THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

652 jade lots sold on sixth day of 2022 Mid-Year Gems Emporium

Two of the keener gem merchants are seen evaluating the jade on the sixth day of the 2022 Mid-Year Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 October 2022.

THE sixth day of the 2022 Mid-Year Gems Emporium continued at the Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Since morning, the hall was crowded with local and foreign gem merchants who observed jade lots and uncut jade lots, which were displayed at the specified places inside and outside the hall.

Jade lots (from No 751 to No 1,500) on sale were evaluated by gem dealers. Then, the merchants put their bids into tender boxes.

Afterwards, officials checked the bids and announced that 652 jade lots were sold.

The remaining jade lots (from No 1,501 to No 2,100) will be sold to local and foreign gem traders through an open tender system on the last day of the emporium.

The emporium has been a success with the sale of 362 pearl lots, 55 gem lots and 665 jade lots. The merchants can view the rest of the jade lots on 25 October as well.

The floor price for jade lots on sale is mentioned in Euro currency. Foreign gem dealers can make a payment in USD, Euro, Yuan and Baht currencies while locals can pay in Kyat currency. — 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

Nearly 10,000 pilgrims visit Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone daily during three consecutive holidays

PILGRIMS from all over the country visited the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, during three-consecutive holidays, according to officials of the Hotels and Tourism Directorate (Bagan Branch).

Pilgrims and travellers usually visit historical temples in Bagan-NyaungU Ancient Cultural Zone as they are interested in the Buddha images, pagodas and temples and other religious buildings.

They are allowed to visit only 19 pagodas, which have the Pagoda Boards of Trustees, in accordance with the Covid-19 protection measures.

U San Maung, the owner of a toddy palm field, said that locals were making a lot of money, selling local products to visitors during the three-day holiday as there were about 10,000 pilgrims who visited the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone. — Ko Kyemon/GNLM

Pilgrims and visitors throng the Bagan-NyaungU Ancient Cultural Zone.

The first basic requirement will be to avoid any derailment from the path to democracy

Every person and organization need to support the establishment and strengthening of a genuine disciplined multiparty democracy to make such a system successful. In so doing, the first basic requirement will be to avoid any derailment from the path to democracy. All persons and organizations need to follow the Constitution and laws. Holding a free and fair general election successfully is crucial for strengthening multiparty democracy.

(The excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on the Occasion of the Eighteen Months of the Assumption of State Duties by the State Administration Council on 1 August 2022)

Upper Kengtawng hydropower project expected to complete in March 2025

MoEP Union Minister U Thaung Han inspects the construction of the Upper Kengtawng Hydropower Plant in Shan State on 23 October 2022.

UNION Minister for Electric Power U Thaung Han inspected the construction of the Upper Kengtawng Hydropower Plant 14 miles southwest of Kengtawng Town in Shan State together with Shan State Chief Minister Dr Kyaw Tun and Eastern Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Myo Min Tun on 23 October.

First, the director-general of the Department of Hydropower Implementation and the director of No 5 Task Force reported on the project procedures including the construction of conduit, main dam, main spillway, diversion tunnel, steel-lined pressure tunnels, other work plans to be carried out in respective FY and the power generating of 54 MW by Kengtawng hydropower plant.

Then, the Union Minister said electricity plays an important role in the country's development.

Based on the availability of natural resources, the Ministry will continuously implement new hydropower that will be cost-effective and have the least impact on the environment and social environment and also to meet the country's increasing need for power in time. Electricity can improve the business sector and create job opportunities for local people, promoting their socio-economic status.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party inspected the construction sites of the project.

The main embankment of the Upper Kengtawng Hydropower Project is 1,800 feet long and 230 feet high with storage of 104,000 acre-feet of water. The power plant can produce 267 million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually. The project is now 72.2 per cent completed and set to be fully completed in March 2025.

The electricity produced from Upper Kengtawng Hydropower Project and the current Kengtawng Hydropower Plant will be transmitted through the national power grid by connecting the Namsam Main Power Sub-station via the 230 kV power grid. — MNA

Deputy Information Minister makes inspection tours in Magway Region

MoI Deputy Minister U Ye Tint meets the IPRD staff in Magway Region.

DEPUTY Minister U Ye Tint of the Ministry of Information inspected the office of the Department of Information and Public Relations (IPRD) in Chauk township, and the library and the office of the IPRD in Yenangyoung Township, Magway Region, yesterday morning and met the staff of the township IPRD.

In the afternoon, the deputy minister inspected the Magway Region IPRD and Magway district library and met the regional director and staff from the IPRD office, Minbu Zone MRTV Retransmission Station and the in-charge of the sub-printing house (Magway).

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint urged them to be loyal and dutiful, dedicate their heart and soul to education work, cooperate in regional development projects and keep the momentum of the COVID-19 prevention measures. — MNA

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Myanmar delegation attends 90th Interpol General Assembly in India

The Myanmar delegation is pictured attending the 90th Interpol General Assembly in India.

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet attended the 90th Session of Interpol General Assembly in New Delhi, India at the invitation of Interpol.

The General Assembly was held between 18 and 21 October at the National Centre in New Delhi and attended by delegations from 170 Interpol member countries out of 195 comprising of delegations led by Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Police Chiefs of countries, Interpol Executive Committee Chairman UAE's Police Chief Mr Ahrmed Nassar al-Raisi, Interpol Secretary-General Mr Jurgen Stock and committee members and the international counter-terrorism experts.

The General Assembly opening ceremony was held on 18 October and Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi addressed the event. Then, Interpol Executive Committee Chairman UAE's Police Chief Mr Ahrmed Nassar al-Raisi and the Police Chief of India made speeches.

In the first-day session, the leaders discussed the Operational Highlights and Presentation of Interpol's Global Crime Trend Report 2022, authorities of police members and effective cooperation in the fight against corruption and financial crimes.

In the second-day and third-day sessions, they discussed the procedure for exclusion or suspension of an Interpol member submitted by the Ukrainean Police Force and 14 draft resolutions regarding Interpol criminal fights to be conducted until 2025 including three draft proposals regarding Interpol's administration prepared by the Russian Federation.

On the fourth day, they voted for one position for vice-chairman of the Interpol Executive Committee and two positions for the Executive Committee Members of Africa and assigned duties to the winners. Then, the minister of the Interior of Austria remarked to hold the 91st General Assembly in Vienna, Austria.

During the tour to General Assembly, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet met Police Maj-Gen Kamarudin BINMP DIW, Director-General of CID of Malaysia and Interpol Secretary Police Brig-Gen Amur Chandra Juli Buana of Indonesian Police Force separately on the first day and discussed arresting of illegal Malaysian and Indonesian passing broader area, transferring of Myanmar suspects from these two countries under the existing laws and procedures of two countries and cooperation in Police Forces.

On the second day, the deputy minister met the delegates led by Russian Chief Prosecutor Mr Motorenks Mkaall and focused on the promotion of cooperation between the police forces and enhancement of collaboration in border security, rule of law and drug cases while combatting online gambling, drug cases and cooperation with LMLECC for Lancang-Mekong River during the meeting with Chinese delegation and Interpol Executive Committee Member Mr Binchen Hu.

On the fourth day, he held talks with Interpol Secretary-General Mr Jurgen Stock and Interpol's Executive Director of Police Services Mr Stephen Kavanagh regarding cooperation work under the procedures of Interpol and proper procedures under the existing law regarding Myanmar terrorists hiding in foreign countries.

He greeted Police General Damrongsak Kittiprapas of the Royal Thai Police Force informally at the General Assembly. He met the delegation led by Police Maj-Gen Khemmarin Hassiri of the Royal Thai Police Force at the meeting hall of Novotel Hotel near Bangkok Airport on 22 October and discussed proper cooperation work between the two police forces.

The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet arrived back in Myanmar by flight on Sunday night.—MNA

Denmark-Myanmar project hands over 2 inshore fisheries inspection vessels

THE ceremony of handing over two inshore fisheries inspection vessels from the Denmark- Myanmar project was held at the port of Pyae Phyo Tun International Co Ltd in Myeik Township yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation expressed that the ministry is paying special attention to the development of the fishery sector along with the development of agriculture and livestock to preserve the marine ecosystem and fish resource conservation work along Myanmar's coast are under implementation in cooperation with the local people and with the help of partner countries.

Then, the deputy minister, the regional minister for economic affairs and officials cut the ribbons of the two vessels and inspected the trial run of the vessels. — MNA

The handover ceremony is in action in Myeik Township on 24 October 2022.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

Price of rain-fed rice soars up to nearly K1.3 million

THE demand for rain-fed rice from Ayeyawady Region is currently on the rise, and the price has reached approximately K1.3 million per 100 baskets in the third week of October.

Prices in the rice market are rising in October, the harvest season. The price of rain-fed rice stood at K12.2 million per 100 baskets on 15 October, according to dealers from Myaungmya District.

"As it is the season for storing rice, buyers who are willing to purchase the rain-fed rice, travelled down to the countryside and offered a good price. That is why the price of rice is high," said U Kyaw Yin, a rice farmer.

In October and November, the price of rice ranges between K1 million and K1.2 million per 100 baskets, depending on the variety of paddy.

He added, "The prices of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides are too high this year. So, we can't buy enough of them and per-acre yield is markedly low. Fortunately, we can sell the rice at a good price."

Last year, the market price of rice was around K600,000 per 100 baskets and that of fertilizer was around K30,000 per bag. Some rice dealers have expected that the rain-fed rice can fetch a good price because it has been agreed to export 100,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh.

The market price of Pawsan rice variety from delta region ranges between K57,000 per bag and K65,000 per bag. The current prices of low-grade and high-grade of Shwebo Pawsan rice are K80,000 and high grade K91,000 per bag respectively. — TWA/GNLM

Some farm workers are seen cultivating rain-fed rice in Ayeyawady Region.

The picture shows cargoes from foreign investments.

Myanmar logs over US$1.24 bln of FDI from 10 foreign countries in H1

MYANMAR attracted over US$1.24 billion of foreign direct investments from ten countries in the first half (April-September) of the current financial year 2022-2023, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). Among them, Singapore topped the FDI line-up.

Between April and September of the current FY, the country received a capital of $1.24 billion this FY from ten countries, including expansion of capital by the existing enterprises.

Singapore is the top source of FDI this FY, with 13 Singapore-listed enterprises pumping FDI of $1.095 billion into Myanmar. Hong Kong SAR stands as the second largest investor this FY with an estimated capital of over $70.239 million drawn from seven projects and existing enterprises. China is ranked third in the investment line-up with more than $60 million from 16 projects and existing enterprises.

One enterprise each from Belize ($1.5 million), Japan ($3.1 million) and Chinese Taipei ($3 million), the Republic of Korea ($2.8 million), India ($1.545 million), Thailand ($3 million), Seychelles ($0.338 million) also invested in the country in the H1, including the increased investments from the existing enterprises.

On 21 October, Myanmar Investment Commission gave the go-ahead to the 13 enterprises in the power, manufacturing, agriculture, hotel and tourism, service and real estate sectors, with an estimated capital of $198.017 million and K167.366 billion. Those enterprises are to create 5,685 jobs for residents.

As of end-September 2022, Singapore, China and Thailand are placed in the first three ranks among the 52 foreign countries investing in Myanmar. Of the 12 investment sectors, the power sector constitutes 28.21 per cent of overall investments, while the petroleum and gas sector accounts for 24.67 per cent and manufacturing, 14.32 per cent. — TWA/GNLM

Woman jumps down from No 2 Kamarkyi Bridge

A woman jumped down from No 2 Kamarkyi Bridge in Thuwanna of Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region, on the morning of 24 October and search and rescue operation is being conducted.

The woman is supposed to be about 20 and she jumped into the Ngamoeyeik creek at around 9 am. A rescuer said that she may be a company employee. She left her mobile phone, a charger, an AirPod, a wallet and a black purse with some money near the place where she jumped off the bridge.

At present, the current of the creek is quite fast because it rained heavily in the morning. So, it is not easy to make underwater searches, said a member of the Thakayta rescue team.

A responsible person from the Thingangyun (B) Ward-based social organization said that the woman had not been found yet and that the Police Force and firefighters were joining the search.

Also on 14 September, a man jumped from the same bridge. — TWA/GNLM

A purse the young woman left. A search is being conducted in Ngamoeyeik Creek. **PHOTO: THAKAYTA RESCUE ORGANIZATION**

139 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 24 October, total figure rises to 630,742

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **630,742** after **139** new cases were reported on 24 October 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **604,500** have recovered from disease. Death toll reaches **19,477** 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

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increasing of death rate based on the disease.

Public Notice

1. The Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to effectively curb corruption.
2. The ACC used SMS on the mobile phone to ask the public who seek services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via Short Code No "1111" for feedbacks, including the Public Feedback Programme-PFP.
3. According to the PFP, the right replies of the citizens via Short Code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.
4. Therefore, the public should make a reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at Short Code No "1111" and such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission
Answer "1111" to fight against corruption
Answer "1111" to improve services
Let's work together to eliminate corruption towards prosperity

CRIME NEWS

Drugs seized in some townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched Naing Lin Aung (aka) Naing Lin (aka) Thiha's house at the No 7 ward, Hlaing Township on 21 October. They found 2.92 kilogrammes of ketamine, 7,010 tablets of ecstasy and 0.28 kilogramme of powder of Happy Water. Similarly, a combined team searched a Toyota Hilux Surf vehicle which was driven by Myint Aung (aka) Maung Aung accompanied by Ma Nan Htay Oo (aka) Ma Mu, Ma Nan Moe Nwe and Ma Hnin in the Aungban-Pinhmi road, near of Zawti village in Kalaw Township on 23 October. They found 50,000 stimulant tablets in them. As an interrogation result, the team searched Ma Nan Htay Oo (aka) Ma Mu's house in Ywathit ward, Aungban at 10:30 am. The team found 30,000 stimulant tablets with Ma Mar Ti Na (aka) Ti Na and Ma Than Myint from the house. And the team searched Ma May July's house in Zaw Ti village at 11 am. They found 16,000 stimulant drugs in the house.

Furthermore, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched two motorcycles which were driven by Alshee and driven by Arrday accompanied by Ma Mi Tee on Ngwezaydi road, Ponetun ward in Tachilek Township at 1:15 pm on 21 October. They found 20,000 stimulant drugs in them.

Those suspects are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA

Arrestees are seen along with seized drugs and the vehicle.

Over K15.3 bln worth of Ice impounded in southern Shan State

Two are arrested together with seized Ice and the vehicle.

THE Anti-Drug Police Force seized over one tonne of Ice (methamphetamine) worth K15.3 billion in the Kunhing Township, Shan State (South).

The combined team consisting of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a UD 12-wheel truck driven by Sai Phyo Wai Thant (aka) Aik Hlyan accompanied by Sai Aik Mon at the Tarkaw bridge combined checkpoint, Kunhing Township at 3 pm on 19 October. They found 1.096 tonnes of Ice (methamphetamine) worth K15.3 billion from them. According to the interrogation, the Ice was to have been carried from Kunhing to Tachilek Township and they are being prosecuted according to the law and those connected with the crime will be exposed, it is learnt. — MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar and China negotiate resumption of Kyalgaung border

AUTHORITIES from Myanmar and China discussed the reopening of the Kyalgaung border post.

China has restricted border access through the Muse-Kyalgaung (Mang Wein) border posts, which is a major border crossing between Myanmar and China amid the COVID-19 cases since 30 March 2021.

On 18 October, Myanmar's officials and counterparts from Tathong, Yunnan Province negotiated the promotion of bilateral cross-border trade through videoconferencing.

The meeting highlighted the resumption of the Kyalgaung border post, implementation of container transport to facilitate the trade along the Muse-Ruili route, the direct Yuan-Kyat trade, seeking the permit for legitimate exports of avocado, pineapple, pomelo, lemon and sweet potato from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) at the soonest, giving green light to Myanmar trucks carrying sugarcane as the sugarcane season is approaching and the ease of the COVID-19 restriction measures in the border areas.

Myanmar has opened five border trade zones with China; Muse, Lweje, Kampaiti, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung.

Before the pandemic, Kyalgaung was the busiest and biggest trade post and it performed the highest trade on the China-Myanmar border.

Those traders involved in the Muse trade zone are relying on Ruili city. There is a direct trade channel to Ruili through Kyalgaung point so the traders have a smooth transport. This route brings easier and better access to Ruili from the Muse border checkpoint. Only when the Kyalgaung border post is reopened can the trade boom, traders elaborated.

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. Myanmar daily delivers rice, broken rice, rubber, fishery products, chilli pepper and other food commodities to China through Kyinsankyawt with about 70 trucks and building materials, electrical appliances, pharmaceuticals, fertilizer, household goods and industrial raw materials are imported into the country with 30 trucks.

Myanmar has opened five border trade zones with China; Muse, Lweje, Kampaiti, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung. The majority of the trade is carried out through the Muse land border, Ministry of Commerce's data indicated. — NN/GNLM

Mandalay Region Agriculture Dept targets 7,606 sugarcane acres in 2022-2023FY

The farmers grow sugarcane varieties such as DAR-4, K-95/84 and KK-3. It produces between 25 and 27 tonnes per acre. The sugarcane fetched between K45,000 and K65,000 per tonne last year.

THE Mandalay Region Agriculture Department targets to grow 7,606 new acres of sugarcane in four townships of the Mandalay Region in the 2022-2023 Financial Year (FY).

The pedigree sugarcane strains will be distributed to the growers in four townships.

It will be cultivated on 606 acres in Madaya Township, 4,000 in Singu, 1,000 in Thabeikkyin and 2,000 in Tagaung, totalling 7,606 acres, said an official of the Mandalay Region Agriculture Department.

"Sugarcane likes soil moisture. It is mostly cultivated in a temperate climate. The growth will start in February. The department will set model farming acres, distribute the pedigree varieties and have discussions with the sugar millers for contract farming to support agricultural loans. The sugarcane earns proper income and so the farmers should grow it. We also provide technical assistance to ensure the sugarcane quality and incomes of farmers," said the official.

The farmers grow sugarcane varieties such as DAR-4, K-95/84 and KK-3. It produces between 25 and 27 tonnes per acre. The sugarcane fetched between K45,000 and K65,000 per tonne last year. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay sub-printing house)/GNLM

Myanmar earns $2.11 mln from exports to Bangladesh in Sept

MYANMAR exported goods worth US$2.11 million to Bangladesh through the Shwemingan border post of Sittway and the Kanyinchaung border post of Maungtaw in September.

Myanmar shipped goods worth $1.88 million to Bangladesh through the Sittway border post and goods valued at $0.23 million via Maungtaw.

As transport to Maungtaw was suspended, trade via Maungtaw decreased. Approximately 1,129 tonnes of fisheries products worth $1.42 million were exported via the Sittway border post, which accounts for 75 per cent of overall exports to Bangladesh in September.

The Rakhine State Chambers of Commerce and Industry stated that weather conditions and transport difficulties damaged the trade at the Maungtaw border post. The traders cannot deliver the goods to Maungtaw through Sittway amid the transport barriers and erratic weather conditions so the trade volume via Sittway significantly increased.

The cross-border trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh saw only exports, showing a total trade surplus. The fisheries products are the major export items in the trade.

Myanmar sent areca nut, coconut, jengkol, silver pomfret, anchovy, dried fish, broom, mushroom, ginger, onion, chickpea, dried plum, tamarind seed, footwear, lower garment (longyi), Thanaka, instant coffee mix, sunflower seed and instant noodle to Bangladesh. Meanwhile, apparel, consumer goods, PVC pipes, plastic water storage tanks and hand-drawn pumps are imported into the country. — TWA/GNLM

OPINION

Manufacture finished goods based on domestic raw materials

AN important factor to increase export volume is involved in the functions for the development of the State economy, based on three Ms—material, money and manpower. It is necessary to seek the best way to effectively utilize them to improve the State economy as well as accumulate the necessary capital.

As a cliché method, raw materials from the agricultural and livestock farms at home as well as raw natural resources are collected for exportation. As such, incomes from the export of raw materials could not be compared with that of exporting the finished goods. Only when the country exports advanced finished goods and value-added products, incomes from exportation will greatly benefit the State.

> That is why manufacturers and agricultural and livestock farmers need to accept the concept to ensure keenness for improvement of their own businesses, understand the best way for work process, sustain the self-reliant basis with the firm trust and emphasize the practical efforts for benefiting relevant regions and the State.

As the economic development of the State is interrelated with the progress of regions and states, the government is encouraging region and state authorities to make efforts for boosting the production of agriculture and livestock farms and improve operations of micro, small and medium-scale enterprises.

Business is based on manufacturing and trading. Boosting production will reflect economic growth. Hence, the government encourages businesses to operate with increased production. If trading does not have a good balance between demand and supply, the prices of goods will be high. Operating the manufacturing with the use of domestic raw materials will help the firm develop the economy of the relevant regions and the State. Only when the production of raw can be firmed, the manufacturing of finished goods will be in progress with the firm market.

Values of agricultural and livestock products are so different from the finished goods. Only when MSME businesses based on raw materials produced in relevant regions can be firmly established, the agriculture, livestock and MSMEs will develop together relying on each other. The export of finished goods can generate jobs for local people as part of contributing to their livelihoods.

Currently, the Head of State as well as Union ministers make field trips to regions and states for encouraging the improvement of manufacturing products while attending to the needs. As such, businesspersons in regions and states should make utmost efforts for boosting the production of their businesses which will help develop relevant areas and enhance the living standard of the people.

That is why manufacturers and agricultural and livestock farmers need to accept the concept to ensure keenness for improvement of their own businesses, understand the best way for work process, sustain the self-reliant basis with the firm trust and emphasize the practical efforts for benefiting relevant regions and the State.

Private or Own Business

By U Than Zaw - D.C.C.A (Day care centre for the aged)

OUR forefathers say:

"Earn money like Chinese.
Save money like Indians.
Don't waste money like Burmese."

It becomes an unforgettable "saying" nowadays in Myanmar.

"Earn money like Chinese". It is meant to say the actual meaning is: Do own or private business like Chinese.

They never earn their living as a salaried worker. Anyhow, their sons and daughters might be sent for schooling until to become graduates, but no one will be allowed to work as a salaried worker forever. Their children might be sent to their comrade traders, merchants, companies, hotels and hospitals etc. Just to go as under training for temporary purpose till they are qualified and, then only their parents provide them necessary investments. Therefore, their educated children establish the above-mentioned private or own jobs or businesses by themselves or managed by themselves.

"Save Money Like Indian"

Most immigrants from India to Myanmar came here without any investment in their hands, only empty. They started their way of living using labourers as labourers such as jerdu-walars, Sweepers, watchmen or durwans, fire-burner in steamers (ships), railway (trains), coolies in the bazaars and jetties etc., and launcher-Pullers, shoes and umbrella menders and they save a lot of money every day to have investment. They spend thriftily or carefully just before success; their daily meal is just rice and broth cooked with pigeon-pea and eat biting a chilli, after their stomach-full, drink a cup full of water satisfactorily. It is their daily meal they have in the late afternoon at about 2 or 3 o' clock. They have a light meal at night with a slice of cha-pa-ti and a cup of tea or coffee, if it is good in income or otherwise they drink water only. They love money; they spend as little as possible miserly. Sometimes it is necessary while working in other countries. However, it might be; we, Myanmar, the host people should take lessons from those guest immigrants who are from over populate neighbouring countries in which there are insufficient food and threatened by the disaster of famine and extreme weather condition sometimes in their countries.

So, they started their own works with the lowest standards; after they have saved money quite a lot for investment, and started a stall selling "betel-shop in every nook and corner of every block in towns and cities in Myanmar. In prewar days, Indians owned the department-stores, hard-ware-stores, gold shops on Mongol Street, and Biriani shops, and they owned paddy fields in the Delta Region, we peasants have to mortgage their own daughters to chitty (Bourgeois) to be their keeping wives of Indian old men. We Burmese nationals should feel so sorry for these eye-witnesses of irrelevant happenings in pre-war days, under British colony.

The last phrase of the sentence is, "Don't waste money like Burmese"

Only minority people of Burmese are traditionally working in their own businesses by selling goods in the bazaars and the markets. The majority are farmers and peasants about 80 per cent nowadays. Most Myanmar youngsters and oldies are still wasting carelessly easily. It is spent thrift; please note.

"Spent thrift" in accordance with the Oxford dictionary, is a person who spends money extravagantly. All the emigrants earn money well and save money well for their prospective future. Anyhow, Myanmar people will surely live in poverty sooner or later, and will become "baggers". Better amend that bad character or behaviour in no time, or as soon as possible. ■

Study provides insight into potential animal reservoir of SARS-CoV-2 omicron

RESEARCHERS analyzed the structures of the receptor-binding domain (RBD) of the SARS-CoV-2 omicron variant and its receptor, angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2), to gain insight into the variant's potential animal resevoir.

Published in the journal 'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences' (PNAS), the study revealed that several key mutations in the omicron RBD are uniquely adapted to mouse ACE2 but are incompatible with human ACE2.

Before adapting to humans

The findings suggest that the SARS-CoV-2 omicron variant may have evolved in mice before adapting to humans, providing insight into the variant's potential evolutionary origins, according to the authors.

The sudden emergence and rapid spread of the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) omicron variant has raised questions about its animal reservoir. Here, we investigated receptor recognition of the omicron's receptor-binding domain (RBD), focusing on four of its mutations (Q493R, Q498R, N501Y, and Y505H) surrounding two mutational hotspots. These mutations have variable effects on the RBD's affinity for human angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2), but they all enhance the RBD's affinity for mouse ACE2.

We further determined the crystal structure of omicron RBD complexed with mouse ACE2.

The structure showed that all four mutations are viral adaptations to mouse ACE2: three of them (Q493R, Q498R, and Y505H) are uniquely adapted to mouse ACE2, whereas the other one (N501Y) is adapted to both human ACE2 and mouse ACE2. These data reveal that the omicron RBD was well adapted to mouse ACE2 before omicron started to infect humans, providing insight into the potential evolutionary origin of the omicron variant.

Tracking the animal reservoir

The severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) omicron variant emerged abruptly and spread rapidly around the globe (1-4).

Live samples in test tubes are held in a container Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow, Scotland, on 22 April 2020. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ANDREW MILLIGAN/POOL/AFP**

Tracking the animal reservoir of SARS-CoV-2 and its variants is important for understanding the current COVID-19 pandemic and preventing future pandemics.

Speculations about the source of the omicron variant are abundant, yet experimental evidence has been scarce (5).

The interactions between the receptor-binding domain (RBD) of coronavirus spike proteins and their host receptor are among the best systems for understanding coronavirus evolution (6, 7).

Both SARS-CoV-2 and closely related SARS-CoV-1 recognize human angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) as their receptor (8-10). Previous research on the receptor recognition of SARS-CoV-1 has provided insight into the animal origin of SARS-CoV-1 (11-15). The RBD of the original SARS-CoV-2 strain (i.e., prototypic RBD) differs from the RBD of a bat coronavirus by only a few residues, supporting a bat origin of the prototypic RBD (16). The omicron RBD (strain BA.2) differs from the prototypic RBD by 16 residues, seven of which are located in the receptor-binding motif (RBM) that directly contacts ACE2 (3). To recover the evolutionary traces left by these RBM mutations, this study compared the structural adaptations of the omicron RBD to ACE2 from human and mouse, two possible sources of omicron (5).

Three virus-binding hotspots

Three virus-binding hotspots have been identified at the interfaces between SARS-CoV-2 RBD and human ACE2 (hACE2) and between SARS-CoV-1 RBD and hACE2 (14, 17, 18). These hotspots center on Lys31 in hACE2 (i.e., hotspot-31), Lys353 in hACE2 (i.e., hotspot-353), and a receptor-binding ridge in the viral RBD (i.e., hotspot-ridge) (Fig. 1A). These virus-binding hotspots are also mutational hotspots for SARS-CoV-1: all of the RBM mutations occurred around the hotspots and impacted the structural stability of the hotspots (13, 14).

Establishment of the "hotspots" concept was instrumental in determining the molecular mechanisms by which SARS-CoV-1 was transmitted from palm civets to humans (11-15).

SOURCE: ANI

ARTICLE
WEATHER REPORT

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 24 October 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30)hrs MST today, the Cyclonic Storm "SITRANG" over North Bay of Bengal has moved North-Northeastwards and centred at about (270) Nautical miles West-Northwest of Thandwe, (170) Nautical miles West of Sittway, (145) Nautical miles West-Southwest of Maungtaw (Myanmar), (130) Nautical miles Southeast of Sagar Island (India) and (145) Nautical miles South-Southwest of Barisal(Bangladesh). Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 25 October 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in (Southern and Eastern)Shan and Kayah States, scattered in Northern Shan, Kayin and Mon states, fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing, and Magway regions and Kachin, Chin and Rakhine states and isolated heavyfalls in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Ayayawady regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Frequently squall with very rough seas will be experienced off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (60-65) mph. Occasional squall with rough seas are likely at time Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Wave height will be about (14-18) feet in off and along Rakhine Coasts and (9-11) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: likelihood of fairly widespread to widespread rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin and Northern Shan states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 October 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 October 2022: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 October 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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ENVIRON WORLD

Iraq drought impacts potable water supply, crop yields: aid group

Water buffaloes walk in dried up marshes near al-Qurnah natural gas field in the north of Iraq's southern Basra province on 10 August 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

IN drought-hit Iraq, six out of 10 households have had their access to drinking water disrupted and a quarter of farmers have seen crop yields drastically fall this year, said a survey published Monday.

Iraq has been battered by three years of drought, low rainfall and reduced river flows, and the United Nations has ranked it the fifth most vulnerable country to some key effects of climate change.

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), an aid group active in the oil-rich but war-scarred country, surveyed 1,341 households in August in five provinces including Basra, Nineveh and Anbar.

"We are seeing the continued damage from Iraq's climate and water crisis," said James Munn, the NRC's country director, in a statement released alongside the survey findings.

"People are witnessing their fertile land and crops vanish year after year." The NRC study found that "the crisis has had an immediate impact on access to drinking and irrigation water as well as on the production of crops," causing 35 per cent of households to reduce the amount of food they consume.

Sixty-one per cent of households "stated that their access to drinking and domestic water had been disrupted in the last year", the NRC said.

In the southern Basra province, where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers converge before emptying into the Gulf, some areas have no clean drinking water "due to decreased water levels and high salination".

According to the survey, 25 per cent of households that rely on agriculture "witnessed over 90 per cent of wheat crop failure this season". —AFP

Plastic recycling remains a 'myth': Greenpeace study

PLASTIC recycling rates are declining even as production shoots up, according to a Greenpeace USA report out Monday that blasted industry claims of creating an efficient, circular economy as "fiction".

Titled "Circular Claims Fall Flat Again," the study found that of 51 million tonnes of plastic waste generated by US households in 2021, only 2.4 million tonnes were recycled, or around five per cent.

After peaking in 2014 at 10 per cent, the trend has been decreasing, especially since China stopped accepting the West's plastic waste in 2018.

Virgin production — of non-recycled plastic, that is — meanwhile is rapidly rising as the petrochemical industry expands, lowering costs.

"Industry groups and big corporations have been pushing for recycling as a solution," Greenpeace USA campaigner Lisa Ramsden told AFP.

"By doing that, they have shirked all responsibility" for ensuring that recycling actually works, she added. She named Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Unilever and Nestle as prime offenders.

According to Greenpeace USA's survey, only two types of plastic are widely accepted at the nation's 375 material recovery facilities.

The first is polyethylene terephthalate (PET), which is commonly used in water and soda bottles; and the second is high density polyethylene (HDPE), seen in milk jugs, shampoo bottles and cleaning product containers.

These are numbered "1" and "2" according to a standardized system in which there are seven plastic types. —AFP

Heat, then floods ruin Pakistani farmers' livelihoods

GENERATIONS of Rahim Buksh's ancestors have laboured in the rice paddies and wheat fields surrounding Pakistan's hottest city, no strangers to intense summers or monsoon rains.

But this year Jacobabad lurched from record heatwaves in May to an unprecedented deluge of rain in August that drowned crops.

The floods forced tens of thousands of people to flee for makeshift camps and relatives' homes, leaving them doubting the future of farm work despite their deep connection to the land.

"We would move to the cities and take up manual labour work if somebody helped us to get out of here," said Buksh, whose mud-brick home was flooded, like much of the surrounding farmland.

Even before the destruction, Jacobabad and dozens of nearby villages were crippled by poor infrastructure.

In this picture taken on 26 August 2022, flood-affected women chop animal feed beside damaged rice crops after heavy monsoon rains in Jacobabad, Sindh province of Pakistan. **PHOTO: AFP**

Most of the district's million-plus population are itinerant farm workers, earning a daily wage tending crops for major landowners.

Poverty, debt and the unequal distribution of land have made their livelihoods precarious, but the rise of extreme weather events linked to climate change has deepened the insecurity. —AFP

Mount Kilimanjaro fire under control: Tanzania authorities

TANZANIAN authorities said Sunday a fire on Mount Kilimanjaro was under control after flames burned Africa's tallest mountain for more than 24 hours.

The blaze began on Friday evening near the Karanga site used by climbers ascending the famous peak, at about 4,000 metres (13,000 feet) altitude on its south side.

"The situation is generally under control and we believe it will completely tackled as time goes," said a statement from the Natural Resources and Tourism Minister, Pindi Chana.

Earlier Sunday evening, a ministry statement had said that the situation had "to a large extent" been extinguished.

Local official Nurdin Babu told reporters "everything is under control... we have managed to control the fire to a great extent".

The blaze left no victims in the tourist hotspot and UNESCO World Heritage site in northeastern Tanzania, where tens of thousands of climbers flock each year to conquer its snow-capped peak.

Hundreds of people including firefighters, national park staff and civilians were mobilized to fight the flames that were fanned by a strong wind.

Social media footage on Saturday showed huge flames consuming vegetation and bushes and giving off grey smoke. The cause remains unknown but Sedoyeka on Saturday said a climber or honey hunters may have started it "carelessly". Herman Batiho, an official at Tanzania's national parks authority, said he was "sure" human activity was to blame through illegal poaching or locals extracting honey.

The latest blaze comes two years after another fire raged for a week in October 2020 across 95 square kilometres (37 square miles). —AFP

Aussie study highlights role of IgA antibodies in neutralizing COVID-19 virus

IMMUNOGLOBULIN A (IgA) contributed to the neutralizing antibody response of wild-type COVID-19 virus, according to an Australian study published in the Clinical and Translational Immunology journal.

Conducted by researchers from Australia's Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity (Doherty Institute), the University of Melbourne and Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, the study published on Sunday compared different antibody responses to the virus in blood serum from 41 people who had recovered from COVID-19.

"In simple terms, we've deconstructed blood in our lab to measure its ability to smother the virus and to activate immune cells to kill SARS-CoV-2," said Samantha Davis, lead author and PhD researcher at the Doherty Institute.

"While we knew that IgG (Immunoglobulin G) is very important in the antibody response to clear the virus, we discovered that IgA also plays a key role in neutralizing it in most people," Davis noted.

According to a statement by the Doherty Institute on Monday, following COVID-19 infection, virus-specific antibodies are generated, which can both neutralize the virus and clear the infection. While much has been said about the importance of IgG antibodies for protection and control of the COVID-19 virus, the role of IgA antibodies has been relatively neglected throughout the pandemic.

Amy Chung, co-author and laboratory head of the Doherty Institute, said the new study opened door to new approaches for the development of future vaccines against COVID-19.

"Our findings are particularly important as IgA is the most abundant antibody present in the mucosa of our respiratory tract, which is the main route of virus infection," said Chung."This means if we're able to specifically make these antibodies at these vulnerable sites, we now know that we can induce a robust immune response to protect against the virus."

Researchers also pointed out that the convalescent IgA neutralizing response is highly heterogenous between individuals. Dissecting the IgA response in the context of vaccination and to variants of concern is essential to further understanding the antibody in a protective polyclonal antibody response, according to the study. —Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Singapore reports 3,627 new COVID-19 cases

SINGAPORE reported 3,627 new cases of COVID-19 on Monday, bringing the country's total tally to 2,067,790.

Of the new cases, 357 were detected through PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests and 3,270 through ARTs (antigen rapid test), according to statistics released by the Ministry of Health.

Among the PCR cases, 342 were local transmissions and 15 were imported cases. Among the ART cases with mild symptoms and assessed to be of low risk, there were 3,133 local transmissions and 137 imported cases.

A total of 545 cases are currently warded in hospitals, with 10 in intensive care units. —Xinhua

Viet Nam reports 546 new COVID-19 cases

VIET Nam recorded 546 new COVID-19 cases on Monday, up by 388 from Sunday, according to its ministry of health.

All the new cases were locally transmitted, said the ministry.

The newly reported infections brought the total tally to 11,497,533. The country reported two new deaths from the pandemic in the southern Tay Ninh province on Monday, bringing the total fatalities to 43,161.

As of Monday, there were 47 severe cases in need of assisted breathing in the Southeast Asian country, according to the ministry.

Nationwide, 10,601,089 COVID-19 patients, or over 92 per cent of the total infections, have recovered. —Xinhua

For struggling Haiti, return of cholera is a 'catastrophe'

WHEN humanitarian officials in Haiti try to describe their concerns over a new, fast-spreading cholera epidemic, they struggle to find words strong enough: "alarming", "chaotic", even "a catastrophe".

A sizable part of the island's population has been isolated — and unable to access health care — either by serious fuel shortages or by the brutal armed gangs that control vast areas.

And without health care, cholera patients, who suffer acute diarrhoa, can die of dehydration in just hours.

"It's a catastrophe. We're overwhelmed," Doctor Jean William Pape told AFP. His NGO, called Gheskio, operates two of the country's 15 cholera treatment centres.

In one of them, in the capital of Port-au-Prince, "we have 80 beds, and they're all occupied," he said. "Due to the fuel shortage, people in the slums have told me there have been several deaths in their areas, because it wasn't possible to transport the sick people." An armed gang has for weeks been blockading a key fuel terminal at Varreux, north of the capital, aggravating the country's paralysis.

(FILES) In this file photo taken on 7 October 2022, children showing symptoms of cholera receive treatment at a clinic run by Doctors Without Borders in Cité Soleil. **PHOTO: AFP**

UN peacekeepers introduced cholera to Haiti in 2010, ultimately resulting in thousands of deaths. But, until the latest outbreak, no case of the disease had been reported in Haiti since 2019. —AFP

WHO says 'not a time to relax' on Covid, flu

AS winter approaches, the World Health Organization on Monday stressed the importance of staying vigilant as cases of Covid and influenza rise in Europe, encouraging more people to get vaccinated.

"This is not a time to relax," WHO Europe director Hans Kluge told a press conference.

The 53 countries that make up the WHO Europe region, which includes Russia and countries in Central Asia, were once again at the epicentre of the Covid-19 pandeomic, accounting for nearly 60 per cent of new Covid cases worldwide, Kluge said.

At the same time, cases of the seasonal influenza are peaking.

With this new wave of Covid, deaths and admissions to intensive care are not increasing to the same degree as earlier waves, and the WHO stressed the link to vaccination campaigns. "Vaccination remains one of our most effective tools against both flu and Covid-19," Kluge said, urging those eligible to get jabs for both the influenza and booster shot for Covid-19 as soon as possible.

On Monday, the WHO also marked World Polio day, a disease which affects mostly the very young and causes paralysis, and has been virtually wiped out in the western world.

A mutated variant of the polio virus derived from oral polio vaccines has however recently been detected in the UK, Ukraine, Israel and the US.

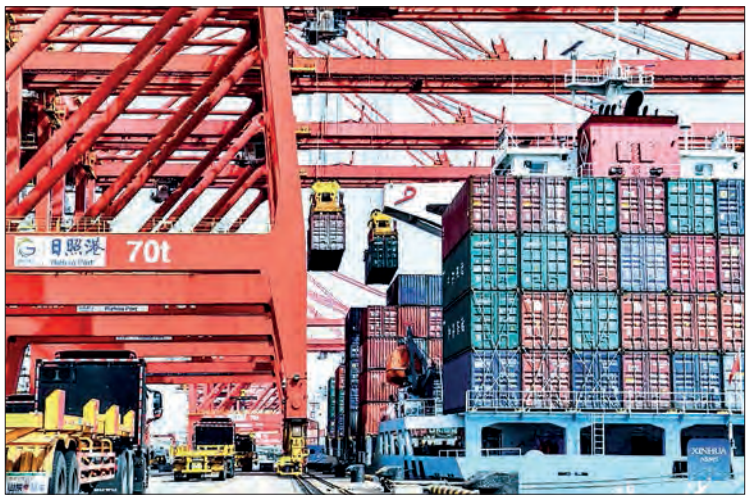
Less virulent than the natural virus, this variant can nevertheless cause severe symptoms, such as limb paralysis in unvaccinated patients.

While rare, the variant has become more common in recent years due to low vaccination rates in some communities.

"I think it's important that we understand that anywhere in the globe if we left people behind, the polio virus is a very good barometer to tell us who are they," WHO Europe expert Siddhartha Datta told reporters.

Datta explained that regardless of the region, the populations affected were those "underserved", meaning that they for different reasons had not received enough vaccines to reach the 95 per cent coverage target.—AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD



Trucks wait to load containers at a container terminal in Rizhao, east China's Shandong Province, 28 March 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

China's foreign trade of goods up 9.9% pct in Jan-Sept

CHINA'S foreign trade of goods jumped 9.9 per cent year on year to 31.11 trillion yuan (about 4.75 trillion US dollars) during the first nine months of 2022, official data showed Monday.

Exports rose 13.8 per cent year on year to 17.67 trillion yuan, while imports increased 5.2 per cent from a year ago to 13.44 trillion yuan, according to the General Administration of Customs.

From January to September, China's trade with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the European Union, and the United States grew 15.2 per cent, 9 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively.

In this period, China's trade with Belt and Road countries soared 20.7 per cent year on year to 10.04 trillion yuan.

Private enterprises saw imports and exports increase 14.5 per cent from a year ago to 15.62 trillion yuan in the first nine months, accounting for 50.2 per cent of the country's total.

Exports of mechanical and electrical products expanded by 10 per cent to account for 56.8 per cent of the total, and exports of labour-intensive products jumped 12.7 per cent from a year ago. —Xinhua

ECB again eyes jumbo rate hike to 'tame inflation beast'

THE European Central Bank is expected to set aside recession worries and deliver another jumbo interest rate hike this week to cool inflation, as Russia's war on Ukraine sends energy prices soaring.

Inflation in the 19-nation eurozone climbed to an all-time high of nearly 10 per cent in September, five times the ECB's target of two per cent.

The ECB's governing council last month raised its key interest rates by an unprecedented 75 basis points, and many observers expect it to repeat the move at Thursday's meeting. Households and businesses are bracing for a grim winter as Russia continues to squeeze gas supplies to Europe, raising fears of energy shortages and eye-wateringly high electricity and heating bills.

The war has also pushed up food costs, while pandemic-era supply chain snarls combined with higher manufacturing costs have added to price pressures on a range of goods.

"Those who thought inflation was dead now know better," said Joachim Nagel, the head of Germany's Bundesbank central bank.

"Now the beast has woken up from its slumber... it's up to monetary policymakers to tame it again," he recently told students at Harvard University.

Like other central banks, the ECB is using a series of rate hikes to bring inflation under control — at the risk of slowing economic activity to such an extent that it triggers a downturn.

"The 75 basis point rate hike looks like a done deal," said ING economist Carsten Brzeski. "The ECB has turned a blind eye on recession risks," he added.

Analysts from Capital Economics said they saw the ECB going even bigger, predicting a 100 basis-point jump followed by smaller hikes over the coming months. —AFP

Japan eyes 26 tril yen economic package to fight inflation

A new economic package being compiled to help struggling households cope with inflation and support the economy will likely reach 26 trillion yen ($174 billion), a senior ruling party lawmaker indicated Monday.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has instructed officials to draw up a new package focusing on steps to ease the pain of higher prices on households, spurring wage growth and revving up an economy still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Referring to the government's inflation relief package worth 2.6 trillion yen approved in September, Toshimitsu Motegi, secretary-general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, told an event organized by Kyodo News that the to-be-compiled package will be "one digit" larger.

The package is expected to be unveiled on Friday.

In the face of falling public support, Kishida has expressed his intention to compile a "bold" package in terms of size and substance. LDP lawmakers have been calling for it to be around 30 trillion yen, noting that the government needs to bolster domestic demand by closing the supply-demand gap of around 15 trillion yen.

This photo taken on 23 October 2022 shows people looking at fruit and vegetables outside a supermarket along a covered shopping street in Tokyo. **PHOTO: AFP**

Securing enough funding is a challenge for heavily-indebted Japan whose debt has ballooned to more than twice the size of the economy.

Japan's core consumer inflation topped three per cent in September, marking the sharpest gain since 1991, excluding the effects of sales tax hikes. The recent bout of inflation is largely attributed to higher energy and other raw material prices, with the yen's sharp slump magnifying the impact.

The country's inflationary pressures can be explained by the yen's weakness hurt by the Bank of Japan's monetary easing.

Motegi said raising interest rates prematurely would have a negative impact on the economy, adding that "It will be difficult to go ahead with a rate hike immediately".

But he also said that "it does not mean that the whole of the current bold monetary easing framework can remain without a review".—Kyodo

Saudi Arabia launches supply chain initiative to attract investment

SAUDI Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud launched on Sunday the Global Supply Chain Resilience Initiative.

It aims to make Saudi Arabia a preferred location for leading global industrial companies and to attract 40 billion Saudi riyals (10.64 billion US dollars) of quality, industrial and service investments in global supply chains, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

Under the initiative, financial and non-financial incentives worth 10 billion Saudi riyals will support global investors who are interested in incorporating Saudi Arabia into their supply chains, according to the report.

The crown prince said that the initiative, along with other development initiatives launched in recent years, will help investors from all sectors benefit from the kingdom's resources and capabilities as well as support and develop these value chains.

The initiative is expected to bring Saudi Arabia closer to being a top 15 global economy by 2030 and leave a generous legacy for future generations, he added. —Xinhua

Eurozone contracts further as Germany heads for recession

A national German flag waves above the production towers of the ArcelorMittal steel-producing factory near the harbour in Hamburg, northern Germany, on 7 October 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

GERMANY, the EU's top economy and Europe's export powerhouse, looks headed for imminent recession, according to a closely watched survey Monday that pointed to a deepening eurozone contraction.

There are "growing signs of an impending recession in the eurozone's largest economy", S&P Global Market Intelligence said as it released its eurozone purchasing managers' index for October.

The PMI for the 19-nation area fell to 47.1, down from 48.1 a month earlier — its fourth consecutive drop and that fastest decline in nearly two years — as soaring inflation and high energy prices bit deeper.

In Germany, the PMI dropped to 44.1, from 45.7 in September.

A reading below 50 signals an economic contraction.

The downward pressure on eurozone economic activity underlined the woes thrown up by Russia's war in Ukraine, which has crimped energy supplies.

Germany's reading was the lowest since initial business shutdowns in Germany when the Covid-19 pandemic hit.

Both manufacturing and services in Germany were showing accelerated rates of shrinkage, though that had yet to feed through into jobs-shedding, the survey showed.

German businesses were "deeply pessimistic" about the year-ahead outlook.

In France, the second-biggest economy in the EU, the economy was stagnating, with a PMI of 50 compared with 51.2 in September.

Although France is suffering less than other countries in Europe from inflation, rising prices are still putting pressure on consumers, leading to a severe fall in factory orders.

Across the eurozone, the PMI indicated that factory output had dropped for the fifth consecutive month, at a rate unseen since the worst of the pandemic. —AFP

Philips to cut 4,000 jobs as losses deepen

DUTCH medical device manufacturer Philips said Monday it will cut 4,000 jobs as a massive financial hit for faulty sleep respirators pushed it into loss.

The 1.3-billion-euro ($1.28 billion) write-down for the defective machines pushed the firm into a net loss of the same amount, the company said in a statement.

Philips has been bedevilled by the faulty devices that puts users with sleep apnea at risk of inhaling toxic foam. The firm's previous CEO stepped down earlier this year after leading the company's transition from a consumer electronics to medical device manufacturer over the past 12 years. Philips had already set aside 900 million euros over the faulty respirators and had warned two weeks ago it would take the 1.3-billion-euro charge this quarter. New chief executive Roy Jakobs said his "immediate priority is... to improve execution so that we can start rebuilding the trust of patients, consumers and customers, as well as shareholders and our other stakeholders".—AFP

Request for Bids
Goods
(Two-Envelope Bidding Process)

Country: Myanmar
Name of Project: *RURAL ELECTRIFICATION*
Contract Title: Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Solar PV Systems for Households
RFB Reference No.: NCB S&I-DRD-4 (Re-bid)

1. The *Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development* now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for supply, installation and maintenance of solar PV Systems for households in the following Regions:
   Lot 1– Solar PV Packages in Ayeyarwaddy (11)
   Lot 2– Solar PV Packages in Shan East (6)
   Lot 3– Solar PV Packages in Shan North (7)
   The Contracts will be financed by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
2. For quick reference, some key qualification requirements include:
   - The average annual turnover (or annual sales volume) of the last five years should be a minimum of MMK 8,708 million for Lot-1, MMK 1,367 million for Lot-2 and MMK 2,319 million for Lot-3 or higher which varies by lot and is cumulative if bidding for multiple lots.
   - The bidder has successfully completed at least two (2) contracts in supplying, installing, supervising, commissioning and/or maintaining off-grid solar PV systems with batteries, in any year over the last five (5) years, and total amount of the two (2) contracts had a value equivalent to or greater than 50% of the corrected Bid Price.

   The details of the qualification requirements are in the bidding document.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Directive No. 1/2017 dated April 10, 2017 and 1/2022 dated March 17, 2022, Tender Procedures to be followed by Government Departments and Organizations in Construction, Purchase, Procurement of Services, Lease and Sale. In addition, please refer to paragraph 4 setting forth in the President's Office Directive policy on conflict of interest.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from *the address below* and inspect the bidding document during office hours *10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.* at the address given below.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through e-mail only.
   In case of any difficulty in obtaining the bidding documents, interested parties may contact in writing:
   Dr. Soe Soe Ohn, Director, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.
   Office No. 36, Pandita Road, Oattara Thiri Township, Naypyitaw, *Myanmar*
   Tel./Fax +95 673 418636, 418635, Email: ksaung@gmail.com; dr.soesoeohn@gmail.com; drdnep.solar@gmail.com
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **November 23, 2022 (10.00 a.m.) Myanmar time**. Electronic Bidding *will not* be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. The outer Bid envelopes marked "ORIGINAL BID", and the inner envelopes marked "TECHNICAL PART" will be opened at the address below on **November 23, 2022 (10.00 a.m.) Myanmar time**. All envelopes marked "SECOND ENVELOPE: FINANCIAL PART" shall remain unopened and will be held in safe custody of the Purchaser until the second public opening.
7. All Bids must be accompanied by a *Bid Security"* as stated in ITB 19.1 – Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding Document.
8. The address referred to above is:
   Attention: Dr. Soe Soe Ohn, Director of Department of Rural Development, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Office No. 36, Pandita Road, Oattara Thiri Township, Naypyitaw, *Myanmar*.
   Tel /Fax: +95 673 418636, 418635, ksaung@gmail.com, dr.soesoeohn@gmail.com, drdnep.solar@gmail.com.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (761N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (761N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-10-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SINAR POMALAA VOY.NO. (095N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR POMALAA VOY.NO. (095N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-10-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Picture taken on 8 October 2012 shows Nord Stream pipeline equipments before the opening ceremony of the North Stream second gas link in Portovaya bay, some 60 km from the town of Vyborg in northwestern Russia. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Iran says to export 40 homegrown gas turbines to Russia

IRAN has signed a contract with Russia to export 40 homegrown gas turbines to the country, Shana News Agency affiliated to the Iranian oil ministry reported Sunday.

Iran is now capable of meeting 85 per cent of its domestic needs for gas equipment and facilities, and its gas production has doubled despite the severe US sanctions, Shana quoted Reza Noshadi, head of Iran Gas Engineering and Development Company, as saying.

Iran and Russia have in recent years expanded their cooperation in different areas.

In July, the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding, according to which Russia is expected to invest about 40 billion US dollars in Iran's petroleum industry, Shana reported.

In late July, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran Ali Salehabadi announced that the Tehran Stock Exchange had launched the rial-ruble trading, official news agency IRNA reported.

About a month later, he said Tehran and Moscow will expand the use of national currencies in transactions to other areas of bilateral trade, semi-official Fars News Agency reported.

In late August, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Russia and Iran are finalizing a comprehensive document on their cooperation. —Xinhua

Bangladesh braces for cyclone Sitrang

MOST parts of Bangladesh is witnessing gusty winds and heavy rain over cyclone Sitrang that is heading towards the South Asian country's vast coastline.

A special bulletin of Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) said Monday morning that the cyclone was now staying at 525 km southwest of Bangladesh's Mongla port in southern Khulna region and 590 km southwest of Chattogram port in southeastern Bangladesh.

Kh. Hafizur Rahman, a senior meteorologist, said weather forecasters were asked to hoist danger signal No 6 for Chattogram and Cox's Bazar, a seaside city in southeastern Bangladesh, and signal No 7 for Mongla seaport in southwest Bangladesh and Payra seaport in southern Bangladesh. The coastal districts of Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Barguna, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barishal, Lakshmipur, Chandpur, Noakhali, Feni and their offshore islands also come under danger signal 7.

According to the BMD, some coastal areas of the mentioned districts may experience gusty winds up to 60 kph along with heavy to very heavy rainfall.

All the fishing boats, trawlers and maritime vessels have been advised to remain in shelter till further notice.

Apart from this, the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) suspended the operations of vessels on all waterways across the country due to inclement weather caused by the cyclone.

TV reports said southern and southeastern coastal districts have been experiencing gusty winds as the cyclone was approaching.

TV footage showed widespread flooding in coastal districts of Khulna and Chattogram divisions and other districts Monday morning, where tens of thousands of people have reportedly been evacuated from their homes.—Xinhua

Lebanon lawmakers fail to name president for fourth time

LEBANON'S parliament failed Monday for a fourth time to elect a successor to President Michel Aoun, with lawmakers divided over a candidate opposed by the powerful Hezbollah movement.

Already governed by a caretaker cabinet, crisis-hit Lebanon is hurtling towards an imminent power vacuum, with just days before the current president's term finishes at the end of the month.

Parliament speaker Nabih Berri called for another vote on Thursday in the hope of overcoming long-running arguments.

A total of 50 lawmakers in Lebanon's 128-seat parliament left their votes blank, many from the Iran-backed Hezbollah and its allies.

Their rivals mostly backed lawmaker Michel Moawad, whose father Rene Moawad was a former president. He has emerged as a frontrunner since parliament first met to name a president last month.

But Moawad, who won 39 votes on Monday, was still was far short the 86 ballots needed — two-thirds of seats — to win.

Clerks give voting ballots to members of the Lebanese Parliament during the 4th session to elect a new President in Beirut on 24 October 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

University professor and activist Issam Khalife took 10 votes, cast by independent lawmakers who emerged from a mass 2019 anti-government protest movement, as well as others.

But the required quorum was lost before a second round could be held, after some lawmakers walked out — a recurring scenario in past votes.Moawad's supporters accused Hezbollah and its allies of obstructing a second round of voting to negotiate with other blocs, effectively preventing the election.

"No bloc in parliament can impose a president, not Hezbollah nor anyone else," said Elias Hankash, a lawmaker from the Kataeb Party that supports Moawad.Hankash accused lawmakers who left parliament of "systematic disruption", because there were not enough lawmakers to make a vote legitimate.—AFP

Tax fraud trial of Trump family business set to begin in New York

THE family business of former US president Donald Trump is facing potential fines of over $1.5 million if found guilty of fraud and tax evasion during a New York trial set to begin Monday.

Manhattan prosecutors have charged the Trump Organization, currently run by Trump's two adult sons, Donald Jr and Eric Trump, with hiding compensation it paid to some of its top executives between 2005 and 2021.

One of those executives, longtime CFO Allen Weisselberg, has already pleaded guilty to 15 counts of tax fraud, and is expected to testify against his former company as part of a plea bargain.

A close friend of the Trump family, the 75-year-old Weisselberg admitted he schemed with the company to receive undeclared benefits such as a rent-free apartment in a posh Manhattan neighbourhood, luxury cars for him and his wife and private school tuition for his grandchildren.

According to his plea deal, Weisselberg has agreed to pay nearly $2 million in fines and penalties and complete a five month prison sentence in exchange for testimony during the trial, for which jury selection begins Monday. "This plea agreement directly implicates the Trump Organization in a wide range of criminal activity and requires Weisselberg to provide invaluable testimony in the upcoming trial against the corporation," Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said earlier in August.

Weisselberg has so far refused to give testimony directly implicating the former president in the scheme.—AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

2 rival Koreas exchange warning shots near maritime boundary

This handout photo taken on 29 September 2022 and provided by South Korean Defence Ministry in Seoul shows the US Navy's nuclear-powered USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier (R) and South Korean warships during a US-South Korea combined naval exercise off east coast of South Korea. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / SOUTH KOREAN DEFENCE MINISTRY / AFP**

NORTH and South Korea exchanged warning shots along a disputed western maritime boundary in the Yellow Sea early Monday, with both sides' armed forces accusing each other of border violations, adding further tension to relations between the two countries.

South Korea's military said it fired a total of 20 warning shots after spotting a North Korean commercial vessel that had crossed the Northern Limit Line, a border drawn by US-led UN forces after the Korean War, at around 3:42 am.

North Korea's military, meanwhile, released a statement accusing a South Korean destroyer of intruding into its waters, and said that it responded by firing 10 shells of multiple rocket launchers at around 5:15 am.

The NLL, marked by an island chain, is not recognized by Pyongyang, which claims the real maritime border should lie further to the south. A number of skirmishes between the rival Koreas have occurred around the area in the past. A spokesman for the General Staff of the Korean People's Army in North Korea said that a South Korean navy ship violated the NLL, prompting defence units to take an "initial countermeasure" to "expel the enemy warship", according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency. The exchange of warning shots comes after North Korea's recent flurry of missile tests. South Korea's navy said Monday it has begun a four-day joint maritime military exercise involving the countries' army, air force, and naval police, alongside the US military. The drill is taking place in the Yellow Sea.

"The drill is a defensive exercise we are running, in order to improve combined operational capabilities in preparation for various provocative situations that may occur on the waters," the navy said in a statement.— Kyodo

Korean Air plane overshoots runway in Philippines

A Korean Air plane slid off the runway while landing at Cebu international airport in the Philippines, causing slight injuries and shutting down the country's second busiest airport, authorities said Monday.

All 173 passengers and crew of Korean Air flight KE631 from Incheon were evacuated safely after the Airbus A330 aircraft overshot the runway on Sunday, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) said in a report. Minor injuries were treated at the airport clinic.

Glenn Napuli, the airport's assistant general manager, said the airport would be shut down until midnight, and authorities were working to resume flights within the day. "We are hoping by tomorrow we can remove the aircraft," Napuli said in a briefing.

The plane of Korean Air flight KE631 lies with its belly on the runway at the airport in Cebu City, central Philippines on 24 October 2022, after it overshot the runway late 23 October while landing in bad weather. **PHOTO: AFP**

An investigation was underway into the cause of the accident, Napuli said.

Korean Air president Woo Kee-hong has apologized over the incident and vowed a "thorough investigation" by both Philippine and Korean authorities. —AFP

Rishi Sunak triumphs to become UK's new prime minister

FORMER finance minister Rishi Sunak on Monday won the battle for leadership of Britain's Conservative party and will become the country's first prime minister of colour.

Penny Mordaunt, the last rival left after Boris Johnson dramatically pulled out, failed to secure the necessary 100 nominations from her fellow MPs.

"Rishi Sunak is therefore elected as leader of the Conservative party," senior backbencher Graham Brady said, as Mordaunt pledged her "full support" for Sunak.

Triumph for 42-year-old Sunak came after Johnson's decision late Sunday to abandon his political comeback bid.

Just weeks after he lost out to Liz Truss to lead the ruling Tories, Sunak therefore pulled off a stunning reversal in fortunes.

Addressing members of his party behind closed doors after the announcement, Sunak reportedly received a rapturous reception.

Scottish leader Nicola Sturgeon, whose nationalist government in Edinburgh wants to hold an independence referendum next year, was among the first to congratulate Sunak.

"I wish him well... notwithstanding our political differences," she said.

"That he becomes the first British Asian — indeed the first from any minority ethnic background — to become PM is a genuinely significant moment," she said. —AFP

Japan sees sharp rise in drunken-driving cases linked to e-scooters

JAPAN has recently seen a sharp increase in the number of people being caught riding electric scooters under the influence of alcohol, amid the growing popularity of the vehicles.

Electric scooters, resembling skateboards equipped with handles, have become widespread in metropolitan areas through rental and sharing services as a cheap and easy mode of transportation, including for people who have missed their last trains but do not want to pay for taxis to get home.

In Tokyo, police investigated 39 drunken-driving cases linked to e-scooters in the nine months through September, up from just one case in the whole of last year.

"Why are you just stopping me? Everyone rides them after drinking," exclaimed a man in his 40s when he was stopped by a police officer near Tokyo's Shibuya Station on 15 October while riding an e-scooter home after drinking. He failed to pass an alcohol breath test.

"When we see e-scooter users at nighttime in downtown areas, the first thing we suspect is drunken driving," said a senior officer of the Metropolitan Police Department, adding the investigated cases this year were "only the tip of the iceberg".— Kyodo

Police conduct sobriety tests on electric scooter riders near Shibuya Station in Tokyo on 15 October 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

SPORT

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Aung San Club wins Rotho Taekwondo Championship 2022

THE Aung San Club won the Rotho Taekwondo Championship 2022 after the end of the competitions in various classes held at Thuwunna Buyong Taekwondo Training Centre in Yangon yesterday.

"About 80 players from our Aung San Club participated in the competition and won the first prize and second prizes in the Taekwondo championship. We also got first prize in the black belt category. We got the second prize in the belt colour level. We had to prepare for about a month. Our club won the championship shield every time we competed. The elite players are usually born in our club. There are SEA Games medalists in our club as well," said Aung San Club Administrator U Win Maw Tun.

Officials from Myanmar Taekwondo Federation presented awards to the outstanding male and female fighters from attack (Kyorung) and performance (Poomsae) competitions, junior (Cadet) level competitions, and competitions by weight class (kilo), those who have achieved the International Black Belt (Kukki-Won) Dan level and those who have received first, second and third prizes at the green belt to red 1 degrees, best coaches, most progress, most active, most fair play and best player award.

Daw Sanda Shwe, Managing Director of Rotho Company Limited presented seven gold medals, eight silver medals, and six bronze medals to the Shwepyitha Club and seven gold medals, six silver medals, and 13 bronze medals to the Aung San Club and three gold medals, four silver medals, and 12 bronze medals to the YTC Club for Belt Colour Competition.

Next, Myanmar Taekwondo Federation President Dr Mya Han presented 12 gold medals, 14 silver medals, and 18 bronze medals to Aung San Club, six gold medals, one silver medal and four bronze medals to the Dragon Club, three gold medals, three silver medals, and six bronze medals to Sanpya Fighter Club for the Black Belt Level competition.

The competition was held on 22 and 23 October, and more than 350 athletes from 13 clubs participated in it. — Bala Soe/GNLM

The Taekwondo fighter (with a blue helmet) lands the high kick on his opponent during the Rotho Taekwondo Championship 2022 held at Thuwunna Taekwondo Training Centre in Yangon on 24 October 2022.

Rory McIlroy regains World No 1 ranking with CJ Cup win

RORY McIlroy held on for a one-stroke victory in the US PGA Tour CJ Cup on Sunday to return to the top of the world rankings for the ninth time in his career.

Three late birdies proved crucial when the Northern Ireland star bogeyed the last two holes but still edged American Kurt Kitayama.

The four-time major winner is back atop the rankings for the first time since July 2020 — when he was supplanted by Spain's Jon Rahm.

He ousted American Scottie Scheffler, who finished tied for 45th on Sunday to see his 30-week stint at the summit end.

"It means a lot," McIlroy said, with a little catch in his throat.

"You know, this tournament last year was the start of me trying to build myself back up to this point. I had a really rough Ryder Cup. I've talked about that at length.

"I think I was outside the top-10 in the world. It's not a position that I'm used to being in.

"I just think about everyone that has made a difference in my life, obviously, not over the last 12 months, but ever."

McIlroy defended the CJ Cup title he claimed last year in Las Vegas. The tournament has been moved from South Korea for three straight years because of travel restrictions related to the coronavirus pandemic. —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.

Juve crisis continues as Champions League elimination looms

JUVENTUS are staring at early elimination from the Champions League as they prepare to travel to Benfica knowing their fate is no longer in their hands.

A disastrous opening three months of the season have left Juve well off the pace in Serie A and almost certain of an embarrassing exit from Europe's top club competition.

Sat on three points after four games in Group H, Massimiliano Allegri's side are five behind both Tuesday's opponents and Group H leaders Paris Saint-Germain and must win both of their final two fixtures to have any chance of making the last 16. But even if they did manage to first win in Lisbon and then beat PSG in Turin next week they would still be unlikely to go through as they would be dumped out if the pair both win their other match with Maccabi Haifa. Assuming they did win both — some task given their performances up to now and the humiliating defeat at Maccabi last time out — Juve would need the Israelis to either win or draw against one of PSG or Benfica.—AFP

Juventus' Italian head coach Massimiliano Allegri leads a training session at JTC Continassa in Turin on 24 October 2022, on the eve of their UEFA Champions League Group H second leg football match against SL Benfica, held at the Luz Stadium in Lisbon. **PHOTO: AFP**