

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.

Over 170 lots of pearl sold out on third day of 2022 Mid-Year Gems Emporium



Local and foreign gem merchants are pictured enthusiastically looking into the pearl lots displayed at the 2022 Mid-Year Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 October 2022.

THE third day of the 2022 Mid-Year Gems Emporium continued at the Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Pearl lots, jade lots, gem lots and uncut jade lots are displayed at designated areas inside and outside the hall and the emporium is packed with local and foreign gem dealers

since morning. Local and foreign gem merchants viewed pearl lots (from No 201 to No 400) prepared for sale at the emporium, and put bids in tender boxes. Officials announced the bids at 1 pm and 5 pm separately and proclaimed that a total of 173 pearl lots were sold

in addition to five remaining pearl lots. Gem lots (from No 1 to No 120) will be exhibited on the fourth day of the emporium for sale through an open tender system. The 2022 Mid-Year Gems Emporium is being held at the Maniradana Jade Hall between

19 and 25 October and a total of 362 out of 400 pearl lots were sold. One hundred and twenty gem lots and 2,150 jade lots will be sold through an open tender system. It is reported that gem traders can make a payment in USD, Euro, Yuan, Baht and Kyat currencies. — MNA

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

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

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

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

Information Team
State Administration Council

Thayu (Pe Pa Don) Bridge project 39% completed



The construction site of the Thayu (Pe Pa Don) Bridge is seen from the side of An Township. PHOTO: SOE MYINT AUNG

FOR the development of transportation in Rakhine State, the new Thayu (Pe Pa Don) Bridge was being constructed on the Minbu-An-Sittway Road of An Township in An District, Rakhine State, by the Department of Bridges under the Ministry of Construction. It is known that the bridge project is now 39 per cent completed. The Department of Bridges stated that the new Thayu (Pe Pa Don) Bridge, being constructed across Thayu Creek, is about 50 feet downstream from the original suspension bridge. The construction work started on 1 December 2021, and the bridge is going to cost K4.03 billion.

The 400-foot-long, 24-foot-wide two-lane bridge will be able to bear up to the weight of 60 tonnes and the water clearance

will be 22.2 feet high and 80 feet wide. The foundation of the bridge is bored pile type. The bridge's body will be constructed with RC concrete and the upper body with PC girder and RC decking slab, according to U Kyaw Thura, deputy director (Civil) of the bridge task force (8).

On completion, the bridge will contribute to the smooth transportation of passengers and goods to and from Minbu, An, Ma-ei, Kyaukpyu, Yanbye, Taungup, Thandwe, Myebon, Minbya, Pauktaw, MraukU, Kyauktaw, Ponnagyun, Sittway, Buthidaung and Maungtaw.

The construction of the new bridge is estimated to be completed at the end of March 2024, according to the Ministry of Construction. — Pwint Thitsa/GNLM

Wholesale price of palm oil rebounds despite reference price, foreign supply

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market for a week from 10 to 16 October 2022 fell to K3,880 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), indicating a decrease of K140 per viss compared to that of the previous week. Nevertheless, the market price is still high in the wholesale markets, Ko Aung Ko, an edible oil seller at Nyaungpinlay market, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

On 15 October, the wholesale price of palm oil rebounded from a two-day fall of K6,100 to K6,300-K6,350 per viss, said Ko Aung Ko.

The retail price of palm oil was set at K6,150 per viss on 13

October, Ko Sein Win, a buyer involved in deep fried strip of dough, told the GNLM. On 15 October, four ships carrying palm oil docked at terminals of Thilawa Port and Yangon Port. More than 16,000 tonnes of palm oil were supplied at the oil tanks in the second week of October. The detailed info of the ship bearing the palm oil volume, the name of the vessel and terminals are publicly notified.

In September 2022, 28,038.755 tonnes of palm oil were imported. In the first week of October, 9,669 tonnes of palm oil were unloaded from the two ships. At present, the mobile market trucks offer the palm oil at the subsidized rate of K4,000

per viss for palm oil, K1,700 per pyi of rice (eight condensed-milk cans) and K175 per egg, said Daw Aye Than, a buyer in the morning of 15 October from Lanmadaw Township, told the GNLM.

The palm oil import was reduced by 30 per cent from October 2021 and the production of peanut, sesame and sunflower oil were promoted. It is also an attempt to minimize the outflow of foreign exchange. However, the market prices broke above K9,000 per viss and plunged to around K6,000 per viss frequently in the wholesale markets.

The traders have to closely observe the market due to the price fluctuations, said U Htay, a



A picture shows palm oil jerry cans to be sold in the market.

trader. The price of palm oil was up by approximately K10,000 per 18-litre jerry can (10 visses). In recent days, the price difference is around K6,500 per viss.

The wholesale reference price in Yangon touched the highest of K5,815 per viss in the

third week of June 2022. Yet, the price dipped to K3,525 per viss in the first week of August following the decline in the market prices, according to the price data released by the official institution on Mondays.—TWA/GNLM

Free and fair multiparty democratic general election

THE basis for strengthening a genuine multiparty democratic system is a “free and fair multiparty democratic general election”. According to the results obtained through the election, the respective Hluttaws and the government can be structured and run the state apparatus. Therefore, I would like to present that it is necessary to be able to hold elections across the country in order for those who represent various classes of people in the regions and across the country to be elected.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting (2/2022) of the National Defence and Security Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 31 July 2022.)

MIC greenlights 13 projects including renewable energy projects



The meeting 4/2022 of the Myanmar Investment Commission is in progress, addressed by MIC Chair Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun.

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) held its meeting 4/2022 at No 18 Union Government Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

State Administration Council Member Myanmar Investment Commission Chairman Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun and MIC members attended the event.

During the meeting, MIC allowed the expansion of the initial outlay of 11 investment projects and the implementation of 13 new projects in the industrial, agriculture, hotels and tourism, services and housing sectors. The overall investments

amounted to US\$198.017 million and K167,366.399 million, thus creating over 5,685 job opportunities. Among the permitted projects, it included renewable energy projects.

Out of 52 countries that make investments in Myanmar until the end of September, Singapore, China and Thailand are the biggest investors in the country. Among 12 business sectors, they invest in electricity with 28.21 per cent of total investment while 24.67 per cent in oil and natural gas and 14.32 per cent in the manufacturing sector.—MNA

MoBA Union Minister receives Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung of the Ministry of Border Affairs received Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed stability, peace and development of border areas, development of human resources for ethnic youths in border areas, the progress of peace issues being implemented by the State, further cooperation in peace, stability and development in Kachin and Shan states between the two countries, preparing for

repatriation and resettlement of people who left Rakhine State, assistance in the development of Rakhine State, and further cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Khun Thant Zaw Htoo and Maj-Gen Phyo Thant, the director-general and officials from the ministry. — MNA

The Chinese ambassador calls on Union Border Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Over 170 lots of pearl sold out on third day of 2022 ...

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A gem dealer is seen evaluating the jade.



Gem traders are keen on observing the jade lots at the emporium yesterday.

MoFA Union Minister remarks Graduation Ceremony of Diplomacy Course 7/2022 in Yangon



Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin concludes the Course in Diplomacy 7/2022 for junior officials in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 October 2022.

THE Graduation Ceremony of the Course in Diplomacy 7/2022 for junior officials, conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was held at Win Zin Min Yazar

Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Yangon) at 10 am on 21 October 2022. On the occasion, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin delivered the closing re-

marks.

Present at the ceremony were senior diplomats, ambassadors (retired), respective senior instructors, the director-gener-

al of the Strategic Studies and Training Department and officials as well as 34 new junior officers who are the Head of Branch 2/Third Secretary of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On this occasion, the Union minister and senior instructors conferred the completed certificates on the trainees as well as rewarded the trophies to the outstanding students and the best presentation group.

The ten weeks training course was conducted from 15 August to 30 September 2022 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw and from 3 October to 21 October 2022 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yangon for the purpose of the improvement of the trainees' international affairs, foreign affairs, diplomacy, general knowledge and Working English Proficiency Skills during the training course. – MNA

MoIC Union Minister receives Nepali Ambassador



The Nepali ambassador calls on Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing yesterday.

UNION Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing of the Ministry of International Cooperation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received Mr Harishchandra Ghimire, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Nepal to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at 4 pm on 21 October 2022

at the Ministry of International Cooperation in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the call, the Union minister congratulated the ambassador on his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Nepal to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. They cordially

exchanged views on the promotion of friendly bilateral ties, expansion of cooperation in the areas of mutual interest including culture, trade, investment and tourism between the two countries, as well as collaboration in regional and multilateral.

—MNA

MoTC Union Minister receives Nepali Ambassador to Myanmar



Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San receives the ambassador of Nepal to Myanmar yesterday.

UNION Minister Admiral Tin Aung San of the Ministry of Transport and Communications received Mr Harishchandra Ghimire, Ambassador of Nepal to Myanmar, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on arrangements for a direct flight between Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay international airports and Lumbini In-

ternational Airport, expansion of the route of Lumbini-Gaya-Yangon/Mandalay/Nay Pyi Taw flights based on the tourism business, signing of new agreements for aviation services, bilateral exportation of domestic products and cooperation in inland water transport in Nepal.

Deputy Minister U Aung Kyaw Tun and officials from the ministry attended the meeting. — MNA

2nd Ad-hoc Coordination Meeting of Task Force to facilitate provision of Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar through AHA Centre

THE second Ad-hoc Coordination Meeting of the Task Force to facilitate the provision of Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar through the AHA Centre was held at 2 pm on 21 October 2022 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The meeting was attended by Chair of the Task Force Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing of the Ministry of International

Cooperation, Vice-Chair 1 of the Task Force Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win of the Ministry of Health and members of the Task Force.

The meeting followed up

on the decisions of the first ad hoc meeting and discussed the necessary preparations for the Joint Needs Assessment for the provision of broader humanitarian assistance to the people

indeed in need. The meeting reiterated that the provision of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar should uphold the principle of non-discrimination and no one leaving behind. — MNA

100,000 doses of Pfizer vaccine, syringes donated by Thailand for children arrive in Yangon

A total of 100,000 doses of Pfizer vaccine and syringes for children arrived at the Yangon International airport by air yesterday morning. These vaccines and syringes were donated by Thailand via the Myanmar Red Cross Society for Myanmar's control and treatment measures for Covid-19 disease.

Officials from the Yangon Region Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health, officials from MRCS and representatives from the Thai embassy to Myanmar accepted the vaccines.

Thanks to cooperation between MoH and relevant de-

partments, 94.35 per cent of basic education students and 7.89 per cent of out-of-school children were fully vaccinated. A plan is underway to vaccinate Pfizer vaccines to unvaccinated basic education children aged between five to 11 and out-of-school children. — MNA



Pfizer vaccines and syringes donated by Thailand for children arrive at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

Battalions under KNU/KNLA Brigade 6, KKO (Split) group, so-called PDF terrorists under NUG and CRPH launch fire on Kawkareik with heavy weapons, attack public residences



The map shows locations from where insurgents and terrorists intrude, retreat and run away.

BATTALIONS under KNU/KNLA Brigade 6, KKO (Split) group, so-called PDF terrorists under NUG and CRPH this morning launched fires into Kawkareik of Kayin State with heavy weapons and entered and attacked public residences, staff housings, offices and departmental buildings.

According to the informa-

tion in advance given by the people wishing to restore peace and stability, it was reported that insurgents from battalions 17, 18 and 27 of KNU/KNLA Brigade 6, KKO (Split) group and so-called PDF terrorists under NUG and CRPH attempt to violently attack Kawkareik, Myawady and Thingan-Nyinaung cities and to ambush headquarters of the local

battalion, positions and camps of security forces and mobile military columns. The security forces comprising the Tatmadaw and members of the Myanmar Police Force discharged security duties for urban areas day and night. This being so, insurgents and terrorists started launching fires at Kawkareik with the use of heavy weapons at about 7:30

am yesterday and deployed a large number of forces to attack there at about 8 am.

They used a large number of strength in attacking Khin Nein Mu housing gate 3 north of Kawkareik, Abaw Phayagon, Kyaungshagon and staff housing, the road security outpost on the township road in synchronization. Security forces who have well prepared in advance with the information given by dutiful people on the positions of insurgents in the fighting effectively counterattacked the insurgents except around the staff housing. At 10 am, insurgents retreated from the scene due to terrible loss. As insurgents entering the staff ward used civilian people and buildings from the public housings as human shields in their attacks, security forces controlled their counterattacks and conducted completely wipe out the insurgents not to harm the people and public buildings. At 3 pm, those insurgents withdrew from the staff wards in disarray.

The military columns with the supporting fire of air force, artillery and armoured vehicles are chasing the insurgents and

terrorists who fled north and east of Kawkareik in disarray.

Currently, it was reported that some houses from public residences were damaged in heavy weapon attacks by terrorists. Two innocent men and one woman, totalling three were killed in the incident which left 11 men and five women totalling 16 wounded. Security forces provided necessary treatment to the wounded persons and continuously take security measures for protecting the life of the people and the public service personnel.

Although battalions under KNU/KNLA Brigade 6, KKO (Split) group, and so-called PDF terrorists under NUG and CRPH ambushed urban and rural areas as well as security forces, the precise supporting fire of artillery, aviation and armoured vehicles based on detailed information given by urban people and brave counterattacks drove out the insurgents and terrorists to retreat from the scene without achieving success in their conspiracies, and Kawkareik was protected against the danger of falling under enemies and danger of setting fire to the city. — MNA

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Plan underway to mark Elephant Momo's 69th Birthday for 3 consecutive days



A 66th birthday party of the elephant Mo Mo is in progress.

A living icon of the Yangon Zoological Gardens, Momo the elephant will be congratulated on its 69th birthday for three consecutive days starting from 28 October. Stalls are also planning to sell products at the event.

The elephant, Momo that has been entertaining visitors at the zoo for more than 50 years, was born in 1953 and retired in October 2016.

People's favourite elephant, Momo was spotted wandering in the woods alone by U Khun Sanda, the timber worker from the Loikaw Township, Kayah State in 1961. Then, he decided to hand her over to the Yangon

Zoological Gardens by timber truck after bringing her to his home. He named the elephant "Momo" after his wife when officials from the Yangon Zoological Gardens asked to name her.

It is known that Momo has been performing concerts for visitors at the zoo and also carried the sacred relic of the tooth of the Lord Buddha in the State's flagship events. Though she stepped back from the entertainment business, she has been caring for baby elephants at the Yangon Zoological Gardens.

A lot of programmes will be held as the "Momo's Birthday Weekend", such as cutting the

birthday cake made of sugarcane, bananas and fruits, releasing birds according to the numeral of birthdays, a slideshow of Momo's photos, music concerts, magic shows, entertainment of various animals, memorable photo shoots and game plans.

A birthday party of Momo has been celebrated annually starting from its 60th birthday and fans of Momo were present at the party. Shop owners wishing to participate in the celebration of Momo may contact 09 262499324 of the Yangon Zoological Gardens and its social networking site of the zoo. — TWA/GNLM

Chinese onions priced at K1,300 per viss in wholesale markets

CHINESE onions are sold at K1,300 per viss in the wholesale markets on 21 October 2022, said Ko Thein Myint, an owner of a warehouse on Yetama Street, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The entry of onion is estimated at 800,000 visses within five days this week. When the prices of local onions remain unchanged, Chinese onions flood the market at a cheaper rate. The prices of those imported onions are K1,300 per viss which is more than 50 per cent lower than the local one's price.

The prices of onion stood at K2,900-K3,500 per viss from the Seikphyu area, K2,700-3,300 from the Pyawbwe area and K2,900-3,100 from the Monywa area in the wholesale markets on 21 October.

About 350,000 visses of onions from various regions entered the market between 11 and 15 October. The maximum price of onions from the Seikphyu area reached K3,700 and from the Myingyan area K4,000.

However, over 800,000 visses of onions from various regions were supplied to Yangon markets between 17 and 21 October. There is no demand from regions other than Yangon

in recent days. The consumers reduced the consumption of onions due to the high price so the demand declined. The prices of onions have fallen this week.

Chinese onions are sold at more than 50 per cent lower than the local ones in the Yangon market, Ko Aung Win, a seller at the Nyaungpinlay market came to purchase Chinese onions at Bayintnaung Wholesale Market on 21 October due to the purchase order from retailers, told the GNLM.

Some dealers from regions outside Yangon opposed the entry of Chinese onions into the markets. Amid the high prices of local onions, Chinese onions might grasp some market shares. Monsoon onions are expected to enter Yangon markets in December. There is only one month remaining for the summer onions to sell in the markets for now.

The yield of onions dropped by half this year. There is some export order from border areas for the Viet Nam market, yet Yangon is still the main market for onions.

There is news spreading that over two million visses of onions are stockpiled in one township. There are decent stocks in other onion-producing



ing townships (Seikphyu, Pakokku, Myingyan, Monywa and Yenangyoung).

The stock of onions might exceed the demand in the upcoming month.

The onions will be harvested in the neighbouring countries as well. Thus, there is no potential to export a large volume of onions to the Bangladesh market like the event in 2019. Similarly, there is less chance for Viet Nam and Thailand borders. On the Sino-Myanmar border, only onion imports are seen.

As a result of this, the onion price can't hit K5,000 per viss in the retail market like the consumers' concerns, a market observer forecast. — TWA/GNLM

Thai authorities repatriate 81 Myanmar nationals in Tachilek

A total of 81 Myanmar nationals, 56 persons of whom were charged and punished for petty crimes in Thailand, returned to Myanmar via Tachilek on 21 October.

The Thai immigration team led by Mr Somsak Singkhan and officials from Mae Sai of Thailand handed them over to Myanmar in Tachilek and Tactical Operations Commander Col Min Min Tun and officials accepted them. Then, Migrant Resource Centre-MRC provided personal goods to them.

Tachilek District Hospital Medical Superintendent

Dr Win Naing, medical staff and Red Cross members performed medical checkups of Covid-19 diseases on them with an RDT Test kit. Those returnees are under surveillance for five days at Quarantine Centre in Wamlon village, Tachilek Township. Then, they will be sent to their homes unless they are infected.

A total of 178 Myanmar migrant workers: 140 males and 38 females, who were charged and stranded in Thailand for various reasons, arrived back in Kawthoung via Ranong, Thailand by boat on 2 October. — TWA/GNLM



A returnee undergoes Covid test.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Market dollar rate influences on YGEA reference price

YANGON Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) estimates its reference price based on the unauthorized exchange rate of the US dollar to adapt pricing to the gold market price, said YGEA Chair U Myo Myint.

Earlier, YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate of K2,100. That being so, there is a large gap between the price set by the YGEA and the market price based on the black-market dollar rate. Starting from 21 October, YGEA has calculated the reference at K2,470,000 per tical based on the unofficial dollar rate of K2,900.

"YGEA determines the reference price based on the over-the-counter market rate as fuel oil is transacted based on that rate. Similarly, the banks purchase the salary of Myanmar citizens working overseas that came into the bank accounts at the highest rate. The market price of gold is also related to the dollar exchange rate in the grey market. To narrow the gap between the YGEA reference price and the market price, the association will also calculate



Gold jewellery is seen at one gold outlet in Yangon.

the pricing at K2,900," U Myo Myint elaborated.

The gold spot price dipped to US\$1,630 per ounce, yet the pure gold price stayed elevated in the domestic market tracking Kyat's depreciation against the US dollar in the forex market.

The soaring dollar exchange rate at over K4,500 pushed up the pure gold price to a record-high of K3.7 million per tical in late August.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation sold three visses

of gold ingots each in Yangon and Mandalay under the auction system on 6 October. A viss of gold fetched approximately K2.5 million. Additionally, the minister has been selling gold coins in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw.

With an aim at reducing gold price, Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) sold approximately 1,277 ticals of gold bullion supplied by the executive members and the members of the YGEA at K2.5 million per tical on 12 and 13 September.

On 7 October, Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association also sold seven visses of gold (seven gold bars) to each individual in a bid to reduce the gold price. A gold bar weighs 10 ticals.

The price of pure gold was K2,540,000 per tical then. Moreover, MGEA continues selling depending on the supply of gold bars by gold refineries, traders, shops and members.

Furthermore, the governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) and officials of the Moni-

toring and Steering Committee on the Gold and Currency Market discussed matters regarding the stability of the gold and currency market and supporting plans of the banks for gold bar transactions to be made with banking system on 14 September in Nay Pyi Taw.

Then, on 30 September, the seven private banks opened special counters at the designated 48 branches to offer banking services for gold transactions.

According to CBM's directive (43/2021) dated 3 November 2021, lump sum payments worth more than K20 million for buying or selling assets have to be processed with the banking system.

The seven private banks are providing banking services by opening special counters at their 48 branches in Yangon and Mandalay regions and Mon State (Mawlamyine) to facilitate gold transactions with the banking payment system.

Those banks are Kanbawza Bank (KBZ Bank), Co-operative Bank (CB Bank) PCL, Ayeyawady (AYA) Bank, Myanmar Apex Bank (MAB), UAB Bank, Yoma Bank and Ayeyawady Farmers Development Bank (A Bank).—NN/GNLM

Muse border resumes trade with about 100 trucks flowing into China

MYANMAR'S Muse border trade is back to its businesses with approximately 100 trucks entering China, said U Min Thein, vice-chair of Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

The closure of the Chinese Customs checkpoint during the celebration of the Chinese National Day in early October forced the Kyinsankyawt border between Myanmar and China, he continued.

"The banks and Chinese Customs checkpoints were closed between 1 and 5 October to celebrate China National Day. Later, the cross-border trade returned to normal. Myanmar daily exports rice, broken rice, rubber, fishery products, food commodities and

chilli pepper with 70 trucks, while building materials, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, cement, and food commodities are imported into the country with 30 trucks. Therefore, about 100 trucks are flowing in and out of the Muse border trade zone," U Min Thein elaborated. Myanmar delivers rice and broken rice export to China on 20 to 30 trucks, according to the Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

As Yuan is appreciating against Kyat, the exporters are flourishing, U Min Thein said.

Broken rice fetches 120 Yuan per 50-kilo bag. The price of rice moves in the range between 140 and 150 Yuan.



The Muse border trade post.

The Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee notified the traders of transactions for agricultural exports through Sino-Myanmar border posts to be converted from Yuan to

US dollar, according to a directive dated 30 June. This action is effective on the exports of rice, broken rice, pulses, corn and edible oil crops yet the rice and broken rice exports

are excluded from this directive at present through Muse cross-border trade and Yuan payment is available as before. The appreciation of the Yuan against the local currency resulted in a decent profit for those rice exporters.

China shut down all the checkpoints linking to the Muse border amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the checkpoints, Kyinsankyawt has resumed trading activity from 26 November 2021. Although China imposed a lockdown on some border areas following the detection of COVID-19 cases, the Kyinsankyawt border remains open regularly.—NN/GNLM

Save children from nightmare labour lives

THE child labour issue is based on poverty and the challenges of human resources in society. As such, proper policies prioritizing the socioeconomy should be adopted to minimize child labour.

In fact, investment in the education sector, enhancement of skill and job creation, employment for youths and safe migration can lessen the child labour issue. Macro-economy and stable finance, especially manufacturing, economic reform leading to development, poverty alleviation, human resource development, good governance and reforms in the public sector and enhancement of environmental conservation are challenges for the child labour issue.

Myanmar implements the national action plan in two portions with three-time five-year short-term plans as of January 2019. In the first five-year plan, firm data were collected with the enhance-

All families should not use their children as victims of child labour. They have to nurture their offspring to have development to some extent as much as they can. Even if their children fall under child labour, they should in time have to save them while striving for the improvement of their families by seeking help from the government and relevant social organizations.

they are forced to work at dangerous worksites. Especially, girls are exploited in agriculture and housemaid services.

That is why social protection is essential for the majority of child labour: On the other hand, the policies related to education, social protection, justice and the labour market are of great importance for those child labourers.

Currently, the government is striving to improve the socioeconomy of ethnic people. Moreover, assistance is being provided for businesses affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, the opening of basic education schools, and the development of manufacturing based on agriculture and livestock to have a quick win project under the short-term economic plans.

All families should not use their children as victims of child labour: They have to nurture their offspring to have development to some extent as much as they can. Even if their children fall under child labour, they should in time have to save them while striving for the improvement of their families by seeking help from the government and relevant social organizations.

ment of awareness and capacity, creation of academic and vocational education learning opportunities, amendment of legal affairs, removal and remedy of child labour under the worst exploitation, and creation of better livelihoods for families.

The initial project of the first five-year plan under the Myanmar child labour eradication national action plan was implemented in Kayin and Mon states, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions among 15 regions and states. A lessening number of child labour in industrial manufacturing and trade sectors is being undertaken from 2019 to 2023.

Actually, the outbreak of Covid-19 across the world caused a decline in family income, blasting poverty. The number of child labour increased for the running of families due to the closing of schools, poverty and the lessening of social services. Hence, these factors push most children into workplaces where

I established a 5 skills class in 2010. Before that, I taught only Government English textbooks to the students according to their Grades. Some of the textbooks had been prescribed for over a decade and they made the teachers bored. For that reason, I changed my profession to the 5 skills class. In fact, teaching 5 skills in the English language by a teacher is impossible indeed because it is not effective for the students. Therefore, I managed to separate my work into two divisions. The first one includes listening and speaking skills. The other includes reading and writing skills. Here, I would not like to mention the last skill, the thinking skills. I took the duty of teaching reading and writing skills and assigned the first division to a teacher who was well-fluent in spoken English.

My class has been in existence for over a decade. I had to collect many textbooks from Patheingyi and Yangon. Later, we could use internet access and so we did not need to go to the cities and look for the necessary books as most of the textbooks could be searched online. For my class, we collected textbooks of different levels such as starter, mover, flyer, elementary, pre-intermediate, intermediate, upper intermediate, and advanced. Moreover, I have been collecting video clips that would support our teaching processes up to now. Therefore, my computer has a large storage of about 100 gigabytes of books and video clips.

Some students attend my

class for a few months but some for years. Among the latter group, some have continuously attended for five, six, or seven years. They are at the level of pre-intermediate, and intermediate. Some are online students who always use internet access with their phones and computers. Some are offline students but they also need their phones to save important textbooks and audio files and sometimes video files. In such a situation, all offline students do not have their phones. Although some of them have their own, they are not let to keep their phones with them by their respective parents. Some parents complain to me that if they let their children keep the phone with them, they always surf the screen of the phone all the time with their interesting apps such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, or different kinds of online games.

The parents' reasons are natural. However, some pre-intermediate level students and intermediate level students need to use internet access such as Google translate and some kinds of searching: for example; the question "Give three other differences between Brazil and Chile" and "Name the countries which you see their flags below", etc. These questions cannot be answered at once without using internet access. In addition, the prices of original textbooks with colourful pages and audio files are so expensive that students cannot afford to buy them and copying and saving them on their

To Steer And Control The Students In Using Their PHONES

By Yin Nwe Ko

phones and computer is more convenient and economical.

Here, it is somewhat necessary and important for the teachers like me to steer or control our students in using their phones. We have to guide them on how to use their phones beneficially and effectively without wasting their precious time. However, it is not an easy task. To steer a juvenile is an artistic work. Their interest in popular apps is not peculiar but gathering theirs and putting them on the right track is a must for teachers and parents.

When a designer builds a

mobile app, they do everything they can to design it so that it is engaging and it holds and reclaims your attention as regularly as possible. The designer has a range of tools at their disposal to help them do this and many do it very successfully. Helping students to understand this and helping put them in control of their devices can be the first step to helping them to use them more productively and constructively.

One of the first keys to making this happen is helping students understand how to control their notifications. No-

tifications are sounds and messages that appear unprompted on the person's device. On social networking apps, these could be prompted by someone from the network sending a message or interacting with the user's content, or with other apps, these could be regularly timed messages that the app has been programmed to send based on the kind of behaviour the designer of the app wants to encourage the user to adopt. Either way, if our student wants to control their device rather than their device controlling them, they need to

Life expectancies diverged in pandemic's second year: study

THERE was a dramatic divergence in the average life expectancy of people in different global regions during the second year of the pandemic, a study found Monday, as higher vaccination rates helped some nations recover far more quickly than others.

Because governments have counted Covid statistics in different ways, researchers have sought to give a clearer picture of the pandemic's true impact by measuring a country's total number of annual deaths from

all causes and comparing it to the number from before the pandemic.

Last year, researchers at Oxford University's Leverhulme Centre for Demographic Science said that in 2020 the pandemic caused the biggest decrease in life expectancy since World War II.

But in 2021, a "sudden divergence appears", said Ridhi Kashyap, a professor of demography at Oxford and co-author of the latest study, published in the journal Nature Human Behaviour.

"Some countries start showing signs of a recovery," while others have "worsening, compounding losses," he told AFP.

The researchers analyzed mortality data across 29 European countries, the United States and Chile since 2015.

Many countries in Western Europe saw their life expectancy bounce back to near pre-pandemic levels. France, Belgium, Switzerland and Sweden even managed to fully return to 2019's number.

However in Eastern Eu-



It is the very time in which it is impossible for students not to be allowed to keep a phone with them and use them. **ILLUSTRATION CREDIT OF KINDPNG**

know how to silence these and switch them off.

So here are some suggestions for helping students get control of their mobile devices. Most brands of mobile phones have a settings menu where they can find these and configure them for each app. If you or your students are not aware of where these can be found you can quickly find an image or a video of how and where to turn them off using a search engine such as Google. You can even build an activity around this.

Once the notifications are off you may need to reassure students that they are not actually missing anything and that they are simply taking control. You could do this by scheduling social media breaks into your lessons. These are regular breaks when

you give your students time to catch up on their virtual lives and check any messages. This may help to reduce their anxiety and motivate them to work well if you use this as a reward. You can gradually start to lengthen the time between each social media break as they get used to not constantly checking their devices. "Many students do feel that they are addicted to their phones, although there is no official diagnosis for this as a condition, so you could focus on working with students to create a balanced approach to how they use their phone through the day".

This could include things like planning times when they will and will not use the phone, for example, I'll turn the phone off 30 minutes before I go to bed or I will put the phone away during

meal times.

You could also negotiate a cell phone use contract with your students that stipulates how and when students can use their phones in the classroom. This needs to be created by the students with some input from you, but remember, this might involve you giving some ground. Here are some things you could include in the contract.

Notifications will be turned off during class.

We will do activities during class that includes the use of your phone. During these activities, you will only use your phone to complete the activity.

We will schedule regular breaks during which you will have time to check and respond to messages.

You could get students to brainstorm suggestions for balanced phone use and then get them to share their ideas and see which ones each student is willing to agree to.

It is the very time in which it is impossible for students not to be allowed to keep a phone with them and use them. Neglecting the phone, such students cannot be abreast with the ones who are using phones or computers aided with internet access. This is an important and not negligible situation. All in all, like everything which has two edges: the good and the bad, the teachers and parents had better balance them in their wise ways.

Reference: Teaching Teen



A woman receives a vaccine dose in Bulgaria, where the average life expectancy has dropped by three and half years since the start of the pandemic. **PHOTO: NIKOLAY DOYCHINOV / AFP / FILE**

fully vaccinated by October 2021 had a smaller drop in life expectancy, the study found.

"This suggests that clearly there is a link," Kashyap said.

The age of people dying from Covid also shifted younger, with the life expectancy of over-80s returning to normal in many places.

This was "partly a sign of vaccines really protecting the old", Kashyap said.

In the US, deaths of people aged over 80 bounced back to pre-pandemic levels, but fatalities soared for the middle-aged

and younger, resulting in the country's life expectancy falling by nearly three months.

Jonas Schooley, a study co-author from Germany's Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, said countries such as "Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium and France, managed a recovery to pre-pandemic levels of life expectancy because they managed to protect both the old and the young."

SOURCE: AFP



257 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 21 October, total figure rises to 630,183

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **630,183** after **257** new cases were reported on 21 October 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **603,764** have recovered from disease. Death toll reaches **19,473** after one death.

According to the study of people who had COVID-19 and people who died of COVID-19 from 28-1-2022 to 15-10-2022, it has been found that 90.4 per cent of Covid patients and 80.9 per cent of Covid deaths are not vaccinated at all or fully vaccinated, respectively.

Status of COVID-19 injection	COVID-19 Patient	Death with COVID-19
People have no vaccination and have not been fully inoculated.	90.4%	80.9%

According to the international study, it is found that people who have been vaccinated do not suffer severely from the disease, need not to be hospitalized and are unlikely to die. If they have received booster shots, the death rates can be reduced more. Therefore, it is a must for people aged five and above to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

The Ministry of Health is giving free vaccinations to all people aged five and above. Booster shots of vaccine are being given to students between the ages of 12 and 18 and people aged 18 and over.

Therefore, people should contact local health centres and village/ward administration offices to receive vaccinations. The information about COVID-19 disease can be seen on the Ministry of Health official website www.moh.gov.mm. —MNA

Price of onion from Seikphyu area rises for fifth day



An onion market is seen in the monastic precinct located at Ward 4 of Pakokku city.

THE price of onions from Seikphyu area rose for the fifth day at Bayintnaung Wholesale Market, reflecting an increase of K550 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilograms).

The onion supply to Yangon market dropped after the Thadingyut full moon day (9 October). The wholesale market price of large onions from the Myingyan area was K3,900 per viss on 14 October.

On 2 September, the wholesale price of onions hit a record of K3,850 per viss. The price reached a fresh new peak after 40 days, said Ko Kyaw, a seller of onion and potato at Nyaungpinlay market.

The onion prices fell to K3,050 per viss on 26 September. The market had a lack of onion supply for three days after the Thadingyut holidays (8-10 Oct). On 14 October, onions started to enter the market. The price was up by K300-550 per viss depending on the size and quality.

On 10 October, the onions from the Seikphyu area were priced at K2,600-K2,850 per viss in the wholesale market. The onion price extended to the fifth-day high at K2,900-K3,400 per viss on 14 October.

The onion depot in Seikphyu area also recorded the price rise of K2,600 on 10 October to K3,200 per viss on 14 October, according to a market data of that area.

Meanwhile, onions from the Myingyan area were worth K2,700-K3,100 on 13 October. The maximum price hit K3,300-K3,900 on 14 October.

Furthermore, the onions at Pakokku depot also fetched K3,100-K3,200 on 13 and 14 October.

Torrential rains in Vietnam and Thailand wreaked havoc on onion plantations and India's onion exports came to a temporary

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, communication materials, industrial raw materials and vehicles confiscated

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

A combined team led by the Tatmadaw under the supervision of the Taninthayi Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force made inspections at the Einshaebyin Checkpoint in Dawei on 19 October.

Officials captured 8.5074 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K85,955,180 from a Nissan Diesel 12-wheel car (estimated value of K80 million). The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 20 October, a combined team led by Myanmar Police Force nabbed three unregistered motorbikes (estimated value of K610,000) in Monywa and Shwebo townships and an unregistered Pajero car (approximately K2.5 million) on Karboe-Htankon-Kanbalu road. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

In addition, an on-duty team under the management of the Customs Department confiscated K3.8 million worth of communication materials without the approval of the Thilawa SEZ Management Committee at the One-Stop Service Centre (OSSC) of Thilawa SEZ and 6,625 kilograms of high-density polyethylene worth K11.13 million that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a Hino Prifia Tractor Head with trailer (approximately K40 million) on Myawady-Hpa-an-Yangon road in Phayagyi town. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 21 October, a total of 6.8216 tonnes of illegal timbers was seized in An township of Kyaukpyu district in Rakhine State. The action was taken under the Forest Law. Similarly, a total of 52.4520 tonnes of illegal teak worth K16,355,520 in Yedashe and Oktwin townships and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 11 arrests estimated at K160,575,672 were made on three consecutive days from 19 to 21 October, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. —MNA



Seized illegal commodities.

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Africa Covid vaccination drives stalling: WHO



An ambulance converted to facilitate vaccinations at a COVID 19 vaccination event in Manenberg, which is part of the Vaxi-Taxi mobile vaccination drive, on 8 December 2021 in Cape Town. **PHOTO: RODGER BOSCH / AFP**

EFFORTS to vaccinate 70 per cent of people in Africa against Covid-19 are stalling, the World Health Organization warned Thursday, with only three states out of 54 reaching the target.

In a statement, the WHO said that only 24 per cent of the continent's population had been fully vaccinated compared to a global average of 64 per cent.

Only Liberia, Mauritius and the Seychelles have fully vaccinated over 70 per cent of their populations.

Vaccination drives have slowed across Africa in recent months, the WHO noted.

Health workers administered 23 million jabs across the continent in September — compared to 47 million shots administered in July.

WHO regional director for Africa, Matshidiso Moeti, stated that the end of the pandemic is within sight but it could yet come “roaring back” as long as Africa lags behind the rest of the world in vaccine protection. —AFP

US military moves to ease abortion access for troops

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin directed the military Thursday to make it easier for servicemembers to access reproductive health care including abortions, as a growing number of states enact restrictions on the procedure.

The US Supreme Court in June struck down the decades-old constitutional right to abortion across the country, returning the decision on whether to allow it to individual states, more than a dozen of which have instituted bans.

That makes it more difficult for members of the military stationed in such states to obtain abortions, requiring some to take leave and travel to areas where the procedure is legal.

The Supreme Court decision “has diminished access to reproductive health care, with recruitment, retention and readiness impacts across the force,” a defence official told

journalists.

It has “created complexity, confusion and anxiety for servicemembers and families, who may now need to travel significant distances for reproductive health care”, the official said.

Federal law prohibits the Defence Department from funding or providing abortion services except in cases such as a threat to the life of the mother, but Austin issued a memo directing other steps to ease access to care.

He told the department to develop a policy that allows servicemembers to take administrative absences in order to receive “non-covered reproductive health care”, and for it to establish travel and transportation allowances to help servicemembers cover costs.

The memo also calls for steps to be taken to increase privacy for servicemembers. —AFP

‘Robbing women’: Japan’s sperm donation law spurs controversy

SATOKO Nagamura and her girlfriend conceived their son with donated sperm, but new legislation in Japan could effectively outlaw the procedure for lesbian couples and single women.

For decades, anonymous sperm donation has existed in

a legal grey zone in Japan, with no law explicitly prohibiting it, but no framework to govern it either.

Legislation expected to be presented this year would regulate the procedure, including protecting the rights of children to know their biological parents

and capping recipients from a single donor.

But a draft seen by AFP shows the law would only authorise the process for legally married couples, mostly those affected by male infertility. Japan does not recognise same-sex marriage, so lesbian couples and single women would be excluded.

To Nagamura, the draft is “tantamount to robbing women — whether same-sex couples or single — of their reproductive rights, and their desire to give birth to and raise children”.

For nearly two decades, the 39-year-old dreamed of being a mother and the chance to “give birth with my body”.

She and her partner Mamiko Moda, 42, initially considered overseas sperm banks, before turning to a male friend, encouraged by his willingness to have a relationship with the future child. — AFP



Satoko Nagamura (left) and her partner Mamiko Moda interact with their son, who was conceived with donated sperm, in their home in Tokyo in September. **PHOTO: AFP**

First-ever licencing deal struck for cancer drug

PHARMACEUTICAL giant Novartis has signed a licencing agreement increasing access to a vital leukaemia treatment, a UN-backed public health organization said Thursday, marking the first-ever such agreement for a cancer drug.

The deal will give selected manufacturers the opportunity to develop, manufacture and supply generic versions of nilotinib, a twice-daily oral medication used to treat chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML).

“Access to high-quality cancer medicines is a crucial component of the global health response to the cancer burden,” said Charles Gore, head of the Medicines Patent Pool, the United Nations-backed public health organization working to increase access to life-saving medicines in poorer countries.

While the remaining patent period for nilotinib was “relatively short”, he said the licencing deal set “a vital precedent that I hope other companies will follow”, Gore said in a state-

ment.

Novartis president of global health and sustainability Lutz Hegemann said the company was “proud to be pioneering this new licencing model with MPP”.

The drug is listed on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines for the treatment of adults and children over the age of one suffering from CML.

Zeba Aziz, a medical oncolo-

gist at Hameed Latif Hospital in Lahore, Pakistan, said nilotinib offers an alternative to people who are resistant or intolerant to imatinib, the first-line treatment for CML — about 20 per cent of those who contract the disease.

“I am glad more people in (low and middle-income countries) will have access to this essential cancer medicine,” she said in the statement. —AFP



A sign of Swiss pharmaceutical giant Novartis is seen on the top of a building on 27 October 2015 in Basel. **PHOTO: FABRICE COFFRINI / AFP/FILE**

ECONOMY WORLD

Britons skipping meals in cost of living crisis: poll

MILLIONS of Britons are skipping meals in current the cost-of-living crisis, a consumer group warned Thursday, having already forecast that many risk fuel poverty after the UK curbed its energy price freeze.

The news came after data showed UK inflation jumped back above 10 per cent in September on rampant food prices, as economic troubles pile up for beleaguered Conservative Prime Minister Liz Truss.

Half of UK households are cutting back on the number of meals, consumer group Which? said citing a survey of 3,000 people.

A similar proportion are finding it harder to eat healthily compared with before the crisis, while almost 80 per cent are finding it difficult financially.

"The devastating impact of the cost-of-living crisis is, worryingly, leading to millions of people skipping meals or struggling to put healthy meals on the table," said Sue Davies, head of food policy at Which?.

Separately, the consumer group stated Wednesday that



Diners enjoy their drinks as they sit at tables outside a restaurant in London in August 2020. **PHOTO: TOLGA AKMEN/AFP/FILE**

the UK government's decision this week to curb its energy price freeze would leave millions unable to adequately heat their homes.

In a series of humiliating budget U-turns, new finance minister Jeremy Hunt announced Monday that he would pull the plug on the flagship energy price freeze in April instead of late 2024. "The government's decision to end universal energy support in April risks throwing

millions of households across the country — not just the most financially vulnerable — into fuel poverty," warned Rocio Concha, head of policy and advocacy at Which?.

"The government must clarify how they will support those struggling to make ends meet beyond the spring and ensure that as energy prices remain incredibly high, consumers are not left out in the cold."—AFP

EU leaders fight for common ground on energy prices

EU leaders are set for tough talks on how to handle Europe's energy shock Thursday, with capitals at loggerheads over imposing a cap on gas prices pushed skywards by the war in Ukraine.

The bloc's 27 member states have been squabbling for months over measures to lower energy bills, and will arrive at their Brussels summit in a chilly mood.

Countries such as Italy are pushing hard for a swift and ambitious cap on prices, in the teeth of opposition from Germany, the EU's biggest economy.

The political pressure to

act is huge with strikes and protests over the cost of living spreading across Europe - notably in France and Belgium - and businesses fearing bankruptcy because of the high bills.

If this summit does not result in a "clear political signal that we...no longer tolerate high gas prices", it will be "Europe's failure", Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said on Monday. The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, has tried to satisfy the diverging views with a series of proposals that it hopes will help Europeans pay for their heating as winter approaches.—AFP



Russia's war in Ukraine has sent gas prices spiralling. **PHOTO: AFP**

Yen sinks to 150 per dollar, lowest since 1990



Japan scrapped its Covid-19 border restrictions and reopened to tourists this month. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE falling yen hit 150 per dollar for the first time since 1990 on Thursday, driven down by the contrast between Japanese monetary easing and aggressive US interest rate hikes.

The currency has plunged from February levels of around

115 as the Bank of Japan sticks to its longstanding ultra-loose policies, designed to encourage sustainable growth in the world's third-largest economy.

At the same time the US Federal Reserve has sharply increased borrowing costs in an

attempt to quell sky-high inflation fuelled by factors including the war in Ukraine.

The Japanese unit sank to as low as 150.08 per dollar, before easing back soon after. Analysts say the yen will continue to slide as long as the two policies differ, with more dramatic Fed interest-rate hikes likely as US prices increase faster than expected.

And speculation is growing that Japan could move to prop up its currency again after spending 2.8 trillion yen in September (then around \$20 billion) on an intervention that involves selling dollars and buying yen.

Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki called volatile fluctuations in forex markets "absolutely intolerable" on Thursday, reiterating verbal warnings that authorities will take an "appropriate response" to promote stability.—AFP

Why law enforcement struggles to throttle crypto scams

UNDER the headline "Scammers in Paris", an online sleuth known as ZachXBT published a blog in August detailing how a pair of youngsters stole cryptoassets worth millions.

Much to his surprise, the French police announced last week that they had acted on his tipoff and charged five people.

It was the first time his sleuthing had led to police action, ZachXBT told AFP, despite having investigated \$250 million worth of crypto scams and thefts and chronicling them for his 300,000 Twitter followers.

One explanation for the lack of action is that low-level scams are not a priority.

The authorities in the European Union and the United States — the leaders on cryp-

to control — have relentlessly focused on aspects of crypto crime related to terrorist financing, money laundering and sanctions busting.

Arrests have been rare at federal level in the US — the Department of Justice's specialized unit charged only eight suspects in the first half of this year.

US federal agencies have often concentrated on headline-grabbing suspects like Heather Morgan, an amateur rapper nicknamed "Razzle-khan" who was charged with money laundering in February, and more recently reality TV star Kim Kardashian, who was fined this month for illegally promoting a cryptocurrency.—AFP

Ericsson, Nokia shares sink after missing expectations

NORDIC telecom giants Ericsson and Nokia reported lower-than-expected profits for the third quarter on Thursday, sending their shares diving as the rivals stressed rising uncertainty in global markets.

Ericsson's shares sank by more than 11 per cent as the Stockholm stock exchange opened while Nokia tumbled by four per cent in Helsinki. Sweden's Ericsson reported a net profit of 5.4 billion Swedish kronor (\$480 million) between July



Ericsson headquarters in Stockholm. PHOTO: FREDRIK SANDBERG/TT NEWS AGENCY/AFP

and September, down seven per cent compared to a year earlier.

It was below analyst

expectations of between 5.7 billion and 5.9 billion kronor, according to surveys by financial data firm FactSet

and Bloomberg news agency. The lower profits were partly due to Ericsson's \$6.2 billion acquisition of US cloud communications company Vonage. Chief executive Borje Ekholm said the company would "continue to be proactive in reviewing options to reduce costs." "Cost efficiency is also crucial to allow investments in technology leadership and to strengthen our resilience in an uncertain market," Ekholm said in a statement.—AFP

Renault mulls cutting Nissan stake to 15%, talks in final stage

RENAULT SA is considering cutting its stake in Nissan Motor Co. in steps to 15 per cent from 43 per cent as part of their partnership review currently in its final stage, with an official announcement expected as early as 15 Nov, sources close to the negotiation said Friday.

Nissan, which has a 15 per cent stake in a smaller French partner without voting rights, has been seeking a more balanced capital relationship for more than 20 years after Renault invested in the Japanese automaker at a time when it was struggling under a massive debt. The two companies, whose partnership also involves Mitsubishi Motors Corp., are considering reshaping their alliance structure to eventually bring their voting rights in each other to an equal level, the sources said.

Renault is apparently in need of new funds to

accelerate its development of new electric vehicles, auto industry analysts say, especially after its withdrawal from the Russian market due to the Ukrainian crisis. Based on the recent share price of Nissan, Renault could raise over 500 billion yen (\$3.3 billion) by selling down the stake to 15 per cent. Renault may commission sales of its Nissan shares to a trust bank to avoid regulatory compliance risks, according to the sources.

Renault CEO Luca de Meo visited Japan and held a meeting with Nissan CEO Makoto Uchida on 10 Oct. The two companies have said they engaged in "trustful discussions" in an effort to "reinforce the cooperation and the future of the alliance". Renault became the top shareholder of Nissan in 1999 when the Japanese firm was on the cusp of bankruptcy, sending Carlos Ghosn to lead the overhaul.—Kyodo

Austria's inflation hits 70-year high in September

INFLATION continues to surge in Austria, reaching 10.5 per cent in September, the highest level since July 1952, Statistics Austria said on Wednesday.

The September inflation rate was 1.2 percentage points above that registered in August and exceeded the high inflation levels "during the oil crisis in the 1970s," Statistics Austria said in a statement.

Tobias Thomas, director general of Statistics Austria, said soaring household energy and fuel prices were the strongest drivers of inflation in September.

Last week, Austria's

central bank (OeNB) revised upwards its inflation forecasts for 2022 through 2024, citing surging energy prices and wage costs. It now expects the country's annual inflation rate to reach 8.5 per cent in 2022, up from its projection of 7.6 per cent in July.

The Austrian government has introduced several anti-inflation packages to support households and companies, including direct payments to families. However, the OeNB said the packages may fail to have a significant impact. The bank projects 6.4 per cent inflation in 2023 and 3.7 per cent in 2024. —Xinhua

Musk says he's 'excited' about buying Twitter, but overpaying

ELON Musk on Wednesday said he is "excited" about taking over Twitter, expressing enthusiasm even though he's spent months trying to break free of the \$44 billion buy-out contract.

A US judge early this month suspended litigation in the saga over Musk's proposed takeover of Twitter, giving the parties until 28 October to finalize the on-again, off-again megadeal.

Twitter had filed a lawsuit to hold Musk to the terms of the deal he inked in April after the Tesla chief sent word

he was terminating the contract.

"I'm excited about the Twitter situation," Musk said while fielding questions on a Tesla quarterly earnings call.

"I think it's an asset that has just sort of languished for a long time but has incredible potential, although obviously myself and the other investors are overpaying for Twitter right now."

Musk added that he believes Twitter has potential to be worth "an order of magnitude" more than it is now.—AFP



Nissan is planning to launch 15 new electric cars by 2030. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HANSA SIEGBURG VOY.NO. (241W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HANSA SIEGBURG VOY.NO. (241W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-10-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** 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 SEALAND MAERSK AISA PTE LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA RIA VOY.NO. (KRIA0520N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA RIA VOY. NO. (KRIA0520N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-10-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V RED AZALEA VOY.NO. (1)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RED AZALEA VOY.NO. (1)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-10-2022** 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

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Putin visits military draft training centre

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin on Thursday visited a training centre for mobilized Russians for the first time since announcing a partial military call-up on 21 September.

State television showed Putin visiting a shooting centre in the Ryazan region, southeast of Moscow, dressed in black, shooting a newly developed sniper rifle and hugging military men.

Wearing ear protectors and safety glasses, Putin fired several shots from a Russian SVD sniper rifle, lying under a camouflage net.



Russian President Vladimir Putin meets soldiers during his visit to a military training centre on Thursday. PHOTO: JOHN SAEKI/AFP

Putin then appeared to start leaving but turned back and asked one of the soldiers: “What kind of family do you have?” “A daughter. Five years old,” the mobilized soldier answered.

Putin hugged him and wished him “good luck”. Military officials also showed Putin what mobilized

men are equipped with, presenting him with a line of men, some of them with their rucksacks open to show what they are carrying. —AFP

UN says Black Sea grain deal working, renewal ‘critical’



As of Wednesday, the total tonnage of grain and other foodstuffs exported through the initiative had reached almost eight million metric tons, of which more than 70 per cent was maize and wheat. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

THE United Nations insisted Thursday that the deal on exporting grains from Ukraine is

working and must be renewed before it expires next month, with prices already rising on

the uncertainty.

The 120-day Black Sea Grain Initiative, a UN-led deal agreed with the Moscow and Kyiv, runs out on 19 November and a report by the UN’s trade and development agency UNCTAD called its extension “critical”.

Two agreements brokered by the UN and Türkiye were signed on 22 July — to allow the export of Ukrainian grain blocked by Russia’s war in the country, and the export of Russian food and fertilizers despite Western sanctions imposed on Moscow.—AFP

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Italy opens talks on new government as coalition spars over Ukraine

ITALIAN President Sergio Mattarella began formal consultations Thursday to form a new government after the victory of the right in September elections, even as friction over Ukraine threatened the bloc’s unity.

The talks, which should lead to the appointment as prime minister of Giorgia Meloni, leader of the post-fascist Brothers of Italy party, should wind up Friday, according to the president.

But the largely procedural process has been overshadowed by an embarrassing audio tape leaked Wednesday of ex-premier Silvio Berlusconi, whose Forza Italia party is part of the coalition along with Brothers of Italy and the anti-immigrant League party led by Matteo Salvini.

Berlusconi is heard in the audio saying he has rekindled ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin, including exchanging gifts, while appearing to blame the war in Ukraine on its president, Volodymyr Zelensky.

Meloni, who has sought to allay fears that her traditionally Eurosceptic party would break with the West in its support of Ukraine, immediately clamped down to restore calm.

“I intend to lead a government with a clear and unequivocal foreign policy line,” she said in a statement issued Wednesday evening.

“Italy is fully, and with its head held high, part of Europe and the Atlantic Alliance,” she wrote. “Anyone who does not agree with this cornerstone will not be able to be part of the government, even at the cost of not forming a government.”—AFP

Russia’s population transfers amount to ‘mass deportation’, says Ukraine

UKRAINE on Wednesday accused Moscow of orchestrating a “mass deportation” of civilians from the occupied region of Kherson where evacuations have begun in the face of advances by Kyiv.

As Putin imposed martial law in four areas recently annexed by the Kremlin, Russia rained down missiles and munitions on all corners of Ukraine, including Kyiv and the country’s west, which was spared the brunt of the onslaught earlier in the conflict.

Ukraine said it had downed “several Russian rockets” over Kyiv in the third consecutive day of attacks on the capital, with President Volodymyr Zelensky telling Ukrainians in his evening address that 10 Iranian-made drones aimed at the city were destroyed Wednesday.

A Ukrainian representative called the push by Russia to evacuate Kherson the “equivalent of deportation”. The city has been in Moscow’s hands since the earliest days of the invasion.—AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINE

UK Tory rivals open truncated leadership race

CONTENTERS bidding to succeed Prime Minister Liz Truss were Friday to open a hectic weekend of campaigning, but opposition parties demanded that UK voters get their own say to end months of political chaos.

After only 44 days in office, packed with economic crisis largely of her own making, the

Conservative leader announced Thursday she was stepping down.

Truss admitted she “cannot deliver the mandate” on which she was elected by Tory members, after her right-wing platform of tax cuts disintegrated and as many Conservative MPs revolted. Truss succeeded Boris Johnson on 6 September after

a weeks-long campaign against Tory rival Rishi Sunak, vowing a radical overhaul as Britons struggle with a cost-of-living crisis.

Having warned correctly of the disastrous consequences of her debt-fuelled tax promises, former finance minister Sunak has emerged as an early favourite to succeed Truss.—AFP



Liz Truss is set to become the shortest-serving prime minister in Britain’s history, after the public, MPs and the markets comprehensively rejected the self-styled heir to Margaret Thatcher. PHOTO: AFP



Britain's King Charles III is welcomed as he arrives to meet with members and staff of the association "Project Zero", an organization dedicated to engaging young people in positive activities, promoting social inclusion and strengthening community cohesion, during a visit of the centre in Walthamstow, in east London, on 18 Oct 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Quebec lawmakers refuse to swear oath to King Charles

SEVERAL newly-elected Quebec opposition lawmakers on Wednesday declared they would not swear an oath to Canada's head of state, King Charles III, as required by the constitution.

The 11 Quebec solidaire party members elected on 3 October joined three members of the Parti Quebecois who last week said they, too, would refuse to take the oath.

They chose instead to

swear loyalty only to the people of Quebec, but it is unclear if that will be enough for them to take their seats in the province's National Assembly.

Quebec solidaire spokesman Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois told a news conference its members had acted "with full knowledge of the facts".

"We campaigned to change the era in Quebec and if we were sent to the legislature, it

was to open windows," he said.

Parti Quebecois leader Paul St-Pierre Plamondon, meanwhile, had indicated last week that taking the oath would be "a conflict of interest" because "one cannot serve two masters".

Moreover, the monarchy costs "67 million Canadian dollars a year" and such an oath is, according to him, a "reminder of colonial domination."—AFP

Former Pakistan PM Khan facing politics ban in gifts case

FORMER Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan could be barred from political office Friday when the election commission rules on charges he misled officials about gifts he received from foreign leaders while in power.

The case is another twist in political wrangling that began even before Khan's 10 April ouster, and is one of several being fought by the former international cricket star and his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party.

Pakistan's courts are often used to tie up lawmakers in long-winding proceedings that rights monitors criticize for stifling political opposition,



The case is another twist in political wrangling that began even before Khan's 10 April ouster. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

but the commission's involvement in this case stems from the obligation of elected officials to declare all their assets.

"In our opinion the Election Commission of Pakistan is not a court, therefore they can't give a declaration to disqualify anyone," PTI senator Syed Ali Zafar, a barrister representing Khan, told a press conference Friday ahead of the ruling.—AFP

Chinese American actress Anna May Wong to be first Asian American on US currency

ANNA May Wong, regarded as the first Chinese American film star in Hollywood, is set to become the first Asian American to be featured on US currency, according to the United States Mint, which is responsible for producing coinage for the country.

The coin, which will start shipping next Monday, is the fifth design in the American Women Quarters Programme, a four-year programme that celebrates the accomplishments and contributions made by women to the development and history of the country, the US Mint said in a press release on Monday.

The women honoured in the

programme, beginning in 2022 and continuing through 2025, will be from ethnically, racially, and geographically diverse backgrounds.

Wong was born Wong Liu Tsong in 1905 in Los Angeles, California. She was cast in her first role as an extra in 1919's film "The Red Lantern" at 14 and took her first leading role in 1922's "The Toll of the Sea". Her career spanned motion pictures, television, and theatre. She appeared in more than 60 movies, including silent films and one of the first movies made in Technicolour. She also became the first Asian American lead actor in a US television show for her role



The quarter featuring Anna May Wong is in high demand, according to the US Mint. **PHOTO: BURWELL & BURWELL PHOTOGRAPHY / US MINT**

in 1951's "The Gallery of Madame Liu-Tsong," according to a background of the actress in the press release.—Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brazil election authority ups anti-disinformation powers

BRAZIL'S superior elections court on Thursday adopted rules requiring quicker removal of content deemed false, in a bid to combat disinformation during the final days of the presidential election.

Disinformation has spread widely in recent weeks, ahead of the 30 October runoff between incumbent President Jair Bolsonaro and former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

The superior elections court, known as the TSE, ruled that it could require social media companies within two hours to take down content considered false, with a fine of between 100,000 and 150,000 reais (\$19,000 to \$28,000) for each hour its left up.

"Since (the beginning of the campaign for) the second round, there has been a proliferation not only of false information but also of aggressivity in this information, of hate speech," said TSE chief Alexandre de Moraes. This causes "a corrosion of democracy. That is why it is necessary that we act more quickly", he added.

Moraes met on Thursday with officials from both the Lula and Bolsonaro campaigns, having already spoken a day earlier with representatives from Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Google, TikTok, Telegram and YouTube.—AFP

Lebanon fails for third time to elect president

LEBANON'S parliament failed Thursday for a third time to elect a successor to President Michel Aoun, stoking fears of a political vacuum after his mandate expires at the end of the month.

Parliament speaker Nabih Berri called for another vote on Monday in the hope of overcoming long-running discord between political factions in crisis-hit Lebanon, already governed by a caretaker cabinet.

Lawmaker Michel Moawad, son of former president Rene Moawad, emerged as a frontrunner when parliament first convened to vote on a new president last month, with lawmakers opposed to the powerful Iran-backed Hezbollah movement backing his candidacy.

But the 42 votes he received in Thursday's session fell well short of the 65 needed for election in the second round of voting.

A total of 119 lawmakers from Lebanon's 128-seat parliament attended the session, but quorum was lost before a second round could be held after some lawmakers walked out.

Fifty-five lawmakers cast blank ballots.—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.

Myanmar players compete in 2022 Asian Youth Chess Championship in Bali



Myanmar player Zaw Ye Htut competes against an Indonesian player during the U-16 Boy's Chess event.

IT is reported that Myanmar chess players are competing in the Asia Youth Chess Championship-2022, which is being held from 13 to 22 October in Bali, Indonesia.

Sai Han Thiha is competing in the U-18 Championship while

Zaw Ye Htut is competing in the U-16 Championship while Hein Thant is in the U-10 Championship.

Sai Han Thiha ranked 12 in the Final Ranking and earned five points with three wins, four draws, and two losses out of nine

plays.

Zaw Ye Htut grabbed Final Ranking 17 and garnered five points with three wins, four draws and two losses.

Hein Thant ranked 52nd out of 56 contestants over the age of 10.

Boys and girls aged 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 18 participated in the competition, and they were the first to participate in only three competitions from Myanmar.

"After this tournament, there is a Thai Open tournament that will be held in Chiang Mai. They will also compete in that tournament. In addition, there will be an East Asian Youth Tournament in Bangkok in early November. Young players will compete.

"If they become the champion there, they have a chance to directly win the international master title, so this is an opportunity for them," said Myanmar Chess Federation President U Maung Maung Lwin.

Athletes from Myanmar, Indonesia, Viet Nam, India, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Iran, Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, Maldives, and Sri Lanka participated in this competition. — Bala Soe/ GNLM

Ronaldo refused to come on as sub, says Man Utd boss Ten Hag



Cristiano Ronaldo is struggling to win a place in the Manchester United team. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

MANCHESTER United manager Erik ten Hag confirmed on Friday that Cristiano Ronaldo refused to come on as a substitute during this week's win against Tottenham, saying there had to be "consequences" for his behaviour. Post-match talk following the impressive 2-0 victory over Spurs at Old Trafford on Wednesday has been dominated by the early exit of the 37-year-old Portuguese superstar. Ronaldo headed down the tunnel before the final whistle and made a hasty departure from Old Trafford.

United announced on Thursday that the forward had been dropped from the squad for Saturday's clash with Chelsea following his tantrum. Asked at his pre-match press conference whether Ronaldo had refused to come on a substitute against Spurs, Ten Hag said: "Yes." — AFP

Gerrard sacked by struggling Villa after Fulham defeat



Steven Gerrard has been dismissed as manager of Aston Villa. PHOTO: AFP

STEVEN Gerrard was sacked as Aston Villa manager less than two hours after his struggling side crashed to a dismal 3-0 defeat at Fulham on Thursday.

Gerrard paid the price for Villa's wretched start to the season, which sees the club languishing just one place above the Premier League relegation zone.

Villa have won only two of

their 11 league matches this term and their tame surrender at Craven Cottage proved the final straw for the club's hierarchy as they axed Gerrard after just 11 months in charge.

Gerrard and his players had been booed off at full-time by Villa's furious fans after the loss at Fulham extended their winless run to four matches.

"Aston Villa Football Club can confirm that head coach

Steven Gerrard has left the club with immediate effect," a statement said.

"We would like to thank Steven for his hard work and commitment and wish him well for the future."

Gerrard led Villa to a 14th-place finish last term after arriving from Rangers to replace the sacked Dean Smith last November on a three-and-a-half year contract. — AFP