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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.

SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends the Premiere of the Play titled, "The Prestige Nobler than the Life"



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views the play "The Prestige Nobler than the Life" in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 September 2022.

STATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the premiere of the play titled, "The Prestige Nobler than the Life" which was first performed publicly at the theatre hall of Zeyathiri Beikman yesterday evening.

The play is presented with the objective of preserving Myanmar's traditional cultural heritage. The casts of the play are the employees from the Department of Fine Arts under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and artistes.

Also present were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, SAC members and their wives, the SAC Secretary and his wife, the Joint Secretary and his wife, the Union-level personnel and their wives, the Union ministers and their wives, high-ranking officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and their wives, officers, other ranks and their family members.

The play was performed in conformity with the traditions and practices of Myanmar theatrical culture. The play was opened by

paying homage to Lord Buddha as a gesture of maintaining the Buddhist tradition.

The theme of the play is concerned with the downfall of Nat Shin Naung. This play will remind the audience of how Nat Shin Naung lost his life. Nat Shin Naung was a great soldier cum leader. However, as he did not believe that the strength of the nation lies only within, he trod on the wrong path, deciding to rely on a foreign power, which caused his downfall. It is believed that the audience can learn a lesson from the downfall of Nat Shin

Naung, the King of Toungoo, who was not only a great soldier but also a poet laureate. Had he not been over-dependent upon the alien Portuguese, he would not have met such a miserable downfall.

Under the guidance of the Head of State, the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture is making efforts to identify the heritage of Myanmar's traditional cultures and fine arts, preserve them and develop their advancement in order to entertain the programmes based on Myanmar's traditional

cultures to the public.

At the end of the play, the SAC Chairman Prime Minister and his wife presented a bouquet and cash awards in honour of performing artistes. Union-level personnel, Union ministers, the Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air), the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and the high-ranking officers from the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office gave cash awards, respectively, before cordially greeting the play performers and artistes. —MNA



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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

380 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 24 September, total figure rises to 621,124

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 621,124 after 380 new cases were reported on 24 September 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 596,658 recovered from disease. Death toll reaches 19,455 with two deaths.

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

Panpinchaung village of Ayeyawady Region receives K10 mln for socioeconomic development



The MoCRD deputy minister hands over K10 million for the village Development Project (VDP) in Panpinchaung village.

PANPINCHAUNG village in Luthantchaung village-tract of Kyaunggon township in Ayeyawady Region received K10 million for socioeconomic development activities.

Cooperatives and Rural Development Deputy Minister U Myint Soe together with officials handed over K10 million for the Village Development Project (VDP) in Panpinchaung village during an inspection tour of the Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

Similarly, the deputy minister and party inspected the rural development tasks in Westsugyi village in Wardu village-tract of Kangyidaunt township yesterday morning and coordinated the necessary things.

In addition, the deputy minister viewed and encouraged the trainees of the high-level sewing course under the Department of Rural Development and Vocational Training School (Pathein) in Westsugyi village and gave necessary instructions.

The deputy minister also met departmental staff, cooperative members and mung bean growers at the Ayethaya Hall of Kyaunggon township and discussed implementing the contract farming system for growing the winter crops with the State Economic Promotion Fund and socioeconomic development.

Afterwards, the deputy minister and party met the staff of the Cooperatives Department, Rural Development Department and Small-Scale Industries Department and Rural Road Development Department in Kyaunggon township and instructed responsible personnel to understand the policy and objectives of the ministry and to implement the tasks.

— MNA



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WORLD TOURISM DAY 2022 | RETHINKING TOURISM 27 SEPTEMBER

“RETHINKING TOURISM”

“ခရီးသွားလုပ်ငန်းဖွံ့ဖြိုးဖို့ ပြန်လည်ကြံဆဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့”

Preservation of ethnic languages and cultures needed

THE Senior General urged relevant ministries to provide education, health, economic and transport facilities for ethnic people. Hence, relevant ministries need to cooperate with each other in work processes. It is necessary to preserve the languages and cultures of ethnic people as well as Myanmar literature, language and culture.

(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)

SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends the Premiere of the Play titled, “The Prestige Nobler than the Life”

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The Senior General presents the bouquet.



The play performance is in action.

India, Myanmar cooperate on development of agricultural research and seed sector

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo, which is currently on a visit to New Delhi in India accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung, paid a visit on 20 September to the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR) that is working in cooperation with the National Seed Corporation (NSC).

The delegation observed the research plantations to acquire the seeds of a variety of beans and pulses which will suit the climate and soil of Myanmar, which will yield in a shorter term, which can bear the brunt of the diseases and have a higher yield and which are big-grained, it is learnt.

Afterwards, Dr A. K. Singh from ICAR and other experts explained at the Dr Swami Nathan Library matters relating to the cooperation between ICAR and NSC, their organizational structure, operational tasks and the potential of cooperation with Myanmar. Additionally, they ex-

plained how the National Seed Corporation has merged with private organizations and farmers’ associations to establish the state-owned economic corporation, which is producing the seeds. Next, Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo explained matters in connexion with the development of human resources who are possessed with high performance at the Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education (ACARE) under the Myanmar-India Co-operation Programme, the technology for boosting the manufacturing of the agricultural products and the import of post-harvest technology and the technology for manufacturing of the value-added products.

Afterwards, the Myanmar delegation led by the Union minister visited the Bikano company in New Delhi where the value-added products of the beans and pulses were manufactured. At the sale promotion department of the company, the delegation members observed the sale of snacks and curries

made from beans and pulses.

On 21 September, the delegation attended a meeting held at the Sofitel Hotel in Mumbai between the India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA), the Overseas Agro Traders Association (OATA) and Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seed Merchants Association. At the meeting, IPGA Chair Mr Bimbal Kothari, OATA Chair Mr Shyam Narsaria and Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung discussed matters pertaining to the trading of varieties of beans and pulses between Myanmar and India, India’s demand for beans and pulses, the extension of cultivation of varieties of beans and pulses and ultimately the situation regarding the trading of maize, sesame and oil products.

At the meeting, the Union minister said inter alia that Myanmar would like to sign a quota agreement between the Ministry of Commerce of Myanmar and the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Distribution of India under which Myanmar



The Myanmar delegation observes the research plantation in India.

can export varieties of beans and pulses to India so that the prices will be stable for both the manufacturers and consumers of the two countries and that the agreement will last up to 2026. The Union minister has also invited Indian entrepreneurs to come and invest in Myanmar.

Then, Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo, the IPGA Chair and the OATA Chair answered the

questions raised by the India CBS. Then, the Myanmar delegation proceeded to JW Marriot Hotel in Mumbai where they met the responsible personnel from Mahyco, Safal and Metahelix companies and discussed matters concerning import/export, research and investment.

The Myanmar delegation arrived back in Yangon on the evening of 22 September.—MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal teak, fuel, industrial raw materials, powered schooners and vehicles confiscated

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

An on-duty team under the supervision of the Customs Department made inspections at the Asia World container checkpoint on 21 September. Officials found 13,600 kilogrammes of velvet elastic band that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) and were worth K48,552,000. The team also seized electronic devices at an estimated value of K61,302,000, which were not declared in the ID in a container at the airport cargo warehouse at the Yangon International Airport on 22 September. The total worth of seizures amounted to K61,302,000 and the action



Seized illegal commodities at the Mayanchaung checkpoint in Mon State.

was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, a combined inspection team under the supervision of the Customs Department made inspections at the Mayanchaung checkpoint on 21 and 23 September. They

found 1,116 litres of vegetable oil worth K3,085,000, which were not declared in the ID and the two vehicles (estimated at K25 million) carrying the goods. The total worth of seizures amounted to K28,085,000 and the action was taken under

the Customs Procedures.

Furthermore, a coast guard gunboat patrolled the territory under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force of Thaninthayi Region on 23 September. They found two trawlers estimated at K7 million from 2.4 miles northeast and 1.8 miles north of Pigeon Island using restricted fishing nets that can damage the floor of the ocean. The action was taken under the Myanmar Fisheries Law.

Then, the inspection team under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force of Sagaing Region made inspections at the Kyweye combination checkpoint of Monywa township on 24 September. Officials found four vehicles without licences at the estimated

value of K15,900,000. They also seized a motorcycle without a licence estimated at K9 million. The total worth of seizures amounted to K24,900,000 and the actions were taken under the Export and Import Law.

Next, a combined inspection team, under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force of the Bago region, led by the Region Forest Department in Pyu township in the Toungoo district. They found 0.187 tonnes of illegal teak estimated at K28,050 and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 14 cases at an estimated value of K121,315,050 were taken action from 21 to 24 September, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Drugs seized in some townships across Myanmar

DRUGS were seized in Tatkon, Kengtung, Tachilek, Loilem and Hopang townships, Myanmar Police Force stated.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force Police examined a motorbike driven by Myint Ngwe in Tatkon township and captured 600 stimulant tablets at 3:30 pm on 23 September.

According to the investigation, at 4 pm on the same day, police arrested a trafficker Sein Yoe with a motorbike and 4,000 stimulant tablets.

Similarly, at 3:15 pm on the same day, a combined team including the Anti-Narcotics Task Force searched

a motorbike driven by Zaw Zaw Win (aka) Aeik Zaw in Kengtung township and seized 4,000 stimulant tablets.

On 22 September at 9:30 pm, Police Force stopped and inspected a Ford car driven by Kyamauk accompanied by Arrchan near Lwalsitong village in Tachilek township and captured 1.05 kilogrammes of a mixed powder of stimulant tablets (Happy Water) and consequently arrested Kyashal and Khanoukkon (aka) Kon with 0.5 kilogramme of ketamine, 0.85 kilogramme of Ice, 16,000 stimulant tablets and 2.345 kilogrammes of Happy Water at a rental house of Kyamauk in

Saekham Ward in Tachilek township, according to the investigation.

On 23 September at 4:40 pm, a combined team consisting of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force examined a Vigo car driven by Sai May Htar with three people on the Panglong-Lai-Hka Road in Loilem township and captured 2.7 kilogrammes of Ice.

Similarly, at 6 pm on the same day, Police Force searched a house of Ngo-sei in Hopang township and seized 2,200 stimulant tablets and 0.015 kilogramme of heroin.

The suspects are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA

K1.1 billion worth of heroin impounded in Mandalay

FORTY-FOUR kilogrammes of heroin worth K1.1 billion were seized in the PyinOoLwin township of Mandalay Region, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

The combined team consisting of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a six-wheel Canter vehicle driven by Tun Naing Oo (aka) Tun Naing accompanied by Hla Myint near Aungchantha village on the PyinOoLwin-Mandalay Road, PyinOoLwin township in Mandalay Region at 1 pm on 22 September. Officials found

44 kilogrammes of heroin worth K1.1 billion and as an interrogation result, the team found Ma Khin Aye Wine (aka) Khin Wine who accompanied in the delivery of heroin at Aungchantha village in PyinOoLwin township at 2 pm. According to the examination, stockpiled heroin will be carried from Shan State (North) to Mandalay Region and they are prosecuted under respective laws and perpetrators of the crime chain are being investigated and identified, it is learnt. — MNA



Three arrestees are seen along with seized heroin.

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

New K10,000 prize for same alphabet with first one digit

A new K10,000 prize will be awarded for the same alphabet with the first one digit in Wai Wai Sar Sar Padetha starting the 43rd Aung Bar Lay Lottery, according to the Aung Bar Lay Lottery Branch of the Internal Revenue Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

Previously, it awarded K50,000 for the same alphabet with two first digits, the system is changed now to promote the lottery ticket sale rate.

“It is just an additional prize to lure the interest of people. When the lottery ticket price is K1,000 per ticket, they can get K10,000 only for the same alphabet with one first digit. If they buy five tickets, they can get K50,000 cash prizes. If they win big prizes, it will be more convenient,” said U Khin Maung Win, an Aung Bar Lay Lottery agent.

Although the authority set K1,000 per ticket, the wholesale shops resell at K1,200. When the lottery ticket was priced at K200/500 per ticket, the highest cash prize was only between K150 million and K500 million. When the ticket prices were K1,000, it increased the cash prize to K1,500 million and the highest cash prize in 2021 was K500 million depending on the ticket sale rate.

The special prize of the Aung Bar Lay Lottery is K500 million, K100 million, K50 million while the single prizes are K10 million, K5 million, K2 million, K1 million and Wai Wai Sar Sar Padetha prizes are K300,000, K200,000, K200,000, K100,000 and K50,000.

On 1 September, the lottery ticket sales were over K3,000 million, the lottery prize was 70 per cent of the total ticket sales.—TWA/GNLM



The 42nd Aung Bar Lay Lottery.

Difficulties to get water persist despite strong supply in Lanmadaw



Water pump pipes are seen in an apartment in Lanmadaw Township.

YANGON was being supplied water by the Gyophyu, Phugyi and Ngamoeyeik reservoirs through pipelines. Most apartments in Lanmadaw Township encountered difficulties in filling water for being the last township to get water.

In addition to the water supply from those reservoirs, there are underground wells in most of the streets in the township. Some even have a couple of underground wells. Water from underground wells is filled up into pipelines.

Water pumps are used to pump water from underground wells twice a day and the people in the streets are being informed about the time of water pumping, said Ma Nyein, a resident of 16th Street. A motor is used to pump

water in the morning.

If there is water in the pipelines, it can be loaded. Otherwise, those who fetch water at that time will lose their sleep because they are not sure of getting water. If they fetch water in the middle of the day, groundwater is mostly available rather than the water from the Gyophyu Reservoir.

Authorities dug artisan wells in Min Ye Kyaw Swar Road, (East of the Pyay Road) in Lanmadaw Township to get underground water, and gave a strong water supply through pipelines.

There are new blue pipelines in addition to the old iron pipes in Lanmadaw Township. These pipelines exist in parallel on each side of the streets, a resident Ko Thet Win told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Even in this rainy season, there are cases where water cannot be loaded in some lanes of the Lanmadaw Township. Some apartment owners applied to the water department of the township to run a new water pipe to their apartments.

Due to similar cases in apartments, mechanics and plumbers are getting busy. If one has to replace a new motor, the current price of a new motor has doubled from the previous year.

Due to the access to the salty water or the difficulties in water loading, residents have to buy big bottles of purified water worth K1,000 per each, for the use of drinking and cooking in some high-rise apartments.

Most tenants often moved to the townships where private underground wells existed, because they cost extra charges for buying purify water, motor charges and pipeline repair costs, the GNLM quoted a tenant Ma Win Win in Sanchaung Township.

Therefore, the people who are facing water problems are saying that they want the relevant authorities to take action on the lack of water supply in Lanmadaw Township.

Ko Aung Kyi, a resident in the Sint Oh Dan (Lower Lane) Street said to GNLM that most of the lanes in Lanmadaw Township lack water despite the strong water supply, unlike Latha Township. — TWA/GNLM

Construction of new Mingala Market completes 66%

A total of 66 per cent of the construction of the new Mingala Market has been completed so far, according to the Yangon City Development Committee.

The construction of a new market, a high-end wholesale market in Yangon, is ongoing at a cost of K68 billion, officials said.

Within the project area where the new market will be built, a 15-storey building will be built, including the second floor of the new upgrading Mingala Market.

On the ground floor of the

new market, banks, restaurants and a supermarket will also be built, and the six to 13-storey high-rise, including two basement floors, will include parking lots that will be able to park more than 700 vehicles.

The ninth and tenth floors will accommodate shops and warehouses, while the 11th to 13th floors will have offices.

The construction company which is running the project will build five to eight floors with more than 1,000 shops.

The Yangon City Development Committee will manage

and relocate shop spaces for the vendors who are renting and selling shops from the ground floor to the upper four floors due to the fire of the previous Mingala Market.

Efforts are made to an added momentum in order to complete construction works in the project area quickly, so the construction has been completed at 66 per cent.

Construction of the new Mingala Market began in September 2019 and is scheduled to be completed in April 2023. — TWA/GNLM



A miniature version of the new Mingala Market.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar's GDP shows 2-per-cent growth: ADB report

ALTHOUGH Myanmar's GDP showed minus in 2021, it sees two per cent GDP growth within six months after March 2022, according to the report of the Asian Development Bank.

In 2021, the businesses showed almost a standstill for political changes and the GDP rate dropped to -5.9 per cent, the report said.

The GDP growth is the result of prioritizing the local manufacturing sector and Myanmar's businesses are running normally in the term of the State Administration Council.

Previously, according to the report of the World Bank, Myanmar's economy will develop more than before, ADB forecast. Currently, the export incomes from the garment in-



Employees work at the Shweyi Zabe garment factory in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone in Yangon. PHOTO: AFP

dustry and SMEs are increasing slowly and it can develop to five per cent steadily by the end of this FY, according to ADB.

In 2021, Myanmar's economy drastically declined and the expenditure amounted to 23.74 per cent of GDP while

the income amounted to 16.18 per cent of GDP and the deficit totalled 7.56 per cent of GDP.

In the first nine months

of 2022FY, the country earned \$669 million from foreign investment and it showed a decline of 82.2 per cent compared to the previous financial year, according to ADB. Moreover, the inflation rate was 17.3 per cent higher than in previous years.

The government makes efforts to increase the export volume and the country earned US\$7600.425 million from exports, \$7461.545 million from imports and a trade surplus of \$138.88 million between 1 April and 9 September 2022.

According to the data of the Myanmar Investment Commission, the country received over \$1.2 billion from 35 foreign investments until August 2022-2023FY. — TWA/GNLM

Price of Kyukok garlic variety slides in Yangon market

THE wholesale price of the Kyukok garlic variety stood at K3,900 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) only in Yangon markets on 22 September 2022, according to the onion and potato warehouse located on Yetama Street.

On 10 March 2022, the popular Kyukok garlic hit the record prices of K6,800-7,000 per viss, while the garlic from the Aungban area, Shan State fetched K2,700-3,700 per viss.

Supply led to the price dip with the Kyukok garlic old stock priced at K2,500 per viss and the new one valued at K2,800 per viss on 4 June 2022. At that time, Shan garlic prices were estimated at K1,900-3,600 per viss.

There was no significant price difference between Kyukok garlic and Shan garlic between June and mid-August. Since 13 August, the price of Kyukok garlic has remained high. The wholesale price peaked at K5,000 per viss on 1 September, whereas the prices of Shan garlic were K2,700-4,200 per viss.

The wholesale price of Kyukok garlic fell to K3,900 per viss on 22 September, while Shan garlic fetched K2,800-3,900 per viss.

The prices of local garlic from Shan State are usually cheaper than the imported Kyukok garlic. The Kyukok garlic prices ranged from K2,700 to K7,000 per viss in mid-September, indicating a gap of K4,300 per viss. There was a K1,200 difference between the highest of K4,200 and the lowest of K3,000 for local garlic then.

Garlic from the Aungban area is K100-200 higher than those from the Taunggyi area in Shan State as consumers prefer garlic from the Aungban area.

The garlic from other regions and states also enters the Mandalay market, yet only Shan garlic is highly demanded in the markets. Garlic is highly used for its health benefits during the pandemic.

The number of single clove garlic supply is quite less yet the price is a bit higher than Shan garlic. Housewives prefer Shan garlic for better taste. Meanwhile, Kyukok garlic is mostly used in restaurants, Ko Aung Aung, a garlic seller from the Nyaung-pinlay market told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM). — TWA/GNLM

Rubber tapping season kicks off across rubber farms

RUBBER farm owners were facing a shortage of workers when rubber tapping season kicked off, rubber growers said.

As it is the start of the rubber harvest season, rubber sap collection businesses commence. However, the labour shortage threatened the rubber industry, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association said.

Rubber farms suspend harvest operations in the monsoon season. The tapping season resumed in early September.

"The farm owners had better provide training for tappers before the season. They should also offer incentives for the workers. If they search for rubber tappers only when the season starts, a labour shortage is expected for sure. Those farm owners cannot employ skilled workers at that time. We provide training for workers," an official from the association gave a remark in an interview with the state-run media.

The rubber tapping business runs nine months a year. Skim latex is coagulated with mild acid and made into a solid and soaked in the water, a rubber worker said.

Among the two types of tapping knives made in Thailand and China, tappers prefer Jabong tapping knives. Some

small-scale rubber farmers and workers put capital by half (fertilizer, general cost) and split the profit equally. Some farm owners receive a 60 per cent share, while the remaining 40 per cent goes to workers.

Myanmar shipped over 7,786 tonnes of rubber worth US\$11.749 million to foreign markets by the sea in August. The volume of exports stood at 5,410 tonnes to China, over 1,146 to India, over 660 to Malaysia, 480 to the Republic of Korea and 80 to Indonesia.

More than 4,577 tonnes of rubber worth \$6.307 million were exported to neighbouring countries via cross-border trade in August, with 4,064 tonnes of rubber to China and over 510 tonnes to Thailand. The overall export volume of rubber totalled

12,360 tonnes of rubber with an estimated value of \$18.056 million in August.

Myanmar's annual rubber production is estimated at 200,000 tonnes per year, with 90 per cent of them going to external markets. Myanmar's rubber is primarily exported to China, and it is also delivered to Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Japan, China (Taipei) and India. Only eight per cent is local consumption.

Rubber is commonly grown in Mon State and Taninthayi Region. It is cultivated in Yangon and Bago regions and Kayin State. There are over 1.6 million acres of rubber across the country and the production acreage is estimated at only 800,000 acres. —TWA/GNLM



The rubber tapping process is being demonstrated.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Over 20,000 rice, broken rice bags exported to China daily via Muse border

MYANMAR daily exports over 20,000 bags of rice and broken rice to China through the Muse border trade camp, said U Min Thein, Vice-Chairman of the Muse Rice Wholesale Centre. Of them, there are only about 3,000 rice bags and the remaining are broken rice.

“In rice and broken rice export, the rice volume is low and the broken rice volume is high. There are between 20 and 25 rice and broken rice trucks, each weighing 50 tonnes that can accommodate 1,000 bags, daily. Among 25 trucks, 22 are broken rice trucks and only 3 are rice trucks,” he added.

Moreover, the rice and broken rice exports to China make profits for high Yuan prices, he continued.

Currently, it is 128 Yuan per 50-kilogramme broken rice bag and between 140 and 150 Yuan per 50-kilogramme rice bag.

On 30 June, Foreign Ex-



Myanmar daily conveys rice, broken rice, pulses, rubber, fishery products, foodstuffs, dried plum and chilli with 70 trucks to China.

change Supervisory Committee informed the merchants to make payment for rice, broken rice, bean, corn and oil crop exports to China via the Sino-Myanmar border trade point using the US dollar instead of the Yuan.

However, the rice and bro-

ken rice export is allowed to use Yuan in exporting to China via the Muse border, and the operation is running as usual.

On 14 December 2021, the Central Bank of Myanmar released a statement allowing the use of Yuan/Kyat in the bilateral

transaction aiming to boost bilateral cross-border trade, facilitate the trading and bilateral transaction and increase the use of the domestic currency in line with the objectives of ASEAN Financial Integration.

However, it changed the

methods of paying export incomes from farming products in dollars instead of Yuan and fixed the exchange rate of K2,100 per dollar.

Currently, it is K3,200 per dollar in the informal market, leading to a large gap in the exchange rate. It also has a large impact on the agricultural produce and export volumes drastically drop, traders said.

Myanmar daily conveys rice, broken rice, pulses, rubber, fishery products, foodstuffs, dried plum and chilli 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.

Although China imposed a lockdown for detecting new positive cases, the Kyinsankyawt trade camp on the China-Myanmar border is opened as usual. — NN/GNLM

Local wheat crops produce high yield, fetch good price



In Myanmar, wheat crops are grown mainly in Mandalay and Sagaing regions, and also in northern and southern Shan, Chin and Kayah states.

MYANMAR agricultural produce, wheat crops grown locally have a good yield this year and a bag of three baskets priced up to K200,000 at present, according to the pulses traders in Mandalay.

Wheat crops entered the Mandalay market from areas such as Monywa, Shwebo, Sagaing, Myinmu and Myaung

and have a briskly business. “Even though they were priced at K95,000 per a bag of three baskets in March, the current market price for wheat reached up to K200,000 per a bag of three baskets, selling at high prices,” U Soe Win Myint, the owner of the Soe Win Myint Sales Centre in Mandalay told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

“This year, the wheat crop has a good yield and is trading at a high price. Wheat is the most consumed crop in the world and the second in Myanmar after rice. Since wheat prices are high in 2022, it has been a profitable year for mountain or flatland wheat farmers. Due to high prices in wheat, the acreage may increase in the next wheat season. Wheat is also an important food for Myanmar as wheat consumption is increasing year by year,” he explained.

The wheat crop is cultivated only once a year as a winter crop. In Myanmar, wheat crops are grown mainly in Mandalay and Sagaing regions, and also in northern and southern Shan, Chin and Kayah states. Wheat crops cannot be grown anywhere and yield varies depending on climate and soil type. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

Exports to China via Chinshwehaw up by \$6.56 mln in August compared to year-ago period

MYANMAR delivered exports worth US\$8.374 million and imports valued at \$8.884 million to China through the Chinshwehaw cross-border post in August 2022, totalling \$17.258 million. The value of export was \$6.566 million more than that of the year-ago period as Myanmar’s exports of RSS3 rubber, areca nut, rice, Sorghum and dried tea leaf exceeded in August 2022. Meanwhile, the country’s import value via the Chinshwehaw border was down by \$6.965 million compared to the corresponding period last year as the value of imports showed a decrease of \$4.557 million in capital goods, \$0.235 million in intermediate goods and \$2.172 million in consumer goods.

Next, the Chinshwehaw border saw an increase of \$9.287 million in trade in August 2022 compared to last month.

Myanmar has opened five border trade zones with China — Muse, Lweje, Kampaiti, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung. The majority of the trade is carried out through the Muse land border.

The value of Myanmar-China border trade in all five border areas touched a low of \$1.116 billion between 1 April and 16 September in the current financial year 2022-2023, comprising exports worth \$938.161 million and imports worth \$178.267 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce’s statistics. — KK/GNLM

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OPINION

Take booster shots for prevention of Covid-19 infection

THE infectious rate of Covid-19 is on the rise in Myanmar day after day. Omicron sub-variant of the pandemic is spreading all over the world. The new sub-variant is weaker than previous variants in destroying lungs and respiratory tracts, resulting in a fewer number of deaths.

On the other hand, most global peoples have received jabs of booster shots in the inoculation of Covid-19 vaccines. As such, people need to strictly follow the health protocols related to prevention, control and treatment of Covid-19 issued by the Ministry of Health without fail and take Covid-19 vaccination in line with the prescription.

If anyone suspects themselves of suffering from Covid-19 virus infection, they have to notice symptoms and receive nearby hospitals and clinics. If they complete receiving full vaccinations and follow relevant health protocols, their activities can protect themselves as well as other persons against the infection, cut chains of infection of new variants including Omicron virus and ease the burdens of health staff.

infection.

Actually, people need to take care of the Omicron sub-variant virus and preventive measures. They have to avoid public places and follow social distancing rules. They have to wear face masks, wash their hands for at least 20 seconds, open windows for proper ventilation, sneeze with the cover of their elbow and don't go outside without any reason.

If anyone suspects themselves of suffering from Covid-19 virus infection, they have to notice symptoms and receive nearby hospitals and clinics. If they complete receiving full vaccinations and follow relevant health protocols, their activities can protect themselves as well as other persons against the infection, cut chains of infection of new variants including Omicron virus and ease the burdens of health staff.

According to the records, those who have booster shots of vaccination can face lesser infection, reducing infection and death rates of Covid-19. At present, authorities and relevant health organizations provide vaccinations to people from various societies in all regions and states except in some far-flung areas. Hence, people need to take booster shots to be more assured of the prevention of infection.

The Remaining Period of Life Is Getting Less and Less

By Yin Nwe Ko

I BECAME a university student in 1973 after I had tried for the matriculation examination four times. My dad and my aunt urged me to join the university as they could not have a chance to continue their studies at the university in their times due to the complicated situation of the nation called civil war. At that moment I had to join the university, I was 18. When the entrance results to the university were out, I found I was let to join Bassein (Pathein) Arts and Science College (B.A.S.C.) which became Pathein University later.

Soon after I attended my classes, I became aware of the

tutors, demonstrators, assistant lecturers and lecturers, and the principal of the college. Among them, some were young: about the age of their early 20s. Some of them became university teachers as soon as they graduated. Therefore, some teachers were about 4 or 5 years older than me at most. I happened to take notice of a tutor who was not from my major department. He was from Geography Department.

I became to take notice of him as he was young, handsome, and smart. In fact, most of the university teachers were smart. First, I envy him not his physical status but his qualification being a

university teacher. Later, I joined the rowing club, BASC. I found him there again as a trainer of the members of the rowing club. He taught us how to control and row a boat. I found him he was friendly and also a stable person.

When I was a third-year student, I had to move to a hostel named “Thiha Hall”. He was a hall tutor of Thiha Hall and we met again more associating with each other. I remembered some nights at Thiha Hall because our intimacy got more enhanced there. He knew I could play the guitar very well and offered to come along with him to help play the guitar when he went singing

to “Myintzu Hall” that night. I was surprised at first as he was a university teacher. Singing a song at a ladies’ hostel was often done by only the male students at night. I agreed but I did not know his main theme. He wore a black jacket and black pants that night and we marched towards Myintzu Hall. He sang some songs he had chosen with the playing back of my guitar. After a long time, I became realized that his song was intended for a lady from Myintzu Hall.

During a long holiday due to a political crisis, we had to go back to our respective towns. One day I had to bring some things left in

my room in Thiha Hall and I went to Pathein. There were no students at the Hall but the warden, the hall tutors, and some of the hostel workers were on standby there. I asked him for permission of opening my room and bringing my things. That night, I had to stay there and we had a chat. In our chat, I could not forget some words he said to me.

“Ko Myint Htun Aung, there are three causes that will discredit one’s name of a man. They are alcohol, woman, and money affair. If one discredited his name with alcohol and woman, it can be mended in time. But, he discredited his name with a money

affair, his name was ruined all his life.” I had never heard those valuable words before. In silence, I paid him deep respect and nailed those words to my heart.

In the following year, he had to move to No 3 Regional College, Yangon. He could have completed his Master’s Degree there. Then, I heard he moved to the University of Education, Yangon, and was promoted to the post of lecturer. After my graduation, I happened to go to Yangon very often and meet him. He got married to the lady to whom he had sung the songs near Myintzu Hall at night

while he was in Pathein. He told me about his life struggling in Yangon with his couple of children. However, he got lucky because he was good at teaching Geography and some parents offered him to teach their parents. At that moment, Geography was also an important subject in the matriculation examination. He soon became a well-known Geography teacher in Yangon. There were many round-tables of tuition classes up to 43 places everywhere in Yangon in a week.

His fame in the atmosphere of tuition later affected his professional work in government service. His department made him difficult in performing his tuition affairs. At last, he abandoned his original work and settled his life as a tuition teacher. He had been a successful tuition teacher until 2001 when the new syllabus was enacted. However, he was OK as he could have earned a lot and afforded to own a car and a flat in Yangon. Moreover, he could afford to nurture his two children in a good school, and later they also passed their matriculation examinations with flying colours. He could live peacefully with his family in Yangon.

After his children’s graduation, they tried to work in other countries. Now, the son is in Singapore and the daughter is in Australia.

SEE PAGE-10 >>



Book Title	- Doha Dhamma Verses (Master of Modern-day Meditation)
Translator	- S. N. Goenka
Publishing House	- Paragu
Publication Date	- Seikku Cho Cho
Price	- July 2020 (1 st Edition)
	- K6,500

Doha Dhamma Verses by (Modern-day Master of Vipassana Meditation S. N. Goenka)

THE back cover mentions one of the essential objectives of composing of the religious poems i.e. “The genuine dhamma is meant for all, concerned with everybody, irrespective of sect, religious faith and caste”.

Those from Myanmar and India to whom Dhamma is not strange to know Mr S. N. Goenka as a master of vipassana meditation. There are only very few people who know Mr Goenka as a poet. In Hindu literature, Doha is the composition of a Hindu poem. In the early period of India, the saints composed the Doha poems, depicting Dhamma (The Teachings of Buddha) and Loka (The world). The most common Doha poems in Hindu literature have four paragraphs with the second and fourth paragraphs ending in ‘a’ rhyme.

Meditation master Goenka is indulged in Dhamma, and when the flowers of Dhamma

blossom in his heart, he strews the flowers with a string to create Doha verses. Master is used to reciting his own Doha Dhamma Verses at his ten-day meditation centres. His stentorian voice comes out as Dhamma waves, which soothe those practising meditation, said the yogis who have been at his meditation centres.

Some Doha verses from the book under review are provided hereunder for your perusal:

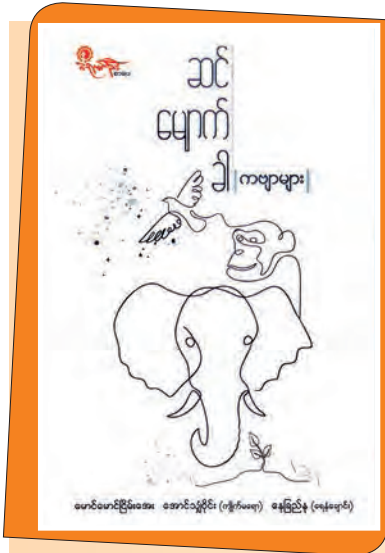
“Come on the noble-minded people and the high-minded people. Listen to the wisdom of Dhamma, which involves happiness, courage, freedom, deliverance and emancipation from the rounds of rebirth”.

“In the battlefield of the mind, there is always fierce fighting. Alert and cautious of this, the saint is restless, being always mindful

of what’s happening.”

“Living in the past makes one remorseful of what has been done. Living in the future renders one uncertain of what’s going to happen. But living in the present enables one to lead a noble life.”

This book has a hard cover with smart binding, bearing 363 pages. The book is published with the Doha Dhamma poems translated into Myanmar and English languages. The translator of this book is Saya Paragu, who said, “When translated into another language, the original poem loses its taste. The reader cannot enjoy the taste of the sound waves produced by the poem. He can understand the meaning only. My translation cannot, therefore, provide the originality of the poems.”



Book Title	- Hsin, Myauk, Khar Poems
Authors	- Maung Maung Nyein Aye, Aung Shan Wai (Kyaikmaraw) and Nay Chi Nu (Yenangyaung)
Publishing House	- Ahyon-Oo
Publication Date	- July 2022 (1 st Edition)
Price	- K2,000

Hsin, Myauk, Khar Poems

THIS is a collection of poems composed by three poets, and the title of the collection is Hsin, Myauk, Khar Poems. One thing worth mentioning is that poets are known as journalists. They are: Maung Maung Nyein Aye, Aung Shan Wai (Kyaikmayaw) and Nay Chi Nu (Yenangyaung). Maung Maung Nyein Aye started his literary career under the pen names—Ye Khaung Me Maung and Nay Myo Aye whereas Aung Shan Wai composed his first poem in Tai Yin May Journal, and later has a place in the field of journalism. Nay Chi Nu was previously known as Kaung Kyaw (Sipwayay Tekkatho).

The creative imagination of Poet Maung Maung Nyein Aye

is reflected in the poem titled, “Paing Shin”. He was rather ironic in depicting the winter which is not cold enough and the scorching summer. He composed the poem as follows:

My beloved winter, the snow you lost at the pawnshop
Otta be rendered to the whole summer.
May I them all redeem from the pawnshop esteemed.

Another one of his poems deals with aimless roaming. The title of the poem is ‘Khit’ — the Age. This poem is included in the section on Haiku Poems.

Amidst the withered leaves

in summer, the old train is moving in hesitation
with no station being its destination.

Aung Shan Wai (Kyaikmaraw) reminds the reader of the commitment of sins in his poem titled, ‘How to kill one’s sins’.

Ask yourself first if you can do the task.
If not, don’t do it yourself.
Hand it over to another if he can do it better.
Be ecstatic with his success, breeding the spirit merited.

Nay Chi Nu has composed a poem, depicting maternal love. The title is, ‘Amay Seikkhin’ instead of ‘Amay Saikkhin’. This is

in fact a pun playing between Seikkhin and Saikkhin, the latter suggesting ‘plantation’ while the former, the layout of mind. The poet uses an analogy of the jasmine flowers against the motherly love. Her poem is provided hereunder:

Regardless of the ages, they are like the jasmine flowers, yielding the fragrance forever
from blossoming to the withered stages.

Another poem is concerned with the fate of the children who fail to pay the gratitude they owed to their parents. The title of the poem is, “Myitta Dan Thint, Pan Ma Pwint Bu”, which suggests that the plantation will lose its fertility for a lack of fertilizer in that fertilizer is analogous to the loving-kindness of the mother. Here is the poem:

The closed-door can be opened with the use of great force. However, the heart that is closed cannot be opened by whatever force.

There are 64 poems composed by three good friends who have been together for more than three decades. You are assured to be able to enjoy the taste of their poems.

ARTICLE/ENVIRON WORLD

The Remaining Period of Life Is Getting Less and Less

>> FROM PAGE-9

They can settle their lives abroad. However, an unexpected fate came into his life. His spouse suddenly passed away during the third wave of COVID-19. He was left alone. I had sympathy for how he suffered from his beloved wife's unfortunate loss. I could only make phone contact with him as I was not in perfect health to go to Yangon and cheered him up in person. I was very sorry for that. For a man who is in his early 70s, a companion is really needed. There will be a lot of housework such as cooking a meal, cleaning the flat, washing dishes, etc. His son and daughter could not come back to Myanmar immediately for various reasons.

Spending the days with difficulties, he lived alone in the flat. After a few weeks, he got a little convenient as his younger brother and his wife came and lived with him. He had companions. However, he decided to move to

the country where his son or his daughter lives.

After a few months, I happened to make a phone call to him at about 7 pm as usual. I did not know this time I made a call would change my insight and knowledge a lot. While chatting, we talked about the religious subject. He told me there was no need to practise to escape from Samsara, the cycle of rebirth. I could not accept that concept because I had already understood that more and more practices were essential to escape from Samsara. However, he continued his words to escape from Samsara, one only needed to know. He directed me to listen to a sermon on YouTube preached by U Maung Maung (Pinyinma). At that moment, I did not believe the man he mentioned, and frankly, to say, I had a little looking down upon him.

The next day, I thought that he is an old man whom I always had to pay respect and he was

also a university ex-teacher. He would not tell me anything nonsense, I believed. Therefore, I took my phone and searched the sermon preached by U Maung Maung on YouTube. After listening for about 15 minutes, my interest rose up and my eyes widened. I could not help listening to the sermon up to the end. I realized that it was a real sermon I needed. I subscribed to the channel called "Wimoteti Tayar Channel" and started to download the sermons that were preached by U Maung Maung.

I thanked him a lot because the sermons he directed made clear my insight and knowledge about escaping from Samsara. In my next call, I expressed my thanks. It was the most unforgettable event between the association with himself and myself. I will never forget his gratitude. Now, he is going abroad at the end of August 2022 according to the plan of his life. He is leaving his native land, Myanmar. While

he was preparing to go abroad. His intimate friends and his ex-students met him and made chats in some restaurants in Yangon. He has recently made a post of yearning in his account on Facebook to his native land, colleagues, friends, and ex-students. In his post, he said...

"After half of my life was ripped out, I am so lonely that I am going to where my son, daughter, and grandchildren are. When this comes a real one, it will not be easy for me to leave the land I have lived for over 70 years, the place where my spouse who lived with me for over 40 years was buried, my teachers, my colleagues, my friends, my students who love me, the surroundings and climate that I get familiar and the food I enjoy. However, as the remaining period of life for me is getting less and less, I will be trying to survive in the other land with my son, my daughter, and my grandchildren."

In his post, the words "the remaining period of life is getting less and less" hit my heart the most. I think those words will also hit the hearts of those who are the same age as me...

If I had an opportunity to reply to his words, I would say to him...

"Sir, please do go to where it will be the most suitable for you. Just go straight and don't look back, please. We are using our remaining period of life beneficially, I promise."

While people are together, they do not take notice of the amount of their friendliness and attachment. However, when they know they are going to part with each other really, they become realized how large their attachment is. (Anonymous Myanmar writer)

(I pay respectful homage to him with this article.)



Historic UK castle at risk from climate change: heritage body



Tintagel Castle in Cornwall was visited by Britain's new king Charles III and his wife Camilla in 2020.

PHOTO: POOL/AFP

THE cliff-top ruins of an ancient castle long claimed as the birthplace of the legendary King Arthur is "at risk of being lost for ever" as climate change quickens the pace of coastal erosion, a UK heritage body warned on Friday.

Tintagel Castle in Cornwall, southwest England, attracts tens of thousands of visitors

each year, fuelled by the legend of King Arthur and his fabled Round Table.

But the structure is now among six important historic coastal sites at risk "as a result of accelerating coastal erosion", charity English Heritage said.

"Erosion along England's coastline is nothing new but the rate of land loss that we have

seen over the past few years is alarming, and some scenarios indicate that sea levels could increase by up to a metre (3.2 feet) by the end of the century," said English Heritage Estates director Rob Woodside.

In the last century sea levels rose by 14 centimetres along the southern coast of England, according to the body.—AFP

Pakistan's dire floods signal global climate crisis, PM tells UN

PAKISTAN Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif warned Friday that his country's worst-ever floods were a sign of climate catastrophes to come around the world, as he urged justice for developing nations that bear little responsibility for warming.

Unprecedented monsoon downpours flooded a third of the country — an area the size of the United Kingdom — killing nearly 1,600 people and displacing more than seven million.

"What happened in Paki-

stan will not stay in Pakistan," he said in a passionate address to the United Nations General Assembly, adding that lost homes, decimated livelihoods and deluged cropland had meant that for many, life had "changed forever".

Sharif said injustice was inherent in the crisis, with his country of 220 million people at "ground zero" of climate change but responsible for less than one per cent of carbon emissions.—AFP



The devastating floods in Pakistan have interrupted the education of nearly 3.5 million children, the UN said in a report. Children of brick kiln workers attend a class at a brick kiln site in Lahore, Pakistan, 8 September 2022. PHOTO: AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC
WORLD

Thailand to lift COVID-19 emergency from October

THAILAND said Friday it will lift a nationwide state of emergency declared in response to the coronavirus pandemic from 1 October, thanks to a decline in new COVID-19 cases.

The lifting of the emergency decree is also aimed at boosting people's confidence and reviving the tourism industry.

The Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration said the decision is based on its assessment of the country's general situation, with the economy recovering and people's lives returning to normal. The number of tourists has also recovered gradually. "There has been a steady improvement in overall conditions throughout the country. The number of new infections and deaths has been falling," the centre's spokesman Taveesilp Visanuyothin said.

"The spreading will be gradually eased into a level of influenza in the future, only a small wave will be seen in the



The lifting of controls have helped Thailand to lure back foreign visitors in large numbers in recent months. PHOTO: AFP

remainder of this year and next year," he added.

Throughout the pandemic over the past two years, authorities maintained that the state of emergency was needed to more effectively facilitate anti-virus measures, including restrictions on international traffic and the prohibition of some activities.

The push to further relax virus curbs in Thailand gathered

pace as it has decided to further downgrade COVID-19 from a dangerous communicable disease to a communicable disease under surveillance, starting on 1 October. Moreover, Thailand will ease its entry regulations for tourists. Visitors will no longer be required to show vaccination certificates or COVID-19 test results when they enter the country next month.—Kyodo

Hong Kong scraps hotel quarantine for arrivals, eases travel rules



Children wait with their parents to receive COVID-19 vaccines at a community vaccination centre for children in Hong Kong, south China, 16 February 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA

HONG Kong will scrap the mandatory hotel quarantine requirement for inbound travellers from next week after over two and a half years of stringent COVID-19 control measures, the city's leader said Friday.

Starting Monday, incoming travellers will be subject to a "zero plus three" arrangement, which allows them to undergo three days of medical surveil-

lance at home or at a hotel of their choice, during which they will be permitted to go out subject to PCR testing.

Chief Executive John Lee unveiled the relaxed inbound control measures at a press conference, stressing the importance of balancing health risks with the city's economic growth.

Under the new "test and go" approach, travellers will

still be required to undergo PCR testing upon arrival, but they will not need to wait for results and may leave the airport using public transport.

During the three-day monitoring period, arrivals will be issued an amber code in the city's LeaveHomeSafe contact tracing app and will be barred from entering eating and drinking establishments under the Vaccine Pass scheme.

The government has also axed the requirement for inbound travellers to provide a negative PCR test result 48 hours before departure, and they will instead be allowed to take a RAT test within 24 hours of boarding.

"We must allow the maximum room to allow connectivity with the world so that we can have economic momentum and to reduce inconvenience to arriving travellers," Lee said, but emphasized that the city would not "lie flat" in its fight against the coronavirus.—Kyodo

Cubans to vote on same-sex marriage, surrogacy

CUBANS will vote on Sunday in a referendum on whether to allow same-sex marriage and surrogate pregnancies, which experts say could turn into an opportunity to voice opposition against the government.

More than eight million Cubans aged over 16 are eligible to participate in the voluntary and secret ballot — the first time a law will be decided by public vote.

Coming just months after the government passed a penal code slammed for rolling back

freedom of expression, the family code would not only permit marriage and surrogacy (as long as no money is exchanged), but also adoption by same-sex couples and parental rights for non-biological mothers and fathers. If the law is approved, Cuba would become only the ninth country in Latin America to allow same-sex marriage, following in the footsteps of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Chile, Uruguay and some Mexican states.—AFP



People participating in an unauthorized march to celebrate LGBT rights in the Cuban capital Havana. PHOTO: YAMIL LAGE/AFP/FILE

HEALTH: TOP STORIES

Over 25,000 people infected with dengue in Laos since January

A total of 25,546 cases of dengue fever have been recorded across the country since January 2022, according to the Laos Ministry of Health.

A report issued by the Centre of Information and Education for Health under the Laos Ministry of Health on Friday said the country reported 162 new cases of dengue fever, bringing the total number of infections to 25,546 with 18 deaths recorded.

The 18 deaths included five in Laos capital Vientiane and Attapeu province each, three in Saravan province, two each in Luang Namtha province and Xieng Khuang province, and one in Oudomxay province.—Xinhua

Canada confirms 1,389 monkeypox cases

CANADA has confirmed 1,389 cases of monkeypox, the Public Health Agency of Canada said on Friday.

Of the confirmed cases, 667 are from Ontario, 517 from Quebec, 158 from British Columbia, 39 from Alberta, three from Saskatchewan, two from the Yukon and one each from Nova Scotia, Manitoba and New Brunswick, said the health agency.

The provinces are waiting for the National Advisory Committee on Immunization to provide guidance on if and how to start a second-dose strategy which is expected in the coming weeks.

Due to provincial shortages, regional public health units are offering one dose of the Imvamune vaccine, with second doses only recommended for moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals, local media reported.—Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Kishida pitches Japan's permanent investment tax break at N.Y. bourse

PRIME Minister Fumio Kishida revealed a plan Thursday to make Japan's tax break system for small-lot investment a permanent programme to draw more individual assets into markets.

It is "essential" to establish a permanent tax exemption system for proceeds from investment, Kishida said in a speech delivered at the New York Stock Exchange, the world's largest bourse, to encourage more foreign investment

in Japan.

Kishida said such tax incentives are necessary because Japan has 2,000 trillion yen (\$14 billion) in personal financial assets but "only around 10 per cent" is invested in stocks. Since he took office last October, Kishida has proposed a "new form of capitalism" that emphasizes wealth redistribution. Kishida said the potential of the proposed tax exemption system should be as

powerful as that of the Los Angeles Angels' two-way baseball star Shohei Ohtani from Japan as it could help the Japanese economy to achieve "growth and sustainability". Under the incentive system known as NISA, holders of designated accounts at financial institutions are exempted from taxes to be levied on proceeds from investments up to 2042. NISA stands for Nippon Individual Savings Account.—Kyodo



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida delivers a speech at the New York Stock Exchange in New York on 22 September 2022. **PHOTO: POOL PHOTO /KYODO**

Hong Kong replaced by Singapore as Asia's top finance centre



People walk near high rise building of Raffles place in Singapore. **PHOTO: ROSLAN RAHMAN/AFP/FILE**

HONG Kong has lost its crown as Asia's premier finance centre to Singapore in a global ranking list where New York and London maintained their number one and two spots.

Singapore jumped three places to third in the twice-a-year Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI) which assesses 119 cities around the world and was

published late Thursday.

Hong Kong has adhered to a version of China's strict zero-Covid rules throughout the pandemic, battering the economy and deepening a brain drain as rival business hubs reopen.

The city still mandates three days of hotel quarantine for all international arrivals while its border with the Chinese main-

land is mostly closed.

In contrast, Singapore successfully shifted to endemicity earlier this year and has reopened without restrictions.

The city-state is hosting a slew of financial and business conferences in the coming months as well as a Formula 1 night race next week, while about four million people are expected to visit this year.

In a 600-word statement responding to the latest GFCI ranking, Hong Kong's government focused on the city scoring a higher points rating than the year before.

"We will continue to listen to views and be bold in taking forward reforms to consolidate and strengthen Hong Kong's capital market and our role as an international financial centre," the government said.

The statement did not mention the coronavirus or the ongoing pandemic controls.—AFP

UK government lifts gas fracking ban in England

BRITAIN on Thursday lifted England's moratorium on controversial gas fracking to boost energy security, despite breaking the ruling Conservative party's manifesto pledge.

Prime Minister Liz Truss had flagged the move two weeks ago, shortly after taking office, in a vast package tackling turmoil in energy markets after key gas supplier Russia invaded Ukraine. The UK had

in 2019 called a halt to fracking —or hydraulic fracturing which is used to release hydrocarbons locked deep underground — due to fears it could trigger earthquakes. The moratorium was imposed under Truss' predecessor Boris Johnson following a series of earth tremors, but the government has switched tack after Russia cut off gas supplies to most of Europe, sending prices soaring.—AFP



Protestors erected a mock gas fracking rig in front of Britain's Houses of Parliament in 2012. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ECON: TOP STORIES

S Korean currency tumbles after Fed's rate hike

SOUTH Korea's currency tumbled on Thursday after US Federal Reserve's rate hike led to a strong US dollar.

The won/dollar exchange rate finished at 1,409.7 won per dollar, up 15.5 won from the previous close.

It marked the highest close

in more than 13 years since March 2009 when the global financial crisis roiled financial markets across the world.

The Fed took a giant step again overnight, raising its benchmark interest rate by 0.75 percentage points to a range of 3.00-3.25 per cent.

Expectations ran high for the Fed to take a giant or big step again later this year.

South Korea's foreign exchange authorities vowed to slow the local currency's fast slide versus the greenback, but it failed to block the won's drop against the dollar.—Xinhua

Germany's Scholz to visit Gulf states on energy hunt

GERMAN Chancellor Olaf Scholz will on Saturday begin a two-day tour of Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, in the hope of sealing new energy deals with the fossil fuel exporters.

Scholz, accompanied by a sizeable industry delegation, will first head to Saudi Arabia before visiting the United Arab Emirates and Qatar on Sunday.

The chancellor hopes to agree new energy partnerships with the oil- and gas-rich Gulf states, with the loss of Russian supplies in the wake of the invasion of Ukraine.—AFP

UK business activity falls at fastest rate since early 2021

THE United Kingdom's (UK) business activity fell in September at the fastest rate since January 2021, as cost pressures remain high and demand wanes, a survey showed Friday.

The S&P Global / CIPS Flash UK PMI Composite Output Index slipped to 48.4 from 49.6 in August, hitting a 20-month low and pointing to a further decline in UK private sector output.

Falling business activity indicates that the economy is likely in re-



Pedestrians walk past shops closed as a mark of respect following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, on Oxford Street in London on 9 September. PHOTO: AFP

cession, said Chris Williamson, chief business

economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Companies reported the rising cost of living,

linked to the energy crisis, and growing concerns about the outlook are subduing demand and hitting output levels to an extent not seen since 2009, barring the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns and initial 2016 Brexit referendum shock, Williamson added.

Forward-looking indicators have also deteriorated further in September. Goods producers noted the sharpest drop in foreign demand for 28 months and services companies signalled the first

reduction since December 2021.

Meanwhile, UK private sector firms expressed reduced optimism towards the 12-month outlook for business activity as the overall level of positive sentiment was the lowest seen since May 2020.

Fears of a UK recession, reduced consumer spending, rising costs and interest rate hikes all weighed on company projections for the year ahead, according to the survey.—Xinhua

Up to 10 million Australians hit by telcoms hack

SENSITIVE information about almost 10 million Australian telecoms subscribers may have been compromised by a massive hack of the country's second-largest provider, the firm revealed Friday.

Optus chief executive Kelly Bayer Rosmarin said a "sophisticated" actor was behind a cyberattack, which gained access to information about up to 9.8 million users.

The data accessed included customers' names, dates of birth, phone numbers and email addresses, as well as some driver's licence and passport num-

bers.

No passwords or bank details were taken, according to the Singapore-owned firm.

It is not yet clear whether the attack came from a state-based or criminal organization, but Bayer Rosmarin said no ransom demand had been made.

"It's too early to rule out any possibility," she said, adding that police and the Australian government were investigating.

"We don't yet know who these attackers are and what they want to do

with this information."

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission warned Australians who were potentially impacted — a number that matches almost half the country's population — that they could be at risk of identity theft.

"Optus customers should take immediate steps to secure all of their accounts, particularly their bank and financial accounts. You should also monitor for unusual activity on your accounts and watch out for contact by scammers," the watchdog said.—AFP

Inflation remains top concern for US small businesses: index

THIS quarter of the Ipsos/MetLife/US Chamber of Commerce Small Business Index finds that the index, now at 62.1, has fallen by 4.7 points since last quarter (66.8), the largest drop since the index plummeted at the start of the pandemic.

"Increased pessimism around the broader economic environment and muted expectations for the future have contributed to this shift," said Ipsos' report about the index on Thursday. "Perhaps bolstering this economic uncertainty is widespread concern over inflation, which continues to be seen as the single big-



People dine at tables outside of bars and restaurants along Stone Street in New York, the United States, 25 September 2020. PHOTO: MICHAEL NAGLE/XINHUA

gest challenge facing the small business community," it noted.

In fact, the report said, "a strong majority of small business owners believe the worst is still to come with regards to inflation."

These are the findings

of an Ipsos poll conducted between 21 July-8 August. For this survey, a sample of 752 small business owners and operators age 18+ from the continental US Alaska and Hawaii were interviewed online in English, according to the report.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NEGAR VOY.NO. (SCY1138)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NEGAR VOY. NO. (SCY1138)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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 LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS
SDN BHD LINE**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (204W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (204W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GREEN CLARITY VOY.NO. (0274-065N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GREEN CLARITY VOY.NO. (0274-065N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD.

Event marking Japan-China 50th diplomatic anniv. opens in Beijing

A two-day event commemorating the 50th anniversary of the normalization of Japan-China diplomatic relations next week kicked off Saturday in Beijing, with organizers hoping to attract Chinese people unfamiliar with Japanese culture through programmes featuring food, music and animation, among others.

As part of measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the event at a Beijing shopping mall where 70,000 people visit daily adopted pre-recorded video footage and online exchanges, providing chances for visitors to get glimpses of Japan while the pandemic-induced travel restrictions remain in place.



Japanese Ambassador to China Hideo Tarumi (2nd from R) is pictured at an event held in Beijing on 24 September 2022, ahead of the 50th anniversary of the normalization of ties between Japan and China on 29 September. **PHOTO: KYODO**

At the opening ceremony, Japanese Ambassador to China Hideo Tarumi stressed the significance of holding such an event, saying it will help deepen mutual understanding and trust between people of the two countries.

“I hope this event will generate interest in Japan among as many Chinese people as possible and prod them to visit Japan when travel restrictions are lifted,” the envoy said.

Former Chinese Ambassador to Japan Cheng Yonghua expressed hope that Chinese people will understand Japanese culture and tradition through this event.—Kyodo

Japan's coast guard confirms death of sunken tourist boat captain

A body discovered a week ago on the beach near Japan's scenic Shiretoko Peninsula was confirmed to be that of the captain of a tourist boat that sank nearby in April, leaving more than 10 people dead, the coast guard said Saturday. The 19-tonne Kazu I, carrying 24 passengers and two crew members, made a distress call and disappeared on 23 April after leaving Utoro port in Shari for sightseeing along the peninsula of the northernmost main island of Hokkaido, despite a forecast for rough weather. With the confirmed death of the 54-year-old captain, Noriyuki Toyoda, a total of 19 victims have been identified, with seven still missing.—Kyodo

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia's war in Ukraine prevents joint communique at G-20 trade talks



Local residents gather on a square in Izyum, eastern Ukraine on 14 September 2022. **PHOTO: JUAN BARRETO/AFP**

A two-day meeting of trade ministers from the Group of 20 major economies on the Indonesian resort island of Bali ended Friday without a joint communique after they failed to reach a consensus

on a paragraph regarding Russia's war in Ukraine.

During the talks, the trade, industry and investment ministers pledged to address the World Trade Organization re-

form and equality in sustainable investment agendas, among others.

“We agreed on all 27 paragraphs of the draft (joint communique), except one on geopolitics, meaning that no consensus was reached,” Indonesian Trade Minister Zulkifli Hasan, chair of the G-20, told a press conference at the end of the meeting, live streamed from Bali. However, he did not elaborate to Indonesian reporters, saying, “You must have already understood what it is. The issue was raised by our colleagues from the European Union, the United States and Australia. Because of that, no consensus was achieved, and therefore, no joint communique will be issued.”—Kyodo

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Putin, Saudi crown prince satisfied after prisoner exchange: Kremlin

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman spoke by phone to express their satisfaction over a prisoner-of-war swap between Moscow and Kyiv facilitated by Riyadh, the Kremlin said Friday.

During a phone call late Thursday the two leaders expressed “satisfaction in connection with the transfer to Saudi Arabia of foreign citizen prisoners of war... that took place with the personal mediation of the crown prince”, it said.—AFP

Czechs say no visas for Russians fleeing call-up

THE Czech Republic said Thursday it would not issue humanitarian visas to Russians fleeing their homeland to avoid mobilization, taking a different stance than some of its European Union peers.

Russians have been rushing to find a way out of the country since President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday decided to mobilise 300,000 people for its war in Ukraine.

“I understand that Russians are fleeing from the increasingly desperate decisions taken by Putin,” Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky said in a statement obtained by AFP.—AFP

EU invites UK, Ukraine, Türkiye to European Community summit

THE EU said Thursday that Britain, Ukraine and Türkiye were invited to attend a first meeting of the European Political Community in Prague next month.

The idea for the new forum, the brainchild of French President Emmanuel Macron, is to

provide a broad platform for political dialogue and cooperation as the continent grapples with the fallout of Russia's war on Ukraine.

Prime Minister Liz Truss of Britain — which left the EU at the beginning of 2020 — has not said

if she will attend the summit on 6 October after taking office earlier this month.

Truss angered the EU when she was foreign minister by proposing to scrap parts of the post-Brexit trade deal governing Northern Ireland. —AFP



The European flag waves in front of the European Commission Headquarters in Brussels, on 25 March 2021. **PHOTO: ARIS OIKONOMOU / AFP**

NEWS IN
BRIEF

FARC dissidents suspend fighting to help
ceasefire talks

COLOMBIA'S largest FARC dissident splinter group said in a video released Friday they were prepared to halt attacks against security forces to help ceasefire talks.

Latin America's most fearsome guerrilla group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), signed a peace deal with the state in 2016 to end more than half a century of armed conflict.

But some guerrillas, unable to find a niche in civilian life, joined dissidents linked to the illegal trade in drugs and mining resources. A leader of the so-called "FARC-EP Central Staff" dissident group said it would call off attacks to allow a bilateral ceasefire to take effect.—Xinhua

Cuba elected to chair Group of 77 and
China in 2023

CUBA was elected Friday to chair the Group of 77 (G77) and China in 2023 at a meeting on the sidelines of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The foreign ministers of the G77 approved Cuba's candidacy by acclamation, a decision welcomed by Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez. "Endorsement of Cuba's election is more than a recognition of our country, it is an enormous responsibility, since the G77 and China is the broadest and most diverse cooperation group in the multilateral sphere," Rodriguez tweeted.—Xinhua

US should learn lessons from
severely impacted China-US
relations: Chinese FM



Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi (2nd R) meets with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken (1st L) at the site of the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations in New York, on 23 September 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/LIU JIE

CHINESE State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Friday told US Secretary of State Antony Blinken that China-US relations have been severely impacted currently, and the lessons from which should

ongoing 77th session of the UN General Assembly.

Wang said China-US relations are at a critical juncture, and it is imperative for the two sides, with an attitude of being responsible for the world, history and the two peoples, to adopt the right approach to getting along between the two major countries, and to work to stop bilateral ties from further deterioration and to re-stabilize them.

Wang specifically focused on the recent wrongful moves by the US side regarding the Taiwan question, comprehensively elaborating the solemn position of the Chinese side. "The Taiwan question is at the core of China's core interests, and it carries significant weight in the minds of the Chinese people," Wang stressed.—Xinhua

Italy's Meloni heads
south in final vote push

ITALIAN far-right leader Giorgia Meloni closed her campaign for weekend elections in Naples Friday amid speculation her long-forecast victory may be marred by a shift in support in the south. The 45-year-old leader of the post-fascist Brothers of Italy took questions from a mostly young audience at a final rally on the beachfront before a blackout on campaigning ahead of Sunday's vote.

"I'm a patriot... we are a party of the south, as well as of the nation," Meloni declared, vowing to work to help a region that has long suffered higher unemployment and poverty than elsewhere. The last official polls published two weeks ago gave Meloni and her right-wing alliance, including Matteo Salvini's League and Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia, an almost unstoppable lead.—AFP



The last polls put Italian far-right leader Giorgia Meloni in the lead. Giorgia Meloni, leader of Italian far-right party Fratelli d'Italia (Brothers of Italy), flashes the victory sign as she delivers a speech at the Arenile di Bagnoli beachfront in Naples on Friday, closing her party's campaign for the 25 September general election. PHOTO: ANDREAS SOLARO/AFP

Iran protests flare anew hours after
pro-government rallies



Thousands of people marched through Iran's capital during a pro-government counter-rally Friday. PHOTO: AFP

PROTESTS flared in Iran for an eighth straight night Friday over the death of a young woman arrested by morality police, verified social media posts showed, hours after counter-demonstrations mobilized by authorities.

At least 50 people have been killed by security forces in the anti-government protests, Iran Human Rights, an Oslo-based organization, said — more than three times the official death toll of 17, which includes five security personnel.

The street violence, which IHR says has spread to 80 towns and cities, was triggered by the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurd who had spent three days in a coma after being detained by the morality police in Tehran. Verified footage spread on social media showed large crowds of protesters gathering in several neighbourhoods of the capital Tehran after dark, just hours after the government-backed rallies dispersed.—AFP



A Maha United player (yellow) vies for the ball against a GFA player (red) during their Myanmar National League match played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 24 September 2022. PHOTO: MNL

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.

GFA win in crucial match for MNL relegation zone

IN the 2022 season MNL title match (13), Maha United played against the GFA team at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 24 September, and the GFA team won by 2-1.

GFA's hopes of getting out of the relegation zone improved with a win in an important match for the relegation zone. As the GFA team won, Maha United and GFA team were equal on nine points, and Mahar United remained in 8th place due to goal difference, but they were in a position where they could not make a mistake in the remaining games. As it was an important match for both teams, they played with a full set of core players and foreign players were also used.

In the first three minutes of the game, through Emmanuel's assist, Saw Si Ai opened the scoring for the GFA team. After conceding the goal, Maha United tried hard to equalize GFA's defenders and goalkeeper tried

their best to block their opponent's attack. In the 42nd minute, Maha United scored an equalizer and Soe Min Naing headed in Myo Min Phyto's cross. In the second half, both teams tried to score a goal, and in the 72nd minute, Than Toe Aung scored the winning goal for the GFA team.

The Maha United team did not play well in the remaining minutes and made mistakes in their attacking play, so they faced a loss without scoring an equalizer. After this match, Maha United has nine points in 13 games while GFA has nine points from 12 games. —Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Federer relishes 'different' future after final bow alongside Nadal

ROGER FEDERER promised his fans they had not seen the last of him after bringing the curtain down on his glittering career, saying he would see them on a "different type of tennis court" in future.

The Swiss 20-time Grand Slam champion and Rafael Nadal lost their Laver Cup doubles match 4-6, 7-6 (7/2), 11-9 to Team World's Frances Tiafoe and Jack Sock.

The defeat for Europe left the two teams locked at two points apiece after the first day of the Ryder Cup-style event at London's O2 arena.

But the match itself was ultimately a sideshow on an emotional occasion for the 41-year-old, who made a lengthy and tearful address to the crowd, his rivals and family afterwards.

"This is not the end-end, you know, life goes on," he told a post-match press conference in the early hours of Saturday,

having recovered the poise that was the hallmark of his career.

"I'm healthy, I'm happy, everything's great.

"The message from me was just making sure I relay my passion for the sport to the fans, and I let them know that hopefully we'll see each other again on a different type of tennis court somewhere around the world," he added.

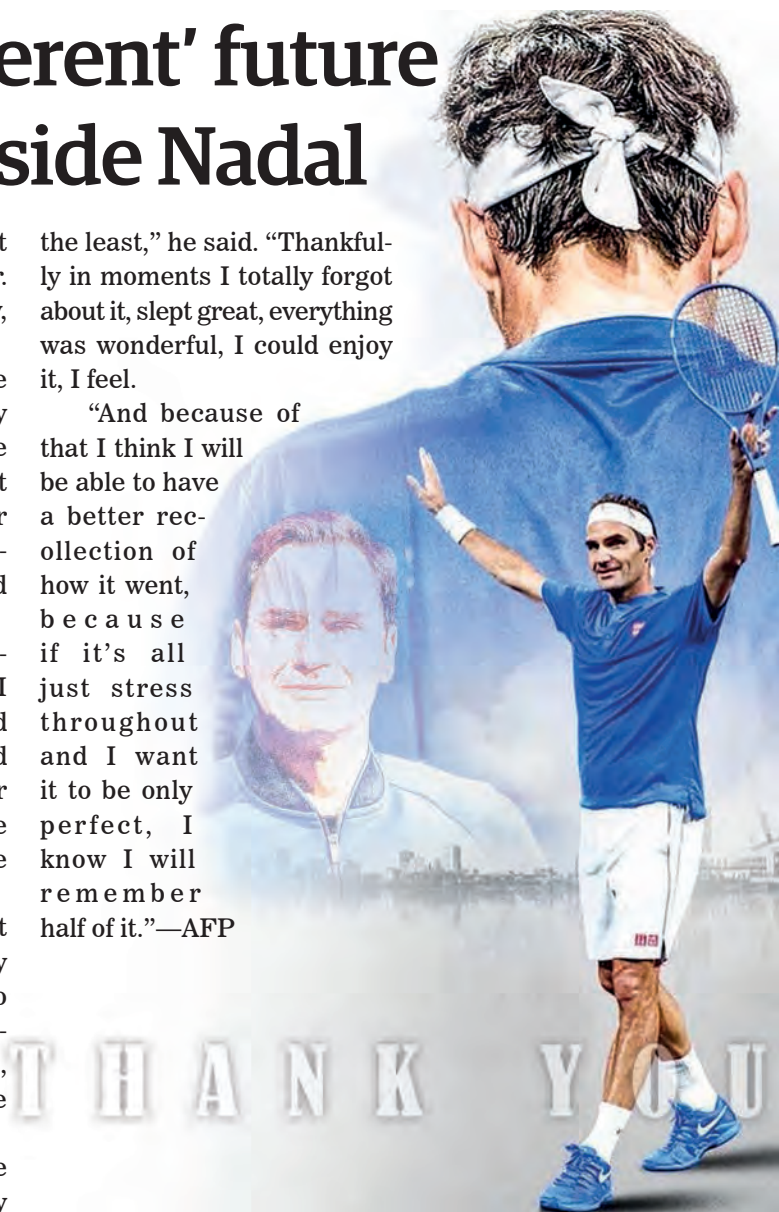
"I have no plans whatsoever, where, how, when. All I know, I would love to go and play places I have never played before or go say thank yous for years to come to all the people that have been so supportive of me."

Federer, who had not played tennis competitively since Wimbledon in 2021 due to a knee injury, said at times during the build-up to the match, which started late on Friday, he had been "horribly nervous".

"The last two days have been tough, you know, to say

the least," he said. "Thankfully in moments I totally forgot about it, slept great, everything was wonderful, I could enjoy it, I feel.

"And because of that I think I will be able to have a better recollection of how it went, because if it's all just stress throughout and I want it to be only perfect, I know I will remember half of it."—AFP



Southgate running out of time to arrest England slide

GARETH Southgate claimed England have taken a "step in the right direction", but relegation from the top tier of the Nations League suggests the Three Lions' are sliding. Southgate has just 59 days to stop the rot before England's World Cup starts in Qatar, but there was little evidence of the tide turning in a 1-0 defeat to an experimental Italy at the San Siro on Friday. Germany's visit to Wembley for a Nations League dead rubber on Monday is England's only match before the World Cup. Rather than use a final chance for experimentation, Southgate doubled down on his principles in Milan. He suggested he will do likewise in Qatar. "I compromised certain decisions internally, and you don't win if you compromise," said Southgate of England's run of four games in June that produced just two points and one goal. — AFP