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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Tuesday, 1 November 2022

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.

Real estate market slowing down, investors eye safe-haven assets



The panoramic view of some high-rise buildings in Yangon city.

THE property market is sluggish at present as the investors have keen interests in the best safe haven assets like gold and dollars that can convert into cash quickly. Only the rental market is booming, said real estate agents.

“The rental market is better than the sales. Many houses are put up for sale. However, the owners set the exorbitant housing price. The market price peaked at K100 million even for an apartment on the fourth floor. This way, some eye the plot of land in the suburban areas rather than the apartments in the downtown areas,” U Htut Win, a real estate agent, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Amid the current financial problems, some investors pointed out that gold and dollars that can make money quickly are better than bank savings and real estate purchases.

“The plots of land and apartments can be bought anytime. The prices are rising at a slow pace year over year.

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Law Amending the National
Education Law

State Administration Council Law No 47/2022

6th Waxing of Tazaungmone 1384 ME
29 October 2022

THE State Administration Council enacted this law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

1. This law shall be called the Law Amending the National Education Law.
2. In Section 2 of the National Education Law

(a) Sub-Section (c) shall be substituted as follows: -
“(c) Commission means the National Education Commission formed under Section 5 of this law.”

(b) The word “the National Education Policy Commission” mentioned in Sub-Section (s) shall be substituted with the word “the ministry or relevant ministry.

(c) Sub-Sections (z) and (zf) shall be substituted as follows:-
“(z) the National Education Standard and Qualification Guarantee Assessment Committee” means the organization formed with relevant experts by the ministry for assessing the education types and qualification guarantee of different education levels.
(zf) the University Council means the council formed with rectors, pro-rectors and those at same levels, chiefs of faculties, deans, subjectwise professors and management and financial officials of relevant universities under the charters of relevant universities.”

(d) Sub-Section (aa) shall be added after the Sub-Section (zg) as follows:-
“(aa) the National Education Standard Framework means the framework drawn by the National Education Standard and Qualification Guarantee Assessment Committee and approved by the ministry in order to set the quality guarantee and qualification standard of all education levels.”
3. Section 4 of the National Education Law

(a) Sub-Section (b) shall be substituted as follows: -
“(b) the ministry and relevant ministries to seek advice from experts and the people in drawing the laws related to education

(b) Sub-Section (c) shall be nullified.

(c) Sub-Section (j) shall be substituted as follows:-
“(j) universities, degree colleges, colleges and institutes to lead independent management system in accord with the education policies

(d) The word “education standard” mentioned in Sub-Section (o) shall be substituted with the word “the education standard in accord with the national education level framework”.
4. In Chapter IV of the National Education Law

(a) the title shall be substituted as follows: -
“Formation of National Education Commission and its duties and obligations”

(b) Sections 5 and 6 shall be substituted as follows: -
“5. (a) the government shall constitute the National Education Commission as follows:-
(1) An expert chosen by the government 1
(2) An expert chosen by the ministry 1
(3) An expert from basic education sector 1
(4) An expert from higher education sector 1
(5) An expert from technical and vocational sector 1
(6) An expert from teacher education sector 1
(7) An expert from all-inclusive education sector 1
(8) An expert from curriculum 1
(9) Legal expert 1
(10) A representative from the ministry 1
(b) The chairman of the commission shall be elected by commission members.
(c) The duties of the secretary and the joint secretary of the commission shall be assigned to representatives from the ministry.
(d) The government shall amend the formation of the commission if necessary.
(e) The term of the commission shall be five years as usual.

TO BE CONTINUED

Organization Registration Law

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

11. [a] The domestic organization upon receipt of the reply letter from the concerned registration body saying that registration has been rejected can make amendments and additions as required by the concerned body and submit the application again within 30 days from receipt of the reply letter.
- [b] If the concerned body decides not to grant registration for the re-application submitted under Sub-Section [a], the decision is final.
- [c] If the domestic organization does not re-apply under Sub-Section [a] in the case of its application being rejected or if re-application is rejected under Sub-Section [b], the temporary registration certificate issued to that organization shall be deemed as null and void already from the date of the decision of denial.
- [d] When the application for registration has been rejected by the concerned organization, the rejected domestic organization cannot re-apply for registration with whatsoever registration board.
12. [a] The domestic organization shall

[1] pay the registration fees amounting to K300,000 for registration application at the Union Registration Body;

[2] pay the registration fees amounting to K100,000 for registration application at the Region or State Registration Body;

[3] pay the registration fees amounting to K100,000 for registration application at the Union Territory Registration Body;

[4] pay the registration fees amounting to K50,000 for registration application at the Self-Administered Division or Self-Administered Zone Registration Body;

[5] pay the registration fees amounting to K50,000 for registration application at the District Registration Body; and

[6] pay the registration fees amounting to K30,000 for registration application at the Township Registration Body.
- [b] [1] The domestic organization holding the registration certificate issued by the Union Registration Body can carry out its activities across the nation.
- [2] The domestic organization holding the registration certificate issued by the Region or State Registration Body can carry out its activities within the concerned Region or State.
- [3] The domestic organization holding the registration certificate issued by the Union Territory Registration Board can carry out its activities within the Union Territory.
- [4] The domestic organization holding the registration certificate issued by the Self-Administered Division or Self-Administered Zone can carry out its activities within the concerned Self-Administered Division or Self-Administered Zone.
- [5] The domestic organization holding the registration certificate issued by the District Registration Body can carry out its activities within the concerned district.
- [6] The domestic organization holding the registration certificate issued by the Township Registration Body can carry out its activities within the concerned township.

13. A domestic organization holding a registration certificate issued by a registration body cannot register with another registration body.

14. [a] The domestic organization holding the registration certificate shall apply for an extension of registration according to the prescribed rules at the concerned registration board 90 days ahead of the expiry of registration if it wishes to continue to exist upon the expiry of registration.

[b] If the domestic organization does not apply for an extension of registration 90 days in advance as prescribed in Sub-Section [a], it shall pay the prescribed fine at the concerned Myanma Economic Bank, and submit an application for an extension of registration. The renewed registration certificate shall be issued to the domestic organization within 30 days of the decision made to grant the extension.

[c] The domestic organization that applies for an extension of registration shall repeat the same procedures of applying for the registration certificate for the first time.

[d] The concerned registration board can grant the registration extension after scrutinizing as prescribed in Section [8] Sub-Section [c] and issue the renewed certificate to the domestic organization that applies for extension under Sub-Section [a] or Sub-Section [c].

TO BE CONTINUED

Join the official political platform

I will hold meetings with ethnic armed organizations for the second time. At the same time, I invite other EAOs that have yet to hold talks to participate. If they actually want to serve the interests of their regions and ethnic people, hold discussions, make requests, and join the official political platform, we have kept the door wide open. I would like to invite them to bravely walk in.

(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)

AWS Solution Architect Associate Course, AWS Solution Architect Professional Course launched in Myanmar

THE opening ceremony of Amazon Web Service (AWS Solution Architect Associate Course and AWS Solution Architect Professional Course), which is to be implemented under the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund 2020 and led by the Information and Communication Technology Research Centre of the Department of Research and Innovation under the Ministry of Science and Technology, was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw made an opening speech and Minister Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar Dr Zheng Zhihong and Director Daw Chaw Su Mya of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs made

remarks respectively.

The AWS Solution Architect Associate Course and AWS Solution Architect Professional Course will support the development of Cloud Computing technology, production of IT technicians, effective research work on the economic, social, education and health sectors of respective countries, promotion of cooperation between Myanmar and Mekong-Lancang countries and also the ICT development of Myanmar.

The AWS cloud computing courses opened under LMC Project from 1 to 15 November, were joined by 35 trainees — 10 from Cambodia and China online and 25 trainees from the universities under the ministry on-site. — MNA



The AWS Solution Architect Associate Course and AWS Solution Architect Professional Course are underway in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Real estate market slowing down, ...

FROM PAGE-1

Three years ago, the 12.5x55-foot apartment on the first floor was worth K55 million. The price has remained unchanged up to now. Therefore, the investors can only make a low profit. The dollar value and gold price are rocketing with the passage of time. The buyers can see the profits vividly on the basis of their buying price. It is hard to make cash quickly for housing. As a result of this, people do not turn to the real estate sector for investment,” U Tun Thein, a businessman from Latha Township, told the GNLM.

Earlier, the investors from the regions outside Yangon came to purchase the property. This year, they rarely do so.

“The investment for the real estate and automobile market has cooled. Those investors from regions outside Yangon do not buy them amid the political changes and financial

problems. The housing and land purchased by Yangonites are lower than those of investors from regions other than Yangon. As some people want to make money, they sell their plots of land and houses, shaking the property market temporarily, said Daw Than Than Aye, a real estate agent.

Furthermore, fraudulent cases are arising in the real estate market with counterfeit documents. It is of vital importance for the buyers to verify the documents with the legal experts and check them at the respective offices before they make transactions, the GNLM quoted U Htut Win, a real estate agent, as saying.

The depreciation of Kyat and mounting inflation forced some people to make investments in safe-haven assets. Consequently, some eye the real estate market, pushing the price to rise and causing the swindling.

“The fake document can be identified only at the official department yet there is no service available for that. So, it sparks concerns of the investors over swindling,” said a real estate agent.

“There are plots of land with slip permits in four townships of Dagon Myothit. They are put up for sale online. When the buyers went to check the land or documents, the unscrupulous dealers asked for a deposit of K1 million. After some made deposits into that, they have fled already. There are many scammers working in groups,” U Khin Maung Wan from North Okkalapa Township shared his experience.

Nonetheless, investors find real estate hard to turn into cash rather than gold and dollars. It afflicted the sales of the real estate market. Only the rental market is going well, said Daw Than Than Aye, a real estate agent. — TWA/GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Education Higher Education Department Statement

1. For those who passed the 2022 matriculation examination, the lists of students who get admission to first-year (first semester) day classes will be published at respective universities, degree colleges and colleges and on <http://www.moe.gov.mm> of the Ministry of Education and <http://www.dhe.gov.mm> of the Higher Education Department on 3-11-2022.
2. First-year (first semester) classes will be opened on 21-11-2022 and the enrolment processes are available at respective universities, degree colleges and colleges from 10-11-2022 to 9-12-2022 (including Saturday and Sunday).

Higher Education Department

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

MoSWRR receives Digital Government Award from ASOCIO

DIRECTOR-GENERAL Dr San San Aye of the Department of Social Welfare, together with an expert in the respective subject, attended the Digital Summit 2022 of the Asian-Oceanian Computing Industry Organization (ASOCIO) held at the Resorts World Sentosa Convention Centre in Singapore on 28 October.

At the Digital Trust Forum meeting, 14 topics were discussed by regional and international IT professionals, academicians from universities, CEOs, CFOs and executives from technology companies.

The ASOCIO Digital Government Award 2022 was given at the Gala Dinner of the summit. The Case Management Information System-CMIS, a sec-

tor of the Social Management Information System (SMIS), which is being carried out by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, was presented at the competition with the support of the Ministry of Defence and the Myanmar Computer Federation. The ministry has won the award and the director-general of the Department of Social Welfare

received the award on behalf of the Ministry. Then, souvenirs were given to the ASOCIO chairman and officials. At the ASOCIO Digital Summit 2022, 14 countries presented 54 awards, including the Digital Government Award.

The CMIS Software Platform is the comprehensive social protection programme implemented by the MoSWRR for children who need to be protected, children who violate the law, children who are physically and sexually abused, issues of gender-based violence and events of trafficked children and women. This platform is designed for government organizations and non-governmental organizations to use systematically. — MNA



The director-general of the Department of Social Welfare receives the award in behalf of the MoSWRR.

Myanmar delegation to attend Seoul Food Week 2022, Korea

A Myanmar delegation led by Daw Naw Muta Kapaw, Director-General of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, Ministry of Commerce, departed from Yangon to the Republic of Korea on 30 October.

The Myanmar delegation is going to discuss the technology of food production at the Korea Food Research Institute

(KFRI) in Jeonju and go on a study tour of the factories in the food production industry.

The Myanmar delegation is also going to take part in the Seoul Food Week 2022 to be held at the COEX Convention & Exhibition Centre in Seoul. Myanmar foodstuffs likely to be in demand in the Korean market will be exhibited in order to capture new markets. — MNA



The Myanmar delegation is seen before leaving for S. Korea on 30 October 2022.

Myanmar, Bangladesh border guards hold Battalion Commander Level Flag Meeting



Myanmar and Bangladesh border guards exchange flower bouquets at the meeting on 30 October.

THE Battalion Commander Level Flag Meeting between Myanmar's Border Guard Police (BGP) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) was held at Shahparirdwip jetty in Bangladesh on Sunday.

Six members of Myanmar's BGP led by Officiating Police Lt-Col Ye Wai Soe of the No 1 Border Guard Police Branch and

eight members of BGB's Teknaf 2 battalion led by Lt-Col Sheikh Khalid Mohammad Iftekhhar attended the meeting.

During the meeting, they openly exchanged views on sharing information about the bases of insurgents in Bangladesh with location maps, border security, the rule of law, cooperation in combatting terrorists and

insurgents who are stationed in border areas, measures to prevent illegal entry/exit, drug seizures of Myanmar BGP on the border in 2022, border security, prevention of illegal entry/exit, combatting trans-border crimes including drugs and human trafficking based on the existing friendly relations between border forces. — 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.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Japan offers 180 labour demand letters to Myanmar

THE Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo made an announcement yesterday that Myanmar had received 180 demand letters from Japanese companies for Myanmar migrant workers.

The Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo verified those 180 labour demand

letters between 17 and 31 October and the information for the letters were sent back to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Those demand letters were sent by the Ministry of Labour through the MoFA and verified in a timely manner.

The verification pro-

cess was performed by checking whether the labour supervision company in Japan and the recruitment factories/companies are officially established in Japan, and by sending back the verification and findings on the documentary evidence and opinions to the MoL via the MoFA.

It is learnt that the licenced overseas recruitment agencies will send Myanmar workers for that 180 job offer letters. Myanmar also received 227 labour demand letters which will recruit over 658 Myanmar workers from more than 200 Japanese companies in September 2022.

On 6 May, the Union Minister for Labour received Mr Watanabe Hideo, chairman of the Japan Myanmar Association (JMA) and dis-

cussed matters regarding the status of sending Myanmar skilled workers to Japan with a G-to-G system under the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) signed by Myanmar's Ministry of Labour and Japan's Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, human resource development of Myanmar and providing necessary assistance for Myanmar's skilled workers and trained workers in Japan and bilateral cooperation.

Japan has been among the top foreign investors in Myanmar over the past 10 years, along with Singapore and China. A total of 126 Japanese enterprises have invested US\$ 1,853.61 million in Myanmar. — TWA/GNLM



The Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo, Japan.

Over K2 bln presented for 44th Aung Bar Lay lottery winners



A total of 377,870 lottery tickets were sold for the 44th Aung Bar Lay Lottery, according to a statement from the Aung Bar Lay Branch of the Internal Revenue Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

As the lottery ticket sales were K3778.700 million, a total of K2645,090 million, 70 per cent of the total ticket sales, will be given as prizes. The prizes include one K500 million prize and one K100 million as special prizes, two K50

million prizes, three K20 million prizes, six K10 million prizes, nine K5 million prizes, 12 K2 million prizes, ten K1 million prizes and 20 K300,000 prizes, 200 K200,000 prizes, 2,000 K100,000 prizes, 10,000 K50,000 prizes and 100,000 K10,000 prizes.

Moreover, three prizes of K1 million, 40 prizes of K300,000 and 400 prizes of K200,000 will be given away, using K95.65 million which has accumulated as some winners did not claim the prizes. — TWA/GNLM

Black gram price going bumpy ride, pigeon price cools

THE prices of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC) fluctuated above and below K1.8 million per tonne in October, while the pigeon peas (red gram) price remained unchanged at over K1.95 billion per tonne, the market data showed.

The FOB prices of black gram hit the hithes of US\$780-810 per tonne for FAQ and \$930-950 for Special Quality in October, whereas the pigeon peas (red gram) peaked at \$835-855. The lowest prices of beans were \$750-770 for FAQ, \$890-910 for SQ, and \$815-835 for pigeon peas (red gram) in October. The black gram and pigeon pea output in India is expected to drop this year after the torrential rain adversely affected the black gram and pigeon pea plantations. Therefore, the consumption requirement is still high.

On 31 October, the prices stood at K1,730,000 per tonne of black gram (FAQ), K2,053,000 per tonne of black gram (SQ) and K1,975,000 per tonne of red

gram/RC. The FOB prices were \$750-770 for black gram FAQ and \$890-910 for black gram SQ and \$835-855 for pigeon pea/RC.

The highest price of black gram FAQ was K2.1 million per tonne in the past three months (August-October), whereas it plunged to the lowest of K1,640,000 per tonne on 3 August. In October, the prices of black gram stayed above K1.8 million only for 11 days and they were recorded under K1.8 million per tical on other 13 days.

In the past three months, the pigeon peas price climbed to K2,175,000 per tonne on 19 September and plummeted to K1,567,500 per tonne on 3 August. Despite the price fluctuations of the black gram, the pigeon pea price stayed between K1,965,000 and K1,990,000 per tonne.

During that period, the FOB price touched the highest of \$880-900 per tonne for the black gram and \$1,020-1,040 per tonne for pigeon peas (red gram) on 1 and 3 August. On 31 August, the black

gram FAQ price soared to K2.1 million per tonne, while the FOB price was only \$785-805. On 3 August, although the FOB price was \$880-900, the black gram price slid around K1.6 million per tonne. The market price is positively related to the dollar exchange rate.

Similarly, the pigeon peas (RC) fetched the highest of K2.175 million per tonne on 19 September with the FOB price at \$830-850 per tonne. When the pigeon pea plunged to the lowest price of K1,567,500 per tonne, the FOB

prices stood at \$850-870 per tonne. On 1 September, it was priced at K2.15 million per tonne with the FOB price reaching \$815-835 only. In October, it was valued at K1,975,000 per tonne when the FOB price was only at \$835-855 per tonne.

In mid-October 2015, the black gram price surged to K2,456,000 per tonne. At that time, the dollar was exchanged at K1,200 only. The pigeon peas were worth around K1.8 million per tonne that year. In October this year, the dollar exchange rate was around K3,000 yet the black gram FAQ was valued at only K1.8 million per tonne.

The prices of kitchen groceries are inflating along with other food commodities such as rice and beans. The prices of rice, chilli pepper, onion, sugar, wheat, jaggery and edible oil skyrocketed and it is shocking in the market history. Nonetheless, the price of black gram is yet to come to K2.4 million per tonne like the event in 2015. — TWA/GNLM



Black gram on the hand palm is being assessed for quality.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, edible oil, foodstuffs, consumer goods, industrial materials, raw chemicals and vehicles confiscated

ON 30 October, a combined team under the supervision of the Kayin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted surprise inspections.

Officials nabbed four kinds of goods including 720 litres of edible oil (Two Shrimps brand) without official documents worth K8,443,200 from a Toyota HiAce (estimated value of K13 million) near Thingan Nyinaung village, 8,640 litres of edible oil and 280 cartons of Lipo juice in Myawady township and 6,000 kilogrammes of high-density polyethene without official documents worth K10,080,000 at the OSS Myawady Trade Zone. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, an on-duty team made inspections at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint. They seized 60 rolls of linoleum flooring worth K1.8 million without official documents from a vehicle on 30 October and K4,054,000 worth of foodstuffs without official documents from a Toyota HiAce (estimated value of K15 million)



Seized illegal commodities in Kayin State.



heading from Myawady to Yangon on 31 October. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Afterwards, on 31 October, a combined team confiscated K11,496,000 worth of fishing materials and other consumer goods without official documents from a vehicle heading



Confiscated illegal goods in Taninthayi Region.



from Myeik to Mawlamyine at the Mahlwaltaung Combined Checkpoint of Dawei district. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, officials captured a total of 18.5028 tonnes of illegal teak and hardwood in the Toun-goo and Nyaunglebin districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 19 arrests (approximately K96,154,446) were made on 30 and 31 October, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Drugs seized in some townships across Myanmar

DRUGS were seized in Thazi and Patheingyi townships, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force Police stopped a motorbike driven by Aung Soe accompanied by Kyaw Thu Aung (aka) Kyaw Gyi and a motorbike driven by Soe Win Hlaing (aka) Soe Win (aka) Shine Zaw and seized 1.98 kilogrammes of heroin from a motorbike of Soe Win

Hlaing who left his motorbike and run away and 1.98 kilogrammes of heroin from a motorbike of Kyaw Thu Aung (aka) Kyaw Gyi at 5:30 am on 29 October.

In addition, at 2:00 pm on the same day, a combined team consisting of Mandalay Region Police Force members stopped and examined a motorbike driven by Kyaw Soe in Ward 4 of Thazi and captured 3,200 stimulant tablets.

Moreover, a combined

team consisting of members of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force Police examined a light truck driven by Si Thu Lin accompanied by Aung Win at the 16th-Milepost Kyaukchaw combined checkpoint of Patheingyi township at 8 am on 30 October and captured 9,754 stimulant tablets and 0.22 kilogramme of heroin.

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



(Left and Right) Arrestees are seen along with seized drugs and motorbikes.

Human traffickers jailed for 12 years

THE Mandalay District Court sentenced four traffickers to 12 years imprisonment with labour under Section 24 for trying to sell a girl to a Chinese man on 17 August.

The victim Ma ..., aged 23, and Ma..., aged 24 from Shwepyitha township of Yangon Region and Ma ..., aged 22, from Hlinethaya township of Yangon Region were persuaded to be a wife of a Chinese man for one year by Aung Zin Min (aka) Aung Zin Phyto (aka) Ko Phyto from Hlinethaya township and Yan Myo Aung (aka) Nyein Maung (aka) Aye Maung from Htantabin township. Traffickers told the victims that they would earn K3,000,000 if they married Chinese men.

Traffickers Aung Zin Min (aka) Aung Zin Phyto (aka) Ko Phyto and Yan Myo Aung (aka) Nyein Maung (aka) Aye Maung were prosecuted at the Pyigyidagun Myoma police station under Sections 24/32 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. — MNA

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ဆက်သွယ်ရန် ဖုန်းနံပါတ်

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar's bilateral trade with regional countries tops \$5.59 bln in five months (Apr-Aug)

THE value of Myanmar's regional trade with ASEAN member states by sea and land border amounted to US\$5.59 billion during the April-August of the 2022-2023 financial year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar trade deficit in goods with ASEAN trade partners was worth US\$1.74 billion in the first five months this FY, with exports reaching over \$1.927 billion and imports valued at over \$3.667 billion, the statistics issued by the Ministry of Commerce indicated.

Since April, Thailand has been Myanmar's largest trade partner in ASEAN, with trade valued at over \$2.427 billion, followed by Singapore (\$1.795 billion), Indonesia (\$535 million) and Malaysia (over \$493.65 million). Viet Nam has emerged as the nation's fifth largest trade partner, with bilateral trade estimated at \$222.568 million.

Meanwhile, Myanmar's bilateral trade with the Philippines was \$86.433 million and Cambodia \$3.086 million, while trade with Brunei stood at \$30.166 million, and Laos, less than \$1 million.

Myanmar's main export items included agricultural produce and fishery products, as well as minerals, while imports included food and beverages, electronic goods, motor vehicles, and consumer goods.

Apart from its main trade partner China, Myanmar's external trade was mostly carried out with the regional trade partners. Trade with countries in the European Union, however, remained uncompetitive, compared with regional trade partners.—KK/GNLM

China's low demand drives peanut prices down to below K6,000 per viss



On 1 September, the peanut prices moved in the range between K6,800 and K7,200 per viss depending on varieties, whereas the prices declined to K4,700-5,800 per viss on 28 October. The figures reflected a sharp decrease of K1,000 per viss over one month.

SUPPLY of newly harvested peanuts from various regions to Mandalay markets caused prices to slide to below K6,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilograms), coupled with the low demand by China, according to the Mandalay commodity wholesale centre.

On 1 September, the peanut prices moved in the range between K6,800 and K7,200 per viss depending on varieties, whereas the prices declined to K4,700-K5,800 per viss on 28 October. The figures reflected a sharp decrease of K1,000 per viss over one month.

Additionally, the demand by the local oil millers has dropped significantly.

The prevailing price of peanut oil is around K12,000 per viss in the Mandalay market, following the price decrease of peanuts. In early September, the price of peanut oil touched a high of K14,500 per viss in the Mandalay market.

In April, the world's top palm oil exporter Indonesia, which is one of the main oil suppliers to Myanmar, declared an export ban on cooking oil export to reduce the domestic shortage. Consequently, Myanmar's Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce temporarily suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) from 9 May in order to have oil self-sufficiency.

Exports of Myanmar's edible oil crops resumed as the world's top palm oil exporters returned to normalcy, according to a notification dated 5 July 2022 released by the Trade Department. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar ships over 8,800 tonnes of rubber to external markets in Sept

MYANMAR delivered more than 8,800 tonnes of rubber to foreign trade partners in September 2022, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Approximately 2,460 tonnes of rubber worth US\$3.572 million were sent by sea and over 6,350 tonnes of rubber worth \$8.423 million were conveyed to neighbouring countries via the cross-border posts, with 5,380 tonnes of rubber to China and over 970 tonnes of rubber to Thailand.

Nevertheless, the export volume was down by over 3,500 tonnes compared to that of August.

Starting from the third week of September, rubber latex collection businesses have begun. The prices of rubber stood at K1,330 per pound for sundried Local 3 and K1,350 per pound for Ribbed Smoked Sheet Local 3, according to



Myanmar bagged more than US\$449 million in revenue in rubber exports in the previous financial year 2020-2021.

the Mawlamyine Commodity Centre.

Global demand for rubber, rubber production of the Southeast Asian nations and their market supply are contributing factors to the rubber price condition of Myanmar.

The rubber price in Mon State, a major rubber production state in Myanmar, is positively related to those facts as well, the traders elaborated.

Rubber is commonly produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber season

data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres. About 300,000 tonnes of rubber is produced annually across the country.

Seventy per cent of rubber produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries.

Myanmar bagged more than US\$449 million in revenue in rubber exports in the previous financial year 2020-2021. — NN/GNLM



Review own destinies chosen along lifespans

HUMAN society is a habitation of humans, and most of them are upholding firm concepts and mindsets whether these benefit the society or not. It is the true nature of society. Society members think their mindsets are the best ones of each due to the experiences they have passed their lifelong periods. Their mindsets may be based on optimism or pessimism. Some of them uphold neutralism.

Holding up too much optimism is inappropriate in society. It is because the majority of the events which happen in society are unfair. The root causes of these events are unacceptable due to genuine confessions based on unfair moods. As such, anyone holding up optimism cannot analyze the events to have correct solutions and cannot make the best decision. Hence, optimists should set aside forgiveness in approaching every event to have correct solutions. It is because forgiveness would be a hindrance to the genuine solution.

In truth, everybody should uphold the best concept of neutralism. They have to overview everything based on an unbiased outlook and consideration. Their fair decisions will come out from the acts of approaching any problems with two-sided views of optimism and pessimism. If necessary, they can review everything in neutralism without attachment to too many extreme concepts. Their reviews and approaches will build society to be pleasant and prosperous. It is the best essence of society. Humans in society need to hold up this concept as much as they can.

concepts. Their reviews and approaches will build society to be pleasant and prosperous. It is the best essence of society. Humans in society need to hold up this concept as much as they can.

In fact, everybody needs to keep society peaceful, pleasant and prosperous. It is an inborn duty of all. But, all people from the society have different opinions which show off their mindsets with purposes for benefitting the society or not. Actually, those who benefit society will have to reach their goals as they expected. Likewise, those who destroy society will lead to their destinations as they wish. But, the destinies will be different.



“HIMA – LAI – TA”

U Than Zaw - Ex-Marine R/O

IS the name of a young girl, her village is not very far from Columbo in due North, near tea-centre, Sri Lanka.

In 1969, owing to becoming the high cost of living in our country, Myanmar, I submitted my resignation from Magway Aero Drome In-Charge in DCA (Department of Civil Aviation), joined as a Radio Officer (R/O) aboard the MV Maldives Skipper in Maldivian Shipping Co Ltd Columbo, Sri Lanka. The company offered me to be paid the remuneration of 25 Sterling (pounds) per month plus other allowances. I made a contract for one year's service.

During that period, I made a journey to Aden's peak where Lord Buddha's footprint was situated. For my pilgrimage, a Burmese monk of Maradana Temple led me to go there. We two travelled by train. On the train, we were very fortunate to happen to make friends with a group of Ceylonese (Sri Lanka natives) who joined the same passenger wagon from a village station. We were seated very nearby to have charts

after making friends with one another. They were travelling the same route and the same pilgrims with us, too. They speak Sanskrit and English as well. Their leader was an elderly lady. We became very friendly with everyone as we were of the same religion (Buddhists). The old mum, an elderly leader, introduced me to a young girl about 16 years of age by the name of “Hima-Lai-Ta” and we two became good partners exchanging views “this and that” joyously enjoying sightseeing together through the train window. We did not even notice that the train arrived at the foot of Aden's Peak Mountain. The elderly leader, grandma said: “Hay! You two, stop talking, we have arrived already, your naughty little boy and girl.” When we two looked back at her, we found her smiling

satisfactorily, nodding the head asides we felt shyness of her look in that manner.

We took a rest just at the foot of Aden's Peak Mountain which was opposite India beyond the sea.

It was their custom to cleanse up the bodies with some water using soap and lemon juice prior to paying worship to Lord Buddha's footprint. Then, we all changed our clothes to white colour. I, too, changed into white long pants and a long-sleeve white shirt to be uniform with all of them.

By the way, while I was taking a show, Hima-Lai-Ta, very kindly, took care of me, such as giving me toilet soap and lemon juice and rubbing thoroughly on my back just like my own sister helped me respectfully. During all that time, her younger brother watched us

everything, mocked us and ran away, saying “Tan-Jot, Hima-Lai-Ta” repeatedly. But actually, my name is “Than Zaw” in the wrong way as he was a foreign-native “tongue”. Nevertheless, Hima-Lai-Ta never got angry and kept patience with smiles. We have our proverb as saying “Agreed if no response, accepted if smiled, and amusement means already confirmed. The old mum, “By seeing these manners of her grandson, she gave a stern look as a warning not to disturb others etc.” Grandma, too, seemed to be pleased with our close friendliness and familiarity with each other in her sight. Because we saw her always in a smiling mood.

After we had dressed up and were well prepared, we started to climb up the mountain.

The elderly lady who was a

leader of our pilgrimage went ahead holding up a torch, shouting up rhymes as: “Apeli Apeli,” we responsively shouted as:

“Api-Bante”, “Ape-Bu-Doom”, she shouted, “Api-Bante”, we shouted back, the translation of the rhyme in English is climbing round and round the mountain, we will pay worship to our Lord Buddha, we must pay respect to our omniscient Lord Buddha.

As soon as we arrived at the top of the mountain where Lord Buddha's footprint was placed under the shed, the elderly leader and the followers including myself, except for the (Burmese monk who was the companion), ran quickly and paid worship to the Buddha's footprint, touching with their forehead, weeping, tearing sorrow fully even. I found they respect it very seriously. The

style of my worshipping is quite different and rather ridiculous compared to their styles. I paid worship by bowing down in a sitting position.

The next morning, we came back to Columbo by return train. On our way back, the elderly lady asked about my job and position in Columbo. I told her about my position aboard the Maldivian Shipping Co Ltd at present; the ship was alongside for about 20 days in Columbo and we would be sailing for Indian ports right up to Karachi, West Pakistan. In that case, “I have a little talk with you, my good boy, she said: you better get down at our village to pay a visit, and in the meantime, please spare for about a couple of days to make you engaged legally with my grand-daughter “Hima-Lai-Ta”. This gentleman is my son who is a policeman in Columbo. “Hima-Lai-Ta” is his youngest kid and he, too, liked you very much to be his son-in-law. He wanted you willingly. We all are relatives here at our pilgrimage party. They are all fond of you and they know that

you two were in love with each other. You are a Buddhist like us, same religion, no objection at all. Ok?”, she said in a long speech.

In my, response: “I am quite familiar with you all, indeed, Grandma, but I'll tell you frankly, I'm not a single person as you think. I have been married and had three kids in Burma; I have to go back home after the completion of one year's contract. She replied: “no, no, no, I don't believe it. It is impossible, you are still very young; please don't give me a lame excuse, you see, you still have no moustache and beard yet, and you are not old enough to get married in your country, come on let's get down now. She forced me strongly holding my shoulders and pushing me down. I gave a quiet glance to “Hima-Lai-Ta” I found her getting amazed with her wide eyes opened and gazing at me to hear my answer eagerly, in my response.

“I told you the truth, Grandma, I never say lies to others, please believe my words Grandma, excuse me if you don't mind.”

The train whistled and slow down for stoppage at the station at any moment.

I saw both of them bent down their necks hopelessly. What a pity for all the honest lovely village group of people in Sri Lanka. I felt very sorry. They got down at their village station hesitatingly. Their faces looked to be very forlorn and morose. Meanwhile, the train proceeded to Columbo slowly. What a pity for all of them, especially “Hima-Lai-Ta”. I gazed at her back; it was a blurred sight with sorrow for them all. I braced my mind not to tear out. I came to know that “Hima-Lai-Ta” had been waving her hands heavily with a final glance at me tearing down both of her cheeks. “Oh! Poor little village girl of Sri Lanka!”

“Let bygones be bygones.” Poor pretty girl: “Hima-Lai-Ta!” They had gone out of my sight now. I did not even know how to decide my experience abroad should be a “Tragedy” or “Comedy”.



WHO releases first-ever list of health-threatening fungi

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the reported incidence of invasive fungal infections increased significantly among hospitalized patients.

WHO on 25 October published a report highlighting the first-ever list of fungal “priority pathogens” – a catalogue of the 19 fungi that represent the greatest threat to public health. The WHO fungal priority pathogens list (FPPL) is the first global effort to systematically prioritize fungal pathogens, considering the unmet research and development (R&D) needs and the perceived public health importance.

The WHO FPPL aims to focus and drive further research and policy interventions to strengthen the global response to fungal infections and antifungal resistance.

Fungal pathogens are a major threat to public health as they are becoming increasingly common and resistant to treatment with only four classes of antifungal medicines currently available, and few candidates in the clinical pipeline.

Most fungal pathogens lack rapid and sensitive diagnostics and those that exist are not widely available or affordable globally.



Cultured *Candida auris*, right, and cultured *Candida albicans*. PHOTO: CENTRES FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION – US

The invasive forms of these fungal infections often affect severely ill patients and those with significant underlying immune system related conditions.

Populations at greatest risk of invasive fungal infections include those with cancer, HIV/AIDS, organ transplants, chronic respiratory disease, and post-primary

tuberculosis infection.

Emerging evidence indicates that the incidence and geographic range of fungal diseases are both expanding worldwide due to

global warming and the increase of international travel and trade.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the reported incidence of invasive fungal infections increased significantly among hospitalized patients.

As the fungi that cause common infections (such as candida oral and vaginal thrush) become increasingly resistant to treatment, risks for the development of more invasive forms of infections in the general population are also growing.

“Emerging from the shadows of the bacterial antimicrobial resistance pandemic, fungal infections are growing, and are ever more resistant to treatments, becoming a public health concern worldwide” said Dr Hanan Balkhy, WHO Assistant Director-General, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

Despite the growing concern, fungal infections receive very little attention and resources, leading to a scarcity of quality data on fungal disease distribution and antifungal resistance patterns.

As a result, the exact burden

of fungal diseases and antifungal resistance, are unknown, and the response is therefore undermined.

Three priority categories

The WHO FPPL list is divided into three categories: critical, high and medium priority. The fungal pathogens of in each priority category are so ranked primarily due to their public health impact and/or emerging antifungal resistance risk.

While recognizing these critical pathogens as of public health concern globally, WHO emphasizes that the FPPL must be interpreted and contextualized carefully, as some endemic pathogens could be of more concern in their respective regional or local contexts.

Need for more evidence and priority areas for action

The authors of the report stress the need for more evidence to inform the response to this growing threat and to better understand the burden – both of disease and antifungal resistance.

The report also highlights the urgent need for coordinated action to address the impact of antifungal use on resistance across the One Health spectrum and calls for expanding equitable access to quality diagnostics and treatments.

“We need more data and evidence on fungal infections and antifungal resistance to inform and improve response to these priority fungal pathogens” said Dr Haileyesus Getahun, WHO Director, AMR Global Coordination Department.

The FPPL report underscores strategies for policymakers, public health professionals and other stakeholders.

The strategies proposed in the report are collectively aimed at generating evidence and improving response to these fungal priority pathogens including preventing the development of antifungal drug resistance.

The primary recommended actions are focused on: (1) strengthening laboratory capacity and surveillance; (2) sustaining

investments in research, development, and innovation; and (3) enhancing public health interventions for prevention and control.

“Countries are encouraged to follow a stepwise approach, starting with strengthening their fungal disease laboratory and surveillance capacities, and ensuring equitable access to existing quality therapeutics and diagnostics, globally” added Dr Haileyesus Getahun.

Resistance to antifungal medicines is partly driven by inappropriate antifungal use across the One Health spectrum. For example, injudicious use of antifungals in agriculture was linked to the rising rates of azole-resistant *Aspergillus fumigatus* infections.

The report also calls for fostering WHO's collaborative effort with the Quadripartite organizations and other partners, to address the impact of antifungal use on resistance across the One Health spectrum.

SOURCE: WHO

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Heat waves due to climate change have cost world economy trillions so far

MASSIVE economic losses brought on by extreme heat induced by human-driven climate change are an issue now, not only in the distant future.

According to a study published in the journal *Science Advances*, since the early 1990s, increasingly extreme heat waves brought on by global warming have already cost the global economy trillions of dollars, with the poorest and lowest carbon-generating countries suffering the most.

Researchers from Dartmouth College coupled recently made available, comprehensive economic data for places all over the world with the average temperature for the hottest five days of the year for each region.

They discovered that from 1992 to 2013, heat waves statistically correlated with changes in economic growth and that the negative effects of extreme heat on human health, productivity, and agricultural output cost an estimated USD 16 trillion.

The researchers note that the results highlight the urgent need for laws and technological advancements that safeguard citizens during the hottest days of the year, particularly in the world's hottest and most economically precarious nations.

"Accelerating adaptation measures within the hottest period of each year would deliver economic benefits now," said first author Christopher Callahan, a doctoral candidate in geography at Dartmouth. —ANI



From 1992 to 2013, the negative effects of extreme heat on human health, productivity, and agricultural output cost an estimated USD 16 trillion. **PHOTO: WORLD BANK**

Norway to resume Brazil aid halted over deforestation

NORWAY said Monday that it would resume sending Amazon protection subsidies to Brazil, which it had halted in 2019 under Jair Bolsonaro, following Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's election victory.

"We had a good and very close collaboration with the government before Bolsonaro and deforestation in Brazil declined greatly under Lula da Silva's (previous) presidency", Environment Minister Espen Barth Eide told AFP.

"Then we had a head-on collision with Bolsonaro whose approach was diametrically opposed when it came to deforestation". Norway was the biggest donor for the protection of Amazon rain forest, but like Germany, halted its aid to Brazil in 2019

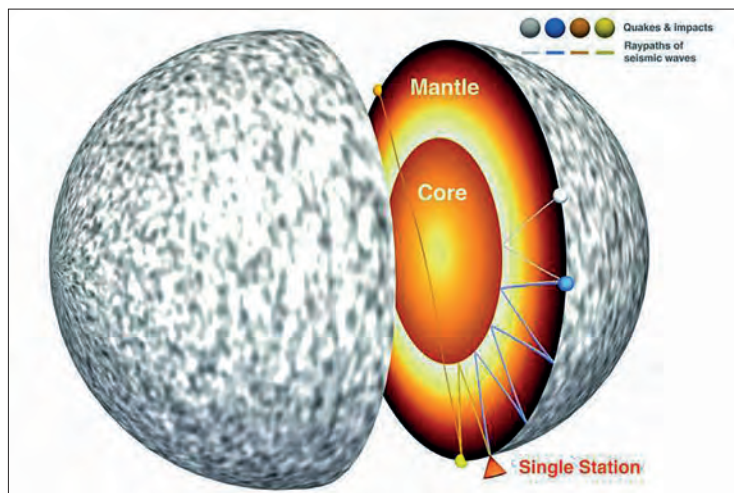
after Bolsonaro took power.

Under the far-right leader, deforestation of the Amazon accelerated by 70 per cent, a level Barth Eide described as "scandalous".

He said some five billion kroner (\$483 million) in unused aid was waiting to be disbursed in the Amazon Fund for Forest Conservation and Climate Protection. "We note that during the campaign he (Lula) emphasised the conservation of the Amazon forest and the protection of the indigenous peoples of the Amazon," Barth Eide told AFP.

"This is why we are eager to make contact with his teams, as quickly as possible, to prepare for a resumption of the historically good collaboration between Brazil and Norway". —AFP

Aussie scientists develop new deep planetary scan method



An illustration of the Martian interior. **PHOTO: ILLUSTRATION CREDIT OF DR SHENG WANG AND PROFESSOR HRVOJE TKALČIĆ/ANU**

AUSTRALIAN researchers have developed a new method to scan the deep interior of planets.

The method, detailed in a report published by Australian National University (ANU), requires only one seismometer on the surface of a planet to work.

It uses technology similar to an ultrasound scan that uses sound waves to generate images

of a patient's body to confirm whether or not a planet has a core.

It works by measuring specific seismic waves generated by the shaking of the planet's surface.

As the waves reverberate throughout the interior of the planet they bounce off the core, allowing researchers to measure its size. "Our research

presents an innovative method using a single instrument to scan the interior of any planet in a way that's never been done before," Hrvoje Tkalcic, co-author of the study from the ANU Research School of Earth Sciences, said in a media release.

The research team trialed the new method on Mars, determining the Red Planet has a core approximately 3,620 kilometres in diameter. Co-author Sheng Wang said confirming the existence of a core can help scientists understand a planet's past and future evolution, including at what point its magnetic field formed and ceased to exist.

"Modelling suggests that the Martian core is liquid and while it is made up of mostly iron and nickel, it could also contain traces of lighter elements such as hydrogen and sulphur. These elements can alter the ability of the core to transport heat," he said. —Xinhua

More than 6,000 baby turtles are released in Peru

MORE than 6,000 hatchlings of three species of endangered turtles have been released into lakes and lagoons in Peru's Amazon basin to help them repopulate, officials said Saturday.

To achieve that, wildlife officials collect turtle eggs and transfer them from natural beaches of the Amazon basin,

to artificial beaches where they are artificially incubated for 60 days until they hatch.

Gustavo Montoya, head of the Cordillera Azul del Sernanp National Park, told AFP that over 6,100 baby turtles of the taricaya, charapa and teparo species have been released into the waters of the Amazon basin.

"With the release of these species at risk, it will be possible to repopulate the lagoons and rivers of the Amazon," said Montoya. Environmental scientists say that preserving the Amazon rainforest and its ecosystem is vital for the planet because of its ability to absorb greenhouse gasses. — AFP



(FILES) This file photo taken on 21 September 2022 shows a firefighter who combats a fire on the Amazonia rainforest in Apui, southern Amazonas State, Brazil. **PHOTO: AFP**

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

China to ease mainland residents' travel to gambling hub Macau

MAINLAND Chinese residents will be allowed to visit Macau using an online visa system as of Tuesday, officials said, streamlining travel to the world's largest gambling hub after more than two years of pandemic restrictions.

Macau is the only place in China where casinos are legal and the former Portuguese colony once dwarfed even Las Vegas for the scale of bets placed every month.

But China's strict Covid-19 controls have laid waste to Macau's gaming sector, hammering the city's economy.

Beijing will launch an electronic visa system from 1 November, China's Immigration Administration announced on

Monday in a statement.

For the past two and a half years, visitors from the mainland have been required to submit detailed, in-person applications to visit the Chinese territory, with approvals typically limited to essential business travel.

Monday's announcement paves the way for mainland travel groups — which once made up the vast majority of punters — to return to the roulette tables.

China's immigration authorities said they now judged the Covid situation in Macau to be "stable", even after health officials locked down a large casino complex on Sunday over a handful of infections.

Then on Monday, Macau's



This photograph taken on 20 October 2022 shows tourists boarding a shuttle bus to the Venetian Casino resort in Macau. **PHOTO: AFP**

health minister Lo Iek-long announced that all 680,000 residents in the city must undergo a PCR test on Tuesday as recent

infections increased to a total of five cases.

A newly confirmed case involved a man who works in

Macau and lives in the adjacent mainland city of Zhuhai.

Residents must also take daily rapid antigen tests until Tuesday, the government said.

The city remains largely closed to overseas visitors and maintains a seven-day hotel quarantine policy.

And even if pandemic measures are fully lifted, it is unlikely Macau's casinos will see a return to their busiest days, analysts said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has spearheaded an anti-corruption campaign that has increased scrutiny of the high-rollers and officials who travel to gamble in Macau, where cases of money laundering are common.—AFP

India's daily COVID-19 caseload decreases to 1,326



A health worker inoculates a woman with a dose of the Covaxin vaccine against the Covid-19 coronavirus during a special booster vaccination drive for people aged between 18-59 years, in Hyderabad on 2 August 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

INDIA'S daily COVID-19 caseload Monday fell to 1,326, officials said.

According to federal health ministry data released on Monday morning, 1,326

new cases of COVID-19 were reported during the past 24 hours, taking the total tally to 44,653,592 in the country.

The cases reported on Monday mark a decrease in

comparison to the daily caseload of 1,604 on Sunday.

With the reporting of fresh cases, India's active caseload currently stands at 17,912.

The country also logged eight related deaths during the past 24 hours, pushing the overall death toll to 529,024 since the beginning of the pandemic, the ministry said.

With the increase in cases, the daily positivity rate stands at 1.59 per cent and the weekly positivity rate was recorded 1.08 per cent, the ministry data showed.

The ministry said 44,106,656 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals, of whom 1,723 were discharged during the past 24 hours. — Xinhua

Malaysians urged to mask up as fresh COVID-19 infections spike

MALAYSIANS have been urged to take precautions including wearing face masks as fresh COVID-19 infections continue to spike in the country, an official said on Monday.

Malaysia is experiencing another COVID-19 wave which has seen new infections rise by 16.5 per cent to 16,917 cases from the previous week's 14,525 cases between 23 and 29 October, caretaker Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin told a press conference.

"We are faced with a small

wave and we are not certain whether this will change. However, we found that in terms of entry to government hospitals, the most is among those who have mild symptoms. Not serious symptoms," he said, adding that the use of beds in the intensive care units (ICUs) has increased by two per cent.

Given the current situation, Khairy said that face mask usage is now "highly recommended" especially as the country will hold a snap general election on 19 November.—Xinhua

Brunei's daily average COVID-19 cases rise for 5th straight week

BRUNEI logged a daily average of 485 new COVID-19 cases in the past week compared to 437 cases per day the week before, an increase of five consecutive weeks, official statistics released on Monday showed.

According to the health ministry's weekly briefing, 41,068 antigen rapid test (ART) results were uploaded to the government platform within one week, with 8.2 per cent of them being positive.

Currently, no hospitalized

cases are held in the intensive care unit and three cases require oxygen assistance, the health ministry said.

As of 30 October, 78.6 per cent of Brunei's population have received three doses of COVID-19 vaccines, while 10.8 per cent have taken the fourth dose.

The COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca and China's Sinopharm are administered in the Southeast Asian country. —Xinhua

New Zealand logs 20,522 new COVID-19 community cases over past week

NEW Zealand recorded 20,522 new community cases of COVID-19 and 18 more deaths from the pandemic over the past week, the country's Ministry of Health said on Monday.

On average, new cases per day reached 2,926 in last week.

The country has seen the number of daily cases going down steadily from over 10,000 cases nationwide in early July.

With the fresh cases, New Zealand has reported 1,851,689 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 2,106 COVID-19-related deaths

since the pandemic hit the country in early 2020, the ministry said.

Currently, 323 COVID-19 patients are being treated in hospitals in the country, including eight in intensive care units or high dependency units, showed official data. —Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Markets boosted by rate hopes Fed decision

MOST markets rose Monday ahead of a crucial Federal Reserve policy meeting later in the week, with investors hoping for a less hawkish tilt in their plans for interest rates.

A sense of relief has settled on trading floors over the past week following a report that the US central bank could take its foot off the accelerator in its push to rein in decades-high inflation.

Adding to the positive mood has been an indication that others around the world are looking at slowing down, though the excitement was tempered Friday by record inflation readings in Europe and data showing prices remained elevated.

Asian dealers were given a strong lead from Wall Street, where all three main indexes ended more than two per cent higher thanks to a rally in tech firms following a strong earnings report from Apple.



A woman walks past an electronic board showing the numbers on the Tokyo Stock Exchange shortly after the bourse opened in Tokyo on 28 October 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tokyo, Seoul, Sydney, Singapore, Taipei, Mumbai, Bangkok and Wellington all piled on more than one per cent, while Jakarta was also up.

London and Frankfurt were flat at the open while Paris dipped.

Hong Kong and Shanghai were hit by concerns about China's growth outlook as the government continues its zero-Covid strategy of lockdowns, with restrictions imposed in towns and cities nationwide.

Data showing activity in the

factory and services sectors contracted last month highlighted the impact the measures are having on the world's number two economy.

The drops also come after China announced a tally of more than 2,500 new virus cases, the biggest outbreak in more than two months, fanning concerns of further painful shutdowns.

All eyes are on the Fed's policy meeting, which ends Wednesday. While it is widely expected to announce a fourth successive 75 basis point hike, traders will be poring over the post-meeting statement looking for a hint that officials are open to dialling back the pace of increases.

The gathering comes as other central banks have recently indicated they are willing to ease up, with Canada raising rates less than expected last week, while authorities in Australia and Europe have taken a more

dovish view.

Concerns that rapidly rising borrowing costs will send economies into a recession have hammered markets globally this year.

"There has been a succession of central bank downshifts, adding to the 'peak hawkishness' theme running through macro markets," said SPI Asset Management's Stephen Innes. "And investors are entirely focused on these U-turns as peak rates get priced in."

"So, people don't want to miss the stock market rally wagon, especially if the Fed conveys a similar policy downshift this week, sending the rally into overdrive as pivot procrastinators will be forced to chase."

The policy decision is followed Friday by the release of US jobs figures, which will give a fresh snapshot of the economy in light of rising prices and interest rates.—AFP

Saudi, UAE tout higher oil production, days before COP climate talks

SAUDI Arabia and the United Arab Emirates said the world needs higher oil production on Monday, just days before the COP27 climate summit aimed at curbing global warming.

Saudi Arabia's energy minister said the neighbouring Gulf countries were increasing production capacity, while a senior UAE official said the world's growing population would need 30 per cent more energy by 2050.

Both insisted that oil remains a cornerstone of energy supply, but said they were

working to lower emissions and increase production from renewable or less-polluting sources.

"We and the UAE are increasing our production capacity. We and the UAE are increasing our refining," Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman told the ADIPEC oil conference in Abu Dhabi.

"We and the UAE are going to be the exemplary producer: hydrocarbon producer, but also achieve all the sustainability goals," he added.—AFP

Philippines' digital transactions up to exceed 32 bln USD in 2021

THE Philippines' digital economy in 2021 amounted to 1.87 trillion pesos (roughly 32 billion US dollars), representing an increase of 7.8 per cent from the figure recorded in 2020, data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed.

The agency said the Philippines' digital economy contributes 9.6 per cent to the country's gross domestic product last year.

The digital economy comprises digital transactions covering digital-enabling infrastructure, e-commerce, and digital media or content.

Of the total digital transactions in 2021, digital-enabling

infrastructure shared the bulk with 79.6 per cent. E-commerce contributed 17.6 per cent while digital media or content contributed 2.8 per cent.

Under the digital-enabling infrastructure, telecommunication and professional and business services had the highest shares at 31.5 per cent and 27.1 per cent, respectively.

The PSA said the strict quarantine restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021 highly affected e-commerce transactions, particularly in accommodation, transport, and other tourism-related activities.

While e-commerce trans-

actions increased for online selling, delivery, and courier services, the PSA said the total transactions declined by 31.4 per cent in 2020, mainly due to a decline in online tourism-related activities.

Data showed 5.59 million Filipinos employed in the digital economy in 2021, posting an increase of 11.6 per cent from the number of 5.01 million in 2020.

Employment in digital-enabling infrastructure recorded the highest share in 2021, with 76.9 per cent, followed by e-commerce (20.7 per cent) and digital media or content (2.4 per cent). —Xinhua

Eurozone growth slows as inflation soars on energy costs

EUROZONE economic growth fell to 0.2 per cent in the third quarter, as inflation hit another record high on the back of soaring energy prices, the EU's statistics agency said Monday.

Consumer prices jumped by a fresh record of 10.7 per cent in October, up from 9.9 per cent the month before, stoked

by an eye-watering 41.9 per cent rise in energy costs, Eurostat said.

The European Central Bank warned last week that a recession is looming, as it announced another jumbo interest rate hike to try to curb inflation driven up by the fallout from Russia's war on Ukraine.

Moscow's decision to dras-

tically curb gas supplies to Europe has triggered an energy crisis on the continent, fueling fears of power shortages and sky-high heating bills this winter.

The third quarter figure was marginally better than expected after economic powerhouse Germany bettered forecasts with 0.3 per cent growth.

Among other key economies, France and Spain were at 0.2 per cent and Italy on Monday announced growth of 0.5 per cent.

Overall Eurozone growth increased by 2.1 per cent compared to the same quarter last year, Eurostat said.

But despite the mildly better-than-expected news,

analysts warned that a recession appeared to be on its way regardless.

"It is a matter of how deep the recession will be and not if there will be one," Oxford Economics said in an analyst note.

"Therefore, while Q3 was more resilient than expected a recession over the winter in eurozone is imminent."—AFP

Japan spent record 6.35 tril yen in October yen-buying intervention

JAPAN spent a record 6.35 trillion yen (\$43 billion) when making what were likely multiple interventions in the currency market in October, Finance Ministry data showed Monday, as the nation sought to arrest the rapid depreciation of its currency.

The previous high was 2.84 trillion yen set in September, thought to have been primarily spent on 22 September

when Japan stepped into the market by buying the yen with US dollars for the first time since 1998. Since then, Japanese authorities have kept mum on any intervention, leaving financial markets on edge.

The Finance Ministry did not disclose any daily breakdowns of the amount, spent between 29 September and Thursday.

“Stealth” interventions are designed to keep market participants

guessing whether Japanese authorities are actually intervening. After the yen neared 152 to the dollar, sources have confirmed Japan intervened on 21 October, despite market perceptions that such operations will do little to reverse the broader trend. Japanese monetary authorities likely stepped in again on 24 October as the yen surged in just minutes relative to the dollar. Finance Minister Shunichi

Suzuki had warned that necessary steps would be taken to counter excess market volatility.

The main driver has been the widening gap between Japanese and US interest rates as the Bank of Japan has ruled out the possibility of a near-term interest rate hike while the Federal Reserve is widely expected to go ahead with another hike in its policy meeting later this week. —Kyodo



This photo illustration taken on 24 September 2022 shows Japanese 10,000 yen notes (apprx. 69 USD) on display in Tokyo. Japan's finance ministry on 22 September intervened in the currency market to bolster the yen, which has plummeted against the US dollar in recent months on the widening policy gap between the US and Japanese central banks. **PHOTO: AFP**

Number of deposit accounts at Cambodia's banks, financial institutions up 18% in first 8 months

THE number of customers' deposit accounts at commercial banks and microfinance deposit-taking institutions (MDIs) in Cambodia had risen to 14.3 million in August, up 18 per cent from 12.1 million at the end of 2021, a central bank official said on Monday.

“The number of customer's deposit accounts has increased significantly to about 14.3 million.

Of which, 11.7 million accounts are in commercial banks and 2.6 million accounts are in MDIs,” Rath Sovannorak, director-general of the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC)'s Banking Supervision, said in a speech on the ASEAN Savings Day.

He said the customers' deposits increased by 8 per cent to 41.5 billion US dollars in August from 38.4 billion dollars at the

end of 2021.

In Channy, a board member of the Association of Banks in Cambodia, urged people to save their money in banking and financial institutions, saying that it is very safe and also earns competitive interest rates.

“Little saving is better than not,” he said at the event. “Moreover, saving money in banking institutions has also con-

tributed to socioeconomic development.”

With a population of 16 million, Cambodia currently has 58 commercial banks, nine specialized banks, and 86 microfinance institutions including five MDIs, with a total of 2,593 headquarters and branches as well as 4,219 automated teller machines (ATMs) throughout the country, according to the NBC.—Xinhua

China remains world's top shipbuilder in first three quarters

CHINA'S shipbuilding industry continued to lead globally in the first three quarters of this year, boasting the biggest international market share in terms of output and new and holding orders, official data showed.

The country's shipbuilding output reached 27.8 million deadweight tonnes in the period, accounting for 45.9 per cent of the total globally, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology. New orders in China's shipbuilding sector took up 53.6 per cent of the overall

orders globally, while its holding shipbuilding orders accounted for 48 per cent of the global total, the ministry said.

In the same period, the industrial output of the country's 75 key shipbuilding enterprises totalled 291.3 billion yuan (about 40.59 billion US dollars), according to the China Association of the National Shipbuilding Industry. These firms raked in 3.22 billion yuan of revenue in the first three quarters, up 220.9 per cent from the same period last year. —Xinhua

ANA Holdings returns to black in April-September for 1st time in 3 yrs



Cargo is unloaded from an All Nippon Airways (ANA) jet at Tokyo International Airport at Haneda in Tokyo on 31 October 2022. ANA Holdings on 31 October revised up its full-year net profit forecast to 40 billion yen (269.7 million USD) from the previous estimate of 21 billion yen, citing a recovery in demand following the recent easing of Japan's border restrictions. **PHOTO: AFP**

ANA Holdings Inc said Monday it made a net profit for the six months that ended in September, marking its first black ink in three years, as travel demand rebounded from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The airline posted a net profit of 19.54 billion yen (132 million) for the reporting period, a reversal from a net loss of 98.8 billion yen a year ago.

Operating profit came to 31.45 billion yen, also returning to profitability from an op-

erating loss of 116 billion yen a year earlier. Sales jumped 83.4 per cent to 790.72 billion yen.

Based on the improved performance, the company raised its net profit outlook for the current business year through March to 40 billion yen from an earlier projection of 21 billion yen.

Sales forecast were also revised upward at 1.7 trillion yen, up from the previous projection of 1.66 trillion yen.—Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BMC ENDORA VOY.NO. (10/22)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BMC ENDORA VOY.NO. (10/22)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-11-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **SPW-6** 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

GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

A Long March 5B rocket, carrying China's Mengtian science module, the final module of Tiangong space station, lifts off from the Wenchang Space Launch Centre in southern China's Hainan Province on 31 October 2022. **PHOTO: CNS / AFP**

China launches lab module Mengtian as space station approaches completion

CHINA on Monday launched the space lab module Mengtian, taking the construction of the country's space station Tiangong into final stage.

The Mengtian module, flying to join the two-module combination already about 400 km above Earth, is the last "building block" that allows Tiangong to form a T-shape structure, the planned

layout at the space station's completion.

The new combination is projected to take shape after a succession of elaborately-manoeuvred tasks including the docking and the subsequent in-orbit transposition.

The Long March-5B Y4 carrier rocket, carrying Mengtian, blasted off from the Wenchang

Spacecraft Launch Site on the coast of the southern island province of Hainan at 3:37 pm (Beijing Time), according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA).

About eight minutes later, Mengtian separated from the rocket and entered its preset orbit. The CMSA declared the launch a complete success. —Xinhua

Putin looks to reassert role in talks with Armenia, Azerbaijan

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin will host talks with the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan on Monday, as Moscow seeks to reassert its role as a key power-broker between the Caucasus arch-foes.

The talks in the southern Russian city of Sochi will be held amid the growing Western engagement in the volatile Caucasus region, where Russia — distracted by its war in Ukraine — is visibly losing influence after decades of domination.

It will come a month after the worst clashes between the two countries since their war in 2020. The offices of Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said they had both arrived in Sochi for the meeting.

The Kremlin said the talks will focus on implementing agreements reached in talks under Russia's mediation last year and "further steps to strengthen stability and security" in the region.

Putin will also hold talks with each leader alone, Moscow said.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have fought two wars — in 2020 and in the 1990s — over Azerbaijan's Armenian populated region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

A six-week war in autumn 2020 which claimed the lives of more than 6,500 troops on both sides ended with a Russian-brokered deal that saw Yerevan cede swathes of territory that it had controlled for several decades. —AFP

Paris museum says painting was target of attempted attack



The Sacre Coeur (Sacred Heart) basilica is seen through the giant clock of the Orsay Museum, in Paris, on 17 May 2021, two days ahead of the reopening of the museum in France. **PHOTO: AFP**

EU congratulates Lula, hopes for trade deal

THE leadership of the European Union congratulated Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on his presidential election win Monday and expressed hopes of closer cooperation on trade and climate change.

A trade deal signed between Brussels and the Mercosur bloc — Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay — in 2019 has never been ratified, in part because of concerns about environmental policy.

Brazil's outgoing leader, defeated right-winger Jair Bolsonaro, allowed the de-forestation of the Amazon basin to increase by 75 per cent compared to the previous decade, denting EU support for a deal.

Europe's farmers are also concerned about competition from cheap Brazilian imports, but on Monday the head of the European Commission, which

is the EU executive and trade negotiator, expressed optimism.

"I look forward to working with you to address pressing global challenges, from food security to trade and climate change," Ursula von der Leyen told Lula, in a congratulatory

tweet.

Charles Michel, the president of the European Council, which represents the governments of EU member states, said Brazilian voters had chosen a change from the recent past. —AFP



Elected president for the leftist Workers Party (PT) Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva speaks after winning the presidential run-off election, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 30 October 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

A young woman tried to throw soup at a painting at the world-famous Musee d'Orsay in Paris this week, the museum confirmed Sunday, in a similar attack to others by climate activists in Europe.

The museum refused to say which painting was targeted but it is home to artwork by some of the most famous European artists including Paul Cezanne, Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh, Edouard Manet and Claude Monet.

The museum told AFP it had filed a legal complaint for the "attempt to damage a piece of work" after the female activist was intercepted on Thursday, confirming a report in Le Parisien daily. The Paris prosecutor's office said police had opened an investigation after the complaint.

According to Le Parisien newspaper, the woman had initially tried to approach the 1889 Van Gogh self-portrait at Saint-Remy before attempting to throw soup at a painting by Gauguin.

The daily reported she was wearing a "Just Stop Oil" T-shirt, as others have worn during similar stunts in recent weeks.

On Sunday two environmental activists glued themselves to metal poles supporting a dinosaur skeleton that was over 60 million years old at Berlin's Natural History Museum to protest Germany's climate policies.

And also Thursday, climate activists glued themselves to Johannes Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring" at the Mauritshuis museum in The Hague, Netherlands. —AFP

Grief, prayers and anger at South Korea crowd crush memorial

WIPING away tears, Song Jung-hee laid a single white chrysanthemum at a memorial for the 154 victims of a fatal crowd crush in South Korea.

What was supposed to be a Saturday night of post-pandemic celebration in Seoul’s popular Itaewon nightlife district turned into one of South Korea’s deadliest disaster.

With tens of thousands of people crammed into a narrow

alleyway — and police and crowd control measures nowhere in sight — eye-witnesses have described how partygoers became trapped, crushed and suffocated in a human surge.

“I wish we could have protected them,” 69-year-old Song told AFP, as she wiped her eyes with a handkerchief.

“I feel guilty — we have let the young people down.”

Around Song at the altar set

up in central Seoul were mourners in various states of distress. Many sobbed as they placed a flower down, with some in office suits — coming to pay their respects during their lunch break — queuing for their turn.

“I cried all night for the poor young people we lost. They were so young, in the prime of their life,” said 71-year-old Park Sun-ja, whose eyes were raw and swollen behind sunglasses.—AFP



A man offers a flower at a joint memorial altar for victims of the deadly Halloween crowd surge, in Naksopyeong, near the district of Itaewon in Seoul on 31 October 2022. PHOTO: AFP

Arrests after India bridge collapse kills more than 130



Indian rescue personnel conduct search operations after a bridge across the river Machchhu collapsed in Morbi, some 220 kms from Ahmedabad, early on 31 October 2022. PHOTO: AFP

NINE people were arrested Monday in connection with the collapse of a pedestrian bridge in western India that killed at least 137 people, police said.

The bridge, which had re-

opened days earlier after renovation, collapsed on Sunday evening, sending hundreds tumbling into the river or clinging to the wreckage while screaming for help in the dark.

The nine — all associated with a company that maintained the bridge in Morbi — were being investigated for culpable homicide not amounting to murder, senior police officer Ashok Kumar Yadav said in a statement.

Crowds at the site had been celebrating the last day of the Diwali holiday. CCTV footage showed the nearly 150-year-old structure swaying — with a few people apparently deliberately rocking it — before it suddenly gave way.—AFP

Chinese FM holds phone talks with US secretary of state over bilateral ties

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a phone conversation on Monday with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the latter’s request, with the two sides exchanging views on the current and future China-US relations.

The United States, Blinken said, pays close attention to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and its report.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, said the 20th CPC National Congress was a united, democratic and progressive one.

Wang stressed that the important message sent by the congress is that China will stick to the foreign policy objectives of maintaining world peace and promoting common development, continue to pursue the fundamental national policy of opening up, promote the overall progress of mankind with the Chinese path to modernization, and bring new opportunities to the world with China’s new developments, which is the greatest stability China offers to the turbulent international situation.

The most important achievement of the congress, Wang said, is that it responded to the common aspirations of the whole party and the people of the whole country, established General Secretary Xi Jinping’s core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole, and established Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era as the guiding ideology that must be adhered to for a long time.

China will continue to unswervingly follow the proven path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, Wang said, adding that the major policies of the Chinese party and government will retain a high degree of continuity and stability.

The United States should carefully study the report of the 20th CPC National Congress if it really wants to understand China, Wang said, adding that China’s domestic and foreign policies are open and transparent, and its strategic intentions are open and aboveboard. He also cautioned the United States against making conjectures by looking through tinted glasses and allowing ideological biases to cloud its eyes.

Wang said that bringing China-US relations back to the track of stable development not only serves the common interests of China and the United States, but also meets the common expectations of the international community. The United States should stop containing and suppressing China and refrain from creating new obstacles for bilateral relations, he said.—Xinhua

Japan, US, Mongolia want dialogue with N Korea amid nuke test fear

SENIOR officials from Japan, the United States and Mongolia have urged North Korea to “engage in dialogue” over its nuclear and missile programmes, according to the US government, amid fears Pyongyang could soon conduct its seventh nuclear test.

At a meeting on Friday in Tokyo, the three officials discussed the “unprecedented number of ballistic missiles launched” by North Korea this year and demanded the nation fully comply with relevant UN Security Council resolutions, the US State Department said

in a press release issued Sunday.

Takehiro Funakoshi, head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry’s Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, attended the talks along with Mark Lambert, US deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, and Nyamdorj Ankhbayar, state secretary of the Mongolian Foreign Ministry.

The trilateral gathering was held as North Korea has been repeatedly test-firing ballistic missiles, and speculation has been growing that the nation is set to conduct its first

nuclear test since September 2017. The three expressed deep concern about the risk of nuclear weapons, while emphasizing the importance of strengthening the international economic order to counter new challenges such as economic coercion, the department said.

The department did not single out any country but was apparently referring to Russia, which said it may use nuclear weapons in its war in Ukraine, and China, which is continuing to employ economic measures to achieve political ends. —Kyodo

China launches lab module Mengtian as space station approaches completion

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SPORT

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- (c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

MFF Sports Production Workshop 2022 concludes



Myanmar Football Federation officials hold the MFF Sports Production Workshop 2022 at the MFF Headquarters in Yangon on 30 October 2022. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE MFF Sports Production Workshop 2022 organized by the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Media and Communication Committee was held for two days on 29 and 30 October at the MFF Headquarters.

The workshop was conducted

by Media and Communication Committee vice-chairman U Pyae Phyo Han and committee member U Lin Thit Lwin Maw.

A total of 25 employees from the Myanmar Football Federation, and Myanmar National League clubs attended and dis-

cussed.

The MFF Sports Production Workshop is organized to further improve the filming and production aspects of domestic football matches and football promotion programmes, MFF football authorities said. — GNLM

Too early to say Liverpool are past their peak: Klopp

JURGEN Klopp said it is his job as Liverpool manager to ride out a rough start to the season as he slammed suggestions his squad are on the decline.

The Reds have won just four of their first 12 Premier League games to fall 15 points behind leaders Arsenal and already sit eight adrift of a top-four place.

Successive defeats against Premier League strugglers Nottingham Forest and Leeds have compounded Liverpool's misery.

Klopp and the Liverpool hierarchy have faced criticism for not doing more to rejuvenate a squad that came close to winning an unprecedented quadruple of trophies last season.

But the German claims a series of injuries means it is unfair to make any judgement on the players and his own position until the end of the season.

"I think the judgement for this will be later on in the season or at the end of the season when we say 'this is it for this group of players or for this manager'", Klopp said ahead of Napoli's visit to Anfield in the

Champions League on Tuesday.

"At the moment it is not 100 per cent fair to judge the squad because we never had them all available, especially now up front we miss top quality which isn't helpful."—AFP



Liverpool's German manager Jurgen Klopp speaks during a press conference at Anfield Stadium in Liverpool, north-west England on 31 October 2022, on the eve of the UEFA Champions League group A football match against Napoli. **PHOTO: AFP**

Leaders Madrid drop points against Girona, Betis strike late

A below-par Real Madrid dropped points in the title race with a 1-1 draw at home against Girona on Sunday in La Liga, with Rodrygo having a goal ruled out late on.

Second-placed Barcelona, who snatched a late victory at Valencia on Saturday, are now just a point behind the leaders, who remain unbeaten in the top flight.

Reigning champions Madrid took the lead through Vinicius Junior in the 70th minute but Cristhian Stuani levelled with a disputed penalty after Marco Asensio handled in the area.

Rodrygo bashed home what he thought was an 89th-minute winner, but it was disallowed as he kicked the ball out from under Girona goalkeeper Paulo Gazzaniga's hand

— he had just about managed to get it under control after stopping a shot from the Brazilian.

Madrid midfielder Toni Kroos was sent off in stoppage time for the first time in his career, to cap a frustrating afternoon for Carlo Ancelotti's team at the Santiago Bernabeu.

"I don't like to talk about this a lot, but today I'll talk," said Madrid coach Ancelotti. "The first situation is quite clear, it's not a penalty because he didn't touch the ball with his hand."

"I spoke with Asensio and he touched the ball with his chest, it's true he had his left hand in a strange position, but it covered the body, it didn't make it bigger. There could have been doubt if it touched it, but simply he didn't touch the ball with his hand, it was invented."—AFP