THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 213, 8th Waning of Tazaungmone 1384 ME www.gnlm.com.mm Tuesday, 15 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.

As uplifting the sports sector can be defined as protecting the State, all athletes should try hard to secure victory in their respective sports events so as to bring honour to the State and Tatmadaw: Senior General

State Administration Council Chairman Commandar-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inaugurates the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Sports Competition 2022 in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 November 2022.

TODAY'S Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) sports competition is an act of Tatmadaw implementing one of the social objectives adopted by the State: to enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation. As officials of the State and Tatmadaw will fulfil the needs, Tatmadaw member athletes must forge the sporting spirit and the spirit of unity among the organizations for the State and Tatmadaw, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Sports Competition 2022 held at Zeyathiri Tatmadaw Sports Ground in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The Senior General took the salute of the flag bearer and athletes led by the parade commander.

In his speech, the Senior General said that this year, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) sports competition comprises 10 sports events. These sports reflect the physical fitness, diligence and unity of Tatmadaw. As it aims to turn out new generation athletes in order to bring honour to the State through Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) sports competitions, they all have to show off their brilliant skills and talents in the competitions.

Tatmadaw has formed Tatmadaw Sports and Physical Education Management Board and Tatmadaw sports committees. Arrangements are being made for ensuring the sharpening of sports skills of Tatmadaw member athletes and for giving chance for those to systematically take sports training. Tatmadaw draws the annual sports calendar to organize sports competitions in relevant military commands for producing new-generation athletes to be chosen for selected Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) teams. As uplifting the sports sector means protecting the State, all athletes try hard to secure success in their respective sports events so as to bring honour to the State and Tatmadaw.

First, those athletes can get the benefits from the sports as personal good health. Then, they will have to enjoy unity in the teamwise competitions to secure the spirit of unity. Today's sports events are suitable for Tatmadaw members. They have to constantly strive for taking correct techniques of sports training to be healthy and fit with full stamina.

The Senior General continued to say that sports are a national duty to uplift the prestige of the State and the nationality with the concept to polish the image of the nation as part of competing with the opponents without giving up till the last second. The victory and fame of an athlete automatically uplift the prestige of the country and themselves.

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
Traffic awareness activities conducted in Bahan Township
PAGE-2

NATIONAL
Over US$88 million earned from export of forest products
PAGE-3

CURRENT AFFAIRS
Over half-mln domestic, foreign tourists visit Taninthayi Region within 10 months
PAGE-5

LOCAL BUSINESS
Black gram price remains unchanged at K1,755,000 per tonne in Nov 2nd week
PAGE-7

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 66/2022

7th Waning of Tazaungmone 1384 ME
14 November 2022

Duty retirement from Union Minister

THE State Administration Council has allowed U Tin Htut Oo, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, to retire from the duties of Union Minister under Section 419 of the State Constitution.

By Order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 67/2022

7th Waning of Tazaungmone 1384 ME
14 November 2022

Duty retirement from Union Minister

THE State Administration Council has allowed U Shwe Lay, Union Minister for Construction, to retire from the duties of Union Minister under Section 419 of the State Constitution.

By Order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 68/2022

7th Waning of Tazaungmone 1384 ME
14 November 2022

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Union Minister

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe to the duties of Union Minister for the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation concurrently under Section 419 of the State Constitution.

By Order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 69/2022

7th Waning of Tazaungmone 1384 ME
14 November 2022

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Union Minister

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned U Myo Thant to the duties of Union Minister for the Ministry of Construction under Section 419 of the State Constitution.

By Order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

Judgements passed on 4 special criminal appeal cases, 5 special civil appeal cases; 4 special civil appeal cases heard

THE special appeal court comprising Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and Supreme Court Judges U Aung Zaw Thein, U Myo Maung, U Tin Hone and U Thein Ko Ko passed judgements on four special criminal appeal cases No 3/2022 (Ayeyawady), No 4/2022 (Yangon), No 5/2022 (Yangon) and No 6/2022 (Yangon) and five special civil appeal cases No 10/2020 (Mandalay), No 4/2022(Rakhine), No 25/2022 (Yangon), No 28/2022 (Mandalay) and No 29/2022 (Mandalay) at the office 1 of the Union Supreme Court yesterday morning.

Moreover, they heard four special civil appeal cases No 15/2021 (Yangon), No 2/2022 (Yangon), No 23/2022 (Yangon) and No 31/2022 (Rakhine) in line with COVID-19 health rules. — 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.

Traffic awareness activities conducted in Bahan Township

Officials conduct traffic awareness activities in Yangon on 14 November 2022.

AWARENESS activities of road safety, traffic rules, and traffic inspections were conducted yesterday morning near Yoma Bank, East Shwegondine Road, West Ngahtetgyi Ward in Bahan township.

Officials cleared the points to be followed to ensure the safety of vehicles, conducted awareness raising on the rules that a driver must follow and how to obey the rules of the road and inspected vehicles driving without discipline on East Shwegondine Road.

The traffic awareness activities were implemented by officials from the Township General Administration Department, township police force, township traffic police unit, officials from Township Information and Public Relations Department, Township Development Committee, Township Fire Brigade, and Township Red Cross Brigade.

It was reported that traffic inspection and awareness activities will be speeded up for the people to be able to travel in accordance with the rules of the road and traffic rules. — Sanda Htay/GNLM

Well-educated human resources needed to materialize the genuine disciplined democratic system without fail

TO implement federalism compatible with geographical conditions, national characters and culture of the nation although many countries exercise democracy and federalism across the world. Necessities to turn out well-educated human resources in realizing the genuine disciplined democratic system without fail. Only when the number of educated persons is on the rise can nation-building tasks be accelerated for the promotion of the education sector.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the peace talk with the peace delegation led by General Yawd Serk, Chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) on 29 August 2022)

As uplifting the sports sector can be defined as protecting the State, all athletes should try hard to secure victory in their respective sports events so as to bring honour to the State and Tatmadaw: Senior General

The Senior General and party watch the football match between the Eastern Command team and the Central Command team in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

FROM PAGE-1

Myanmar's martial art which is one of the sports events to be held today is a sporting event showing off national spirit, braveness, activeness and physical fitness. Hence, the Myanmar martial art event was included in the sports competition in 2019.

The sport is based on strength, power, speed, skill, endurance and cooperation. So, they all should try hard to have these skills. If so, they compete in the events with skills, experiences, training, rationality, ready wit, correct idea and correct decision will they be able to secure victory. The Senior General urged them to polish the image of the State and Tatmadaw as good Tatmadaw member athletes.

The Senior General and party watched the first semifinal football match between the Eastern Command team and the Central Command team. The match ended at a 1-1 draw between the two teams till the final whistle. At 14 minutes of the first extra time, the Central Command team scored one more goal with a 2-1 win over the Eastern Command team.

The 2022 Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Sports Competition comprises men's and women's events for track and field, judo, Taekwondo, volleyball and shooting, football, Myanmar martial art, Sepak Takraw, Karatedo and boxing events and will last till 25 November. — MNA

Over US$88 million earned from export of forest products

Teak logs were seen being exported to Thailand in the financial year 2018-2019.

ACCORDING to the statistics of the Ministry of Commerce, more than US$88 million were earned from the export of forest products from Myanmar.

From 1 April to 4 November 2022 of the financial year 2022-2023, the export of forest products earned $88.383 million.

In the last financial year 2020-2021, it received $128.072 million and during the 2021-2022 mini-budget period, it received $83.901 million.

In the same period of the previous year, the earning of exporting forest products reached $76.832 million, and comparing the two periods, the export of forest products exceeded the earning of $11.551 million this year than the same period of the previous year.

As forest products such as teak, hardwood, plywood, bamboo, cardamom seeds, wax, mustard oil, extract pine, orchid, edible bird's nest, and straw were exported to the foreign market.

In order to export timbers and forest products, it is necessary to obtain a certificate for legality of forest products.

Based on the verification of the ground inspection team and the chain of custody, the certificate for legality of forest products will be issued within two days by the director of the Yangon Region Forest Department and the relevant township Forest Departments.

There are four steps involved in the process, including the applicant to seek the approval of certificate at the relevant Department of Forest and apply for the export licence at the Ministry of Commerce.

In order to export timbers and forest products abroad, exporters must apply for a form to obtain a certificate. Details are available on the website of the Department of Forest.—TWA/GNLM

Leading Organizing Committee on Variety Show for Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 holds 3rd coordination meeting

Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn addresses the third coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE Leading Organizing Committee on Variety Show for Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 held its third coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, in his capacity as the Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman of Committee Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Tin Oo Lwin, Working Committee Chairpersons Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, Deputy Minister Dr Moe Zaw Tun, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Soe, the permanent secretaries and departmental heads, and officials of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, Myanmar Music Association, Myanmar Theatrical Association and Myanmar Comedians Association joined the meeting online.

First, the Union minister said arrangements are underway to organize the State-level variety show marking the 75th Anniversary of Independence Day in order to please the people and understand the essence of independence. It is also the very first grand show to entertain the people being suffocated during the COVID-19 pandemic. The government employees and artistes should participate in this operation for the country and people and should report the necessary things, he added.

Then, the committee vice-chairman and working committee chairman discussed the procedures of the variety show and attendees coordinated the discussion.

The five-day variety show from 26 to 30 November marking Diamond Jubilee Independence Day will be held at the open-air theatre of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall.

The artistes from film, music and theatrical fields will perform under the leadership of the Ministry of Information on 26, 27 and 28 November while the artistes under the Directorate of the Public Relations and Psychological Warfare on 29 November and performers under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture on 30 November. — MNA

Over 68 tonnes of sawn teak on open-tender sale to MSMEs on 25 Nov

MYANMAR Timber Enterprise will put up over 68 tonnes of sawn teak for auction through an open tender system to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) on 25 November.

A total of 68.0379 tonnes of teak produced by No 1, 2, 4, 8 and 10 sawmills under the Local Marketing and Milling Department of the Myanmar Timber Enterprise will be sold to MSMEs including small domestic manufacturing businesses at the No 4 Sawmill (Wahtaya) on 25 November with the open bidding. Those enthusiastic MSME entrepreneurs have to submit an auction form to No 4 Sawmill (Wahtaya) in Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region by 24 November, the Myanmar Timber Enterprise said.

The MSME entrepreneurs must hold at least one licence among three business licences: a milling licence from the Forest Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, a business licence from the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection of the Ministry of Industry and a business licence from the SME Development Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation to join the auction.

Teak timbers are pictured at the sawmill.

Myanmar bagged US$88.383 million from the exportation of forest products between 1 April and 4 November in the current financial year 2022-2023.

Myanmar conveys teak, hardwood, plywood and other forest products such as bamboo, cane, catechu, jute, Thanaka, cardamom, beeswax, shellac, wood veneer, wood oil, pine essential oil, bat guano, orchid, Rauvolfia, edible bird's nest, Nipa palm, bamboo thatch and Myoporum sandwicense (false sandalwood) to the external markets.— TWA/GNLM

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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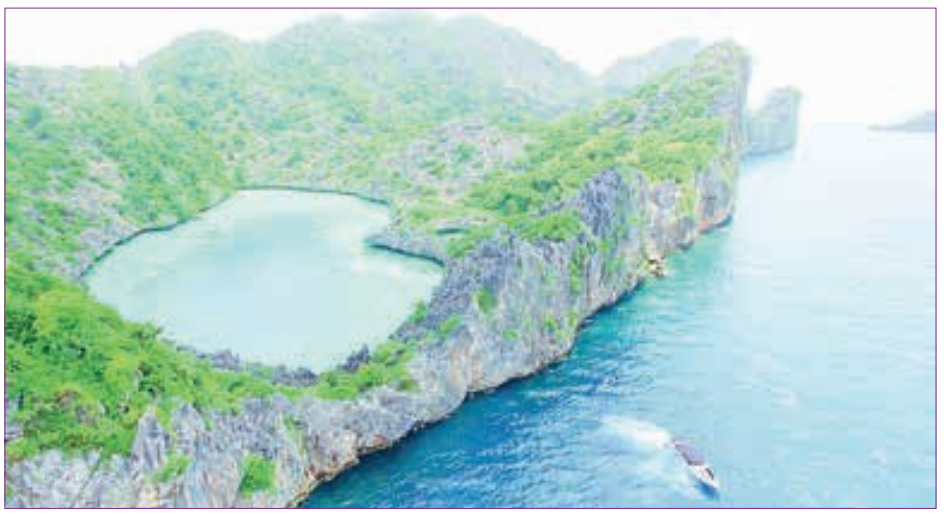
CURRENT AFFAIRS



One of the tourist attractions, a beautiful island in the Myeik Archipelago is seen near the sea.

Over half-mln domestic, foreign tourists visit Taninthayi Region within 10 months

ACCORDING to statistics from the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, more than 600,000 local and foreign tourists visited Tanintharyi Region from January to October this year.

Myeik District, Dawei District and Kawthoung District had 593,763 local visitors and 3,776 foreign tourists between January and September this year. With the visit of 22,178 domestic visitors and 2,467 foreign tourists to these districts in the open season, altogether 622,184 travellers visited two districts during the period of 10 months.

In addition, it is reported that more than 1,000 visitors entered during Thadingyut and Tazaungdaing holidays.

Myeik Archipelago is one of the unspoiled natural beauty spots and is an area of interest to foreign tourists. It was learned from travel operators that a day trip will cost around K200,000.

Tourists are increasingly visiting Myeik Archipelago on speed boats owned by Thai nationals and they focus on visiting Macleod Island, Evil Island, Cocks Comb Island, Lampi Island, Hlinegu (Cave) Island, Dome Waterfall and Bocho Island in the Kawthoung District, stated tourism operators.

There are 56 hotels and lodging houses in the Taninthayi Region and 41 of them are operating in line with current COVID-19 rules and regulations. — TWA/GNLM

Myanmar ships nearly 100,000 tonnes of fishery products to Thailand in past seven months

Fishery products are seen being packaged to be exported to external markets.

MYANMAR conveyed nearly 100,000 tonnes of fishery products to Ranong, Thailand through the Kawthoung border post in Taninthayi Region in the past seven months of the current financial year 2022-2023, according to the Department of Fisheries.

Between 1 April and 31 October in the current FY, a total of 99,185.775 tonnes of fish and shrimp was shipped to Ranong, Thailand through Kawthoung FOB checkpoint, generating an income of US$60 million and over Baht1,600 million, the Fisheries Department's data showed.

Myanmar daily delivers fishery products with 26 trawlers from Kawthoung to Ranong. The main export items are crayfish, scorpion prawn, crab, Mollusca, mussels, clam, squid, octopus, dried fish, dried shrimp and salted fish.

Myanmar's fishery exports as of 4 November in the current FY have amounted to over $427 million, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

The figures decreased from $427.772 million in the corresponding period of the last mini-budget period 2021-2022. — TWA/GNLM

Sticky rice price peaks at K100,000 per bag at paddy harvest time

THE price of glutinous rice touched a high of K100,000 per 102-pound bag in November out of those new rice of 2022 monsoon season, Ko Kyaw Thura, a rice trader from Padauk Street at Bayintnaung Wholesale Market told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The rice produced in the 2021 monsoon season fetched almost K100,000 per bag in mid-2022.

On 14 November, the prices of glutinous rice stood at K100,000 per bag from the Pyapon area, and K90,000 from the Pathein and Shwebo areas. This year, the acreage of sticky paddy dropped. As a result of this, the price climbed up.

In November, the prices dropped from K84,000-90,000 per bag in the first week to K76,000 in the last week. The price has soared these days. The glutinous rice was priced only at K60,000 per bag in the year-ago period.

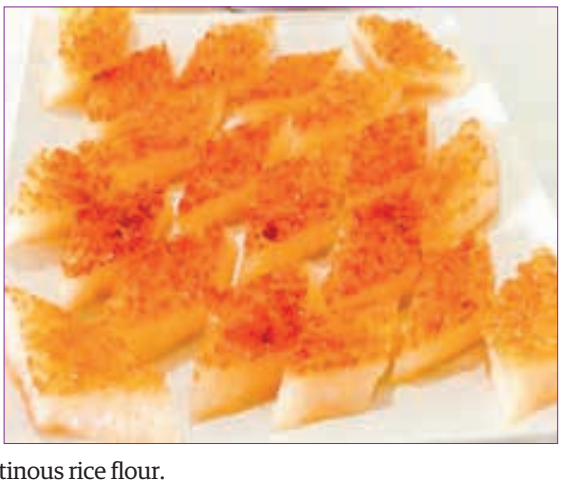
Normally, a rice bag is measured 108 pounds while a glutinous rice bag is 102 pounds. The price of the high-grade Pawsan variety from the Shwebo area rocketed to K100,000 per bag in mid-2022. Similarly, the price of glutinous rice hit a record high in the beginning of the monsoon paddy harvest season.

Many acres of glutinous rice were found in Laydauntkan and Darpain areas near Yangon in 2015. This year, the cultivation drastically plummeted. The inputs of glutinous rice by Pyapon, Mawgyun and Pathein areas are high, Ko Naing Tun, a rice trader from Arthawka Street, told the GNLM.

Glutinous rice is commonly and widely utilized in traditional snacks and breakfast food. Moreover, it is mostly used during the Chinese New Year Festival and other traditional events.

When the festival or event is approaching, the price is expected to go up by K5,000 per pack. A pack of glutinous rice is normally worth K3,000, said a resident from China town in downtown Yangon. The price of glutinous rice significantly inched higher to double. The food items that are made of glutinous rice will go up for sure, the consumers said.

In recent days, following the price increase of glutinous rice, the prices of paddy and rice have also moved up. Although glutinous rice is consumed less than rice, the price is rising faster. — TWA/GNLM



The picture shows sticky rice and snacks made from glutinous rice flour.

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

A local from Yankin Township in Yangon Region gets jabbed against COVID-19 on 14 November.

VACCINATION is being carried out in full swing in various regions and states as the vaccination programmes are one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 disease.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, and relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 90 people from Yankin and Tamway townships in Yangon Region, 1,547 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 1,563 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

In addition, to assist in the control and prevention of the covid-19 disease, medical teams from various regional commands in collaboration with district and township administrative officials, departmental personnel and members of civil society organizations (CSOs) conducted educational campaigns such as prevention of COVID-19, wearing of masks in public places and distribution of masks to the locals at schools, markets, streets, city entry points and crowded areas 44 townships in Yangon Region,yesterday. — MNA

Clever Animal Shows resume in Yangon Zoological Gardens

CLEVER Animal Shows resume at the Yangon Zoological Gardens on weekends.

Entertainment programmes will include elephant, monkey, snake and bear performances and magic shows, and visitors can have their pictures taken with small friendly animals.

The performances temporarily stopped during the rainy season and, as the open season has come now, entertainment programmes have started again on Saturdays and Sundays. — Sanda Moe/GNLM

Visitors feed zoo animals.

32 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 14 November, total figure rises to 632,711

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 632,711 after 32 new cases were reported on 14 November 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 607,045 including 99 new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at 19,486 on Monday with no new deaths reported from the pandemic.

According to the research, it is found that people who have been vaccinated do not suffer severely from the disease, need not to be hospitalized and unlikely to die. If they have received booster shot, the death rates can be reduced more.

As such, the people need to follow the new normal way in living with Covid. Hence, all the people above five have to fully receive Covid-19 vaccination inoculated by the Ministry of Health free of charge. Six months after the vaccination, they have to take booster jabs at relevant health centres and ward/village administration offices without fail.

Moreover, they have to wear masks while in closed chambers and public places. They need to often wash hands with soap and water or the hand gel containing alcohol (at least 60 per cent) for 20 seconds.

People need to follow the social distancing rule and avoid the crowds as much as possible. While not wearing masks, if they cough and sneeze, they need to cover mouth and noses with elbows in line with the personal hygienic ways.

Covid-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health.—MNA

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, consumer goods and vehicles confiscated

A combined team led by the Region Customs Department under the supervision of the Mandalay Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections on 12 November.

Officials nabbed K16.94 million worth of foodstuffs without official documents from three vehicles (estimated value of K59 million) heading from Lashio to Mandalay at 22/3 Milepost on PyinOoLwin-Mandalay Road. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

In addition, a combined team captured a total of 5.2608 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K526,080 from a Hino truck (approximately K30 million) between 7th-Milepost and 6th-Milepost on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in Hlegu township on 13 November. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, a combined inspection team made inspections and confiscated K2,666,000 worth of consumer goods that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a passenger bus at the entrance gate to Taunggyi township.

An on-duty team at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint seized 1,800 kilogrammes of liquid laundry detergent worth K1,440,000 from a Nissan Diesel (estimated value of K90 million) and the action was taken under Customs Procedures.

On 13 and 14 November, a combined team captured a total of 10.9744 tonnes worth K4,162,070 in the Bago, Toungoo and Thayawady districts and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 14 November, a combined inspection team led by Myanmar Police Force confiscated an unregistered Lexus car (approximately K4 million) in Satthwachon village of Nyaungkhashay and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

On the same day, at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint, the inspection team captured 300 pairs of lady sandals worth K2.1 million without official documents from a vehicle heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

Therefore, 16 arrests (at an estimated value of K210,834,150) were made on three consecutive days from 12 to 14 November, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Black gram price remains unchanged at K1,755,000 per tonne in Nov 2nd week

THE price of black gram held steady at K1,755,000 per tonne in the second week of November, according to the bean market.

The black gram price is related to foreign demand and the kyat-dollar exchange rate. At present, the exchange rate is stable at K3,000 over the counter market.

The CNF (Cost and Freight) price for black gram (urad in India) that were shipped to India were US$950 per tonne of SQ (Special Quality) and $815 per tonne of Fair Average Quality (FAQ). The FOB prices stood at $770 for FAQ.

Approximately 20 to 25 container loads of Myanmar blacks were shipped to India in November. Therefore, the pulses stock is estimated at 15,000 tonnes of black gram and about 20,000 tonnes of pigeon peas, forecasted traders.

Additionally, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) purchased 10,000 tonnes of Myanmar black gram at Indian Rupee 7,100-7,490 per quintal. The demand for black gram is likely to increase in the coming winter due to the strong demand of the millers, according to a report cited by Agri World Mumbai.

At present, the rumour of the resumption of the Kyalgaung border checkpoint at Muse 105th-mile trade zone on the Sino-Myanmar border channel pushed up the prices of beans and pulses including edible oil crops. The price of black gram remains unchanged for now. The prevailing price is expected to be the highest in the growing season of black gram. Only a small increase is probable. The remarkable price rise is unlikely to happen, Ayeya Trade Centre (ATC) under Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization pointed out.

Myanmar bagged over US$700 million from nearly 900,000 tonnes of pulses exports in the past seven months in the current financial year, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Myanmar conveyed over 899,541.734 tonnes of various beans and pulses worth $707.799 million to foreign trade partners between 1 April and 28 October 2022 in the current financial year 2022-2023. The country shipped 752,623.804 tonnes of pulses and beans valued at $607.942 million to foreign markets by sea, and over 146,917.930 tonnes valued at $99.857 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders.

Beans and pulses traders are seen evaluating the products at the bean market.

Myanmar exported over two million tonnes of various pulses worth $1.57 billion to foreign trade partners last financial year 2020-2021. The country shipped 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and beans valued at $966.4 million to foreign markets through sea routes, and 786,920 tonnes worth $604.3 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders.

Myanmar primarily exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas. Of them, black gram and pigeon peas are mainly sent to India while green grams are shipped to China and Europe.

India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black gram and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2022, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from the 2021-2022 financial year to the 2025-2026FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that annual quota.

Myanmar yearly produces approximately 400,000 tonnes of black gram and about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas. Myanmar is the top producer of the black gram that is primarily demanded by India, while pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are cultivated in Australia and African countries besides Myanmar. — NN/GNLM

Palm oil market price hits over K6,000 per viss although reference price set at K4,350

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market is set at K4,350 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) this week, yet the market price touched a high of over K6,000 per viss.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transportation cost, tariff and banking service, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

The reference prices of palm oil in the Yangon market were set at K4,350 per viss for this week from 14 to 20 November.

To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia.

Nonetheless, the current market price is over K2,000 higher than the reference rate.

If those retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Special Goods Tax Law, MoC released a statement.

The Ministry of Commerce is striving for consumers not to worry over the supply of edible oil. The ministry is also trying to secure edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer reasonable prices to the consumers and maintain price stability.

At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July to offer palm oil at a subsidized rate. They sell palm oil at K4,550 per viss to consumers directly. However, there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell palm oil at a reference rate depending on the volume quota.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/GNLM

OPINION

Prevent recruitment of child soldiers

TATMADAW recruits newcomers to military duties in accord with the provisions of relevant laws, rules and regulations agreed upon by the Committee on Prevention of Recruitment of Child Soldiers and the CTFMR.

Myanmar formed the Committee on Prevention of Recruitment of Child Soldiers on 5 January 2014. During the period from 2004 to 27 June 2012, Tatmadaw allowed discharging of 597 children from military duties.

The Myanmar government and the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) signed the plan of action on the prevention of recruitment for child soldiers on 27 June 2012 in order to erase Tatmadaw (Army) from the list mentioned in the report of the UN Secretary-General.

> As such, discharging the child soldiers from Tatmadaw (Army) showed the efforts of the Committee on Prevention of Recruitment of Child Soldiers to seek the recognition of CTFMR. That being so, the systematic recruitment of soldiers will have to polish the image of Tatmadaw and its members as individuals.

According to the action plan, Tatmadaw allowed discharging of 1,029 wrongly recruited underage soldiers from their duties in cooperation with the CTFMR and handed them over to their parents. Moreover, a total of 28 Tatmadaw members approved as underage persons by CTFMR were handed over to their families on 13 May 2022. As such, a total of 1,057 underage Tatmadaw members have been handed over to their parents.

During the period from January to October 2022, the youths who came to the military recruitment units for discharging military duties were scrutinized. In this regard, a total of 45 youths were believed to be underage and 140 more youths who were not eager to join Tatmadaw, totalling 185 were not accepted for military duties and allowed to return home.

Currently, plans are underway to verify 79 soldiers who are suspected of wrong recruitments with the data based on the information of CTFMR. If they really commit to the restrictions on military recruitment, they will be discharged from Tatmadaw. Further 12 suspect Tatmadaw members sent by CTFMR in 2021 and 2022 are under verification.

To be able to prevent the recruitment of child soldiers and the joining of underage youths to Tatmadaw, relevant ministries cooperate with each other to raise the awareness of the youths. Committee meetings take place as usual for implementation of the vision of the Committee on Prevention of Recruitment of Child Soldiers not to recruit child soldiers. Moreover, the progress of the preventive measures on accomplishments of the minutes decided at the meetings is informed to CTFMR.

As such, discharging the child soldiers from Tatmadaw (Army) showed the efforts of the Committee on Prevention of Recruitment of Child Soldiers to seek the recognition of CTFMR. That being so, the systematic recruitment of soldiers will have to polish the image of Tatmadaw and its members as individuals. ■

Contract Farming — A New Dimension in Paddy Cultivation

By TWA

HISTORICALLY, Myanmar's economy is based on agriculture, and so, the major products of the national economy are agricultural products. As stated by the agricultural census conducted in 2003, there are 3.46 million households engaged in agricultural activities with 8.7 million acres of land put under cultivation, it is learnt.

As agriculture is the main sector of Myanmar's economy, 60 per cent of GDP comes from this sector with 65 per cent of the labour force being engaged in agricultural activities.

Back in 1901, there were only eight and a half million acres of land put under cultivation of paddy. Nevertheless, the paddy-cultivation acres increased to 12.5 million after four decades in 1941. And when World War II broke out in 1945, Myanmar was also stricken by armed conflicts with the result that the draft cattle — the buffaloes and the oxen — were killed in the war by the thousands. The Japanese fascist troops slaughtered the cattle for their curry. With great losses of the farming animals, agricultural activities declined, and the acres of land put under cultivation also decreased. As a consequence, there were only 11.5 million acres of land even in 1961.

Out of the total acres of land under cultivation — i.e. over 17 million acres, about 12 million acres of land were put under cultivation of paddy between 1938 and 1940. Obviously, paddy has always been the major crop. This is the reason why paddy is called metaphorically the lifeblood, the precious gem of Myanmar. And the Delta Area — i.e. the Ayeyawady Region is called the rice barn metaphorically.

Cultivation of paddy plays a significant part in the agricultural sector of Myanmar with paddy cultivation accounting for 34 per cent of cultivation of all crops. In 2013, a total of 27 million tons of rice were produced. For all small and big farms within the country of Myanmar, the major paddy is monsoon paddy. The acres of land under cultivation of monsoon paddy were 15 million while the acres of land under cultivation of summer paddy were two million. In Ayeyawady Region, the acres of land put under cultivation of monsoon paddy were five million or so whereas the acres of land put under cultivation of monsoon paddy were three million or so in Bago Region, two million in Sagaing and one million in Yangon Region respectively. The acres of land put under cultivation of monsoon paddy in the said four regions accounted for 70 per cent of the cultivation of monsoon paddy across the country of Myanmar.

Farmers are pictured harvesting the monsoon paddy.

Farm workers are seen transplanting the summer paddy.

In 2020-2021, the acres of land put under cultivation of monsoon paddy were 15.01 million, and the paddy yield accounted for 1,053.73 million baskets. This year saw 1.66 million tonnes of rice and rice products being exported, earning US$578.94 million.

Around the 1930s in the pre-war period, the export of Myanmar rice accounted for 3.5 million tonnes. However, the export of rice has been on the decline since then. Only after 70 years, the export of rice has risen again, and in the 2017-2018 financial year, 3.6 million tonnes of rice could be exported. In the 2022-2023 financial year, the first half of the financial year witnessed 0.5 million tonnes of rice being exported and 0.36 million tonnes of broken rice being exported, bringing the total to 0.86 million tonnes. Rice was exported to more than 30 countries, with an increase of 0.20 million tonnes when compared to the same period of the previous financial year.

With the increase in the export of rice and broken rice, the government is now boosting agricultural production with greater momentum, and in such doing, the government held Myanmar Rice Conference — 2022 on 6 October 2022 at Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw. The motto for the conference is, "To Boost National Economy, Direct Effort towards Growing of More Paddy." The conference was honoured by the inauguration speech of State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Delivering the opening speech, the Senior General said, inter alia, that the rice conference was welcomed, that the rice and the rice products were on the priority list which was made in the formulation of the National Export Promotion Strategy and that under the rice export promotion strategy, production and export of quality rice are to be implemented in such a way that the natural environment will not be adversely affected and with the objective of rural area development and generation of greater income.

The population of Myanmar is 55 million now, and those working abroad are about 4.5 million. The rice consumption is 155 kilogrammes (97 pyis) per capita per annum. The rice and paddy production exceeds the domestic consumption dramatically, it is said.

The per acre yield of Monsoon paddy is about 75 baskets whereas that of summer paddy is about 90 baskets, it is estimated by the authorities concerned. If effort can be exerted to increase five baskets each for per acre yield of monsoon and summer paddy, the surplus can ensure higher self-sufficiency and greater export. On the part of the state authorities, they will arrange for providing more inputs like fertilizers and pesticides in addition to ensuring higher availability of irrigation water.

To solve the problem of scarcity of workers, human labour will be replaced with machinery. When human workers are used in harvesting the monsoon paddy, they will naturally be faced with difficulty when there are big rainfalls. But when the machines are used, there will not arise such a problem. Farmers need not be worried about the harvested paddy getting wet in the rain.

The harvesting and winnowing machines can be used when the sun shines. The use of these machines will cost a farmer K90,000 or so per acre. The use of machines costs less when compared to the use of human harvesters. But the costs may vary from region to region.

The drier paddy fetches a higher price. To dry the wet paddy, the bricks that have been baked in the fire are put into the wet paddy. And when the wet paddy is milled, they are to be rid of the pathway with the use of human labour. Now, we can use the drier machines to dry the wet paddy.

The monsoon paddy is sold for K1 million or so per 100 baskets in October. Despite the prices of inputs being high, the farmers are enjoying greater benefits this year.

The export of broken rice accounts for 42 per cent in the first half of this financial year, and the price gap between the price of the new rough rice and that of the broken rice is quite narrow in October.

After the harvest of monsoon paddy, 0.85 million acres of land will be put under cultivation of summer paddy under the Contract Farming system, it is learnt. Contract Farming System is a new dimension in the cultivation of paddy.

Translated.

Farm workers are seen collecting the threshed paddy.

ARTICLE
WEATHER REPORT

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 14 November 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and a few cloud to cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 15 November 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region and Kayin and Mon states and isolated in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions. Degree of certainty is (100%). Weather will be partly cloudy in (Southern and Eastern) Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (4 - 7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi regions and (Southern and Eastern) Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 November 2022: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 November 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 November 2022: Generally fair weather.

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SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

UN climate talks enter home stretch split over money

COP27 entered its final week Monday with countries that grew rich burning fossil fuels and developing nations reeling from climate impacts at loggerheads over how to speed and fund reductions in carbon pollution.

Somewhere in the middle, China — accounting for 30 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, by far the largest share — is feeling pressure from both sides, not only to enhance its carbon cutting goals but to step up as a donor nation, negotiators and analysts say.

At last year's UN climate summit in Glasgow, nearly 200 countries vowed to "keep alive" the Paris Agreement's aspirational goal of capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

This picture shows a view of the green zone at the Sharm el-Sheikh International Convention Centre, during the COP27 climate conference in Egypt's Red Sea resort city of the same name, on 9 November 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Nearly 1.2C of warming so far has seen a cascade of increasingly severe climate disasters, such as the flooding that left a third of Pakistan under water this summer, claiming at least 1,700 lives and inflicting $30 to $40 billion in damage.

The Glasgow Pact urged nations to ramp up their emissions reduction commitments ahead of this year's critical summit in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

But with the exception of Australia and Mexico, only a handful of smaller economies heeded the call, leaving the world on track to hot up by about 2.5C -- enough, scientists say, to trigger dangerous tipping points in Earth's climate system.

At the COP27's midpoint, little has changed.

"Parties are basically staring each other down, thinking they have done their part and waiting for the other side to move," said the head of WWF France, Pierre Canet.

'Make our lives easier'

As ministers arrive to cut through political knots above the pay grade of front-line negotiators, focus will turn to a crucial "decisions" document that will reveal the consensus reached -- or not.

"All the big political crunch issues are unresolved," said Alden Meyer, a senior analyst at climate think tank E3G.—AFP

Fort McKay: where Canada's boreal forest gave way to oil sands

THE acrid stench of gasoline permeates the air. And the soot coats everything in sight: the trees, the bushes, even the snow in winter. And all day long, explosions send the birds soaring to safety.

At Fort McKay near Fort McMurray in western Canada, in the heart of the country's boreal forest, the pines and the people were long ago cleared out to make way for huge open-pit mines dedicated to excavation of oil sands.

It's one of the biggest industrial projects in the world: as seen from above, the zone is in stark contrast to the vast expanse of green surrounding it. Huge black holes are gouged in the brown earth — they are giant pools of water.

Then there is the network of roads on which hundreds of trucks drive every day, and the immense factories, with smoke spewing from wide chimneys.

On the ground, the noise is deafening. And it's quite a scene for the uninitiated: in the middle of the huge basins dug to capture the polluted waters stand huge metal scarecrows clad in helmets and security vests.

The ghoulish creatures are designed to scare away millions of migratory birds that arrive every year in this northern part of Alberta province. Adding to the mayhem: airhorns that are used several times a minute. —AFP

Canadian forest service research scientist Yan Boulanger digs for a soil sample to check for quartz grains and organic acids in an area of boreal forest undergoing salvage logging and regeneration efforts following an insect outbreak near Quebec City on 27 August 2022. **PHOTO: ED JONES / AFP**

COP14 on wetlands conservation concludes with 21 resolutions

THE 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP14), held in China's Wuhan and Switzerland's Geneva, concluded Sunday with 21 resolutions.

Three of the resolutions were proposed by China: the resolution on establishment of the International Mangrove Centre; the resolution on integrating wetland conservation and restoration into national sustainable development strategies; and the resolution on enhancing the conservation and management of small wetlands, all of which are aimed at promoting the high-quality development of global wetland conservation.

Migratory birds are seen in Chenhu Lake Wetland Nature Reserve in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, 4 August 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Among the important outcomes of the gathering were the Wuhan Declaration as well as the Global Strategic Framework for Wetland Conservation 2025-2030. The latter specified that it will ensure the consistency and continuity between the fifth strategic plan and the objectives of the fourth phase, while focusing on the role of wetland conservation and restoration in promoting sustainable development and addressing global environmental challenges. It also called for accelerating wetland conservation and restoration actions, and curbing wetland degradation.

During the meeting, China, as the host, has presided over the conference, coordinating positions, setting up the provisional negotiating group and leading the consultations on the conference issues, hence the fruitful results of the meetings. —Xinhua

China's Tianzhou-4 cargo craft to reenter atmosphere

CHINA'S Tianzhou-4 cargo craft, tasked with supporting the Shenzhou-14 crewed mission, is scheduled to re-enter the atmosphere in a controlled manner on Tuesday, according to the China Manned Space Agency.

Most of the spacecraft's components will burn up during the re-entry, and a small amount of its debris will fall into the planned waters of the South Pacific, the agency said in a brief release on Monday.

The Tianzhou-4 cargo craft was launched on 10 May from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in the southern province of Hainan. It departed from the space station combination on 9 Nov and switched to independent flight after completing all assigned tasks.—Xinhua

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

G20 ministers launch billion-dollar pandemic fund

G20 health and finance ministers launched a $1.4-billion fund Sunday to tackle the next global pandemic ahead of the bloc's leaders gathering for a summit on the Indonesian resort island of Bali but the host's president said it was not enough.

The 24-nation fund is viewed as one of the early global outcomes of the summit next week where little progress is expected on the Ukraine crisis with Russian President Vladimir Putin not in attendance. It was launched at a news conference Sunday opened by Indonesian President Joko Widodo and addressed by World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and World Bank President David Malpass.

"The G20 agrees to build a pandemic fund to prevent and prepare for a pandemic. Donors from G20 and non-G20 members, as well as philanthropic organizations, have contributed to the funds. But it is not enough," Widodo said in a video address.

He said $31 billion was required to tackle the next global pandemic.

"We must ensure community resilience in the face of a pandemic. A pandemic can no longer take lives and destroy the joints of the global economy."

The United States has contributed $450 million to the fund, nearly a third of the total.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the joint fund was an example of what the G20 can do to tackle global problems.—AFP

Indonesia's Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati (L) talks with Indonesia's Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin (R) during the G20 Finance and Health Ministers meeting in Nusa Dua, Bali 12 November 2022. **PHOTO: ADE NAGI / POOL / AFP**

Chinese mainland reports 1,747 new local confirmed COVID-19 cases

A health worker takes a swab sample from a man at a residential area under lockdown due to Covid-19 coronavirus restrictions in Beijing on 14 November 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE Chinese mainland on Sunday reported 1,747 locally transmitted confirmed COVID-19 cases, the National Health Commission said Monday.

Altogether 14,325 local asymptomatic carriers were newly identified.

A total of 580 COVID-19 patients were discharged from hospitals after recovery on the mainland on Sunday, said the commission in its daily report.

The total number of COVID-19 patients discharged from hospitals after recovery has reached 255,147 on the mainland.—Xinhua

Ebola spreads to eastern Uganda: official

UGANDA'S Ministry of Health said that Ebola has spread to the eastern part of the country beyond the epicentre in the central region.

Ruth Aceng, minister of health, tweeted Sunday that a confirmed fatal case, who is a 45-year-old male, has been reported in the Jinja district of eastern Uganda.

The confirmed fatal case died at his home on 10 November, Aceng tweeted.

According to her tweets, the confirmed case was linked to a probable case, his brother, who travelled to Jinja from the Ugandan capital Kampala where he was said to have contracted the disease, and died on 3 November after falling ill for 10 days in the Jinja district.

Contact tracing and epidemiological investigations have been activated, Aceng added.

Ministry of Health figures as of 6 November showed that the country had registered 135 confirmed cases since the outbreak was reported on 20 September.—Xinhua

Hundreds of thousands rally to defend Madrid public healthcare

HUNDREDS of thousands of demonstrators rallied in Madrid on Sunday in defence of the region's primary care services, warning that plans to overhaul the system would "destroy" local healthcare.

On a sunny afternoon, huge crowds rallied at four points across the capital and marched on city hall in a mass protest under the slogan: "Madrid rallies in support of public healthcare and against the plan to destroy primary care services".

Primary care services in the Madrid area have been under huge pressure for years due to a lack of resources and staff, with the situation worsened by poor regional management, unions say.

A regional government spokesman said there were 200,000 people out on the streets, but organizers gave a figure three times higher, saying 650,000 demonstrators had joined the protest.

Aerial shots over the main boulevards leading to City Hall showed a vast sea of protesters surging in from all directions, among them many doctors and healthcare professionals, union members and politicians.—AFP

Cathay won't return to pre-pandemic capacity until 'end of 2024'

CATHAY Pacific said Monday it does not expect to return to pre-pandemic levels of travel until the end of 2024, highlighting how long the Hong Kong airline's return to normality could take.

Hong Kong imposed some of the world's strictest travel curbs during the coronavirus pandemic and only abandoned compulsory quarantine for all international arrivals in September.

The restrictions closed off what was one of Asia's once most connected cities and has hammered travel-reliant businesses including its flagship carrier.

In a statement released Monday, CEO Augustus Tang said the airline was "on track to achieve its target of operating up to one third of its pre-pandemic passenger flight capacity levels by the end of 2022".

If achieved Tang said that would represent a doubling of capacity since August, the month before more than two years of compulsory quarantine rules were lifted.

But the journey back to full capacity remains a long one.

Cathay said it hoped to be operating at around 70 per cent "by the end of 2023 with an aim to return to pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2024".

Tang will be replaced by fellow veteran Cathay executive Ronald Lam on 1 January.

While the number of flights to Hong Kong has increased after the government ended compulsory quarantine the airport is still far behind rivals.

Hong Kong's airport handled 755,000 passengers in October, around 13 per cent of what it used to process before the pandemic hit. In contrast, rival hub Singapore handled 3.42 million passengers in September, 63 per cent of pre-pandemic levels.

Singapore Airlines, which is already projecting to be at 76 per cent capacity by the end of this year, carried 1.46 million people in September compared with Cathay Pacific's 265,845 passengers.—AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

Stocks mostly rise, dollar up with focus on China, US

An aerial view shows residential and commercial buildings in Hong Kong on 14 November 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

STOCK markets mostly rose Monday after last week's global surge, helped by China's loosening of Covid rules and plans to help its property sector.

The dollar advanced against major rivals as traders urged caution over expectations that the Federal Reserve would pull back from massive US interest hikes as inflation cools in the world's biggest economy.

Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping meanwhile voiced hope Monday that the United States and China can manage growing differences and avoid conflict as they met for the first time in more than three years. "The burst of euphoria which erupted... at the end of last week is ebbing away after fresh warnings that the fight against inflation is still a hard slog yet to be won," noted Susannah Streeter, senior investment and markets analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown.

Sentiment won a lift from China, which is relaxing some of its strict Covid-19 restrictions that have hammered growth in the world's second largest economy.

Authorities have also reportedly unveiled a 16-point plan to support the beleaguered property sector, a major component of the country's economic engine.

The industry has come under immense pressure since China imposed a number of restrictions in 2020 aimed at reeling in debt as major developers teetered on the brink of collapse. The latest moves indicate that China's leadership is beginning to focus on supporting the economy, a crucial driver of global growth, according to analysts.—AFP

New Zealand to upgrade trade deal with ASEAN, Australia

NEW Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on Monday wrapped up the annual meeting of the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the Second ASEAN Global Dialogue on Post-COVID-19 Comprehensive Recovery, upgrading a trade deal with ASEAN and Australia.

New Zealand's new free trade agreement (FTA) with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Australia is expected to be signed and enter into force in 2023, said Ardern.

"As the world feels the impact of global economic pressures, the importance of securing high-quality, modern free trade agreements is essential to the economic security of all New Zealanders," she said.

The upgrade to ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA further boosts the trading ties with ASEAN, cutting red tape and costs on businesses and providing greater economic security to New Zealanders, said the prime minister.

ASEAN has become New Zealand's third-largest trading partner. In 2021, New Zealand exported over seven billion NZ dollars (4.27 billion US dollars) of goods and services to the 10 ASEAN countries, equating to almost 10 per cent of New Zealand's total exports, statistics show.—Xinhua

Projects worth billions USD inked under China-Singapore connectivity initiative

MORE than 400 projects worth over 54 billion US dollars have been inked under the China-Singapore (Chongqing) Demonstration Initiative on Strategic Connectivity over the past seven years.

The projects included 218 government and business cooperation projects worth 25.26 billion US dollars and 235 financial service projects worth 29.04 billion US dollars. These projects have effectively improved the interconnection between the western region of China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said the initiative's administrative bureau on Monday.

Zeng Jinghua, head of the China-Singapore (Chongqing) Demonstration Initiative on Strategic Connectivity Administrative Bureau, said cross-border financing projects amounted to about 18.59 billion US dollars, covering ten provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities in western China.

The New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, a trade and logistics passage jointly built by Singapore and provincial-level western China regions, with Chongqing as its centre of operations, has connected 335 ports in 113 countries. Meanwhile, around 200 enterprises from western China and ASEAN countries have participated in the agricultural cooperation under the initiative.

Launched in November 2015, the initiative mainly targets financial services, air transportation, logistics, and information communication.

It is the third intergovernmental cooperation project between China and Singapore, following the Suzhou Industrial Park in east China's Jiangsu Province and the Tianjin Eco-city in north China's Tianjin Municipality.—Xinhua

BOJ chief vows to maintain easing, watch impact of global tightening

THE Bank of Japan will maintain an ultralow rate policy amid heightened uncertainty over the global economy caused by policy tightening in other economies, while keeping close tabs on the financial market impact of rate hikes overseas, Governor Haruhiko Kuroda said Monday.

In a speech to business leaders in the central Japan city of Nagoya, Kuroda stuck to the view that a recent pickup in inflation, driven mainly by higher commodity prices and a weaker yen, will not be sustained, even as the nation has seen a broadening of price hikes by companies.

The central bank has said its two per cent inflation target should be attained in a stable and sustainable fashion supported by robust wage growth. Despite the headline inflation figure in Japan topping that threshold in recent months, Kuroda has ruled out the possibility of a near-term interest rate hike because inflationary pressure is expected to ease.

"At present, the Bank of Japan deems that it should continue with monetary easing and thereby firmly support economic activity," Kuroda said in his speech.

"By doing so, it aims to provide a favourable environment for firms to raise wages and to achieve the price stability target in a sustainable and stable manner, accompanied by wage increases," he said.

As the BOJ's monetary policy, partly blamed for accelerating the yen's sharp decline of late, has come under greater scrutiny, Kuroda has stressed the need to retain the existing policy framework to foster wage growth, a key factor in achieving inflation supported by strong demand.

Monetary tightening in advanced economies like the United States and the eurozone has raised concern about a global economic slowdown. Kuroda said it is necessary to "carefully monitor" the impact of such moves, including adjustments in asset prices and capital outflows from emerging economies.

Market participants have been on alert for any signs of slower policy tightening. In recent days, the yen has risen sharply against the US dollar, in a reversal of its sharp decline to a three-decade low, as markets expect the Federal Reserve to be less aggressive in hiking interest rates. "The government has intervened in the foreign exchange market multiple times and the abnormally one-sided and rapid weakening of the yen appears to be taking a pause. I believe this, in and of itself, is a very good thing," Kuroda told a press conference after his speech.—Kyodo

Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda makes a speech at a meeting with local business leaders in Nagoya in Aichi Prefecture, central Japan, on 14 November 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Sumitomo to invest over $17 bln in Indonesia hydropower project

JAPANESE trading house Sumitomo Corp will invest over $17 billion in an Indonesian mega hydropower plant project on Borneo Island, in a bid to help Indonesia achieve its goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2060, according to its CEO.

Sumitomo CEO Masayuki Hyodo made the remarks late Sunday following the signing of an agreement between his firm and Indonesia's state-owned electricity company PT Perusahaan Listrik Negara on the sidelines of the summit of the Group of 20 major economies on the resort island of Bali. The $17.8-billion Kayan Cascade project aims to make the biggest hydropower plant in Southeast Asia, said Moeldoko, presidential chief of staff. Sumitomo decided to join the project to create a power plant that does not emit carbon dioxide to "contribute to the net zero emission policy of the Indonesian government," according to Hyodo. Last month, Sumitomo said it will team up with its Indonesian partner PT Kayan Hydro Energy to develop the 9,000-megawatt hydropower project.

The project is planned to be developed on Kayan River in North Kalimantan Province on the Indonesian part of Borneo Island.—Kyodo

S Korea's ICT products export falls for 4th month in October

A woman walks past an advertisement for the Samsung Galaxy Z Fold4 and Flip4 smartphones at a subway station in Seoul on 27 October 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

SOUTH Korea's export of information and communications technology (ICT) products kept falling for the fourth consecutive month through October, government data showed Monday.

The ICT products shipment shrank 10.3 per cent from a year earlier to 17.87 billion US dollars in October, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

Global demand for locally-made tech products weakened amid rising worry about the global economic downturn.

Semiconductor export dropped 16.2 per cent over the year to 9.41 billion dollars in October due to lower prices for memory chips. It fell below 10 billion dollars in 18 months.

Display panel shipment retreated 9.6 per cent to 2.03 billion dollars, but mobile devices export jumped 13.0 per cent to 1.55 billion dollars on solid demand for newly launched smartphones.

The ICT products export to Viet Nam, the United States and the European Union (EU) all dipped to 3.21 billion dollars, 2.05 billion dollars and 960 million dollars respectively.—Xinhua

Sri Lanka plans to establish new economic zones to attract foreign investment

THE Sri Lankan government will establish new economic zones in the country's Western and North Western provinces as well as Hambantota and Trincomalee districts to attract foreign investment, President Ranil Wickremesinghe said on Monday.

At least 1,000 acres of land will be allocated for each zone, said Wickremesinghe when presenting the 2023 budget in parliament.

Wickremesinghe said that a new agency will be established to create a conducive environment to promote investment and external trade.

He said that the country plans to attract foreign direct investment worth three billion US dollars annually over the next 10 years.

The president said that a presidential commission will be established to assess and make recommendations on the public service and taxation to increase government revenue.

He also proposed to establish the National Productivity Commission to investigate and study productivity issues based on quantitative and qualitative data. The commission will make recommendations on trade adjustment programmes and advise the government on micro-economic policies on industries, commerce and trade.

The president said that economic reforms of the government will not be confined to the reforms agreed on with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as reforms proposed by the IMF are focused on economic stabilization.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V NORDPANTHER VOY.NO. (VS184W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORDPANTHER VOY.NO. (VS184W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-11-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AYIT** 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.

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M/S VASI SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (184N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (184N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-11-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V TRIESTE TRADER VOY.NO. (243W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TRIESTE TRADER VOY.NO. (243W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-11-2022** 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 SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MCL 16 VOY.NO. (12/22)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 16 VOY. NO. (12/22)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-11-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MKH** 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

Japan vows to provide yen loans to Indonesia for transportation

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (L) and Indonesian President Joko Widodo hold talks on the sidelines of a summit of the Group of 20 major economies in Bali, Indonesia, on 14 November 2022. **PHOTO (POOL PHOTO) : KYODO**

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pledged Monday to provide 130 billion yen ($927.4 million) in loans to Indonesia for its mass rapid transit system project and tollway infrastructure. During their in-person summit on the resort island of Bali, Kishida agreed with Indonesian President Joko Widodo that the two nations will sign the deal in the near future, according to the Japanese government.

Kishida's announcement came as Japan has been trying to thwart China's apparent efforts to bolster its economic and military clout in the Asia-Pacific region, where tensions between Beijing and democratic countries have been intensifying.

Japanese and Indonesian leaders also confirmed that the two nations will work together to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific, a vision promoted by Tokyo to counter to China's growing regional assertiveness.—Kyodo

Iran says efforts continue to revive nuclear negotiations

THE Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman on Monday stressed that efforts are still underway to continue the talks on the revival of a 2015 nuclear deal, according to the official news agency IRNA.

Making the remarks in an address to reporters at a weekly press conference in Tehran, Nasser Kanaani added the channels for exchanging messages between Iran and the other sides are still active.

He noted that Iran has submitted constructive initiatives to the other sides to help proceed with and conclude the process of reaching an agreement on the nuclear deal's revival.

Commenting on the recent remarks by French President Emmanuel Macron about the reduced likelihood of the nuclear deal's revival, Kanaani said Iran maintains that there is no relationship between the negotiations and any other development.

Macron on Monday said he did not believe any new proposals could help revive a nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with Iran in the near future, adding the current political situation in Iran has "fragilized the likelihood of reaching a deal".—Xinhua

Lavrov 'in good health' after hospital checks on G20 summit eve

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov is in good health after two health checks at a hospital in Bali, an Indonesian health ministry official said Monday, as Moscow denied the top diplomat had been hospitalized.

Russia called reports Lavrov had been hospitalized "the highest level of fake" and Moscow's foreign ministry spokeswoman posted a video of the 72-year-old diplomat in a T-shirt and shorts.

An Indonesian official told AFP said Lavrov had been taken to hospital two days in a row after arriving on the resort island of Bali on Sunday, where he is replacing President Vladimir Putin as the head of Moscow's delegation.

"He (Lavrov) is in good health, he came to the hospital yesterday after he arrived in Bali, only to get his health checked," said health ministry official Sunarto, who like many Indonesians goes by one name.

"Earlier (Monday), he came again to the hospital only for another health check and thank God he is healthy," he told AFP.

A spokesperson for Sanglah hospital in Bali's Denpasar city said a delegation had arrived at the hospital under tight security but that they were not authorized to disclose the identity or the condition of the individual involved.

Indonesia's foreign ministry referred all questions to the Russian embassy in Jakarta, which did not respond to a request for comment.

Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova slammed speculation around the health of Moscow's top diplomat and showed herself laughing with Lavrov in a video.

"We're here with Sergei Viktorovich (Lavrov) in Indonesia, reading the wires and we can't believe our eyes," Zakharova said.—AFP

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov (R) arrives to attend the G20 Summit at Ngurah Rai International airport at Tuban, Badung regency on Indonesia's resort island of Bali, on 13 November 2022. **PHOTO: SONNY TUMBELAKA / POOL / AFP**

East Africa bloc announces peace talks for eastern DR Congo

EAST African leaders on Sunday announced peace talks in a bid to stabilize eastern DR Congo, where M23 rebels clashed with troops just north of the key city of Goma over the weekend.

The seven-nation East African Community (EAC) stated that it would hold a "peace dialogue" on eastern Democratic Republic of Congo on 21 November, in the Kenyan capital Nairobi.

The announcement came as Congolese troops clashed anew with the M23 north of the volatile region's main city Goma, officials said.

A Congolese soldier watches a Kenyan army plane arriving at Goma airport, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo on 12 November 2022, as part of a regional military operation targeting rebels in the region. **PHOTO: AFP**

Army sources said the military had engaged the M23 in Mwaro, a village about 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of the important commercial hub of one million people.

"We woke up to fighting this morning," one army official told AFP.

Another said the situation was complex, with M23 fighters killed "en masse" but with dead on the Congolese army's side too.

Deadly clashes lasted until Sunday night at Kibumba, another settlement about 20 kilometres from Goma, according to local residents and security officials.

M23 rebels have recently surged across the DRC's North Kivu province, winning a string of victories against the army and capturing swathes of territory.

On Saturday, the group accused the Congolese army of retaliating with "barbarian bombings" — killing 15 civilians, including two children.—AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Leaders of China, US need to set right course for bilateral ties, says Xi

Chinese President Xi Jinping meets US President Joe Biden upon request in Bali, Indonesia, 14 November 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said on Monday here during a meeting with his US counterpart, Joe Biden, that as leaders of two major countries, they need to set the right course for bilateral ties.

From the initial contact and the establishment of diplomatic relations to today, China and the United States have gone through 50-plus eventful years, with gains and losses as well as experience and lessons, Xi said.

Noting that history is the best textbook, the Chinese president said that the two sides should take it as a mirror and let it guide the future.

Currently, the state of China-US relations is not in the fundamental interests of the two countries and their people, Xi said, adding that it is not what the international community expects from the two countries either.

As leaders of two major countries, Xi said, the two presidents need to play the leadership role, set the right course for the China-US relationship and put it on an upward trajectory.

A statesman should think about and know where to lead his country. He should also think about and know how to get along with other countries and the wider world, he added. Emphasizing that in this time and age, great changes are unfolding in ways like never before, Xi said that humanity is confronted with unprecedented challenges.

"The world has come to a crossroads. Where to go from here? This is a question that is not just on our mind, but also on the mind of all countries," Xi said, noting that the world expects that China and the United States will properly handle their relationship. Noting that his meeting with Biden has attracted the world's attention, Xi said that the two sides should work with all countries to bring more hope to world peace, greater confidence in global stability, and stronger impetus to common development.—Xinhua

Thousands evacuated as flash floods precede Malaysia's election

THOUSANDS of people across Malaysia were evacuated into temporary shelters over the weekend, officials said as the seasonal monsoon's heavy rain prompted turnout and safety concerns for the upcoming general election.

"The prime minister has put the lives of voters at risk by holding elections during the monsoon season and, with climate change, I really fear heavier rainfall across Malaysia," said Mahfuz Omar, an opposition MP from the northern Kedah state.

Malaysia's meteorological department has forecast thunderstorms and incessant rain right up until 21 million voters will be able to cast ballots Saturday, with more flooding expected.

The National Disaster Management Agency said in a statement over the weekend that six states in peninsular Malaysia had experienced flash flooding. "A total of 2,388 people have sought shelter in 25 relief centres," it said. "I fear voters will not be able to cast their votes if their homes are flooded and roads become impassable," Mahfuz told AFP.

Mahfuz and others have accused Prime Minister Ismail Sabri of power grabbing by calling the polls almost a year ahead of schedule and while opposition forces are in disarray. The ruling United Malays National Organization (UMNO) leaders are confident the early polls will result in a stronger mandate, but critics have said an election could distract the government from dealing with the effects of heavy monsoon rains that typically occur during this time of year, bringing deadly floods to the country's east coast. —AFP

Bomb threat prompts Tokyo court to ban entry, change trial schedules

THE Tokyo High Court on Monday temporarily banned entry into its building and cancelled some scheduled trial sessions after receiving a bomb threat, the court said.

The building at the heart of Tokyo's Kasumigaseki administrative district was not accessible from noon until 2 pm, with a total of 267 trials scheduled between 1 pm and 2:29 pm, including 245 at the Tokyo District Court housed in the same building, were bumped to later in the day or other days, it said.

The trial sessions included the high court's ruling over a vote weight disparity of up to 3.03 seen in the House of Councillors election this July. The ruling was handed down at 3:30 pm, two hours after originally scheduled.

Photo taken 14 November 2022 shows the building (L) which houses the Tokyo District Court and Tokyo High Court in Tokyo's Kasumigaseki area. **PHOTO: KYODO**

According to police, the Immigration Services Agency of Japan received an email around 3:25 am saying, "I will blow up the Tokyo District Court at 1:34 pm" Monday, with the name of an individual, believed to be a man, included in the message.

The Tokyo Fire Department also received a similar email, police said.—Kyodo

Australians rescued from roofs after flash floods

RESCUERS plucked more than 100 people from their roofs Monday after a flash flood swamped a small Australian town and sent residents scurrying for safety, officials said.

A weekend downpour over much of the already-sodden eastern state of New South Wales sent waters rising overnight, isolating some towns and communities.

Australia's east coast has been repeatedly swept by heavy rainfall in the past two years, driven by back-to-back La Nina cycles.

Many people in the town of Eugowra, with a population of about 800 people lying 350 kilometres (220 miles) west of Sydney, scrambled to their roofs to flee the latest flood.

Mud-brown floodwaters have transformed the town into a murky lake dotted with the tops of buildings and trees, television images showed.

"We have had 140 flood rescues in Eugowra alone. More than 100 of these were rescues from a roof," said the state's emergency services minister, Stephanie Cooke.

Stranded residents had been taken to safety by boat and helicopter, she told a news conference.

"This is a very serious situation, not just in Eugowra but in many places," Cooke said.

New Zealand had sent 12 people on Monday to help battle the state's floods, she said.

New South Wales' emergency services were also in contact with US and Singaporean authorities to secure further support, she said.

NSW has issued 16 immediate evacuation warnings since floods hit the central, western and southern parts of the state. —AFP

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Leaders of China, US need to set right course for bilateral ties, says Xi

PAGE-15

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.

First World Cup ticket touts detained in Qatar

QATAR announced its first arrests of World Cup ticket touts on Monday, with three foreign men detained outside official ticketing centres in Doha.

Six days from the start of the tournament, the interior ministry said "three people of different nationalities" were arrested and now face criminal proceedings.

The ministry released a statement on Twitter but did not specify the nationalities of those arrested, only stating the men were caught "reselling tickets" outside "official outlets".

Queues form daily outside FIFA's main ticketing centre in central Doha, with people hoping to purchase sought-after match tickets.

The statement said those arrested could face fines of up to 250,000 riyals ($68,000) for each ticket they were found to have sold.

FIFA and the Qatari government repeatedly warn about fake World Cup merchandise. Last week, authorities reported the seizure of 144 counterfeit World Cup trophies.

Previously, car number plates illegally using World Cup imagery and counterfeit clothes using official logos have been targeted by authorities.—AFP

Nadal fails to keep up with Fritz in ATP Finals opener

RAFAEL NADAL said he was slow and rusty as he suffered a disastrous start to his bid to win the ATP Finals for the first time after crashing to a 7-6 (7/3), 6-1 defeat to Taylor Fritz on Sunday.

"It's about time," the 36-year-old said. "I have less time than him to do what I want to do on the ball. I felt that everything was going so fast."

The year-ending Finals is the only major trophy missing from tennis icon Nadal's list of honours but his straight-sets loss means he will struggle to escape the round-robin stage.—AFP

Spain's Rafael Nadal waves as he leaves after losing his first round-robin match against USA's Taylor Fritz at the ATP Finals tennis tournament on 13 November 2022 in Turin. **PHOTO: AFP**

Myanmar volleyball team leaves for 32nd Southeast Asian Games' joint training in China

The Myanmar volleyball team are seen at the International Airport in Yangon before leaving for China for joint training.

IN order to further improve the quality and skills of the athletes who will represent Myanmar in the 32nd Southeast Asian Games, the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs will conduct joint training in the People's Republic of China under the G-to-G plan.

The team includes a total of 38 players including elite players from the national team, 18 new generation players, and 15 female players and five coaches and administrators headed the team.

The women's team will enter and compete in the 32nd Southeast Asian Games to gain a level of experience.

The national team will compete against Thailand, Indonesia, and Viet Nam in the SEA Games. We are expecting to get medals. Therefore, they have to go to the People's Republic of China for three months of joint training.

Myanmar volleyball team won one gold medal in the past and one silver medal in 1995, and one bronze medal in 2009, said head coach U Kyaw Soe Aung.

The men's and women's volleyball teams were greeted by the Deputy Director General of the Department of Sports and Physical Education U Kyaw Oo and the directors and the vice-president of the Myanmar Volleyball Federation.

According to the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, teams of wushu, athletics, and Myanmar boxing will continue to go to the People's Republic of China for joint training under the G-to-G plan. — Bala Soe/GNLM

Ronaldo claims he is being forced out of Man Utd

CRISTIANO RONALDO said he felt "betrayed" by Manchester United as he claimed manager Erik ten Hag and other senior executives are trying to force him out of the club in an explosive interview on Sunday.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner has been a peripheral figure on the field for United since Ten Hag took charge in May.

Ronaldo was disciplined after refusing to come on as a substitute in a 2-0 win over Tottenham last month, but had returned to the side in recent weeks and even captained the Red Devils in a 3-1 loss at Aston Villa last weekend. However, the 37-year-old was absent from the squad in Sunday's 2-1 victory over Fulham in United's last match before a six-week break for the World Cup.

"I don't have respect for him because he doesn't show respect for me," Ronaldo said of Ten Hag in an interview with the Piers Morgan Uncensored TV show.—AFP