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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.

Physical and mental capability must be enhanced for the Tatmadaw with prowess: Senior General



SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets senior military officers from DSA, DSTA and training depots from PyinOoLwin Station at Tatmadaw Guesthouse in PyinOoLwin on 16 October.

INSTRUCTORS from training depots need to train their trainees to have security knowledge, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting on training session of Defence Services Academy, Defence Services Technological Academy and training depots from PyinOoLwin Station at the hall of Tatmadaw guesthouse in Py-

inOoLwin yesterday afternoon.

Capable and powerful Tatmadaw

Capability is concerned with the Tatmadaw and the State is responsible for building the powerful Tatmadaw. Physical and mental capability must be enhanced for the Tatmadaw with prowess. Efforts are being made to promote education standard of the Tatmadaw members. Only when their education

qualification is high, will they have matured experiences and knowledge.

Opening of training depots is to build the future Tatmadaw

Training is to equip military leaders with capabilities to serve duties at any corps of the Tatmadaw. Military corps give training to its members to have techniques and knowledge at different levels. The Tat-

madaw has arranged complete plans for training sectors. As opening of training depots is to build the future Tatmadaw, instructors serving at training depots should not take careless for their duties and deeply give training to the trainees.

As PyinOoLwin is significant for training of the Tatmadaw, it must be idol for training session

As instructors must be qual-

ified for turning out the qualified trainees, those instructors are systematically selected and assigned duties. Qualification of trainees depends on the qualified instructors. As PyinOoLwin is significant for training of the Tatmadaw, it must be idol for training session. It is necessary to give training to the trainees to have outstanding skills in respective subjects.

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Physical and mental capability must be enhanced for the Tatmadaw with prowess: Senior General

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Trainees in individuals must be under training to have physical and mental strengthening
Trainees will face hardship in learning both military training and literature sessions during the basic military training

section. As such, it is necessary to systematically uplift their physical and mental strengthening. Instructors need to train the trainees to have knowledge to be able to pass their lives with rationality after completion of the training. As training depots need to turn out healthy and fit

trainees, instructors need to supervise systematic lifestyle of trainees in individuals.
Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye reported on training session, training standards of the training depots, needs of enhancement for

physical and mental capacity of trainees and future plans.
In conclusion, the Senior General said that all officers and other ranks need to take care of safety for information and restrict their families not to harm the information safety based on security awareness

and knowledge. Instructors from training depots need to train their trainees to have security knowledge. Social network pages and online technologies must be applied systematically for benefiting themselves and the Tatmadaw.—MNA

23rd Performing Arts Competition continues for sixth day

THE 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition (Central Level) continued at designated venues in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday.
Contestants from regions and states participated in the higher education level men's uplifting prestige and integrity singing contest and amateur level (second class) women's event at the Signing Room of the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw.
The traditional dance contest without poem (first grade) was held at the Plenary Hall of the MICC-II and contestants from states and regions participated in it.
At MICC-II, contestants from states and regions participated in the Mon traditional dance contest.

The marionette play troupe contest took place at Yinkyayhmu Yadana Hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. The marionette troupe representing Bago Region took part in the amateur level (first class) Ramayana event.
Contestants also joined the amateur level (first class) song composing contest at the same venue.
Likewise, contestants from regions and states competed in the amateur-level men's (first class) Guitar contest, contestants in the higher education level men's oboe contest, amateur level (first class) men's contest, basic education level (aged 15-20) men's contest, amateur level (second class) men's contest and basic education level (aged 10-15) boys' contest..
Contestants took part in the



Contestants participate in Myanmar traditional dancing without poems in the Performing Arts Competition on 16 October.

amateur-level (first class) men's and amateur level (second class) men's narration of religious and historical stories contests.

These events were watched by Union-level persons, deputy ministers and ethnic affairs ministers of religious and states and officials.

The performing arts competition successfully finished with more plans on the awarding ceremony and grand dinner to be held at the MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw. —MNA



Contestants from regions and states take part in dancing contest on 16 October.



Contestants compete in narration, oboe, song composing and music (guitar) contests on 16 October.

Local people participation needed for disaster preparedness measures

NATURAL disasters are unpredictable and can break out at any time. This being so, I'd like to warn you of conducting disaster preparedness. Region-wise measures are needed to be taken to ensure a smooth flow of water to prevent floods from breaking out. In this regard, it is needed to alert the local populace against the outbreak of floods. Additionally, it is required to persuade them to take an active part in disaster preparedness measures.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the third-day coordination meeting held on 10 August 2022 in regard to matters relating to the activities being carried out by the Union Government)

State defence duties must be successfully served through united strength: Senior General



SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Tatmadaw members and families of Mawlamyine Station of South-East Command on 16 October.

AS success can be achieved with the strength for any tasks, it is necessary to culture the practice for doing anything at full capacity. Individual strength and united strength will help achieve greater success in military unity and generate the united strength in serving the State defence duties, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in a meeting with Tatmadaw members and families of Mawlamyine Station of South-East Command yesterday afternoon.

Dutiful serving of individual assignments is serving State defence duties

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said each Tatmadaw member needs to dutifully serve their assignment under disciplines and must continuously take training for improving three capabilities. As success can be achieved with the strength for any tasks, it is necessary to culture the practice for doing anything at full capacity. Individual strength and united strength will help



SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and families to the South-East Command Commander on 16 October.

achieve greater success in military unity and generate the united strength in serving the State defence duties. United strength of the Tatmadaw must be utilized in nation-building tasks. All Tatmadaw members and families need to participate in successful undertaking the nation-building tasks through the united strength.

Successfully build the military unity

Deeply following the military disciplines will help ensure

the military unity. The military unity is of great importance for the Tatmadaw, and if the military units forge unity among them, anyone cannot break down the Tatmadaw. Commanders and leaders need to manage unity among all military units, and if they manage the units under the military disciplines, orders and directives in fairness, administration will cover them in fairness. Lack of military unity will harm the administration.

Military owned agriculture

and livestock farms are being undertaken for welfare of Tatmadaw members. All leaders at management level need to implement the projects of welfare whereas subordinates must systematically follow the leadership. If they operate military owned agriculture and livestock farms as well as manageable farms, benefits from these farms will contribute much to the welfare of the Tatmadaw members. Success of military unity and welfare tasks will boost the activeness



Daw Kyu Kyu Hla presents cash for station MCWA to wife of Commander of South-East Command on 16 October.

of Tatmadaw members. They have to uplift the morale of Tatmadaw members via internal sports meetings.

The Senior General presented foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and families to the commander and wife of the Senior General, cash for the station maternal and child welfare association to the wife of the commander.

After the meeting, the Senior General cordially greeted Tatmadaw members and families.—MNA

SAC Vice-Chair Dy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends World Food Day 2022

THE World Food Day 2022 was marked yesterday morning in the Convocation Hall of Yezin University of Agriculture, with an address by State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Vice-Senior General pointed out that food security and having nutritional food are essential to human beings, that the number of people who cannot have enough food is still on the increase across the world, that over 828 million people were faced with food insufficiency in 2021 and that during the past two years the number of those



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win poses for documentary photos with Union Ministers and prize winners at World Food Day 2022 in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 October.



SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win views products made of agriculture and livestock products at exhibition to mark World Food Day 2022 on 16 October.

could not have enough food rose to 193 million, up from 135 million.

He then turned to the situation of Myanmar. The Vice-Senior General explained that the agricultural sector is the main driver of national economic growth and development. Although Myanmar has been inflicted with the Covid pandemic like all other countries, the Myanmar government has exerted strenuous effort to ensure food security through the employment of all means available, he said.

The Vice-Senior General attributed success in managing the situation to the farmers and all those involved in the manufacturing process, expressing words of appreciation. He even called the farmers the heroes who ensure food security.

In its endeavour to effectuate national prosperity and food security, the government has directed its effort towards enhancing agricultural production so that no one is left starved irrespective of race, place of living, social status, gender and age.

Concerning the livestock breeding sector, the government has been able to have the meat produced sufficiently. And under the policy of import substitution industrialization, the import of edible oil could have been reduced thanks to the increased production of oil crops. As a consequence, spending in foreign currencies could have been reduced, too. Additionally, the government has focused on boosting cotton production to be able to reduce the import of textile goods.

Plans are also underway

to enhance multiple cropping instead of expansion of the cultivation acreage for major crops only. In this regard, the government departments, the cooperative societies and the privately owned companies are making concerted efforts to be able to distribute pedigree seeds at a competitive price.

Additionally, training courses on new agricultural technologies are being conducted in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and also in the States and Regions.

In regard to malnutrition, the Five-Year National Nutritional Development Project (2018-2023) is to be implemented collectively by the ministries concerned.

And in the effectuation of national development, it is indispensable for all states and regions to develop equally with no region left behind. In doing so, priority is required to be given to rural development. At this juncture, the government is making an all-out effort to ensure sufficient water supply and also the electric power supply so that the rural people can enjoy the fruits of socio-economic development. And what is more, the revolving funds are being raised to enable the rural people to make investments in agricultural and livestock breeding activities.

At this juncture, it is worth recalling that the government has raised a big fund of K400 billion for the rural farmers to be able to implement the Emerald Green Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Projects with an aim of bridging the gap between rural and urban development.

In conclusion, Vice-Senior General Soe Win said that this year's theme of FAO is, "Leave no one behind. Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment and a Better Life". To realize this theme, all will do the utmost, he said.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo explained the ceremony to mark the World Food Day. Next, FAO DG's World Food Day 2022 Video Message and the World Food Day commemorative video clip were shown.

Next, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Union Ministers from the ministries concerned presented prizes to the winners, and then, they posed for a group photo. Afterwards, the Vice-Senior General and Union ministers went round to observe the documents and the posters which are being exhibited.—MNA

SAC Vice-Chair Dy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win enjoys competition in drama play event

PATRON of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win watched the competition of Ramayana drama play event at the training theatre of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the drama play amateur level (first class) event, the Mann Rama drama troupe representing Mandalay Region presented performances with full dancing methods under the title of “Original Ramayana”. The Patron of



Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win watches competition in Ramayana drama play event at the training theatre of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 October.



the leading committee, Union of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy competitions. Contestants from Yangon, Mandalay regions took part in the “Ramayana” play from 12 October to date. —MNA

Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko, the commander of the panel of judges watched the Magway, Ayeyawady, Bago and

SAC members attend Mon traditional dance, uplift of prestige and integrity singing contests



SAC member Dr Banyar Aung Moe watches competition in Mon traditional dance event of 23rd Performing Arts Competition at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 October.



STATE Administration Council Member Dr Banyar Aung Moe enjoyed the competition of contestants in the Mon traditional dance event which was held at the Plenary Hall of the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II(MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. Professional level contestants from regions and states showed off their artistic performances portraying the Mon traditional dance. Similarly, SAC member U

Shwe Kyein enjoyed the competition of contestants in the uplift of prestige and integrity singing contest which was held at the Signing Room of the MICC-II yesterday afternoon.

The female contestants of amateur level (second class) from regions and states participated in the the uplift of prestige and integrity singing contest. At the Plenary Hall, the Myanmar traditional dancing contest without poems (first grade) and the Guitar playing contest.

Those interested attended the competitions. —MNA

Those wishing to enter the legal fold can contact respective townships’ Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in addition to reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council has released statements inviting CDM staff, students and youths, who are in border areas and ethnic armed groups, they can contact the nearest reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations if they want to enter the legal fold and the government will guarantee their lives following the rules and regulations.

In order to prevent the unnecessary loss of human resources, the State Administration Council has publicly invited the basic education staff who are absent from duty to resume their duties and those who take part in armed resistance under various names of groups, including PDFs. Meanwhile, 3,156 education workers, who were absent from their duties, another 1,009 people, who want to withdraw the cases that were opened against them, and 231 PDF members have contacted and returned to the legal fold. Then, they were given back to their parents systematically and the numbers of people who enter the legal fold and those who wish to are rising. Therefore, the government is making efforts to accept more numbers of those people.

The government opens reception centres in border areas for those who would like to return to the legal fold. Moreover, those wishing to return home can contact respective townships’ Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. It is guaranteed that they will be able to lead their daily lives peacefully.

Information Team
State Administration Council

UEC delegation leaves for 5th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)



UNION Election Commission Chairman U Thein Soe and commission member U Aung Moe Myint will be attending the 5th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) at the invitation of South African election commission and A-WEB in Cape Town, South Africa.

Union Election Commission Chairman U Thein Soe and member U Aung Moe Myint leave for 5th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) in South Africa, on 16 October.

The Chairman of UEC and party departed from Yangon by air yesterday morning. The delegation was seen off by members of the UEC U Aung Saw Win and U Saw Ba Hlaing and officials from the Yangon Region election sub-commission at the Yangon International Airport.

The Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) was founded in 2013 with 119 election organizations from 109 countries including Myanmar. The assembly will run in Cape Town, South Africa from 17 to 22 October. —MNA

Union Information Minister, Ayeyawady Region CM inspect production of agriculture and livestock based foodstuff in Ayeyawady Region

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Tin Maung Win yesterday viewed agriculture and livestock based foodstuffs produced by micro, small and medium scale enterprise-MSME in Ayeyawady Region as a gesture of honouring the World Food Day.

The Union minister and the chief minister visited the Khaing Phyto Kyaw rice mill at the industrial zone in Myahema Ward of Myaungmya and then viewed round dryers, paddy husk warehouse, paddy husk briquette factory and power station. The 200-tonne rice mill started running from December 2021 to date and sends rice to Asian and European countries via Yangon and to Bangladesh via Patheingyi port.

They also visited the paddy husk-fired power station on Myaungmya River to generate 1.6 megawatts and pledged to fulfill the needs of the plant for timely generating electricity. Upon completion, the power plant will supply electricity to two 100-tonne factories for operations in Myaungmya industrial zone and feed surplus electricity to the national grid.



Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Tin Maung Win visit Myaungmya central research farm on 16 October.

They also visited Myaungmya central research farm of the Agricultural Research Department, one mile northwest of Myaungmya and viewed research paddy farms and harvesting process. The research farm has recorded IRTP-30480 rainfed paddy strain, TP-21654 irrigated paddy strain and YSTR-12, MKSTR-22, Ayeyamaung paddy strains with

resilience of saltwater from 1 February to 10 October 2022.

The Union Minister and the Chief Minister also inspected agriculture and livestock based foodstuff production project on Yangon-Pantanaw-Wakema Road in Pantanaw Township and

viewed production of fish farming process, fish based value-added products and arrangements for food safety measures. Global Earth Co., Ltd spent K200 billion including US\$88.482 million on the project with the strength of some 5,000 labours. It will generate jobs for some 3,000 local people. Upon completion, the project will have export income for marine products and foodstuff exportation.

They viewed round placing of 1,700 feet long concrete road from the archway of Patheingyi University to Ingyin Hall. While in Patheingyi, they inspected services of library and child reading room and training sessions at Patheingyi District Information and Public Relations Department, and met with staff from district and township IPRDs, Patheingyi retransmission station and Ethnic TV crew. The Union minister urged them to present peace and stability of Ayeyawady Region and development measures. —MNA

Peace delegation led by NMSP Vice-Chairman leaves Nay Pyi Taw

AT the invitation of Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who called for peace talks, a peace delegation led by Vice-Chairman of the New Mon State Party (NMSP) Nai Aung Min left Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning after the peace talks in Nay Pyi Taw.

On leaving the Horizon Lake View Resort in Nay Pyi Taw, the delegation was seen off by officials and members of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, departmental officials and ethnic people of the Department of Fine Arts under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and

the locals by holding miniature State flags and placards bearing, “Perpetual Peace is the real aspiration of the people”, “Achieving peace is the true desire of all citizens”, “Let’s hold talks for peace in the Union”, “Only the ethnic nationalities are in unity, stability, peace and tranquillity will be achieved”. — MNA



Statement of Interfaith Friendship
Organization (Yangon Region)

- 1. It is heartbreaking to hear that three innocent pilgrims were killed and 19 others were wounded due to the shootings of terrorist armed groups near the Kimmunchaung bus terminal of Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State on the morning of 12 October.
- 2. Interfaith Friendship Organization (Yangon Region) issued this statement by strongly condemning the inhumane terrorist armed groups that shoot and attack innocent people while doing good deeds at the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda.

Interfaith Friendship Organization (Yangon Region)

Statement of Buddhist National Force

- 1. It is known that 19 innocent pilgrims were injured and three women were killed when terrorist PDFs fired weapons at the Kimmunchaung bus terminal where pilgrims were preparing to visit the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State on 12 October.
- 2. Pilgrimage is a matter of healing. The attack on the Kimmunchaung bus terminal, which has no military base, is an inhumane act of terrorism knowing that innocent people might be harmed and killed, and we strongly condemn the terrorism.

Buddhist National Force

Statement of Young Men's
Buddhist Association
(Nay Pyi Taw)

- 1. It is known that terrorist PDFs attacked the Kimmunchaung bus terminal of the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State with small arms, grenades and 60 mm, and 40 mm weapons on the morning of 12 October 2022 while pilgrims were preparing to visit the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda.
- 2. Innocent pilgrims, monks, men, children and women were shot by terrorist PDFs, and a total of 19 people, including women and children, were injured and three women died.
- 3. Our Nay Pyi Taw Young Men's Buddhist Association expressed strong condemnation of this abhorrent and inhumane act of targeting innocent pilgrims.

Young Men's Buddhist Association
(Nay Pyi Taw)

Statement of Young Men's
Buddhist Association
(Shan State)

- 1. It is known that terrorist PDFs attacked the Kimmunchaung bus terminal of the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State with small weapons, grenades and 60 mm, and 40 mm weapons on the morning of 12 October 2022 while pilgrims were preparing to visit the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda.
- 2. Innocent pilgrims, monks, men, children and women were shot by terrorist PDFs, and a total of 19 people, including women and children, were injured and three women died.
- 3. Our Shan State Young Men's Buddhist Association expressed strong condemnation of this abhorrent and inhumane act of targeting innocent pilgrims.

Young Men's Buddhist Association
(Shan State)

Statement of Young Men's
Buddhist Association
(Taninthayi Region)

- 1. It is known that terrorist PDFs attacked the Kimmunchaung bus terminal of the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State with small arms, grenades and 60 mm, and 40 mm weapons on the morning of 12 October 2022 while pilgrims were preparing to visit the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda.
- 2. Innocent pilgrims, monks, men, children and women were shot by terrorist PDFs, and a total of 19 people, including women and children, were injured and three women died.
- 3. Our Taninthayi Region Young Men's Buddhist Association expressed strong condemnation of this abhorrent and inhumane act of targeting innocent pilgrims.

Young Men's Buddhist Association
(Taninthayi Region)

Illegal teak, foodstuff, motorcycles spare parts and vehicles seized

UNDER the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, illegal trade is effectively prevented and prosecuted in accordance with the law.

A joint inspection team led by the Regional Forest Department under the management of the Special Task Force carried out inspections on 12 October.

A total of 0.9088 tonnes of illegal teak-wood (estimated value of K599,808) was seized in the yard of a house in Htein Pin Myaung Village, Kyangin Township, Hinthada District and action is being taken in accordance with the Forest Law.

According to the report, the Special Anti-Illegal Task Force carried

out inspections on 14 October, and BUD BEER, MUHAK SOJU and SPY WINE (estimated value 50,529,440 Kyats) which are not able to present official document proof inside a warehouse in Kanthayar Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region were seized.

Similarly, DUNFIFE Blended Scotch Whiskey and Fortant De France Skalli Wine (estimated value of 80,965,600 Kyats) were seized inside a house in Hemazala Ward, Chanayethazan Township, without valid documents being presented.

Thus, a total of (estimated value of 131,495,040 Kyats) were seized and action is being taken in accordance with the customs procedure.

Also, on 15 October,

Under the management of the Special Anti-Illegal Task Force, a combine inspection team of Kayin State conducted inspections at the Tadarkyo Combined Checkpoint and seized motorcycle tires aboard one vehicle (estimated value of K1.5 million) that were not declared on the import declaration (ID) and actions are being taken in accordance with customs procedures.

In addition, a combined inspection team of Kachin State led by the Forest Department of Mohnyin Township under the management of the Special Anti-Illegal Task Force conducted regular inspections.

Next, 1.388 tonnes of illegal timber (estimated value of K458,040) was



Beer cans and Muhak Soju bottle seized in Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay on 14 October.

seized from one vehicle near milepost number (191/0), Shwebo-Myitkyina Union Highway, about 4 furlongs from the exit of Nyaungkai Village, Mohnyin Township and action is being taken in accordance with the Forest Law.

In addition, under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Special Team of Sagaing Region, a joint inspection team seized one unlicensed TOYOTA KLUGER vehi-

cle and one TOYOTA IP-SUM vehicle (estimated value of K10.5 million) at Kyweye Police combined checkpoint in Monywa, on 16 October, and is taking action in accordance with the Export Import Law.

Again, inspection was carried out by a combined inspection team led by the Regional Forest Department under the management of the special anti-illegal task force in Bago Region.

During inspection,

a total of 31.9742 tonnes (estimated value of K11,825,664) of illegal timber was seized in Toungoo District and Nyaunglebin District and Thayawady District, and action is being taken in accordance with the Forest Law.

Therefore, total number of arrests on 12, 14, 15, and 16 October were 13 cases approximately K156,378,552 according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee.—MNA

OPINION

Create a safe trip
and have a safe
trip

Travelling to take physical and mental relaxation is the best move for humans. Travelling can ease mental tension, and a fresh brain, delay the ageing before deserved age, improve the health condition of the heart, relax downhearted feelings, help people soundly sleep and promote social relations with others.

Myanmar is endowed with significant and wonderful scenes for travelling such as ancient cultural heritages, natural beauties and landscapes, and natural scenes. These wonderful natural scenes and traditions and customs of the ethnic people of Myanmar catch the attention of local and foreign travellers. In fact, wonderful and attractive tourist destinations mushroom in all regions and states.

Only when creative and attractive trips can be arranged

The government is making preparations to increase the arrival of homegrown and international tourists to the country. During school holidays of school youths and their parents in their families have a chance to taste the tourism services. If so, their trips will be safe, happy and meaningful for easing their tensions in life by creating new energy and strength based on their trips for future days.

New trips will create new thoughts and new perspectives for travellers, contributing much to the improvement of their health conditions. Only when their trips are worthy of spending time and energy will their costs for trips be beneficial for themselves. If so, their physical and mental situations will be fresh and active with a greater strength to encounter forthcoming challenges and they will have new creative thinking to do work with the best efforts and creativity.

The government is making preparations to increase the arrival of homegrown and international tourists to the country. During school holidays of school youths and their parents in their families have a chance to taste the tourism services. If so, their trips will be safe, happy and meaningful for easing their tensions in life by creating new energy and strength based on their trips for future days.

As such, everybody needs to refresh their confined mental and physical situations to be free from the mould chambers through breakthrough power in their lives. Create a safe trip and have a safe trip.

■

Tourists enjoy 1st weekend after Japan
scraps COVID border controls

Numerous tourist spots in Japan saw visitors return Saturday, the first weekend after the government scrapped coronavirus border controls and implemented a domestic travel subsidy program in a bid to spur inbound and local tourism.

The changes implemented Tuesday are part of government efforts to “live with the coronavirus” by reviving the economy while curbing the spread of COVID-19.

In a shopping area lined with classic buildings near Ise Jingu, a shrine in Mie Prefecture, central Japan, a Swiss tourist expressed his excitement about visiting the country for the first time in three years.

In a shopping area lined with classic buildings near Ise Jingu, a shrine in Mie Prefecture, central Japan, a Swiss tourist expressed his excitement about visiting the country for the first time in three



Ise Jingu shrine in the Mie Prefecture city of Ise is crowded with tourists on 15 October 2022, the start of the first weekend after the 11 October introduction of a national travel subsidy program aimed at buoying the COVID-hit domestic tourism industry. PHOTO: KYODO

years.

Stephan Paletzki told Kyodo News in the Okage Yokocho district that he had traveled to Japan every year before the pandemic and he was not worried now as he had received three COVID-19 vaccine shots. Wearing a mask, which he said was a bit tight around the ears, Paletzki, 49, said people no longer wear masks in Switzerland.

Bullet trains to western Japan

Earlier Saturday, people jostled at East Japan Railway Co.’s Tokyo Station as they waited to board bullet trains to western Japan.

“I saw some foreign tourists and I feel as if our pre-pandemic life is coming back,” said Shinya Kato, a 27-year old company employee from Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo.

“There might be another wave later so I want to enjoy

myself as much as I can while the disease’s spread is still low,” Kato said.

He said he was traveling with his friend to the Kansai region in the west that includes the major cities of Osaka, Kyoto and Kobe.

Japan removed its 50,000-person daily entry cap and its ban on individual travelers and non-pre-arranged trips, allowing foreign tourists to travel freely in the country.

Along with more inbound travelers, the tourism industry is hoping that the National Travel Discount program will help the sector to emerge from a slump caused by the pandemic.

The program has started in all 47 prefectures, except Tokyo that will join on 20 October. It offers residents of Japan subsidies of up to 11,000 yen (\$74) per night up to a total of seven nights.

SOURCE: Kyodo

Acute, long Covid19 survivors at risk of Psychiatric
disorders, says top experts

According to experts patients who got infected with mild to medium cases of Covid and successfully recovered are now suffering from what is being called the Long Covid Syndrome, according to experts people who suffered from long COVID is coming up with psychological and psychiatric problems.

“The Acute COVID patients have had some psychological and psychiatric symptoms, but what is now more relevant is the Long Covid or Post Covid psychological and psychiatric symptoms. This may be due to direct effects of the virus on the brain, it also affects on the psyche and mind, social effects and economic impact altogether,” said Dr Nimesh Desai, former Director, of IHBAS.

Many medical specialties

“As such care for long or post

covid syndromes should be many medical specialties including psychiatry,” he added.

Vikas Gaur, Head of the Psychiatry Department at Amrita Hospital, Faridabad explained that after physically recovering from Covid, from the third week onwards, many patients have reported mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and sleep disorders.

“These are new cases due to the neuro-psychiatric manifestation of Long Covid. Most such cases reported today are from females, or from patients who had physical comorbidities or a history of mental disorders in the past”, he added.

As per experts, a significant proportion of patients in India who survived acute Covid-19 in the last three years are now suf-



As per experts, a significant proportion of patients in India who survived acute Covid-19 in the last three years are now suffering from some type of mental disorder, with depression and anxiety being the most common. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ANI

fering from some type of mental disorder, with depression and anxiety being the most common.

Suffering from mental symptoms

“In my recent research among people from the general

population who suffered from Covid in the last two to three years, about 50 per cent of them are now suffering from mental

symptoms of some kind such as depression or anxiety. About 26 per cent of people who were ill with Covid are now suffering from sleep disorders and an equal number from anger-related issues. Interestingly, there is also a substantial rise in the onset of new cases of psychosis, a trend not seen earlier,” said Dr Vikas Gaur.

People who suffered from Covid-19 are now seeking medical help for cognitive problems related to memory and concentration, which was not seen in the pre-Covid times, said experts.

“Elderly people above the age of 60 years are especially affected. About 50% of them are now reporting symptoms of significant anxiety, compared to only 2-3% before the pandemic,” said Dr Vikas Gaur.

SOURCE: ANI

ARTICLE
POEM

ဂျနီးဗား ကန်ရိုး၌ (မင်းသုဝဏ်)

တောင်ရိုးနှင့် တိမ်၊ ရောယှက်လိပ်လျက်

တိမ်နှင့် တောင်ရိုး၊ တောင်ကိုရိုး၍

ရိုးကို မမြင်၊ ကန် ရေပြင်တွင်

ငွေသွင် တိမ်ရိပ် ကူးသတည်း။

၁၉၃၉ ဇူလိုင်လ ၁၂ ရက်၊

On the Shores of Lake Geneva

mountain mists and clouds meshed up and
entangled

clouds and mists canopied the mountain

the sky cannot be seen

[yet]

on the shimmering surface of the lake

like a streak of silver

the shadow of the clouds swim

(Originally composed by Minthuwn on 12 April
1939 probably in Geneva)

Translation by Myint Zan

on 16 September 2013 (at Malacca)

“My Lovely Country”

1. I ought to love my country
in which I live in loyalty.

I’m very sure that my heart
should be trustworthy.

2. For, I love my country,
I strive my best,
to be noble and a brave-act.

3. She needs a man of kind and love
for our own blood, small and large.

4. My country needs these,
I should be the man she needs.

I’ll try my best indeed.

Mg Thar Nyan (NTG)

Statement of Myanmar Banks Association on AML/ CFT Implementation Progress

Progress on Implementation of AML/CFT

1. Since its establishment in April 1999, the Myanmar Banks Association (MBA) has been encouraging the member banks for sustainable development to ensure abiding by the existing laws and regulations, and the directives issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar.
2. In this regard, MBA places a special emphasis on compliance issues related to money laundering and anti-terrorist financing (AML/CFT). As Banks are designated as AML/CFT reporting agencies, they are committed to strictly follow the rules and regulations issued from time to time by the Central Bank of Myanmar and the directives/instructions issued by the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). MBA has been pushing the banks for making significant progress on the AML/CFT compliance at its monthly CEC meetings.

Formation of Subcommittee

3. The Myanmar Banks Association established a subcommittee on AML/CFT with member banks' compliance officers since January 2019, in order to strengthen the compliance and implementation of member banks with regard to AML/CFT policy and regime, and carry out necessary awareness programmes. The subcommittee was re-organized in October 2021 as the Prudential/AML-CFT/Fraud /Risk Committee in order to handle not only AML/CFT-related issues but also compliance-related matters in a broader scope.

Collaborative activities in the implementation of the National Strategic Area (3) of AML/CFT

4. In order to achieve full compliance in the implementation of the national strategic area (3) on combatting money laundering and the financing of terrorism, member banks of MBA put utmost efforts to effectively implement the AML/CFT prioritized areas such as facilitating the delivery of training on AML/CFT; carrying out the verification of information sources professionally; ensuring accuracy in obtaining information (KYC/CDD) on the customers and the beneficial owner including the contact person with the bank; and verifying the information received/maintaining

the completeness of the information.

5. In addition, member banks are working together to develop and implement the AML/CFT policy and procedures to be followed. As a result of such cooperation, banks are aiming for 100% success in the implementation of the national strategic area (3) on AML/CFT.

Reporting to and complying Directives/Instructions of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)

6. The MBA member Banks have been submitting timely information about suspicious transaction and customer information with regard to money laundering/ terrorist financing, to the Financial Intelligence Unit. In relation to these reports, banks are providing additional information requested by Law Enforcement Agencies and the Central Bank of Myanmar. Banks shall freeze a bank account/assist in seizure of financial assets at the behest of an authority e.g., order of Anti-Corruption Commission under the Anti-Corruption Law, Central Committee for Counter-Terrorism under the Counter-Terrorism Law, Financial Intelligence Unit under the Anti-Money Laundering Law (AML Law), by Court Order or police warrant. According to the decision of the court, confiscation and seizure of financial assets are required to carry out as per provisions of the AML and CFT Law, and properly handed over to the authorities according to the law, order and instructions.

Organizing and Conducting AML/CFT awareness training

7. The Myanmar Banks Association is conducting awareness basic training courses to increase the knowledge of AML/CFT for those who are working in the banks, including the compliance staff of the member banks. The basic course includes AML Law, FATF 40 recommendations, awareness of AML/CFT policy and internal control, and terms & definition of AML. The basic course was conducted jointly with the Banking Training School under the MBA. Up to date, 5 basic training courses have been conducted and a total of 408 employees from member banks have attended.
8. In addition, under the leadership of the Central

Bank of Myanmar, a training course on AML/ CFT was given to senior management level of the member banks, and 36 senior management level officers from various banks attended. The first AML/CFT Certificate training course for the banks' compliance officer has been conducted in collaboration with Central Bank of Myanmar, Financial Investigation Unit (FIU) and the Special Investigation Department under the Ministry ofHome Affairs. A total of 87 compliance officers from member banks have completed attending the course.

9. In addition, each and every member banks have their own program for enhancing awareness and knowledge on AML/CFT by conducting series of workshops, training courses and seminars targeting their officers/employees and the BOD members to strengthen compliance with AML/CFT measures and achieve the significant progress in implementation of AML/CFT regime. These programs are successfully conducted in collaboration of experts from the Attorney-General Office, FIU, and the CBM.

Knowledge sharing on proliferation

10. In order to raising awareness on proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), knowledge dissemination on the proliferation topic was included in the certificate-level training course on AML/ CFT being implemented for the banks' compliance officers.

Member Banks' Cooperation

11. Since the Prudential/AML-CFT/Fraud/Risk Committee, has been a subcommittee of MBA and is composed of compliance officers from the member banks, it is a great opportunity for member banks to cooperate on AML/CFT related matters, and also promoting compliance culture within the MBA member banks. Efforts are being made by MBA to provide not only promoting AML/CFT knowledge but also other necessary training courses to all member banks' employees.

Myanmar Banks Association
(16-10-2022)

255 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 16 October, total figure rises to 628,577

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 628,577 after 255 new cases were reported on 16 October 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 602,534 have recovered from disease. Death toll still stands at 19,470 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 15-10-2022, a total of 30,650,568 people above 18 and a total of 6,661,816 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.

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

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

Higher-end cars' prices drop; cars worth around K50 million sales robust

ALTHOUGH the prices of higher-end cars have dropped in the local car market, sales of cars around K50 million are in good condition, according to the car brokers.

“The car prices drop drastically like from K100 million to K70 million. There is no buyer. The transactions of cars below K50 million are in normal at proper bargain,” car broker Ko Sein Tun told the GNLM.

In July, the car factory suspended the operation for the difficulties regarding dollars and import processes of auto parts, and the car prices have rocketed in the market.

Later June, the car prices soared and the numbers of people who want to sell their cars were increasing by the end of September and there were no



Thanthuma Car Trading Compound.

buyers, said the brokers.

“Currently, Toyota resumed the operation at Thilawa. The Hilux Revo and Hilux Adventure are on sale and the prices are

over hundred billion of kyats. We cannot buy them easily, we have to pay K200,000 deposit for pre-order. We don’t know the exact date when we get the car,” said

car trader U Thein Lwin.

The Toyota planned to resume in February 2021 but it suspended due to political and economic issues including COV-

ID-19 pandemic. In local SKD market, the Japanese, Korean and Chinese car makers get most of the market shares.

“In local car market, the transactions depend on the type of cars rather than the alphabet. The sales of car below K50 million are good,” said Ko Win Zaw.

The price of Honda Fit (2008) is between K22 million and K50 million while the Toyota Vitz (2007, 08, 09) between K19 million and K28 million, Suzuki Swift (2011-12) between K18 million and K25 million, Nissan March (2011) between K18 million and K27 million, Mitsubishi Fuso Canter (2006-08) between K60 million and K95 million and Suzuki Carry Truck (2018, 2019) VALARA between K19 million and K30 million, according to the market.—TWA/GNLM

170 Japanese companies in Japan plan to recruit over 500 Myanmar workers



Myanmar workers seen at the international airport who will officially go to Japan to work in 2022.

THE Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo announced on 14 October that 170 Japanese companies will recruit over 500 Myanmar workers.

According to the announcement with the Myanmar Embassy of Tokyo, the Ministry of Labour is verifying job offer letters (Demand Letters) sent through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a timely manner.

In carrying out such verification, the labour inspection company in Japan must verify whether the factories and companies recruiting workers are legally established in Japan.

The inspection findings and comments are being sent back to the Ministry of Labour through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo will provide information regarding 170 job offer letters that were verified and sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs between 1 to 14 October, 2022.

The Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo announced that a total of 658 workers among the 227 job offer letters that were sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for verification and reply will be recruited between 1 to 15 September.—TWA/GNLM

Airbag trains run on Yangon-Mawlamyine Railway section

STARTING from 15 October, No 89-up and No 90-down trains with new express coaches are running on Yangon-Mawlamyine Railway section.

Yangon-Mawlamyine train No. 89-up will leave Yangon Station at 6:30 am, and Mawlamyine-Yangon train No. 90-up will leave Mawlamyine Station at 8:00 am, according to the Yangon Station.

“The duration of the new airbag train will be only nine hours. Once some sections of the road have been upgraded, passengers will be able to communicate between Mopalin and Thaton faster than before.

“The airbag train has never run on Mawlamyine Road, so we are running it. Now, the Yangon-Mandalay section is running an airbag train,” said U Kyaw Soe Lin, Deputy General Manager of Myanmar Railways.

The train will be stopped at Bago Station, Paung station, Thaton Station, Kyaikto station and Taungsun station, and since it is an airbag train, the trains will be clean and tidy, and CCTV cameras will be installed for the safety of passengers.

When buying a train ticket, passengers must show their citizenship scrutiny cards and buy it, and it will not be sold with endorsements. At Mawlamyine Station, tickets can be purchased starting at 7:30 am.

It is reported that tickets are being sold at the advance ticket office with one day in advance for ordinary class and 3-day advance system for upper class.

No. 153-up train running on Taunggyi-Banyin route of the Taunggyi-Saikkhoung road section, which was suspended on 1 September and No. 154-up train route on the Patheingyi-Hinthada-Kyangin express railway section which was suspended on 11 September resumed by Myanmar Railways.—TWA/GNLM



An airbag train running on Yangon-Mawlamyine railway section.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

ECONOMY
WORLD

UK announces U-turn on corporation tax



People walk on Westminster Bridge in London, Britain, 10 Feb 2022. PHOTO: LI YING/XINHUA

AFTER weeks of huge financial turmoil and harsh criticism from home and abroad, the United Kingdom (UK) government on Friday decided to scrap the cancellation of the increase in corporation tax.

Prime Minister Liz Truss told journalists on Friday that the corporation tax will now rise to 25 per cent from 19 per cent next year as originally planned.

“This would raise 18 billion pounds (20.2 billion U.S. dollars) per year,” Truss said, and would act as a down pay-

ment on the medium-term fiscal plan, which is scheduled to be unveiled at the end of this month.

The policy change marks the second U-turn on the “mini-budget,” the fiscal plan announced by the UK government on 23 Sept which was to be the largest tax cut package in decades.

The corporation tax rise was originally announced in March 2021 by former Chancellor Sunak but got canceled on 23 Sept as a measure to back UK businesses.

However, that move has thrown financial markets into turmoil as the British pound fell to record lows and government borrowing costs rose sharply. Investors voiced concerns that the policy change would ramp up public borrowing, bring serious fiscal uncertainty and push up already high inflation.

On 3 Oct the UK government made the first U-turn, reversing its plan to abolish the highest 45-per cent rate of income tax in order to calm the markets. —Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Austrian central bank raises 2022 inflation forecast to 8.5%

AUSTRIA'S central bank OeNB on Friday revised upwards its inflation forecasts for 2022 through 2024, citing surging energy prices and wage costs.

The bank said it now expects Austria's annual inflation rate to stand at 8.5 per cent in 2022, up from its projection of 7.6 per cent in July.

Meanwhile, it has projected 6.4 per cent inflation in 2023, and 3.7 per cent in 2024, saying that anti-inflation measures may fail to have a significant impact. —Xinhua

Hungary's central bank ramps up rates to shore up forint

THE Monetary Council of the National Bank of Hungary (MNB) on Friday announced a series of surprise interventions aimed at halting the Hungarian currency's (forint) free fall against major currencies.

According to an MNB statement, the Monetary Council raised the overnight collateralized lending rate from 15.5 per cent to 25 per cent and suspended the one-week collateralized loan with effect from 8:45 am on Friday. —Xinhua

Germany reaches gas storage target for winter ahead of schedule

GERMANY has reached its target of filling the country's gas storage facilities to 95 per cent more than two weeks ahead of schedule, the Federal Network Agency (BNetzA) said on Friday.

However, this is “not enough,” a spokesperson for BNetzA told Xinhua.

In response to disrupted gas supplies from Russia, the German government has rapidly constructed terminals for liquefied natural gas (LNG) and introduced energy-saving measures.

To avoid a gas emergency in winter, plans to import gas had to be quickly realized, and supplies in Germany's neighboring countries must “remain stable,” the network agency spokesperson



An employee of Uniper Energy Storage walks through the above-ground facilities of a natural gas storage facility at the Uniper Energy Storage facility in Bierwang, southern Germany on 10 June 2022. PHOTO: LENNART PREISS / AFP

said, adding that German consumers must also reduce their gas consumption by “at least 20 per cent.” “Gas is a scarce resource and it is important to use it carefully,” German Minister for Economic Affairs Robert Habeck said on Thursday. —Xinhua

Pakistan vows IMF reforms as flood damage estimated at over \$16bn



Stranded people along with their belongings waded through a flooded street after fleeing from their flood hit homes following heavy monsoon rains at Sohbatpur area in Jaffarabad district of Balochistan province on 28 August 2022. PHOTO: FIDA HUSSAIN/AFP

PAKISTAN'S finance minister has promised international lenders to stay true to economic reforms despite a new estimate that his country quickly needs more than \$16 billion to recover from devastating floods.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar also said that a flood donors' conference promised by French President Emmanuel Macron would take place next month which he hoped would help Pakistan both with immediate and longer-term needs.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in late August released \$1.1 billion to Pakistan as part of a \$6 billion package sealed in 2019 as the new government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif moved forward on reforms.

“It will be our endeavour, even at the cost of extra effort, that we should complete the program successfully,” Dar told AFP in an interview Friday evening in Washington.

Doing so “sends a positive signal to the international community and the markets,” he said, voicing appreciation to the “very responsive” promises of other nations for Pakistan.

Dar – who took the job for the fourth time last month after his predecessor quit – acknowledged political risks.

Former prime minister Imran Khan, the cricket star turned politician ousted in a no-confidence vote in April, has been plotting a return amid protests seeking an early election. — AFP

No. of bankruptcies in Japan up in April-Sept for 1st rise in 3 yrs

THE number of corporate bankruptcies in Japan rose 6.9 per cent in the April-September period from a year earlier to 3,141 for the first increase in three years, according to a survey by a credit research company.

The rise was attributable to difficulties companies experienced in repaying financial aid they had received from the government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Tokyo Shoko Research said.

A Tokyo Shoko Re-

search official said the company is also seeing rising cases since August of bankruptcies stemming from high raw material prices sparked by the weakening of the yen against the US dollar and other major currencies.

The total liabilities left by bankrupt companies surged three times to 1.74 trillion yen (\$11.70 billion) in the six-month period, buoyed by Marelli Holdings Co., a major auto parts maker that filed with a court for protection in June under Japan's civil rehabilitation

law.

By industry, the transport sector posted 162 bankrupt cases, up 42.1 per cent for the first increase in three years, propelled by high fuel prices.

In contrast, the real estate sector logged 104 cases, down 5.4 per cent and marking the smallest number in 30 years. By prefecture, 29, including Hokkaido and Kyoto, saw the number of bankruptcies increase, while 16, including Osaka and Hiroshima, saw the number decrease. — Kyodo



People walk in Tokyo's Omotesando area on 30 July 2022, wearing face masks amid the continued spread of coronavirus infections. PHOTO: KYODO

20 Lebanese entrepreneurs win ILO competition for best business idea

TWENTY Lebanese entrepreneurs won an UN-organized competition that granted them a cash prize for launching businesses in disadvantaged regions of the country, the International Labor Organization

(ILO) announced Friday.

Most winners of the "Women do Business Experience" competition are women and young people, said the event's organizer, Beirut-based ILO regional office for Arab States, in a

statement.

The competition was part of the Productive Sectors Development Programme (PSDP) funded by the UN-initiated Lebanon Recovery Fund and implemented by seven

UN agencies including the ILO, to support gender-responsive job creation and economic opportunities in the agriculture and agri-food sectors.

The winners included producers of organic food,

herbal oils, and olive oil.

The assessment involved their preparedness, as well as the environmental and social dimensions of their projects, said the statement.

The competition start-

ed with training sessions provided by the ILO for hundreds of small business owners and entrepreneurs. After that, forty shortlisted candidates were picked by a jury for their business ideas.— Xinhua

Canton Fair opens online with record number of exhibits



Staff members prepare a live show to be staged for the 132nd session of the China Import and Export Fair, also known as the Canton Fair, at Guangdong Textiles Import & Export Co., Ltd. in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province, 14 October 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA

THE 132nd session of the China Import and Export Fair, also known as the Canton Fair, opened online on Saturday with a record number of products on display and offering a longer service time.

More than 35,000 domestic and overseas companies are participating in the event, which is ap-

proximately 10,000 more than that of the previous session, and they have submitted over 3.06 million exhibits, said Xu Bing, spokesperson of the fair.

Of the products on display, more than 130,000 feature smart capabilities and over 500,000 are green, low-carbon commodities.

Organizers plan to

hold more than 70 global trade promotion activities, and 200 activities for new product releases.

Starting from this session, the Canton Fair will extend the service time of its online platform, with the availability of most functions, from the previous 10 days to five months.— Xinhua

Nepal extends import ban on vehicles, liquor products

THE Nepali government on Friday extended an import ban on some vehicles, liquor products and other items until mid-December as the South Asian country's foreign exchange reserves continue to dwindle.

Four wheelers including jeep, car and van, motorcycles with an engine capacity of over 150 cc, smartphones priced over 300 US dollars and all types of foreign liquors

are still fully banned under a notice published in the Nepal Gazette.

The cabinet made the decision on Thursday, Gyanendra Bahadur Karki, the minister for communications and information technology told reporters.

As per the government's notice, the import ban is enforced to safeguard the external financial position and balance of payments, in order to

forestall any imminent threat to the economy.

The ban was first imposed in April and extended later, targeting more goods including tobacco products, diamonds, color TV sets larger than 32 inches, dolls, cards and snacks. In late August, the government relaxed the ban, barring only the entry of automobiles, expensive mobile sets and liquor products till 13 October. — Xinhua

Changing Distributor for Registered Pesticide

Distribution of pesticide registered by **Shandong Weifang Rainbow Chemical Co., Ltd** is changing from **RAINBOW AGROSCIENCES CO., LTD** to **AVENTINE LIMITED**, a member of Capital Diamond Star Group. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Insein within 2 weeks.

Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1. Adiconstar 325SC	Azoxystrobin 200g/l + Difenoconazole 125g/l	P2022-5705
2. S-Maspor 960 EC	S – Metolachlor 960g/l	P2022-5605

RAINBOW AGROSCIENCES CO., LTD
Phone : 09456060160, 09456060180

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Saudi Arabia announces \$400 mln humanitarian aid for Ukraine: SPA news agency

SAUDI Arabia on Saturday announced \$400 million in humanitarian aid for Ukraine, the official SPA news agency said, adding that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had made a phone call to President Volodymyr Zelensky.

The prince emphasised “the Kingdom’s position of supporting everything that will contribute to de-escalation, and the Kingdom’s readiness to continue the efforts of mediation,” SPA reported.

Saudi Arabia last month played an unexpected role in facilitating a prisoner-of-war swap between Moscow and Kyiv.

The war in Ukraine has, however, fuelled tensions between Saudi Arabia and the United States after the kingdom largely resisted pressure to ramp up oil production to ease the energy crisis resulting from the conflict.

The kingdom has come under growing criticism from Washington after the Saudi-led OPEC group of oil exporters agreed on a drastic production cut with Russia and other allies, which could send energy prices soaring even higher.

Washington has accused OPEC+ of aligning itself with Moscow, and on Wednesday, President Joe Biden threatened “consequences” for Saudi Arabia. —AFP



An aerial view taken on 30 April 2022 shows local people and refugees from Donetsk region lining up for humanitarian aid distributed from Russian military trucks in Berdyansk. This picture was taken during a media trip organised by the Russian army. **PHOTO: ANDREY BORODULIN / AFP**

Musk says cannot fund Starlink in Ukraine indefinitely



Elon Musk and his company SpaceX are having trouble funding their Starlink internet service in Ukraine, and are now asking for help from the Pentagon. **PHOTO: HANNIBAL HANSCHKE / POOL / AFP**

ELON Musk said Friday that SpaceX would not be able to pay for Starlink satellite internet in Ukraine indefinitely, while the US military confirmed it was communicating with the billionaire’s company about funding for the key network.

The discussions come as Musk has been embroiled in public spats with Ukrainian leaders who were angered by his controversial plan for de-escalating the conflict, which included acknowledging Russian sovereignty over Crimea. Starlink, a constellation of more than 3,000 small satellites in low Earth orbit, has been vital to Ukraine’s communications as it fights against Russia’s invasion, with SpaceX donating some 25,000 ground terminals, according to an updated figure given by Musk last week.

In a series of tweets, the world’s richest man appeared to confirm a report by CNN saying he had written to the Pentagon warning that his financial contributions would come to an end, and that the military would need to foot the bill. —AFP

NEWS IN
BRIEF

Iran denies providing Russia with weapons ‘to be used’ in Ukraine

IRAN has once again rejected allegations that it has supplied Russia with weapons “to be used in the war in Ukraine”, its foreign ministry said Saturday.

Kyiv and many of its Western allies have accused Moscow of using Iranian-made drones in attacks on Ukraine in recent weeks. The topic is expected to be discussed by European Union foreign ministers in a meeting in Luxembourg on Monday. —AFP

Ukraine seeks to expand product range for exports via seaports

UKRAINE has considered expanding the range of goods for exports via its seaports and stands ready to discuss the issue with Türkiye, the government-run Ukrinform news agency reported Thursday.

“We are raising a question about the possibility of expanding the range of export of goods from Ukraine in the future,” Ukraine’s Ambassador to Türkiye Vasyl Bodnar was cited by the media outlet as saying. —Xinhua

WORLD: TOP HEADLINE

4 out of 7 fuel refineries out of action due to strikes

FRENCH refinery and fuel depot workers at five sites owned by oil giant TotalEnergies vowed to continue striking on Saturday, compounding concern over petrol supply ahead of wider protests early next week.

Four of France’s seven refineries and one fuel depot were out of action, after strikers rejected a pay offer from the hydrocarbon industry leader.

Operations had resumed earlier in the week at two other refineries run by Esso-Exxon-Mobil, however, after workers struck a bargain with management.

The blockages have caused queues outside petrol stations, and worry across all sectors of the economy, from mobile healthcare workers to farmers.

President Emmanuel Macron’s government forced some strikers back to work this week to open fuel depots, a move that infuriated unions but has been upheld by courts.

The hard-left CGT union, which launched the industrial action three weeks ago, said on Saturday that workers at three TotalEnergies sites had decided to extend their strike. —AFP



Motorists wait in lines at a gas station in Paris on Saturday. **PHOTO: AFP**

China to accelerate creating new development pattern, pursue high-quality development: Xi



Xi Jinping delivers a report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on behalf of the 19th CPC Central Committee at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 16 Oct 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/JU PENG

CHINA will accelerate creating a new development pattern and pursue high-quality development, Xi Jinping said on Sunday. “To build a modern socialist country in all respects, we

must, first and foremost, pursue high-quality development,” Xi said in a report at the opening

session of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

“We must fully and faithfully apply the new development philosophy on all fronts, continue reforms to develop the socialist market economy, promote high-standard opening up, and accelerate efforts to foster a new pattern of development that is focused on the domestic economy and features positive interplay between domestic and international economic flows,” Xi said.

China will make sure that the implementation of the strategy to expand domestic demand is integrated with the efforts to deepen supply-side structural reform, Xi said. Efforts will be made to boost the dynamism and reliability of the domestic economy while engaging at a higher level in the global economy.

The country will move faster to build a modernized economy, Xi said.

China will raise total factor productivity, make industrial and supply chains more resilient and secure, and promote integrated urban-rural development and coordinated regional development, so as to effectively upgrade and appropriately expand economic output, Xi said.

Efforts will be made to build a high-standard socialist market economy, Xi said. “We will work to see that the market plays the decisive role in resource allocation and that the government better plays its role.”

The industrial system will be modernized, with measures to advance new industrialization, and boost China’s strength in manufacturing, product quality, aerospace, transportation, cyberspace, and digital development, Xi said. —Xinhua

WORLD: TOP STORIES

UN vows to step up efforts with Somalia on counter-terrorism

THE United Nations on Friday vowed to step up its partnership with Somalia on counter-terrorism.

The UN which joined the people and government of Somalia in remembering the victims and survivors of the deadly suicide bombing in the capital, Mogadishu in 2017 said it will also help Somalia on its development path.

“The United Nations stands firmly with all Somalis in their tireless efforts to end terrorism and to advance Somalia on its path to peace and stability,” James Swan, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia said in a statement issued in Mogadishu.

On 14 Oct 2017, two truck bombings killed at least 587 people and injured another 316 in Mogadishu. — Xinhua

Iran’s top leader says unipolar world order “not accepted”

IRAN’S Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said on Friday that the unipolar world order is not accepted, Iran’s state TV reported.

“Nations have been awakened” and they do not accept the unipolar world order, which “is gradually losing its legitimacy,” he told the International Islamic Unity Conference held in Tehran.

In a unipolar system, arrogant powers such as the United States would design their own schemes and dictate them to other countries such as Iraq, Syria, Iran and Lebanon, he said.

The world is now opposed to countries bullying others into obedience, the Iranian top leader noted.—Xinhua

Iraq’s Sadrist camp refuses to join new government

IRAQI firebrand cleric Muqtada Sadr’s movement on Saturday announced its refusal to join a new government being formed by prime minister-designate Mohammad Shia al-Sudani.

The announcement came two days after lawmakers elected Abdul Latif Rashid as Iraq’s new president, and he swiftly named Sudani as prime minister in a bid to end a year of political gridlock since October 2021 elections.

“We stress our firm and clear refusal for any of our affiliates to participate... in this government formation,” Mohammed Saleh al-Iraqi, a close associate of Sadr, said in a statement posted on Twitter.

The 52-year-old Shiite former minister Sudani has the backing of Sadr’s Iran-backed rivals, the Coordination Framework, which controls 138 out of 329 seats in the Iraqi legislature.

In June, Sadr had ordered the 73 lawmakers in his bloc to resign, leaving parliament in



Supporters of Iraqi Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr enter the Republican Palace in the capital Baghdad’s Green Zone, on 29 August 2022. PHOTO: AFP

the hands of the Framework, which includes representatives of the former paramilitary Hashed al-Shaabi.

In his statement Saturday, Iraqi charged that the upcoming government has a “clear subordination to militias” and would “not meet the (Iraqi) people’s aspirations”.

He said the Sadrist movement refused to take part in any government led by Sudani “or any other candidate from among the old faces or those affiliated with the corrupt”.

“Anyone who joins their ministries does not represent us... rather, we disavow them,” Iraqi said.— Xinhua



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.

Chelsea's James, Kante could miss World Cup due to injury

CHELSEA manager Graham Potter confirmed that Reece James and N'Golo Kante will see specialists in the coming days which could determine their chances of going to the World Cup next month.

England right-back James limped off with a knee injury during the Blues 2-0 win against AC Milan in midweek with reports in the English media suggesting the 22-year-old faces a race against time to be fit for Qatar.

"He's due to see a specialist over the weekend. Until we get that information there is not too much more I can add unfortunately, the rest would just be speculation," said Potter on James, who had established himself as first-choice for Gareth Southgate at right wing-back for England.

"Yesterday he felt not too

bad, but until you get these things checked you never know. We will wait and see. There's no point looking into the doomsday scenario yet, we need to check and then go forward."

Kante has not featured since August and has suffered a setback in his return from a hamstring injury.

The midfielder was vital to France's success in Russia four years ago and would be a big miss for Didier Deschamps's side.

"He's due to see a consultant at the weekend. It's a setback, it's not good news, but I can't give you anything more at this stage," added Potter.

Kante has been dogged by injury problems over the past two years and Potter believes both club and country have to be careful in managing his fitness.—AFP



Chelsea manager Graham Potter confirmed that Reece James and N'Golo Kante will see specialists in the coming days which could determine their chances of going to the World Cup next month. PHOTO: AFP

11 bouts of Traditional boxing, MMA, kickboxing tournaments held for newcomers

A total of 11 bouts of Myanmar traditional boxing challenges, MMA, and kickboxing events organized by MSN Fight, led by the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation, was held at Theinbyu Indoor Stadium in Yangon yesterday afternoon for new generations.

In the 48-50 kilo event of the traditional boxing challenge, Wuthawdo (Yoya Kyar-Hmawby) beat Zaw Dula (Strong



Two fighters land their punches on each other during a kickboxing bout of the MMA tourney in Yangon on 16 October 2022. PHOTOS: BALA SOE

Wave-Sangyoung).

In the 51-54 kilo event, Soe Thiha (Yoya Marn-Magway) vs Aung Lay (Eagle Club-Theinbyu) fight was a draw.

In the kickboxing event, Win Min Han (YMCA Kickboxing) beat Kaung Satt Naing (Dojo-9 Sangyoung) in the 57.2-60 kilo event while Kaung Htet Kyaw (TFC-Thanlyin) lost to Saw Nagar (Thiha Yeyint-Magway) in the same weight.

Rakhine Maelon beat San Min Khant while Thuta (Thiha Yeyint-Magway) faced a loss while fighting against Co2 (Khaing Satt) (STL Club-YGN). In the MMA event, Saw Thakapaw (Tarkwarlaw Club-Hmawby) beat Aung Min Oo (Zorro

Gym) while Myo My-Tun (Gable Club-Theinbyu) won over Aung Phyo Hein (Neo Gym). In the MMA, Thet Htoo Zaw (Thuwunna Karatedo-YGN) beat Zin Phyo (Home Gym-Ygn) while Kyaw Khant (Transect) smashed Kyaw Zaw Htet (Padetha Judo). It is reported that after the competitions, the best duo award, the best technique award and the best fighter award are awarded.—Bala Soe/GNLM