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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.

Sport shows health and fitness, perseverance, diligence and unity of a country or an ethnic: Senior General

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks on the occasion to present awards to winners and coaches in the 11th ASEAN Para Games, the International Army Games-2022 and the 3rd World Cadet Games-2022 on 30 September 2022 in Nay Pyi Taw.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presented awards to winners and coaches in the 11th ASEAN Para Games, the International Army Games-2022 and the 3rd World Cadet Games-2022 at the parlour of Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Securing victories in international sports competitions means protecting the State

In his speech, the Senior General said the Tatmadaw sets a target to build the powerful, capable modern patriotic armed forces in order to effectively and sharply serve the State defence duty.

Sport shows health and fitness, perseverance, diligence and unity of a country or an ethnic. The Senior General expressed his acknowledgement, taking pride in a patriotic spirit and the spirit of defending the State of the athletes who competed in the sports contests.

In the 11th ASEAN Para Games held from 30 July to 6 August 2022 in Indonesia, Myanmar athletes bagged 14 gold, 12 silver and 17 bronze medals in track and field, swimming, weightlifting, archery and football events, totalling 43. Among them, nine Tatmadaw member athletes won five gold, four silver and nine bronze medals in the games.

This year, athletes from 37 countries competed in the International Army Games held in Russia. Myanmar also took part in the tank biathlon, sniper frontier, military medical relay race, emergency area and the army of culture.

Tank troops of Myanmar Tatmadaw stood in 16th position among 22 teams in the tank biathlon (division-2) in 2018, 5th position in 2019, 4th position in 2020, 3rd position in 2021 and 1st position in 2022. Moreover, Myanmar military athletes secured the third position in teamwise sniper frontier and third in the individual event, taking the fourth position whereas athletes won the persevere award in the military medical relay race. In addition, Myanmar secured the first prize in the musical instrument playing contest, first in dual singing, second in female individual singing, third in traditional dance, first in the people's choice award, third in the cultural show, and the best prize in the cultural display, first in traditional costume event and the award to sustain the military relations.

This year, Myanmar won the first prize in the individual rifle rapid fire, second in teamwise rifle rapid fire, third in pistol precise fire and third in teamwise pistol rapid fire, taking 8th position in the 3rd World Cadet Games.

Taking special pride in winning awards

The Senior General noted that the Tatmadaw members need to recognize that victories in international sports competitions and international military games are to uplift the prestige of the Tatmadaw and the State. Hence, the victorious athletes need to build themselves to have greater victories for the State and hand over the legacy of their brilliant victories to new generations.

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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

Statement of Myanmar Press Council Announcement No 5/2022

30 September 2022

1. A plane belonging to Myanmar National Airlines operating the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Loikaw-Yangon flight was shot by terrorists while landing at Loikaw Airport 30 September 2022 morning.
2. It is sorrowful to hear that there were 63 passengers on the plane, and one of the passengers was injured due to the shooting that hit the plane's fuselage.
3. This is the time to establish a five-point roadmap and nine objectives for building a Union based on a genuine multiparty democratic system with the collaborative efforts of the State, the Tatmadaw and the people.
4. At such a time, the Myanmar Press Council condemns and opposes deliberate attacks on innocent people who are not military targets by armed terrorists with the intention of disrupting the peace and tranquillity of the people and disturbing peaceful travels of the people.

Myanmar Press Council

Statement of Myanmar Writers Association

THE XY-AML ATR-72 (600) aircraft of Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) that operated the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Loikaw-Yangon flight on the morning of 30 September 2022 carrying 63 passengers came under armed attack by KNPP and PDF terrorists while landing at Loikaw Airport at 8:45 am. A passenger on board suffered an injury to the right cheek.

Myanmar Writers Association issued this statement condemning such an ambush attack on the people who are not related to the military targets to disrupt the State peace and tranquillity.

Myanmar Writers Association

Myanmar Sports Media Federation Press release 1/2022

1. A passenger of Myanmar National Airlines that operates the Yangon - Nay Pyi Taw-Loikaw-Yangon flight was reportedly shot in the face as the bullets passed through the fuselage of the plane while landing 30 September.
2. The passenger flight is not a military target and such doing is a terrorist attack, so the Myanmar Sports Media Federation issued this statement condemning that terror act.

Myanmar Sports Media Federation
30 September 2022

Statement of Myanmar Music Association (Central)

30 September 2022

1. It is reported that Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) operated the UB-149 flight for Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Loikaw-Yangon and the XY-AML Aircraft ATR-72 (600) carried 63 passengers and flew to the airport according to the landing procedures to land at Loikaw Airport on 30 September 2022 morning.

It is known that a passenger on the plane was injured when an armed attack (under investigation) was committed by KNPP and PDF terrorists.

2. The Myanmar Music Association (Central) has issued this statement strongly objecting to unprovoked attacks on innocent people and terrorist acts, including the current one, for crimes that cause public suffering.

Myanmar Music Association (Central)

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The first basic requirement will be to avoid any derailment from the path to democracy

Every person and organization need to support the establishment and strengthening of a genuine disciplined multiparty democracy to make such a system successful. In so doing, the first basic requirement will be to avoid any derailment from the path to democracy. All persons and organizations need to follow the Constitution and laws. Holding a free and fair general election successfully is crucial for strengthening multiparty democracy.

(The excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on the Occasion of the Eighteen Months of the Assumption of State Duties by the State Administration Council on 1 August 2022)

Sport shows health and fitness, perseverance, diligence and unity of a country or an ethnic: Senior General

The Senior General gives the cash award to the winner.

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Awarding honorary certificates, documents and cash awards

The Senior General presented honorary certificates and cash awards to victorious winners in the 11th ASEAN Para Games and tank biathlon (division-2) of the International Army Games-2022 respectively.

The Vice-Chairman of SAC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) presented honorary certificates and cash awards to winners in the 11th ASEAN Para Games and the International Army Games-2022 respectively.

Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein and Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Kyaw Swa Lin presented honorary certificates and cash awards to winners and coaches in the 11th ASEAN Para Games, the International Army Games-2022 and the 3rd World Cadet Games-2022 respectively.

The Senior General hosted the winners with a tea party at which the Myawady entertainment troupe performed songs. After the ceremony, the Senior General and party cordially greeted the winners and coaches. — MNA

MoD Union Minister visits military hospital in Kalay, meets family members of Cikon station

MEMBER of the State Administration Council Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo, accompanied by Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw, North-West Command Commander Brig-Gen Than Htike and relevant officials, met officers, other ranks and family members, members of Myanmar Police Force and locals who are receiving treatment at the military hospital in Kalay in Sagaing Region yesterday.

The Union minister asked about health progress, the outbreak of diseases and medical treatment and provided nutritious foodstuffs.

Then, the Union minister met officers, other ranks and family members at the station hall of Cikon Station of the North-West Command. Then, he gave necessary instructions and provided foodstuffs and sports accessories. —MNA

Union Defence Minister General Mya Tun Oo comforts the patient.

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

SPTT concludes 4th-day meeting with UWSP, NDAA and SSPP delegation

The fourth-day meeting between the State Peace Talks Team and the UWSP, NDAA and SSPP delegation is in progress yesterday.

THE fourth-day meeting between the State Peace Talks Team and the delegation led by the vice-chairman of the United Wa State Party-UWSP, the vice-chairman of the National Democratic Alliance Army-NDAA and the vice-chairman-2 of the Shan State Progress Party-SSPP took place at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The SPTT received UWSP Vice-Chairman U Lau Yaku, NDAA Vice-Chairman U San Pae and SSPP Vice-Chairman-2 Sao Khun Seng separately and bilaterally discussed the fulfilment of requirements for education and health sectors and regional development measures.

The fourth-day meeting was attended by State Administration Council Member Union Minister at the Government Office Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee-NSPNC Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung and NSPNC members Lt-Gen Min Naing, Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein, Lt-Gen Aye Win and Col Wunna Aung, and UWSP Vice-Chairman U Lau Yaku, Head of the UWSP Political Department U Aik Nap Ling, NDAA Vice-Chairman U San Pae, General-Secretary U Kyi Myint, SSPP Vice-Chairman-2 Sao Khun Seng and SSPP Secretary-2 Sao Seng Hsu.

They discussed their attitudes and stances again according to the negotiation and then signed the final agreements.

Next, UWSP Vice-Chairman U Lau Yaku on behalf of the participating ethnic armed organizations made concluding remarks.

Then, SPTT Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae gave closing remarks and presented the record book on the SAC's endeavours in serving the interests of the country published by the Ministry of Information and publications, an MRTV DTH two-foot receiver satellite dish and gifts. — MNA

MoTC Union Minister makes inspection tours in Yangon

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San inspected the radiofrequency measurement station (South Dagon) of the Posts and Telecommunications Department in Dagon Myothit (South) Township of Yangon Region yesterday.

During the inspection, the Union minister said it should measure and check to avert the interference in frequencies, curb the illegal spectrum users, register the frequency usage, maintain the machinery and make sure the security affairs and capability of employees.

Then, he went to the satellite earth station of MPT in Toegyaunggale and the station in-charge personnel reported on the satellite materials installed at the station and connected lines and proper connection for mobile communication in remote areas.

Then, the Union minister instructed the needs to become reliable operators, provide proper communication services, creative and unusual services, fix the reasonable service charges and tax rates and use the state-owned Myanmar Satellite 2 effectively.

On arrival at the Warehouse of MPT, the Union minister checked the storage system to meet the criteria and distribution system.

At noon, the Union minister and party visited the Hanthawady Data Centre of MPT in Sangyoung Township and the Union minister highlighted the need to prepare the reserve power generators at the Data Centre in providing information, connect with the reserve cables, use the machinery as per the standards, draft the security plans for data centre and fire safety.

MoTC Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San inspects the satellite earth station of MPT in Toegyaunggale.

They also went to the Locomotive Factory (Insein) of Myanma Railways and inspected the factory compound.

During the inspection tours, the Union minister gave presents to the respective departmental staff.

On arrival at the Myanma Railways Hospital (Insein) and officials of MPT donated cash to the head of the hospital. — MNA

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Leading Organizing Committee on Variety Show for Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 holds 2nd coordination meeting

THE Leading Organizing Committee on Variety Show for Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 held its second coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, in his capacity as the Committee Chairman, Vice-Chair 1 of the committee Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko, Vice-Chair 2 Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Tin Oo Lwin, Working Committee Chairpersons Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, Deputy Minister Dr Moe Zaw Tun, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Soe, the permanent secretaries and departmental heads, and the chairpersons of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, Myanmar Music Association (Central) and the secretary of Myanmar Theatric Association joined the meeting online.

Vice-Chair 2 Nay Pyi Taw Council Chariman U Tin Oo Lwin addresses the second coordination meeting yesterday.

First, the Union minister said the detailed procedures, the logo and the theme song of the show and the motions of the artistes from film, music and theatrical fields will be approved during the meeting.

The variety show for the 75th anniversary of Independence Day should be a successful event as it is full of essence and held once in a lifetime and the people should get something on their mind regarding the essence of independence. There should be creative performance rather than the normal ways to accelerate the national spirit for the interest of the country.

Then, the vice-chair 1 of the committee reported on the proper cooperation of the department and the readiness of the performers.

The vice-chair 2 of the committee also presented the preparations for open-air theatre.

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint then explained the arrangements and ongoing work plans for the variety show.

Next, the attendees coordinated the discussion and the Union Minister concluded the meeting.

The five-day variety show marking the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day will be held at the open-air theatre of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall.

The artistes from film, music and theatrical fields will perform under the leadership of the Ministry of Information on 26, 27 and 28 November while the artistes under the Directorate of the Public Relations and Psychological Warfare on 29 November and performers under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture on 30 November. — MNA

MNHRC Chairman joins 2nd Technical Working Group Meeting of SEANF

The second Technical Working Group Meeting of Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum is in progress.

THE second Technical Working Group Meeting of the Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF), in which the Myanmar National Human Right Commission (MNHRC) is a full-fledged member, was hosted by the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines, the alternate chairman for the 2022 forum, through a hybrid format on 28 and 29 September.

National human rights institution representatives from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines participated in the face-to-face meeting, together with representatives of Human Rights Commissions from Myanmar and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste through a virtual online platform. MNHRC Chairman U Hla Myint, Vice-Chairperson Dr Nandar Hmun, members U Paw Lwin Sein and Dr Than Myint, officials and staff.

During the meeting, attendees discussed actions and developments of national human rights institutions in member countries after the first meeting held in March 2022, the performance of national human rights institutions that took responsibility for the implementation of five prioritized issues from the SEANF Strategic Plan 2022-2026, the execution regarding "The Girls' Leadership Index and the APAC Girls" of the Plan International of the Philippines, cooperation issues between SEANF and FORUM-ASIA/ANNI in 2022-2023, and holding of the 19th annual meeting of SEANF.

At the working group meeting, MNHRC Member U Paw Lwin Sein discussed measures regarding human rights of the MNHRC after the period of the first working group meeting, followed by Deputy Director-General of the MNHRC office Dr Khine Khine Win, the implementations concerning the issue "promoting and protecting human rights in business" from the SEANF Strategic Plan 2022-2026.

The forum reached an initial agreement in the working group meeting to hold the 19th annual meeting of SEANF in a hybrid format between 29 November and 1 December. — MNA

ATOM to provide free healthcare consultancy services to users

ATOM, a telecom operator, plans to arrange the service of free calls for health consultancy round the clock without restrictions for Myanmar society.

"Customers have a chance to take consultancy on healthcare services from experts of Trust Oo Co Ltd round the clock through a hotline. It can be identified as Thadingyut healthcare gifts for ATOM users," said deputy chief executive officer U Win Paing Kyaw of ATOM.

A ceremony to sign the agreement on cooperation in healthcare consultancy between Trust Oo Co Ltd and ATOM at Yangon Sule Shangri-La Hotel on 30 September.

"ATOM users may call the hotline 7887 without restriction to seek the health consultancy from Trust Oo Co Ltd," said Managing Director U Swan Hsaung Oo of 7887 Healthcare Call Centre.

It was reported that ATOM users may start the hotline 7887 or apply ATOM Store App for healthcare consultancy as of 10 October. The healthcare consultancy comprises consultancy on symptoms of disease, reproductive health, beauty and healthy lifestyle, daily health advice, and guides to hospitals and clinics. Especially, the service will take measures not to leak the data between medical doctors and patients. — Aik Thon/GNLM

Officials are seen shaking hands after signing the agreement at the event. **PHOTO : AIK THON**

Terrorists attack civilian plane landing at Loikaw Airport

THE State Administration Council has a five-point roadmap in the process with nine objectives being established and the development of the country is continuously undertaken.

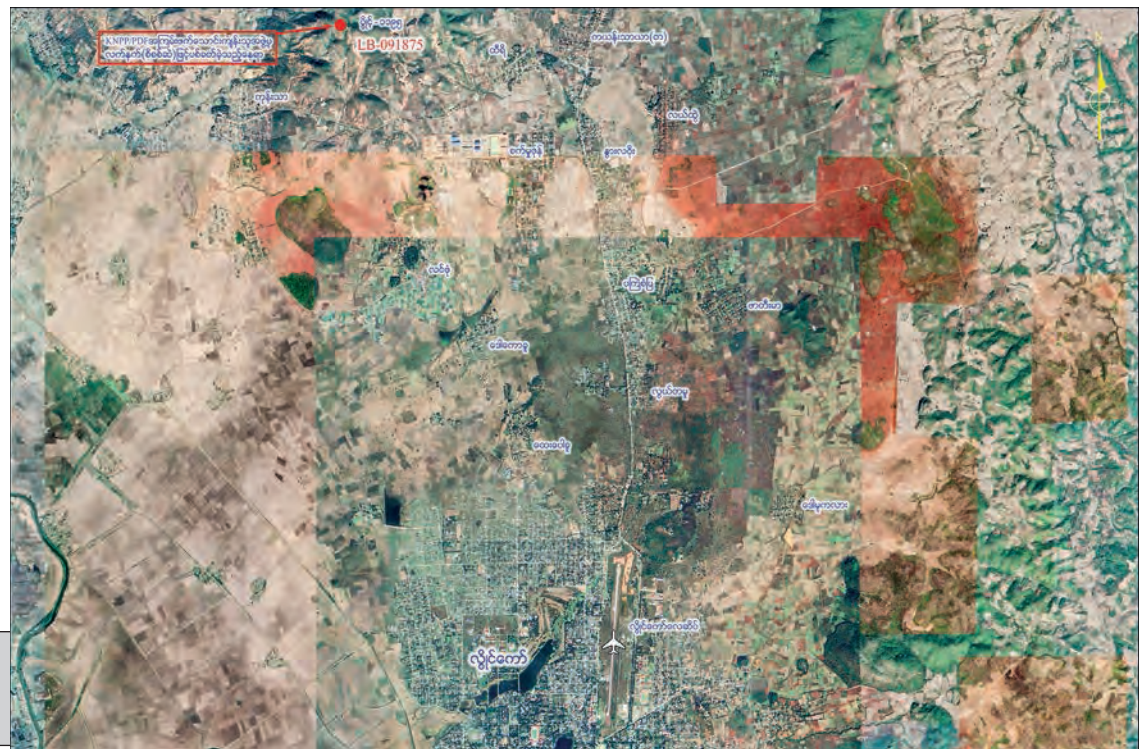
In addition, efforts are being made through peace talks and discussions with the aim of achieving durable peace.

However, KNPP and PDF terrorists in Kayah State often commit ambush shootings and explosions against the general public in order to disrupt the peace and stability of the area.

Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) operated the UB-149 flight for Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Loikaw-Yangon — XY-AML aircraft type ATR72-600 — carrying 63 passengers and flew to the airport according to the landing procedures to land at Loikaw Airport at about 8:45 am yesterday morning.

Terrorists fired with a weapon (under verification) that hit the left part of the aircraft fuselage caused a passenger injured with a bullet on the right cheek onboard the aircraft.

The injured passenger has been admitted to the Loikaw General Hospital for medical treatment, and it is reported that the security forces are continuing to conduct security operations around the area where the incident occurred. — MNA



Map of the incident site.

The aircraft in the aftermath of the terrorist attack.

The injured is pictured receiving medical treatment.

SAC Information Team Leader responds to the attack on passenger flight in Kayah State

LEADER of the SAC Information Team Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun responded to the attack of KNPP and PDF terrorists on a passenger flight in Kayah State on the morning of 30 September as follows: -

"Since years ago in Kayah State, the KNPP and PDF terrorists committed terror acts to hamper the peace and tranquillity in Loikaw. When the Tatmadaw conducts security measures, the KNPP and PDF disturb the operations and launch ambush attacks near the Loikaw airport constantly. Today, the XY-AML of Myanmar National Airlines that operates the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Loikaw-Yangon flight landed at 8:45 am at Loikaw Airport carrying 63 passengers. We carried out security measures near the airport to facilitate the Loikaw flight and public transport. When the aircraft was in its landing procedures, the KNPP and PDF terrorist groups opened fires from the north of the runway and the bullets passed through the fuselage of the aircraft. Then, a passenger sitting at the 18-A seat was injured in his right cheek and ear (not in critical condition)," he clarified.

He continued, "Although the plane was damaged to a certain extent, it landed successfully at Loikaw Airport due to the efforts of crews. The injured passenger is now under medical treatment at Loikaw General Hospital. After the proper maintenance, the plane left Loikaw this morning. Such an attack on passengers is a military crime, a criminal act. The public and organizations that want the peace and stability of the country should condemn such doing. When the flight fails, only the passengers are in trouble. It seems to cut the communication of local people. We released the statement in a timely manner this morning. The unscrupulous persons spread rumours regarding the flight online. Tatmadaw and regional security forces will keep doing the necessary things to ensure the transport is not to be stopped. We are now conducting appropriate security operations at certain places where terrorists can hide." — MNA

Over 8 mln gallons of fuel unloaded at Thilawa Port

MT Synergy docked at Thilawa Port and unloaded fuel oil as of 28 September at the terminals of the Thilawa Port in Thanlyin township, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

There were 2.45 million gallons of 92 gasoline and 6.14 million gallons of premium diesel on board the vessel, it was reported.

In addition, MT Yu Yi has been unloading 1.86 million gallons of diesel and 2.17 million gallons of premium diesel whereas MT Harmony One has been unloading 2.13 million gallons of 92 gasoline at the terminals of the Thilawa Port in the Yangon Region since 25 September.

In Yangon, prices of fuel do not drop below K2,000 per litre. On 30 September, 92 gasoline was priced at K2,060 per litre, 95 gasoline at K2,150 per litre, diesel at K2,575 per litre and premium diesel at K2,660 per litre, according to statistics. — TWA/GNLM

The photo shows a price sign at the petrol station in Yangon on 30 September.

Security forces will take serious action against perpetrators or groups that launch brutal attacks: Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun

Q: It is heard that you made a response to the attack on a passenger flight in Loikaw. I would like to ask how the security forces would take action against such a terrible attack.

A: International countries and the whole world regard terrorist attacks on public transport such as passenger flights, trains, and buses as a direct threat to the public. It is a direct act of terrorism to the public. The case in Loikaw is an attack on a passenger flight which carries 63 passengers. It left Yangon and flew at a lower level to land at Loikaw airport and circled the airport at 8:45 am. Meanwhile, it passed the places in the northern part of the airport where the KNPP and PDF terrorists are stationed. At that time, they shot the flight. The bullet pierced through into the cabin of the plane and one passenger was injured. After we released the statement, the unscrupulous media outlets misled the case as the attack occurred at the airport. There is a reason why they did that. As they know that the terrorist attack on public transport is a huge criminal case, they want to conceal the truth which is unconcealable. What I want to say is that the security forces will take serious action against the perpetrators or groups that launch such brutal attacks. —MNA

Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun.

364 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 30 September, total figure rises to 623,166

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **623,166** after **364** new cases were reported on 30 September 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **598,126** have been recovered from disease. Death toll reaches **19,459** after **one** death.

Myanmar reported 145 COVID-19 deaths between 28-1-2022 and 26-9-2022. Of them, 102 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, 81.4 per cent have received no vaccination at all and have not been fully inoculated, 17.2 per cent have received full vaccination and 1.4 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		
81.4 per cent	17.2 per cent	1.4 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

First 10 Days Weather Forecast for October 2022

Bay of Bengal Condition

Southwest monsoon is likely to withdrawal from Deltaic Areas during 3-7 of October and from Southern Myanmar areas during 8-12 October. Two low pressure areas may form over the Bay of Bengal and one may further intensify into the depressions. Weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy over the North Bay of Bangle and Monsoon will be weak over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

Rain Conditions and Rainy Days

Rain or thundershowers will be above normal in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States, below normal in Kachin State and above normal in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States.

Rain days are expected about six to eight days in Bago (East), Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions, Shan (South), Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and about three to five days in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago (West) Regions, Kachin, Shan (North and East) States.

Flood condition

The water level of Ayeyawady River at Myitkyina, Bhamo, Shwegu, Katha, Thabeikkyin, Mandalay, Sagaing, Myinmu, Pakokku, NyaungU, Chauk, Minbu, Magway, Aunglan and Pyay is observed as about half a foot and 2.5 feet below its current level, and it may reach half a foot above its current level at Seiktha, Hinthada and Zalun.

The water of Chindwin River at Khamti, Homalin, Phaungpyin, Mawlaik, Kalewa, Mingin, Kani and Monywa may reach one to two feet below its current level.

The water level of Dokhtawadi River water at Hsipaw, Shwesayan and Myitnge may reach between half a foot and one foot above its current level while between one to two feet of Sittoung River water at Taungoo and Madauk, about one foot of Shwegyin River at Shwegyin, between one to two feet of Bago River water at Zaungtuu and Bago, between half a foot and three feet of Thanlwin River water at Pasawng and Hpa-an, about three feet of Thaungyin River water at Myawady, about half a foot of Ngawun River water at Ngathaingchaung, Thaboung and Pathein, about one foot of Toe River water in Maubin, between half a foot and one foot of Kelantan River water at Paletwa and Kyauktaw, about half a foot of Lay Myo River water at MraukU and about half a foot of Bilin River water at Bilin and the water level of Myittha River may reach half a foot below of its current level at Kalay. —MNA

OPINION

Don't set aside older persons in society

SENIOR citizens are bearing uncountable experiences obtained from their lifetime while overcoming various challenges in solving physical and mental problems. How precious it is!

To serve the interests of all people and to shape the world peaceful, those senior citizens above 60 need to share their invaluable experiences with current and new generations to be able to accumulate knowledge useful for life in a short time. Those generations will have a chance to shrink the time in accumulating knowledge and experiences thanks to the older persons. If not, they need to spend their lifetime seeking experiences and knowledge.

As such, those generation people will have the opportunity to apply the accumulated experiences in the current era for the interests of all. They will have to add more experiences they themselves would face and obtain. If they have the capacity of seeking experiences from others, they will have more invaluable experiences than others. It will be the best relations between older senior citizens and new generation people. Actually, society is formed with both parties shaping daily life.

> All in all, society should give a chance to older people to show off their capacity and serve society with deserved encouragement. And, new generations should be nurtured with the help of older people based on their experiences.

The overall umbrella theme for the United Nations International Day of Older Persons in 2022 is "Resilience of Older Persons in a Changing World." It shows the capability of older people to face the challenges of a changing world. On the other ward, it proves that older people should not be set aside in society due to their amazing experiences and capacity in relevant arenas in which they can do things skillfully.

Older people know best what works for them. They are crucial agents of change and should be heard and involved in planning and action to achieve equity for all ages. They have a wealth of experience that they can share with the new generations to shape society into more developed and prosperous.

All societies across the world should have developed in balance by utilizing the invaluable experiences of older persons called senior citizens and the utmost efforts of new generations. In this regard, the older persons should have the capacity with invaluable experiences whereas new generation people must have the capacity to absorb skills and techniques handed over by the older people and efficiently utilize them in society.

All in all, society should give a chance to older people to show off their capacity and serve society with deserved encouragement. And, new generations should be nurtured with the help of older people based on their experiences.

■

ARTICLE
Weather Report

Innovation at a crossroads after pandemic: UN

The top 10 still counts only Western countries, with the exception of Singapore in seventh position, and showed improved performance by the United States, which moved up one spot to second place, ahead of Sweden and Britain.

FUNDING for innovation swelled during the Covid-19 pandemic, with significant growth in developing countries, the UN said Thursday, warning though that the current geopolitical turmoil was threatening the advances.

In a fresh report, the UN's World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) found that research and development spending and other investments that drive innovative activities continued to boom last year despite the still-raging pandemic.

"This is contrary to what we expected," WIPO chief Daren Tang told reporters, pointing out that during previous downturns, innovation spending plummeted.

But the global health crisis sparked an upsurge in innovation spending in "whole new areas", and in regions that do not usually receive a large share of such investments.

Research and development investment by the top corporate spenders swelled by nearly 10 per cent in 2021 to over $900 billion — higher than before the pandemic — with most going to areas including pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and information and communications technology.

Venture capital (VC) deals meanwhile "exploded" by nearly 50 per cent last year, recording levels comparable to the internet boom years of the late 1990s, WIPO said.

The greatest growth was seen in the Latin America, Caribbean and African regions.

2022 outlook 'clouded'

But WIPO warned that "the VC outlook for 2022 is more sober," with the geopolitical turmoil swirling around the war in Ukraine and the worsening food and energy security crises appearing to put a damper on spending.

WIPO also warned that the productivity that usually follows in the wake of an upsurge in funding of innovative activities like appeared to have stagnated.

"The global innovation economy is at a crossroads this year," Tang said.

"While innovation investments surged in 2020 and 2021, the outlook for 2022 is clouded not just by global uncertainties but continued underperformance in innovation-driven productivity."

His comments came as the UN agency published its annual ranking of the world's most innovative countries, with Switzerland topping the list for the 12th year running.

But the Global Innovation Index 2022 indicated that the innovation economy — which has long been heavily concentrated in North America and Western Europe — is gradually diversifying.

Dr Erik Lucero, Lead Engineer of Google Quantum AI, leads media on a tour of the Quantum Computing Lab at the Quantum AI campus in Goleta, California on 21 September 2022. **PHOTO: FREDERIC J. BROWN /AFP**

The top 10 still counts only Western countries, with the exception of Singapore in seventh position, and showed improved performance by the United States, which moved up one spot to second place, ahead of Sweden and Britain.

But China is swiftly closing in, moving up to 11th place from 12th last year, and from 34th a decade ago.

India and Türkiye both rose significantly in the ranking, making it into the top 40 for the first time.

The UN agency also highlighted how a number of developing countries, including Indonesia, Pakistan, Kenya, Brazil and Jamaica had performed "above expectation" on the innovation index relative to their level of economic development.

'Not reassuring'

Sacha Wunsch-Vincent, co-author of the report, hailed the "fresh oxygen" pumped into new markets with the surge in VC spending last year, voicing hope that "this oxygen will not be cut off."

So far in 2022, though, he said the picture "is not reassuring."

"We're going from one crisis to the next."

Asked how this could impact innovation, Tang acknowledged that geopolitical tensions do "affect the innovation ecosystem because… ideas need openness, collaboration to really bring them to the world."

At the same time, some sectors could see a boost in innovation, "because people need to overcome challenges", including supply chain disruptions.

Investments in green energy and food and agriculture-related technologies might "get a boost", he said, as countries strive for food and energy security.

SOURCE: AFP

Australian research reveals how COVID-19 damages heart

The study, published in Immunology, has found that while both COVID-19 and influenza are severe respiratory viruses, they appeared to affect cardiac tissue very differently.

A NEW research led by Australia's University of Queensland (UQ) has discovered how COVID-19 damages the heart, opening the door to future treatments.

The study, published in Immunology, has found that while both COVID-19 and influenza are severe respiratory viruses, they appeared to affect cardiac tissue very differently.

Actual cardiac tissues

The research used actual cardiac tissues collected during autopsies from seven COVID-19 patients from Brazil, two people who died from influenza and six control patients.

Initial study found that COVID-19 damaged the DNA in cardiac tissue, which wasn't detected in influenza samples.

"When we looked at the influenza cardiac tissue samples, we identified that it caused excess inflammation," UQ Professor John Fraser said in a statement issued by the university on Friday.

"Whereas we found COVID-19 attacked the heart's DNA, probably directly and not just as a knock-on from inflammation," he said.

"Our study has highlighted that the two viruses appear to affect cardiac tissue very differently, which we want to get a better understand of in larger cohort studies."

UQ Diamantina Institute researcher Arutha Kulasinghe said that during the study the researchers couldn't detect viral particles in the cardiac tissues of COVID-19 patients, but they found tissue changes associated with DNA damage and repair.

A healthcare worker tends to a patient on a ventilator in the Intensive Care Unit of Baptist Health Floyd on 7 September 2021 in New Albany, Indiana. **PHOTO: AFP**

Genomic instability

"DNA damage and repair mechanisms foster genomic instability and are related to chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancer, atherosclerosis and neurodegenerative disorders, so understanding why this is happening in COVID-19 patients is important," Kulasinghe said.

He said that in comparison to the 2009 flu pandemic, COVID-19 has led to more severe and long-term cardiovascular disease but what was causing that at a molecular level wasn't known.

"What we have categorically shown is that COVID is not 'just like the flu'," said Fraser.

"This study helps us understand how COVID-19 affects that heart, and that is the first step in working out what treatments might be best to repair that heart."

SOURCE: XINHUA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 30 September 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is cloudy over the northeast Bay of Bengal. Monsoon is strongto vigorous over the Andaman Sea and south Bay and weak elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 1 October 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in upper Sagaing region and Kachin, northern Shan states, fairly widespread in lower Sagaing, Mandalay regions, eastern Shan, Chin states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon states and isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, lower Sagaing, Magway, Yangon regions and Rakhine state. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squall with rough seas are likely at times in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (35- 40) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (8-10) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-TaninthayiCoasts and (4-7) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of increase of rain in Taninthayi region and Kayin, Mon states.

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SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

NASA, SpaceX study boosting Hubble to extend its lifespan

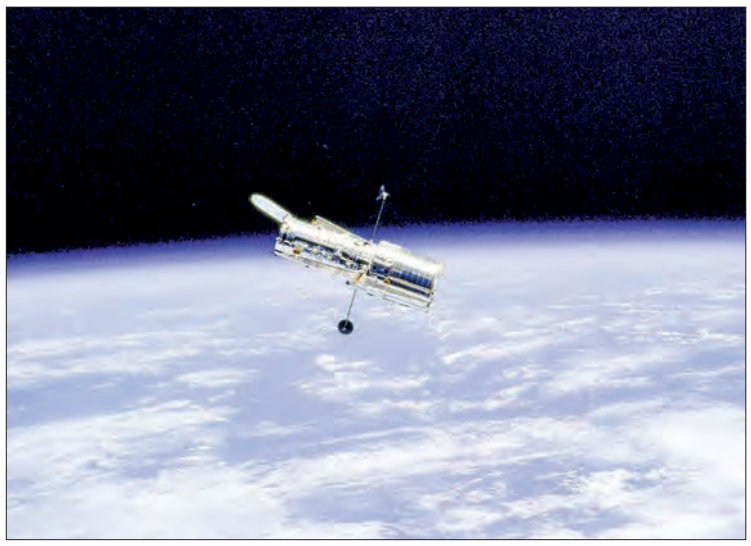
NASA and SpaceX have agreed to study the feasibility of awarding Elon Musk's company a contract to boost the Hubble Space Telescope to a higher orbit, with a goal of extending its lifespan, the US space agency said Thursday.

The renowned observatory has been operating since 1990 about 335 miles (540 kilometres) above Earth, in an orbit that slowly decays over time.

Hubble has no on-board propulsion to counter the small but still present atmospheric drag in this region of space, and its altitude has previously been restored during Space Shuttle missions.

The proposed new effort would involve a SpaceX Dragon capsule.

"A few months ago, SpaceX approached NASA with the idea for a study whether a commercial crew could help reboost our Hubble spacecraft," NASA's chief scientist Thomas Zurbuchen told reporters, adding the agency had agreed to the study at no cost to itself.



This 1997 NASA file image shows the Hubble Space Telescope as seen from the Space Shuttle Discovery. **PHOTO: NASA/AFP/FILE**

He stressed there are no concrete plans at present to conduct or fund such a mission until the technical challenges are better understood.

One of the main obstacles would be that the Dragon spacecraft, unlike the Space Shuttles, does not have a robotic arm and would need modifications for such a mission. SpaceX proposed the idea in partnership with the Polaris Programme, a private human spaceflight venture led by payments billionaire Jared Isaacman, who last year chartered a SpaceX Crew Dragon to orbit the Earth with three other private astronauts. "This would certainly fit within the parameters we established for the Polaris programme," Isaacman said in response to a question about whether reboosting Hubble could be the goal for a future Polaris mission.—AFP

Hurricane Ian dumped 10% more rain due to climate change: research

Vehicles float in the water after Hurricane Ian on 29 September 2022 in Bonita Springs, Florida. Hurricane Ian brought high winds, storm surge and rain to the area causing severe damage. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLIMATE change increased the rainfall from Hurricane Ian by more than 10 per cent, according to a new quick-fire analysis, as one of the most powerful storms ever to hit the United States devastated parts of Florida.

Ian "could be the deadliest hurricane in Florida history", President Joe Biden said after the storm brought ferocious winds, turned streets into churning rivers that swept away homes and left an unknown number of casualties.

According to a rapid and preliminary analysis, human-caused climate change increased the extreme rain that Ian unleashed by over 10 per cent, US scientists said.

"Climate change didn't cause the storm but it did cause it to be wetter," said Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's Michael Wehner, one of the scientists behind the new finding.

The researchers compared simulations of today's world — which has warmed nearly 1.2 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times — with counterfactual simulations of a world without human-induced climate change.

Wehner said these were "conservative estimates", adding that while they are not peer reviewed, they are based on methods used in a study on the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season, which was published in April in the journal Nature Communication.—AFP

Rich nations to face climate pressure at pre-COP27 talks in DR Congo

ENVIRONMENT ministers from some 50 countries gather in DR Congo on Monday for the pre-COP27 climate talks, with rich countries expected to come under pressure to contribute more to fight global warming.

The informal talks in the central African country's capital Kinshasa come ahead of the COP27 climate summit in Egypt, from 6-18 November.

Ministers and other delegates are expected to discuss points that could lead to impediments at the main summit.

But no formal announcements are expected at the pre-COP27 in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the country's climate negotiator Tosi Mpanu Mpanu told AFP.

A Western diplomat, who requested anonymity, said that since the COP and pre-COP are both being held in Africa "the emphasis will certainly be on support from industrialised countries to countries in the south".

The theme was also present during the 2021 COP26 climate talks in Glasgow, which ended with a pledge to keep global warming at 1.5 degrees centigrade compared to pre-industrial levels.— AFP

The informal talks in DR Congo's capital Kinshasa come ahead of the COP27 climate summit in Egypt from 6-18 November. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Germany says mass fish deaths in Oder river a 'man-made disaster'

GERMANY said Friday that mass fish deaths in the Oder river were a "man-made environmental disaster", blaming toxic algae growth sparked by the introduction of salt into the waters.

Presenting a report into the disaster that saw at least 300 tonnes of dead fish pulled from the river in Germany and Poland this summer, the German environment ministry said the most likely cause was "a sudden increase in salinity".

The "introduced salt" led to "massive proliferation of a brackish water algae that is toxic to fish", it said.

However, "due to a lack of available information, the experts had to leave open what caused the unnaturally high salt content", it added. German Environment Minister Steffi Lemke said it was clear that "human activity" was to blame.

Polish authorities had on Thursday released a separate report that also blamed toxic algae for the fish deaths.

But the Polish report said the disaster had most likely been caused by poor water quality as a result of high temperatures and very low water levels over the summer.

Poland and Germany have long been at odds over the disaster. Berlin initially accused Warsaw of failing to communicate the problem, while Poland slammed Germany for spreading "fake news" about the discovery of herbicides and pesticides in the water.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

SC says all women, married or unmarried, entitled to safe and legal abortion

The Supreme Court said that the distinction between married and unmarried women for the purposes of the MTP Act is "artificial and constitutionally unsustainable" and perpetuates the stereotype that only married women indulge in sexual activities. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PTI/ANI**

SUPREME Court in India on Thursday, in a landmark judgement, held that all women are entitled to safe and legal abortion. A bench headed by Justice DY Chandrachud said that the meaning of the rape must include marital rape for the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act.

The Supreme Court said that the distinction between married and unmarried women for the purposes of the MTP Act is "artificial and constitutionally unsustainable" and perpetuates the stereotype that only married women indulge in sexual activities.

The rights of reproductive autonomy give similar rights to unmarried women as that to a married woman, the bench held. Insisting on a "forward-looking" approach, the Supreme Court on 7 August opined that any discrimination between married and unmarried women in respect of the medical termination of pregnancy law in India that does not allow a single woman to go for abortion after 20 weeks, violates her personal autonomy.

The top court had said that it will interpret the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act and the related rules to see if unmarried women could be allowed to abort up to 24-week pregnancy on medical advice.—ANI

Indonesia approves first homegrown Covid-19 vaccine

INDONESIA has approved its first locally developed Covid-19 vaccine for emergency use, the head of the country's public health agency said Friday, hailing it as a step toward "the nation's independence in access to medicine".

Jakarta has stressed the importance of developing national vaccines since the beginning of the pandemic but it currently relies on China's Sinovac and the Western-made Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA jabs.

The IndoVac jab, developed by state-owned pharmaceutical company Bio Farma and Texas-based Baylor College of Medicine, can now be used as a primary dose for an unvaccinated or partially vaccinated adult in the world's fourth most-populous country.

"The development… of a domestic vaccine is a pride for us Indonesians as a foundation and as the first step to achieve the nation's independence in access to medicine," head of the national food and drugs agency (BPOM) Penny Lukito said at a press conference Friday.

A young woman receives the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine at a makeshift mass vaccination clinic on Indonesia's resort island of Bali. **PHOTO: SONNY TUMBELAKA/AFP**

The medical chief said IndoVac had shown an efficacy rate of 92 per cent, while there were no reports of death linked to it in trials and reported side effects were "generally mild".

A clinical study to use it as a booster jab is underway, Lukito said.

The agency also announced it had granted emergency use approval for an mRNA vaccine developed in China, becoming the first country to do so.

The inoculation developed by Walvax Biotechnology will be locally produced in Indonesia, the BPOM chief said.

The homegrown IndoVac jab has been granted a halal certificate, meaning it can be administered in line with the Islamic faith in Muslim-majority Indonesia.—AFP

Germany's public debt rises again due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic

GERMANY'S public debt increased by 25 billion euros (24 billion US dollars) in the second quarter (Q2) of 2022 to 2.34 trillion euros, the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) said on Wednesday.

While government debt fell slightly at the start of the year, Europe's largest economy has seen a "continued increase in the financing requirements of the federal government and its special funds as a result of the ongoing pandemic situation," Destatis explained.

Germany is aiming to return to a balanced budget in 2023, and therefore will apply the "debt brake" which prevents new borrowing for the first time since 2020.

Despite financing extensive inflation relief packages, Federal Minister of Finance Christian Lindner wants to stick to the reintroduction of the debt brake next year. "Fighting inflation is different from fighting a COVID-19 pandemic," he told public broadcaster ARD earlier this month.—Xinhua

People queue for vaccination jabs at a shopping mall in south-western Germany. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi Arabia introduces Yoga in Universities

A virtual introductory lecture on Yoga was organized for all Saudi university representatives across the kingdom to spread awareness and motivate its practice as a lifestyle for all segments of society.

The lecture, organized on Monday, aimed to introduce both traditional yoga and yogasana sports to Saudi universities and give a variety of options to the students on university campuses to practice yoga, the Saudi Gazette reported.

The lecture covered both mental and physical health and plans to join professional yogasana sports training to be part of competitions locally and internationally.—ANI

US finds monkeypox vaccine highly effective in early data

THE monkeypox vaccine is highly effective, protecting people as early as two weeks after the first dose, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said Wednesday.

A preliminary analysis posted by the agency found that between 31 July and 3 September, unvaccinated people had 14 times the risk of acquiring monkeypox disease compared to people who were vaccinated, 14 days or more after their first shot.

The results were based on confirmed infections from 32 jurisdictions across the country. The US has seen more than 25,000 cases in the current outbreak, which began in May this year and has primarily affected men who have sex with men.—AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan's digital minister says he's ready for a fight

Kono is a political heavyweight who ran unsuccessfully for party leadership. **PHOTO: AFP**

JAPAN'S media-savvy digital minister said Friday he's ready to take an iron-fisted approach to speed up the nation's slow embrace of online services at government offices and workplaces.

Taro Kono — a political heavyweight who has been minister of defence, foreign affairs and Covid vaccines — has already declared war on fax machines, floppy disks and other obsolete technologies that are still common in the world's third-largest economy.

"I have no plan to be a coordinator. If there are people who have a problem with it, I will beat them up," he quipped in an online interview with a small group of journalists.

"The pandemic forced everyone to acknowledge that Japan's digitalization has been slow," added Kono.

"It has become crystal clear, compared with other countries, how difficult it is to do business and to conduct daily affairs."

Japan is often internationally considered a byword for high-tech, but fax machines are still routinely used by businesses and households along with email and texting apps.

Floppy disks and CD-ROMs are less visible to consumers, but some official documents are legally required to be stored in these outdated formats.

"Throughout Covid, we have seen so many countries move their government procedures onto digital platforms," Kono said.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Swiss franc's surge against the euro a boon for business

THE Swiss franc is breaking records against the euro, giving the Swiss economy a temporary boost as central banks battle inflation — although experts remain cautious about the months ahead.

Seen as a safe haven, the Swiss currency briefly hit a high of 0.94 francs to the euro on Monday following the Italian general election.

While it has since eased back a little, it is nevertheless at the highest levels since the launch of the single currency more than 20 years ago, outside a brief flash crash in 2015.

"It's more about the weakness of the euro than the strength of the Swiss franc," Credit Suisse economist Maxime Botteron told AFP, citing the franc's steadier performance against the US dollar.

"European growth is showing signs of running out of steam, even recession," he said, noting that "these indicators come in a context where the Swiss National Bank (SNB) has changed its monetary policy". Switzerland's central bank has abandoned the negative rate it has imposed since 2015 to combat the overvaluation of its currency.— AFP

Macron government lays out reform timeline amid strike

THE French government vowed on Thursday to push through pension reform by the end of the winter despite fierce opposition from unions whose first major day of strikes failed to have much impact.

A nationwide day of stoppages called by the CGT union on Thursday — the first since President Emmanuel Macron was re-elected in April — caused some disruption, but was not widely followed.

Several unions, including the country's biggest, did not take part, although all of them are gearing up for a months-long battle over efforts to raise the pension age.

Macron made raising the retirement age from its current level of 62 one of the key planks of his re-election campaign, arguing that the current system was unsustainable and too expensive.

"All the unions in France are against working up to 64 or 65 years. Because it's stupid," the head of the CGT union, Philippe Martinez, told France 2.

Left-wing political parties have called their own separate rallies on 16 October to demand pay rises and an end to the planned pension changes.—AFP

Businesses warn EU energy prices could shut 'thousands' of firms

HIGH gas and electricity costs pose an imminent threat to thousands of EU firms and Brussels must act quickly to soften the blow, the Confederation of European Business said on Thursday.

"The current state of high gas and electricity prices bears the imminent risk of production losses and shutdowns of thousands of European companies," the business lobby wrote in an open letter to EU chief Ursula von der Leyen. "Urgently finding ways at EU level to mitigate the impact of crippling energy prices faced by European business is a matter of survival." The EU's executive and the bloc's 27 member states are scrambling to come up with ways to lessen the hit from the soaring costs.

Norway's Yara, one of the world's largest fertilizer makers, is curtailing its ammonia and urea output in Italy and France due to the surge in natural gas prices. **PHOTO: YARA/FILE**

Energy ministers from around the bloc are meeting in Brussels on Friday amid a push by some nations to establish a price cap on the cost of gas. But stark differences in the energy mixes of EU countries is making finding a common solution a major challenge. — AFP

UK's PM defends 'difficult' tax cuts despite market turmoil

Liz Truss is under severe pressure after the markets reacted to her government's tax cuts by sending the pound to an all-time low against the dollar. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

UK Prime Minister Liz Truss on Thursday defended her tax cutting policy after days of silence during which markets tanked and the Bank of England was forced into an emergency intervention.

"We had to take urgent action to get our economy growing, get Britain moving, and also deal with inflation," she said in a round of local BBC radio interviews.

"And of course, that means taking controversial and difficult decisions, but I'm prepared to do that as prime minister," she said in her first comments to UK media since the crisis sparked by Friday's "mini-budget".

"It's important the United Kingdom's on the front foot, that we are pulling all the levers we can to drive economic growth. That is what we are pushing ahead with."— AFP

Google shutting down cloud gaming service Stadia

GOOGLE on Thursday said it is shutting down Stadia, the cloud video game service it launched three years ago to let people access console-quality play as easily as they do email.

"It hasn't gained the traction with users that we expected so we've made the difficult decision to begin winding down our Stadia streaming service," Google vice-president Phil Harrison said in a blog post.

The new Google Stadia gaming system controller is displayed during a Google launch event on 15 October 2019 in New York. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Google said it will refund purchases of Stadia hardware, such as controllers, as well as game content bought through its online store, and that players will have access to the service through 18 January of next year, he added.

"They had a great idea and a bad business model," Wedbush Securities analyst Michael Pachter said of Stadia. "They tried to offer the service as a subscription without games."

Xbox-maker Microsoft, meanwhile, offered a rival Game Pass service "with a ton of games", making it a more tempting option for players, Pachter said.— AFP

S.Korea's business sentiment falls in September

SENTIMENT among South Korean businesses over economic situations fell in September due to rising worry about economic downturn, central bank data showed Thursday.

The business sentiment index (BSI) retreated 3 points over the month to 78 in September, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

The worsened sentiment came as interest rate hikes in major economies boosted concerns about economic slump.

The BSI among manufacturers declined 6 points from a month earlier to 74 in September, while the index for non-manufacturers slipped 1 point to 81.— Xinhua

Staff members conduct disinfection operation at the platform of a railway station in Seoul, South Korea, 25 Feb 2020. **PHOTO: NEWSIS/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA/FILE**

Meta to freeze hiring to tighten budget: report

FACEBOOK-PARENT Meta put out word to employees on Thursday that it will freeze hiring to cut costs as it endures tough economic times, The Wall Street Journal reported.

Meta chief Mark Zuckerberg revealed a planned pause in hiring during a weekly all-hands meeting, the Journal reported, saying the move came as the social media titan planned to cut expenses by at least 10 per cent.

Meta declined to comment on the report, instead referring AFP to remarks Zuckerberg made in July when the company reported its first quarterly revenue drop and a plunging profit. Zuckerberg said during an earnings call that teams would shrink in order to "reallocate our energy" as it battled a turbulent economy and the rising phenomenon of TikTok.

Meta had long delivered seemingly endless upward growth, but reported early this year its first decline in global daily users.

"This is a period that demands more intensity, and I expect us to get more done with fewer resources," Zuckerberg told analysts during an earnings call. Big tech platforms have been suffering from the economic climate, which is forcing advertisers to cut back on marketing budgets, and Apple's data privacy changes, which have reduced leeway for ad personalization.—AFP

China's non-manufacturing PMI down in September

THE purchasing managers' index (PMI) for China's non-manufacturing sector came in at 50.6 in September, down from 52.6 in August, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said Friday.

A reading above 50 indicates expansion, while a reading below reflects contraction. The construction sector maintained brisk expansion in September, with the sub-index for business activities reaching 60.2, 3.7 percentage points higher than the August level, according to the NBS.

NBS senior statistician, Zhao Qinghe, cited the business activities sub-index for civil works had reached a four-month high of 61 this month and that the recent policy support has prompted the progress of infrastructure projects and activities in the construction sector.

The service sector was weaker this month as the epidemic and other factors weighed on market activities. The sub-index for business activities declined three percentage points from last month to 48.9.

Zhao attributed the decline to tepid performance in consumer service businesses such as retailing, aviation, transportation, hospitality, catering, and resident services.— Xinhua

Invitation For Open tender No. (1/2022-2023)

1. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Department of Mines invites to submit the tender quotation sale open tender of (1,000) Metric Tons at Monywa Mine Site, each lot contain (100) Metric Tons, (10) Lots of Cathode Copper by United States Dollar.
2. Base price of Cathode Copper shall be based on the Unknown price of the Copper at the London Metal Exchange on the opening day of the tender. The highest proposal amount (Premium amount added to the LME price and deduction of transportation and handling expenses) shall be winning tender.
3. The closing date and time of the tender is 18-10-2022 at (14:00) hours and opening time of tender is at (15:00) hours that day.
4. For any further detailed information, it is requested to contact the telephone number (+95) 67 3409378 and (+95) 67 3409372, Mineral Development Division, Department of Mines, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Tender Committee
Department of Mines
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MCL 16 VOY.NO. (09/28)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 16 VOY. NO. (09/28)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT-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 BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V PROGRESS VOY.NO. (N030)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PROGRESS VOY.NO. (N030)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-10-2022** 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 INTER ASIA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V PNT MIGHTY VOY.NO. (07-22)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PNT MIGHTY VOY.NO. (07-22)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-10-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT-1** 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 RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Pope says played part in Ukraine-Russia prisoner swap

POPE Francis played a part in the release of some 300 Ukrainian prisoners held by Russia, he said in an interview published Thursday in a Jesuit magazine.

Francis said he had received "Ukrainian emissaries" at the Vatican, including a military chief who brought with him a list "of more than 300 prisoners".

"They asked me to do something so that an exchange could be made," the pope said according to a transcript of the September 15 interview published by the Italian Jesuit magazine Civilta Cattolica. "I immediately called the Russian ambassador to see if something could be done, if an exchange of prisoners could be expedited," he added, without providing any further details.

Ukrainian servicemen rest on their position not far from the Ukrainian town of Chuguiv, in Kharkiv region on 9 June 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ukraine on 22 September announced the exchange of a record-high 215 imprisoned soldiers with Russia, including fighters who led the defence of Mariupol's Azovstal steelworks.

Russia received 55 prisoners in what was the biggest exchange between the warring sides since the start of Russia's invasion in February.—AFP

Kremlin set to annex four Ukraine territories at ceremony

RUSSIA is expected to annex four occupied regions of Ukraine at a lavish Kremlin ceremony on Friday that follows a threat by President Vladimir Putin to use nuclear weapons in their defence.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that the annexations would be formalized at the ceremony and Putin would deliver a "major" speech.

It comes after foreign leaders critical of Russia voiced their opposition to the plan, with US President Joe Biden saying the United States would "never, never, never" recognize Russian sovereignty over the territories.

The Kremlin's atomic threats have not deterred a sweeping Ukrainian counter-offensive, which has been pushing back Russian troops in the east.

Kyiv's forces are on the doorstep of the Donetsk region town of Lyman, which Moscow's forces pummelled for weeks before capturing it this summer. Putin has blamed the war in Ukraine on the West and said simmering conflicts in the former Soviet Union were the result of its collapse.

The rhetoric built on his now famous phrase that the fall of the USSR was a tragedy, and he has recently suggested Moscow should again extend its influence over the former Soviet region.—AFP

Four regions of Ukraine - Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia - would be folded into Russia during a Kremlin ceremony attended by President Vladimir Putin. **PHOTO: AFP**

Montenegro expels Russian diplomats, Kremlin shuts consulate

MONTENEGRO ordered the expulsion of six Russian diplomats Thursday amid a major investigation into alleged spying, prompting Moscow to shutter its consulate in the Balkan nation.

The six, who worked for the Russian embassy in Podgorica, were declared persona non grata due to "activities that are contrary to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations", the foreign ministry tweeted.

Moscow retaliated by closing its consulate in Montenegro "indefinitely", Russia's embassy in the small Balkan nation said in a statement.

"In relation with hostile actions by Montenegrin authorities towards the Russian embassy in Montenegro, working of consular department in Podgorica is closed indefinitely," Russia's embassy in Podgorica said.

Earlier, Montenegro launched an investigation into an unspecified number of people suspected of espionage, state prosecutors said while local media reported a link to Russian spying.—AFP

WORLD: TOP STORIES

'Democracy on the ballot' as Brazil holds divisive vote

AFTER a polarizing campaign, Brazil votes for its next president Sunday in a combative heavyweight bout threatening to test its young democracy: far-right incumbent Jair Bolsonaro versus leftist former leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Lula, the charismatic but tarnished ex-metalworker who led Brazil through an economic boom from 2003 to 2010, leads in the polls, seeking to stage a stunning comeback four years after being jailed on controversial corruption convictions -- since annulled by the Supreme Court.

Bolsonaro, the pugnacious ex-army captain whose popularity has suffered from the carnage of Covid-19 and a sputtering economy, is gunning for a come-from-behind win and has strongly hinted he would not accept a loss.—AFP

"What's at stake is democracy versus fascism," the gravelly voiced 76-year-old Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva told a cheering crowd decked out in the red of his Workers' Party (PT) at a rally last month. **PHOTO: AFP**

Anti-war novel banned by Nazis revived through German eyes

BANNED by the Nazis for its anti-war message, the classic novel "All Quiet on the Western Front" is getting a Netflix revival with lessons for a new troubled age.

The nearly century-old book, already the subject of an Oscar-winning film and an acclaimed TV movie, is being brought to the screen for the first time by a German director.

"My film stands out from American or British (war) films made from the point of view of the victors," film-maker Edward Berger, 52, told AFP.

"In Germany, there is always this feeling of shame, mourning and guilt (surrounding war). It was important for me to present this perspective."

Published in 1929, the novel by Erich Maria Remarque depicts the experiences of a teenage German soldier during World War I.

It is one of the most influential examples of anti-militaristic literature ever written, translated into over 60 languages and selling more than 50 million copies worldwide.—AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Thai court rules Prayut can stay on as prime minister

THAILAND'S Constitutional Court ruled Friday that Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha can stay on in his job, after suspending him from the post in August amid a dispute over the duration of his tenure.

With the current Constitution stipulating that the premier can serve for a total of eight years, the opposition asked the court to rule on whether the former coup leader had already done so, including as interim prime minister of a junta government following the 2014 coup.

A majority decision

In a majority decision, the court ruled that his term as prime minister began in April 2017, when the current Constitution was promulgated. He was re-elected prime minister in June 2019 following a general election held under the new charter.

Since the court on 24 Aug suspended Prayut from performing his duties as premier, Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwon has been serving as acting prime minister.

Under the 2017 Thai constitution, a prime minister cannot serve more than eight years in office, but Prayut's supporters and critics disagree as to when his term began. **PHOTO: JACK TAYLOR/AFP**

Interim premiership became effective

Anti-government activists have threatened to protest if the court allows Prayut to continue as prime minister, claiming his tenure had started in August 2014 when his interim premiership became effective. As army chief, Prayut had led the coup that toppled a civilian government in May that year.—Kyodo

Lebanon fails to elect new president as political crisis deepens

Lebanese lawmakers cast their ballots in a first round of voting for a successor to outgoing head of state Michel Aoun. **PHOTO: IBRAHIM AMRO/AFP**

LEBANON'S parliament failed to elect a new president after a first round of voting Thursday amid deep divisions over a replacement for Michel Aoun whose term expires next month.

A majority of lawmakers cast blank ballots, suggesting the election process is likely to drag on, an outcome Lebanon can ill afford as it wrestles with a crippling financial crisis.

Speaker Nabih Berri said he would call a new session of parliament "when an agreement is reached on the next president" -- a process that could take months in a country where constitutional deadlines are routinely missed.

Thursday's session was attended by 122 of parliament's 128 members, of whom 66 cast blank ballots.

Christian politician Michel Moawad, the son of former president Rene Moawad, emerged as the front-runner but his 36 votes fell well short of the 86 needed to win in the first round.

Under Lebanon's longstanding confessional power-sharing system, the presidency is reserved for a Maronite Christian.—AFP

Fire in Paraguay elections office destroys thousands of vote machines

A fire broke out Thursday at Paraguay's Superior Court of Elections, destroying thousands of electronic ballot boxes and other equipment only two months ahead of the South American country's presidential primaries, officials said.

"So far we have lost 8,500 electoral machines, notebooks, electoral material, but we guarantee citizens that the December elections will take place as planned," Jamie Bestard, the judicial body's president, said from outside the burned building in Asuncion. Two court officials, who are missing, are being sought by authorities, national police chief Gilberto Fleitas said.

More than 300 personnel were deployed to Paraguay's Superior Court of Elections to fight the flames, which were brought under control after six hours. **PHOTO: DANISH DEFENCE/AFP /HANDOUT**

More than 300 firefighters were deployed to the scene to fight the flames, which were brought under control after six hours.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK's Royal Mint reveals coin portrait of King Charles III

BRITAIN'S Royal Mint on Friday unveiled the official effigy of King Charles III that will appear on coins following his accession to the throne.

The effigy is the work of British sculptor Martin Jennings and was personally approved by the new king.

The first coins bearing the king's portrait will be a special £5 coin and a 50 pence coin commemorating the life of Queen Elizabeth II.

Jennings said his portrait was sculpted from a photograph of the Charles.

"It is the smallest work I have created, but it is humbling to know it will be seen and held by people around the world for centuries to come," he said.

In line with royal tradition, Charles's portrait faces to the left, the opposite direction to his late mother.

A Latin inscription surrounding the effigy translates as "King Charles III, by the Grace of God, Defender of the Faith".

The image of Charles will begin to appear on coins in circulation and on commemorative pieces in the coming months, the Royal Mint said in a statement. Two new portraits of Elizabeth will feature on the reverse of the commemorative five pound coin.—AFP

Suicide blast kills 19 at education centre in Afghan capital

A suicide bomb attack at a learning centre in the Afghan capital on Friday killed 19 people as students prepared for university entrance exams, police said.

The blast happened in the Dasht-e-Barchi neighbourhood of western Kabul, a predominantly Shiite Muslim area home to the minority Hazara community, the targets of some of Afghanistan's most deadly attacks.

"Students were preparing for an exam when a suicide bomber struck at this educational centre. Unfortunately, 19 people have been martyred and 27 others wounded," Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadran said.

Kaaj Higher Educational Centre coaches students, mainly adult men and women, to prepare for university entrance exams.

Families rushed to area hospitals, where ambulances were arriving with victims and lists of those confirmed dead and wounded were posted to the walls.

"We didn't find her here," a distressed woman looking for her sister at one of the hospitals told AFP. "She was 19 years old."— AFP

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SPORT

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.

Myanmar traditional boxing championship for newcomers to be held in Yangon

THE new generation Myanmar traditional boxing challenge organized by 360 Fight Club (III) will be held at Theinbyu Boxing Hall in Yangon at 1 pm on 2 October 2022.

In the 50-kilo men's event, Buthi (Smart Fight Club) will fight against Zwe Thakhon (Zwe Myanmar).

In the 55-kilo men's event, Awbar Sein (Zartimhan) will take on Pyae Sone (Holy Power), while Ye Mhan (YMCA) will face Saw Le Ye (Yoyar Kyar).

In the other 55-kilo bout, Nay Lin (Zwe Myanmar) will fight against Bran Seng (Python) while Kyaw Lin Aung (BBH) will face Salai Min Naing (Fighting Fight Club)

In the 60-63 kilo Men's event, Saw Kay Yoo Htoo (Yoe Yar Kyar) will face Zwe Yan Naing (BBH) while Tun Lin Aung (Kyar Manaing) will take on Saw Steive (Yangon Fight Club).

In the other 60-63 kilo bouts, Joe Joe (BBH) will face Nyi Ye Khant (Yangon Fight Club) and Min Khant (Lone Chaw) will fight with Saw Solomon (Yoe Yar Kyar) while Min Htet Kyaw (Nagar Marn) will battle with Myo Aung (RAY).

In the 67-70 kilo event, Zaw Thet Naung (Smart Fight Club) will fight with Mike Mike (Zarti Marn) and Paing Soe Oo (OSCAR) will take on Min Aung Kyaw (STL).

In the 73-76 kilo event, Wunna Gyi (Transcend) will fight against Tun Min Aung (alias) Tun Tun Min.

The new generation boxing tournament will be held for the third time, and match 1 and match 2 will be youth matches and are popular among fans.

In this competition, the special challenge of Tun Min Aung, younger brother of Myanmar boxing legend Tun Tun Min, and Wunna Gyi, a new generation of great fighter Bobo Hlaing, will enter and fight in 13 shifts.

The new generation challenge organized by 360 Fight Club (III) will be broadcast live on 360 Sports Facebook Page, 360 Sports YouTube Channel and Channel K, an official said.
— Bala Soe/ GNLM

Newcastle sign teenage Australia striker Kuol

NEWCASTLE have reached an agreement to sign teenage striker Garang Kuol from Australian A-League side Central Coast Mariners in January, the Premier League club announced on Friday.

Kuol, 18, made his international debut for Australia against New Zealand last week, becoming the youngest Socceroo since Harry Kewell in 1996.

Born in Egypt, Kuol moved to Australia with his family as a refugee and joined the Mariners' youth system in January 2021.

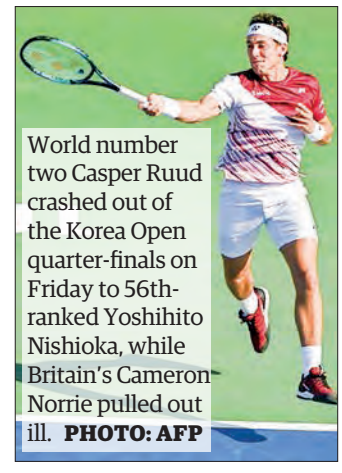
He only made his A-League debut for the Mariners in April but made an immediate impression, scoring four goals in his first seven appearances as a substitute. Kuol told Newcastle's official website: "It's unreal. As a young boy in Australia, the Premier League is the main thing that everyone watches but nobody actually thinks they'll reach those heights.— AFP

Stunned Ruud follows ill Norrie out of Korea Open

WORLD number two Casper Ruud crashed out of the Korea Open quarter-finals on Friday to 56th-ranked Yoshihito Nishioka, while Britain's Cameron Norrie pulled out ill.

Japan's Nishioka had the top seed and US Open finalist on the back foot from the start, breaking his first service game without allowing the Norwegian to take a point before powering to the first set 6-2.

Ruud rallied to take the second set 6-3 but was outclassed in the third set as Nishioka won it 6-2 to take a shock victory in just under two hours in Seoul. Nishioka will face either Mackenzie McDonald of the United States or Aleksandar Kovacevic from Serbia in the semi-finals. "It was an unfortunate result but that's how it is sometimes," said the 23-year-old Ruud, who was also the runner-up at the French Open.—AFP



World number two Casper Ruud crashed out of the Korea Open quarter-finals on Friday to 56th-ranked Yoshihito Nishioka, while Britain's Cameron Norrie pulled out ill. **PHOTO: AFP**