

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

- 1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
- 2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
- 4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
- 5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

No 2 Bala Minhtin bridge construction underway



The new No 2 Bala Minhtin bridge is under construction across the Ayeyawady River.

NO 2 Bala Minhtin bridge is under construction across the Ayeyawady River, which is situated on the Mandalay-Lashio-Bhamo-Myitkyina Road. Upon its completion, it will play an important role in the China-Myanmar-India border trade. Located on Ledo Road, it is connected to India through Myitkyina from

Kampaiti. K1,000 million of the State capital fund has been allocated from the 2020-2021 financial year for the No 2 Bala Minhtin bridge construction and it is slated to complete within three years. Testing of the pier of the main bridge, road and tide measurement processes and land com-

pensation measures are being carried out this year. The bridge is going to be 3,212.009 feet long, with an 8.5-metre-wide traffic lane and one-metre-wide pavement. Water clearance will be 350 feet wide and 26 feet and 3 inches high. The bridge is of reinforced concrete piers, steel truss, steel box girder

and RCC slab and its withstanding will be 75 tonnes of loads. According to the 2018-2019 survey on traffic passing through the old bridge, there were more than 3,000 vehicles per day. Cars leading to Myitkyina from Bhamo district and China-Myanmar border have to pass the old bridge. — TWA/GNLM

Around 55,000 workers employed at 214 factories and workplaces as of July 2022

BETWEEN February 2021 and July 2022, 114 newly established factories and workshops and 100 existing factories that resumed operations after suspension recruited approximately 55,000 workers, Union Labour Minister Dr Pwint San gave a remark at the tripartite meeting with government, employers and workers representatives.

The closure of factories and workshops results in damage to the interest of both employers and employees, negative impacts on the country's manufacturing output and slow economic growth. The Union Minister said that a constructive approach and peaceful

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Those wishing to enter the legal fold can contact respective townships’ Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in addition to reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council has released statements inviting CDM staff, students and youths, who are in border areas and ethnic armed groups, they can contact the nearest reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations if they want to enter the legal fold and the government will guarantee their lives following the rules and regulations.

In order to prevent the unnecessary loss of human resources, the State Administration Council has publicly invited the basic education staff who are absent from duty to resume their duties and those who take part in armed resistance under various names of groups, including PDFs. Meanwhile, 3,156 education workers, who were absent from their duties, another 1,009 people, who want to withdraw the cases that were opened against them, and 231 PDF members have contacted and returned to the legal fold. Then, they were given back to their parents systematically and the numbers of people who enter the legal fold and those who wish to are rising. Therefore, the government is making efforts to accept more numbers of those people.

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

Information Team
State Administration Council

469 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 21 September, total figure rises to 620,035

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 620,035 after 469 new cases were reported on 21 September 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 596,105 have been recovered from disease. Death toll reaches 19,451 with one 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 20-9-2022, a total of 30,505,344 people above 18 and a total of 6,569,595 people under 18 have been vaccinated.

Myanmar reported 138 COVID-19 deaths between 28-1-2022 and 19-9-2022. Of them, 97 deaths (70 per cent) had underlying chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, liver, kidney, lung and cancer.

According to the analysis of the COVID-19 vaccination rate of deaths with underlying chronic diseases, 79.4 per cent have received no vaccination at all and have not been fully inoculated, 18.6 per cent have received full vaccination and two per cent has received booster shots.

COVID-19 vaccination rate of deaths with underlying chronic diseases

Out of COVID-19 deaths with underlying chronic disease		
79.4 per cent	18.6 per cent	2 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 rate of deaths with underlying chronic diseases, it causes fewer deaths obviously among those who are fully vaccinated and those who receive the booster shots. The people who are suffering from chronic diseases should follow the COVID-19 health rules, wear face masks and contact the nearest health departments, and village/ward administrative offices to receive the vaccines and booster shots.

More detailed information about COVID-19 can be found on the website of the Ministry of Health: moh.gov.mm. — 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

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Zaw Win Tun	Principal Myanmar Mercantile Marine College Ministry of Transport and Communications
(2) U Kyaw Naing Aye	Managing Director Myanma Shipyards Ministry of Transport and Communications

Two Myanmar women arrested for possessing counterfeit US dollars at Thai airport arrive back

TWO Myanmar women, who were arrested for possessing counterfeit US dollar notes as show money at the immigration counter at Thai airport and prosecuted as counterfeiters at Samut Prakan Prison, were protected from facing 25-year imprisonment on 9 September.

Myanmar Labour Attaché Office carried out in line with the procedures for the release of Ma Lin Lin Wai and Ma Khin Yu May and sent them back to Myanmar via the Mae Sot-Myawady border on the morning of 21 September.

Four victims Ma Lin Lin Wai, Ma Khin Yu May, Ma Than Yu May and Ma Phyto Zar Wai were sent to Thailand by the unofficial Wai Yan Htoo Agency on 11 February and sent to the Samut Prakan Prison for showing counterfeit dollars at the airport on 12 February.

The Myanmar Labour Attaché Office received information about the case and saved Ma Than Yu May and Ma Phyto Zar Wai, who faced fines and house arrest/two years and six months of exile, by paying fines with the help of Thai lawyers on 8 April. They were sent back to Myawady from the Mae Sot border on 30 May.

Similarly, Ma Lin Lin Wai and Ma Khin Yu May were released due to the efforts of the Myanmar Labour Attaché Office by cooperating with Thai and Myanmar lawyers. – TWA/ GNLM

Need to improve the socioeconomic life of the rural people

IF the co-operative societies are extensively formed region and state wise with those who will really do their businesses, the socioeconomic life of the rural people will improve. Likewise, the industrial businesses are also required to be encouraged and supported to enable the manufacturers to direct their effort towards the production of personal goods and construction materials to ensure domestic sufficiency.

[Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the third-day coordination meeting held on 10 August 2022 in regard to matters relating to the activities being carried out by the Union Government].

MoFA Union Minister receives Cambodian delegation led by Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Head of Office of Special Envoy of ASEAN Chair

UNION Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received the Cambodian delegation led by Dr Kung Phoak, Secretary of State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Head of the Office of the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair at 2 pm on 21 September 2022 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Union Minister and the Secretary of State discussed the implementation of the ASEAN five-point consensus, including cooperation with the ASEAN Chair, ASEAN Special Envoy and ASEAN Secretary-General. Furthermore, the Union minister explained how Myanmar had actively participated in all ASEAN activities as a responsible Member State. The

Union minister also emphasized that Myanmar will consider constructive suggestions based on the national interests and evolving domestic situation under existing laws and regulations. The Union minister also reaffirmed that Myanmar would continue supporting Cambodia's tireless efforts in any possible means as ASEAN Chair of the year 2022.

Moreover, the Union minister expressed Myanmar's position that Myanmar objects to Malaysia Foreign Minister's engagement with unlawful and terrorist organizations such as the so-called NUG, CRPH and NUCC in New York recently. Furthermore, the Union Minister informed the Secretary of State that Cambodia has to prevent such engagement and discussion, which breach the



The Cambodian delegation calls on the MoFA Union Minister in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

fundamental principle of the ASEAN Charter, as well as not to bring such kind of precedent to the ASEAN community as a Chair of ASEAN in the year of 2022. — MNA

Myanmar participates in 16th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime



The 16th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime is in progress online.

THE ASEAN Political and Security Community (SPSC) annually holds the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), and the 16th AMMTC

and its related meetings were hosted by Cambodia through videoconferencing yesterday, and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police

Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet participated in the meetings.

At the meetings, Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Samdech Kralahom Sar Kheng made an opening speech and Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN Mr R M Michael Tene explained the current progress of ASEAN region and AMTTC procedures that are in conformity with the ASEAN frameworks.

Then, relevant chairpersons discussed the outcomes of the AMMTC's associated meeting such as DGICM, SOMTC and ASEANAPOL. Then, ministers from ten ASEAN member states also exchanged views on the state-level, regional-level and international activities

to fight against cross-border crimes.

During the meetings, leader of the Myanmar delegation Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet said it needs to promote the international cooperation as terrorism has the nature of transnational crimes. The firearm smuggling supports the non-state actors such as gangs, terrorists and drug gangs and is also a threat to the safety of the public. The terrorist attacks and firearm smugglings are related and it should combat them. The border crossing plays a key role in human trafficking and smuggling. Therefore, it should emphasize the border crossing

cooperation works among the border guards of neighbouring countries.

The member countries should promote the information exchange with the legal organizations especially via the INTERPOL and ASEANAPOL. In doing so, it should not be an interference in internal affairs of other countries and should perform in accordance with the local law of respective countries and international law.

The 16th AMMTC also approved the TOR for implementation of ACTIP and joint statement of the 16th AMMTC. The Ministerial Meeting of ASEAN+3 (China, Japan and Korea) will be held on 22 September. — MNA

MoIC Union Minister receives Cambodian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation



MoIC Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing receives the Cambodian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

UNION Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing of the Ministry of International Cooperation and Chairman of the Task Force to facilitate the provision of Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar through the AHA Centre received the Cambodian Delegation led by Dr Kung Phoak, Secretary of State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Head of the office of the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair at 3 pm on 21 September 2022 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. The meeting was attended by the deputy minister, the permanent secretary, directors-general and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The meeting discussed that Myanmar will continue to support to move ahead to accomplish the Joint Needs Assessment in order to implement the provision of humanitarian assistance through the AHA Centre. The meeting also highlighted the need to further collaborate for provision of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar while upholding the principle of no one left behind. The meeting then discussed the Joint Vaccination Programmes between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia. — MNA

MWVO delegation attends International Day of Peace 2022 event virtually

THE Myanmar War Veterans Organization delegation led by Central Executive Committee Chairman Lt-Gen Sein Win (retired) attended the commemorative ceremony of International Day of Peace 2022 virtually, which was held in Beijing, China, on 21 September, at the invitation of the Chinese People’s Association for Peace and Disarmament-CPAPD.

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 as defined by the United Nations General Assembly and is celebrated on 21 September every year.

CPAPD, the host of the “International Day of Peace Commemorative Ceremony 2022” is a Chinese civil organization founded in June 1985 for world peace. It mainly focuses on actions of international and regional disarmament and arms control, collaborating with civil society organizations in about 100 countries and more than 300 research groups.

The commemorative ceremony of International Day of Peace 2022 was held through the hybrid system, where participants can attend personally or virtually. Vice-President Wang Quishan of the People’s Republic of China attended it and gave the opening speech on the occasion themed “Ensuring World Peace and Stability, Taking Action on the Global Security Initiative”.

Representatives and ambassadors from various fields in the People’s Republic of China attended the event in person, and political organizations, peace organizations from different countries and representatives of the Security Advisory Panel attended the event online. — MNA

Myanmar endeavouring to be removed from FATF money-laundering watchlist

GOVERNOR Daw Than Than Swe of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) remarked on 19 September at a meeting highlighting on activities to improve Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) measures and further plans of the banks that Myanmar has been making a concerted efforts to be removed from Financial Action Task Force-FATF’s watchlist.

The FATF places jurisdiction under Increased Monitoring on Myanmar. The CBM stated the country is trying to be off the FATF’s watchlist and the CBM conducted bank risk assessment, on-site inspection and off-site monitoring as per the Action Plan. Additionally, the CBM is monitoring whether the strategic deficiencies identified by Action Plan can be resolved along with the related banks within a reasonable timeframe.

Furthermore, awareness



Officials from the Financial Action Task Force-FATF are seen on the second day of the latest plenary session in Berlin, Germany. **PHOTO VIA FATF TWITTER**

of AML/CFT to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing are being conducted for non-bank financial institutions and mobile money operators. High-level officials of the local banks, executive members and administration officials realize the importance of AML/CFT. The governor of the CBM directed the officials attending the meeting to lay down policies and regulations and give power and support to the bank’s compliance team.

Moreover, banks have to be committed to confidentiality. The CBM has been finalizing the manual of the regulation for international money transfer companies and it will be released soon. Those money transfer companies will be inspected in line with that manual, she highlighted.

Myanmar was identified as a jurisdiction under Increased Monitoring in February 2020. — TWA/GNLM

MIFER Union Minister participates in ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meetings with Dialogue Partners

A delegation led by Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Myanmar's AEM Dr Kan Zaw participated in the meetings between AEM and Dialogue Partners such as India, Russia, the Republic of Korea, China, Plus Three, EAS, Hong Kong (China), Canada, Japan, EU, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, the Inaugural RCEP Ministers' Meeting and the 14th CLMV Economic Ministers' Meeting, which were held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 16 to 18 September 2022.

The meetings were attended by Economic Ministers from ASEAN Member States, China, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, India, Hong Kong (China), the United States, Russia, the EU, Canada and their representatives, the ASEAN Secretary-General and officials from the ASEAN secretariat. The meetings were co-chaired by Mr Pan Sorasak, Minister for the Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia, and the Economic Ministers from the respective dialogue partners.

The 19th AEM-India Consultation commenced at 8:30 am on 16 September 2022 and the ministers endorsed the Scope of the Review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA). To review the AITIGA, the meeting activated the AITIGA Joint Committee.

The 11th AEM-Russia Consultation was held at 10:45 am and the meeting discussed the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Work Programme 2021-2025 and the progress of activities about the Programme of Cooperation (PoC) under the implementation of the MOU between ASEAN and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) on Economic Cooperation.

In the afternoon, the 19th AEM-ROK Consultation was convened. At the meeting, the ministers discussed the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement (AKFTA), the pro-

gress of the Joint Review Study of the AKFTA, the Digital Trade Research and ASEAN-Korea economic cooperation.

Afterwards, the 14th CLMV Economic Ministers' Meeting was held. In the meeting, the ministers discussed the matters on the implementation of the CLMV Action Plan (2021-2022) and endorsed the guiding principles for the CLMV Action Plan, the subsequent CLMV Action Plan (2023-2024) and the Implementation Plan of the Framework for CLMV Development.

On 17 September 2022, the 21st AEM-China Consultation commenced at 9:00 am. The ministers discussed the implementation of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) and endorsed the Joint Feasibility Study Report which includes the other areas identified for possible inclusion in further enhancing the ACFTA and the "Joint Ministerial Statement by ASEAN and China on Cooperation for Post-COVID Economic Recovery". In addition, the ministers discussed the "Work Programme on Further Deepening ASEAN-China Trade and Economic Cooperation (2022-2026)".

The 24th AEM Plus Three Consultation commenced at 10:45 am and the ministers noted the progress of implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Economic Cooperation Work Programme 2021-2022 and ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Mitigating the Economic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The ministers endorsed the ASEAN Plus Three Economic Cooperation Work Programme 2023-2024.

In the afternoon, the 10th EAS-EMM Consultation was held. At the meeting, the Ministers exchanged views on the outcomes of the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference and how the EAS participating countries can collectively take action to mitigate the impact of the regional and global economic challenges. And then, the ministers noted the ERIA's paper on "East Asia



MIFER Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw attends the ASEAN Economic Minister's Meetings with Dialogue Partners.

Post Pandemic – An Integrative, Innovative, Inclusive, and Sustainable Region through Digitalization".

During the 6th AEM-Hong Kong Consultation, the ministers discussed matters on the implementation of the ASEAN-Hong Kong (China) Free Trade Agreement (AHKFTA), ASEAN-Hong Kong (China) Investment Agreement (AHKIA) and economic and technical cooperation. They welcomed the launch of the Business Guidebook to Increasing the Trade Competitiveness Using the AHKFTA.

In the evening, the 11th AEM-Canada Consultation was held. In the meeting, the Ministers discussed the progress made on the implementation of the Work Plan (2021-2025) to implement the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment (JDTI) and the report on the progress of the ASEAN Canada Free Trade Agreement negotiations.

The Inaugural RCEP Ministers' Meeting started at 7:00 pm and the ministers exchanged views on the experience in the utilization and implementation of the RCEP Agreement after it entered into force. The ministers discussed matters relating to the progress of the work of the RCEP Joint Committee, the

establishment of the subsidiary bodies under the supervision of the RCEP Joint Committee and the establishment of the RCEP Secretariat.

On 18 September 2022, the 28th AEM-METI Consultation took place at 9:00 am. In the meeting, the ministers welcomed the entry into force of the First Protocol to Amend the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) and discussed the progress of the ASEAN-Japan 10-year Strategic Economic Partnership Cooperation Roadmap and the proposal on "Strengthening ASEAN-Japan Economic Relationship toward ASEAN-Japan 50th Anniversary in 2023".

Afterwards, the 18th AEM-EU Consultation was held at 10:45 am. At the meeting, the ministers endorsed the ASEAN-EU Trade and Investment Work Programme (2022-2023). Noting that a future ASEAN-EU Free Trade Agreement is a common long-term objective, the ministers decided to intensify engagement on trade and economic issues by pursuing other avenues in the short to medium term.

The AEM-USTR Consultation was held at 3:45 pm. At the meeting, the minister noted the progress of the implementation of the 2021-2022 ASEAN-US

TIFA and E3 Work Plan and endorsed the 2022-2023 ASEAN-US TIFA and E3 Work Plan.

Afterwards, the 27th AEM-CER Consultation was also held at 5:30 pm. At the meeting, the ministers exchanged views on the progress of upgrade negotiations of the Second Protocol to Amend the Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area and the outcomes of the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Programme (AECSP).

During the meetings, the Union minister discussed Myanmar's endeavours in economic cooperation with the dialogue partners and future plans, the responses to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the progress of economic recovery in Myanmar. These meetings are the first in-person meetings between AEM and Dialogue Partners since the outbreak of COVID-19 began.

Together with the Union minister, Dr Marlar Myo Nyunt, Myanmar SEOM Lead, Director-General of the Foreign Economic Relations Department and responsible officials also joined the meetings. After attending the meetings, the Union minister and delegates arrived on the evening of 19 and 20 September respectively. — MNA

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Around 55,000 workers employed at 214 factories and workplaces as of July 2022

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negotiation inside the factory in line with the existing laws will bring about good relationships between employers and employees and build a good working environment.

Furthermore, he added that concerted efforts through tripartite collaboration are required to maintain stability in workplaces, drive the industry output and effectuate socioeconomic development.

The negative consequences triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and political changes rendered a total of 104,798 workers unemployed with a shutdown of 291 factories, according to a report by the Ministry of Labour.

Between 1 February 2021 and 18 July 2022, 114

factories and workshops were newly established and 100 suspended factories restarted their operations, totalling 214 factories. Those factories created 54,819 jobs, Union Minister Dr Pwint San highlighted.

Additionally, the government commits to ILO Convention No 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize. There are 2,892 general labour organizations, 162 township labour organizations, 26 region and state labour organizations, nine worker federations and the Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar with 190,000 members. The Ministry of Labour is coordinating matters for the workers to organize the institutions in full freedom under the law. — TWA/GNLM

Expired vehicles and motorbikes to extend registration without inspections until 31 December



ROAD Transport Administration Department under the Ministry of Transport and Communications announced on 19 September that expired vehicle

and motorbike registrations can extend without inspections until 31 December.

After the Department of Road Transport Administra-

tion is temporarily closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the department is now re-opening the renewal of vehicle and motorbike registrations.

Aim to reduce crowding and to be speedy work completion, only passenger buses have to be inspected although other vehicles and motorbikes can extend their registrations without inspections by only having checks against records.

The Road Transport Administration Department allowed the inspection-free renewal of vehicle and motorbike registrations except for passenger buses since March 2021. — TWA/GNLM

Remittances to Air Kanbawza to be paid to bank accounts from 21 September

REGARDING aviation activities, it is reported that the cash to be paid to Air Kanbawza should only be remitted into Air Kanbawza Ltd accounts opened in other banks.

The company has announced that advances payable to Air Kanbawza Ltd for airline services including ticketing agents, ticket sales revenue, plane rental fee freight charges and all other service charges payable to the airline will be transferred to the bank accounts of Air Kanbawza Ltd, which are opened in other banks instead of KBZ Bank, start-

ing from 21 September.

Bank accounts of Air Kanbawza Ltd will be related to two accounts from United Amara Bank (UAB), ICBC Bank (Yangon Branch), Yoma Bank (Mayangon Branch), Asian Green Develop-

ment Bank (Kamayut Branch), AYA Bank (Setawgyi Branch), two accounts from CB Bank (6 1/2th Branch), Ayeyawady Farmers Development Bank (Natmauk Branch), according to the statement. —TWA/GNLM



An Air Kanbawza advert is posted on a social networking site.

Weekly market update of dry groceries

DURING the week ending 20 September, the prices of onion and sugar bounced back at Bayintnaung Wholesale Market. Meanwhile, the prices of palm oil and chilli pepper slid again. Also, Chinese potato and black gram prices fell. Sugar fetched K2,550 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the wholesale market.

Onion

The prices of large onions declined to K2,800 and Chinese onion prices plunged to K1,800 per viss. The price rose again on 17 September after the significant drop in supply to Yangon markets. About 42,000 visses of onions on 16 September and 36,000 visses of onions on 17 September were supplied to Yangon markets. Onions from the Seikphyu area did not enter the market then.

Following the entry of 72,000 visses of onions on 20 September, only onions from the Seikphyu area were set price at K2,800-3,200 per viss in the wholesale market.

On 20 September, the maximum price of onions was K3,100 per viss at Seikphyu commodity depot and K3,000 per viss of onions at Pakokku commodity depot, according to the price data of those two regions.

Chinese onions were sold at K2,500 after the processing process. The price of Chinese onions which have the same size as those from Myittha Township stood at K2,650 per viss.

Garlic

On 20 September, the wholesale prices of garlic from Shan State (Aungban area) moved in the range of K2,800-4,000 per viss while Kyukok garlic fetched K4,000 per viss. The prices dropped from K4,200-4,800 per viss recorded in the previous weeks.

Potato

The price of Chinese potatoes decreased to K2,150 on 19 and 20 September after it hit K2,500 per viss.

Shan potatoes were priced at K1,500-1,700 per viss depending on quality. However, big potatoes are not found in the markets.

Chilli pepper

After chilli pepper hit the record price of K19,000 per viss for the second time, the rate went down to K17,000 per viss.

Palm oil

The wholesale reference price of palm oil in the Yangon Region this week declined by K40 per viss compared to the last week's price. The reference price for a week from 19 to 25 September was set at K4,690 per viss.

Consequently, palm oil is volatile in the markets. The wholesale prices fluctuated at K7,600-7,800 per viss on 14 September, K8,800-8,900 on 17 September, K8,500-8,600 on 19 September and K8,000-8,200 on 20 September respectively.

Rice

Monsoon paddy harvest began. Low-grade rice started to enter Yangon markets at K42,000 per bag. The export price of broken rice was high at around K40,000 per bag. The prices of both high-grade and low-grade rice were stable in low demand. The prices are expected to slightly decline, traders aired their opinions.

Pulses

On 20 September, the prices of black gram (RC) slid below K2 million per tonne again after price fluctuation. The prices of various pulses stood at over K1,980,000 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K2,310,000 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC) and K2,170,000 per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) RC in Yangon and markets. — TWA/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Fuel oil market sees slight increase in prices



Ninety 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 prices of fuel oil indicated a slight increase in prices, according to the fuel market.

On 20 September, the prices stood at K2,170 per litre for Octane 92, K2,260 for Octane 95, K2,585 for diesel and K2,670 for premium diesel. On 21 September, the prices increased to K2,290 for Octane 92, K2,370 for Octane 95, K2,745 for diesel and K2,830 for premium diesel in Yangon markets.

The figures showed an increase of K110-120 per litre of Octane 92 and Octane 95 and K160 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 Inspection and Supervision 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

Broken rice exports to China fetch good price on Kyat depreciation against Yuan

MYANMAR'S broken rice exports to China brought in a decent income on account of Kyat devaluation against Yuan, said U Min Thein, vice-chair of Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

At present, export value of broken rice to China is 128 Yuan per 50-kilogramme bag. A Yuan is exchanged at K450 in the local forex market, pushing up the price of broken rice.

"The price is high on the back of strong demand by China. Exporters are prospering as Kyat is weakening against Yuan. Therefore, broken rice is transacted even if the prices touched a high of K41,000-42,000 per bag. The weaker domestic currency stimulates export and increases export earnings. The market price of broken rice hit 128 Yuan per bag," U Min Thein elaborated.

Tracking the commodity price hike in domestic markets, broken rice price also increased to K39,000 per 108-pound bag, according to the rice wholesale centre (Wadan).

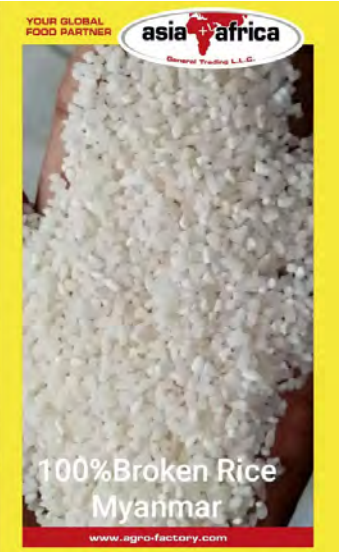
"Following detection of the coronavirus, Chinese officials issued a lockdown order in Ruili to contain the virus. However, the Kyinsankyawt border between Myanmar and China is open as usual. About 70 trucks of goods including rice and broken rice are daily leaving for China via the Muse border. Approximately 30 truckloads of goods are imported by China as well.

"Trade is going as usual. Despite the lockdown imposed in Ruili, the Kyinsankyawt border post is not suspended. Myanmar daily conveys rice, broken rice,

pulses, rubber, fishery products and food products with 70 trucks to China. Meanwhile, building materials, electronic devices, fertilizers, equipment, food products and pharmaceuticals are brought into the country with around 30 trucks. Therefore, we see over 100 trucks flowing in and out of the zone every day," he continued. Approximately 25,000 bags of rice and broken rice are sent daily to China via the Muse border.

Earlier, the daily export volume to China through Muse was estimated at 60,000 bags of rice and broken rice. Exports drastically fell in cross-border trade compared to the previous years.

Myanmar shipped about 890,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign markets between 1 April and 31 August of the current financial year 2022-2023, with over 780,000 tonnes delivered by sea and over 100,000 tonnes exported via land borders. Myanmar generated over US\$700 million from rice exports in the previous FY2020-2021, with an estimated volume of about two million tonnes. – NN/GNLM



An advert of Myanmar broken rice on an external website.

Chilli pepper prices slump after second-time hike

THE prices of chilli pepper hit a record high of K19,000-19,500 per viss in the wholesale market in Yangon city for the first time on 8 August and the second time on 16 September 2022. Yet, the sluggish market leads the price to slide at the present time.

On 1 September, the chilli pepper price fell to K13,500-14,000 per viss. Then, the price rebounded on 3 September and peaked at K19,000-19,500 a viss for the second time on 16 September.

Chilli pepper prices slightly decreased to K17,000-18,500 per viss depending on producing areas and different varieties (Mohtaung, long red chilli (Panye) and green chilli), whereas the bell pepper is sold at K18,000-18,300 per viss, Ko Hla Han, a seller of chilli pepper and tamarind on Seinpan Street said.

There are two times chilli pepper prices were volatile in the rainy season when trade is rather slack. Consumers can decrease their consumption of chilli pepper when the price rockets. The demand naturally drops when the price has risen. Consequently, the price will slide later.

The wholesale prices of chilli pepper were K4,000 per viss on average each in the same corresponding period of the years 2020 and 2021. In 2020, Indian long chilli pepper flowed into the domestic market. The price of imported chilli peppers was however higher than the local ones with K5,500 per viss in September 2020.

After 2020, Myanmar successfully cultivated chilli pepper of India's origin. Thus, there is no import despite the price rise in the domestic market. – TWA/GNLM

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OPINION

Shoulder duty of fine arts for future generations

TECHNOLOGIES and materials are developing with momentum in the current world in which networks of social media play a crucial role in the concept of unlimited openness.

These networks are able to serve the interests of the education and health sectors while tarnishing the images of political, economic, security and social as well as cultural affairs of the country.

Especially, new generation youths are active with honesty and righteousness to taste creative and adventurous measures with too much keenness before shouldering the future of the nation. But, such social networks is penetrating the young people with extreme alien idea and behaviours under the disguise of fine arts which is not in conformity with the actual social nature of Myanmar.

All the amateur and professional performers need to shoulder the duty of fine arts for the future of the nation as much as possible so that youths are to adorably keep the traditional culture and fine arts in their souls for carrying them to future generations as much as possible.

In line with a social objective: To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all national people and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics, preparatory tasks are being undertaken for organizing the competitions in time.

Indeed, the performing arts competitions are chances for a new generation, of amateur and professional performers to show off their skills in charming and subtle fine arts to the audiences. From then onward, they have to focus on the long-term existence of traditional culture and fine arts of all ethnic people.

All the amateur and professional performers need to shoulder the duty of fine arts for the future of the nation as much as possible so that youths are to adorably keep the traditional culture and fine arts in their souls for carrying them to future generations as much as possible.

WE, in the olden days, have often come across a community of people, who have a fair complexion and then likewise, witnessed another community that has rather a darker complexion. All these people are actually half-breed Eurasians that

brought about by the British people, Europeans, and Portuguese mercenaries and adventurers that came to Burma in about 1600 and 1700.

To speak about the originality of these Portuguese adventurers, mercenaries in the services of the Arakanese Kingdom of MraukU, and later of the Siamese Kingdom of Ayutthaya. Filipe's name is also recorded with the French spelling as Philippe de Brito, governor of Syriam, Burma. (Now Myanmar)

Filipe de Brito, was born to a French father in Lisbon, Portugal. He first travelled to Southeast Asia as a cabin boy and eventually served under Min Razagyi, King of Arakan and later became the governor of Syriam (now Thanlyin), in 1599, commanding three frigates and 3,000 men. He encouraged more Portuguese to settle in Syriam and constructed forts for defence, eventually sieging control of Syriam and announcing his freedom from Arakan. He captured Min Khamaung, crown prince of Arakan, but when Taungoo and Arakan were attacked, he was captured, keeping him as hostage until granted freedom from the Burmese in 1603. de Brito then married the daughter of Banya Dala of Martaban, becoming a subject of the Kingdom of Ayutthaya (Siam, present-day Thailand).

King Ekathotsarot of Ayutthaya mobilized Banya Dala and de Brito to come to the aid of Toungoo when attacked by Ava, however, Toungoo had submitted to the King of Ava. Banya Dala and de Brito then burnt down Toungoo and brought back any remaining property and people, including Natshinnaung to Syriam, de Brito also took the opportunity of sieging objects of worship of the Buddha and committed sacrilege to the point of forcibly demolishing Buddha images, sacred shrines and pagodas. In 1608, de Brito and his men, using elephants and forced labourers removed the Dhammazedi bell from the Shwedagon Pagoda and rolled it down Seinguttara Hill to a raft on the Pazundaung Creek. The bell and the raft were lashed to de Brito's flagship for the journey across the river to Syriam,



A photo of an Anglo-Burman family

where the bell was to be melted down and made it into cannons. The load proved to be too heavy and at the confluence of the Bago and Yangon River, off what is now known as Monkey Point, the raft has broken up and the bell went down to the bottom, taking the de Brito's flagship with it.

In 1615, de Brito's Syriam was besieged by the Burmese forces of King Anaukpellun. After the fall of the city, de Brito was executed along with Natshinnaung, he was impelled brutally, his entrails spilt out in front of him, and it took him three days to die. More than 400 Portuguese were taken as prisoners of war back to Ava. These descendants of Portuguese have embraced 400 years of the history of the Catholic religion in Sagaing.

Often, we heard news passed among people who happened to take a brief visit to the vicinity of nearby villages of Shwebo Township, to their surprise, some blue-eyed and fair skin children greeted them with smiling faces. These children even reprimanded the visitors not to call them descendants of de Brito, but to address them as relatives of Mister Filipe de Brito. These children most probably might have been the remnant Portuguese soldiers fleeing from fighting a losing war and seeking a hiding place at nearby Shwebo Township, later on, they assimilated with the residents.

The loss of independence was painful enough for the Burmese people, worse still was the British decision to eliminate the monarchy

-in the process of sending King Thibaw into exile, and to detach the government from religious affairs, thus depriving the Sanghas (monkhood) of its traditional status and official patronage, moreover the British eliminated the office of the patriarch of the Buddhist clergy. The demise of monarchy and the monkhood, these twin pillars of the society of Burma, was perhaps the most devastating aspect of the colonial period. Many refused to accept this situation.

The British colonists, first of all, established modern companies and large-scale Western enterprises for the purpose of future export of Burmese products, and then they engaged very much of their interest in the transportation sector. They founded the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, the railroads and most important of all, the teak extracting business in Upper Burma and rice milling industries in Lower Burma. We could see the Scottish people have contributed a major part in the development of Burma's economy, even Burma was sometimes referred to as "the Scottish Colony" owing to the heavy role played by the Scotsmen in colonizing and running all the businesses in the country.

After Filipe de Brito wrestled control of Syriam from the Toungoo king, he brought in many Portuguese to permanently settled in Syriam, making the population of Portuguese increase tremendously in a few years so that the community of Portuguese mingled greatly with the English, Europeans and the Burmans, thus resulted finally to produce mixed-blood Portuguese descendants, who have drawn into them the good characteristics of mannerism of the Europeans' blood from their veins, and they all adopted English as the spoken language. And later on, making Syriam the biggest modernized town in Burma with the greatest number of mixed-blood Portuguese descendants and for the sake of prestige, they called themselves as Anglo-

Burmans.

The Syriam's Anglo-Burmans were not only gaining a respectable place among the population of Rangoon in their endeavour in the economic activities in Burma but were also delighted by the British Raj for their nature of quick adaptability to a new surrounding to suit a new purpose, so much so, the British Government have recruited many Anglo-Burmans into the Burma Rifles of the British colonial army. The Burma Police Force and the Burma Custom Department. And not least, almost all the engines of the famous Burma Railways were driven by these fair complexion European descendants.

During the outbreak of World War II, when the main army of the British had to evacuate from being captured by the advancing Japanese Army, many of the Anglo-Burman soldiers together with the ethnic races of Karen, Kachin, Shan and Rakhine soldiers distinguished their bravery in retreating to India and again had shown the same daring spirit in coming back for recapturing of Rangoon City. Many Anglo-Burmans, according to their education standard and could speak fluent English well, were mostly employed by the then big companies - Steel Brothers, Burma Oil Company and Burma Corporation.

During the heyday of the Anglo-Burmans enjoying the prosperity and comfortable livelihood in Burma and the recognition from the British government and the amicable treatment from the original native Burmese people, these Anglo-Burman communities represented a society of people, regardless of race, the colour of skin, religion, political belief, that they could be assimilated into the majority Burmese people withholding only single citizenship for all. And especially on every Sunday, these Anglo-Burman families dressed up smartly and gracefully, going on in groups, family after family, to St. Mary's Cathedral at Spark

Street (now Bo Aung Kyaw Street) to attend the Sunday Sermon given perhaps mostly by a Portuguese priest.

To mention a few distinguished persons of Anglo-Burman descendants who have contributed many efforts to Burma during the time of the British colonial era and post-war period of U Nu as Prime Minister, they were: -

1. Maha Thray Sithu James Barrington was a Burmese diplomat born on 4 August 1911 in Mawlamyine and died on 31 March 1992 in Edmonton, Canada. He was educated at the University of Oxford, and the University of Rangoon. After the Independence Day of Burma, he was appointed as Permanent Secretary to the Foreign Office (Myanmar) from 1950 to 1955. He was Ambassador in Washington DC and concurrently Permanent Representative to the Headquarters of the United Nations and in May 1961, he became a member of a delegation to Geneva on the Conference on the subject of Laos country.

2. Lieutenant-General Smith Dun was the Commander-in-Chief of the Burma Army. In actual fact, he was an ethnic Karen, it was said to be the first person belonging to the ethnic group to hold such a highest military office.

3. David Oliver Abel was a Myanmar economist, holding the military rank of a Brigadier-General in the Myanmar Army and has served with distinction as the Minister of the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Finance and Revenue and Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development. And commonly appreciated by the Myanmar people as the country's economic Czar throughout 1990.

The Anglo-Burmans and their descendants are typically a community of Eurasians, having derived a blood mixture from the blood veins of English, European, Portuguese and Myanmar. They are socially adaptable to any surroundings to suit their delights. They are independent and believe in freedom of choice, religion independent and law-abiding citizens, their Portuguese forefathers have paid allegiance to the country to which they were born or migrated. However, maybe, when after the 1962 coup-d'état in Myanmar, the exodus of Portuguese descendants scrambled like a lost tribe group of people left Myanmar and most of them settled in Perth in Australia for good.

China health chief tells public not to touch foreigners after first monkeypox case

A top Chinese health official has warned the public to avoid "skin-to-skin contact with foreigners" to prevent the spread of monkeypox after the country confirmed its first case.

China recorded the infection on Friday in a person who had recently arrived from overseas and is in quarantine, health officials had said earlier.

"To prevent possible monkeypox infection and as part of our healthy lifestyle, it is recommended that 1) you do not have direct skin-to-skin contact with foreigners," Wu Zunyou, chief epidemiologist at the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, wrote in a post on his official twitter-like Weibo account on Saturday.

Wu also called for people to avoid skin-to-skin contact with people who had been abroad within the past three weeks as well as all "strangers".

He said China's strict Covid-19 restrictions and tight border controls had so far prevented the spread of monkeypox, and cautioned against allowing cases to "slip through the net".

His post was widely shared across different Chinese social media platforms over the weekend, but the comments section under the initial post was disabled.

Some who commented on forwarded versions or screenshots of his post were concerned Wu's guidelines could lead to xenophobia and drew parallels to the violence Asian people overseas faced at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic due to the association of the virus with people of Chinese heritage.

Several pointed out that there were foreign workers and long-time residents in China who have not left the country due to Covid restrictions.

"Did someone jump and scream discrimination?" wrote one commentator.

"Does he know that many foreigners have been staying in China for years?" another said.

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

The patient identified with monkeypox in the southwestern city of Chongqing had been "immediately isolated" upon entering the city and "there are no traces of social transmission, and the risk of transmission is low", local health officials had said earlier. Monkeypox causes painful skin lesions and flu-like symptoms.

SOURCE: AFP



This photo taken on 22 Aug 2012, shows a researcher working inside a laboratory of the National Center for AIDS/STD Prevention and Control (NCAIDS), a branch of the Chinese Centre for Disease Control. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ STR / AFP**

Plentiful water offers relief in Vienna

AS Europe suffered its worst drought in centuries, residents in Austria’s capital were feeling fortunate for their plentiful water supply that courses from streams in the green forests of the Alps.

A rarity in the EU, the two million inhabitants of Vienna get their tap water from dozens of springs – the main one some 655 metres (2,150 feet) above sea level. It’s a serious subject in Vienna, where access to clean drinking water has since 2001 even been guaranteed in the constitution – a world first, according to the city’s website.

“Vienna is in the fortunate position that, as a city of millions, firstly, we have enough water and secondly, that it’s water of the best quality,” Juergen Czernohorszky, Vienna councillor in charge of the environment, told AFP.

The summer of 2022 was the hottest in Europe’s recorded history, as climate change drives ever longer heat spells and the drought parching the continent was the worst in at least 500 years. Yet at the main Klaeffer spring feeding Vienna, some 150

kilometres (90 miles) outside the capital, the underground source bears water that is less than six degrees Celsius (43 degrees Fahrenheit) in temperature.

Some 10,000 litres (2,600 gallons) per second flow out from the Klaeffer spring alone, feeding a river named Salza that coils down a steep uninhabited valley.

The water system was set up about a century and a half ago under the Austro-Hungarian Empire to provide the city with fresh water to overcome diseases such as cholera.—AFP



Vienna’s water system was set up almost a century and a half ago under the Austro-Hungarian Empire to provide the city with fresh water and to overcome diseases such as cholera. **PHOTO: AFP**

Social media greenwashing by fossil fuel interests ‘rampant’: study

A commercial plane photo-shopped with the tail of a shark, hashtags that misleadingly evoke sustainability, tokenistic use of minorities to distract and to signal virtue: a Harvard report published Tuesday highlights rampant greenwashing by leading companies on social media.

The investigation, commissioned by Greenpeace Netherlands, involved analyzing the text and images of 2,300 posts by 22 of Europe’s largest carmakers, fossil fuel producers and airlines this June and July.

“During this summer of record temperatures and wildfires in Europe, these fossil fuel interests have remained explicitly silent on the topic of climate change, and instead, they engage in what we interpret to be strategic brand positioning,” lead author Geoffrey Supran told AFP.

Entitled “Three Shades of Green(washing),” the report released during New York’s Climate Week found that only one in five “green” car ads actually present a product for sale, while the rest simply promote the brand as green. —AFP



An Airbus A319 plane of the German Company Lufthansa stands at Frankfurt Airport; Lufthansa was named in a new Harvard report about social media greenwashing by fossil fuel interests. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

230 pilot whales stranded in Australia, ‘about half’ feared dead



Australian wildlife investigators are trying to piece together why more than a dozen young male sperm whales died in a mass stranding in Tasmania. **PHOTO: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT TASMANIA/AFP**

A pod of 230 pilot whales was found stranded on the rugged west coast of Tasmania Wednesday, with Australian officials saying only half appeared to be alive. Aerial images showed a devastating scene of dozens of black glossy mammals strewn across a long beach, stuck on the waterline where the frigid southern ocean meets the sand. Locals covered survivors with blankets and doused them with buckets of water to keep them alive, as other whales nearby tried in vain to twitch free and yet more lay dead.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

American, Russians to blast off for ISS as war rages in Ukraine

A US astronaut and two Russian cosmonauts are set to blast off to the International Space Station Wednesday on a Russian-operated flight despite soaring tensions between Moscow and Washington over Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

NASA’s Frank Rubio and Russia’s Sergey Prokopyev and Dmitry Petelin are scheduled to take off from the Russia-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 1354 GMT, according to Russian space agency Roscosmos.

Rubio will become the first US astronaut to travel to the ISS on a Russian Soyuz rocket since President Vladimir Putin sent troops into pro-Western Ukraine on 24 February.

In response, Western capitals including Washington have hit Moscow with unprecedented sanctions and bilateral ties have sunk to new lows.

However, space has managed to remain an outlier of cooperation between the two countries.

Following Rubio’s flight, Russia’s only active female cosmonaut Anna Kikina is expected to travel to the orbital station in early October aboard a SpaceX Crew Dragon.— AFP

Israeli researchers find opium residue in 3,500-year-old pottery

Israeli archaeologists said Tuesday they had discovered opium residue in 3,500-year-old pottery pieces, providing evidence to support the theory that the drug was used in ancient burial rituals.

The joint investigation by the Israel Antiquities Authority and Weizmann Institute of Science began in 2012 when excavations in the central Israeli town of Yehud revealed a series of Late Bronze Age graves.

Researchers found pottery vessels at the site that resembled poppy flowers -- from which opium is derived -- dating back to the 14th century BC.

They then examined whether they had served as containers for the drug, which earlier writing had suggested was used in burial rituals in Canaan, and found “opium residue in eight vessels”, the researchers said in a statement.

These were likely “placed in graves for ceremonial meals, rites and rituals performed by the living for their deceased family members”, said Ron Be’eri, an archaeologist with the antiquities authority.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Global Fund seeks \$18 billion to end HIV, TB and malaria

THE Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria will hold a donor conference Wednesday in New York, where it aims to raise at least \$18 billion during an event hosted by US President Joe Biden.

It is the highest ever “replenishment” goal set by the organization, and comes amid rising economic pressures — both on donor countries and recipients — following the Covid-19 pandemic and the food and energy crises caused by the Ukraine conflict.

But spokeswoman Françoise Vanni told AFP she was buoyed by recent pledges — including most recently 1.3 billion



The story telling game is part of female-led community groups, run with support from UNDP, UNFPA and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. **PHOTO: UNDP**

euro from Germany, which followed \$6 billion from the United

States and \$1.08 billion from Japan — that had brought the fund

“about halfway” to its target.

“There’s a lot at stake, and the \$18 billion target is very much based on getting back on track to end AIDS, TB and malaria by 2030, recovering ground lost during the Covid pandemic and saving no less than 20 million lives over the next three years,” she said. “Everything is still at play and no decision has been made until it’s been made...But we have very strong pledges already in the bag.”

The amount is 30 per cent more than that raised during the organization’s sixth and most recent replenishment, hosted by President Emmanuel Macron of France in 2019, which raised a

then-record \$14 billion.

The Global Fund was created in 2002 and brings together governments, multilateral agencies, bilateral partners, civil society groups, and the private sector to tackle the three deadly diseases, with new funding cycles usually every three years.

Vanni said she hoped donors would look at the fund’s track record of success — last week it announced it had helped save 50 million lives over the past 20 years. What’s more, “countries around the world realize that no one is safe until everyone is safe. We’ve been saying that during Covid-19, and we cannot lose that momentum.” — AFP

Zero-Covid harming 75% of European firms in China: business group

CHINA’S “inflexible” and “inconsistent” zero-Covid policy is crippling European business operations in the country, a major business lobby said Wednesday, warning that the presence of the companies “can no longer be taken for granted”.

The report by the European Union’s Chamber of Commerce in China marks the latest statement by the foreign business community that Beijing’s hardline virus curbs are harming the world’s second-largest economy and isolating it on the international stage.

China is the last major economy wedded to a strate-

gy of stamping out emerging virus outbreaks as they arise, through a combination of snap lockdowns, mass testing and lengthy quarantines.

Despite sparking business closures and roiling global supply chains, President Xi Jinping has declared the approach China’s most “economic and effective” path forward, and officials have not indicated when the rules might be eased.

The European Chamber — a group of more than 1,800 European companies in China — said in a position paper that zero-Covid and its “massive uncertainty” had had a “negative impact” on 75 per cent of its members’ operations.—AFP



The situation had prompted nearly a quarter of firms to consider shifting current or planned investments out of China. **PHOTO: AFP**

Portugal announces preventive vaccination against monkeypox for priority groups

THE Portuguese Directorate-General for Health (DGS) on Tuesday announced a preventive vaccination for the most vulnerable groups against monkeypox. Priority groups include people who are at “increased risk” of contracting the monkeypox virus, in addition to health professionals.

“The preventive vaccination logistics strategy will be managed at the level of each region, after identifying eligible citizens in a specialist consultation,” said Portuguese health authority.

Portuguese Secretary of State for the Promotion of Health Margarida Tavares said that preventive vaccination would start immediately with the publication of the decree. According



A drone with a loudspeaker warning people to stay at home is seen flying during an awareness-raising operation to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 in Oeiras, Portugal on 26 April 2020. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ PEDRO FIUZA/XINHUA**

to the latest data, Portugal has registered at least 908 cases of

monkeypox since the beginning of the outbreak. — Xinhua

Most pregnancy-related deaths in US are avoidable: CDC

FOUR out of five pregnancy-related deaths in the United States could be avoided, a new report by the nation’s top public health agency says, as mothers in the country face a comparatively high mortality rate, especially among Black women.

The study analyzed the cases of around 1,000 women who died between 2017 and 2019 due to pregnancy or related complications, up to a year after child-

birth, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said. “The report paints a much clearer picture of pregnancy-related deaths in this country,” said Wanda Barfield, director of the CDC’s reproductive health division.

Some 22 per cent of deaths occurred during pregnancy, 25 per cent on the day of delivery or in the following week, and 53 per cent up to a year later.

The leading cause identified, in 23 per cent of cases, was mental health problems, including suicide or drug overdoses, followed by hemorrhage (14 per cent), and heart problems (13 per cent).

The deaths were analyzed by local-level expert committees, including gynecologists and mental health professionals, which were tasked with formulating recommendations.—AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan's average residential land price rises for 1st time in 31 years



The Meidi-ya Ginza commercial building in Tokyo is pictured on 13 Sept 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE average price of residential land in Japan as of July 1 rose 0.1 per cent from the previous year, increasing for the first time in 31 years, as the country's economy recovers from the coronavirus pandemic, government data showed Tuesday.

The average commercial and overall land prices climbed

0.5 per cent and 0.3 per cent, respectively, both rebounding for the first time in three years, also reflecting growing demand bolstered by low interest rates that have created a favourable lending environment.

"As economic activities normalize, the trend of recovery in land prices has taken place

across the country," a government official said, citing price increases in the metropolitan areas of Tokyo and Nagoya, as well as four major regional cities of Sapporo, Sendai, Hiroshima and Fukuoka. The nation's residential land prices fell consistently after the collapse of the country's asset-inflated bubble economy in the early 1990s. Though the speed of decline gradually eased from 2010, it widened in 2020 with the start of the pandemic, leading to a 0.5 per cent drop in the average price the following year.

Despite that trend, housing demand has remained solid in urban centers and areas considered convenient and desirable, helping to lift land prices in such places. In 2022, 14 out of Japan's 47 prefectures saw their residential land prices rise, compared to seven prefectures in the previous year, while 32 registered drops. The average price in Ibaraki Prefecture, meanwhile, remained flat.—Kyodo

Cyprus, Israel vow speedy end to gas row

CYPRUS and Israel agreed Monday to resolve speedily a long-running dispute on exploiting a natural gas reservoir that straddles the maritime boundaries of both countries, energy ministers said.

Israeli Energy Minister Karine Elharrar held talks in Nicosia with her Cypriot counterpart, Natasa Pilides, to end a decade-long row over exploiting the reservoir in the eastern Mediterranean.

The energy ministers "agreed on the continuation of the constructive process followed for the Aphrodite and Yishai deposits issue for a fair and speedy resolution", said a commerce ministry statement.

It said working groups had made progress and that "both sides expressed optimism about the chances of a settlement and encouraged the companies involved to continue their dialogue".

Elharrar said that, due to the global energy crisis and Europe's growing gas needs, "it is



A production storage and offloading ship from Energean, which Israel has issued a licence to the Karish gas field, seen here in Egypt's Suez Canal in June. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY/AFP/FILE**

in our best interest for both sides to expedite their work for a swift, transparent and fair settlement".

The Cypriot Aphrodite field and Israel's Yishai gas field expand across the maritime territory claimed by both countries.

Aphrodite — licensed to US firm Chevron, Britain's Shell, and Israeli partners — was discovered in 2011 and is estimated to hold around 4.5 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

A small portion of the field

extends into the Yishai licence in the Israeli exclusive economic zone, an obstacle complicating its development.

In March 2021, the Cypriot and Israeli energy ministers agreed to give the partners in Aphrodite and Yishai a year to conduct direct negotiations or to refer the matter to an international expert, if needed.

Over a year later, no agreement has been reached between the companies.—AFP

Cuba boosts cigar exports to facilitate recovery amid pandemic, US sanctions

CUBA continues to promote cigar exports for economic recovery as the country braves the headwinds from the COVID-19 pandemic and the US trade embargo.

Situated on the outskirts of the Cuban capital city of Havana, the El Laguito cigar factory is well known for producing Cohiba cigars over the past five decades.

The factory, one of the five making cigars for exports in Havana, has some 250 workers, with 70 per cent being women.

Among them is Nelsa Leonard, a 75-year-old roller, who started working at El La-

guito in 1968.

She expects Cuban cigar production to help the Caribbean nation's economy recover amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"These are the best cigars in the world and Cohiba is our top brand," she said. "We are doing our best to sell as many Cuban cigars as possible to the world."

Official data showed that in 2021, the Caribbean nation reported record sales of its hand-rolled cigars worth over 507 million US dollars, as the tobacco industry is one of the four core sectors that contribute most to Cuba's GDP.—Xinhua



Official data showed that in 2021, the Caribbean nation reported record sales of its hand-rolled cigars worth over 507 million US dollars, as the tobacco industry is one of the four core sectors that contribute most to Cuba's GDP. **PHOTO: CHINA GLOBAL TELEVISION NETWORK**

India to collaborate in 41 business areas with Saudi Arabia

INDIA and Saudi Arabia have agreed to collaborate in 41 areas under four broad domains of agriculture & food security, energy, technology & IT; and industry and infrastructure. This was agreed during a ministerial meeting co-chaired by India's Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and Saudi Minister for Energy Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud, according to an official statement released here on Monday.

Goyal visited Saudi Arabia from 18th to 19th September 2022 to attend the Ministerial meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council. During the visit, Goyal co-chaired the ministerial meeting of the Committee on

Economy and Investments of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council.

The Strategic Partnership Council was instituted in October 2019 during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Saudi Arabia. The council has two main pillars i.e. Political, Security, Social and Cultural Committee, and the Committee on Economy and Investments.

During the ministerial meeting, the two sides agreed on streamlining efforts to realize the announcement made by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman, during his visit to India in February 2019, of investments worth \$100 billion in India.—ANI

Japan sees over 100,000 foreign visitors in Aug., 5th month in row



Visitors take photos of cherry blossoms in bloom around a five-storey pagoda with Mt. Fuji in the background at a park in Fujiyoshida, Yamanashi Prefecture, on 10 April 2022.
PHOTO: KYODO

THE number of foreign visitors to Japan topped 100,000 for the fifth consecutive month in August following a relaxation of border control, government data showed Wednesday, with the figure likely to keep rising as Japan is looking to lift the

entry cap.
Foreign arrivals totalled 169,800 last month, 6.6 times higher than those in August 2021 but down 93.3 per cent from the same month in the pre-pandemic year of 2019, according to the Japan National Tourism Organization.
Although the government resumed accepting small-scale tours in June, the number of visitors entering the country for tourism remained sluggish at 10,826 in August, as visitors in the month were primarily businesspeople, technical interns or international students.—Kyodo

Swiss farmers cook up world’s biggest rosti

THE world’s largest rosti — the traditional Swiss potato fritter — was fried up in Bern Monday, shattering the previous record, the Swiss farmer’s union (USP) said.
USP president Markus Ritter announced the new rosti record of 13.7 square metres, which easily beat the one set in 1994 in Thun in central Switzerland, when a three-square-metre fritter was made.
The union, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary, had the pan made on the federal square, in front of the Swiss government and parliament buildings, in

the shape of a massive cross placed on a vast red mat to look like the Swiss flag.
Once cooked, portions of the giant fritter were served to the large crowd gathered to witness the feat.
While emblematic of the cuisine in the German-speaking part of Switzerland, the rosti has evolved to be considered a national dish.—AFP



GIANT ROSTI – The world’s largest rosti – the traditional Swiss potato fritter – was fried up in Bern Monday, Sept. 19. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK NASSJO VOY.NO. (235W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK NASSJO VOY.NO. (235W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (236W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (236W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V VENUS C VOY.NO. (2224S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V VENUS C VOY. NO. (2224S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SHENG YUN LAI VOY.NO. (2209)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SHENG YUN LAI VOY.NO. (2209)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ELDER TRIUMPHANT SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AHUC VOY.NO. (2208)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AHUC VOY.NO. (2208)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-2** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ELDER TRIUMPHANT SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TRUONG MINH OCEAN VOY.NO. (V10-22)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TRUONG MINH OCEAN VOY.NO. (V10-22)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **SPW-7** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

World leaders call for solidarity to tackle global challenges

WORLD leaders on Tuesday called for solidarity to tackle global challenges in their speeches to the General Debate of the UN General Assembly.

South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol said that threats to freedom and peace must be overcome through solidarity and fearless commitment to the framework of universal global norms consolidated over the years within the UN system.

The theme of this year's General Debate, "A watershed moment: transformative solutions to interlocking challenges," encapsulates the gravity of the global crisis, which under-

scores the solemn role of the United Nations, he said.

"The first step in our journey to seek answers that will help us through these turbulent times begins with solidarity and deference to the universally accepted global norms, as well as the UN system established over the past decades," said Yoon.

Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos said climate change is the greatest threat affecting nations and peoples. There is no other problem so global in nature that requires a united effort led by the United Nations.

The effects of climate

change are uneven and reflect a historical injustice: those who are least responsible suffer the most. This injustice must be corrected, and those who need to do more must act now.

In his speech, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro called for an end to the Ukraine conflict through negotiation and dialogue.

"We advocate an immediate cease-fire, the protection of civilians and noncombatants, the preservation of critical infrastructure to assist the population and the maintenance of all channels of dialogue between the parties in conflict. These are



Photo taken on 20 Sept 2022 shows the opening of the General Debate of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York. **PHOTO: XINHUA/WANG YING**

the first steps toward achieving and sustainable," he said.—
a solution that is long-lasting Xinhua

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

ADB cuts growth estimate in developing Asia to 4.3% amid Ukraine war

THE Asian Development Bank on Wednesday revised down its growth forecast for developing Asian economies to 4.3 per cent for 2022 from 5.2 per cent it estimated in April, citing Russia's war in Ukraine, monetary tightening by central banks and China's COVID-19 lockdowns.

The Manila-based multilateral lender also cut its growth projection for 2023, slashing it to 4.9 per cent from 5.3 per cent in the April estimate, according to an update to the Asian Development Outlook 2022 report. The 46 Asian developing economies include China, Indonesia and Thailand.



The world's second-largest economy has been hit hard by recent lockdowns. This aerial photo taken on 7 March 2022 shows containers stacked at a port in Lianyungang, in China's eastern Jiangsu province. **PHOTO: AFP**

In reflection of higher energy and food prices, the ADB raised its inflation forecast for the economies to 4.5 per cent in 2022 and 4.0 per cent in 2023, from the previous projection of 3.7 per cent and 3.1 per cent, respectively.—Kyodo

Putin orders partial mobilization in Russia

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin ordered a partial military mobilization and vowed on Wednesday to use "all available means" to protect what he calls 'Russian territory', after Moscow-held regions of Ukraine suddenly announced annexation referendums.

The votes, already denounced by Kyiv and the West as a "sham", will dramatically up the stakes in the seven-month old conflict in Ukraine by giving Moscow the ability to accuse Ukrainian forces of attacking its own territory.

Four Russian-occupied regions of Ukraine -- Donetsk



A woman, a local resident, sits with her belongings outside a building that was partially destroyed after a bombing in Chasiv Yar, eastern Ukraine, 10 July 2022. **PHOTO: ANATOLII STEPANOV/AFO**

and Lugansk in the east and Kherson and Zaporizhzhia in the south -- said on Tuesday that they would hold the votes over five days beginning Friday.—AFP

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Russia, Ukraine agree to swap 200 prisoners: Erdogan

RUSSIA and Ukraine have agreed to swap 200 prisoners in one of the largest exchanges of the seven-month war, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told US television.

Erdogan made the announcement after talks last week with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of a regional summit in Uzbekistan. Erdogan did not provide full details about the swap, calling the people being exchanged "hostages" and not saying how many there were from each side.

"Two hundred hostages will be exchanged upon agreement between the parties. I think a significant step will be taken forward," Erdogan told PBS television late Monday.—AFP

Zelensky blames Russia as world vows response to food shortages

GLOBAL leaders called Tuesday for urgent efforts to address global food insecurity amid fears of disastrous harvests next year, as Ukraine's president blamed Russia for the crisis and sought the world's "toughest reaction" against Moscow.

On the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, ministers from the European Union, United States, African Union and Spain met on food shortages which are seen as a key factor in conflicts and instability. Appearing by video link was Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky, who directly accused Moscow of willingly triggering a food crisis.—AFP

Germany in 'final discussions' over Uniper nationalisation

GERMAN gas company Uniper said Tuesday it was on the brink of being nationalized as Berlin stepped in to prop up the energy sector amid a crisis triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Uniper was in "final discussions" over a deal with the German government and its majority shareholder, the Finnish state-owned energy company Fortum, it said in a statement. Under the plan being discussed, the German government would "acquire the Uniper shares currently held by Fortum" and "obtain a significant majority stake in Uniper", the company said.—AFP

Kyrgyz leader seeks talks with Tajikistan after deadly clashes



A Kyrgyzstan national flag flies at half mast as people gather to mourn dead citizens in Batken, near the Kyrgyz-Tajik border, on Monday. PHOTO: AFP

KYRGYZSTAN'S leader said Tuesday he is prepared to negotiate as long as it takes with Tajikistan to resolve a deadly border dispute, while also vowing his forces would not cede "a centimetre" of land.

The worst violence between the two ex-Soviet countries in years erupted last week on their contested border, raising fears of

a large-scale conflict. At least 94 people have been killed, according to the two governments.

Kyrgyzstan President Sadyr Japarov, in an address to the United Nations General Assembly, said some 140,000 Kyrgyz civilians have been evacuated from border settlements and were being provided assistance.

"For the sake of my people,

I am ready to spend... as much time as possible to solve this issue once and for all," he said of the tensions which have simmered and occasionally spilled into open conflict.

"Of course, whatever the solution is, it should be mutually beneficial," he said.

Clashes regularly erupt between the two Central Asian neighbours, as around half of their 970-kilometre (600-mile) border is still to be demarcated.

Japarov said there was a "will and readiness on our part" to continue negotiations under any legal format with Tajikistan, adding that he welcomed any mediation efforts by international bodies such as the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Japarov met on Friday with his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon at a summit in Uzbekistan, where the two ordered their forces to draw down after a tentative ceasefire was reached.—AFP

Two dead, more than 3,000 buildings damaged in Mexico earthquake

TWO people were killed and more than 3,000 buildings were damaged by a powerful 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck Mexico on the anniversary of two devastating tremors, authorities said Tuesday.

A woman died of injuries caused by a falling wall in Manzanillo in the western state of Colima, civil defence national coordinator Laura Velazquez told reporters.



Rescue workers look at damage to a building in Mexico City after a powerful earthquake. PHOTO: AFP

A man was killed by falling debris in a shopping centre in the same city during Monday's earthquake, which caused buildings to shake and sway in Mexico City.

President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said it was lucky that the death toll was not higher.

"It was a tremor of considerable intensity," he said.

The epicentre was located near the Pacific coast, around 400 kilometres (250 miles) west

of the capital and 59 kilometres south of Coalcoman in the state of Michoacan, according to seismologists.

The depth was estimated at 15 kilometres. At least 26 people received hospital treatment in Michoacan, where authorities reported damage to 3,161 houses as well as several dozen educa-

tion and health centres.

Nine people were injured in Colima, where more than 150 houses and other buildings were damaged, officials said.

There were hundreds of aftershocks, the most powerful of which was magnitude 5.8, according to the national seismological agency.—AFP

Nine killed in campaign accident in Brazil

AN auditorium hosting a campaign event ahead of Brazil's upcoming elections partially collapsed on Tuesday, killing nine people and injuring at least 31, authorities said.

The accident hit during a visit to a shipping container company in Sao Paulo state by candidates running for Congress and the state legislature, officials said.

Congressional candidate Ely Santos and state legislature candidate Jones Dozinette were among those injured in the accident in the Sao Paulo

suburb of Itapecerica da Serra.

Images posted online by state emergency services showed rescuers sorting through the mangled wreckage of a stage and stands pitched to near-vertical angles by the collapse. There were 64 people in all in attendance at the time, officials said.

"We are making every effort to ensure the rescue operation moves as quickly as possible," Sao Paulo state emergency services spokeswoman Luciana Soares said in a statement.—AFP



Handout picture provided by the official Twitter account of Sao Paulo fire department showing firefighters working inside a collapsed building in Itapecerica da Serra, Sao Paulo state, Brazil, on 20 September 2022. PHOTO: AO PAULO FIRE DEPARTMENT/AFP

Alarm grows over deadly Iran crackdown on protests

INTERNATIONAL alarm mounted on Tuesday over a deadly crackdown in Iran against protests that erupted over the death of young Iranian woman Mahsa Amini following her arrest by Tehran's notorious morality police.

Amini, 22, died on Friday three days after she was urgently hospitalized following her arrest by police responsible for enforcing Iran's strict dress code for women.

slogans against Iran's clerical leadership, images posted on social media showed.

The protests are among the most serious in Iran since the November 2019 unrest over fuel price rises, and marked this time by the presence of large numbers of women.

They have on occasion removed their headscarves in defiance of the Islamic republic's strict laws and sometimes even set them on fire or symbolically cut their hair.

Activists said she suffered a blow to the head in custody but this has not been confirmed by Iranian authorities, who have opened an investigation.

Women and men took to the streets in cities and towns across the country for the fourth evening in a row Tuesday, despite the deaths of at least three people in the protests on Monday, shouting

The protests first erupted in Iran's northern Kurdistan province where Amini was from. They have now spread across the country to Tehran and also major cities including Rasht in the north and Bandar Abbas in the south as well as the holy city of Mashhad in the east.—AFP



US Open semi-finalist Garcia makes early exit in Tokyo

US Open semi-finalist Caroline Garcia crashed out in her opening match at the Pan Pacific Open on Wednesday, squandering a match point to be ousted 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/5) by China's Zhang Shuai.

France's Garcia, the number two seed, has been in red-hot form, winning the Cincinnati Masters last month before reaching her first Grand Slam semi-final at Flushing Meadows two weeks ago.

But she came up short against world number 28 Zhang in Tokyo despite hitting 27 aces to her opponent's four and holding a match point at 5-4 in the second set. Zhang fought back to level the match via a tiebreak before munching on a sandwich during the changeover. —AFP

Two Myanmar clubs allowed to compete in next year's AFC Cup

TWO Myanmar football clubs will be allowed to compete in next year's AFC Cup held by the Asian Football Confederation.

Starting next year, Myanmar clubs will no longer be allowed to compete in the Asian Champions League qualifiers, and will only be allowed to compete in the AFC Cup.

The team that is the champion of the championship will be allowed to compete directly in the group stage, while the runner-up team of the championship or the losing team will play in the qualifying play-off stage.

This year, as Myanmar's professional league, the Myanmar National League, is being held again, the champion team and the runner-up team will be allowed to compete in the international tourney.

Myanmar clubs withdrew from the AFC Cup in 2021 and 2022 without competing, and the 2020 tournament was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Myanmar clubs have been allowed to compete in the AFC Cup since 2012. Previously, two teams from the group stage were allowed to compete, but since 2017, one team from the group stage, and the other team from the qualifying play-off stage is allowed to compete. — Ko Nyi Lay/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.

Cristiano Ronaldo wants to play till Euro 2024

CRISTIANO Ronaldo has set his sights on reaching Euro 2024 and the Portugal and Manchester United forward says he has no plans to retire any time soon.

"My journey is not over yet, you're going to have to put up with 'Cris' for a while longer," said Ronaldo on Tuesday, after receiving a trophy at the Portuguese football federation's (FPF) Quinas de Ouro awards in Lisbon for being the top national team goalscorer of all time. "I want to be part of the World Cup and the Euros ... I feel very motivated. My ambition is great," the 37-year-old said.

Ronaldo has scored 117 goals in 189 Portugal appearances and is expecting to play in his 10th major international tournament.



Cristiano Ronaldo says he wants to play until Euro 2024. Cristiano Ronaldo in action for Manchester United.
PHOTO: AFP

Two months from World Cup, Qatar emerge from training lockdown

QATAR'S World Cup team will emerge from four months in near-lockdown on Friday to take on Canada with most of their fans nervously watching from afar. All their games since 2 June have been behind closed doors and the Qatar Football Association has even kept sponsors away from training camps in Spain and Austria as they prepare players for a baptism of fire — a World Cup debut on home territory — in 60 days.

Having spent tens of billions of dollars preparing for the first World Cup in an Arab nation, Qatar is desperate to see the national side get past the first round where they are grouped with the Netherlands, Senegal and Ecuador. But they lost 3-0 to a Croatia under-23 team behind closed doors on Tuesday. And while public games in Vienna against Canada on Friday and Chile on Tuesday are only friendlies, they will still be seen as a key test of how much steel Spanish coach Felix Sanchez has put into the side.

Team spokesman Ali Salat told AFP that Sanchez and the QFA had agreed to keep the 30 players away from Qatar and the prying eyes of intrigued rivals.

"The coach and the federation were in discussion over the past season. This was agreed."

Sanchez and the players will briefly return to Qatar in early October and will hold an open training session before returning to Spain for more isolation before the World Cup starts, Salat said. —AFP