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.

SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends Diamond Jubilee Medical Corps Day

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee Medical Corps Day in Yangon on 1 October 2022.

THE Diamond Jubilee Medical Corps Day was held yesterday morning in the convocation hall of the Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences in Yangon, and State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended Diamond Jubilee Medical Corps Day. Also present on the Diamond Jubilee occasion were Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung and high-ranking officers from the office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe, Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay and responsible officials, the retired high-ranking officers from the Medical Corps, members of the Defence Services Medical Corps, responsible personnel from the Ministry of Health, the Myanmar Medical Council Chairman and the Myanmar Medical Practitioners Association Chairman.

First of all, Lt-Gen Thet Pon from the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Kyaw Swar Lin and Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe formally opened the ceremony marking Diamond Jubilee Medical Corps Day whereas the SAC Chairman Defence Services C-in-C formally unveiled the signboard bearing the phrase 'Medical Corps Day', pushing the button. Afterwards, the C-in-C posed for a group photograph.

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Next, the Senior General delivered a speech in honour of the members of the Medical Corps, both the retired personnel and those who are still in service. He noted that this special occasion was born out of the period of independent struggle alongside Myanmar Tatmadaw, that he was proud of the service personnel's keeping of the noble, historical traditions till this day of the Diamond Jubilee, that with the attainment of independence getting near, a medical corps was needed was therefore established on 1 October 1947 and that since then, the day of the establishment was designated as Medical Corps Day.

The Senior General views the display at the event.

The Senior General presses the button to inaugurate the Special Care Centre.

The Senior General went on to say that just as the members of the Medical Corps had exerted their utmost effort in the independence struggle, they also had participated actively in the military operations launched in the post-independence period, that the Insein battle and anti-Kuomintang battle were the major military operations, that the history of the medical corps had witnessed the medical personnel have sacrificed their lives and limbs during the military operations and that Captain Thura Mon Htaw Thet Nyunt was one among those who had made supreme sacrifices, that the medical personnel had to provide medical care to the officers and other ranks and their family members in addition to providing the medical cover in the front line and that they even provided medical treatment to the civilian local people at the Tatmadaw hospitals.

Afterwards, the Senior General explained the upgrading of the military hospitals in which advanced surgical operations were being provided, keeping abreast of the world's hospitals. He said that it is heartening to learn that organ transplants can now be done, that the first historic liver transplant had been performed successfully, that people from all regions can now have access to quality medical care and that there is no medical treatment that the physicians and surgeons from the military medical corps cannot conduct.

Next, the Senior General said that the Nurses Training Wing was first founded in 1959 to produce the trained nurses and now altogether 16 batches had been opened, that similarly, the National Service (Medical Officer) training courses were conducted, that after the 1990s, Defence Services Medical Academy, the Defence Services Nursing Institute and the Defence Services Paramedical Institute were also opened and that such efforts were aimed at developing the human resources.

The Senior General observes the explanation about the first-ever successful liver implant.

The SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services also pointed out that the members of the military medical corps were seen actively rendering their medical cover during the outbreak of the natural disasters and that Nargis and Giri were the most obvious examples. He went on to say that the medical corps was also providing healthcare at the mobile clinics, that they were quite helpful in the peak period of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, and that the medical corps had also cooperated with the international community to widen the scope of knowledge so that they can provide better quality medical care, that the medical corps had also sent its members to the International Conference of Military Medical Schools-ICMMS and the International Committee of Military Medicine-ICMM, that the medical personnel were also sent to Russia beginning from 2018 to participate in the medical skills competitions, that in 2022, the Medical Rally Event in the International Army Game in Russia invited Myanmar and that during the past 75 years, it was found that the medical corps members had been awarded titles and medals for their outstanding performance.

In conclusion, the Senior General called on the members of the Defence Services Medical Corps to hold their noble traditions and continue to provide medical treatment and healthcare services to their utmost.

Afterwards, Director of Defence Medical Services Maj-Gen Ko Ko Lwin explained the background history of the Medical Corps, followed by a presentation of the documentary video marking the diamond jubilee. Next, a musical performance was conducted. Then, the Senior General was presented with the gift of honour by the director.

Earlier in the morning, the Senior General visited the 1,000-bedded Defence Services General Hospital No 1 to attend the opening ceremony of the eight-storey Special Care Centre. The ceremonial ribbon was then cut to formally open the new centre. Next, the SAC Chairman unveiled the signboard, pushing the button. Afterwards, he posed for a group photo. The Medical Superintendent explained the reasons for the construction of the new medical centre.

The Senior General pointed out the measures that needed to be taken and gave the presents to the officials concerned. – MNA

Committing electoral fraud and using unscrupulous ways to fix the election will tarnish the image of the State and delay the democratic process of the country

The election is a national duty linked to the prestige of the State. Only when the election is free and fair, will multiparty democracy desired by the people flourish and only then will the nation have higher prestige in political history and among the international community. Committing electoral fraud and using unscrupulous ways to fix the election will tarnish the image of the State and delay the democratic process of the country. The voting fraud in the 2020 multiparty democracy general election tarnished the image of the State's efforts to achieve a democratic culture.

(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.)

Agriculture and livestock zones must produce meat, fish, eggs and vegetables to meet the demand of Yangon Region: Senior General

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hears the report on the 26th-mile multiple agriculture and livestock zone yesterday.

LIVESTOCK zones must be extended in the townships outside the municipal area of Yangon City, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on his inspection tour of the 26th-mile multiple agriculture and livestock zone of Myanmar Economic Corporation near the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway yesterday.

Chairman of MEC Lt-Gen Nyo Saw and Deputy Managing Director U Han Zaw reported on the implementation of the 26th-mile zone and Thilawa zone, farming of dairy cows and beef cattle, cultivation of grass for feedstuffs, growing of banana and rubber plantations, poultry and fish farming works, production of feedstuffs and dairy products at fair prices.

The Senior General looks around the dairy cows and beef cattle farm.

In his response to the reports, the Senior General stressed that agriculture and livestock zones must produce meat, fish, eggs and vegetables to meet the demand of the Yangon Region. Livestock zones must be extended in the townships outside the municipal area of Yangon City. The Tatmadaw is fulfilling the needs of the people as much as possible, and the government plans to provide more assistance to them and issue the capital to livestock farmers.

The primary aim of the 26th-mile farm is to meet the local demand for rubber. Hence, it is necessary to produce rubber latex for meeting the demand of local rubber factories. Duck farming tasks must be done through research works on a wider scale. Products from the farm must be sold to people at fair prices depending on the market demand.

The Senior General then visited the farm and viewed round dairy cows and beef cows farming, the function of the feedstuffs factory and production of dairy products, and the implementation of agriculture and livestock farming tasks and left the necessary instructions. — MNA

MPF members should strive for becoming public reliable law enforcers while serving duties in line with police disciplines and ethics: Vice-Senior General

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the 58th Anniversary of the Myanmar Police Force in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 October 2022.

ALL retired police must be organized as a force of the State, said Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the ceremony to mark the 58th Anniversary of the Myanmar Police Force at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General said the Myanmar Police Force in successive eras has been implementing four objectives: to take security measures and peace and tranquillity of the region, ensure the prevalence of law and order, prevent narcotic drugs and carry out public welfare tasks.

As breaking the existing laws, decreasing and increasing crimes depend on social problems, low standard of education, economic problems and drug problems, existing laws and judicial system are not enough, and all relevant ministries, local and foreign organizations, and all walks of life must join hands with the MPF in respective sectors.

In the globalization era, any single country is difficult to solve transnational crimes but they can be solved through bilateral cooperation among the countries. To do so, Myanmar joined INTERPOL on 1 January 1954 to cooperate with member police forces of countries in exchange for information.

Especially, it is necessary to implement the suppression of terror acts, drug trafficking and trafficking in persons through memoranda of understanding and agreements signed with neighbouring countries and regional countries in line with local laws and rules.

The State Administration Council formed the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control with 19 members in 2022 and assigned 21 duties.

Being a member of the ASEAN, Myanmar has signed letters of agreement and memoranda of understanding together with the US, Bangladesh, China, India, Korea, Laos, the Philippines, Russia, Thailand and Viet Nam while actively participating in drug control measures with ASEAN countries and neighbouring countries as well as international organizations.

MPF seized drugs worth more than K970 billion (approximately US$606.4306 million) in 2021 and more than K708 billion (approximately US$383.199 million) within six months from 1 January to 10 July 2022. It shows excellent performances and dutiful acts of MPF and drug abuse control bodies.

On 26 June 2022, the 35th International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking ceremony was held in conjunction with the setting fire to incinerate seized drugs worth K1,188 billion (US$642.608 million) took place in Mandalay, Yangon and Taunggyi.

Moreover, MPF has been combating trafficking in persons as a national duty since 1997 in close cooperation with trafficking in person treaty member countries, region and neighbouring countries and international organizations. The SAC enacted a new law on trafficking in persons on 16 June 2022.

The money laundering body needs to take severe action against those who commit money laundering and financing of terrorists and prevention of interference in the administration, economic and social sectors of the State through money laundering and financing of terrorists through the cooperation of government departments and relevant organizations.

To be a capable international standard police force, police members are sent abroad to study training on technologies, foreign languages, and cybercrime cases to have high capacity among police members.

As part of recognizing dutiful performance, the State awarded outstanding police members and promoted their ranks and acknowledged the police members who sacrificed life and limbs for the State.

Myanmar Police Veteran Organization was formed on 22 December 2021 with four objectives. Hence, all retired police must be organized to raise the number of members as a force of the State.

In the time of the SAC, the new Myanmar Police Force Law was enacted on 25 March 2022 for enabling MPF to become the police force which protects the interests of the State and citizens under the law, to be reliable police, discharge duties of local security, the prevalence of law and order and law enforcement, capable police members, have high capacity in cooperation with international police forces and organizations and serve defence and security duties if necessary.

All police members must serve duties from the local police outposts to the region and state levels. MPF members should strive for becoming public reliable law enforcers while serving duties in line with police disciplines and ethics.

The Vice-Senior General then presented honorary gallantry medals to six police members, SAC member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut honorary gallantry medals to three members, and four more medals for six family members and four members, respectively.

The Vice-Senior General viewed documentary photos, figurines, machinery, technological equipment, arms, uniforms, communication devices, machines searching for drugs and vehicles used by MPF at the exhibition to mark the 58th Anniversary of MPF.

At the second session of the ceremony, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of MPF Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet delivered a speech and presented honorary medals and gifts to outstanding police members. —MNA

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SAC Vice-Chair Dy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends dinner to mark 58th Anniversary of MPF Day

SAC Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win is present at the dinner to honour the 58th Anniversary of the Myanmar Police Force.

A dinner in honour of the 58th Anniversary of Myanmar Police Force day took place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw at 7 pm yesterday, attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

At the ceremony, the MPF police band and entertainment branch performed the songs during the dinner.

After the dinner, the Vice-Senior General presented cash awards and Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut a flower basket and cash awards to the band. — MNA

MoD Union Minister meets family members of Mawlaik station

Union Defence Minister General Mya Tun Oo meets district and township level official and locals in Mawlaik.

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, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun, Deputy Minister for Construction U Win Pe and relevant officials met district and township level officials, town elders and residents at the City Hall of Mawlaik.

Firstly, the Union minister gave an opening speech. Then, the chairmen of district and township administration bodies mentioned the development situation of the region. Next, the Union minister gave the necessary instructions and provided foodstuffs.

Furthermore, the Union minister and party met officers, other ranks and family members at the Aung Zeya hall of Mawlaik station and provided foodstuffs and cash assistance. —MNA

List of estimated Myanmar population released on 1 October based on 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census

THE Ministry of Immigration and Population published the list of estimated Myanmar population annually for the basic use in developing national policies and projects.

Published lists were accumulated on the basis of population in the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census. The population of Myanmar on 1 October 2022, the mid-year of the 2022-2023FY, is estimated at 55.8 million, and the population by regions and states is approximately calculated as shown in the following table: -

Regions/States	Estimated population on 1 Oct 2022 (million)		
	Male	Female	Total
Kachin State	1.0	1.0	2.0
Kayah State	0.2	0.1	0.3
Kayin State	0.8	0.8	1.6
Chin State	0.3	0.2	0.5
Sagaing Region	2.7	3.0	5.7
Taninthayi Region	0.8	0.7	1.5
Bago Region	2.3	2.7	5.0
Magway Region	1.8	2.1	3.9
Mandalay Region	3.2	3.5	6.7
Mon State	0.9	1.1	2.0
Rakhine State	1.6	1.8	3.4
Yangon Region	4.2	4.7	8.9
Shan State	3.3	3.4	6.7
Ayeyawady Region	3.0	3.3	6.3
Nay Pyi Taw Council	0.6	0.7	1.3
Total estimated population	26.7	29.1	55.8

MoHA Union Minister attends alms-food donation ceremony, fingerling-releasing ceremony marking 58th Anniversary of Myanmar Police Force

ALMS-FOOD was donated to senior Sayadaws and monks to mark the 58th Anniversary of Myanmar Police Force Day yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by State Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut and his wife, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing and wife, Deputy Minister Chief of Myanmar Police Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet and wife, directors-general, vice-police chiefs, senior police officers and wives.

The Union minister and congregation took five precepts from Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja of Mingala Zayyone Pali Takkatho Monastery of Pyinmana Township and listened to the sermons recited by Sayadaws.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Soe Htut and congregation take the Five Precepts at the ceremony yesterday.

Then, they donated the offertories and shared merit. After that, they donated early meals to Sayadaws and monks.

Similarly, in commemoration of the 58th Anniversary of Myanmar Police Force Day, the fingerling-releasing ceremony was held at No 3 Mingala Lake in Bawgathiri Ward of Zabuthiri Township on 29 September. During the ceremony, SAC member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut and his wife, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing and wife, Deputy Minister Police Chief Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet and wife, directors-general, vice-police chiefs, senior police officers and wives released 50,000 fingerlings into the lake.

Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs also made donations to mark the 58th Anniversary Myanmar Police Force Day, and donated K1,600,000 cash at Uppatasanti Pagoda, released 250 birds while K500,000 cash to "Garuna Kaba" elderly home in Dekkhinathiri Township, 300 packs of fired noodle to "YGW" orphanage in Pobbathiri Township and K300,000 to "Golden Heart" animal rescue in Mingaladon Township of Yangon yesterday. — MNA

Union Ministers inspect Taungtawkwin Solar Power Project, Yeywa Hydropower Plant in Mandalay

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Union Minister for Electric Power U Thaung Han and Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Maung Ko inspected the Taungtawkwin Solar Power Project and Yeywa Hydropower Plant in Myittha Township of Mandalay Region together with business persons of the Mandalay Industrial Zone yesterday.

Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, Union Electric Power Minister U Thaung Han and party view the Yeywa Hydropower Plant in Myittha Township of Mandalay Region yesterday.

First, Union ministers and party went to the Taungtawkwin Solar Power Plant. During the tour, the MoEP Union minister recalled the Prime Minister as encouraging the MSMEs and so the ministry is also making efforts to supply the power to industrial zones. Although there may be some limitations to meet the power needs of industrial zones, arrangements are being made with the regional chief minister regarding the power generation and solar power projects of private sectors. If solar power is systematically produced collectively or individually, it can meet the power needs and sell the surplus power by connecting to the national grid. In such doing, the ministry will provide the necessary things.

Then, the MoI Union minister stressed that the state-owned media is establishing various media platforms to release true information despite the misinformation and false news spreading on social media. The SAC Chairman also instructed to work together to emerge the manufacturing-based industrial zones. The ministry will support the efforts of the government and private business people in generating electric power using proper media methods.

The Mandalay Region chief minister also talked about the arrangements for solar power with the support of the government for businesses in the Mandalay Industrial Zone and sharing of knowledge.

Then, officials of Green Power Energy Co Ltd clarified the 30-megawatt Thabyaywa solar power project and the 20-megawatt Taungtawkwin solar power project.

Next, the MoI Union minister gave the MRTV DTH for the Taungtawkwin solar power plant.

The Union ministers and party also inspected the solar power project site by vehicles.

The Taungtawkwin solar power project was implemented on 80 acres of land out of 200 acres of Taungtawkwin in Thanya of Myittha Township in Mandalay Region with the investment of US$17.43 million in April 2022 and now completes 84 per cent. At noon, Union ministers and party arrived at the Yeywa hydropower plant and met officials.

Then, the MoEP Union minister said the ministry monitors and carries out the maintenance works in producing hydropower continually and also makes efforts to generate electricity using solar power.

The 790 MW Yeywa hydropower plant was constructed on the Myitnge River in 2001 with a water storage capacity of 2.1 million acre-feet. It was operational in 2010. Currently, it generates electricity as it can save the dam water properly. —MNA

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

473 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 1 October, total figure rises to 623,639

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **623,639** after **473** new cases were reported on 1 October 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **598,311** have been recovered from disease. Death toll reaches **19,461** after **two** deaths.

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

UWSP, SSPP, NDAA delegations depart from Nay Pyi Taw

THE United Wa State Party-UWSP delegation led by Vice-Chair U Lau Yaku, the Shan State Progress Party-SSPP delegation led by Vice-Chairman 2 Sao Khun Seng and the National Democratic Alliance Army-NDAA delegation led by Vice-Chairman U San Pae, which came to peace talks at the invitation of State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, left Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The UWSP and the SSPP delegation teams departed from Horizon Lake View Resort and the NDAA delegation team left from Nay Pyi Taw airport respectively. The delegations were seen off by officials and members of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, ethnic people of the Department of Fine Arts, departmental officials and locals, by holding miniature State flags and placards bearing: "Perpetual peace is the real aspiration of the people", "Achieving peace is the true desire of all citizens", "Let's hold talks for peace in the Union", "Only the ethnic nationalities are in unity, stability, peace and tranquillity will be achieved" at the Horizon Lake View Resort and Nay Pyi Taw airport. — MNA

Statement of Myanmar War Veterans Organization

THE Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) operated the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Loikaw-Yangon flight with the XY-AML aircraft type ATR 72-600 carrying 63 passengers and it flew to the airport according to the landing procedures to land at Loikaw Airport at about 8:45 am on 30 September. Terrorists fired the plane with a weapon (under verification) that hit the left part of the aircraft fuselage causing a passenger injured on the right cheek onboard the aircraft.

The Myanmar War Veterans Organization 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 War Veterans Organization
1 October 2022

Statement of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization

1. Myanmar Motion Picture Organization has learnt that the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Loikaw-Yangon flight of Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) was attacked by the terrorists without any reason while landing at Loikaw Airport.

2. Such an attack on the passenger flight that carried 63 people is a very serious criminal case.

3. Myanmar Motion Picture Organization has issued this statement strongly condemning the reasonless attacks detrimental to the people.

Myanmar Motion Picture Organization

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OPINION

Initiate the concept of non-violence for the interests of people

THE International Day of Non-Violence is observed on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.

According to the General Assembly resolution of 15 June 2007, International Day is an occasion to "disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness". The resolution reaffirms "the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence" and the desire "to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence".

> All in all, people in society should sustain a good concept of non-violence against each other forever. As Myanmar is not under colonialists now, the concept should be initiated internationally as well as locally but politically for serving the interests of the people and for enhancing its diplomacy in friendly relations with global countries.

Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man. Everybody is responsible for protecting their relevant countries staying away from violence. Any type of violence such as home violence, the violence underground and aboveground and so on do not benefit society.

In this regard, authorities need to raise awareness of non-violence on the advantages of non-violence. Everybody needs to hold up the non-violence policy. They do not have any chance to physically and mentally encroach on any others. The acts of attacking others using languages, religions, political doctrines, racism and others can be identified as a violation of the rights of others.

Actually, everybody needs to follow the acts of Mahatma Gandhi who opposed the British colonialists who had occupied and ruled India. It was the famous way pioneered by the great Indian leader in opposing the colonialists. He did not use imported utensils throughout his life but encouraged domestic ones. These were very useful among the Indian people. These acts showed his nationalistic spirit which activated others in the independence struggles of India in the past.

Currently, Myanmar people can modify the tactic of India's Mahatma Gandhi in conformity with the society. In the extract, the concept is not to violate the rights of others and other measures. It is one of the practices of democracy. At the same time, everybody needs to emphasize mutual respect for each other. Such policies of non-violence and mutual respect can shape society more prosperous. If so, four cardinal virtues — loving-kindness, compassion, empathy and equanimity — will flourish in society.

All in all, people in society should sustain a good concept of non-violence against each other forever. As Myanmar is not under colonialists now, the concept should be initiated internationally as well as locally but politically for serving the interests of the people and for enhancing its diplomacy in friendly relations with global countries. ■

ARTICLE
Bookrack

Long Covid remains a mystery, though theories are emerging

Researchers have been pursuing several leads into exactly what could be behind the condition.

MILLIONS of people around the world are believed to suffer from long Covid yet little remains known about the condition — though research has recently proposed several theories for its cause.

Between 10 to 20 per cent of people who contract coronavirus are estimated to have long Covid symptoms — most commonly fatigue, breathlessness and a lack of mental clarity dubbed brain fog — months after recovering from the disease. The US-based Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) estimates that nearly 145 million people worldwide had at least one of those symptoms in 2020 and 2021. In Europe alone, 17 million people had a long Covid symptom at least three months after infection during that time, according to IHME modelling for the World Health Organization (WHO) published earlier this month.

These millions "cannot continue to suffer in silence", WHO Europe director Hans Kluge said, calling for the world to act quickly to learn more about the condition.

Researchers have been racing to catch up but the vast array — and inconsistency — of symptoms has complicated matters.

More than 200 different symptoms have been ascribed to long Covid so far, according to a University College London study.

'Fatigue in the background'

"There are no symptoms that are truly specific to long Covid but it does have certain characteristics that fluctuate," said Olivier Robineau, the long Covid coordinator at France's Emerging Infectious Diseases research agency.

"Fatigue remains in the background," he told AFP, while the symptoms "seem to be exacerbated after intellectual or physical effort — and they become less frequent over time". One thing we do know is that people who had more severe initial cases, including needing to be hospitalized, are more likely to get long Covid, according to the IHME.

SOURCE: AFP

In Europe, 17 million people had a long Covid symptom for at least three months in 2020-2021. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Book Title	-	Nyi Ye Ah Chein Hmar Hmyaw Hmyaw Gar Saunt Dei Ah Linn Yaung Htoo Gyar Tauk Pa Loh (The Silhouette of the Life Story of Sai Htee Hsai)
Writer	-	Naing Zaw
Publishing House	-	Nang Dewi
Publication Date	-	December 2010 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K4,000

Nyi Ye Ah Chein Hmar Hmyaw Hmyaw Gar Saunt Dei Ah Linn Yaung Htoo Gyar Tauk Pa Loh

The Silhouette of the Life Story of Sai Htee Hsai

THE title of this book is peculiar and the presentation of the life story of the great vocalist Sai Htee Hsai is different from others, drawing the attraction of the readers. Roughly speaking, the literature of biography has four categories: (1) the simple style of biography writing under which the events and the characteristics of a person are written by another person; (2) the style of autobiography writing according to which the biography of a person is written by the person himself; (3) the documentary style biography writing, which is more of a record than of biography with emphasis laid upon depicting only the interesting events of a person; and (4) the collections of the biographies most commonly seen in Myanmar literature. This book under review belongs to the third category.

There are 21 chapters in this book depicting the life of Sai Htee Hsai from his early childhood life to his last minutes. All chapters include celebrities and eminent persons in the real life, thereby making the readers interested. Despite being a biography, this book is entertaining, giving the readers a mood that will bring them to the end of the book.

The book starts with the three poems composed by Khin Than Soe, the wife of her late husband, after the death of the latter. There is a foreword written by Sai Kham Leik, who has composed many songs for Sai Htee Hsai.

Naing Zaw, the writer of this book, said that Sai Htee Hsai is not only involved in the stereo music world but also engaged in the effectuation of the development of the Myanmar music world. Sai Htee Hsai or Ko Htee has been actively flowing along the mainstream of the Myanmar music world.

Despite his death, his music and songs are still surviving, said Naing Zaw. This book or biography includes interesting things which are not known to his fans and the readers of this book. These unknown things are concerned with his miserable life. Even when he was at the peak of his success, producing the best sellers, he was leading a rather miserable life, having to rent a small house in Khawegyan in Insein where he started his marriage life. And when he became seriously ill, he had great difficulty finding money to receive medical treatment at the hospital. As he could not find enough money to receive the medical treatment, he had to sing songs at the shows to earn the money, and only after the show, he could receive the treatment.

He had had to repeat the same pattern, singing the songs at the shows and then taking treatment at the hospital until he breathed his last. It will be heartbreaking for the readers to know the life he led. In fact, Ko Htee is sincere and smart, and his productions are the greatest hits of his time. ■

Book Title	-	Yaung Zone Ah Paing Ah Sa Myar
Writer	-	Rev Keitti Thara — Kyaw Hein
Publishing House	-	Seikku Cho Cho
Publishing Date	-	July 2022 (3rd Edition)
Price	-	K5,000

Yaung Zone Ah Paing Ah Sa Myar

THE answer to the question of why a person succeeds is positively related to what he has done. The book titled, "Yaung Zone Ah Paing Ah Sa Myar" is written by Kyaw Hein, the Great Actor, who is known to the overwhelming majority of the people across the country of Myanmar. His stories are based chiefly on his own experiences, emotions and events he himself has been involved in. Matter-of-factly, these events can be likened to a roadmap to trace his personal life. The readers will have an insight into his life and understand why he has been a GOAT as used on the internet these days where GOAT stands for Greatest of All Times.

There are three parts to his book. The first part deals with the stories titled, Kyundaw Ahmay Dutiyalu Daw Cho Cho,69; Pya; Hman Shay Hmar Hman Gyin Dai; Seik Ta Khu Ye Phyit Ti Hmu Ahchein Thet Tan; and Saya Ta Yauk Ah Lo Shi Thi etc. These stories were written at a time when he was crowned with great success. The second part is more of the religious philosophy than of secular affairs as they were composed after he had renounced the world to become a Buddhist Monk in the name Reverend Keitti Thara. Among the stories, the most famous are Htwet Pauk; May Khun Phyit Lar Ya Tai Phyit Kyaung Gyaung; Thay Gyar Lar Dei; and Khan Zar Nay Dei Seik Ko Sunt Hlut Laiy Par etc. Last, the third part is concerned with the stories regarding his own findings as well as his own notes.

Kyundaw Ahmay Dutiyalu Daw Cho Cho, 69, is related to the marital life of his mother. She had hidden her sentiment throughout her married life, and only three days before her death, did she reveal to his son Kyaw Hein her heartbroken moments during her stay with her beloved husband. She said, "My son, imagine how a single woman would feel towards her would be hubby. It was 21 September on which I was so excited to see your dad that I woke up at 3 o'clock in the early morning. I was quite surprised at my excitement and restlessness overcoming me. This is the first time I was overwhelmed by the influence of a man throughout my life. True, I never thought of being given the first place when I got married to divorce. But I wondered if this is the fate of your mom to lead the miserable life of the second wife.

Kyaw Hein also wrote about the death of his father named U J Maung Sein, the nephew of Sir J A Maung Gyi, the first governor of Burma. Upon the death of his father, he buried him beside the grave of his mother. And after burial, he said to his mother, "Mom, your beloved hubby was buried just beside you. His grave and that of yours are of the same pattern. Well, be pleased with this, mom. Now you can be together with him all the time although you hadn't got a chance to stay near him as much as you pleased when you were alive. And those from the first family of a dad who you didn't want to come would not come. You're the one and only person near dad. Tell him all you want to make known. Ask whatever favour from him that you could not have when alive. Take over the first place now." He wrote that there are two white graves with the same pattern under a shady mango tree in Kyandaw Cemetery. He concluded his story, reminding the readers of the impermanent nature of all things and all beings.

The majority of his stories are focused on the religious philosophy as taught by Lord Buddha and as he discovered from his own experience. Those readers who are interested in the meaning of the life of human beings will find his writings tasteful with some attitudes applicable to their own lives. ■

ARTICLE

Reform and opening up, a dual engine for China's economic growth

CHINA has risen to become the world's second-largest economy and leading trader. China has also emerged as the greatest contributor to the global economic recovery since 2008.

Nevertheless, the US has repeatedly introduced proposals to contain Chinese tech firms – under the guise of national security. But we should ask, is China trying to replace the US as the most dominant player on the world stage?

For the past 2,000 years, China has become one of the world's largest economies. Yet in the past 200 years. the US had surpassed China as the leading global superpower. China's economic return is putting an end to this unipolar status, but Washington won't accept it.

What's behind China's return?

China's remarkable economic growth in the past decade stood on account of the country's efforts to open up. For every year in this period, China has introduced an average of over 400 reform policies and more than 100 pieces of related legislation.

Let's take a look at the swimsuit industry in Huludao, China's Liaoning Province for example: Before the reform and opening-up, Huludao was just a tiny fishing village. But today it has risen in status as the global hub for the swimsuit business.

By 2018, Huludao has more than 1,200 swimsuit firms, with an annual output of 190 million suits and an output value of more than 14 billion yuan. Every one out of four swimsuits sold in the world comes from Huludao.

Fashion fans could be familiar with America's century-old brand JANTZEN which was popularized by Marilyn Monroe, Audrey Hepburn and Elvis Presley. In 2018, a local company in Huludao acquired the brand.

Huludao's dominance in the global swimwear industry is a direct result of China's economic policies. Easing the burdens and difficulties for businesses as the entities of the market economy was a significant achievement of China in the past decade.

Meanwhile, by the end of 2021, the county's registered market entities stood at 154 million, up by 1.8 times from 54.949 million in the same period of 2012 and recording an average annual growth rate of 12.1 per cent. The average daily number of newly-founded companies had also been on the rise from 6,900 in 2011 to 24,800 in 2021. Among companies on the 2021 Fortune 500 list, 143, or 40 per cent, were Chinese, while 122 were from the US.

Upgrading Chinese goods

The springing up of Chinese firms is also a result of the greatly improved quality of Chinese goods. In the past decade, the R&D investment of industrial enterprises above the designated size in China had increased at an average annual rate of over 14 per cent.

Take Chinese tech firm Huawei as an example. From 2011 to 2021, Huawei spent more than 845 billion yuan on R&D. According to the 2021 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard, Huawei ranks second in R&D investment worldwide. The company is one of the world's largest patent holders. As of 31 December 2021, Huawei had held a total of 110,000 active patents across 45,000 patent families.

Transforming economic structures

Nonetheless, the West has long accused Chinese state-owned firms of gaining unfair advantages and the economic structure of being too rigid. As a result of economic reforms in the past 10 years, state-owned, private and foreign-funded market entities have reinforced the three growth drivers – consumption, investment and export.

Since 2012, China's market entities grew significantly in both number and size. In 2020, among all corporate legal entities, state-owned, private and foreign-funded ones accounted for 1.2 per cent, 98 per cent and 0.8 per cent respectively. In 2021, of the 150 million market entities nationwide, over 100 million were individually owned businesses. In the same year, private investment registered a seven per cent growth, higher than the national level of 4.9 per cent.

The private sector has contributed to over 50 per cent of tax revenue, over 60 per cent of GDP, over 70 per cent of technological innovations, over 80 per cent of urban jobs and over 90 per cent of the total number of companies.

Brighter days on the horizon

China never slowed down its reform and opening-up endeavours. It not only sells its products globally but is also actively importing goods from many other countries and regions across the world. China's general tariff rate has been lowered to less than 7.5 per cent from 15.3 per cent before the country's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

With the continued growth of imports, major international trade events such as the China International Import Expo, China International Fair for Trade in Services, Canton Fair, China International Consumer Products Expo, etc. have opened a window for the country's further opening up.

The year 2021 marked the fifth year in a row of the shortening of China's Negative List for Market Access, with restricted items on the National List and its Free Trade Zone counterpart cut to 31 and 27 respectively. In 2021, foreign investment in actual use in China hit a new high of 1.1 trillion yuan.

China's sound economic policies in the past 10 years instilled momentum in its economy. The growth is not intended to replace superpower status of another nation. After joining the WTO, China has delivered on all its promises to open up its market, but while facilitating free trade globally and upholding multilateralism and economic cooperation.

China's Belt and Road collaboration network has expanded to include 149 countries and 32 international organizations. Beijing has also joined the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and signed 19 free trade agreements with 26 countries and regions across Asia, the Oceania region, Latin America, Europe and Africa. The Chinese market has created tens of millions of jobs overseas.

China's growth is for the people. The economic rise has boosted employment and poverty alleviation efforts. Nearly 10 million university graduates are getting employed each year for the past 10 years.

The great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is the starting point of Beijing's effective policy-making. The significant economic policies in the past 10 years are not just a booster for Huludao's swimwear industry to go global but also set the stage for China's economic return.

(Source: CGTN)

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

Italy eases Covid measures ahead of new government

ITALY'S outgoing government is easing measures against coronavirus from Saturday despite an increase in cases, weeks before handing over to a far-right administration that has criticized the tough restrictions.

Prime Minister Mario Draghi's government said it would not renew regulations requiring FFP2 face masks to be worn on public transport when they expire on Friday.

However, it has extended for another month the requirement to wear face masks in hospitals and other healthcare settings, as well as residential facilities for the elderly.

By the time that rule expires on 31 October a new government led by far-right leader Giorgia Meloni is expected to be in place — with a very different attitude to Covid-19 restrictions than Draghi's.

Italy was the first European country to face the full force of the coronavirus pandemic in early 2020, and has had some of the toughest restrictions.

Last winter, it required certain categories of workers to be vaccinated and demanded proof of a negative test, recent recovery from the virus or vaccination — the so-called Green pass — to enter public places.—AFP

Tourists get their drinks served at a cafe's terrace on a flooded St. Mark's square in Venice on 27 September 2022, following an "Alta Acqua" high tide event, too low to operate the MOSE Experimental Electromechanical Module that protects the city of Venice from floods, but high enough to potentially threaten St. Mark's Basilica.
PHOTO: ANDREA PATTARO / AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Avian flu detected in Lisbon

A new outbreak of avian flu has been confirmed at a commercial unit for raising turkeys in the Portuguese capital Lisbon, announced the Directorate-General for Food and Veterinary Medicine (DGAV) on Friday.

According to a note released by DGAV, animal disease control measures have already been implemented, such as the slaughter of affected animals.

All poultry farms within the protection zone, a radius of three kilometres of the outbreak, as well as in the surveillance zone within a radius of 10 km, have already been notified and inspected.

DGAV said that the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus, subtype H5N1, has affected wild and domestic birds in the European Union.

The first outbreak of avian influenza in Portugal was detected a year ago, on a domestic property in the city of Setubal, south of Lisbon. Since then, 31 outbreaks of avian influenza have been confirmed.— Xinhua

'Worrying upsurge' in cholera worldwide: WHO

AFTER years of decline, the planet is now witnessing a "worrying upsurge" in cholera outbreaks, the World Health Organization warned Friday. In the first nine months of this year alone, 26 countries have reported cholera outbreaks, the WHO said, adding that between 2017 and 2021, fewer than 20 nations reported outbreaks per year.

"After years of declining numbers, we are seeing a worrying upsurge of cholera outbreaks around the globe over the past year," Philippe Barboza, the WHO's team lead on cholera and epidemic diarrheal diseases, told reporters in Geneva.

"Not only do we have more outbreaks, but the outbreaks themselves are larger and more deadly."

He said the average case fatality rate reported in 2021 had almost tripled when compared to the five previous years. Barboza said that alongside traditional triggers for cholera such as poverty and conflict, climate change was increasingly part of the mix. "Extreme climate events like floods, cyclones and droughts further reduce the access to clean water and create an ideal environment for cholera to thrive," he said.

An Iraqi youth fills a pan with drinking water that he got from a burst water pipe on the outskirts of the impoverished Baghdad district of Sadr City. **PHOTO: WISSAM AL-OKAILI/AFP /FILE**

"As the impacts of climate change intensify, we can expect the situation to worsen unless we act now to boost cholera prevention."

The WHO does not have a figure for the number of deaths caused by cholera, mainly because affected countries do not produce the data.— AFP

Australia to scrap mandatory isolation for COVID-19 infections

The Pacific Explorer makes its way to dock at the overseas passenger terminal on Sydney Harbour on 18 April 2022, as Australian authorities lifted a ban on cruise ships after relaxation in Covid 19 restrictions.
PHOTO: SAEED KHAN / AFP

AUSTRALIA will end mandatory five-day home isolation for people infected with COVID-19 in mid-October, the government said Friday, removing one of the last remaining virus restrictions as the country moves out of the "emergency response" phase of the pandemic.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the 14 October move is a proportionate response based upon changing health advice and changing circumstances.

"We want a policy that promotes resilience and capacity-building, and reduces a reliance on government intervention," Albanese said in a televised press conference.

The end of mandatory self-isolation will also see the scrapping of income support payments for workers forced to take unpaid leave due to infection, with the exception of workers in high-risk settings such as aged care and health care.

Speaking alongside the prime minister, the country's Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly said it is time to move away from "COVID exceptionalism" and treat it like other respiratory diseases, adding that the emergency response phase is likely "finished". Australia has slowly eased most of its pandemic restrictions over the course of the year, as vaccination rates rise and infection numbers stabilize.—Kyodo

ECONOMY
WORLD

Japan plans more stimulus to tackle inflation, low yen

Price hikes have spread from food to energy prices and smartphones, adding more burdens on consumers. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN is preparing another round of economic stimulus measures, the government said Friday, as rising prices and the plummeting yen squeeze the world's third-largest economy.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told ministers to draft the relief package by the end of October so it can be passed by parliament this year, government spokesman Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters.

He did not give a figure for the measures, but said they would include "efforts to deal with rising prices and to encourage wage increases".

Ministers have also been told to seek "ways to recover and strengthen regional economies' abilities to do business by taking advantage of the yen's depreciation", Matsuno added.

The yen has hit 24-year lows in recent weeks, prompting an intervention by the government last week.

The slumping currency inflates profits for Japanese exporters but also ramps up the price of imported goods for consumers already facing higher prices, including for energy, partly because of the war in Ukraine.

Matsuno said increased electricity bills had become "a significant burden" for both households and business.

Over the past two years, Japan has injected hundreds of billions of dollars into the economy as part of stimulus measures to support its recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

China's refined oil consumption up in August

CHINA consumed 31.45 million tonnes of refined oil in August, official data showed.

The consumption volume rose 3.9 per cent year on year, while that of gasoline decreased by 4.5 per cent over one year ago, according to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

In the first eight months of this year, the country's refined oil consumption totaled 225.79 million tonnes, edging up 0.7 per cent year on year. During the period, gasoline consumption shrank by 6.4 per cent year on year, while diesel consumption expanded by 13.7 per cent over one year ago, NDRC data showed.—Xinhua

Spain to cut taxes for low-income earners hit by inflation

SPAIN'S leftist government said Thursday it will cut the income tax on lower-income households to help hard-hit consumers grapple with soaring inflation. The government will reduce the income tax on people earning up to 21,000 euros ($20,200) per year, or one in two workers, Budget Minister Maria Jesus Montero told a news conference. At the same time she confirmed the government will slap a new tax in 2023 and 2024 on residents whose wealth exceeds three million euros to help pay for inflation relief measures.—AFP

Sri Lanka issues regulations on registering business at Colombo Port City

SRI Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe has issued regulations on registering businesses who wish to operate in the Chinese-built Colombo Port City.

The president issued these regulations as the minister of finance, economic stabilization and national policies in an extraordinary gazette Wednesday night.

A person who wants to start a business in the Colombo Port City must send an application to the Colombo Port City Economic Commission (CPCEC) to obtain a licence to qualify as an authorized person permitted to engage in a business.

The CPCEC after evaluating the application and supporting documents will issue a letter of approval in principle. If the commission is satisfied that an applicant has fulfilled all legal and regulatory requirements and has complied with all the conditions set out in the letter of approval, it will issue a licence to the applicant permitting the applicant to engage in business at the Colombo Port City. The licence is valid for a period of 12 months from the date of issue. However, the licence will be cancelled if the applicant does not commence a business within six months of the issue of the licence.

Aerial photo taken on 26 Nov 2021 shows a panoramic view of the Colombo's Port City in Sri Lanka. **PHOTO: CHINA'S CHEC PORT CITY COLOMBO (PVT) LTD./HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

The Colombo Port City, a large-scale project under the framework of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is being established as a service-oriented special economic zone on 269 hectares of land reclaimed from the ocean and annexed to the city of Colombo.—Xinhua

French economy minister 'worried' by British 'disaster'

A customer shops for food items inside a Tesco supermarket store in east London on 10 January 2022. **PHOTO: DANIEL LEAL / AFP /FILE**

FRANCE'S economy minister said Friday that he was worried by the financial turbulence in Britain, criticizing Prime Minister Liz Truss's economic policies for causing a "disaster" of high borrowing rates for her country.

"I'm not worried about the situation in the eurozone," Bruno Le Maire told Europe 1 radio when asked about the risk of the crisis spreading. "On the other hand, I am worried about the British situation."

"What does it show? It shows firstly that there are costs for financial and economic policies," he said.

Truss's "mini-budget" announced last Friday included major tax cuts that would need to be financed by extra borrowing, spooking investors who immediately questioned the credibility of the policies and Britain's financial standing.

"When you take on major costs like that, with spectacular announcements, as some opposition parties want to do in France, it perturbs the markets. It perturbs financial balances," Le Maire said.

"And it leads to a real disaster with interest rates which are 4.5 per cent or even higher in Great Britain. We have interest rates which are reasonable, which are quite close to Germany's because there is consistency in our economic and financial policymaking," he said.—AFP

Beijing Olympic mascot shops end operation after huge sales

OFFICIAL shops selling licensed products of Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics held earlier this year marked the last day of operation Friday, with people bidding farewell to the hugely popular mascot in the motif of a panda, according to state-run media.

The Olympic panda mascot Bing Dwen Dwen maintained popularity even after the games and the total sales volume of its toys alone has exceeded 5.5 million units, the official Xinhua News Agency said, adding that online sales of official products will continue until the end of this year.

A stuffed toy of popular panda mascot "Bing Dwen Dwen" and other licenced Olympic products are displayed at an official shop on the last day of operation on 30 Sept 2022, in Beijing. **PHOTO: KYODO**

An official shop in downtown Beijing was crowded Friday evening with many customers making last-minute attempts to buy products. For stock clearance, the outlet ran a campaign of "buy one, get one free".

About 90,000 pairs of Bing Dwen Dwen and the Paralympic lantern-inspired mascot Shuey Rhon Rhon had sold over the two years before the opening of the Winter Olympics in February.— Xinhua

Swiss court backs Lindt in chocolate bunny bust-up

SWISS luxury chocolatier Lindt & Sprungli has won its case against the local branch of budget supermarket chain Lidl over its similar-looking Easter bunnies, according to a court decision published Thursday.

The Federal Supreme Court of Switzerland ruled that Lindt's chocolate bunny wrapped in aluminium foil, whether "golden or of another colour", should benefit from trademark protection against Lidl's rival product. It banned the chain's Swiss branches Lidl Schweiz and Lidl Schweiz DL from selling its similar bunnies and ordered the destruction of any still in stock. Launched in 1952, the golden bunny with a bell on a ribbon is one of Lindt's flagship products.

Lindt & Sprungli sued in 2018, claiming that Lidl's bunnies had a very similar shape and appearance and could be confused with its main Easter product.

But the commercial court of Switzerland's Aargau canton, west of Zurich, dismissed Lindt's action in 2021.—AFP

Tobacco giant Altria ends non-compete accord with Juul

TOBACCO giant Altria said Friday it ended a non-compete agreement with Juul, which is mired in a fight with a US agency over its ability to sell vaping products.

Altria, the parent company of Philip Morris USA and other brands in tobacco and nicotine, "exercised our option to be released from our Juul non-competition obligations," the company said in a securities filing.

The announcement allows Altria to pursue the acquisition of another vaping company, or to develop its own products.

Altria in late 2018 invested about $13 billion in Juul, a stake that has been written down several times as Juul has faced various government crackdowns.

Altria's move comes as Juul challenges a June action by the US Food and Drug Administration ordering all products made by Juul Labs off the market after finding the vaping giant had failed to address certain safety concerns.

The FDA order was suspended by a federal judge after an appeal by Juul.

Juul has submitted an appeal to the FDA, arguing that its products are safe for adult smokers.

Juul said Friday that the end of the non-compete clause with Altria "gives us more flexibility as it increases the financial and strategic options we can pursue to secure our business and address the impact of the FDA's now stayed order," a Juul spokesman said.— AFP

Portugal changes visa regime for foreign jobseekers

FOREIGN citizens seeking work in Portugal can stay in the country for six months under a new visa regime announced by the government on Friday.

The new rules, which change the rules of entry, stay, exit and removal of foreign nationals, will enter into force on 1 November.

According to the government, the aim is to establish "procedures that allow attracting regulated and integrated immigration for the development of the country, changing how the public administration relates to immigrants and guaranteeing conditions for the integration of immigrants." The entry and free movement of citizens of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) is also facilitated since their job search and residence visas will be automatically approved.— Xinhua

A tour guide leads a group of tourists through the streets of Alfama neighbourhood as locals sit at a terrace in Lisbon. **PHOTO: PATRICIA DE MELO MOREIRA / AFP/FILE**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC TOKYO VOY.NO. (2248S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC TOKYO VOY.NO. (2248S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-10-2022** 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.

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M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

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

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

Central Committee for Holding Myanmar Gems Emporium
The Information on Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2022

1. The significant Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2022, under the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, will be held on October 19 to 25, 2022 at Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Genuine Myanmar pearl, gems and rough jade lots will be sold at the Emporium.

2. In accordance with the Myanmar Gem Law, local gems entrepreneurs who got permit to make gems extraction and local gems merchants who got licence to operate the finished gemstone making and dealings will be allowed to attend and purchase the Lots at Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2022 according to the terms and conditions.

3. For further information in detail about granted admission to purchase Lots at Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2022, can inquire and keep contact with Emporium Central Committee, Myanmar Gems Enterprise (Head Office), Myanmar Pearl Enterprise (Head Office) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Emporium Central Committee

Advertise with us/ Hot Line : 09251022355, 09974424848

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia vetoes UN bid against Ukraine annexations as China abstains

RUSSIA on Friday vetoed a Western bid at the UN Security Council to condemn its annexations of Ukrainian territory but found no support, with China and India abstaining.

Russia's veto was a certainty but Western powers hoped to show Moscow's isolation in its war and will now take the condemnation effort to the General Assembly, where every nation has a vote and none can kill a resolution.

The United States pushed through the draft Security Council resolution hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that Moscow had taken over four areas of Ukraine which held Kremlin-organized referendums on land seized by Russia's military.

Russian ambassador to the UN Vassily Nebenzia attends a Security Council meeting to discuss the Nord Stream pipeline leaks on 30 September. **PHOTO: AFP**

"This is exactly what the Security Council was made to do — defend sovereignty, protect territorial integrity, promote peace and security," the US ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, said at the start of the meeting.

"The United Nations was built on an idea that never again would one country be allowed to take another's territory by force," she said, later promising a General Assembly vote.

Russia's ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, complained that it was unprecedented to seek condemnation of one of the five veto-wielding permanent members of the Security Council.

"Do you seriously expect Russia to consider and support such a draft? And if not, then it turns out that you are intentionally pushing us to use the right of the veto in order to then wax lyrical about Russia abusing this right," Nebenzia said. —AFP

Europe's biggest nuclear reactor reaches full power

FINLAND'S long-delayed Olkiluoto 3 nuclear reactor has reached full power to become the most powerful electricity production facility in Europe, operator TVO said Friday, a boost amid a continent-wide energy crunch.

With power level of 1,600 megawatts, the plant located on the Nordic country's southwestern coast is also now the third most powerful electricity production facility globally, the company said. OL3's production is being closely followed in Finland, where the hope is that the plant could ease the coming winter's challenges as European energy prices have soared following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.—AFP

EU tightens visa rules for Russian nationals

THE European Commission on Friday urged the member states of the European Union (EU) to tighten their visa procedures and heighten border checks for Russian citizens. European Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson said the guidelines come in response to the recent escalation in the conflict.

"The EU will protect itself and our citizens. We are making sure to have a coherent and united approach at EU external borders vis-a-vis Russian citizens and also when it comes to applying strict rules on issuing short-stay visas for Russian citizens," she said. Under the new rules, the EU member states should apply "stricter assessments" and security checks when they issue visas to Russian citizens. They should also apply a strict approach when assessing the justification of the journey and the validity of visas, irrespective of the issuing member state.

She said the member states should not accept Schengen visa applications from citizens of the Russian Federation who are present in a third country for short stays or for purposes of transit.—Xinhua

The EU encouraged member states to tighten security checks for Russians fleeing the draft for the war in Ukraine. **PHOTO: OLIVIER MORIN/AFP**

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

No regrets, says Catalan ex-minister on referendum anniversary

Oriol Junqueras (4L), part of a failed secession push in Spain's Catalonia, has no regrets. **PHOTO: LLUIS GENE AFP/FILE**

FIVE years after the failed secession push in Catalonia which landed him in jail, Oriol Junqueras remains convinced that defying Spain with a banned independence referendum was the right move. But the former deputy head of the region says the separatist camp needs to rally more support if its dream of an independent Catalan state is to one day become a reality. "We did what we had to do," the professor-turned-politician said during an interview with AFP when asked about the failed secession drive that came to a head in October 2017. "I am deeply proud of all that we have done, of our commitment, of having been able to convene, organize and hold a referendum on self-determination," the 53-year-old added.—AFP

Sweden resumes weapons exports to Türkiye

SWEDISH companies have been granted export permits for the sale of military equipment to Türkiye, the country's Inspectorate of Strategic Products (ISP) announced on Friday.

The granting of export permits is part of Sweden's agreement with Türkiye in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) negotiations.

The permits apply to all products affected by arms export legislation, which includes electronic equipment, software and technical assistance.

All shipments of military products to Türkiye were halted in 2019 due to its military operation against Syria's Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), which Türkiye considers a terrorist group.

Sweden, together with Finland, applied to join NATO in mid-May. Türkiye, which is already a member of the military alliance, objected over Swedish and Finnish ties with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), and Syria's YPG. Ankara has also voiced dissatisfaction with the Swedish arms embargo against Türkiye. —Xinhua

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

N Korea fires 2 ballistic missiles into Sea of Japan

US Vice-President Kamala Harris stands at a military observation post as she visits the demilitarized zone separating North and South Korea, in Panmunjom, on 29 Sept. **PHOTO: LEAH MILLIS/AFP**

NORTH Korea fired two ballistic missiles into the Sea of Japan on Saturday, Japanese and South Korean authorities said, in the fourth such provocation by Pyongyang in less than a week.

The South Korean military said North Korea fired the two short-range ballistic missiles between 6:45 am and 7:03 am from the Sunan area of Pyongyang.

The missiles, launched near the west coast of North Korea, travelled about 350 to 400 kilometres with a maximum altitude of 50 km before apparently falling into waters off the country's east coast and outside Japan's exclusive economic zone, Toshiro Ino, Japanese senior vice-defence minister, told reporters.

The missiles may have flown on irregular trajectories, Ino said without elaborating. Japan lodged a protest with North Korea via the Japanese Embassy in Beijing.

There were no immediate reports of damage caused by the missiles. The US Indo-Pacific Command said it had assessed that the latest missile launch did not pose an immediate threat to US territory or its allies but highlighted the "destabilizing impact" of North Korea's "unlawful" weapons programmes.

The US commitments to the defence of Japan and South Korea remain "ironclad", the command added. North Korea had already test-fired ballistic missiles toward waters near Japan on three occasions since Sunday, in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions. US Vice-President Kamala Harris traveled to the Demilitarized Zone on the border of the two Koreas on Thursday, showing Washington's commitment to the defence of South Korea.— Kyodo

WORLD: TOP STORIES

Cyberattack Reveals Mexico President's Health Scare

HACKERS have stolen sensitive Mexican files including previously undisclosed information that President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador was taken to hospital by air ambulance in January with a heart problem, the government said Friday.

"It's true, there was a cyberattack," Lopez Obrador said at his daily news conference.

"I understand that this same group has already done the same thing in other countries," he added.

On Thursday, prominent journalist Carlos Loret de Mola reported that a hacker group called Guacamaya had obtained tens of thousands of emails dating from 2016 to September 2022 from the defence ministry.—AFP

Suicide attack on Kabul classroom kills 20, mostly young women

A suicide bomber attacked an education centre in the Afghan capital on Friday where hundreds of students were preparing for university exams, killing at least 20 people, most of them young women.

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

Half of Brits think new UK PM Truss should quit: poll

NEW UK Prime Minister Liz Truss's early missteps have prompted turmoil in her personal poll ratings, as well as financial markets, with a survey Friday finding half of Britons think she should resign.

Less than four weeks into the top job, and a week after the disastrous unveiling of a mini-budget that cut taxes for the wealthiest amid a cost-of-living crisis, 51 per cent of people polled by YouGov said she should quit.

It represents a damning verdict on the latest Conservative leader, who succeeded Boris Johnson on 6 September after he resigned following a slew of scandals.

Truss beat former finance minister Rishi Sunak in a summer-long leadership contest, promising immediate tax cuts and a focus on driving economic growth amid predictions of recession in Britain.

But when new Chancellor of the Exchequer Kwasi Kwarteng unveiled their tax-slashing plans last week, they went further than many were expecting, abolishing the top rate of income tax and lifting a cap on bankers' bonuses. —AFP

Less than four weeks into the top job, and a week after the disastrous unveiling of a mini-budget that cut taxes for the wealthiest amid a cost-of-living crisis, 51 per cent of people polled by YouGov said she should quit. **PHOTO: JUSTIN TALLIS / AFP**

'Worry and fear': Incessant Israeli drones heighten Gaza anxiety

GAZA teenager Bissam says she has trouble sleeping and concentrating as the buzzing sound of Israeli military drones above the crowded Palestinian enclave drives her to distraction.

When she is at home in the cramped family apartment, the 18-year-old said she feels that "the drone is constantly with me in my bedroom — worry and fear don't leave our homes.

"Sometimes I have to put the pillow on my head so I don't hear its buzz," she said, adding that the drone noise gives her headaches.

Unmanned surveillance aircraft have become an integral part of Israel's 15-year-old blockade of the impoverished enclave, and 2.3 million Palestinians endure their incessant hum. Bissam, whose family requested their surname be withheld for security reasons, said that together with the street noise, the drones create an unbearable cacophony.—AFP

Each month, Israel uses drones above Gaza for 4,000 flying hours — the equivalent of five of the unmanned aircraft permanently in the sky. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SPORT

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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.

Shan United draw Yadanabon 1-1 in MNL Week 14

A Shan United player (red) attempts to pass his opponent during the previous Myanmar National League match. **PHOTO: MNL**

THE first day of the 2022 season of the Myanmar National League Week 14 was held yesterday at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon, and Shan United drew Yadanabon FC 1-1.

Shan United, the current champion who is leading the table, has drawn two games in a row, and as a result of this draw, the difference in points is expected to narrow.

Yadanabon team tried their best in this match and could not recover from the loss in the first round, but managed to get a draw.

Both teams came out with a full set of core players and played an open attack from the start of the game. In the 20th minute, Yadanabon got an opener as the team captain Thet Naing touched the ball into the net beautifully.

As Shan United conceded a goal, the attack increased and after five minutes, Zin Min Tun scored the equalizing goal. Shan United made a change of players in the second half to score their winning goals. In turn, the Yadanabon team was satisfied with the draw because of no defensive mistakes.

After this match, the Shan United team scored 30 points in 12 games while the Yadanabon team scored 18 points in 12 games.

As a second-day match of MNL Week 14, Yangon United will take on Rakhine United today. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Maradona 'Hand of God' shirt to go on display during World Cup

THE shirt that Diego Maradona wore when he scored his infamous 'Hand of God' goal against England in 1986 will go on display in Qatar during the World Cup just five months after it set a record price at auction, a top official said Saturday.

The shirt, which sold for $9.3 million to a secret buyer, has been loaned to Qatar's 3-2-1 sports museum and will go on display from Sunday until 1 April.

Qatar has not named the shirt's new owner, who paid a then record price for any sports memorabilia object, but negotiations are understood to have started just weeks after the 4 May auction. Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, head of Qatar Museums and a member of the Gulf state's ruling family, said she was "excited" to have secured the shirt for a special World Cup exhibition.—AFP

'Quite a journey': Diego Maradona's 'Hand of God' shirt. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

France midfielder Kamara ruled out of World Cup with knee injury

ASTON Villa have confirmed France midfielder Boubacar Kamara will be out of action until after the World Cup with a knee injury.

The 22-year-old, who joined the club in the summer transfer window, was forced off during the first half of Villa's win over Southampton before the international break.

Further tests confirmed Boubacar, signed from Marseille, had sustained ligament damage which will require a lengthy spell of rehabilitation.

"Kamara will be missing until after the World Cup with a knee ligament injury, suffered during the win over Southampton," a Villa statement said.

Kamara, who has won three caps for France, had been called up for the latest round of Nations League matches before his injury.—AFP

Aston Villa have confirmed France midfielder Boubacar Kamara will be out of action until after the World Cup with a knee injury. **PHOTO: AFP**

Man Utd 'warrior' Martinez faces Haaland test in Manchester derby

ERIK ten Hag's faith in Manchester United "warrior" Lisandro Martinez will be put to the test as Manchester City striker Erling Haaland aims to extend his red-hot streak in Sunday's derby.

Haaland has made a blistering start with City since joining the Premier League champions from Borussia Dortmund for £51 million ($57 million) in the close season.

With 14 goals in nine games in all competitions for City, the Norway striker, playing in his first Manchester derby, will put United's recent revival to the test.

Only once has Haaland been denied a goal in the Premier League this season, but United manager Ten Hag might have the solution to taming the prolific 22-year-old.— AFP