordering the May 2017 murder of Valdez, an award-winning journalist and AFP contributor who covered the drug trade. LOPEZ Serrano was released on Friday, according to the US Federal Bureau of Prisons. —AFP

Arrests in Belgrade EuroPride gathering after ban

POLICE detained 64 people in Belgrade on Saturday as LGBTQ activists gathered for a EuroPride march despite a government ban.

The event had been intended as the cornerstone event of the EuroPride gathering. But the interior ministry banned the march earlier this week, citing security concerns after right wing groups threatened to hold protests. Despite the official ban, demonstrators were able to



The event had been intended as the cornerstone event of the EuroPride gathering. But the interior ministry banned the march earlier this week, citing security concerns after right wing groups threatened to hold protests. **PHOTO: AFP**

march in the rain a few hundred metres from the Constitutional Court to a nearby park, a much shorter route than organisers had originally planned.

Serbian interior minister Aleksandar Vulin insisted that the ban was enforced, and that the people were merely "escorted to a concert".

Local media reported skirmishes erupted outside the event, and a group of hooligans threw flares at the police.

Balkan country's prime minister Ana Brnabic — who is openly gay — said 64 people were arrested and ten police officers injured on Saturday, but underlined that she was "proud" that the day ended with "no major incidents".

Gay marriage is not legally recognised in Serbia, where homophobia remains deep-seated despite some progress over the years in reducing discrimination. —AFP

Election warm-up could open way to Mexico’s first woman president

CONTENDERS are warming up for the race to succeed Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, with Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum in the running to become the country’s first woman head of state.

The presidential election is not until July 2024, and officially the campaign has not yet started.

But a war of “likes” is already under way on social media between Sheinbaum — a scientist by training and close ally of Lopez Obrador — and Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard.

Both hope to be the presi-

dential candidate of the ruling Morena party, which holds its annual congress this weekend.

“A woman can be an astronaut, a lawyer, a policewoman, deputy governor, and president of the republic,” Sheinbaum said during a recent trip outside the capital to greet supporters.

Party members will decide the Morena candidate in 2023, and opinion polls suggest their pick will be the favorite to govern for six more years.

In the meantime, anyone can ask Ebrard, 62, questions on WhatsApp after he published



Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum is hoping to become her country’s first female president. PHOTO: POOL/AFP/ IAN VOGLER

a contact number, or watch TikTok videos in which he declares himself a fan of K-pop superstars BTS.

People can also watch Sheinbaum, 60, on TikTok playing with a yo-yo or confessing with a laugh to having been the talker of the school classroom, in contrast to her serious adult image. An opinion poll published in late August by the firm Enkoll found that 35 per cent of respondents would favor Sheinbaum to be Morena’s presidential candidate, against 26 per cent for Ebrard. —AFP

France sends latest nuclear shipment to Japan



French gendarmes of the Peloton de Surete Maritime et Portuaire Militaire (PSMP) guard the Pacific Egret , a purpose-built ship belonging to the Pacific Nuclear Transport Limited (PNTL) nuclear materials shipping company, loaded with radioactive Mixed Oxide Fuel (MOX), as it departs under military escort from the harbour of Cherbourg-Octeville, northwestern France on 17 September 2022, to transport the materials to Japan. PHOTO: AFP

TWO ships carrying reprocessed nuclear fuel destined for Japan set sail Saturday morning from northern France, an AFP photographer said, despite criticism from environmental campaigners.

The fuel was due to leave the northern French port city of Cherbourg earlier this month but

was delayed by the breakdown of loading equipment.

Environmental activists have denounced the practice of transporting such highly radioactive materials, calling it irresponsible.

The previous transport of MOX fuel to Japan in September 2021 drew protests from the environmental group Greenpeace.

MOX fuel is a mixture of reprocessed plutonium and uranium. “The Pacific Heron and Pacific Egret, the specialised ships belonging to British company PNTL, left Cherbourg harbour on 17 September. They will ensure the shipment of MOX nuclear fuel to Japan,” French nuclear technology group Orano said in a statement Saturday.

They are bound for Japan for use in a power plant and Orano said it expected the shipment to arrive in November. —AFP

Ageing Hollywood sign to get a facelift, just before it turns 100

IN a place where ageing is frowned upon and facelifts are common, even the sign that proclaims Hollywood to the world is joining in.

The nine-letter landmark that beams down on Tinseltown turns 100 years old in 2023, and like the time-defying actors and actresses it watches over, it looks pretty much the same as it has for decades.

But as all good performers know, a little nip here, a little tuck there can keep one looking young forever.

Almost 1,500 litres of paint and primer will be lavished on the 14-metre high sign, the Hollywood Sign Trust said as it announced the makeover.

Work begins on Monday, with a crew of 10 prepping and pressure washing the enormous letters, which sit on hills above the movie capital.

The sign — a must-see for any film buff or tourist visiting Los Angeles — initially read Hollywoodland, and was constructed as an advertisement for an upscale real estate development.

But in 1949, as the movie industry entered a golden age, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce lopped off the last four letters.

The slightly out-of-kilter sign above La La Land has been repaired and refurbished over the decades, and was even rebuilt in 1978. It was last painted in 2012. “The sign is the pride of Los Angeles and we are excited for fans all around the world to see this makeover for a very special 100th anniversary,” said Jeff Zarrinam, chair of the Hollywood Sign Trust. —AFP



The Hollywood Sign, which is a US American cultural icon, is situated in Los Angeles, California. PHOTO: AFP

Amsterdam’s overcrowded airport to cut passenger flows

AMSTERDAM’S overwhelmed Schiphol airport said Friday it would slash daily passenger numbers in the thousands as one of Europe’s busiest air hubs struggles with long lines due to staff shortages.

The announcement comes a day after its chief executive Dick Benschop resigned over the chaos at the airport.

Schiphol said it will have to lower the maximum number of locally departing passengers per day by an average of 18%, or some 9,250 travellers, due to a shortage of security guards.

“This decision first and foremost is bad news for passengers and for airlines,” Royal Schiphol Group chief operating officer Hanne Buis admitted.

“Nevertheless, the decision taken is necessary with the safety of passengers and employees in mind,” Buis said in a statement.

The airport said in a statement that security companies working at Schiphol will have “fewer security guards than previously indicated” in the coming months. —AFP

Election warm-up
could open way to
Mexico's first woman
president
PAGE-15



SPORT

Body-building, physical fitness competition for SEA Games concluded

A bodybuilder flexes his muscles and shows off his toned body during the Bodybuilding, physical fitness competition held at MCC Hall in Yangon on 18 September 2022. **PHOTO: BALA SOE**

AS part of preparations for the 32nd Southeast Asian Games to be held in Cambodia in May 2023, the Myanmar Body-building and Physical Fitness Sports Federation held the Federation President's Trophy body-building and physical fitness competition at novice level at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mind- hamma Road in Yangon yesterday. The athletes in the novice and senior levels of various weight classes, and the best male and female athletes competition were selected from the

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Athletes took part in the U-21 junior body-building event and 55-, 60-, 65-, 70-, 75-, 80- and above-80 kilo senior events. Moreover, female athletes participated in the female athletic physique, model physique and fitness physique events and male athletes in the sports physique events.

Winners from competitions of different weight classes were awarded medals and cash awards.—Bala Soe



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.

Alvarez sees off Golovkin to retain undisputed super-middleweight crown

SAUL "Canelo" Alvarez retained his undisputed super-middleweight world title on Saturday, seeing off Gennady Golovkin to complete their epic fight trilogy in Las Vegas. Mexico's Alvarez was in charge for most of an electric 12 rounds at the T-Mobile Arena, winning a unanimous decision to spark wild scenes of

celebration among the Mexican fans who made up most of the sell-out crowd. One judge scored the bout 116-112 while the two others had it 115-113.

"Thank you so much, my friend," Alvarez said to Golovkin in the ring after a bout whose build-up was marked by some bitter rhetoric.—AFP



Mexican boxer Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez (R) goes for the body on the way to a unanimous decision over Kazakhstan's Gennady Golovkin in their super-middleweight world title fight. **PHOTO: AFP**

Son ends goal drought with treble as Spurs hit Leicester for six



Tottenham's Son Heung-min celebrates his hat-trick against Leicester. **PHOTO: ISABEL INFANTES /AFP**

SON HEUNG-MIN ended his goal drought as the South Korea star responded to being dropped by hitting an incredible 13-minute hat-trick in Tottenham's 6-2 rout of Leicester on Saturday.

Son came off the bench to

score Tottenham's last three goals, including a pair of brilliant long-range finishes, in an emphatic victory that lifted them into second place in the Premier League. It was the ideal response from Son after he had been axed

for failing to score in his previous eight appearances. Just days after Tottenham boss Antonio Conte had warned that no player was undroppable, Dejan Kulusevski came in for Son, who finished as the Premier League's joint top scorer last season. Explaining Son's omission, Conte said: "We needed to start making rotations because playing all the same players in all the games is not good."

Son's eye-catching treble showed he won't sulk when Conte wants to take him out of the firing line, but the 30-year-old will have taken private satisfaction at reminding the Italian of his enduring class. It was the perfect evening for Tottenham, who bounced back after losing for the first time in eight games this season on Tuesday when Sporting Lisbon scored twice in stoppage-time to seal a 2-0 win in the Champions League. —AFP