THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Efficiently utilizing sound foundations will help develop the region for enabling Myeik region to have greater progress in a few years: Senior General

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets the MSME businesspeople in Myeik District of Taninthayi Region on 5 November 2022.

TANINTHAYI Region needs to emphasize the cultivation of oil palm plantations for the production of local oil sufficiency, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with MSME businesspersons at Pearl Yadana Hall in Myeik yesterday afternoon to talk about the development of businesses.

Operating MSMEs and individual reports for business development

The region's chief minister and local businesspersons reported on the implementation of the MSME industries, culturing oysters for pearl production, seawater shrimp farming, export of rubber and other measures.

Discussions of Union ministers for respective sectors

The Union ministers discussed the assistance of ministries for the operation of MSME industries, loan disbursement of the government for businesspersons under the rules, formation of cooperative societies, conservation of forests, greater prospects for fish farming, rattan production and pearl culture in the region. The region chief minister also discussed the hatching of shrimps, feedstuff processes, efforts for rice sufficiency in the region and fulfilment of the requirement of local business growth.

Encouraging the development of the State economy

In his discussions, the Senior General said the government, the people and the Tatmadaw joined hands in overcoming the crises in the outbreak of Covid-19 through concerted efforts. The government is encouraging the MSMEs for the recovery of businesses triggered by Covid-19 and enhancement of the State economy.

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

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

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

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

Information Team
State Administration Council

Ministry of Electric Power Announcement

5 November 2022

THE Ministry of Electric Power is expanding power plants and distributing the electricity generated from the current power plants via national grids and various grids to meet people's energy needs. Meanwhile, two towers of 132 kV Balu Chaung 2 - Tigyit double power grid of the Balu Chaung Hydropower Plant were exploded by terrorists and insurgents so 70 MW to the national grid was reduced.

The ministry faced attacks by destructive elements many times while conducting maintenance works, and the staff were killed and injured.

Terrorists committed bombing attacks on power grids from which electricity is supplied to the people. They exploded power grids that export 240 MW power from the Baluchaung Hydropower Plant to the national grid: 15 towers of 230 kV Balu Chaung 2 - Shwe Myo power grid for six times, six towers of 230 kV Balu Chaung 2 - Taungoo national grid for four times, 21 towers of 132 kV Balu Chaung 2 - Tigyit double power gird for seven times. Thus, the ministry is carrying out maintenance works many times in cooperation with Tatmadaw.

The ministry is making efforts to fulfil the electricity needs of the people and the people should also cooperate to prevent such attacks on power grids.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Health Statement

FOR those who passed the 2022 matriculation examination, the lists of students who get admission to first-year courses in Universities of Medicine and Medicine-related Universities have been published on the website and Facebook page of the Ministry of Health, the website of the Department of Human Resources for Health, and the notice board and website of the respective universities.

First-year classes will be opened on 21-11-2022 and the enrolment processes are available at respective universities on 8-11-2022.

Ministry of Health
(5-11-2022)

Illegal timbers, industrial materials and vehicles confiscated

AN on-duty team under the supervision of the Customs Department conducted inspections in a bid to curb illicit trade and take effective action under the law.

Officials captured K9,240,000 worth of various bags from a vehicle (approximately K50 million) on Myawady-Hpa-an-Yangon road on 2 November and five commodities including 1,400 PVC face gypsum boards (estimated at K8,219,400) from a container at the Asia World Port Terminal Container Checkpoint on 3 November and 34 goods including 30,080 U forks (estimated value of 50,895,768) without import licences from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal Container Checkpoint on 4 November. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, a combined team at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint confiscated K1,797,600 worth of 107 dream beds that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a vehicle and a trailer (approximately K115,000,000). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Therefore, eight arrests (estimated value of K235,152,768) were made on three consecutive days from 2 to 4 November, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Confiscated illegal commodities on Myawady-Hpa-an-Yangon road.

Local food sufficiency is crucial in regions and states

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

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

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

Efficiently utilizing sound foundations will help develop the region for enabling Myeik region to have greater progress in a few years: Senior General

FROM PAGE-1

Encouraging manufacturing based on agriculture and livestock farms

The countries relying on foreign aid are facing economic difficulties. Myanmar has to achieve greater success in manufacturing based on agriculture and livestock farms. Quality products from MSME industries will contribute to the substitution of imported goods as well as an increase in export products. Only when the industries have raw materials in continuation will they have firm manufacturing. If the industries use domestic raw materials, they will have firm manufacturing industries.

The Senior General views round the products displayed at the event yesterday.

Taninthayi Region needs to emphasize the cultivation of oil palm plantations for the production of local oil sufficiency. Efforts must be made for producing cooking oil for ensuring local oil sufficiency and exporting surplus cooking oil. Paddy lands should not be used in other ways. If the region has local food sufficiency, local monetary circulation will improve, and it will contribute to local economic growth. Duck, chicken, pig and cow breeding farms must be operated in a systematic manner in the Myeik region in order to contribute to the MSME production process. If livestock products increase, prices of foodstuffs will decline.

Although hydropower projects have been approved in the region, the disturbance of armed organizations delays the process. So, local people miss the chance to enjoy electrification. The solar power generation process can be operated in the Myeik region.

Qualified human resources need to successfully operate the manufacturing process. As highly educated persons will be turned out as skilled labour, it is necessary to encourage learning education in the Myeik region. The efficient utilisation of sound foundations will help the development of the region enabling the Myeik region to have greater progress in a few years.

The Senior General viewed round the display of marine products, foodstuffs, personal goods, industrial products, traditional commodities, clothes and traditional medicines and asked about market situations for the products. — MNA

Awareness-raising campaign on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism held

THE Central Bank of Myanmar organized an awareness-raising campaign on official licences and Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism for the business people who are running hundi services in Tachilek and Muse townships without seeking official licences of the CBM in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the discussion, CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe explained the implementations of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism by the country, the risk of foreign remittances, official hundi licences for Baht-Kyat and Yuan-Kyat programmes in border areas.

Then, officials from the Financial Intelligence Unit and Bureau of Special Investigation reported on the foreign remittance sector and the director of the Foreign Exchange Management Department of the CBM presented foreign remittance licences and work licences for foreign exchange.

The event was attended by deputy governors and officials of the CBM. — MNA

SAC Member and party visit historical site, Kawgun Cave in Kayin State

SAC member and Union ministers view round the Buddha images inside the Kawgun Cave.

STATE Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung and Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Dr Pwint San, U Min Thein Zan and Dr Thet Thet Khine, Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo and officials paid a visit to the ancient historical Kawgun Cave in Barkat Village-tract, Hpa-an on 4 November evening. Donations were made after they viewed ancient votive tablets and Buddha statues inside the cave.

The SAC member and the party viewed round inside the cave and viewed Buddha statues sculpted out of bricks, cement and wood into various shapes, sizes and postures, wall sculptures of Buddha images, ancient writings, standing, seated and reclining Buddha statues. Then, they offered flowers, water, lights and fragrances to the reclining Buddha statue in the cave and gave donations to the board of trustees of the Kawgun Cave.

Kawgun Cave, one of the cultural heritage sites in Myanmar, is located about seven miles away from the west of Hpa-an. It is known that the Kawgun Cave is a venue where one can see ancient cultural relics in Myanmar. — MNA

SAC members, Union ministers inaugurate Zwekabin Stadium

AN opening ceremony of Zwekabin Stadium was held at 8 am yesterday at the football stadium in Hlarkamyin Kwatthit, Hpa-an Township to mark the 67th Kayin State Day.

State Administration Council members Mahn Nyein Maung and Saw Daniel, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, U Myint Kyaing, Dr Pwint San, U Min Thein Zan, Dr Thet Thet Khine, U Saw Tun Aung Myint and Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo ceremonially inaugurated the stadium.

At the ceremony, the Kayin traditional cultural dance troupe, Mon cultural troupe and PaO cultural troupe performed traditional songs and dances. Students from elementary schools demonstrated physical fitness dances. SAC members and Union ministers presented awards to the performers.

The Zwekabin Stadium was built with K7,766.224 million from the six-month budget of the financial year 2022-2023.

The U-18 Multi-Township Men's and Women's Athletics Competition was also held and the state chief minister, state ministers and sports enthusiasts watched the women's relay race and the men's relay race. The state chief minister provided K200,000 each to the competing teams. — MNA

The Zwekabin Stadium is ceremonially opened yesterday.

90 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 5 November, total figure rises to 632,229

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **632,229** after **90** new cases were reported on 5 November 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **606,393** have recovered from disease. Death toll reaches **19,485** after **one** death.

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

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

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

The Ministry of Health is giving free vaccinations to all people aged five and above. Booster shots of vaccine are being given to students between the ages of 12 and 18 and people aged 18 and over. Therefore, people should contact local health centres and village/ward administration offices to receive vaccinations. The information about COVID-19 disease can be seen on the Ministry of Health official website www.moh.gov.mm. —MNA

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Myanmar participates in 5th ACMECS, 6th CLMV Tourism Ministers Meetings in Cambodia

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung attended the fifth Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Tourism Ministers Meeting, the sixth Cambodia-Lao PDR-Myanmar-Viet Nam (CLMV) Tourism Ministers Meeting and associated meetings held in Cambodia on 2-3 November.

On arrival in Cambodia on 2 November evening, the Union minister attended the welcoming ceremony together with the tourism ministers from Cambodia, Laos, Thai and Viet Nam and observed the Pub Street and Night Market and tourist arrivals.

On the morning of 3 November, the Union minister attended the fifth ACMECS Tourism Ministers Meeting and Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Hun Sen delivered the greeting speech via video message at the event.

During the fifth ACMECS, ministers discussed ongoing activities for tourism development as per instructions of the ninth ACMECS Summit, reopening of local tourism and tourist arrivals, tourist exchange programmes, regional cooperation in market promotion, tourist attraction, human resources development, information exchange, tourism network and the private sector under the ACMECS tourism action plan for 2023-2025 and the Siem Reap declaration.

The Union minister then attended the press conference of the fifth ACMECS Tourism Ministers Meeting.

At noon, he also attended the sixth CLMV Tourism Ministers Meeting and its press conference. The meeting focused on future work plans for tourism sectors according to the tenth CLMV summit, regional cooperation under the CLMV tourism cooperation project 2019-2022 and other activities for regional tourism, human resource development, local and private cooperation and collaboration with international organizations according to the CLMV tourism cooperation project 2023-2025.

MoHT Union Minister Dr Htay Aung takes the group photo at the meeting in Cambodia.

At the meeting, the Union minister discussed the resumption of local and foreign tours in Myanmar, visa and tourist arrivals, proper activities for MSMEs development, the important role of MSMEs for tourism development, suggestions to promote regional cooperation among member countries and activities of countries being carried out under ACMECS and CLMV cooperation projects and cooperation work of the government, private and partner organizations to accelerate tourism in the post-COVID-19 period.

The Union minister then attended the dinner party in the evening.

Myanmar delegates led by Director-General U Hlaing Oo attended the fifth ACMECS and sixth CLMV Tourism Senior Officials Meetings on 2 November.

On the same evening, the ACMECS and CLMV tourism workshop was organized and joined by officials of MoHT, Myanmar Tourism Federation, tourism officers, experts, partner organizations, and private and education sectors of ACMECS and CLMV member countries. — MNA

Equity market sees downtick in Oct against Sept's figures

THE stock trading values by seven listed companies on the YSX were estimated at K687.12 million with 143,034 shares traded in October, the Yangon Stock Exchange's monthly price data indicated.

The trading value was lower than September's record figure yet higher than those of the other months.

At present, shares of seven listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co Ltd (EFR) and Amata Holding Public Co Ltd (AMATA) were traded in the equity market.

The securities showed a downtick a bit in October and the prices were closed at K9,300 for FMI, K3,400 for MTSH, K7,700 for MCB, K19,500 for FPB, K2,700 for TMH, K2,700 for EFR and K5,000 for AMATA respectively last month.

Traders are seen observing the stock-market indices at Yangon Stock Exchange.

Trading of 61,435 shares valued at K282 million was recorded on the exchange in January 2022 and the trading volume rose to 80,291 shares in February, with an estimated value of K414.9 million. A total of 52,408 shares with an estimated value of K233.634 million were traded on the exchange in March. The trading value slightly rose to K276 million with 53,059 shares traded on the exchange in April. The equity market saw K314 million with 55,024 shares traded in May, K200.63 million with 40,062 shares in June, K246.9 million with 72,843 shares and K370 million with 109,809 shares in August. The highest trading with 347,597 shares worth K1.624 billion was recorded in September, according to the monthly report of the YSX.

Additionally, YSX launched a pre-listing board (PLB) on 28 September 2020 to provide unlisted public companies with fund-raising opportunities and build a bridge toward listing on YSX.

Moreover, YSX stock investment virtual series 2022 will be launched in December through the YSX YouTube channel and other social media platforms on every weekend of December 2022, including three sessions; Insights talk with listed companies, Investment presentations by securities companies and Panel discussion with market experts.

Furthermore, block grading of YSX can be done with the minimum order quantity (10,000 stocks) or with the stocks of trading value of K30 million starting from 1 September 2022.

Next, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) has allowed foreigners to invest in the local equity market since 20 March 2020.

The YSX was launched four years ago to improve the private business sector. It disseminates rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading through stock investment webinars and training courses. — KK/GNLM

Travellers ready for festival season

Mount Popa. **PHOTO : KANU**

AS November is the start of the open season, the people from Yangon and other regions are preparing for pilgrimage, PyinOoLwin and Lashio Tazaungdaing hot-air balloon festival, according to a Domestic Pilgrimage and Tour Operators Association, partner of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Before November, the local travellers celebrated the Bo Min Gaung festival, and Taung Pyone festival and visited Bagan, Poppa and beaches and the pagodas were crowded with visitors during the Thadingyut festival. During this Tazaungdine festival, the people prepare for the hot-air balloon festival, hilly and beach resorts and pilgrimage by communicating with the agencies for land and airline services.

"The people are mostly interested in PyinOoLwin hot-air balloon festival than Lashio hot-air balloon festival. They are also interested in tours to Poppa, Bagan, Mandalay, Inlay and Pindaya. Some pay a visit to Chaungtha, Ngwehsaung and Ngapali and also to Maha Bodhi Myaing Sayadaw. We provide transport services by express cars and offer meals. We arrange hotel services. We offer tours from the period of the Tazaungdaing festival to the new year festival. The pilgrims will go to Kyaiktiyo Pagoda as the officials provide unusual services such as free truck services and accommodation services including Satuditha (free food booth). In the early period of the open season, we expect that there would be large numbers of local visitors and tourists later. In early this month, the ticket sales are on the rise," said U Maung Maung Aye, vice-chair of the Domestic Pilgrimage and Tour Operators Association.

There are about eight million local travellers every year and Kyaiktiyo Pagoda hosts the largest number of visitors and Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone ranks second. From the Thadingyut festival in October to the Thingyan festival in April, the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda offers the longest festival days, hosts the highest numbers of visitors and is the most crowded place. According to 2018-2019 data, about three million visitors visited the pagoda.

For domestic tours, it was crowded with visitors in Thadingyut, Tazaungdine, the new year festival and the Thingyan period up to 2016. The tourism sector was suspended due to the outbreak of the Covid pandemic in March 2020 and the government resumed tourism in 2022. It was also crowded with visitors before the open season. In August 2022, the Kyaukpadaung Aba Aung Min Gaung festival and Mount Popa were packed with pilgrims and the visitors visited Bagan, NyaungU, Taunggyi, Mawlamyine (Kyaikkhami), Ngwehsaung and Chaungtha beaches in October. Moreover, people buy tickets to make trips in the chilly and crisp weather of November in advance.

The tourists' interest in Myanmar with its unique natural resources and cultural heritage is high and there would be foreign visitors in the open season and the government reopens the tourism sector to create business opportunities for the residents in respective regions. Currently, people prepare for luxury tours including the Tazaungdine festival in this open season. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone.

Yangon Tazaungdine Lighting and Market Festival launched

Festivalgoers are seen at People's Square on 5 November 2022.

YANGON Tazaungdine lighting festival and market fair were launched in People's Square of Dagon Township in Yangon Region yesterday.

Colourful lighting was decorated and DJ (disc jockey) music was entertained in People's Square and People's Park. Festivalgoers can enjoy the recreation of the venues in the background of the Shwedagon Pagoda being offered with beautiful lights. There are 190 stalls at the market fair where visitors can buy things at reasonable prices. Yangon Tazaungdine lighting festival and market fair will be held from 5 to 7 November and fireworks will be set off on the full moon of Tazaungmone. — Ko Ko Zaw

LOCAL BUSINESS

92 Octane price jumps by over K100 per litre within 2 days

THE 92 Octane price jumped over K100 per litre within two days, according to the fuel market.

On 3 November, the prices stood at K2,005 per litre for 92 Octane, K2,095 for 95 Octane, K2,560 for diesel and K2,635 for premium diesel in the Yangon market.

On 5 November, it was K2,115 per litre of 92 Octane, K2,230 per litre of 95 Octane, K2,650 per litre of diesel and K2,720 per litre of premium diesel.

Therefore, the increasing prices of fuels ranged from K85 to K135 within two days.

By the end of August, the fuel prices reached their highest at K2,605 per litre for 92 Octane, K2,670 for 95 Octane, K3,245 for diesel and K3,330 for premium diesel.

The prices are on the rise again as the prices of Singapore-based Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) become higher, according to the Supervisory Committee on Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

The committee takes measures to ensure avoiding fuel shortages and maintaining price stability. Moreover, the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department released the daily fuel reference prices under the guidance of the Supervisory Committee on Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

The reference rate in Yangon Region is set on the MOPS' price assessment, shipping cost, premium insurance, tax, other general cost and reasonable profit rate. The rates for regions and states are evaluated after adding the transport costs and the retail reference rates daily cover on the state-run newspapers and are posted on the media and official website and Facebook page of the department daily starting from 4 May.

Therefore, the fuel oil stations that sell oil at higher prices than the reference prices are scrutinized and taken action under Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017.

A sign is seen showing fuel oil prices at the petrol station in Sangyoung Township in Yangon.

As 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally, the oil prices in the market are changing depending on the international market prices.

The government maintains the situation to be stable prices that benefit the oil importers, sellers and consumers and distributes at the firer prices compared to the prices of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than that of

Myanmar. Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also poses only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. — NN/GNLM

4,100 companies fail to submit AR in past ten months: DICA

The office of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration in Yangon.

A total of 4,100 companies have been struck off the register in the past ten months as they fail to submit annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

This year, 400 companies each in January, February and March, 300 in April and 500 in May, 400 each in June and July, 55 in August and 400 each in September and October did not file annual returns on MyCO respectively, according to DICA.

The DICA has notified any registered company which fails to file its AR on MyCO is to be suspended under 430 (F) of the Myanmar Companies Law, according to DICA's notification.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018 under the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies need to file AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

According to Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/GNLM

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

OPINION

Earn incomes of foreign exchange for families and motherland

A LARGE number of people of workable age are seeking jobs abroad to work there. Apart from Indonesia and the Philippines, Myanmar sends the largest number of employees as migrant workers to foreign countries.

Those employees' purpose to earn income from their jobs abroad is due to rare job opportunities at home and the attraction of wages and salaries from workplaces in foreign countries. Most of them reside in rural areas of Myanmar but now they establish their lives and families at proper social standard levels in their residences because their incomes are paid in foreign currencies by work owners.

Recently, the Central Bank of Myanmar announced that it will add K30 per US dollar or equal foreign currencies whenever Myanmar citizens remit their incomes to their homes through AD banks. Such a programme is good news for Myanmar citizens abroad for safety remittance of their income to their families at home. As such, those Myanmar workers abroad have to try hard to earn incomes of foreign currencies in relevant workplaces by overcoming challenges and difficulties but they have the purpose to remit their incomes to their families as well as the motherland.

Millions of Myanmar migrant workers are working in neighbouring Thailand and Malaysia. Moreover, other Myanmar migrant workers are working in Singapore, the Republic of Korea, Japan and the United Arab Emirates at risk of their lives. They accept if they are working at a young age, they can have a proper living standard when they reach old age.

On the other hand, Myanmar migrant workers remit their incomes in foreign exchange to their families in Myanmar on a monthly basis. It can be identified as income for their families as well as for the State. In fact, such remitted currencies sent by Myanmar workers to the motherland are included in the national income which plays a key role in the financial sector of the nation. As such, the mother countries emphasize remittances of salaries and wages of relevant migrant workers to their families.

For example, the Philippines yearly sends its citizen migrant workers abroad. Millions of Philippine citizens work as nurses and housemaids in many countries who send back thousands of millions of US dollars to the motherland on a yearly basis. Likewise, Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and other countries send back more than US$6,000 million to the motherland within nine months from 2014 to July 2022.

Recently, the Central Bank of Myanmar announced that it will add K30 per US dollar or equal foreign currencies whenever Myanmar citizens remit their incomes to their homes through AD banks. Such a programme is good news for Myanmar citizens abroad for safety remittance of their income to their families at home. As such, those Myanmar workers abroad have to try hard to earn incomes of foreign currencies in relevant workplaces by overcoming challenges and difficulties but they have the purpose to remit their incomes to their families as well as the motherland. ■

ARTICLE
BOOKRACK

Festivities on the full moon day of Tazaungmone show the lifestyle and traditions of Myanmar people

By Aung Kyaw Thant

TAZAUNGMONE, the great festival month in the Myanmar calendar, falls in the open season when Myanmar people regardless of religion are keen to make donations as well as perform meritorious deeds.

In Tazaungmone which falls in the period between November and December, the weather is fine to give a chance to the humans for holding various kinds of festivities for their joyfulness as they suppressed their wishes to enjoy any kinds of festivities during the rainy season. Tazaungdine lighting festival is one of the famous festivities in Tazaungmone month.

Kathina robe-offering ceremony

The top donation ceremony in the month of Tazaungmone is the offering of Kathina robes to Buddhist monks. Kathina robes were designated by the Lord Buddha for His disciples to wear both upper and lower body parts. The robes cannot be sewn as expected. It must be made under the rule of Buddhism rules called Vinaya. The Lord Buddha set the rules for Robes including Kathina robes to be sewn as the samples of the paddy fields with dykes which are displayed with vertical and horizontal lines with the aim of ensuring His disciples do not do too much attachment to the robes.

People including Buddhists can enjoy the ceremony of Kathina robe offering ceremonies which may take place at religious edifices and monasteries on the 1st waning of Tazaungmone. People are allowed to participate in the offering ceremony of Kathina robes and other offertories for members of the Sangha. But they are not allowed to arrange the Kathina management ceremonies at the monasteries. Only members of the Sangha are allowed to join it. The monasteries where people held the Kathina robe offering ceremonies will be hosts for allotment of Kathina robes to members of the Sangha. It is just a measure of members of the Sangha.

The most valuable and important thing in the Kathina robe offering ceremony is the donation of double-layered robes called Ñat robes. Only when the Kathina robe offering ceremony comprises the donation of the double-layered robes will the ceremony be successful. The remaining sets of robes can be identified as duplicated Kathina robes.

Conveyance of Padethabin structures

For the time being, people from four corners of the nation participate in the conveyance of Padethabin (decorated trust-funded structures) hanging with offertories for members of the Sangha. Such a kind of conveyance ceremony is very joyful for the people. Buddhist people as well as people with various faiths donate their property and cash to be hung at the Padethabin structures. Lads of the residences decorate their structures day and night to have an advantage over others' structures. Really, it is not a competition.

Kathina robe-offering ceremonies and conveyance of Padethabin structures have been held in Myanmar since yore. These festivities and ceremonies were joined by the people regardless of age, religion, nationality and skin colour. In fact, these activities have been contributing to the flourishing of Buddhism as well as the daily life of members of the Sangha to be able to preserve the Buddhism literature and hand over the essence of Buddhism to new generation monks.

With regard to the occasion and ceremonies, Po Thu Daw U Min, the great poet in the Myanmar monarchical era, depicted the acts of Kathina robe offering with the stanzas: "offering Kathina robes, setting the purpose for attaining the Nibbana". Likewise, poet U Pyone Cho created the poem to portray the Kathina occasion: "Ceremony of offering Kathina robes, at the time of blossoming yellow ridged gourd flowers, fine weather without mist".

Lucky draws for the Neikban market

Moreover, people in all parts of the nation happily enjoy one more ceremony called the Neikban market festival which can be portrayed as donating foodstuffs, personal goods, utensils, medicines and any gifts to the people. At first, relevant well-wishers need to enlist the kinds of donations from the festival organizers. For example, if they afford to donate bottles of soft drinks, they have to inform the organizers about their donations.

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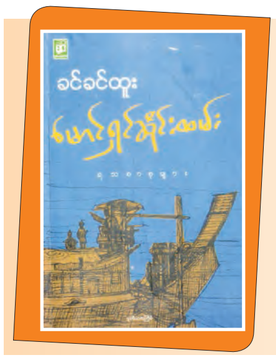


Book Title	-	Maung Shin Saing Htan (fiction collections)
Author	-	Khin Khin Htoo
Publishing House	-	Duwun
Publication Date	-	February 2022 (2nd Edition)
Price	-	K3,500

Maung Shin Saing Htan (fiction collections)

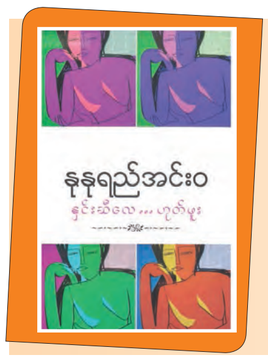
FIRST and foremost, the author revealed why the title of this book is called "Maung Shin Saing Htan". There's no literary work with that title yet she named this book "Maung Shin Saing Htan". The author, who grew up in a rural area, used to join a conversation on the bamboo couch in front of the house which is a custom of the rural community. The young people listen to trivial matters of the elders. The uncle of the author talked about the stars and Maung Shin Saing Htan star is one of them. A person said three bright and sparkling stars in a row were like an arrow and appeared to be Maung Shin carrying a child and the title came from this story. Astronomically, it is called Tharawun. The book contains three chapters; the first one is entitled "With the daughter ..." having 10 writings, and the second one deals with eight fiction works and other seven great collections with Sarsa Pesa (the introduction of literature), totalling 25 works. Those three chapters are personified as the three stars and the collections of fiction were entitled Maung Shin Saing Htan".

The first chapter entitled "With the daughter ..." highlighted the story of the author and her daughter, featuring the nature of life, principles of life, fairness and unfairness. In the writings about "the daughter and flags", the daughter asked her mother why the flag stated in the book is not the same as the one hoisted in front of her school buildings and which one is the correct one. The author explained the various flags used in Myanmar throughout history as per Myanmar Encyclopaedia, including the national flag, the flag with a peacock used by Dobama Asiayone, the hammer and sickle flag used by Dobama Asiayone with three-colour stripes, the Union Jack with peacock flag, BIA Flag under Japan's rule, the revolutionary flag in Japan's colonization, Union of Myanmar flag, Socialist Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the current flag with three horizontal stripes with a white star in the middle. The daughter commented on who changed the flag frequently.

Out of the fictional writings, "the longing memory of Radio" unveiled how the boat commuters relied on the weather forecast through the radio, how the villagers gathered to listen to the radio and collected money to buy batteries for the radio and made the one who went to the city buy them, and how they waited for them to listen to the podcast and the fictional drama telling.

In the third chapter, the art of tearing revealed an interesting story of the actress Thazi Khaing who acted in the monk funeral service (Aeyinkyuu – singing the religious funeral song).

She could make those watching her act teary and made comments about her career that I earned living with my art of tearing. Additionally, an actress from a play which performed in the Yenangyaung area was named Ye Zarni Khin Htway Yee by Bogyoke Aung San during his return from the Panglong conference. The readers could get full disclosure on the appealing life story of actress Pyittinehtaung Khin Htway Yee in the "Artiste town" writing. ■



Book Title	-	It is rose or not
Author	-	Nu Nu Yi (Inwa)
Publishing House	-	Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date	-	August 2022 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K4,500

It is rose or not

THE author Sayama Nu Nu Yi (Inwa) is a well-known Myanmar writer and her literary reputation is beyond reproach. The author won Myanmar National Literature Award with "Emerald Green Blue Kamayut" novel in 1993 and she was among the shortlisted for the inaugural Man Asian Literary Prize with her novel entitled "Smile as they bow" in 2007. The English version was published by Hyperion Est in the US in September 2008. It has been remarkably included in the curriculum of SOAS School of Oriental and African Studies, London, UK since 2014.

Seikku Cho Cho Publishing House compiled her two literary works in this book as the first edition. What a surprising event is the novel "It is rose or not" that is the title of the book. It is a piece of writing that was a collaboration with Sayagyi Maung Thara. At that time, the title of the novel was "When oar breaks, peddle with hands". She revealed why this title was different from the aforementioned one. During her literary debut, she cannot resist Sayagyi's opposition to the title "It is rose or not" as he claimed the title was too weak to attract the readers. She named it after the lyrics of Classical Music and then, was forced to change this title to "When oar breaks, peddle with hands". After Sayagyi died, she renamed it the original title when she got an opportunity to republish this novel, she noted in her preamble.

This novel was about the story of Yee Htway who has got an Osteogenesis Imperfecta and cannot walk. The readers will see how she challenged her vulnerable life with her inexorable desire, enduring mind and strong perseverance. Amidst her troubled life, she saw hope in the sweet and caring love. This extraordinary character will bring hope to the readers in difficult times.

Another novel is a descriptive one entitled "Mingalaba shin" (feminine greeting in Myanmar), highlighting three marketing staff members working for a journal. They jumped into this career after neglecting their life goals to survive. There are fun experiences, difficulties, offensive embarrassment and scornful treatment in the marketing journey. Nonetheless, those women have to serve the customers with smiles and greetings "Mingalaba shin" and how hard they struggled in their life. ■

ARTICLE

Festivities on the full moon day of Tazaungmone show the lifestyle and traditions of Myanmar people

Devotees and worshippers are seen at Shwedagon Pagoda. **FILE PHOTO IN GNLM ON 19 NOVEMBER 2021**

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Then, they make preparations to collect the bottles of soft drinks before the ceremony. At the festival time, they have to hand over the draw lots whose numbers must be equal to the number of bottles to the organizers who will allow the people to take a draw lot per person. The draw lot winners need to search the donors. But those donors identify themselves with the nicknames. For example, winners of A drawing lot must search the house of Yan Aung to draw a soft drink bottle. In this way, all participants can joyfully take part in the festival. In this regard, donors cannot know who wins their lots. So, they cannot do bias in providing soft drinks to their close friends and relatives. As such, they do not have any attachment to the donated objects. Generally, this festival takes place in all parts of the nation on the full moon day of Tazaungmone. It is one of Myanmar's traditional festivals.

Tazaungdine lighting festival

One of the famous and attractive festivals related to Tazaungmone called the Tazaungdine festival is releasing hot-air balloons. Such kind of festival is favourite not only for the people in plain areas but for the ethnics residing in the hilly areas. People young and old are trying to hold the hot-air balloon-releasing festival by earning incomes in various ways and means. They energetically make efforts for their work so as to save their surplus earnings to be spent on the festival. Before the festival, they make preparations for releasing the hot-air balloons with the collection of textiles, fuel, stage and other necessary things. At the festival, they decorate their hot-air balloons to have greater advantages over the opponents with happiness. They show off their brilliant works by releasing balloons decorated with various things such as small lanterns, other lightings and banners. They take pride in their works when the audience people happily applaud their works with happiness. Mostly, the hot-air balloon-releasing ceremonies in PyinOoLwin and Taunggyi attract local and foreign travellers.

One more thing of festivals is the creation of lighting to decorate residences and buildings as well as trees to enable the people to enjoy the beauties of the night scene on the day before full moon day, the full moon day and the day after full moon day of Tazaungmone. In the past, the youths with a bent on music and song performed entertainment with dance, songs and one-act plays on the stage during the Tazaungdine holidays of offices and schools. Some streets were decorated with charts bearing one-plot cartoons. Musical concerts were staged for the people at the junctions of the roads. These were lovely events in Myanmar's traditions.

Mathoe robe-offering ceremony

As a Buddhism-related festival, robes dedicated to the Lord Buddha are weaved at the traditional looms at night. The move is held as a contest. So, the contestants, most of them female, start their work of preparing the threads to be used in weaving the textile within a day. After weaving the textile, they saw it as a set of robes to be offered to the Buddha images dedicated to the Lord Buddha. All their tasks must be completed within a day. At the dawn of the full moon day of Tazaungmone, their robes can be seen in the Buddha images. It means that their all works for robes must be made within a day without beyond a day. So, the works they produced do not spoil. As such, such kinds of robes can be called Mathoe Thingan in the Myanmar language (unspoiled robes). The contest of making textiles for the robes shows the efforts of Myanmar citizens, unity, affection, perseverance and united strengths.

Especially, people perform meritorious deeds on the full moon day of Tazaungmone although it is not included in the Buddhist Lent, taking Sabbath and meditation, and visiting religious edifices such as eminent pagodas, monasteries and monuments.

As a gesture of hailing the Lord Buddha Who descended from the Tavatimsa after preaching Abhidhamma Desana to his mother celestial Setaketu, people from the Sankassa Nagara lit multi-coloured lights along the route for the Lord Buddha. From then on, residents welcomed the Lord Buddha with fireworks and lighting as well as hot-air balloons. As it is an expensive festival, currently, people earn income for the festival day by day so as to enjoy the joyful festival. In truth, festivals are outlets of mind for people who hardly work the whole year. During the period, the people decorate their houses and streets with various forms of hot-air lanterns, candles lights and oil lamps. All the people young and old including children joyfully participate in the lighting festival.

Night of thief

In Myanmar traditions, the people teased each other by stealing some objects which may be valuable or not before the time when most people wake up. In some ways, lads change the locations of some objects outside the fences. It is just a laughing that a signboard of the snack shop may be kept close to the trash van as well as the signboard of the tea shop at the well.

Pantthaku - the practice of secretly discarding objects

One more activity of people is a secret move of laying something special. On the night of the full moon day, people discard money or foodstuff or clothes as well as consumer goods in secret places. They leave them without attachment. But, children, young people and adults, mostly lads search the secret objects from the streets or some public places in addition to some corners of residences. It is also a joyful event in Tazaungmone month. It is called Pantthaku, which is a practice of Myanmar people to secretly discard objects in secret places.

Salad made of buds of Senna siamea

Moreover, people believe that buds of Mezali plants (Senna siamea) are medicinal at a time when the full moon night of Tazaungmone. Hence, they prepare a salad made of the buds of Senna siamea as a meal. They distribute the salad made of Senna siamea to neighbouring houses and accept the same salad from others, showing their genuine goodwill and united relationship among them.

Truly, the month of Tazaungmone is full of festivities, mentioning unity, amicable and fraternal relations, deep faith in Buddhism and happiness among the people. As such people can happily enjoy the traditional festivals to fresh and rejuvenate their souls to be able to encounter forthcoming challenges.

Especially, people perform meritorious deeds on the full moon day of Tazaungmone although it is not included in the Buddhist Lent, taking Sabbath and meditation, and visiting religious edifices such as eminent pagodas, monasteries and monuments. ■

CURRENT AFFAIRS

UNESCO Myanmar to hold education online lecture

MYANMAR education online lecture plan by UNESCO Myanmar will be held with the title of "Integration sustainable development education into schools and communities" online from 9 am to 11:30 am on 11 November.

Experts from regional and international are going to translate with bilinguals such as Myanmar and English and attendees can ask back to them. Teachers from the education field and experts who participate in sustainable development programmes were invited to attend the lecture.

At the lecture, they will be lecturing to understand the concept of education that promotes the long-term development and the criteria for establishing clean and green schools.

Those who want to attend the lecture can register at https://bit.ly3N8zLoi. – TWA/GNLM

The video file of UNESCO Myanmar.

Private banks add govt contribution of K30 per dollar in salary remittances by Myanmar citizens abroad

THE government of Myanmar provides K30 per dollar (an equivalent amount of foreign currency) in the salary transferred by Myanmar citizens abroad and the authorized private banks add this government's contribution when their family members withdraw cash.

The authorized banks for foreign exchange (KBZ Bank, CB Bank and UAB Bank) released a statement on their social media platforms regarding the additional support fund of the government.

The Central Bank of Myanmar issued the notification on 28 October 2022 about this additional contribution by the government for salary remittances of Myanmar citizens abroad from 1 November.

Only the remittances of foreign salary through the authorized banks are entitled to this addition and the family member can enjoy this benefit once they withdraw the money. This move is to support and encourage Myanmar workers abroad who are earning foreign currencies for the State. — TWA/GNLM

The picture shows the CB Bank's ad on the government's support for foreign salary remittances.

Prices of new Pawsan rice, sticky rice edge up

THE newly harvested Pawsan rice flowed into the Yangon market at K50,000 per bag these days. The prices of sticky rice from the Pyapon area inched higher to K84,000 on 2 November from K78,000 per bag registered last week, Ko Kyaw Ko, a rice dealer working on Padauk Street told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The prices of sticky rice from the Mawgyun area also increased from K70,000 to K76,000 in recent days. The harvest of Pawsan paddy in some delta regions has finished and the paddy fetched K1.4 million per 100-baskets (52 pounds per basket).

The farmers asked for the new Pawsan paddy at K1.5 million per 100-baskets yet the dealers do not offer that price. The price of old Pawsan rice started to fall this month amid the low demand, said rice traders.

The picture shows a rice shop displaying different rice varieties.

The price of old Pawsan rice from the Pathein and Myaungmya areas decreased from over K700,000 to K60,000 per bag. At the end of 2021, the new Pawsan rice flowed into the market with only K40,000 per bag. It was valued at K45,000 per bag in early January 2022.

The price of new Pawsan rice produced this year is higher than that of last year. The price of Pawsan rice peaked at K70,000 per bag in mid-2022. Similarly, the price of Pawsan rice from the Shwebo area climbed up to K90,000 in the second half of 2022 from K40,000 per bag recorded in early 2022.

Those buyers who stock the rice for a year commonly purchase it in the mid-summer period due to the low moisture content. A rice seller said the market price in mid-2023 will certainly go up compared to the corresponding period of 2022. The sticky rice was worth around K60,000 per bag in the previous years but the price climbed up to K80,000 per bag this year, making the price of breakfast snacks such as steamed sticky rice and other related snacks rise.

Additionally, high prices of wheat, sugar and edible oil hiked up the prices of noodles, Naan, paratha, deep-fried dough (Youtiao) and bread. The consumers stressed the high cost of breakfast snacks. The low-income households are struggling with rocketing food and living costs.— TWA/GNLM

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ECONOMY
WORLD

Chinese tech stocks spike as US inspection sees progress

TECHNOLOGY firms soared in Hong Kong on Friday after an inspection of Chinese firms listed in New York showed signs of progress, fuelling hopes that a mass delisting could be avoided.

The Hang Seng Tech Index jumped more than 10 per cent, with ecommerce titan Alibaba surging as much as 21 per cent at one point while Meituan and Tencent both piled on more than 10 per cent in the afternoon.

Traders chased back into the market after Bloomberg News reported US audit officials had completed their first Hong Kong-based inspection of Chinese companies ahead of schedule.

Around 200 Chinese firms — including Alibaba and fast food conglomerate Yum China — are at risk of being kicked off the New York stock exchange if the inspectors do not sign off on the auditing papers as compliant.

Around 200 Chinese firms – including Alibaba and fast food conglomerate Yum China – are at risk of being kicked off the New York stock exchange if the inspectors do not sign off on the auditing papers as compliant. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ YUM CHINA**

China has long cited national security and confidentiality concerns for denying foreign regulators access to local accounting firms.

But the US Congress in 2020 passed a law specifically targeting Chinese companies under which the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) must be able to inspect audits of foreign firms listed on US markets.

Both sides struck a deal in August and agreed that the PCAOB would be granted "complete access" to audit work papers of Chinese firms in Hong Kong, a special administrative region of China.

Inspectors would be "on the ground by mid-September so we can put this agreement to the test", PCAOB Chair Erica Williams said at the time.

The China Securities Regulatory Commission said the August deal "laid the foundation for reciprocal and efficient cooperation". The inspectors are set to leave Hong Kong this weekend, ahead of their original mid-November departure date, Bloomberg reported on Friday citing unnamed sources.—AFP

France's EDF cuts electricity output again on nuclear woes

Workers walk past a reactor building at the third-generation European Pressurized Reactor project (EPR) nuclear reactor in Flamanville, Normandy, France on 14 June 2022. **PHOTO: SAMEER AL-DOUMY /AFP**

FRENCH state electricity giant EDF has further trimmed its estimated electricity output for this year, citing further delays in getting nuclear reactors back online during maintenance and safety checks.

Production is now seen at 275 to 285 terawatt hours (Twh), down from 280 to 300 Twh — already a cut from initial estimates for 2022, the company said late Thursday.

It was the latest setback for EDF's race to restore operations at dozens of reactors that have been shut down for months because of safety risks from defective welds or scheduled maintenance.

France gets around 70 per cent of its electricity from nuclear power, and the coming winter spike in demand means it will have to buy electricity from the European power market, where prices have soared as Russia's invasion of Ukraine drags on.

EDF had already warned in September of a 29 billion euro financial hit this year from the reactor works, but the company did not reveal the potential new hit in its latest update.

But it said four reactors originally set to be back online in November or December would now be operational only in end-January or February. Almost half of the country's 56 reactors, spread across 18 power plants, were taken offline, many because of fears over micro-cracks discovered in emergency cooling systems.

EDF's financial woes prompted the government to renationalize the company earlier this year, and a new CEO, Luc Remont, is expected to be confirmed in his job later this month.—AFP

Heathrow Airport strike set to hit England football fans

ENGLAND football fans flying to the World Cup in Qatar face delays and cancellations after staff at Heathrow Airport on Friday announced a three-day strike in a dispute over pay.

Around 700 members of the Unite union will strike between 18 November and 21 November with disruption expected at three of the London airport's five terminals.

Unite said the walkout will particularly hit Qatar Airways, which has laid on an additional 10 flights a week during the World Cup.

The tournament kicks off on 20 November, with England starting their campaign the next day.

The staff from aviation companies Dnata and Menzies carry out various roles including ground-handling, airside transport and cargo.

"Our members at Dnata and Menzies undertake highly challenging roles and are simply seeking a decent pay rise," said Unite general secretary Sharon Graham.

"Both companies are highly profitable and can fully afford to make a fair pay increase. The owners and directors are simply lining their own pockets rather than paying their workers fairly.—AFP

The Unite union said strike action will particularly affect Qatar Airways, which has laid on extra flights for the football World Cup. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan to retain stake in Russia's Sakhalin 1 oil project

JAPANESE stakeholders in the Sakhalin 1 oil and gas project in eastern Russia will retain their stake in the undertaking by joining a new Russian operator recently established under a decree, the industry minister said Friday, as the project remains a vital source of energy for resource-poor Japan.

Japan's government and companies, including major trading houses Itochu Corp. and Marubeni Corp., have invested in the project through Tokyo-based Sakhalin Oil and Gas Development Co. If the Russian side approves the company plan decided at Friday's shareholders meeting, Japan will be able to keep its stake in the project.

The move comes amid international sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

"While Japan is reliant on the Middle East for over 90 per cent of its crude oil imports, Sakhalin 1 is an extremely important project as an alternative source outside the Middle East," Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura told reporters.

Sakhalin Oil and Gas Development held a 30 per cent stake in the project, which started producing crude oil on the island of Sakhalin, north of Japan, in 2005. Under the decree signed by President Vladimir Putin, foreign business partners had one month from the launch of the new operator in October to decide whether to invest in the new company.

Tsuyoshi Hachimura, an executive vice-president of Itochu, said at a press conference on its earnings report that it will join the new operating firm of Sakhalin 1 from the perspective of energy security in keeping with the government's policy. — Kyodo

Undated photo shows a facility of the Sakhalin 1 oil and gas development project. **PHOTO: EXXON NEFTEGAS LTD. /KYODO**

Binance says crypto moved through platform from Iran

FUNDS belonging to or intended for Iranians have flowed through the world's largest cryptocurrency platform, Binance, the company said Friday, risking that it may run afoul of US-imposed sanctions.

"Earlier in the week, we discovered that Binance interacted" with "bad actors" using Iranian cryptocurrency exchanges, said Chagri Poyraz, head of sanctions at Binance.

Some of these users "attempted to move crypto through Binance's exchange," he wrote on the blog on the company's website. "As soon as we discovered this, we moved to freeze transfers (and) block accounts."

When asked by AFP about the number of these accounts and the amounts involved, Binance declined comment.

According to Reuters, some $7.8 billion has passed through Binance in connection with accounts domiciled on the busiest Iranian platform, Nobitex.

No Iranian cryptocurrency platforms are currently under sanctions. But US-imposed restrictions prohibit a US entity or US national from selling goods and services to Iranian residents, businesses or institutions. The ban includes financial services.—AFP

Binance was founded in 2017 by a Chinese-Canadian entrepreneur but following regulations on its activities in China, it moved its operations to Bahrain, Dubai, Paris and the Cayman Islands. **PHOTO: AFP**

East African business body calls for enhanced exports of fresh produce

THE East African Business Council (EABC) has called for setting up of fresh produce consolidation centres across East African Community (EAC) countries and improve transport interconnectivity in order to boost export volumes and competitiveness. John Bosco Kalisa, the EABC chief executive officer, made the call during a meeting on Regional Private Sector Engagement on Sea Freight Transport and Logistics sub-sector, focusing on fresh produce, the EABC said in a statement late Thursday.

A staff member puts stamps onto boxes containing fresh avocados at a Sunripe factory in Limuru Town, Kiambu County, Kenya, on 2 August 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/ DONG JIANGHUI**

Kalisa said intra-trade in member states of the EAC is low at 17 per cent due to barriers and the high cost of transport estimated at 1.8 US dollars per tonne per kilometre.

He said the intricacies and competitiveness of EAC economies rely on the transport and logistics sector, urging ports and trade facilitation agencies to facilitate trade better.

Kalisa said Dar es Salaam and Mombasa ports in Tanzania and Kenya, respectively, should benchmark best practices from Durban port in South Africa in terms of efficiency, ship turnaround time and congestion in order to be competitive in African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and international markets.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (242W/245E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (242W/245E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-11-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALVAN VOY.NO. (SCY1142)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALVAN VOY. NO. (SCY1142)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-11-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Candlelight vigils to mourn South Korea Halloween disaster victims

People holding flowers walk to a mourning altar set up at Seoul Plaza in Seoul, South Korea, 1 Nov 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/WANG YILIANG**

CANDLELIGHT vigils and rallies were expected in South Korea on Saturday to commemorate the 156 people killed in a Halloween crowd crush, with public anger growing over one of the country's deadliest peacetime disasters.

The victims, mostly young people, were among the estimated 100,000 that had flocked to the capital Seoul's popular Itaewon nightlife district to celebrate the first post-pandemic Halloween.

South Korean law enforcement officials have conceded that there was insufficient safety planning for a crowd that large, and opposition politicians have accused President Yoon Suk-yeol's government of not taking responsibility for the disaster.

Reflecting that anger, a woman identified by local media as the mother of one of the victims was seen ripping apart the floral wreaths left by the president and Seoul's mayor at a memorial on Friday.

"What's the point of (these flowers) when they couldn't protect (our children)? Think about it," she was seen saying in footage broadcast by local TV stations.

"What's the point of standing next to these (wreaths) when you let our babies die?"

Uniformed police officers were then seen escorting the woman away from the memorial, located outside Seoul City Hall.

President Yoon on Friday joined other top officials -- including the national police chief and the interior minister -- who had apologized over the disaster.

"As a president who is responsible for the lives and safety of the people, I am deeply saddened and sorry," he said.—AFP

Malaysia's nearly century-old Mahathir seeks re-election

MAHATHIR Mohamad, the nearly 100-year-old elder statesman of Malaysian politics, filed his candidacy Saturday in what could be his final race, as campaigning for upcoming general elections began.

Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob called for elections 10 months ahead of schedule, with the graft-tainted ruling party of jailed ex-leader Najib Razak seeking to cement its political comeback four years after it was dramatically voted out.

A Guinness World Record holder for being the "world's oldest current prime minister" when he became premier for the second time in 2018, the 97-year-old Mahathir will stand again to defend his parliamentary seat in the holiday island of Langkawi in the 19 November vote.

Visibly slowed by age but still looking healthy, Mahathir was greeted by dozens of supporters waving flags of his Homeland Fighters' Party as he arrived at a local government office in Kuah, the island's main town, to register his candidacy. — AFP

Fire kills 15 at bar in Russian city of Kostroma

A fire Saturday killed at least 15 people at a bar in the Russian city of Kostroma, Russian news agencies reported.

The night-time fire at the popular bar could have been started after a drunk man fired a "flare gun" on the dance floor, the TASS news agency reported.

State television showed images of the bar — called "Poligon" and housed in a single-storey logistical centre — engulfed in flames.

Authorities said the fire started at around 2:00 am local time and was put out at around 7:30 am.

Governor Sergei Sitnikov earlier said 13 people were killed, but emergency services then said the remains of two other people were found.

"Two more bodies were recovered. This means the number of victims is now 15," the TASS news agency quoted law enforcement sources as saying.

Around 250 people were evacuated from the building when it caught fire in the city around 300 kilometres (180 miles) northeast of Moscow, authorities said earlier.

The TASS news agency, citing sources in emergency services, said a drunk man with a "flare gun" was likely to have caused the fire. — AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia says thousands removed from Kherson daily

MOSCOW was pushing ahead Friday with a civilian pullout from the Russian-occupied Kherson region amid a mounting Ukrainian counter-offensive, with President Vladimir Putin saying residents must be "removed" from danger zones.

The Russian army said "more than 5,000 civilians" were being led across the Dnipro River every day, showing footage of soldiers directing lines of cars onto flotillas crossing over to the river's eastern bank.

Moscow's forces began urging civilians to leave Kherson in mid-October, vowing to turn the region's main city of the same name into a fortress ahead of an anticipated Ukrainian offensive.

Putin's offensive in Ukraine has dragged into its ninth month. **PHOTO: BULENT KILIC /AFP**

Kyiv has likened the departures to Soviet-style "deportations" of its people. "Those who live in Kherson should be removed from zones of dangerous fighting," Putin said on Red Square as he marked Russian Unity Day, a patriotic holiday. — AFP

Russia, Türkiye to send free grain to needy countries: Erdogan

RUSSIA and Türkiye have reached an agreement to deliver grain free of charge to countries in need including Djibouti, Somalia and Sudan, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Friday.

Russian President Vladimir Putin "told me during our telephone conversation that we should send grain free of charge to countries including Djibouti, Somalia and Sudan. We have agreed," Erdogan said in a televised address.

"We agreed to discuss this extensively at the G20 summit" in Indonesia, he added.

"We will ensure that grain ships reach all countries in need, especially Somalia, Djibouti and Sudan, which are struggling with serious food crisis and famine."

Russia returned to a grain deal this week which allows Ukrainian exports to pass through the Black Sea.

The July agreement, brokered by the UN and Türkiye, is up for renewal on 19 November, three days after the G20 summit concludes in Bali.

Putin has repeatedly criticized the agreement. — AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Pope holds open-air mass for 30,000 worshippers in Bahrain

ABOUT 30,000 flag-waving worshippers joined an open-air mass held by Pope Francis in mainly Muslim Bahrain on Saturday, the highlight of his outreach mission to the Gulf.

Some of the congregation had tears in their eyes as they waited to see the 85-year-old at Bahrain National Stadium, the kingdom's biggest venue.

Francis, who uses a wheelchair and walking stick due to knee problems, smiled and waved to the crowds from an open-sided popemobile where he was seated, flanked by more than a dozen suited security guards and attendants.

As a 100-strong, multinational choir sang in multiple languages, the Argentine stood to kiss children lifted up to greet him in the popemobile which drove slowly towards a white stage backdropped by a giant yellow cross.

The pope is on his second visit to the resource-rich Gulf — the cradle of Islam — after his 2019 trip to the United Arab Emirates, where he held a mass for 170,000.

"We've been here since one o'clock. We didn't sleep," said volunteer Philomina Abranches, 46, an Indian-born Bahrain resident.

"We are so excited. We all call him 'Papa'. More than anything, he represents peace in the world. This is what we need now."

Margerite Heida, 63, also a Bahrain resident, said: "Hosting Pope Francis is the best feeling. This is the greatest event of the year."—AFP

About two million Catholics, mainly foreign workers from South Asia and the Philippines, reside in the Gulf. **PHOTO: AFP**

Biden, Trump target pivotal battleground in countdown to midterms

US President Joe Biden and his predecessor Donald Trump are both making closing arguments for the midterm election in Pennsylvania. **PHOTO: MANDEL NGAN, JIM WATSON/AFP/FILE**

THEY have been shadowboxing at separate campaign stops across the United States for weeks but the Democratic and Republican leaders find themselves on the same battlefield Saturday as they make closing pitches in Pennsylvania for next week's midterm election.

President Joe Biden will rally alongside his old boss Barack Obama as the Democrats deploy their big guns to build the energy they hope will spread nationwide and reverse the late rightward-shift in polling. And in a split-screen preview of a potential rematch of the 2020 presidential contest, the mid-western state is also playing host to Biden's predecessor and bitter political rival Donald Trump. Obama – still the party's most bankable star six years after leaving the White House — begins the day in Pittsburgh with Democratic candidate John Fetterman, who is in a dead heat against Republican TV medic Mehmet Oz in their crucial Senate race. Biden and Obama then appear in Philadelphia, the historic cradle of US independence where the 44th and 46th presidents will woo voters from the suburbs that make for a crucial base of Democratic support.—AFP

Brazil roadblocks dwindle as Bolsonaro starts handover

BRAZILIAN police said Friday they have nearly finished clearing hundreds of roadblocks by supporters of far-right President Jair Bolsonaro, who have been protesting since his election loss to veteran leftist Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Just 15 partial roadblocks remain nationwide, said federal highway police, adding they had broken up another 954 since Sunday's divisive presidential runoff election. Bolsonaro supporters reacted furiously to Lula's narrow victory, blocking highways with cars, trucks, and tractors and camping out at army bases to demand a military intervention.

The blockades had threatened to cause havoc in Latin America's biggest economy but have diminished since Bolsonaro urged supporters Wednesday to "unblock the roads". Ex-army captain Bolsonaro remained silent for nearly two days after the election, raising fears he would try to cling to power with the backing of hardline supporters.

But after a series of key allies acknowledged the result, the incumbent said Tuesday he would respect the constitution and authorized the start of the transition process for Lula's inauguration on 1 January anuary.—AFP

Supporters of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro at a road blockade after his election defeat. **PHOTO: ANDERSON COELHO / AFP**

North Korea fires four short-range ballistic missiles

NORTH Korea fired four short-range ballistic missiles into the sea on Saturday, the South Korean military said, the latest in a blitz of weapons launches by Pyongyang this week. The flurry of North Korean launches has included an intercontinental ballistic missile and one that landed near South Korea's territorial waters for the first time since the end of the Korean War in 1953.

The launches came as the United States and South Korea conducted their largest-ever joint air force drills, which an infuriated North Korea described as "aggressive and provocative".

"The South Korean military detected four short-range ballistic missiles launched by North Korea from Tonrim, North Pyongan Province, to the West Sea at around 11:32 am to 11:59 am today," South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.—AFP

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Pope holds open-air mass for 30,000 worshippers in Bahrain

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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.

University Team players hold the championship trophy after winning the Myanmar National League 2. **PHOTO: THAW GYI**

University Team win Myanmar National League 2

UNIVERSITy Team won the Myanmar National League 2 after trouncing the Young Boys team 5-0 in the final match played at Thuwunna Training Ground in Yangon yesterday.

At the same time, Dagon Star United played a 1-1 draw against the Junior Lions team in another final match.

Both games are important for the championship, and the team that wins the match between Dagon Star United and Junior Lions could be the champion, but the university team won the championship because of the big win. The University Team had a lesser chance than the other two teams to bag the championship title and needs to win the last game.

Another match's draw made the University Team the Champion.

The award-giving ceremony was held after the match and the champion University Team got K13 million, and first runners-up Junior Lions achieved K10 million, and Dagon Star United got K7 million along with medals for each player.

Dagon Star United attacker Phoe Chit Ko won the most scoring award and got K500,000 as an award. After the tournament, the champion University Team won six games, three draws and three losses in 10 games, and earned 21 points, while the Junior Lions team was second with 20 points and the Dagon Star United team was third with 20 points.

The Junior Lions team and the Dagon Star team had the same score, but Junior Lions finished second with only a goal difference.

Junior Lions finished second, but the Myanmar U-19 youth national team is competing to gain tournament experience, so they will not be allowed to advance, while the third-placed Dagon Star United will be allowed to play in the MNL next season along with the champion University Team. — Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

World Cup organizers recruit fans to sing Qatar's praise

A scheme by World Cup organizers to recruit fans to act as cheerleaders for Qatar as well as their nations, has brought jeers from some supporters.

Fans who accept will receive free hotel rooms, match tickets and a daily allowance.

In return, they are expected to liven up the opening ceremony and to post positive social media comments about the host country, according to supporters' accounts and documents seen by AFP. Organizers confirmed in a statement that Qatar is paying for fans from the 32 competing nations to attend the World Cup but said that reports that it was paying for "coordinated promotion" were "absolutely false".

Other sporting events have used the same system.

Qatar approached hundreds of football bloggers, influencers and leaders of fan associations offering to make them "Fan Leaders". "We gagged on reading the document," said Fabien Bonnel, spokesman for the French Irresistibles, a group of fans contacted in 2021.

"They wanted us to promote them by becoming the influencers of French fans and sell this World Cup in Qatar."

Other groups were also uneasy. "One thing is sure, many have refused," said Ronan Evain of the Football Supporters Europe network. These proposals are "far from true fan culture". —AFP

People watch an air show at the Corniche in Doha on 5 November 2022, ahead of the Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup football tournament. **PHOTO: AFP**

Rune gets revenge on Auger-Aliassime to reach first Masters final

DANISH teenager Holger Rune defeated the in-form Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-4, 6-2 on Saturday to reach the first Masters final of his career in Paris. Rune avenged his loss to Auger-Aliassime in last weekend's final in Basel. He will take on defending champion Novak Djokovic or Stefanos Tsitsipas for the title in the French capital.The 19-year-old Rune is through to his fourth successive final. He beat Tsitsipas to lift the trophy in Stockholm last month after finishing as the runner-up in Sofia. A quarter-finalist at this year's French Open, Rune collected his fourth straight victory over a top-10 player this week by ending Auger-Aliassime's 16-match winning run.—AFP