

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.

50 international container ships to dock at Yangon port in October

UNDER the supervision and management support of the Myanmar Port Authority in order to increase exports and import volume according to domestic demands, officials are speeding up the smooth flow of trade and goods.

In cooperation with shipping lines and import and export operators, 50 international container ships from 13 shipping lines plan to dock at Yangon's five international ports and Thilawa's two ports in October, according to the Myanmar Port Authority.

At the Yangon ports, there are two sections carried out by Export Cargo and Import Cargo. In the Export Cargo section, the Myanmar Port Authority allows entry with the necessary documents, and after inspection by the Customs Department, the export of goods is processed.

In the Import Cargo section, the cargo containers unloaded from the cargo ship are temporarily piled up, and the customers can pay the tax fee with the documents themselves and promptly take out the cargo containers.

Agricultural and livestock products, finished garments, finished industrial products and



Loading process of container is being seen at container ship at port of Yangon. **PHOTO: KANU**

other products were transported by sea in order to contribute to the economic machinery of the State through entry and exit and smooth export and import processes from the ports.

Entry and exit of ocean liners, on the other hand, helps reduce costs for export products.

To facilitate the international maritime freight sector, the government takes meas-

ures on export of marine products, finished textile and agricultural produce by sea in the early 2022.

In October, 50 container ships are scheduled to dock at

Yangon's international ports in order to facilitate the export and import smooth process of agriculture and industrial operators.—Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

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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

275 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 2 October, total figure rises to 623,914

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 623,914 after 275 new cases were reported on 2 October 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 598,506 have been recovered from disease. Death toll still stands at 19,461 without more casualties.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 1-10-2022, a total of 30,585,934 people above 18 and a total of 6,633,366 people under 18 have been vaccinated.

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



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5 OCTOBER 2022
World Teachers' Day



5-7 October 2022

THE TRANSFORMATION OF EDUCATION BEGINS WITH TEACHERS

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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

Yebok dam irrigates 1,192 acres of monsoon paddy plantation

THE Yebok dam in Hlaingbwe Township of Kayin State supplies water to 1,192 acres of monsoon paddy plantation. Water is distributed from this dam for monsoon paddy, summer paddy and cold season crops during the period of 2020-2021 cultivation season according to the Township Irrigation and

Water Utilization Management Department.

“One main canal, six tributaries, and 21 direct drains are used to supply water to farmlands in six village-tracts of Hlaingbwe township. The water is being distributed to farmlands because monsoon paddy is being cultivated now,”

said Staff Officer of Hlaingbwe Township Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department U Kyaw Khaing Soe.

The Yebok dam is 17,720 feet in length and 46 feet in height, storing 28,474 acre-feet of water with 16.27 square miles of watershed area and it is built on Yebok and Kasai

creeks near Htilon village. This dam started construction in 2005-2006 financial year and supplied water in 2013-2014 FY.

“Twelve Water User Groups-WUGs have been formed in the area, to collaborate with the department in order to systematically allocate irrigation water, to solve

water supply problems, and to properly dredge and maintain drains,” said U Kyaw Khaing Soe.

Furthermore, the department is striving for increase of socio-economic status of local farmers through double and triple cropping. —Than Min Aung (MNA)/GNLM

Federalism is a system of power-sharing among different regions and states, ethnicities and races

DEMOCRACY is a governance system where people choose their representative to represent them. Federalism is a system of power-sharing among different regions and states, ethnicities and races. Thus, a Union system based on democracy and federalism means that ethnic national people across the nation live together under a governance system of their own choice, with each state or region having the right to legislate. Only then will a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system emerge.

(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)

Union Information Minister, Mandalay Region CM visit Flour Mill, Chemical Fertilizer Plant

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Maung Ko visited yesterday afternoon the Donpyan Flour Mill in Mandalay Industrial Zone and the Toepwa Mann Chemical Fertilizer Plant.

They were briefed by U Khun Aung Sun, the person-in-charge of the factory of Diamond Star Co Ltd, about the background history of the factory, the capacity of the machines, the organogram, year-wise increased production and distribution, import and the market competitiveness. Next, the chief minister provided suggestions and co-ordinations where they are needed.

Afterwards, the Union minister gave guidance, pointing out that focus should be laid on the development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) as they can contribute dramatically towards the development of the nation and Mandalay region. He went on to say that the State-



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Maung Ko visit Donpyan Flour Mill in Mandalay Industrial Zone on 2 October.



owned media have to contribute its own part towards the development of the industrial zones while the CM said emphasis would be laid upon infrastructure for the development of the industrial zones. The factory manager reported on the year-by-year increased production of quality wheat. He also said that the flour they produce is being distributed

across the nation.

At Chemical Fertilizer Plant called Toepwa Mann, they were conducted round the plant and briefed by the responsible officials from the fertilizer plant on the production process, import of the raw materials from abroad and storage of the imported raw materials.

The chief minister said that

necessary support is being provided for infrastructure and that the plant is required to cooperate with the development committees concerned to keep the industrial zone clean and ensure a smooth flow of water.

Then, the Union minister and the chief minister paid a visit to Maha Muni Buddha Image and Maha Lawka Marazein Pagoda

and observed the marble slabs laid on the pagoda terrace. The laying of the marble slabs was done as advised by the Prime Minister as of 4 December 2021 and it completed on 20 July 2022. The cost of laying 81,900 pieces of marble slabs on the terrace and 90,800 pieces of slabs on the circular roads of stone plaque is K650 million in toto, it is learnt.—MNA

Commodity, export product prices including palm oil prices decline

WHEN the gold prices and exchange rates declined drastically in Yangon market by the end of September, the prices of commodities and exported bean also dropped.

On 29 September, the exchange rate was K2,950 per dollar in external market and it was only K2,595,000 per tical of gold, according to the market.

On 31 August, the exchange rate was K4,500 per dollar and the gold price reached K3.8million per tical temporarily. When the exchange rate declined obviously, the bean exports prices were also going down.

Although the FOB prices do not change, the bean prices are falling in Yangon market as the exchange rate drops.

The black bean and pigeon pea can be exported to India



Varieties of groceries are displayed at the market.

freely until March 2023, but the prices of these two beans drop in Yangon bean market, said bean merchant Ko Thet Ko.

On 19 September, it was K2,001,000 per tonne of FAQ/RC black bean, K2,326,000 per tonne of SQ/RC, K2,175,000 per

tonne of Red/RC pigeon pea, and the export bean prices were \$795-815 per tonne of FAQ black bean, \$925-945 per tonne of SQ and \$830-850 per tonne of FAQ pigeon pea.

On 29 September, the export bean price of black bean

changed while the price of black bean and pigeon pea increased \$5 each per tonne. It was K1,885,000 per tonne of FAQ/RC black bean, K2,225,000 per tonne of SQ/RC and K2,075,000 per tonne of Red/RC pigeon pea.

The price of one 18-litre palm oil container imported via border camps was about K70,000/71,000 on 29 September. In the market, the wholesale price is K7,100 per viss and the demand is still low, according to Bayintnaung market.

There are also very few buyers although the oil price is K7,200 per viss in Nyaungbinlay market, oil seller Ko Swe Tun told the GNLM. The 18-litre oil jarrycan was priced at K75,000 per container on 28 September.

The peanut price declines to K1,000/1,500 per viss and the peanut oil price also drops to K12,500

per viss from K14,500. In Mandalay market, the sesame prices are also going down and so the prices of sesame are not fixed yet, sesame farmer Ko Htay from Myingyan told the GNLM.

In Yangon market, the onion prices also drop K450 per viss during this week. The Kyukok garlic wholesale price is K3,750 per viss while K2,000 per viss of Chinese potato and K4,125-K4,400 per viss of chick-pea.

The wholesale price of Moehtaung chilli is only K15,500 per viss. The Pawsan rice price drops about K2,000 per bag.

Although most of the commodities prices decline significantly, the Bayintnaung wholesale centre was seen with lesser number of traders for a few days, said the owners of wholesale centre. —TWA/GNLM

Construction of 7-storey annexe at YGH in progress

THE 7-storey annexe comprising X-ray unit, laboratory, medical wards and lecture halls of Yangon General Hospital is under construction, spending K21,897.982 million, with expectation to complete in coming financial year.

Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win inspected 7-storey annexe construction tasks and medical treatment measures on 1 October.

The Union Minister urged the medical superintendent and relevant professors and specialists to check the construction not to leave their offices and medical wards in the structures, install necessary protection devices for patients, health staff and security personnel and facilities for the



Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win inspects medical equipment and construction progress of 7-storey annexe of Yangon General Hospital on 1 October.

persons with disabilities. He also noted that it is necessary to emphasize strengthening of the building meeting the set standards.

Next, the Union Minister viewed round functions of the diagnostic equipment with atomic radiation such as sin-

gle-photon emission computerized tomography (SPECT)/CT, the positron emission tomography (PET) CT and Cyclotron machinery operations.

Next, he inspected installation of Bhabhatron II Cobalt donated by the Government of the Republic of India at the Radiotherapy Department of the Yangon General Hospital.

The Union Minister instructed officials to supervise the installation of the Bhabhatron II Cobalt as soon as possible for reducing the waiting time of cancer patients to receive radiation treatment.

Some 1,000 cancer patients are receiving radiation treatment at the Yangon General Hospital on a weekly basis. — MNA

PyinOoLwin to resume Tazaungzine hot-air balloon festival this year



Photo shows 15th PyinOoLwin Tazaungzine hot-air balloon festival.

THE PyinOoLwin Tazaungzine hot-air balloon festival (Tazaungzine) will be resumed this year, according to the festival organizing committee.

The festival has been planned to be held in the hot-air balloon field near Maha Arnthtoo Kantha Hsutaungpyae Pagoda in PyinOoLwin from 4 to 8 Novem-

ber 2022.

The festival organizing committee invited tenders from interested businesspersons for operating theatrical show, funfairs, advertising measures, vendor shops, water and electricity supply, latrines and six parking lots by 5 October for the festival.

It has been announced that the trustees board will sell tender forms at K10,000 per copy not later than 5 October and the tender selection will be held at 10 am on 6 October at the Maha Arnthtoo Kantha Hsutaungpyae Pagoda Trustee's Office.

The last PyinOoLwin Tazaungzine Festival was held in 2019, but it was unable to be held in 2020 and 2021, and preparations are being made to hold it again in 2022.

The tender fees for the festival were set as K35 million for theatrical, funfairs, advertising and vendor shops, K10 million for water and power supply and latrines, and K45 million for six parking lots.— TWA/GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, consumer goods, car parts and vehicles confiscated

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

The East District Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force under the instructions of the Yangon Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted the inspections at an auto parts warehouse at No 29 on Pyidaungsu road in Thingangyun township on 29 September and seized K1,338,000 worth of auto parts without showing official documents. The effective action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, a combined team led by Thingangyun township Forest Department confiscated a total of 0.3494 tonne of illegal teak doors worth K230,604 from a Toyota Probox (approximately K15 million) on Thunandar Circular Road of North Okkalapa Township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Afterwards, the combined team led by Myanmar Police

Force nabbed an unregistered Toyota Succeed (estimated value of K2.5 million) in Pyapon township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

On 30 September, an on-duty team at the Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an) Combined Checkpoint seized K8.11 million worth of consumer goods without customs duty paid worth K8.11 million and a Yutong Bus (at estimated value of K130 million). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 1 October, an unregistered Kenbo 125 motorbike (approximately K200,000) was seized at in Monywa and action was taken under the Export and Import Law. In addition, a total of 1.797 tonnes of illegal teak was captured in Toungoo and Thayawady districts and action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 11 arrests (approximately K158,564,888) were made on 29 and 30 September and 1 October, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee.— MNA

Myanmar to expand coffee cultivation acres in 5 years from 2023-2024FY



A responsible person was explaining to buyers her coffee during the coffee buyer tour in Ywangan in 2016.

MYANMAR will add 300,000 more coffee cultivation acres in five years from the 2023-2024 financial year, with a view to boosting exports, penetrating more international markets and becoming one of the leading coffee exporting countries.

According to Myanmar Coffee Association, Myanmar’s annual coffee production is estimated at 7,000 tonnes of high-land coffee Arabica and lowland coffee Robusta in Myanmar, totalling 50,000 acres. The country ships about 800-1,000 tonnes of coffee beans to Asian countries, the US and European Union

member countries every year. Myanmar mostly exports coffee beans to Belgium among EU countries.

Myanmar will implement 200,000 acres of high-land coffee Arabica by dividing four zones and 100,000 acres of low-land coffee Robusta with three zones. Myanmar has earned good results in cupping competitions. Myanmar has produced speciality coffee from 2014-2015 FY.

Myanmar’s speciality coffee is shipped to Japan, the Republic of Korea, the US and EU countries. At present, the coffee

industry is making a concerted effort to penetrate the German market.

Arabica coffee expansion project covers PyinOoLwin, Mogok and Nawngkhio areas under Zone 1, Ywangan, Pindaya and Naungtayar under Zone 2, Hopong, Heho, Pindaung and Mongnai under Zone 3 and Kengtung and Tachilek under Zone 4.

The Robusta coffee cultivation will be expanded in Taninthayi Region under Zone 1, Ayeyawady Region under Zone 2 and Kayin State under Zone 3. — TWA/GNLM

145 cases of COVID-19 mortality reported from 28 January to 26 September

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 mortality cases reached 145 from 28 January to 26 September, according to the Ministry of Health.

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases are rising as of the second week of September with 379 new cases in 12,706 cases of laboratory testing on 30 September 2022, up from 262 new cases from 10,804 cases of laboratory testing on 10 September 2022, according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, new cases hit 2.98 per cent of all.

Mostly COVID-19 positive cases are based on domestic infection without vaccination at all.

A total of 102 (70 per cent) of 145 cases of COVID-19 mortality have underlying chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, liver, kidney, lung and cancer.

According to the analysis, 81.4 per cent of infected persons did not receive full shots of vaccination, 17.2 per cent have received full vaccination and 1.4 per cent has received booster shots.—TWA/GNLM



Members of Sangyoung Township Red Cross Brigade participate in inoculating Covid-19 vaccines to locals.

Muse, Tachilek, Chinshwehaw border trade generate \$13.386 mln in 2 weeks of Sept

THE value of border trade via Muse, Tachilek and Chinshwehaw cross-border posts amounted to US\$13.386 million in the second and third weeks of September, according to a statement released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 10 and 16 September, trade at Muse 105th mile trade zone with China was estimated at \$7.073 million, comprising exports worth \$5.703 million and imports worth \$1.370 million. The export value was up by \$0.398 million and import was down by \$6.027 compared to those of the previous week. The figures indicated a drop of \$5.629 million in Muse border trade in the week ending 16 September.

Myanmar exported eels, broken rice, crab, cotton, areca nut, rice, ginger and herbs,



Freight lorries are pictured queuing at the Tachilek border.

while farm machinery and equipment, plastic raw materials, electrical devices, steel and related goods, machines, industrial raw materials, motorcycle parts and chemicals were imported during that week.

Similarly, Myanmar pocketed \$1.526 million in cross-border trade via Tachilek with Thailand that week, with exports valued at \$0.375 million and imports worth \$1.151 million. The trade value was down by \$0.656 mil-

lion compared to the past week, showing a decrease of \$0.462 million in exports and \$0.194 million in imports.

Exports of rubber latex and Amomi Fructus dropped at the Tachilek border post. Imports

of cement, agricultural trailers and chemicals through the Tachilek border post climbed up, yet imports of tractors, building materials, petroleum products, plastic raw materials and other industrial goods declined.

Moreover, the cross-border trade via Chinshwehaw with China was estimated at \$4.787 million between 10 and 16 September, showing an increase of \$2.3 million compared with the previous week.

Myanmar’s exports of fresh and dried konjac, broken rice, rubber, Sorghum, dried tea leaf and areca nut husk increased compared to the year-ago period. Imports of capital goods and consumer goods dropped but intermediate goods imports went up that week. — TWA/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Kyat stronger against foreign currencies in market; Kyat-dollar exchange rate slides to K2,800

KYAT has strengthened against foreign currencies in the forex market. A dollar is exchanged for around K2,800.

The hard currency US dollar hit a high of over K4,500 in the forex market in August-end. The current exchange rate is around K2,800 on 29 September.

Similarly, a Chinese Yuan was worth K580 in August. On 29 September, the exchange rate of the Chinese Yuan fell to K400.

Additionally, a Thai Baht was exchanged for K100 and K100,000 was valued at only 850 Thai Baht last month. On 29 September, the exchange rate of the Thai Baht against Kyat was K75 and K100,000 was converted into 1,330 Thai Baht.

Consequently, Myanmar Kyat rose in the forex market these days.

The soaring exchange rates against the local currency last month caused the imports to nearly come to a halt, importers said.

That being so, agricultural machinery and related equipment were exempted from obtaining import licence from 1 September, the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce notified on 31 August.

In a bid to support the country's agricultural development and facilitate the imports of agricultural machinery, 70 HS lines concerning the agricul-



A logo shows samples of US currency notes.

tural machinery and equipment were eased from licensing requirements.

Between 1 April and 16 September in the current financial year 2022-2023, goods worth

\$6.82 billion by sea and goods worth \$978 million were imported into the country. Imports of consumer goods, capital goods, intermediate goods and raw materials by CMP businesses accumulated to US\$7.79 billion.

In the corresponding period last FY, Myanmar imported goods worth \$6.345 billion from foreign trade partners, with maritime imports valued at \$5.027 billion and imports through border channels worth \$1.317 billion.

Sea-borne imports were up by \$1.78 billion yet border imports declined by \$339.9 million compared to those recorded in the corresponding period last year. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar pockets \$9.7 mln in rice exports in second week of September



The picture shows loading and unloading containers from ships docked at Yangon Industrial Port.

MYANMAR generated an income of US\$9.7 million in 25,550 tonnes of rice and broken exports to international trade partners through seaborne and cross-border trade in the second week of August 2022, the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce indicated.

Myanmar shipped over 12,260 tonnes of rice worth \$4.978 million by sea between 10 and 16 September, with 9,040 tonnes of rice to Romania, over 620 to Poland, 250 to Belgium, over 120 to the Czech Republic, 1,040 tonnes to China, over 120 to Hong Kong SAR and 1,040 to the Philippines through seaborne trade. At that time, Myanmar conveyed over 740 tonnes of rice worth \$0.277 million to neighbouring country China.

The volume of rice exports

via maritime trade and the border channel totalled nearly 13,000 tonnes with an estimated value of \$5.255 million.

Meanwhile, Myanmar delivered about 7,400 tonnes of broken rice worth \$2.661 million to China (6,550 tonnes) and Belgium (750 tonnes) through seaborne trade in the week ending 16 September, while over 5,150 tonnes of broken rice worth \$1.795 million were sent to China. The overall broken rice export earned \$4.456 million with over 12,550 tonnes.

In the second week of September, the exports of rice and broken rice accumulated \$9.711 million from 25,550 tonnes. The export volume is up by over 12,000 tonnes and export earnings rose by \$4.836 million compared to those recorded in the previous week. — TWA/GNLM

Gold retreats as global gold spot prices, dollar fall

THE domestic gold market sees a sharp downtick of K1.2 million per tical (0.578 ounce 0.016 kilogramme) within a month, according to the domestic gold market.

The soaring dollar pushed up the pure gold price to a record-high of K3.7 million per tical in late August. The prevailing prices of pure gold are K2.495 million per tical for selling and K2.465 million per tical for buying.

The drop in gold spot prices in international markets and Kyat strengthening in the forex market are contributing factors to the downward trend of pure gold in the domestic market.

The gold price hit US\$1,700 per ounce in late August. At that time, the dollar jumped to over K4,500 in the unofficial markets.

The current gold spot price is \$1,660 per ounce and a dollar is exchanged at around K2,800 in the black market.

The governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) and officials of the Monitoring and Steering Committee on the Gold and Currency Market discussed matters regarding the stability of the gold and currency market on the afternoon of 14 September in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, the governor of the CBM remarked the further coordination of the departments concerned, gold bar transactions to be made with the banking system and operations of the banks, further support of the ministries concerned and the CBM to achieve price stability, and further co-operation between gold businesspersons and the officials.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation declared the sales of gold coins weighing one tical, 0.5 tical and 0.25 tical through state-run media on 2 September. The gold coins have been on sale at Nay Pyi Taw's Gems Emporium from 5 September.

Gold coins were sold at K2.95 million per tical on 5 September, K2.85 million from 6 to 13 September and K2.8 million from 14 to 16 September respectively. The accumulated sales of gold coins stood at 455.75 ticals as of 16 September, according to the statement released by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

The State's gold coin market has expanded to Yangon and Mandalay regions from 23 September other than Nay Pyi Taw, the ministry issued an an-

nouncement through the state-run media on 22 September.

Last 28 September 2021, a dollar value hit a peak of over K3,000 in the black market, pushing the pure gold up to K2.22 million per tical.

Under the guidance of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, the Monitoring and Steering Committee on the Gold and Currency Market was formed on 17 December 2021 as gold and currency market stability plays a crucial role in trade facilitation.

The objectives of the committee are inspecting and prosecuting market manipulation, checking if there is compliance with payment rules in the domestic market, and proceeding against those unscrupulous traders who intend to interfere with the free and fair operation of the market under the existing laws, by-laws and regulations in line with the official directives, illegal foreign currency holding, illegal trade and taking legal actions against price manipulators.

Furthermore, the officials concerned will crack down on those people involved in charging a percentage for money withdrawals at the banks as shadow money. — NN/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar exports iron cast products to Singapore, ROK

APPROXIMATELY eight tonnes of Myanmar's iron cast products trench drain grates, iron loaders, cast iron hose reels are daily manufactured with 80 workers and sent to Singapore and the Republic of Korea.

Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win gave a remark during his visit to metal casting workshop located at No 29 in the western quarter of Phayagyi in Bago Township on the morning of 2 October.

The Chief Minister highlighted that on his inspection tour, he knew that the business is positively relying on the availability of raw materials for uplift of micro, small and medium scale enterprises. He coordinated



Officials inspect iron cast products at metal casting workshop in Bago Township on 2 October.

matters regarding fair prices of raw materials and having easy access to them, direct export

to Singapore and the ROK to increase export earnings, grasping a strong market share in in-

ternational markets, business expansion and land permit, and adequate power supply during

the working hours.

Iron casting industry earned a state-level medium sized entrepreneur award in 2013 and the second prize of local product award in 2018. At present, kitchen goods, sifters, mortar, bicycle wheels, iron mercantile weight measuring scale, iron cast skillets, over 100 types of cast iron fixtures, cast iron drainage cover, sand suction pump, pebble stones dredge pump, steel rings, metal pumps, different types of scales, iron fences, iron knives, treadles of traditional sewing machines and Chinese-import substitute fire hydrants are being manufactured for exports beyond domestic consumption.—MNA

Mandalay Region Agriculture Dept to cover over 120,000 acres of winter peanut in nine districts



Peanut plantations are thriving on croplands in Mandalay Region.

THE Mandalay Region Agriculture Department projected over 120,000 acres of winter peanut cultivation in nine districts across the region this financial year, said Daw Toe Toe Win, an officer of the department.

A total of 126,198 acres of winter peanuts plantation will be implemented in 20 townships of nine districts in the region from early October. This

aims to ensure the security of edible oil for the domestic consumers.

“The regional departments are increasing oil seeds plantations each financial year for self-sufficiency in edible oil. The Agriculture Department has been distributing pedigree oil seeds and proving growing methods and post-harvest technologies,” she added.

The peanut plantations will be cultivated on 1,087 acres of croplands in Kyaukse District, 2,205 in NyaungU District, 13,111 in TadaU, 5,988 in Meiktila, 32,558 in Myingyan, 16,050 in Yamethin, 34,662 in Thabeikkyin, 566 in Amarapura and 19,971 in Aungmyethazan in Mandalay Region.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)/GNLM

Myanmar goods exports surpass larger than imports as of 23 Sept

THE value of Myanmar's goods exports was relatively higher than those of imports between 1 April and 23 September in the current financial year 2022-2023, according to statistics provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's trade gap significantly shrank to US\$0.024 million this FY from \$234 million registered in the corresponding period of the 2021-2022 FY.

In the nearly a half of the FY, the value of Myanmar's external trade soared to \$16.3 billion from \$13.45 billion recorded in the year-ago period.

While exports were estimated at \$8.159.057 billion, imports were valued relatively low at \$8.159.033 billion during April-Sept period. Compared to the FY 2021-2022, exports showed an increase of over \$1.3 billion, while import value was up by \$1.55 billion.

Myanmar's maritime trade value edged up to \$12.5 billion

in the nearly past six months from \$9.5 billion recorded in the same period last year yet the country witnessed a small drop of \$135 million in border trade as cross-border trade with the main trade partner China has not returned to normal amid the strict virus policy.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer goods. The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. The Ministry of Commerce is trying to reduce the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports. The country mainly imports essential goods, construction materials, capital goods, hygienic material and supporting products for export promotion and the import substitution.—KK/GNLM

Myanmar conveys \$430,000 worth of silkworm cocoon to China via Lweje in two months

MYANMAR delivered 86 tonnes of silkworm cocoons worth US\$430,000 carried by 19 trucks to China through the Lweje border trade camp between 1 August and 27 September of the current financial year.

In August, 36 tonnes of silkworm cocoons worth \$180,000 were sent to China. Those silkworm cocoons produced in the

Nawngkhio area are sent to a silk rearing factory in China.

The private companies export approximately 300 tonnes of silkworm cocoons to China every year, said an official of the Sericulture Centre in PyinOoLwin.

Mulberry is perennial and the related department also provides sericulture courses so that the growers know-how to properly

rear the silkworms and produce silk. The export of silkworm cocoons aims to enhance the private sector, increase income of the silkworm farmers and generate foreign income. There are five state-owned mulberry farms in the region including Sericulture Centre, silk reeling factory and silkworm cocoon research farm and the three other sericulture

farms.

“The mulberry is mostly cultivated in the May-June period. Beyond silkworm production, mulberry cultivation can also produce nutritious mulberry tea leaves, wine and jam as it can bring health benefits. Furthermore, cosmetics such as soaps and shampoos are also manufactured from rearing houses.

Different growing methods are utilized in the farms,” she added. There are more than 5,600 acres of mulberry across the country, with yearly production of 750,000 rearing houses. The silkworm cocoon is sent to the domestic silk reeling factories and silk is on sale under a bidding system. Myanmar companies convey dried silkworm cocoons to China.—GNLM

Don't turn a blind eye to habitat for people

“**M**IND the Gap. Leave No One and Place Behind”, the theme of the 2022 World Habitat Day aims to lessen inequality and challenges in cities and human settlements as part of solving the problems in society.

COVID-19, climate and conflict are of great importance in drawing attention to the increasing numbers of inequalities and vulnerabilities based on discrimination. According to the UN-Habitat's World Cities Report, the number of people affected was between 119 and 124 million in 2020, and between 143 and 163 million in 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic and various conflicts, especially armed conflicts have reversed years of progress made in the fight against poverty in the nation, resulting in the emergence of newly poor people. As poverty is a key factor in the habitat of the people, it is necessary to seek the best way for providing proper habitats to the people as much as possible.

homeless temporarily reside in the areas of the squatter. Hence, it is necessary to resettle the needy people in the appropriate areas for giving them a chance to build their lives so that their families can be assured for new generations.

The COVID-19 pandemic and various conflicts, especially armed conflicts have reversed years of progress made in the fight against poverty in the nation, resulting in the emergence of newly poor people. As poverty is a key factor in the habitat of the people, it is necessary to seek the best way for providing proper habitats to the people as much as possible.

This World Habitat Day will focus on promoting all levels of government and all relevant stakeholders to reflect on how to implement concrete initiatives to ensure adequate and affordable housing for the needy persons as well as retired and in-service personnel and those from various strata, as part of securing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations.

■

Reasons to Declare NUG as a Terrorist Group

By Min Khant

I have certain points to discuss on the current terrorist acts in Myanmar according to the knowledge and facts I got recently during a seminar on terrorism. There are plenty of events across the world that can be regarded as acts of terrorism and likewise, the methods of terrorist attacks and the reasons behind them are changing from time to time.

It is said there is no official definition of Terrorism universally agreed upon by the World's countries. The reason is that the term terrorism is found hard to be exactly defined since terrorism and acts of terror are interrelated with other political-related matters such as violence, crimes and armed conflicts.

Although the CRPH, NUG and PDF groups are clearly committing terrorist acts against innocent civilians who are not even holding a needle as a weapon in Myanmar, political controversies arise in the international community to officially designate them as terrorist groups. **For instance, it is reported that for political reasons, some international organizations and individuals are engaging with the CRPH/NUG/PDFs that have been declared terrorist groups by the State Administration Council-SAC. In reality, although the NUG is operating as a group that emerged in the political crisis, there is plenty of undeniable evidence proving that its goal and activities meet not only the definitions of terrorism but also the forms of terrorist acts accepted by the world's countries.**

Therefore, this article will explore the reason why CRPH/NUG/PDFs were declared terrorist groups and also compare what they are actually doing on the ground with the international norms and definitions of terrorism to reveal the forms of terrorism practised by the NUG.

Definition of Terrorism

Oxford Dictionary has defined Terrorism as “the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims”. It can be said this definition clearly and simply reflects the terrorism and terror acts. In the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly (49/60) on 9 December 1994, a point of declaration describes terrorism as “Criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes are in any circumstance unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or any other nature that may be invoked to justify them.” Therefore, terrorism purports to be the criminal acts intended to provoke a state of terror in the general public for any reason of political, racial and religious or any other nature.

Counter-Terrorism Law of Myanmar has also clearly defined terrorism as “Acts which cause damage and loss to the public security or life and property of the public or important infrastructure facilities for the public or private or the State-owned facilities, conveyances, machinery and equipment”. Moreover, according to the Law, “acts which cause death or serious injury to a civilian or any other person not participating at hostilities in the situation of armed conflict with the intent to cause fear in the public, to force Government or any internal and international organization to do an unlawful act or to refrain from doing a lawful act, and other acts” amount to the acts of terrorism.

Therefore, analyzing the aforementioned definitions, we can clearly perceive that the violent acts of threatening and killing unarmed innocent civilians to provoke a state of terror in the general public without attempting to achieve political solutions with political means meet the terrorism and terror acts widely accepted by all societies of the world.

Origin of NUG Terrorist Group

To give a brief overview of the current political situation in Myanmar, the political unrest began with the irregular and unscrupulous attempts of the NLD-led government to form the next administration. As the NLD-led government and the then Union Election Commission-UEC made intentional voting fraud and irregularities abusing the laws in the 2020 General Elections, the Tatmadaw had to assume the State's responsibilities in accordance with the 2008 State Constitution. The armed revolution that emerged due to the discontent with the lawful act

of the Tatmadaw can simply not be regarded as a political movement for democracy. In fact, the previous NLD-led administration could have solved the problem of voting fraud peacefully as per law but they ignored it and merely attempted to achieve their political objective by the approach of terrorism with the emergence of CRPH comprising former NLD Hluttaw representatives followed by NUG and PDF groups.

In Myanmar, the demonstrations and protests began peacefully but later evolved into violent extremism. At that time, civilians who want to live in a peaceful environment are no longer involved in this phase but only the so-called PDF extremists formed by CRPH/NUG for each region are committing acts of terrorism. Members of the NUG terrorist group taking refuge in some foreign countries are providing financial assistance and arms/ammunition to so-called PDF groups in Myanmar, and then manipulating, threatening and forcing the groups to commit acts of terrorism.

Acts of Terrorism Committed by NUG

The acts committed by the PDFs under the arrangement and leadership of CRPH/NUG as well as the extremist ideologies indoctrinated by the lobbyists via social media networks are found to be congruent with the types of terrorism recognized by the international community.

During a period from 1 February 2021 to 20 September 2022, the so-called CRPH/NUG/PDF terrorists had committed terrorist assassination attacks on innocent civilians for 3,997 times; bomb attacks on non-military targets for 4,981 times; arsons for 653 times; destroying schools and education facilities for 725 times; attacking administration offices for 254 times; vandalizing factories and workshops for 58 times; blowing up communication towers for 421 times; bomb attacks on transmission tower for 14 times and violent attacks on COVID-19 treatment centres for 11 times.

During the same period, the violent assassinations of the terrorists had claimed the lives of 3,664 innocent civilians in total including 55 Buddhist monks, 39 education staff and teachers, 13 health workers and other staff, and 89 children (killed with other family members after being accused of being 'Dalans'), 524 administrators, 120 veterans. As an obvious example that is concerned with an international organization, U Myo Min Htut, a staff member from the World Health Organization (WHO) Myanmar was shot dead on the road in Mawlamyine city on 8 June 2022. The deceased victim was not related to any other armed organization. However, the reason for the PDF was that they killed the victim as per the Hit List of NUG as he is a relative of a SAC member. It is worth wondering whether the reason is reliable or justifiable to kill an ordinary person. In fact, their accusation was not true and the act of shooting an innocent ordinary civilian, an official staff of the UN in public is obviously a heinous act of terrorism.



U Myo Min Htut, a staff member of the World Health Organization (WHO) Myanmar shot dead by PDF terrorists in Mawlamyine city

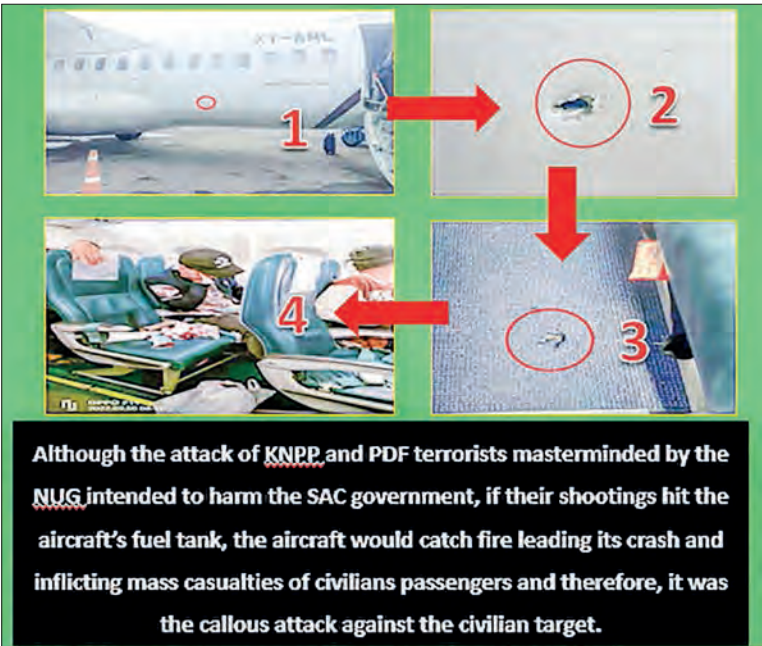


Damages of No (130) transmission Tower in the aftermath of mine attacks by PDF terrorists

Besides the wanton assassinations of innocent civilians, PDF terrorists are also committing inhumane terrorist crimes that lead to mass casualties by joining hands together with some other local armed insurgent groups. For instance, PDF terrorists together with KNPP terrorist insurgents attacked a passenger aircraft of Myanmar National Airlines-MNA running from Loikaw to Yangon with a weapon (under verification) on 30 September. The bullet they fired hit the left part of the aircraft fuselage leaving one passenger onboard injured.

Such a terrorist attack against a passenger aircraft is simply

a vicious terrorist act that constitutes a war crime. Reviewing the recent terrorism cases in Myanmar, we all obviously can see the close linkages between PDF being masterminded by NUG and certain terrorist insurgent groups of KNPP, KIA and KNU. Such callous terrorist acts of terrorist groups not only meet the characteristics of terrorism defined by the international community but also breach the provisions of the Counter-Terrorism Law of Myanmar.



The violent attack committed by KNPP and PDF Terrorists on the passenger aircraft

Hence, in order to combat, counter and control such acts of terrorism, the Government has accordingly made news releases via various media outlets in a timely manner, held press conferences and given propitious clarifications in international meetings and discussions so that the world countries including neighbours and local/ foreign organizations perceive the CRPH, NUG and PDF as terrorist groups.

Moreover, monthly reports with strong evidence about the acts of terrorism have been sent to international counter-terrorism organizations including UNCTED, INTERPOL and ASEANPOL in order to take punitive actions against the terrorist groups as per international laws, rules and regulations. As a result, we see gradual cooperation of some countries and organizations actually desiring the end of terrorism.

For instance, Australia allowed the terrorist like film actor Min Maw Kun to take refuge in their territory as a hero of democracy. However, when he was found out to be a perpetrator of making nefarious threats and terror acts, his visa allowance matters reportedly came under the scrutiny of the Australian government. Facebook also removed the blue verification badge of Min Maw Kun's account. Although such actions can be seen as the right measures to suppress terrorism, it is sad to see that some powerful countries still encourage, support and engage with the NUG terrorist group taking refuge in their territories on the pretext of democracy and political reason. Those violating the existing laws of Myanmar and fleeing to other countries are not political activists but in fact, the ones who have manipulated and instigated the current acts of terrorism and wanton killings. Hence, it is concluded that relevant governments require not to protect such terrorists taking shelter in powerful countries on the pretext of democracy.

In this regard, it is questionable whether the attempts of some terrorist-supporting individuals, organizations and countries to portray the NUG as democratic forces or political activists creating a double standard of terrorism correspond with their activities on the ground; and why it is impossible to recognize the NUG as a terrorist group despite the undeniable evidence of what they are actually doing. As a Myanmar citizen who does not want terrorism, I here simply would like to fire the aforementioned questions to the countries, organizations and individuals including the UN that are in contact with NUG.

New Terrorism of NUG

Drawing a comparison between the acts of terrorism committed by NUG and the events of terrorism that occurred in the world, it is simply found that what actually happen in Myanmar as a result of PDF's actions under the management of NUG are not the homicide cases without political aim, or hate crimes based on racial and gender problems or State-based armed conflicts either and not even the Non-state armed conflicts.

But the terrorism in Myanmar is based on political and personal interests, and it includes targeted assassinations of civil servants, and ward/ village administrators who are pillars of the State; targeted assassinations of civilians or non-combatants; extrajudicial killing and bombing attacks and murders in public places with the intent to devastate the whole country and entire society. The course of NUG is clearly found to be a new pattern of terrorism that might threaten the global order in the 21st century as it aims to devastate Myanmar society and cause social and psychological disorders.

Those who initiated the new pattern of terrorism are effectively deploying the pre-arranged so-called media outlets and social media networks to disseminate extremist ideologies and fear among the public. That is a new pattern of terrorism to build up power by violent means after indoctrinating people with extremist ideologies when the illicit attempts with vote riggings and abusing laws fail to secure political power in every country practising democracy and election system. The new pattern of terrorism is being materialized to promote the interests of political parties and individuals on the pretext of democracy and election. It is required to be aware that the contemporary geopolitics and power rivalry among powerful countries are accelerating the new pattern of terrorism to be strengthened.

In Myanmar, terrorists are not solving a political problem with political means but only attempting to destroy the physical and mental states of the entire society by making a stepping-stone of international organizations and killing innocent civilians to create fear among them. If the approach of NUG, based on the course of the utter devastation of the State minding only their political interests, succeeds, other world countries and regional countries are likely to face similar new patterns of terrorism.

To sum up, it is worth being aware that the decision of the United Nations to accept the fugitive Kyaw Moe Tun who has obviously encouraged the new pattern of terrorism of NUG is apparently paving the way to spread the new pattern of terrorism across the world. The indecisiveness of the UN towards the fugitive Kyaw Moe Tun, an accomplice of the NUG terrorist group will surely damage the reputation of the international organization. Moreover, I also worry about the emergence of new patterns of terrorism that uses IGOs/ INGOs, the UN and other international organizations as stepping stones.

People in Myanmar suffering from the new pattern of terrorism of NUG/PDFs are largely disgusted by the terrorist groups. Likewise, once people hear someone says NUG or PDF, they will surely see and imagine only the armed terrorist group that is committing vicious crimes of murder. People no more want to see gory scenes as peace and stability of towns and villages are important to ensure the safety and wellbeing of every individual and family. Now is an important time for the world countries to join hands together to suppress and stop terrorism in accord with international law.

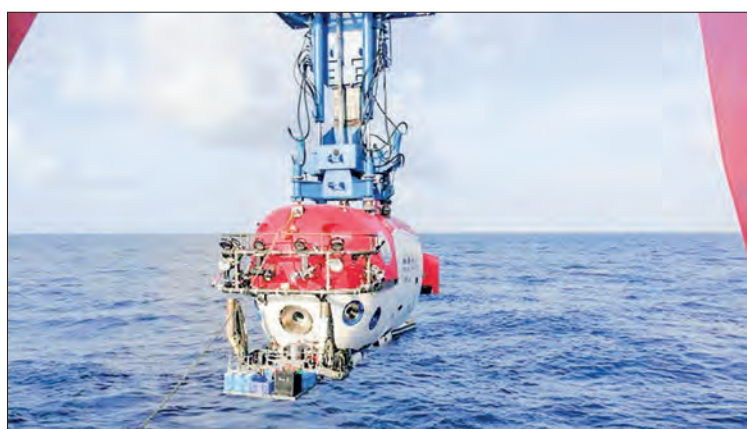
As I mentioned above in the article, the NUG and PDF are disguising themselves as political activists under the name of democracy and it is time to stop their inhumane acts. Therefore, my article highlights the reasons why the NUG is declared a terrorist group.

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ARTICLE

China is now a global innovation powerhouse



The deep-diving manned submersible Deep Sea Warrior embarks on its maiden mission in the South China Sea on 20 April 2018. (XINHUA)

CHINA had long aspired to be an innovation powerhouse. Now, it is one. "In the past decade, China's scientific and technological undertakings have undergone historic structural and overall changes. We have entered the ranks of countries of innovators," Wang Zhigang, Minister of Science and Technology, said at a press conference on 6 June 2022.

The country's ranking in the Global Innovation Index, released by the World Intellectual Property Organization, rose from 34th place in 2012 to 12th place in 2021.

"China has significantly elevated its position and role in the global innovation landscape. We are not only an important participant in international frontier innovation but also an important contributor to jointly solving global problems," Wang said.

of building a country of innovators with strong science and technology, carried out an innovation-driven development strategy, followed a path of independent innovation with Chinese characteristics, and drawn blueprints for science and technology development, Wang said.

Science and technology output in China has been improving in both quantity and quality, according to data released by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST). China currently ranks second worldwide for the number of highly cited academic and research papers it produces, with 42,920 in 2021, 5.4 times the number it produced in 2012. Last year, China's highly cited papers accounted for 24.8 per cent of the world's total, 17.5 percentage points higher than in 2012.

The number of patent appli-

to protect their rights in different countries by filing a single international patent application. The number of invention patents per 10,000 people in China grew from 3.2 in 2012 to 19.1 in 2021.

"China has changed from a big importer of intellectual property rights (IPR) to a big IPR-creating country," Shen Changyu, head of the China National Intellectual Property Administration, said at a press conference on 24 April. "The quality of intellectual property creation in China has been continuously improved, the level of protection has been significantly enhanced, and patents have been put into use at an increased pace."

"Last year, China granted 690,000 invention patents, bringing the total number of invention patents granted over the past five years to 2.53 million, and achieving an average annual growth of 13.4 per cent," Shen added.

The value of technology contracts in China in 2021 was 5.8 times that of 2012, accounting for 3.26 per cent of GDP. The proportion of scientifically literate citizens in the country increased from 3.27 per cent in 2010 to 10.56 per cent in 2020.

nessed the greatest progress in engineering science and technology, and the fastest improvement in scientific and technological strength in China," Li Xiaohong, President of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, said at the press conference on 6 June.

Scientific and technological breakthroughs are constantly emerging. Most recently in June, the Shenzhou-14 spacecraft ferried three Chinese astronauts to China's permanent space station for a six-month stay. Construction of the space station is scheduled for completion by the end of this year.

Other fields, too, have seen notable recent progress. For instance, at the end of this May, Shanghai Ruijin Hospital began clinical trials of the first home-grown proton therapy device with a 180-degree rotating gantry, which will significantly lower treatment costs compared with using imported devices.

Proton therapy sends beams of high energy that can target tumours more precisely with less damage to healthy tissue and milder side effects than X-ray radiation. It is usually painless, and especially suitable for the treatment of tu-

mours in children. Most patients do not need to be hospitalized and can return to their daily activities after receiving treatment.

The recent clinical trial showed positive results. "Our proton therapy has reached an internationally advanced level," said Dai Zhimin, Director of the Shanghai Institute of Applied Physics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Ruijin Hospital will continue the research and development of a 360-degree rotating beam treatment system in the future, according to him.

China's scientific and technological innovation focuses on four main aspects — exploring global scientific and technological frontiers, serving main economic sectors, meeting major national needs, and improving people's life and health. These four focuses were put forward by President Xi Jinping on 11 September 2020.

In terms of exploring global scientific and technological frontiers, China has made a number of original achievements with global influence.

According to MOST, in the past decade, China has made the world's first observation of the three-dimensional quantum Hall effect and the controlled folding of graphene with atomic-level precision and developed the world's first heterogeneous fusion brain-like computing chip Tianji. It has successfully carried out the Chang'e lunar exploration programme and launched the Zhurong Mars rover and Xihe solar observation satellite, as well as several other scientific experimental satellites, including Wukong to explore the dark matter, Mozi to perform the first quantum communication between a satellite and the Earth, Huiyan to measure the energy level of a newly discovered gravitational wave, and TanSat to track greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere.

MOST estimates that the contribution rate of science and technology to the national economic growth exceeded 60 per cent in 2020, up from about 40 per cent a decade ago.

Wang said science and technology drive industries to move up to the middle and high end of industrial and supply chains, and ensure the safety and stability of these chains. At the same time, emerging technologies such as supercomputing, artificial intelligence, big data and blockchain have promoted the vigorous

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Scientists study lunar soil brought back to Earth by the Chang'e-5 mission at the Institute of Geology and Geophysics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing on 18 October 2021. (XINHUA)

Unleashing creativity

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012, China has put innovation at the centre of national development. It has put forward the goal

cations made under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) increased from 19,000 in 2012 to 69,500 in 2021, ranking first in the world for the third consecutive year. The PCT allows intellectual property holders



The Shenzhou-14 crewed spaceship successfully docks with the core module of China's Tiangong space station on 5 June. (XINHUA)

Milestone achievements

"The recent decade has wit-

mours in sensitive areas such as the brain, eyes and heart, and tu-

ARTICLE

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development of new industries and new business formats such as the digital economy.

To meet major national needs, efforts have been made to speed up research on core technologies and to shore up weaknesses in strategically important fields. Cutting-edge solutions supported the implementation of major engineering projects such as the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the Sichuan-Tibet Railway. The clean and efficient utilization of seabed oil and gas resources and coal, as well as the development of new-generation nuclear technologies, are vital to guaranteeing national energy security.

During COVID-19, China has achieved a number of breakthroughs in vaccines, drugs, and testing reagents, which have strongly supported the prevention and control of the pandemic. Innovative drugs, domestically developed high-end medical devices, and advanced diagnosis and treatment technologies have all been produced in recent years.

According to MOST, thanks to new-drug development projects, the number of approved new Class-I drugs in China has increased from five before 2012 to the current 79. Meanwhile, a number of domestically produced high-end medical devices, notably the positron emission tomography-magnetic resonance (PET-MR) system, have been put into use. PET-MR is one of the most advanced medical imaging diagnostic devices in the world.



The Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope, the largest single-dish radio telescope in the world, in Guizhou Province, on 19 December 2021. (XINHUA)

Innovation drivers

A number of factors are driving China's science and technology progress, including increasing government and corporate expenditure and extensive reforms.

Over the period from 2012 to 2021, China's gross domestic research and development (R&D) expenditure grew from 1.03 trillion yuan (\$153 billion) to the world's second-largest of 2.79 trillion yuan (\$414.3 billion), according to MOST. The ratio of R&D spending to GDP rose from 1.91 to 2.44 per cent, close to the average level of members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Basic research expenditure in 2021 was 3.4 times that of ten years ago, accounting for about 6.09 per cent of total R&D expenditure, a record high for China. "The level of basic research in China has been greatly improved, and that in disciplines such as chemistry, materials science and physics stands at the forefront of the world," Wang said.

"The proportion of basic research investment in developed countries is mostly at the level of 13-25 per cent, so we still have a big gap to close," Liu Hui Feng, a researcher with the Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development, said.

Meanwhile, as the number of hi-tech enterprises soared from 49,000 in 2012 to 330,000 in 2021, these enterprises have also increased their R&D spending to now account for more than 76 per cent of the national total.

A number of internationally competitive technology-based enterprises have emerged. Huawei, a leading global telecom solutions provider, is also a leader in R&D investment. In 2021, the company invested 22.4 per cent of its annual

entire of its R&D funding, or about 200 billion yuan (\$30 billion), was spent on basic research last year.

According to the company, as of late 2021, Huawei held more than 110,000 active patents across over 45,000 patent families, and it has had more patents granted than any other Chinese enterprise.

Fan Zhiyong, head of the company's Intellectual Property Rights Department, said the company had been the one to submit the largest amount of PCT applications in the world for five consecutive years until 2021. Last year, the number was close to 7,000, a record high for the company.

In addition to pumping more money into science and technology development, China has been carrying out reforms to spark innovation.

Wang said that cultivating talented people is critical for driving development. "The ten-year innovator-centred reforms have remarkably improved the mechanisms for training, utilizing, evaluating, motivating and engaging talented individuals."

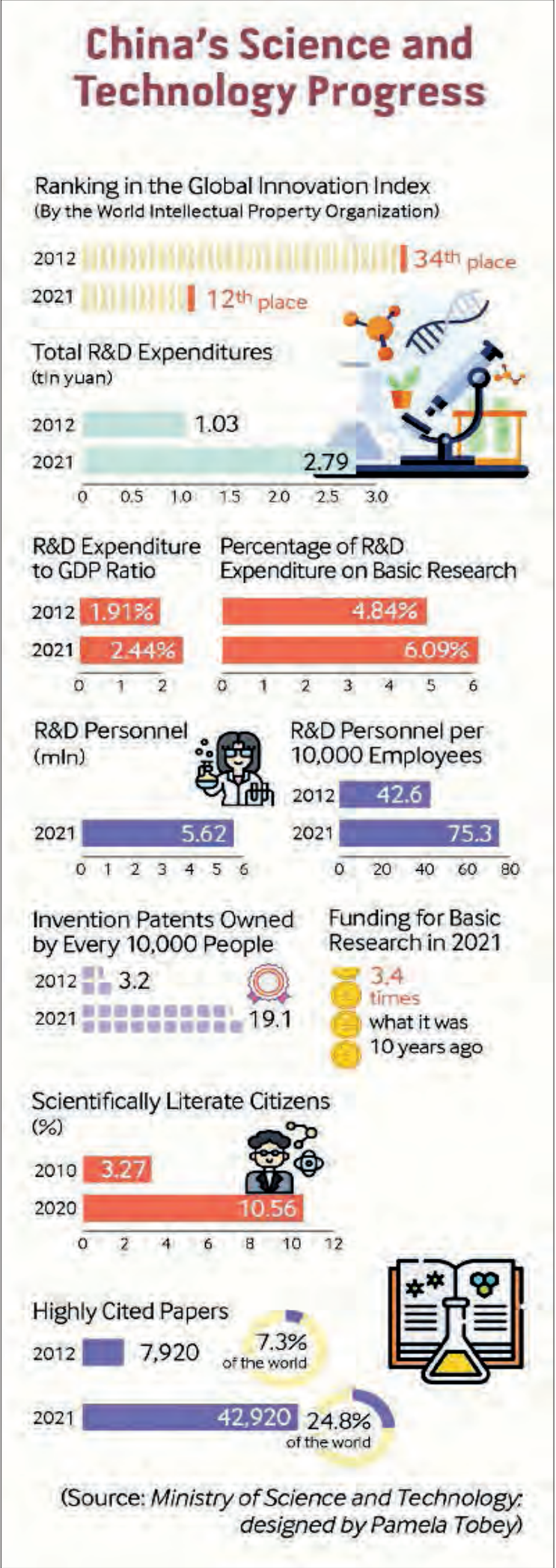
Project planning and funding management approaches have been updated to simplify the application process and improve fund-using efficiency, and research integrity has been fostered to create a sound environment for innovation.

Science and technology personnel engaged in basic research, technological innovation, achievement application, and those in hi-tech industries are evaluated by different criteria.

The Law on Promoting the Transformation of Scientific and Technological Achievements was revised to endow innovators with the right to use, dispose of and benefit from the commercialization of their research as much as possible. A number of relevant platforms have been formed, including makerspaces, and science and technology incubators.

Efforts have also been made to build national laboratories and high-level research-oriented universities, and improve the research capabilities of research institutes.

Moreover, over the past decade, China has established scientific and technological cooperation relations with 161 countries and regions, and joint research in the fields of climate change, food security, human life and health has yielded fruitful results. Wang said openness and cooperation



are essential to the development of science and technology and indispensable to addressing global challenges.

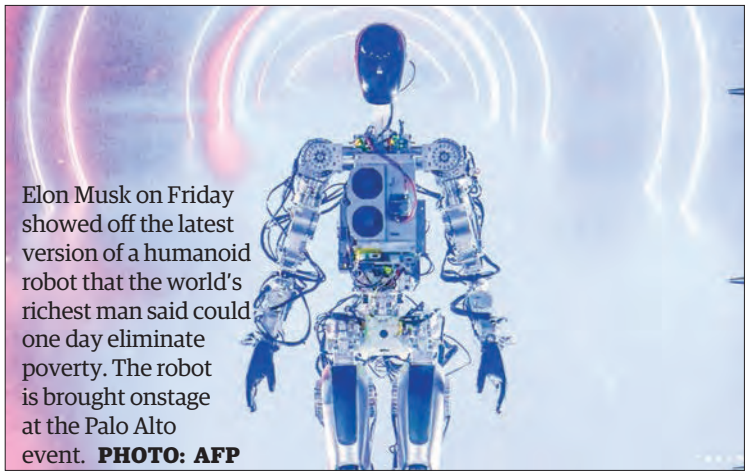
With all these achievements, Wang pointed out there is still much room for future development. "We are soberly aware that China still lags behind advanced countries in

original innovation, cultivation of high-calibre researchers and key core technologies," he said. "We should not only seize important development opportunities but also be ready to deal with future risks and challenges."

(Source: Xinhua)

ECONOMY
WORLD

No Terminator: Musk teases ‘useful’ humanoid robot



Elon Musk on Friday showed off the latest version of a humanoid robot that the world’s richest man said could one day eliminate poverty. The robot is brought onstage at the Palo Alto event. **PHOTO: AFP**

ELON Musk on Friday showed off the latest version of a humanoid robot that the world’s richest man said could one day eliminate poverty.

An Optimus prototype wheeled on stage during an annual Tesla AI Day presentation was mounted to a small platform. The robot, which remains a work-in-progress, waved to the audience and raised its knees.

“Our goal is to make a useful humanoid robot as quick as

possible,” the billionaire tech pioneer Musk told the audience at the event in Silicon Valley.

“There is still a lot of work to be done.”

Tesla is adapting its autonomous car technology to give Optimus capabilities such as walking safely or working on a factory floor, company engineers said during the presentation.

Another version of the robot, built with off-the-shelf com-

ponents rather than Tesla-made parts like Optimus, walked slowly onto the stage, pumped its fists and thrust its hips briefly in time with music as if dancing.

“The robot can actually do a lot more than we just showed you, we just didn’t want it to fall on its face,” Musk quipped.

Tesla is designing Optimus robots to be produced at high rates, pushing the price perhaps lower than \$20,000, Musk said. — AFP

Rise in Int’l inflation impacts Pakistan’s economic outlook significantly

IN the backdrop of international price hike and recent exceptional floods, the economic outlook for Pakistan in the current fiscal year (2022-23) is likely to remain below the target, says ‘Economic Update and Outlook for September 2022, released by finance ministry here on Friday.

“The economic outlook for Pakistan in the current fiscal year has become uncertain and will likely remain below the target,” says the report adding the macroeconomic imbalances may ease with the expected slowdown in the economic growth.

It says, in March 2022, international oil and food prices broke out the upper bound of the margins observed in the last two decades, which impacted

significantly inflation in Pakistan.

“Even if international commodity prices would mean-revert in the near future, domestic inflation may still suffer from delayed adjustments and second round effects. Also, the depreciation of the rupee continues to exert upward pressure on domestic prices,” it says.

At the same time, recent exceptional floods have destroyed human, physical, and livestock capital and deprived many families of their assets and incomes.

Besides the cost in terms of lost lives and capital, these events will certainly affect the creation of gross value added and hence economic growth. — AFP

Hurricane Ian damage toll in the billions, will slow US growth

WITH homes and infrastructure wrecked by wind or flooding and businesses shut down, the destruction left in the wake of Hurricane Ian is expected to cost Florida tens of billions of dollars and hit the broader US economy.

The devastation will weigh on insurance companies in the southern US state, and poses a danger to uninsured homeowners as well.

After making landfall on the southwest coast of Florida on Wednesday, Ian brought strong winds and torrential rains, sometimes turning streets into rivers.

The damage estimates remain very preliminary, but it is clear “the hurricane is expected to severely disrupt economic activity over 10 days, with power cuts, flight cancellations, suspension of energy production, impact on farms agricultural crops, in particular oranges,” Gregory Daco, economist at EY-Parthenon, told AFP. He predicted that Ian will slow Florida’s



After making landfall on the southwest coast of Florida on Wednesday, Ian brought strong winds and torrential rains, sometimes turning streets into rivers. **PHOTO: AFP**

economic activity by six percentage points in the third quarter, and shave three-tenths off US GDP.

As with all natural disasters, this economic impact will gradually lessen over time, especially when reconstruction efforts get underway, he said. CoreLogic, a firm that specializes in property analysis, said wind-related losses from residential and commercial properties could cost insurers up to \$32 billion while

losses related to flooding could go as high as \$15 billion.

“This is the costliest Florida storm since Hurricane Andrew made landfall in 1992 and a record number of homes and properties were lost due to Hurricane Ian’s intense and destructive characteristics,” CoreLogic’s Tom Larsen said in a statement.

Fitch Ratings and S&P Global Ratings estimate the total cost could amount to \$40 billion. — AFP

Strong US dollar an unstoppable force endangering other currencies



THE dazzling rise of the US dollar, which has hit one record after another, is raising fears of a currency crash of a severity not seen since the 1997 Asian financial crisis reverberated around the world.

The Federal Reserve’s rapid,

steep interest rate increases and the relative health of the US economy has caused investors to flood into the dollar, driving the greenback up and sending the British pound, Indian rupee, Egyptian pound and South Korean won and others to uncharted depths.

The Federal Reserve’s rapid, steep interest rate increases and the relative health of the US economy has caused investors to flood into the dollar, driving the greenback up and sending the British pound, Indian rupee, Egyptian pound and South Korean won and others to uncharted depths. **PHOTO: ALIAL-SAADI/AFP**

“The moves are definitely getting extreme,” said Brad Bechtel of Jefferies, warning that the exchange rates could fall further creating a “dire situation.”

Most other major central banks also are forcefully tightening monetary policy to bring down inflation, but so far the moves have not helped stabilized the currency market, nor has Japan’s direct intervention to support the yen last week. — AFP

Picturesque Japan railway line fully reopens after 11 years

A local railway line straddling Fukushima and Niigata prefectures, renowned for its breathtaking natural views, fully reopened Saturday, more than 11 years after a 27.6-kilometre section of the track was rendered unusable by torrential rain.

Many gathered to ride or witness the packed trains on the picturesque JR Tadami Line, which has been using replacement bus services between Aizu-Kawaguchi and Tadami stations since three metal bridges that cross the Tadami River were washed away in the July 2011 downpour.

The 135.2-kilometre line running from Aizu-Wakamatsu in Fukushima Prefecture and Koide Station in Uonuma, Niigata Prefecture, snakes through mountains and over rivers in rural Japan, offering breathtaking countryside views. The restoration was achieved in part due to local requests, with JR East initially calling for the continued use of buses.

The roughly 9 billion yen (\$62 million) in restoration expenses was partly subsidized by the national government, with JR East and the prefectural and local gov-

ernments also shouldering costs. While it is hoped that the line's full return will encourage tourism, it comes as concerns mount over how to sustain loss-making local trains.

On the day of the reopening, a packed 7:11 am service from Koide Station to Aizu-Wakamatsu Station managed to travel the entire route, but the early morning train headed in the opposite direction halted after the emergency brake was activated, and the around 210 passengers had to revert to the replacement bus services. — Kyodo



People welcome a Tadami Line train as it pulls into Aizu-Kawaguchi Station on the first day services have been restored to a section of the line after 11 years of disruption, in Kaneyama, Fukushima Prefecture, on 1 October 2022. PHOTO: KYODO

S Korean banks' lending rate for households hits nearly 10-year high in August



Pedestrians cross a road in front of the Bank of Korea headquarters in Seoul on 14 April 2022. PHOTO: JUNG TEON-JE / AFP

SOUTH Korean banks' lending rate for households hit the highest in nearly 10 years last month due to policy rate hikes, central bank data showed Friday.

The weighted average rate

for new bank loans to households stood at an annualized rate of 4.76 per cent in August, up 0.23 percentage points from a month earlier, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

It marked the highest in almost 10 years since January 2013 amid the higher policy rates.

The BOK began its rate hikes in August last year, raising the rate in seven steps from 0.50 per cent to 2.50 per cent.

Expectations ran high for the central bank to lift the key rate further by 50 basis points in October. The rate for bank mortgage loans to households gained 0.19 percentage points over the month to 4.35 per cent in August, while the credit loans rate advanced 0.33 percentage points to 6.24 per cent.

The weighted average rate for banks' corporate loans increased 0.34 percentage points to 4.46 per cent last month, marking the highest in over eight years since July 2014. — Xinhua

UK becomes net electricity exporter for first time in decade: report

THE United Kingdom (UK) in the second quarter became a net exporter of electricity for the first time in over a decade, a report from the Imperial College London showed on Friday.

In the three months to June, 8 per cent (5.5 TWh) of the electricity generated by the UK was exported, the largest amount ever recorded. This stands in sharp contrast to other forms of energy as the UK imports around a quarter of its oil, half of its gas and three-quarters of its coal, according to the report conducted on behalf of Drax Electric Insights.

Historically, Britain has

been an importer of electricity, with an average of 8 per cent of electricity coming from its neighbors over the last decade, the report said. This long-term trade imbalance stems from it being historically cheaper to import power than to generate more power.

Explaining the turnaround, the report said electricity prices on the continent have risen even further than that in Britain because of low capacity and gas supplies, as France has suffered from extensive capacity shortages and Germany is also suffering from a chronic shortage of gas. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA RAJIN VOY.NO. (KRJN0265N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA RAJIN VOY.NO. (KRJN0265N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-10-2022** 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UAFL ATHENS VOY.NO. (22009N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UAFL ATHENS VOY.NO. (22009N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-10-2022** 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 X-PRESS FEEDERS LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (2202W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (2202W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-10-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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

WORLD: TOP HEADLINE

Bosnia heads to polls as ethnic tensions dominate vote



BOSNIANS headed to the polls Sunday to vote in general elections following a campaign season marked by threats of secession, political infighting, and fears of future turmoil as ethnic tensions in the country grow.

Voters are casting ballots in

Nearly three decades after war ravaged the Balkan country, Bosnia continues to be burdened by its ethnic divisions.

PHOTO: AFP

a dizzying number of contests, including for the three members of Bosnia’s tripartite presidency, the deputies of the central parliament and a string of local races.

Polls opened at 7:00 am local time (5:00 GMT). Nearly three decades after war ravaged the Balkan country, Bosnia continues to be burdened by its ethnic divisions.

The Balkan state has been governed by a dysfunctional administrative system created by

the 1995 Dayton Agreement that succeeded in ending the conflict in the 1990s, but largely failed in providing a framework for the country’s political development.

Bosnia remains partitioned between a Serb entity — the Republika Srpska (RS) — and a Muslim-Croat federation connected by a weak central government. In the war’s wake, ethnic political parties have long exploited the country’s divisions in a bid to maintain power. — AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

China urges leaving space for resolving Ukraine crisis through diplomatic negotiations



The destroyed village of Kyrylivka in the Kharkiv region. PHOTO: AFP

CHINA on Friday urged all sides to leave space for diplomatic negotiations in efforts to resolve the Ukraine crisis.

“China calls on all parties concerned to exercise restraint, refrain from actions that exacerbate tensions, and leave space for settlement through diplomatic negotiations,” Zhang Jun, China’s

permanent representative to the United Nations, said in his explanation of China’s vote on a Security Council draft resolution on Ukraine.

The draft resolution, put forward by Albania and the United States, failed to pass in the Security Council as it was vetoed by Russia. China, India, Brazil and Gabon abstained from the voting. — Xinhua

Germany builds new gas terminals to succeed Russian pipelines

GERMANY’S most strategically important building site is at the end of a windswept pier on the North Sea coast, where workers are assembling the country’s first terminal for the import of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Starting this winter, the rig, close to the port of Wilhelmshaven, will be able to supply the equivalent of 20 per cent of the gas that was until recently imported from Russia.

Since its invasion of Ukraine, Moscow has throttled gas supplies to Germany, while the Nord Stream pipelines which carried huge volumes under the Baltic Sea to Europe were damaged last week in what a Danish-Swedish report called “a deliberate act.”

In the search for alternative sources, the German government has splashed billions on five projects like the one in Wilhelmshaven.

Altogether the new fleet

should be able to handle around 25 billion cubic metres of gas per year, roughly equivalent to half the capacity of the Nord Stream 1 pipeline.

New platform

At the site in Wilhelmshaven, the half-finished concrete platform emerging from the sea sprays workers in fluorescent yellow vests with a fine

mist.

Back on solid land, a constant stream of lorries delivers sections of grey pipe, which should relay the terminal to the gas network.

LNG terminals allow for the import by sea of natural gas which has been chilled and turned into a liquid to make it easier to transport. — AFP



Unused pipes for the Nord Stream 2 Baltic gas pipeline stored on the site of the Port of Mukran in Lubmin, Germany. PHOTO: AFP

Ukraine forces entering key town in Russia-annexed region

UKRAINE said Saturday its forces were entering the key eastern town of Lyman, located in one of the four Ukrainian regions that Russia annexed despite international condemnation.

The recapture of Lyman — which Moscow’s forces pumelled for weeks to control this spring — would mark the first Ukrainian military victory in territory that the Kremlin has

claimed as its own and has vowed to defend by all possible means.

Ukraine’s defence ministry announced its forces were “entering” Lyman in the eastern

Donetsk region after Kyiv’s army said it had “encircled” several thousand Russian troops near the town. The ministry posted a video of soldiers holding up a yellow and blue Ukrainian flag

near a sign with the town’s name.

Shortly after Ukraine’s announcement, Russia’s defence ministry said it had “withdrawn” troops from Lyman “to more favourable lines”. — Xinhua

Foreign leaders congratulate the People’s Republic of China on 73rd founding anniversary

LEADERS of many countries and international organizations have recently telephoned or sent letters to Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and president of the People’s Republic of China (PRC), to warmly congratulate on the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the PRC and wish the upcoming 20th National Congress of the CPC a full success.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers’ Party of Korea (WPK) and chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), on behalf of the WPK, the government of the DPRK and the people of the

DPRK, extended warm congratulations to Comrade General Secretary Xi Jinping, the CPC, the government of the PRC and the brotherly Chinese people.

Kim said that under the leadership of the CPC with the comrade general secretary at its core, the Chinese government and people have built a moderately prosperous society in all respects and embarked on a new historical journey of building a modern socialist country in all respects.

The Chinese people will soon hold the 20th National Congress of the CPC, which will become a new milestone in China’s socialist construction, said Kim, expressing his firm belief that



Photo taken on 25 September 2022 shows a “flower basket,” a decoration for the National Day holiday, at Tian’anmen Square in Beijing, capital of China. PHOTO: XINHUA/CHEN ZHONGHAO

under the leadership of the comrade general secretary and with the Chinese people closely united around the CPC, the dream of national rejuvenation will come true. — Xinhua

174 killed in crowd stampede during soccer match riot in Indonesia

AT least 174 people were killed in a crowd stampede following the eruption of violence at a soccer match in Indonesia’s East Java Province, Emil Dardak, the province’s vice governor, said Sunday.

The death toll from Saturday’s incident, one of the world’s deadliest riots to take place at a soccer match, may increase further, according to police.

East Java Police Chief Nico Afinta told a press conference that two policemen seeking to restore order were among the dead at the Kanjuruhan Stadium in Malang Regency.

The riot occurred after Persebaya from the provincial



This picture shows a torched car outside Kanjuruhan stadium in Malang, East Java on 2 October 2022. At least 174 people were killed when angry fans invaded a football pitch after a match in Malang, East Java in Indonesia late on 1 October, police said. PHOTO: PUTRI / AFP

capital of Surabaya beat Arema FC from Malang, prompting a number of angry Arema supporters to invade the pitch and chase after Persebaya players and officials, according to the police and video footage posted on news websites. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iranian top commander vows to respond to US “hostile action” against Iran’s drones

CHIEF of Staff of Iranian Armed Forces Mohammad Bagheri on Friday vowed to respond to any US “hostile action” towards Iran’s drones, Tasnim news agency reported.

Making the remarks about the US claims concerning the destruction of Iranian drones, Bagheri said that “if the Americans take action against the Iranian drones, the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will respond to this hostile action, and we reserve the right to confront and take revenge.”

The US Central Command on Wednesday announced that it had shot down an Iranian drone heading towards Erbil, the capital of Iraq’s semi-autonomous region of Kurdistan.

Bagheri also stressed that “if a hostile action against Iran, its national security and national interests takes place from the American bases in neighboring countries, we will definitely respond to those bases.” — Xinhua

Afghan Hazaras vow return to class despite academy bombing

BODIES strewn everywhere, a ceiling caved by blastwaves, classmates dragging each other to safety — survivors of a suicide bombing in a Kabul study hall described scenes of horror after what should have been a typical exam.

Nonetheless, faced with a death toll of mostly women, students of the minority Hazara community were unbowed by the obstacles to education in Afghan-

istan — pledging Saturday they will return to class.

“Education is our weapon and they want to take this weapon away from us,” said 19-year-old Wajiha, a day after escaping the assault that killed 35, according to a UN death toll.

“I want to study,” she told AFP. “It’s my dream and I will always fight for it.”

On Friday a bomber blew himself up in the women’s sec-



tion of a gender-segregated study hall in the western district of Dasht-e-Barchi. — AFP

Afghan women display placards and chant slogans during a protest they call ‘Stop Hazara genocide’ a day after a suicide bomb attack at Dasht-e-Barchi learning centre, in Kabul on 1 October 2022. Dozens of women from Afghanistan’s minority Hazara community protested in the capital 1 October after a suicide bombing a day earlier killed 20 people. PHOTO: AFP



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 challenge for new generations kicks off in Yangon

THE Myanmar traditional boxing challenge for new generations organized by 360 Sports took place at Theinbyu Boxing Hall in Yangon at 1 pm yesterday.

In the 50-kilo men's event, Bu Thee (Smart Fight Club) fought to a draw against Zwe Takhun (Zwe Myanmar). In the 55-kilo men's event, Awba Sein (Zatimarn) vs Pyae Sone (Holy Power) ended at a draw.

Next, Saw Lei Ye (Yoya Kyar) knocked out Ye Marn (YMCA) in the second round. In the other 55-kilo event, both bouts of Nay Lin (Zwe Myanmar) vs Bran Seng (Python) and Kyaw Lin Aung (BBH) vs Salai Min Naing (Fighting Fight Club) ended at a draw.

In the 60-63-kilo men's event, the fights of Saw Khay Yue Htoo (Yoya Kyar) vs Zwe Yan Naing BBH) and Tun Lin Aung (Kyar Ma-naing) vs Saw Steve (Yangon Fight Club) also ended at a draw. In the bouts, Nyi Ye Khant (Yangon Fight Club) knocked out Joe Joe (BBH) in the third round and Saw Salamon (Yoya Kyar) smashed Min Khant (Lone Chaw) in the third round. Next, Min Htet Kyaw knocked out Myo



The Myanmar traditional boxing challenge for new generations was organized by 360 Sports. **PHOTO: BALA SOE**

Aung (RAY) in the first round.

In the 67-70-kilo events, Zaw Thet Naung (Smart Fight Club) fought to a draw against Mike Mike (Zarti Marn) and Paing Soe Oo (OSCAR) beat Min Aung

Kyaw (STL).

In the 73-76-kilo event, Tun Min Aung (Tun Tun Min) beat Wunna Gyi (TRANSCEND) in the technical knockout.—Bala Soe/GNLM

Myanmar team suffer defeat in Asian Cup U-17 qualifiers

AS the opening match of the 2023 Asian Cup U-17 Qualifying Group (D), the Myanmar team and Saudi Arabia team played in Saudi Arabia at 1:00 am Myanmar time on 2 October and Saudi Arabia team won by six goals.

The Myanmar team tried to get a good result, but the football level is different from the Saudi Arabian team, and they made mistakes in this match, so they suffered a big loss.

Team Myanmar lined up with Salai Arnt Bwe Maung (Goal Keeper), Thura Zaw, Han Tun Zaw, Kaung Htet, Aung Zaw Myo, Lin Htet Oo, Htoo Wai Yan, Khun Cho Htoo, Myat Phone Khant, Nay Min Htet, and Shine Wunna Aung.

Saudi Arabia scored four



Myanmar player (red) tries to tackle against Saudi Arabian player during the opening match of the 2023 Asian Cup U-17 Qualifying Group (D) in Saudi Arabia on 2 October 2022. **PHOTO:MFF**

goals in the first half and two goals in the second half.

Team Myanmar is placed in the same group against Saudi Arabia, India, Kuwait, and the

Maldives and will play against the Kuwaiti team on 3 October at 9:45 pm Myanmar time as the second group game.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Haaland, Foden hat-tricks help Man City thrash Man Utd 6-3

ERLING Haaland and Phil Foden scored hat-tricks as Manchester City thrashed Manchester United 6-3 to move to within a point of Premier League leaders Arsenal on Sunday.

Haaland has scored hat-tricks in each of his last three Premier League home games to take his tally as a City player to 17 in 10 competitive games for the English champions.

Antony's strike and Anthony Martial's late double ensured United avoided a record defeat in the Manchester derby as they remain in sixth, nine points off the top.

Since also conceding four times inside the first 45 minutes at Brentford in August, United had bounced back with four consecutive Premier League wins to offer hope they are heading in the right direction under Erik ten Hag.

But the Red Devils were given a rude awakening of the gulf that still exists between the Manchester giants. City could have scored many more than the four they managed in a blistering first half performance that swept away any doubts caused by an inconsistent start to the season from Pep Guardiola's men.—AFP