TRY TO REDUCE DISASTER RISKS DESPITE NEVER DISAPPEARANCE PAGE-8 (OPINION)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends choice of arms for 65th Intake of Defence Services Academy

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets the cadet individually for choosing suitable corps of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) at the Defence Services Academy in PyinOoLwin on 12 October 2022.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the choice of arms for cadets of the 65th Intake of Defence Services Academy at DSA in PyinOoLwin yesterday.

Also present at the ceremony together with the Senior General were Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko Oo, the commandant of DSA and officials. They met cadets individually and chose suitable corps of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) for the cadets depending on their outstanding performances in literature and military subjects, as well as their natural bent, diligence and industry.

In the afternoon, the Senior General and party had lunch together with cadets at the cadet mess hall of the Anawrahta Battalion, cordially greeting and encouraging them. Next, the choice of arms for cadets continued there. — MNA

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Statement of Young Men's Buddhist Association (Central)

1. The KNLA Brigade 1, and PDF terrorists, subordinates of NUG and CRPH, attacked the Kinmunchaung bus terminal with heavy and small arms for no reason while pilgrims were on their way to Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State on 12 October 2022.
2. Innocent pilgrims and monks were shot by terrorists. It is heartbreaking to hear that 19 people, including men and children, were wounded with three casualties.
3. Our YMBA expressed its strong condemnation of this disgusting and inhumane act of terrorism targeting innocent pilgrims.

Young Men's Buddhist Association (Central)

Statement of Interfaith Friendship Organization (Central)

1. The KNLA Brigade 1, and PDF terrorists, subordinates of NUG and CRPH, attacked the Kinmunchaung bus terminal for no reason while pilgrims visiting the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State on 12 October 2022.
   It is shocking news that 19 innocent pilgrims were injured and three died due to the inhumane attack by the terrorists.
2. The Interfaith Solidarity Organization issued this statement expressing that the inhumane acts of violence targeting innocent pilgrims who are peacefully performing their pilgrimages during the Thadingyut season were completely unacceptable and strongly condemned.

Interfaith Friendship Organization (Central)

Myanmar Press Council Statement

1. Terrorists attacked the Kinmunchaung bus terminal near Kyaiktiyo Pagoda with heavy weapons and small arms, and we are terribly sorry to hear that three pilgrims were killed and 19 others were injured due to the attack.
2. It is an abominable incident that terrorists committed inhumane acts of terrorism intending to destroy the nation and the people by taking advantage of the time during the month of Thadingyut when the people come to worship the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda and do good deeds.
3. Myanmar Press Council expresses its opinion that it cannot accept the groups that committed acts of violence against the peaceful pilgrimage activities of the people throughout the country with their deliberate intention of harming innocent civilians without any reason. Thus, Myanmar Press Council strongly condemns all acts of terrorism.

Myanmar Press Council

Statement of Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque

1. Terrorists attacked the Kinmunchaung bus terminal in Kyaikto Township of Mon State with both heavy and small weapons while pilgrims were going to visit Kyaiktiyo Pagoda on 12 October 2022.
2. It saddens us to hear those 19 pilgrims, including monks, men, women and children, were injured and three women died due to the terror attack.
3. Our Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque strongly condemns this disgusting and inhumane act of terrorism targeting innocent pilgrims.

Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque

Statement of Myanmar Writers' Association

1. Terrorists committed armed attacks near the Kinmunchaung bus terminal of the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State on 12 October 2022. It is displeased to hear that three pilgrims were killed and 19 others wounded in the terrorist attack.
2. Myanmar Writers' Association issued this statement condemning the terrorists who committed armed attacks on innocent people while on their way to worship the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda and make good deeds.

Myanmar Writers' Association

Statement of Myanmar Music Association

Myanmar Music Association (Central) is deeply saddened by the fact that 19 innocent pilgrims were injured and three women were killed as a result of the terrorist attack at the Kinmunchaung bus terminal at the foot of the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State on 12 October 2022.

Myanmar Music Association (Central) strongly condemns the terrorists who inhumanely attack Buddhist pagodas and innocent pilgrims with the deliberate intention of harming innocent civilians without any reason.

Myanmar Music Association (Central)

Statement of Myanmar Comedians Association (Central)

1. The KNLA Brigade 1 and PDF terrorists, subordinates of NUG and CRPH, attacked the Kinmunchaung bus terminal with both heavy and small arms for no reason while pilgrims were going to visit Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikhto Township of Mon State at around 10:30 am on 12 October 2022. It is heartbreaking that 19 people were wounded and three killed.
2. Myanmar Comedians Association issued this statement that it cannot accept at all such horrible acts of terrorism in a religious area where the public is peacefully making pilgrimages.

Myanmar Comedians Association (Central)

၂၀၂၂ ခုနှစ်၊ အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်
ထိခိုက်ဆုံးရှုံးနိုင်ခြေ လျှော့ချရေးနေ့

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (2022)

" ကြိုတင်သတိပေးထုတ်ပြန်ချက် ဆောလျင်ဆောင်ရွက်အားလုံးအတွက် "
"Early Warning and Early Action for All"

အောက်တိုဘာလ (၁၃) ရက်

346 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 12 October, total figure rises to 627,328

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **627,328** after **346** new cases were reported on 12 October 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **601,296** have recovered from disease. Death toll reaches **19,468** after one death.

Myanmar reported 145 COVID-19 deaths between 28-1-2022 and 26-9-2022. Of them, 102 deaths (70 per cent) had underlying chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, liver, kidney, lung and cancer.

According to the analysis of the COVID-19 vaccination rate of deaths with underlying chronic diseases, 81.4 per cent have received no vaccination at all and have not been fully inoculated, 17.2 per cent have received full vaccination and 1.4 per cent has received booster shots.

COVID-19 vaccination rate of deaths with underlying chronic diseases

Out of COVID-19 deaths with underlying chronic disease		
81.4 per cent	17.2 per cent	1.4 per cent
have not been vaccinated at all and have not been fully vaccinated	**have been fully vaccinated**	**have received booster shots**

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

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

Local food sufficiency is crucial in regions and states

LOCAL food sufficiency is crucial in regions and states, stressing that priority must be given to paddy cultivation so as to increase per-acre yield. It is necessary to encourage the manufacturing of products based on agriculture and livestock farms. As the Ministry of Planning and Finance set up a separate fund of K400 billion allotted from the National Natural Disaster Management Fund for the economic development of the nation, the government will arrange to spend the fund on the supply of fertilizers, quality seeds of crops and fuel for the farmers for the cultivation of summer paddy and green gram this year on the first priority.

The Senior General stressed the need to export rice and green gram from these farmlands under the leadership of the government. Depending on the yield of paddy and beans, farmers will have a chance to gain proper benefits.

[Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the third-day coordination meeting held on 9 August 2022 in regard to matters relating to the activities being carried out by the Union Government].

Only when special economic zones promptly improve will the State economy and job opportunities for local people and living standards develop: Vice-Senior General

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the meeting 1/2022 of the Myanmar Special Economic Zone Central Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

IT is necessary to practically operate SOPs of relevant ministries for successful implementation of the targets and give good services at the zones in line with the international work procedures, said Chairman of the Myanmar Special Economic Zone Central Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the meeting 1/2022 of Myanmar SEZ Central Committee at the Ministry of Commerce yesterday afternoon.

In his address, the Vice-Senior General said a total of 147 countries have established some 5,400 special economic zones according to the statistics in 2019. These are new developments in the industrial policies to attract foreign investments.

Myanmar amended the Special Economic Zone Law 2011 in 2014 and enacted the Myanmar SEZ Rules in 2015. According to the rule, the central committee holds meetings twice a year, and the current meeting is the first time in 2022.

Section 6 of the law mentions the duty and functions of the central committee, primarily to adopt the projects and plans for SEZ development and lay down, implement and supervise the procedures and frameworks, inspect them at an appropriate time and contact the government organizations.

Myanmar is implementing Thilawa SEZ in cooperation with Japan, Kyaukpyu SEZ with China and Dawei SEZ with Thailand. In cooperation measures, Myanmar needs to focus on its own interests and emphasize bilateral friendly relations.

Thilawa SEZ is being implemented successfully as a standing model. Relevant ministries need to arrange continuous investments for the zone, an increasing number of new companies and investments as well as operating businesses for investors.

It is necessary to practically operate the SOPs of relevant ministries for successful implementation of the targets and give good services at the zones in line with the international work procedures. In order to have greater progress, the SEZs have formed one-stop service centres for a boost in export volume with effective services.

The management committee needs to provide assistance for operating businesses with momentum at Thilawa SEZ, extending investments and attracting new investments.

The framework agreement for the deep-sea port project of Kyaukpyu SEZ was signed on 8 November 2018, the shareholder agreement in January 2020 and the concession agreement in January 2020. It is necessary to have a win-win situation based on taking care of political sensitivity. Successful implementation of the deep-sea port project will contribute to Myanmar-China economic corridor cooperation project. As Kyaukpyu SEZ is related to China's Belt & Road Project, it will bring bilateral benefits and regional development to Myanmar.

Although Dawei SEZ has been implemented since 2008, remarkable progress cannot be seen. As Italian-Thai Co has been terminated, it is necessary to invite new investors for the SEZ.

Only when special economic zones promptly improve will the State economy and job opportunities for local people and living standards develop. Hence, it is necessary to make efforts for the successful development of SEZs.

Secretary of the Central Committee Union Minister for Commerce U Aung Naing Oo explained matters related to Myanmar SEZs. The reports sent by the chairmen of SEZ were presented and approvals were sought.

Union ministers and region and state chief ministers also discussed undertakings at relevant SEZs. Joint Secretary of the central committee Deputy Minister U Nyunt Aung sought the approvals for the minutes of the central meeting on 1/2022.

The meeting ended with remarks from the Vice-Senior General after responding to the reports. — MNA

State Peace Talks Team, NMSP delegation hold talks in Nay Pyi Taw

The meeting between the State Peace Talks Team and the NMSP delegation is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE meeting between the State Peace Talks Team and the delegation led by the Vice-Chairman of the New Mon State Party (NMSP) was held at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by State Administration Council Member Union Minister at the Government Office Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee-NSPNC Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung and Vice-Chairman of New Mon State Party (NMSP) Nai Aung Min, Central Executive Committee member Nai Banyar Lei and Central Committee member Nai Am Saik Cham.

At the meeting, SPTT Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and NMSP Vice-Chairman Nai Aung Min gave opening speeches. Afterwards, NSPNC member Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein explained the list of Union legislation - Table 1 and the list of region of state legislation - Table 2 in the 2008 Constitution sector-wise. Then, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung proceeded to present the stage-by-stage implementation of the post-2020 stage-wise procedures and implementations (Table 2) agreed to discuss according to the ninth JICM decisions and attendees exchanged their views and opinions.

Next, the agreements from the first meeting were re-discussed and the first day of the meeting was adjourned. It is reported that the second-day meeting will continue on 13 October. — MNA

Myanmar delegation departs for Cambodia to attend ASCC 28th Meeting

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister U Ko Ko of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, in his capacity as Chair of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Chair, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, departed Yangon International Airport for Cambodia yesterday morning to attend the 28th Meeting of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council (ASCC).

The Union minister was accompanied by senior officials of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, the director-general of the Department of Historical Research and National Library and representatives.

The meeting will run from 12 to 14 October in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. — MNA

MoRAC Union Minister U Ko Ko and delegation leave for Cambodia yesterday.

Illegal crude oil, cosmetics, consumer goods and vehicles confiscated

Confiscated illegal cosmetics.

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

A combined team under the supervision of the Ayeyawady Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force made inspections on 9 October.

Officials captured an unregistered Toyota Crown car (estimated value of K5,000,000) at the Suspension Bridge Checkpoint on Pathein-Chaungtha Road. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Afterwards, on 11 October, an on-duty team at the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Checkpoint confiscated K19,635,000 worth of cosmetics that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, a combined team led by Myanmar Police Force nabbed two Shacman cars with trailers (approximately K240 million) and a Toyota Crown car (approximately K3 million) that were carrying illegal things on the Shwebo-Myitkyina Road. The action was taken under the law.

Similarly, a combined inspection team under the management of the Magway Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections and seized 210 gallons of illegal crude oil worth K630,000 from a vehicle (estimated value of K8 million) near the Minbu-Minhla Road in Minbu township. The action was taken under the Public Property Protection Act.

The Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint captured 70 suitcases without official documents worth K2.1 million from a vehicle and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Therefore, five arrests estimated at K278,365,000 were made on 9 and 11 October, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

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Working Committee to address the impact of COVID-19 on the National Economy holds meeting 5/2022

THE meeting of the Working Committee to address the impact of COVID-19 on the National Economy 5/2022 was held yesterday morning at Office No 1, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. Members of the working committee, deputy ministers of the Ministries of Planning and Finance, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Labour and Commerce, directors-general and representatives from the ministries concerned attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the chairman discussed the progress on the loan settlement situations. Then, the secretary of the working committee, Deputy Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations discussed the current implementation status and the tasks to be done.

The meeting also discussed the relief measures implemented by ministries concerned, which were conducted for the economic stability and upcoming plan of actions to be done by the committee. —MNA

MIFER Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw chairs the meeting 5/2022 of the Working Committee to address the impact of COVID-19 on the National Economy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MoEP, MoE Union Ministers hold informal meeting with Russian Energy Week International Forum Organizing Committee in Moscow

The informal meeting in progress.

UNION Minister for Electric Power U Thaung Han and Union Minister for Energy U Myo Myint Oo, currently in the Russian Federation to attend Russian Energy Week International Forum to be held in Moscow, accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador to Russia U Lwin Oo, held an informal meeting with Mr Alexander Shulginov, Secretary of the Chairman of the Forum Organizing Committee in Moscow on Monday.

During the meeting, Mr Alexander talked about the energy production of Russia, his appreciation to Myanmar for attending the forum, Forum Chairman's visit to Myanmar soon and discussed the weekly report to the Russian Federation President regarding progress in Russia-Myanmar cooperation.

Then, Union Minister U Thaung Han said they join the forum under the assignment of the Head of State and they will discuss the energy sector in addition to the electricity sector with the Russian organizations at the forum. He negotiated the visit of the Forum Chairman to Myanmar. Union Minister U Myo Myint Oo also had the talks with Russian officials of the Ministry of Energy and oil and gas companies.

The two Union Ministers and party then visited the Shwezigon replica pagoda in Ethnomir world culture city in Kaluga of Moscow on the morning of 11 October and donated offertories to monks at Sitagu Buddha Vihara Monastery at noon.

In the evening, the Myanmar delegation attended the dinner hosted by Chairman Mr Ivan Polyakov of the Russia-ASEAN Economic Council. They also discussed the acceleration of Myanmar-Russia economic ties, the visit to Myanmar in November to establish the Emergency Response Centre as the symbol of Russia-Myanmar Friendship, industrial machines production by constructing an industrial zone in Yangon for Russia-Myanmar Friendship and investment of Russian energy companies in Myanmar for oil drilling, oil refinery, fertilizer factory and export of oilfield tools. — MNA

Myanmar hosts ASEANSAI Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Audit of Medicine Procurement Process

THE Union Auditor-General Office of Myanmar organized the ASEANSAI Knowledge Sharing Workshop on the Audit of the Medicine Procurement Process via videoconferencing yesterday.

In his video messages,Union Auditor-General U Tin Oo said Myanmar hosted the knowledge-sharing workshop for establishing the fact of the ASEANSAI Strategic Plan (2022-2025) "To build capacity and promote cooperation and understanding among the members of ASEANSAI through the exchange and sharing of knowledge and experiences ". The Union Auditor-General Office will share the experience, good habits achieved in medicine procurement processes of international auditor-general offices and the case study for medicine procurement. The workshop can exchange and share knowledge between member countries as the auditor general office of Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines also discuss their medicine procurement processes and vaccination processes. It will also support in achieving the Work Plan of the ASEANSAI Strategic Plan and ASEANSAI Knowledge Sharing Committee.

Then, ASEANSAI Knowledge Sharing Committee Chairman and Malaysian Auditor-General Datuk Nik Azman Nik Abdul Majid made an opening speech via video message.

Afterwards, the Auditor-General Office of Indonesia discussed the medical assistance for basic healthcare while medicinal equipment management by the Auditor-General Office of Malaysia, school-based vaccination programmes by the Auditor-General Office of the Philippines and medicine procurement processes by Director Daw Mya Zin of the Union Auditor-General Office. — MNA

The ASEANSAI knowledge sharing workshop is underway online.

Myanmar celebrates 2022 World Post Day

TODAY is the 148th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), which comprises 192 member countries and is the only world postal network with over 600,000 post offices around the world, and digital technology and ICT development have positive effects on postal services of the world, said Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San during the ceremony of the 148th anniversary of World Post Day yesterday.

He then talked about the increasing incomes in postal services for applying Value Added Services after transforming into Postal Modernization from Traditional Post with the help of ICT and digital technology.

He also said the theme of UPU is Post for Planet emphasizing natural environmental conservation. It can also reduce carbon emission and fuel usage as Myanmar Post Office under the ministry use E-bikes in postal services. The Myanmar Post changes its services with Postal Modernization and publishes special stamps marking significant days and occasions.

Then, the director-general of the Post and Telecommunications Department explained the holding of the ceremony and the director of the department read out the message sent by the director-general of Switzerland-based UPU and played the video clip marking the World Post Day.

Afterwards, the Union minister presented awards to the winners of the 51st International Letter Writing Competition of (local) yourth under 15. After the ceremony, the Union minister cordially met the attendees and took commemorative photos with the officials and recipients of awards.

The UPU member countries celebrated the 148th UPU Day and Myanmar held the ceremony starting in 1986. — MNA

23rd Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition continues

THE Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition took place in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Contestants from Mandalay, Yangon, Bago regions and Rakhine state were competed in "Maha Gita" singing competitions for amateur level (first class) women, contestants from Mon and Rakhine states and Thaninthayi, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago and Sagaing regions take part in higher education level men, and contestants from Rakhine, Kayin and Kachin states and Mandalay, Yangon and Thaninthayi regions take part in basic education level (aged 15 to 20). These competitions were held in Banquet Hall of Myanmar International Convention Centre II yesterday.

"Kar la paw tay (modern song)" singing competitions for amateur-level (first class) men and basic education level women (aged 10 to 15) were held in the Signing Room of the Myanmar International Convention Centre II.

"Yote Sone" theatrical group competition of amateur level (first class), the Ramayana play competition of amateur level (first class), higher education level men competition, amateur level (second class) men competition and basic education level aged 15 to 20 women competition were held in the Plenary Hall of MICC II.

Basic education level women (aged 15 to 20) composing competition and amateur level (second class) composing competition were held in Yin Kyay Hmu Yadanar hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

Harp competitions for amateur level (second class) women, basic education level women (aged 15 to 20), basic education level (aged 10 to 15) and basic education level men (aged 10 to 15) were held at the Mini Theatre of the National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw).

Myanmar orchestra group competitions for higher education level men and women and basic education level aged 10 to 15 men and women were held in Wunzin Min Yarzar hall of the National Library in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar orchestra single competitions for basic education level aged men (10 to 15), basic education level women (aged 15 to 20) and amateur level (second class) men were held at the training theatre of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

Piano competitions for amateur level (second class) men, basic education level men (aged 10 to 15) and basic education level men and women (aged 15 to 20) were held in the News Briefing Room of MICC II.

State-level officials, ministers for Ethnic Affairs and ministers for Social Affairs of regions and states, Advocates-General, officials from relevant departments, artistes and those interested attended the competitions. — MNA

Singing, dancing, playing piano and Myanmar orchestra competitions are underway.(top, above and below photos)

The "Yote Sone" theatrical group competition.

Clarification of Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, Information Team Leader of State Administration Council, on firing near Kyaiktiyo Uphill Transport Bus Terminal

Q: It was heard that firing was opened to some pilgrims who came to Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State for paying homage this morning. It was learnt that some pilgrims were dead and injured. I'd like to ask you to release information about that incident.

A: An incident of opening fire happened near the Uphill Transport Bus Terminal in Kinmunchaung Village of Kyaikto Township at about 10:25 am today (12 October 2022). According to the local witnesses and investigation by security forces, some 12 PDFs arrived there by car from Hsaungnainggyi Village of Kyaikto Township. Afterwards, taking a position on the road 50 yards east of the bus terminal they opened fire on the bus terminal with the use of 40 mm small arms. In the incident, three women of the pilgrims were dead and nine men and 10 women, totalling 19, were injured. One member of the Myanmar Police Force discharging security duty was injured. The injured were sent to Kyaikto People's Hospital and arrived at the hospital at about 11:40 am. If necessary, arrangements are being made to provide treatment to them at military hospitals.

First, I'd like to say that the government was very sad about the dead and injured people. It can be seen that so-called PDF terrorists commit terror acts against the pilgrims by firing. Such an incident happened after the emergence of the news that the person who assumed himself as president of the NUG terrorist group recently pledged to accelerate continuous attacks. So, we will continue the clear-cut assault against NUG/CRPH/so-called PDF terrorists. Security forces are in hot pursuit of PDF terrorists who fired at the bus terminal near Kinmunchaung Village.

SAC Information Team Leader Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun.

On the occasion of the Thadingyut this year, the people throng the eminent religious edifices following Myanmar traditions. Terror acts are direct encroachment on race, and religion. I'd like to urge all the people to oppose NUG, CRPH and PDF terrorist groups and cooperate with the security forces in carrying out peace and stability of the region, and peace and tranquillity of the nation. We pledge to decisively take security measures. — MNA

3 pilgrims killed, 19 injured in brutal attack of KNLA Brigade 1 and PDF terrorists, subordinates of NUG and CRPH in Kinmunchaung to Kyaiktiyo

Casualties and injuries in the aftermath of the terrorist attack.

THE KNLA Brigade 1 and PDF terrorists, subordinates of NUG and CRPH brutally attacked the Kinmunchaung bus terminal of Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State using heavy and small weapons without any reason yesterday, and it was reported three pilgrims were killed and 19 others wounded.

While the people visited the Kyaiktiyo pagoda peacefully after the Buddhist Lent, the KNLA Brigade 1 and PDF terrorists, the subordinates of NUG and CRPH arrived at the bus terminal by car at about 10:25 am yesterday and opened fire with heavy and small weapons brutally without any reason, and went back to Hsaungnainggyi village.

It resulted in three females being killed and 19 others – nine males and 10 females – being injured. The security forces provided proper medical treatment and sent the victims to Kyaikto People's Hospital. The security forces conducted operations to take action against the terrorists who are on the run.

The NUG and CRPH accelerated their destructive actions by begrudging the people for visiting pagodas and places of recreation across the nation after the Buddhist Lent.

The current case committed by KNLA Brigade 1 and PDF terrorist groups under the instruction of NUG and CRPH highlighted their brutal attack in religious areas where the people who are not related to the military peacefully make good deeds and it also breached the Geneva Convention and International Law for committing war crimes. The security forces will conduct counter-terrorism measures to take action under the Counter-Terrorism Law, Penal Code and existing laws. The people should inform the security members regarding the movements of the terrorist groups secretly. – MNA

သတင်းစာ မှာယူလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
09 454 237 515
သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာစံချိန်မီ ပုံနှိပ်လိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
01 860 4530
ကြော်ငြာရင်းမျှားနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအေဂျင်စီများ ကြော်ငြာ ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက တိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ် ဆွေးနွေးနိုင်ပါတယ်
09 974 424 848

OPINION

Try to reduce disaster risks despite never disappearance

NATURALLY, the planet Earth has been facing natural disasters since its existence. The globe critically emerged amid unbelievably severe climates and catastrophes before the appearance of humans and living beings according to the world's histories.

As such, the early men defied natural disasters as much as they can. Whenever the disasters were severe, they lost their lives. Gradually, they had techniques on how to overcome the challenges of natural disasters. They became to know how to ease the impacts of natural disasters.

However, measures on risk reduction of disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis, the outbreak of fire/forest fire, drought, landslides, flood, cyclone/storm surge and industrial/technological hazards are challenges for global peoples until today. Whatever it may be, all the global peoples are responsible to seek ways and means for easing the disaster risks so that they can be free from the impacts and challenges of disasters. Hence, global countries are trying to overcome such challenges in their own ways.

> The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is an opportunity to acknowledge the progress being made towards preventing and reducing disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods, economies and basic infrastructures in line with the international agreements for reducing global disaster risks and losses.

Legislative and institutional arrangements for Disaster Risk Management are evolving in Myanmar. In 2013, the country enacted the Disaster Management Law in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015) and to comply with the *ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response*. The Disaster Management Rules were prescribed in 2015. The Law was developed to focus on risk information, preparedness, awareness and early warning, and data management for early warning systems.

The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is an opportunity to acknowledge the progress being made towards preventing and reducing disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods, economies and basic infrastructures in line with the international agreements for reducing global disaster risks and losses.

In 2022, the International Day will focus on Target G of the Sendai Framework: "Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030." The urgency to achieve this target was strengthened in March 2022 by the announcement made by the UN Secretary-General that the United Nations will spearhead new action to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years.

The primary goal of the Sendai Framework is to avoid creating new and reduce existing risks. But when that is not possible, people-centred early warning systems and preparedness can enable early action to minimize the harm to people, assets and livelihoods. Natural disasters never disappear but human will try their best to reduce the impacts of disasters.

ARTICLE

As A Particle In The Solar System

By Yin Nwe Ko

BILLIONS of years ago, an object the size of Mars smashed into the Earth. The resulting debris jetted into orbit, leaving us with a moon — or maybe two.

Those two above sentences made me confused about our planet. People who are moving about on the planet always think of everything in their self-centred instincts. Thus, greed, anger, and hatred have been appearing for ages nonstop on earth. Consequently, wars and battles have never been stopping up to now. Have you heard about the wars and the battles in the animal kingdom? In reality, man is a kind of animal as he is also included in the animal kingdom. Only due to the ability to speak one another with different languages, man has got a great chance that can overwhelm all other animals. A man usually thinks he is the greatest, the most powerful, and the most incomparable among animals or other people like him. His thought which he thinks quite right might be a little true on the earth's surface surrounding him.

However, if he flies up into the high sky and looks back onto the surface he stood on earlier, he will see the people like sesame seeds and the buildings like tiny stones. This is not in the space yet. If he flies up into space, he will see his native earth as a small ball. At that moment, should he think his greed, anger, ignorance, and pride which have flamed his mind on the earth, all will be completely gone away from him? It is sure. It is a man who is just the tiniest particle compared with the universe. When we find the truth of nature, we will realize that every greed, anger, ignorance, and pride becomes nothing at all. The following article written by Mike Brown who is a professor of Planetary Astronomy at Caltech will highlight our solar system and then the one who has read it will certainly contemplate his current life and "Kilesa" meaning passion and defilement.

If you visited the surface of the Earth 4.5 billion years ago, you would not recognize it. The newly formed planet was still cooling from its recent coagulation. There was a hot rocky surface that we do not probably know for sure, volcanoes, and a steamy atmosphere (maybe). It seems unlikely that even the smallest thing resembling life was yet present, though we do not know. What we do know is what came next. On the most extraordinary day in the history of our planet, a Mars-sized body crashed into the Earth.

Over the course of a few hours, this mini planet ploughed deep into the Earth's interior, sending shock waves throughout the globe and eventually melting all the rocks on its surface. A massive spray of material was blasted into deep space before it was slowed by gravity and captured into orbit. The Earth was left covered in an ocean of liquid magma hundreds of miles deep, while the mixed remnants of the Earth and the original Mars-sized body circled high above in a glowing ring of molten rock. We can be forgiven for not knowing what the surface of the Earth was like before this moment, as nothing survived that day intact.

A photographic mosaic of the crater-pocked far side of the moon, taken 2009-11 by NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter.

A thousand years after that eventful day, the glowing ring of superheated rocks in orbit above had coagulated, and the Earth finally had the moon. Or maybe, according to a scientific hypothesis pioneered in part by Erik Asphaug, a planetary scientist at the University of Arizona, it had two moons. Mr Asphaug explains that notion in "When the Earth Had Two Moons," but, as he shows, to understand even one moon, one has to understand how the whole solar system came to be assembled. The story swings from the birth of the universe, through the history of astronomy, to the modern understanding of the piece-by-piece building of the planets. There are delightful sidetracks into feasting monks, desert meditations, and how a tech billionaire could (and should) launch an exploration of Saturn's hydrocarbon-rich moon Titan.

Early on, Mr Asphaug poses a simple question that, even to a person like me who has been thinking and studying planets for 30 years, should give pause: Why are all of the planets so different? Mercury is tiny with a huge iron core. Venus and Earth are similar in size, but Venus is a dead, dry planet with an atmosphere dense enough to crush spacecraft. Mars is small and lopsided. Jupiter is massive, Saturn has rings, Uranus is oddly tilted on its side and Neptune is missing the types of moons that all of the other giants have. Why? The interstellar cloud of gas and ice and dust that eventually formed the sun and planets probably varied smoothly from one region to the next, so why would the planets that came out of it vary so wildly?

Mr Asphaug has a plausible solution: catastrophic collisions. Planets are assembled bit by bit, with the largest pieces coagulating together last. The collision that led to the moon — catastrophic — was the last major part of the coagulation of the Earth. If the Mars-sized body that hit the Earth had hit it slightly differently — more head-on or at a higher speed, for example — we probably wouldn't have the moon. With the tilt of the Earth no longer stabilized by the moon, we could have the types of extreme climate variations that we see on Mars, where glaciers periodically cover the equator. Without the moon, there would be no tides, which — maybe? — were crucial in the evolution of life. If that singular day 4.5 billion years ago had never happened, the Earth would be a very different planet.

The other planets have their own one-off stories. Mercury probably had a near-catastrophic impact that tore away most of its rocky exterior; Mars was nearly destroyed by an impact that left it with a massive northern basin that could have once been filled with a temperate ocean; Saturn's rings and small moons could be the remnants of multiple colliding moons; Uranus was perhaps bashed by something huge that knocked it on its side, and Neptune's moon Triton was captured from the outer solar system and disrupted or ate all of Neptune's original moons as it came in. Even the non-planets get in on the act. The distinctive "heart" on the face of Pluto is a giant basin that formed a massive impact that then slowly filled with glaciers made out of frozen nitrogen gas.

Mr Asphaug's account sometimes requires a bit of background knowledge, but his writing is peppered with playful images (one possible collision was like "mashing your fist into a cherry pie"). He is at his most charming when he is not just telling how scientists currently think about the chaotic formation of the solar system but relaying his part in the story, as with the idea of that second moon. He perfectly captures the way that so many scientific insights occur: while sitting listening to something else and having your mind wander. Mr Asphaug tells the story of daydreaming a second moon into existence during a talk on the peculiarly thick crust on the moon's far side. Daydreaming turns to speculative computer simulation, which excitedly turns into a detailed simulation, which satisfyingly turns into a substantial hypothesis: Perhaps a small second moon was created at the same time as our moon, and that small moon eventually gently collided with the main one, making, essentially a mound on the far side.

Is the story true? Possibly. Like any good hypothesis, it explains something that was previously unexplainable. Just as important: It makes predictions that can be tested. Future lunar geologists and seismologists could eventually find traces of the little moon that once was.

Mr Asphaug's thesis that random catastrophic impacts explain the astounding diversity of our planetary system is humbling to a planetary astronomer like me. We are always trying to understand why the planets and other bodies in the solar system have the specific characteristics they do. It is initially depressing to think that the answer to many of our questions is simply dumb luck. But I think that embracing the chaos around us, as Mr Asphaug does, ultimately makes the solar system an even weirder and more wonderful place than it seemed before.

Here, the article is ended up and those who are impressing themselves as the greatest, the most powerful and the most incomparable ones will be enough to realize how they are the tiniest particles in the universe. I am also going to stop my long article with a sentence. Everything is impermanent.

Reference: *A smashing solar system (Wall Street Journal; January 2020)*

■

No preferential nod for Omicron Covid jabs: WHO experts

THERE is not yet enough evidence to recommend Omicron-specific Covid-19 jabs over the original versions, the World Health Organization's vaccine experts said Tuesday.

Four variant-containing mRNA vaccines which include Omicron subvariants BA.1 or BA.4/5 in combination with the ancestral virus have been authorized for use as booster doses.

The vaccines adapted to the globally-dominant variant may offer only a "minute incremental benefit", the WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunisation (SAGE) said. The WHO has given its Emergency Use Listing green light to nine Covid-19 vaccines and variations — Pfizer/BioNTech, AstraZeneca, Janssen, Moderna, Sinovac, Sinopharm, Bharat Biotech, Novavax and CanSinoBIO.

"Currently available data are not sufficient to support the issuance of any preferential recommendation for bivalent variant-containing vaccine boosters over ancestral-virus-only boosters", SAGE said in a statement.

SAGE executive secretary Joachim Hombach said the experts had found that the variant-containing vaccines neutralize to the same extent as the ancestral ones, with a "slightly superior neutralization of the Omicron variant". "It's a relatively modest effect which we can see in the laboratory," he said. "What we cannot do is to relate these laboratory measures with an increase in clinical protection," because such effectiveness data is not yet available. "Since our recommendations should be really grounded in evidence, we cannot issue a preferential statement for these vaccines," Hombach said. "These vaccines are absolutely fine, but what is much more important" for protection "is that you actually take the vaccine" — whether tweaked for Omicron or not. "This is what is making the difference," whether for the first or second booster, Hombach said. The Omicron variant accounted for 99.9 per cent of virus samples collected in the last 30 days that have been sequenced and uploaded to the GISAID global science initiative. Of these, the BA.5 group of Omicron sub-variants remain globally dominant at 81 per cent, followed by BA.4 at eight per cent and BA.2 at three per cent.

SOURCE: AFP

Members of the public receive their Covid-19 vaccine or booster at the NHS (National Health Service) bus outside an Asda Supermarket in the town of Farnworth, near Manchester in north-west England on 20 December 2021, as the booster rollout accelerates in England. **PHOTO: OLI SCARFF/AFP/FILE**

ENVIRON WORLD

Cold Siberian air would help Putin this winter

ACROSS Europe, governments are scrambling to prevent energy rationing and blackouts this winter. Whether they succeed will depend in part on something they have no control over: the weather.

Analysts say Russian President Vladimir Putin is hoping for a cold winter or a prolonged period of freezing temperatures after cutting Russia gas exports to Europe in retaliation for EU support for Ukraine.

Another cold season like 2010/2011 or a prolonged Artic blast like the "Beast from the East" which blew into western Europe from Siberia in 2018 could cause hardships that might weaken EU resolve in supporting Ukraine.

A blast of Siberian weather dubbed the "Beast from the East" in 2018 kept the mercury far below zero in huge parts of Europe. **PHOTO: DPA/ AFP**

"The energy weapon has one bullet in the chamber and he has just fired it," said Eliot A. Cohen, a war historian and security expert at the the Centre for Strategic and International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

"Europeans will go through the worst of it this winter," he told AFP.

In many countries, households are being urged to turn down their thermostats and companies are being asked to find energy savings under EU plans to reduce gas consumption this winter by 15 per cent compared to average.

In recent months, European states have raced to fill up their strategic reserves, buying extra supplies at record prices from Algeria, Qatar, Norway and the United States among other global gas suppliers. EU stocks are now almost full -- at around 90 per cent capacity -- providing a major safety cushion for consumers and businesses that rely on gas to heat their homes, offices and factories.—AFP

Climate unease leaves Aussie mines scrambling for staff

AUSTRALIA'S world-beating mining firms are flush with cash and desperate for staff but green-minded workers are shunning the high-paying sector, causing serious staff shortages, the government warned Wednesday.

Australia's Resources Minister Madeleine King — who oversees the more than US$200 billion-a-year industry — said the mining sector was "stretched" and badly needs to reform and shake its sooty image.

"There is a major problem in attracting and retaining skilled workers," she told business people in mineral-rich Western Australia.

"A big barrier to attracting these workers is the attitude many young Australians hold towards the resources industry." Despite miners paying far more than comparable sectors, King said enrolments in relevant degrees were "dwindling".

She urged the likes of Rio Tinto and BHP to "get more creative" in attracting young people, suggesting the industry turn "Minecraft-crazed kids" into the real-life miners of tomorrow. A failure to attract new talent could risk an industry that, she said, "underpins our enviable standard of living".

Heaving iron ore, coal and other mineral goodies out of the Earth's lithosphere has been the mainstay of Australia's economy for decades, helping to avoid numerous crises and recessions. The country is the world's largest exporter of iron ore — the main component in steel — and ships out vast amounts of coal, gas, lithium, gold, zinc, diamonds and other resources.—AFP

Australia is the world's largest exporter of iron ore. **PHOTO: AFP**

Marshall Islands to receive UN support over nuclear legacy

THE UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution Friday aimed at assisting the Marshall Islands in its efforts to secure justice for people suffering from the impact of the United States' former nuclear testing programme in its territory.

"We have suffered the cancer of the nuclear legacy for far too long and we need to find a way forward to a better future for our people," Samuel Lanwi, deputy permanent representative of the Republic of the Marshall Islands in Geneva told the body in an emotional speech.

File photo taken in August 2011 shows the Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean. The dark-coloured bay-like area (centre, upper) is a crater created by a 1954 US hydrogen bomb test. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The United States conducted dozens of nuclear weapons tests in the islands of the Pacific state in the 1940s and '50s, including the 1954 Castle Bravo test at Bikini Atoll, the biggest US bomb ever detonated.

The text tabled by five Pacific Island states — the Marshall Islands, Fiji, Nauru, Samoa and Vanuatu — was backed by Australia and did not demand reparations.— Kyodo

500 pilot whales dead after New Zealand mass strandings

ABOUT 500 pilot whales have died in mass strandings on New Zealand's remote Chatham Islands, the government said Tuesday after ruling out a rescue effort in the area's shark-filled waters.

Two "super pods" of the dolphin-related cetaceans beached on two islands in the remote chain and survivors were euthanized, according to the Department of Conservation.

On Friday, 250 beached pilot whales were found at Chatham Island, and then three days later another 240 were reported on Pitt Island, the government said.

The locations — far from the New Zealand mainland — made a rescue operation impossible, authorities said.

"Due to the risk of shark attack to both humans and the whales, the surviving whales were euthanized by our trained team to prevent further suffering," Dave Lundquist, a government technical marine advisor, told AFP. "This decision is never taken lightly, but in cases like this it is the kindest option."

The bodies will be left to decompose naturally on site.

Mass strandings are not uncommon on the Chatham Islands, where the largest recorded beaching involved an estimated 1,000 whales in 1918.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Israeli charged with smuggling drugs into Japan dies in detention

Lawyer Takashi Takano shows a video of his client Amnon Hanoh Tenenboim, an Israeli resident of Japan who died while in custody at the Yokohama detention center, during a news conference in Yokohama on Tuesday. **PHOTO: KYODO**

AN Israeli resident of Japan who was being held at a detention centre near Tokyo after being charged in 2020 for smuggling drugs into the country has died, his lawyer said Tuesday.

The facility and the Yokohama District Court had refused to approve special treatment for Amnon Hanoh Tenenboim, 60, even though he was suspected of having a heart condition, lawyer Takashi Takano said.

But the Yokohama detention centre said the same day that Tenenboim had been found lying on a bed in a solitary cell with an elastic hair band stretched from under his chin to the top of his head, suggesting that he may have committed suicide.

Tenenboim had undergone heart surgery in Israel around a month before Kanagawa prefectural police arrested him for smuggling a large amount of illegal stimulants in November 2020, according to Takano.

Tenenboim had complained of poor health immediately following the arrest, but his applications to prefectural police and the detention centre for medical assistance from March 2021 were not approved.

Last month, Tenenboim asked the court to suspend his detention so he could receive professional medical treatment, but his request was similarly denied.—Kyodo

US kids with disabilities face off-the-books school suspensions: AP

EXCESSIVE use of informal removals on disabled students in the United States amounts to a form of off-the-books discipline, a de facto denial of education that evades accountability, The Associated Press (AP) last week cited advocates and legal experts.

"Informally removing these students circumvents federal law that protects them from being disciplined or barred from class for behaviours related to their disability," said the report. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, parents of disabled kids say the practice is on the rise, denying their kids their legal right to an education, according to the report.

Informal removals can happen through frequent parent pickups, shortened school days or hours spent in "time-out" rooms, it said.— Xinhua

A child visits the Kidspace Children's Museum in Los Angeles, California, the United States, 22 April 2022. **PHOTO: ZENG HUI/ XINHUA**

Chinese official media signals persistence on 'dynamic zero-Covid' policy

CHINA'S official media on Wednesday signalled no let-up in its dynamic zero-Covid policy, publishing an editorial — the fourth this week ahead of the Communist Party Congress — vowing to never "lie flat" on virus controls.

On Wednesday, Communist Party-owned newspaper People's Daily said that "lying flat has no way out", referencing a slang term for relaxation popular among Chinese youth.

It argued loosening restrictions would overwhelm China's medical system and lead to further mutations of the virus.

China is currently facing its worst nationwide surge in cases since early September.

The country reported its first incidence of the BF.7 Omicron subvariant in late September, which has caused a spiralling outbreak in the northern region of Inner Mongolia with over 4,000 infections as of Wednesday.

BF.7 was also detected in Shenzhen, a major manufacturing and tech hub in the southern province of Guangdong, earlier this week.

A staff member takes a swab sample from a citizen for nucleic acid test in Huangpu district, east China's Shanghai, 26 April 2022. **PHOTO: LI HE / XINHUA**

"The vaccination rate has not yet formed a sufficient barrier against severe illness and death," the editorial wrote.

"It is precisely because of our insistence on dynamic zero-Covid that we have protected people's lives and health to the greatest extent possible."

Some 86 per cent of elderly Chinese have received two doses of the Covid vaccine, according to the People's Daily, while the mRNA vaccines, considered to be more effective by experts, are not yet approved in China.

The People's Daily piece follows on from two successive editorials this week on the same theme, portraying Covid control as an existential struggle for China.

"The struggle against the epidemic is a trial of material strength as well as a battle of spirits," it said in a Tuesday editorial. —AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brunei's COVID-19 deaths mostly with non-communicable diseases: official

NEARLY all COVID-19 fatalities in Brunei were patients with Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) or risk factors, a senior health ministry official said.

According to the local daily Borneo Bulletin on Tuesday, Ong Sok King, head of the Non-Communicable Diseases Prevention Unit of the Ministry of Health, told a health workshop that more than two-thirds of premature deaths (deaths before 70 years old) in the sultanate are caused by NCDs, with the most common being cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases and cancer.— Xinhua

Japan's Shionogi to apply for COVID-19 vaccine approval by year-end

JAPANESE pharmaceutical firm Shionogi & Co. said Tuesday it will file a request with Japan's health ministry for approval of its novel coronavirus vaccine by the end of this year.

The Osaka-based company, which is among makers engaged in homegrown vaccine development, initially aimed to apply in September but delayed the step as it is still in the final stage of gathering clinical trial data.

Shionogi said it still has to compare its results with the vaccine developed by Britain's AstraZeneca Plc before applying.

According to Shionogi, the vaccine has a high amount of neutralizing antibodies that suppress the virus's action.—Kyodo

ECONOMY
WORLD

IMF cuts 2023 growth outlook to 2.7% amid inflation, monetary tightening

THE International Monetary Fund on Tuesday maintained its global growth forecast for this year at 3.2 per cent, but lowered the outlook for next year to 2.7 per cent, down 0.2 percentage point from its earlier projection, amid high inflation and monetary policy tightening.

Japan's growth projection for 2022 was left unchanged at 1.7 per cent from the July projection and that for 2023 was downgraded by 0.1 point to 1.6 per cent, with the IMF citing rising energy import prices and lower consumption as inflation outpaces wage growth.

With Russia's invasion of Ukraine continuing to affect the global economy, including through higher food and energy prices, and the coronavirus pandemic lingering, the IMF said in its World Economic Outlook report, "In short, the worst is yet to come, and for many people, 2023 will feel like a recession."

Signs for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) annual Fall Meetings are seen past a worker cleaning the World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC, on 8 October 2022. **PHOTO: STEFANI REYNOLDS/ AFP**

Countries accounting for about one-third of the global economy are poised to contract this year or next, while the United States, China and the euro area will continue to stall, the Washington-based institution said.

In the United States, where the Federal Reserve is aggressively raising interest rates to tamp down decades-high inflation, growth for this year is expected at 1.6 per cent, down 0.7 point from the earlier estimate. The forecast for 2023 remained unchanged at 1.0 per cent.—Kyodo

US climate spending could spark 'tariff war', Scholz warns

The VF-8 electric vehicle from VinFast, a Vietnamese automaker producing electric cars and SUV's, is on display at their showroom in Santa Monica, California, on 18 July 2022. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/FREDERIC J. BROWN/AFP**

GERMAN Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Tuesday criticized US climate protection plans that would shield domestic companies from foreign competition, saying they could trigger "a huge tariff war".

Unease has been growing abroad about US President Joe Biden's landmark "Inflation Reduction Act", which will see vast spending on green energy initiatives and includes tax breaks for US-made electric cars and batteries.

"We will discuss the Inflation Reduction Act with our American friends in more depth," Scholz said at a gathering of the German engineering association VDMA in Berlin.

"It can't be that politicians in their countries say: 'We are now doing climate protection, dear industry, have you heard that we are protecting you from the competition of others?'," he said.

"We would end up with a huge tariff war," Scholz warned, calling for closer international cooperation on climate protection measures and trade.

Scholz, whose country is home to car giants Volkswagen, BMW and Mercedes, did not go into detail about which aspects of Biden's plans he opposed.

But European Union officials have in recent weeks spoken out against planned US tax credits for the domestic electric vehicle market, which they say would put e-cars made elsewhere at an unfair disadvantage.

EU Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis told Bloomberg last month that the bloc was worried "about a number of discriminatory elements" in the Inflation Reduction Act.

Dombrovskis said the EU was assessing whether the legislation violated World Trade Organization rules.

South Korea has also voiced its displeasure, calling the new rules favouring American e-cars a "betrayal", Bloomberg reported.—AFP

Lebanon says secured 'full rights' on sea border with Israel

LEBANON has secured its "full rights" in the latest text drafted by US mediators to demarcate the maritime border with Israel, its lead negotiator said Tuesday, after Israel said it met its terms too.

"Lebanon has obtained its full rights, and all of its remarks have been taken into account," said lead negotiator Elias Bou Saab, the deputy speaker of parliament, after handing the draft to President Michel Aoun.

"Today we have come to a solution that satisfies both parties."

Israel had said earlier Tuesday that it was close to a "historic" deal with Lebanon and the US draft met its "demands".

The welcome for the text on both sides of the border has raised hopes that years of negotiations have finally borne fruit, allowing cash-strapped Lebanon to develop potentially lucrative offshore gas reserves.

Bou Saab said he hoped an agreement could be signed before Aoun's term of office ends on 31 October. Lebanon and Israel are officially at war and their land border is patrolled by UN peacekeepers.—AFP

Lebanon and Israel are officially at war and their land border is patrolled by UN peacekeepers. **PHOTO: MAHMOUD ZAYYAT/AFP**

Italy needs €50bn to save companies facing energy hikes: lobby

ITALY'S business association Confindustria appealed on Monday for an aid package of €40 to €50 billion to prevent thousands of companies failing and mass job losses due to soaring energy prices.

"Without industry, there is no Italy. If we close thousands of companies, hundreds of thousands of jobs will be lost," the lobby's head Carlo Bonomi said in an interview with La Stampa daily. "I am more concerned now than I was at the start of the pandemic," he said, adding that he estimated some "€40 to €50 billion by 2023" were needed.

Giorgia Meloni, who is set to lead Italy's incoming government after her party won last month's election, will "have to resort to other resources... if (she) cannot count on European solidarity to reduce the energy bill".

Italian companies are expected to pay €110 billion more in 2022 than they did before the pandemic, of which €55.6 billion is due in the period September to December, the association said in a report.

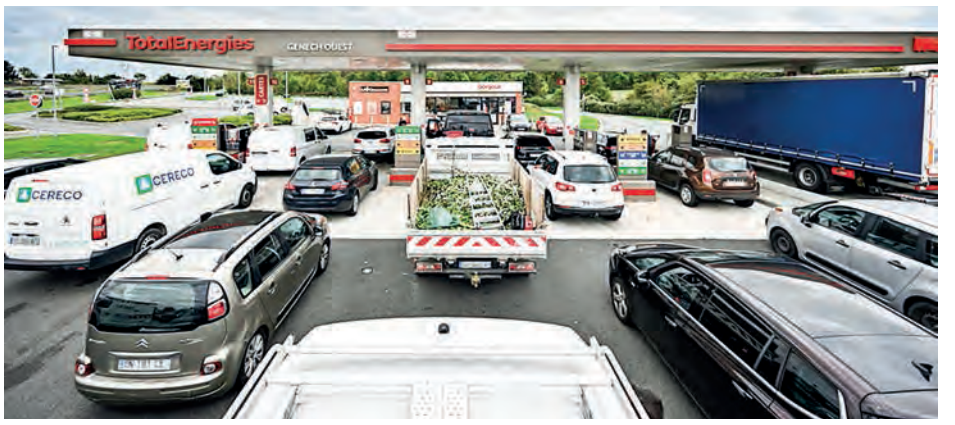
Outgoing Prime Minister Mario Draghi's government has already spent €66 billion to help families and businesses tackle the energy crisis, financed by higher-than-expected tax revenues.— AFP

Striking French refinery workers defy government threats

STRIKING French oil refinery employees voted Wednesday to maintain blockades now in their third week, despite a government order for some of them to return to work in a bid to get fuel supplies flowing.

The industrial action to demand pay hikes has paralyzed six out of the seven fuel refineries in France, leading to shortages of petrol and diesel exacerbated by panic-buying from drivers.

Having previously threatened to use emergency powers enabling them to order essential workers back to the job, the government announced Wednesday that it would put them into use as the strikes entered their third week. Personnel at a fuel depot at the Gravenchon-Port-Jerome refinery in northwest France, owned by US giant Esso-ExxonMobil, will be the first to be requisitioned, an official at the energy ministry told AFP. "Faced with the continuation of the strike by some of the personnel at Port-Jerome in Normandy, the government is launching the requisitioning of essential workers at the depot," the official said.—AFP



This photograph, taken on 5 October 2022, shows drivers lining up as they wait at a TotalEnergies gas station in Genech, northern France. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ford, GM report mixed sales in China in third quarter

A Ford new energy vehicle is displayed at the 4th China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, east China, 5 Nov 2021. **PHOTO: XINHUA/DING TING**

GENERAL Motors Co. (GM) and its joint ventures in China delivered nearly 630,000 vehicles in China in the third quarter of this year, up about one per cent year on year. Meanwhile, Ford Motor Company sold more than 133,000 vehicles in China in the third quarter, down 11 per cent year on year but up 12 per cent from the second quarter.

Quoting news releases of the two US automakers, The Detroit News reported Monday that sales of Ford and GM in the United States grew 16 per cent and 24 per cent, respectively, in the third quarter. To be specific, GM Cadillac brand delivered more than 56,000 vehicles in China in the third quarter, down from about 59,000 units a year ago; Buick brand sold about 185,000 units, up from 166,000 a year ago; Chevrolet reported sales of more than 56,000 vehicles, up from 49,000; and Wuling, a joint-venture partner of GM, delivered more than 321,000 vehicles, up from 309,000 last year.—Xinhua

Nissan to exit Russia, sell local operations amid war in Ukraine

NISSAN Motor Co. said Tuesday it is pulling out of the Russian market, joining a growing list of companies exiting the country after its invasion of Ukraine.

The company said it is selling its business to a state-run research institute and will post a one-time loss of about 100 billion yen ($686 million). The automaker said it will keep its full-year earnings forecast unchanged despite the loss.

The move comes after it suspended production at its factory in St. Petersburg in March, citing supply chain disruptions following the war in Ukraine. With no sign of improvement in sight, the company decided it is unable to resume operations, it said.—Kyodo

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Hefei Xingyu Chemical Co.,ltd** have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributer name "**Agri Leading Biotech Co.,ltd** ", to new distributor name "**Taw Win Dar Co.,Ltd**". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days.
Taw Win Dar Co.,Ltd. Ph-09-448027852

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	ALB-Fo Quiza	Fomesafen 16% + Quizalofop-P-ethyl 6% EC	E2021-5396

PESTICIDE TRADE NAME CHANGE ADVERTISING

The following three pesticides distributed by **Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co.,Ltd** and here we would like to pesticide trade name change advertising. Anyone who would like to object or inquiry about new trade name contact within 14 days to Joint-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon.

Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co., Ltd. Tel:09-250040800

Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1.	NAB-Gibb 20 TB	GL3 20% TB	Gibberellic Acid 20% TB	F2021-3254

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB240A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB240A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-10-2022** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V EUROSTAR VOY.NO. (73)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V EUROSTAR VOY.NO. (73)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-10-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

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

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
HOLIDAY NOTICE

AS the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 24th October 2022 (Deepavali Public Holiday), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Putin tells IAEA's chief Moscow is 'open to dialogue' on Ukraine nuclear plant

Russian President Vladimir Putin meets with Rafael Grossi, director of the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in Saint Petersburg on 11 October 2022. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK/AFP**

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday told UN nuclear agency chief Rafael Grossi he was "open to dialogue" on Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in territory controlled by Moscow's forces in southern Ukraine.

In televised comments with Grossi ahead of their meeting in Saint Petersburg, Putin told the IAEA chief he was "ready to discuss all issues of mutual interest or cause for concern, for example, regarding the situation around the Zaporizhzhia power plant" and said he was "open to this dialogue." A statement by the IAEA released after the meeting said that Grossi was due to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv "later this week" for further talks regarding Europe's biggest nuclear power plant. Grossi had met Zelenskyy last week for discussions on setting up a nuclear safety and protection zone around Ukraine's Russian-held Zaporizhzhia plant.

In recent weeks, Grossi had been "engaging in intense consultations with both Ukraine and the Russian Federation to agree and implement" such a zone "as soon as possible", the IAEA statement said.— AFP

Belarus says joint force with Russian troops is 'purely defensive'

An estimated 30,000 Russian troops, supported by tanks, aircraft and the advanced S-400 air defence system, are involved in exercises in Belarus, near Ukraine's border on 2 February 2022. **PHOTO: RUSSIAN DEFENCE MINISTRY/AFP/FILE**

MINSK said Tuesday that a contingent of Belarusian troops deploying alongside Russian forces was a "purely defensive" grouping whose aim was to defend the borders of the ex-Soviet republic closely aligned with Russia.

"We emphasize once again that the tasks of the Regional Grouping of Forces are purely defensive. And all activities carried out at the moment are aimed at providing a sufficient response to actions near our borders," Belarusian Defence Minister Viktor Khrenin was cited as saying in a statement.

Earlier this week the strongman leader of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko, who is a close personal ally to Russian leader Vladimir Putin, announced the countries had deployed forces together but did not specify where.

He said the formation of these troops coincided with an explosion on a bridge linking Crimea to Russia — a blast that Moscow has blamed on Ukraine.—AFP

Mexico denies Russia space deal will aid spying

MEXICAN President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on Monday denied that a space cooperation agreement signed with Russia last year would help Moscow spy on North America.

The pact was inked before Russia's invasion of Ukraine and "now a scandal is being made because there's talk that Mexico is allowing Russian satellites to be used to spy on Mexican and North American airspace," Lopez Obrador told reporters. "The truth is that these agreements are signed with all countries and are not intended to spy on anyone or affect the sovereignty of any nation," he added. The Mexican foreign ministry said that the pact, inked in September 2021, focused on the "exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes". The Russian Embassy in Mexico caused a stir last week when it said on social media that the agreement provided for the possible installation of Russian satellite navigation system stations in Mexican territory.—Xinhua

GLONASS is a Russian satellite navigation system operating as part of a radionavigation-satellite service. The Kremlin has touted its system, GLONASS, as a superior alternative to the US Global Positioning System (GPS). **PHOTO: AFP**

WORLD: TOP HEADLINE

Japan Epsilon rocket ordered to self-destruct after abnormal launch

A satellite-carrying Japanese rocket failed at launch on Wednesday, with the country's space agency ordering the Epsilon launch vehicle to self-destruct just minutes after liftoff as it deviated from its intended trajectory. The development marked the first rocket launch failure by Japan since November 2003, when an H2A rocket was deliberately destroyed shortly after liftoff, and dealt a blow to an agency looking to expand its uptake of commercial satellites for its launches.—Kyodo

Hong Kong leader says he 'laughs off' US sanctions

HONG Kong's leader laughed off US sanctions against him Tuesday as he defended his government's decision not to act against a superyacht reportedly owned by a Kremlin ally.

The Nord — a $500 million luxury vessel linked to Russian billionaire Alexei Mordashov — arrived in the Chinese territory's waters last week.

Mordashov is among the oligarchs close to Russian President Vladimir Putin who have been targeted by Western sanctions following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. On Saturday the United States warned Hong Kong could damage its business hub reputation after the city said it would not enforce sanctions on the superyacht.

Hong Kong chief executive John Lee himself is one of multiple Chinese officials sanctioned by the United States in 2020 for their roles in cracking down on political freedoms in the city.

Banks and other companies risk losing access to the US-dominated global markets if they do business with sanctioned officials, with Lee's predecessor revealing she had to take most of her salary in cash — AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

King Charles III to be crowned in May

THE coronation of King Charles III will take place on 6 May next year, Buckingham Palace announced on Tuesday, vowing to reflect the monarchy's historic traditions and its modern role.

Charles, 73, will be formally crowned at London's Westminster Abbey, following a long tradition dating back more than 900 years.

The monarch's wife, Queen Consort Camilla, 75, will also be crowned, the palace confirmed.

6 May is the fourth birthday of Charles' grandson Archie, the son of Prince Harry and his wife Meghan.

King Charles III with his wife Camilla, Queen Consort. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

"The coronation will reflect the monarch's role today and look towards the future, while being rooted in longstanding traditions and pageantry," royal officials said in a short statement.

The much-anticipated confirmation of the date comes just over a month after the death of Charles' mother Queen Elizabeth II, and speculation about when the ceremony might be held.

Charles immediately became king when Elizabeth died on 8 September. He also took over as head of state of 14 Commonwealth countries, including Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

The queen, who was 96, passed away at her remote Scottish estate Balmoral after a year of declining health. She was on the throne for a record 70 years.

World leaders attended her state funeral at Westminster Abbey before she was laid to rest after a ceremony at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets to watch, with the same number queueing round the clock over four days to pay their final respects as her coffin lay in state—AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Thailand promises tougher gun control after nursery attack

THAILAND will toughen its gun possession and drug laws, the interior ministry said Wednesday, following the nursery massacre of 36 people -- including 24 children -- in the kingdom's worst mass killing.

The country was left reeling after an ex-police officer forced his way into a small nursery in northeastern Na Klang last week, murdering 24 children and their teacher before killing his wife, their child and himself.

The attack was carried out with a knife and a legally acquired gun, and while Thailand has a huge number of firearms in circulation -- one estimate suggesting there are as many as one in seven firearms per person -- mass shootings are rare.—AFP

US gun deaths hit record high: CDC

MURDERS and suicides involving guns have reached an all-time high in the United States, a recent report from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention has revealed.

From 2020 to 2021, the rate of firearm homicides and the rate of firearm suicides both increased by more than 8 per cent, CDC health officials reported Thursday.

To be more specific, 81 per cent of homicides and 55 per cent of suicides involved the use of firearms in 2021, up from 79 per cent and 53 per cent in 2020 respectively.—Xinhua

Peru attorney-general files corruption complaint against president

PERU'S attorney-general on Tuesday filed a constitutional complaint accusing embattled President Pedro Castillo of criminal organization and corruption, an action that could lead to the suspension of the leftist leader.

Castillo, who has survived two impeachment attempts since taking office in July last year, is already the subject of six criminal investigations.

The president has rejected the accusations and claims they are part of a political plot to unseat him. "I am filing a constitutional complaint against Jose Pedro Castillo Terrones, in his capacity as President of the Republic, as the alleged perpetrator of crimes against the public peace in the form of a criminal organization aggravated by his position as leader," Attorney-General Patricia Benavides wrote in a document posted on Twitter. The complaint, filed in parliament, also targets two of Castillo's former ministers: ex-transport and communications minister Juan Silva and Geiner Alvarado, who was in charge of housing.

José Pedro Castillo Terrones is a Peruvian elementary school teacher, union leader and politician. Since 28 July 2021, he has been the president of Peru, having won the 2021 Peruvian general election. Peruvian presidential candidate Pedro Castillo gives the thumb up as he holds up a giant pencil during the closing rally of his campaign in Lima on 8 April 2021. **PHOTO: GIAN MASKO / AFP/FILE**

They are suspected of influence peddling and considered to be part of the alleged criminal organization led by the president.—AFP

Mourners mark 20th anniversary of Indonesia's Bali bombings

HUNDREDS of mourners and survivors commemorated on Wednesday the 20th anniversary of the bombings that killed more than 200 people on the Indonesian resort island of Bali.

Grieving families, attack survivors and representatives from several embassies will attend a memorial in Bali's popular tourist hub of Kuta, where Al-Qaeda-linked militants detonated bombs at a bar and nightclub on 12 October 2002.

"It's okay that some people have forgotten what happened 20 years ago but there are still real victims, there are children who lost their parents in the bombing," said Thiolina Marpaung, one of the organizers of the memorial who was left with permanent eye injuries in the attack. "I don't want them to be forgotten," the 47-year-old told AFP.

The candlelight vigil will be held at a monument built metres from the site of the blasts by victims' family members to mark Southeast Asia's deadliest terrorist attack and remember the 202 victims.

Most were foreign holidaymakers from more than 20 countries but Australia suffered the biggest loss, with 88 dead.—AFP

In Bali, the Australian consulate held a memorial service attended by ambassador to Indonesia Penny Williams and assistant minister for foreign affairs Tim Watts. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS
Putin tells IAEA's chief Moscow is 'open to dialogue' on Ukraine nuclear plant
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Real Madrid and Man City lock up Champions League last 16 places

REAL Madrid and Manchester City both found the going tough in the Champions League group stage on Tuesday night but battled through to draws that were enough to qualify for the knockout stages.

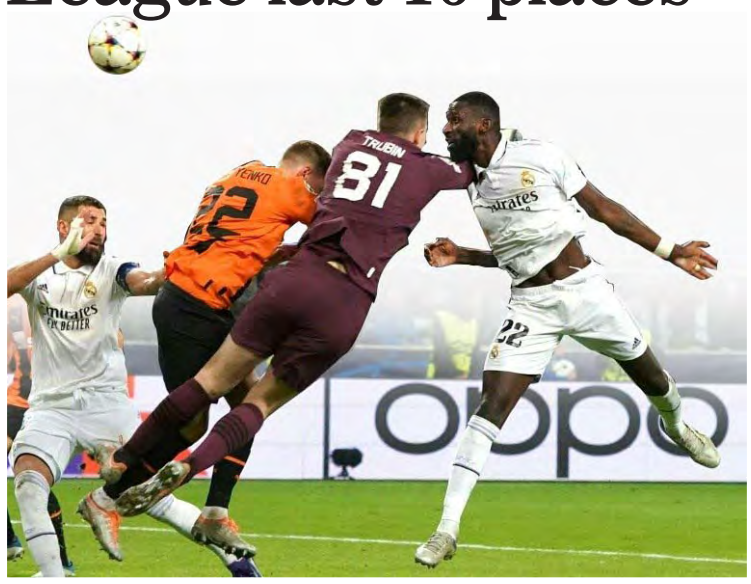
Paris Saint-Germain and Benfica also moved closer to the last 16 with a draw at Parc des Princes, after Maccabi Haifa had earlier upset Juventus in the same group.

On a bad night for Italian titans, AC Milan played almost the whole match with 10 men as they lost at home to Chelsea.

In Copenhagen, City's Riyad Mahrez wasted a 25th minute penalty and five minutes later defender Sergio Gomez was sent off.

Pep Guardiola had rested several starters, including Erling Haaland, with an eye to the weekend's meeting with Liverpool, and his team failed to score for the first time in 24 games, but the coach was content.

"To play one hour like that is tough. The players gave absolutely everything," Guardiola said.



Antonio Ruediger (r) scored to earn Real Madrid a 1-1 draw and collided with Shakhtar Donetsk goalkeeper Anatoliy Trubin (81) and defender Mykola Matviyenko. **PHOTO: AFP**

Neither Copenhagen nor Sevilla has won a game yet in Group G and when the Spaniards drew 1-1 in Dortmund in the later match, it ensured Manchester City would advance.

Carlo Ancelotti, the Real Madrid coach, also had an eye on a big upcoming league game, the Clasico against Barcelona on Sunday, and rested several starters against Shakhtar Donetsk in Warsaw.

They almost paid. Oleksandr Zubkov gave the Ukrainian club the lead at the start of the second half.

The game had entered the last of five minutes added time when Antonio Rudiger leapt to reach a long ball forward and got to it just before goalie Anatoliy Trubin.—AFP

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.

Traditional boxing, MMA, and kickboxing tourneys to be held for newcomers

IT is reported that Myanmar traditional boxing challenges, MMA, and kickboxing events organized by MSN Fight, led by the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation, will be held in Yangon for new generations.

In the 48-50 kilo event of the traditional boxing challenge, Wuthawdo (Yoya Kyar-Hmawbi) will fight against Zaw Dula (Strong Wave-Sangyoung).

In the 51-54 kilo event, Soe Thiha (Yoya Mhan-Magway) will take on Aung Lay (Eagle Club-Theinbyu).

In the 54.5-57.2 kilo event of traditional boxing, Kaung Wai Yan (Eagle Club- Theinbyu) will face Pay Thaw (Thiha Ye Yint-Magway).

In the 52.7-56.7 kilo MMA event, Saw Thakapaw will take on Aung Min Oo while Myo Myint Tun will take on Aung Phyo Hein in the 61.8-65.8 kilo event.

In the 70.9-77.1 kilo event of MMA, Thet Htoo Zaw will fight with Zin Phyo while Kyaw Zaw Htet will smash against Kyaw Khant in the 77.7-83.9 kilo event.

In the kickboxing event, Win Min Han will take on Kaung Satt Naing in the 57.2-60 kilo event while Kaung Htet Kyaw will fight against Saw Nagar in the same kilo.

Khant Min Hsan will face Rakhine Maylone in the 60.4-63.6 kilo event while Thuta will take on Khaing Satt in the 67.7-70.4 kilo event.

The competition will be held at the Theinbyu Boxing Hall in Yangon at 1:00 pm on 16 October, and the entry fee is set at K5,000. — Bala Soe/ GNLM

Djokovic 'would love' to play at Australian Open: tournament chief

Serbia's Novak Djokovic is keen to return to Australia. **PHOTO: AFP**

NOVAK Djokovic is eager to play at the Australian Open but it's up to him to "work out the situation" with the government, tournament chief Craig Tiley said Wednesday, while confirming Russians and Belarusians can compete as neutrals.

This year's championship was overshadowed by an unvaccinated Djokovic being deported from Australia on the eve of the Grand Slam after a high-stakes legal battle over his visa status.

The nine-time champion from Serbia is currently serving a three-year ban from entering Australia. It can be overturned at the discretion of the centre-left government, which is different to the conservative coalition in power when he was kicked out. But they have given no indication on whether they would consider this.

Tiley said he spent time with Djokovic recently and the Serbian wanted to return for the first major of the year in January in Melbourne.

"What we're saying at this point is that Novak and the federal government need to work out the situation. And then we'll follow any instruction after that," Tiley told The Age newspaper at the tournament's official launch.

"I did spend some time with Novak at the Laver Cup. We spoke generally. He said that he'd obviously love to come back to Australia but he knows it's going to be an ultimate decision for the federal government.

"He's accepted that position. It's a private matter between them."—AFP