PRIORITIZE THE RESURGENCE OF THE TOURISM SECTOR IN MYANMAR PAGE-8 (OPINION)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 228, 8th Waxing of Nattaw 1384 ME www.gnlm.com.mm Wednesday, 30 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.

SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces of Russian Federation and First Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Russian Ground Forces Colonel-General Kim Alexey Rostislavovich

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and First Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Russian Ground Forces Colonel-General Kim Alexey Rostislavovich at the parlour of Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Also present at the meeting were Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun and senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army). The Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and First Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Russian Ground Forces was accompanied by Military Attaché of Russia to Myanmar Colonel Sergey Kurchenko and Russian senior military officers.

At the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on further promotion of cooperation in education, health and

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Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Colonel-General Kim Alexey Rostislavovich, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and First Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Russian Ground Forces in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Announcement of Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

7th Waxing of Nattaw 1384 ME
29 November 2022

AS it is necessary to continuously control infection of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), it is hereby announced that request to the public orders, notifications and directives (except for easing the restrictions) released by the Union-level organizations and Union ministries up to 30 November 2022 have been extended until 31 December 2022 for prevention, control and treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

21 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 29 November, total figure rises to 633,217

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 633,217 after 21 new cases were reported on 29 November 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 607,725 including 16 new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at 19,488 on Tuesday 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.

Daily laboratory examination showed decline of infection to less than 2 per cent for 38 days.

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

Press release on relaxing Public Health Requirements for Travellers who Wish to Enter Myanmar through International Commercial Flights

1. The government releases the rules and regulations and rulings for COVID-19 and eases them depending on the infection rate of the country as well as of the world countries and regional countries.
2. Meanwhile, the local infection rate declined and the positivity rate reaches under one per cent for 14 consecutive days, the positive rate from travellers to Myanmar via international flights is also under one per cent and the COVID-19 vaccine coverage is high across the nation. Therefore, the restrictions to take tests with RDT will be relaxed for travellers to Myanmar by international commercial flights if they show COVID-19 vaccination record cards as proof of being fully vaccinated or if the travellers who are not fully vaccinated show the RT-PCR test results within 48 hours before their arrival to Myanmar at (00:01) hour Myanmar Standard Time on 1-12-2022. The details will be published in " Public Health Requirements for Travellers who Wish to Enter Myanmar through International Commercial Flights" on 1-12-2022.
3. However, the public health requirements for travellers by relief flights and travellers via land borders will remain the same as the requirements were released on 8-10-2022.

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education
Announcement

1. The list of those who have been admitted to the first-year distance learning course for successful candidates of the 2022 matriculation examination will be announced on 1-12-2022 by the respective universities and colleges, on the Ministry of Education website: www.moe.gov.mm and the Department of Higher Education website: www.dhe.gov.mm.
2. Enrolment registration of first-year distance learning courses will be accepted at respective universities and colleges from 26-12-2022 to 31-1-2023 (for students who passed the 2022 matriculation examination), and from 26-12-2022 to 28-2-2023 (for students who passed matriculation examination before 2022) (including Saturdays and Sundays).
3. Enrolment registration for all second-year and above distance learning courses will be accepted from 16-1-2023 to 28-2-2023 (including Saturdays and Sundays).

Department of Higher Education

Myanmar workers leave for Thailand under MoU system

UNDER the MoU system between Myanmar and Thailand, the Department of Labour under the Ministry of Labour, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, yesterday afternoon sent a total of 150 Myanmar workers (125 men and 25 women) through the Kawthoung border to work in Thailand.

Those Myanmar workers were sent to Thailand under the arrangement by JMK Services Co Ltd, which is an overseas employment agency (Thailand), to work for the Thailand Company Phakee Development Co Ltd under a two-year contract. They were conveyed by flight to Kawthoung via Yangon and sent to Thailand by the maritime route through the Kawthoung International Border. Thus, the Kawthoung District Department of Labour, Department of Immigration and Population of Kawthoung District Office, Anti-Trafficking Police Task Force and responsible organizations carried out necessary tests and examinations for them and officials of the employment company properly transported them to the company where they will work in Thailand, it is learnt. — Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)/GNLM

MoU workers are seen before leaving for Thailand via the Kawthoung border.

PR system should be practised for broader representation

THE word federalism is a concept of sharing power and authority with different regions, states, ethnicities and national races. It means integration and sharing. Political parties including ethnic parties represent the people who support them. So, there are different representations and efforts are being made to practise the proportional representation (PR) system to widely represent the parties and ethnic nationals.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peace-making Central Committee Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the 7th Anniversary of Signing the Nation-wide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) on 15 October 2022.)

SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Chief of General ...

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Colonel-General Kim Alexey Rostislavovich, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and First Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Russian Ground Forces in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

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technological measures including defence between the two armed forces of both countries, cooperation in counter-terrorism, sending of Myanmar Tatmadaw's scholarship students to Russia, enhancement of friendly relations between the two armed forces, participation of Myanmar Tatmadaw in the cultural contest and army games held in the Russian Federation, bilateral exchange measures, strategic cooperation in economic and technological sectors of both countries, the emphasis placed by every country to combat terrorism across the world at present, and situation of cooperation in counter-terrorism between the two armed forces of Myanmar and Russia to contribute to regional peace and world's peace measures.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and the First Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Russian Ground Forces exchanged commemorative gifts. — MNA

MIFER Union Minister receives Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Cultural Promotion Association

UNION Minister Dr Kan Zaw of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations received a delegation led by Mr Fumio Usui, Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Cultural Promotion Association yesterday morning at Office 1 in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to the strengthening Japan-Myanmar friendship and bilateral cooperation for the socioeconomic development of Myanmar.

Deputy Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung, the director-general of the Foreign Economic Relations Department and senior officials were also present at the meeting. — MNA

MIFER Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw meets JMCPA Chair Mr Fumio Usui in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Variety Show marking Diamond Jubilee Independence Day continues

THE fourth day of the variety show marking Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 continued at the open-air theatre of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall yesterday evening.

SAC Member U Shwe Kyein, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko, deputy ministers, officials from the Union-level organizations, military officers and wives, staff and families, and people enjoyed the show.

The SAC member, Union ministers, dignitaries, staff and families, people watch the Variety Show in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Artistes from the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare entertained the audience with various choreographed group dances, songs, traditional dances, and magic shows including a comedy show by comedians.

After performances, SAC member U Shwe Kyien awarded the basket of flowers, Union Ministers U Maung Maung Ohn and U Ko Ko gave cash awards and Deputy Information Minister Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun gave cash award offered by the people to artistes from the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare. The variety show was organized by the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day Celebration Steering Committee and the show will be held at the open-air theatre of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall between 6:30 pm to 11 pm until 30 November. — MNA

MoEA Union Minister receives JMCPA Chairman

JMCPA Chair Mr Fumio Usui calls on MoEA Union Minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint yesterday.

UNION Minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs received Chairman Mr Fumio Usui of the Japan-Myanmar Cultural Promotion Association and party at the guest hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Union minister and the JMCPA chairman had a friendly exchange of views on issues related to employment opportunities for ethnic youths and the development of the socioeconomic lives of ethnic peoples.

The permanent secretary, the director-general, the deputy permanent secretary and officials attended the meeting. — MNA

Thailand hosts 17th Meeting of Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution in Mekong Subregion virtually

THE 17th Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution was hosted online by Thailand yesterday. The meeting was attended by representatives of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), representatives from the ASEAN secretary-general office and representatives of the ASEAN Specialized Meteorological Centre (ASMC).

Deputy Director-General Dr Sann Oo from the Environmental Conservation Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, and senior officials from the Forestry Department, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Fire Services, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department and the Department of Disaster Management participated in the meeting.

Thailand chaired the meeting. The ASMC presented the formation of fire and smog within the ASEAN region in 2022, drawing a new roadmap on ASEAN cooperation towards transboundary haze pollution control 2022-2030 to address transboundary haze pollution by the ASEAN secretary-general office and sustainable development of the region, development of the new ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy 2022-2030, transboundary haze pollution reduction measures of the Mekong Subregion countries discussed by representatives of the GMS countries, implementation measures of the Chiang Rai Work Plan 2017, and development of cooperation with international partners.

Afterwards, attendees discussed setting the time and venue for the 18th Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-region. — MNA

The deputy director-general of the Environmental Conservation Department leads the Myanmar delegation at the meeting online.

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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MoHT Union Minister attends 2nd Hybrid Seminar on Enhancing Understanding of Service Providers for Japanese Travellers, opening ceremony of World Tourism Conference 2022 online

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism launched the second Hybrid Seminar on Enhancing the Understanding of Service Providers for Japanese Travellers in Bagan yesterday. The seminar is part of the implementation of the National Activity Project-2022 by the ministry supported by the ASEAN-Japan Centre.

Speaking at the seminar, Union Minister Dr Htay Aung said the tourism industry resumes as the country could control the COVID-19 disease significantly and the event is held for the service providers for Japanese travellers in collaboration with ASEAN-Japan Centre.

In 2019, about 20 million Japanese travellers visited foreign countries and of them, 5.6 million visited ASEAN countries and Myanmar hosted about 100,000 Japanese tourists. Therefore, they play a key role in Myanmar's market.

The Union minister also highlighted the intention of the seminar to provide better services to Japanese travellers via mutual relations between Myanmar and Japan.

Then, Secretary-General Dr Kunihiko Hirabayashi of the ASEAN-Japan Centre delivered an opening speech and officials of the centre and experts from Japanese tourism agencies discussed their respective subjects.

At noon, the Union minister virtually joined the opening ceremony of the World Tourism Conference 2022 organized by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) in Riyadh of Saudi Arabia.

Then, the ministers of Tourism and Investment of Saudi Arabia, the general secretary of the World Tourism Organization, hotel and tourism businesspersons, officials of airlines and experts and respective ministers of ministries concerned of Saudi Arabia participated in discussions on different topics. — MNA

Union Minister Dr Htay Aung takes the documentary group photo at the online seminar yesterday.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, palm oil, fuel, consumer goods and vehicles confiscated

SUPERVISED by the Taninthayi Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, a combined team consisting of the Myeik district police chief and head of the Myeik township customs office led by the Taninthayi Region Security and Border Affairs Minister conducted inspections on 27 November.

Officials captured five kinds of goods, including 7,200 litres of palm oil worth K53.25 million without official documents in Myeik township and K13.15 million worth of clothes and consumer goods without official documents from a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (estimated value of K20 million) at the Pauktai Bridge checkpoint on Myeik-Dawei road. The action was taken under customs procedures.

Similarly, a combined team under the management of the Magway Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force seized 200 gallons of illegal fuel and 320 gallons of illegal crude oil worth K2.96 million from two three-wheel motorbikes (approximately K1.6 million) in Minbu township. The action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Product Law.

In addition, a combined team made inspections and impounded 29,426 litres of palm oil worth K86.33 million without official documents in the Yadanahtun wholesale shop in Mawlamyine township on 28 November. The action was taken under customs procedures.

At the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint in Mon State, officials confiscated 2,460 kilogrammes of softener worth K1.38 million that were not declared in the import declaration (ID) from a Nissan Diesel car (estimated value of K90 million) on 28 November and K10.05 million worth of palm oil, softener and cement bags without official documents on 29 November. The action was taken under customs procedures.

A total of 5.3350 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K1.58 million was also confiscated in Bago and Toungoo districts and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 16 arrests (at an estimated value of over K280 million) were made on three consecutive days from 27 to 29 November, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA

Seized illegal commodities in Mon State.

Drugs seized in Yephyu, Thingangyun, Nawnghkio and Tachilek townships

Two arrestees are seen along with seized drugs and a saloon.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a motorbike driven by Aung Min Oo at the combined checkpoint in Yephyu township and seized 5,850 stimulant tablets at 12:30 pm on 28 November.

At 3 pm on the same day, Police Force examined a suspected Wai Yan Htun (aka) Mutslim at the corner of Thanthuma and Lutlatt Yay Road in Thingangyun township and found 2,000 stimulant tablets.

In addition, at 4 pm on the same day, Police Force searched the apartment of Aung Htun Naing (aka) Awise in Thingangyun township and seized 25 stimulant tablets. At 4:45 pm on the same day, Police Force searched the house of Sai Se Naing (aka) Ar Nam and arrested Sai Se Naing (aka) Ar Nam, Kya Mu and Ar Lin with 0.081 kilogramme of Happy Water, 0.45 kilogramme of ketamine, 2,000 stimulant tablets, arms and ammunition.

At 2:45 pm on 26 November, Police Force examined a Toyota BB car driven by Sai Yaw and Naw Mai near the tollgate in Nawnghkio township on Mandalay-Lashio Road and found 24,000 stimulant tablets in the car.

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

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Myanmar conducts cross-border trade with 3,927 trucks via Muse border on 1-27 Nov

The Muse 105th-mile border post.

MUSE border post saw the bilateral cross-border trade between Myanmar and China with 3,927 trucks, according to the Ministry of Commerce's data.

Myanmar carried out exports with 2,618 trucks and imports with 1,259 trucks on 1 and 27 November through the Muse border.

Export/import online licensing can be made through Myanmar Tradenet 2.0 portal or exporters and importers can seek licences in person at the border posts.

On 27 November, an import licence worth 0.009 million Yuan for consumer goods was issued. In the past 27 days, three export licences and 507 import licences were issued.

The major export items were various beans and pulses, rice and broken rice, corn and tragacanth gum (locally called Saekalamat), while construction materials, electrical devices, equipment, motorcycle parts, tangerine, clothes and consumer goods were imported into the country.

China grants Form E (China-ASEAN Free Trade Certificate of Origin) tax relief for some of Myanmar's import items.

On 27 November, 13 Form E certificates were granted for crab, eel, tragacanth, broken rice, and zinc ingot. A total of 481 Form E certificates were issued from 1 to 27 November 2022.

On 27 November, 136 trucks loaded with export goods and 45 carrying import goods were witnessed on the Muse border. These days, exports of rice, broken rice, pulses, corn, rubber, watermelon and muskmelon are being exported so export trucks outnumber import trucks.

Transactions for cross-border trade are done in Yuan and dollars. Bean, corn, sesame and peanuts are allowed to make payments in Yuan as well as dollars. For transactions of rice, broken rice, agricultural products and fisheries products (eel, crab) are available in Yuan payment.

The prices stood at 5,000-5,500 Yuan per tonne of green gram in Ruili city, 2,250-2,300 Yuan per tonne of corn, 8,500-10,500 Yuan per tonne of black sesame, 9,000-10,000 Yuan per tonne of white sesame, 9,000-9,500 Yuan per tonne of peanut, 2,160 Yuan per tonne of Aemahta rice (25 per cent broken), 2,400 Yuan per tonne of broken rice (A 1-2) and 10,000-10,300 Yuan per tonne of rubber (RSS-3). – TWA/GNLM

Overnight guests prohibited in monasteries in Yangon Region

IT is reported that the Yangon Region Sangha Nayaka Committee has instructed in a letter dated 23 November not to accept overnight guests in the monasteries in Yangon Region.

If the overnight guests are allowed to stay, the Yangon Region Sangha Nayaka Committee has notified the Sangha Nayaka Committees in each township in writing to communicate with relevant administrative organizations, and through this, various monasteries are being informed.

Such a prohibition is due to the fact that some monasteries receive overnight visitors and there have been incidents of misdemeanours such as robberies and fights, according to relevant departments.

Therefore, in order not to cause unwanted problems, respective monasteries have been notified, according to the report.

That is why in order not to cause unwanted problems in the monasteries in townships, relevant persons in charge of the monasteries should not accept night guests without permission, and if they accept evening guests, they must contact relevant administrative organizations. —TWA/GNLM

The photo shows the Bago city centre.

Cooperative societies to bid for their properties in Bago Region

A total of 16 properties owned by cooperative societies in the Bago Region will be auctioned on 2 December to those who want to do business, said the authorities concerned.

Plots of land and buildings owned by the township cooperative societies located in Bago, Kawa, Waw, DaikU, Toungoo, Htantabin and Kyauktaga Townships in Bago Region (East) and Gyobingauk, Pyay, Paungde, Thayawady, Shwedaung, Thegon, Minhla and Nattalin Townships in Bago Region (West), will be sold through an auction system to those who want to do domestic business.

The buildings are storage facilities, wedding halls, fish ponds and timber shops, according to the auction team. Applications can be purchased at the respective township cooperative societies starting from 28 November.

The deadline for applications for buildings in Bago Region (East) has been set at 1 December and the auction will be held on 2 December. The last date to submit applications for buildings in Bago Region (West) is 5 December and the auction for those buildings will be held on the same day, it is learnt. — TWA/GNLM

Vocational training courses to open for disabled persons

VOCATIONAL training courses for persons with disabilities will open at the School for the Adult with Disabilities (Yangon) under the Department of Social Welfare, Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement, it is learnt.

Courses in tailoring, printing, photography, hair-cutting training and computer training will be open for three months starting from 2 January 2023.

Disabled persons aged between 18 and 45 can attend the training and food and accommodation and travel expenses will be provided for those from rural areas.

Those interested can contact 01-966172, 09-250402392 and 09-421110867 (during office hours) at the School for the Adult with Disabilities (Yangon), 65, Kyaik Wine Pagoda Street, Mayangon Township, Yangon, in the compound of the Social Work Training Campus. — TWA/GNLM

Barbering training at the School for the Adult with Disabilities (Yangon).

LOCAL BUSINESS

Freight forwarding agents grappled with decrease in fuel oil price

THE prices of fuel oil remain low in recent days and the price gap between Octane for personal use cars and diesel for trucks has narrowed.

The fuel oil prices stood at K2,005 per litre of Octane 92, K2,110 for Octane 95 and K2,385 for diesel on 26,27 and 28 November. Diesel price plummeted to the lowest of K1,970 per litre on 7 August 2022 and rocketed to the highest of K3,225 on 26 August. Some companies and freight forwarding agents agreed to fix the freight rate in the contract when the diesel price was above K2,500 per litre.

Lorries are seen in front of the respective commodity depots at the Bayintnaung wholesale market.

The freight rate was changed following the increase in diesel price. It has been about one week since the diesel price was below K2,500 per litre. Consequently, some companies and agents have come to reduce the freight rate to the previous rate.

However, the agents still cannot cut the freight cost as they did not sign any contract with the truck operators. The agents could easily find trucks when freight rates increased. Yet, they are struggling to find the trucks when the freight rate is reduced. That being so, they cannot offer the lower rate to the truck owners, forcing the agents to bear that cost.

The fuel price dip brings benefits to truck drivers. However, companies and agents are facing certain difficulties in the truck service industry. Freight volume usually drops in September-December. Only one month is remaining now, Ko Myint Thaung, who has been working in the freight forwarding industry told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

In summer, the truck freight forwarding market will raise its head and freight flow will return to normal. Freight rate moves up and down depending on the balance between the freight volume and the number of trucks. The price of fuel is positively related to the profit of the owners.

"The truck rate climbs on the back of high freight volume when the number of trucks is low. Low freight volume and a high number of trucks resulted in a decrease in truck rate," U San, a truck operator, told the GNLM.

Prior to the open season, agents still can hire trucks with a low truck rate when the diesel was priced under K2,500 per litre. Nonetheless, they have to add extra costs to the truck operators during the opening season.

The price of diesel stayed over K2,500 per litre for three months. On 22 November, it slid below K2,500 per litre. Between 25 and 28 November, it was valued under K2,400 per litre, the daily price data stated.

If the price of diesel is worth K3,225 per litre, the price stands at around K15,000 per gallon and K700,000 per container. They are K11,000 per gallon and K550,000 per container if it is calculated with the market price of K2,400 per litre.

For the 230-mile-long Yangon-Pathein round trip, a six-wheel truck with a load capacity of 6,000 tonnes has to consume 20 gallons of diesel (75.7 litres).

If the diesel price is down by K100 per gallon, the truck drivers can lessen the energy cost of K10,000 for that trip, Ko Maung Yu, a six-wheel truck driver, told the GNLM. — TWA/GNLM

China lockdown hurt fruit traders in Muse

MYANMAR'S watermelon and muskmelon are underpriced owing to China's lockdown and the market turns out to be cool, said fruit traders in Muse city.

"The watermelon and muskmelon are offered too low. Chinese people are facing the severe lockdown spurred by COVID cases. Consequently, it influenced Myanmar's watermelon and muskmelon market. Chinese buyers arrived in Muse yet trade is slow-moving due to the lockdown," said a fruit trader.

An official of North East Gate Fruit Depot elaborated that "trade is sluggish following the cold weather and closure of transport routes triggered by the virus restriction measures. The temperature in the city, where Myanmar's muskmelon is highly demanded, dropped to -15°C. Furthermore, people cannot go outside amid the COVID lockdown.

At present, around 40 truckloads of watermelon and muskmelon are daily exported to China. The watermelon fetches approximately 1.5 Yuan, while muskmelon is priced at 2.5 Yuan. Chinese buyers offer lower than the market rates.

At present, Myanmar's watermelons are mainly shipped to China. In a bid to contain the spread of coronavirus at the border, China imposed lockdowns in some areas, resulting in additional costs. Furthermore, the prices are extremely lower than last year's rate.

Last year, the COVID-19 restrictions hindered Myanmar's watermelon and muskmelon exports to China. Chinese Customs Regulation increased delay. Long delays of trucks caused harm to watermelon quality and only one in five trucks heading to China remained undamaged with quality watermelons.

At present, Myanmar daily delivers rice, broken rice, rubber, various beans and pulses, fishery products, chilli pepper and other food commodities to China through Kyinsankyawt by 70 trucks and building materials, electrical appliances, household goods and industrial raw materials are imported into the country by 30 trucks.

The traders are observing delivery time, price and profit as they are perishable fruit, while they are trying to explore new markets in addition to China.

On 1 April 2020, Nantaw and Sinphyu border posts were suspended in the wake of COVID-19 impacts. China has closed down the major border crossing Mang Wein from 30 March 2021 following the COVID-19 cases in Myanmar.

On 8 July 2021, the two-remaining cross-border posts Kyinsankyawt and Panseng were suspended. As a result of this, the border trade between Myanmar and China was completely halted.

Among Sino-Myanmar border posts, the Kyinsankyawt border resumed operations on 26 November 2021 on a trial run.

At present, Myanmar daily delivers rice, broken rice, rubber, various beans and pulses, fishery products, chilli pepper and other food commodities to China through Kyinsankyawt by 70 trucks and building materials, electrical appliances, household goods and industrial raw materials are imported into the country by 30 trucks.—NN/GNLM

OPINION

Prioritize the resurgence of the tourism sector in Myanmar

IN A couple of years, the tourism industry faced losses in its business triggered by the outbreak of Covid-19 in various waves throughout the world. Hence, relevant countries suspended operations of tourism services in all forms for travellers at home and abroad to be able to avoid the severe impacts of the infectious Covid-19 pandemic.

At a time when the infection rate of Covid-19 gradually declines day by day up to date, global countries resumed their economic mechanisms and lifted some restrictions on Covid-19 protocols issued by the relevant ministry of health. Currently, some neighbouring countries and regional countries restarted the tourism industry with various service forms for earning incomes for their nations and for businesspersons.

It is necessary to attract travellers to relevant regions, build infrastructures for the tourism industry, create new tourist destinations, take information about the tourism market online on time and provide services to travellers online. If so, the tourism industry of Myanmar will have developed to some extent. To do so, all the people including businesspersons from the tourism industry need to participate in the tasks to boom tourism services.

Indeed, the tourism sector contributes to the improvement of the service sector which helps increase the State Gross Domestic Product-GDP, creating job opportunities in relevant areas. Hence, local people can earn income for their families. It is a basic factor in booming the State economy and the private sector.

Some neighbouring countries earn thousands of millions of US dollars from the tourism industry at a time when Myanmar's tourism industry delayed to improve due to unstable situations, terror acts and armed conflicts based on political changes. Hence, it is necessary to take lessons from such events for shaping a better future for the State.

Only when the whole tourism sector resumes operations, can employees from hotel and lodging services, transport service, tourism service, restaurant service, tour guide service, entertainment and souvenir production industries and other sectors earn incomes as usual. As such, all the national people should strive for ensuring peace and stability in the regions, prevalence of law and order and resumption of the tourism sector.

It is necessary to attract travellers to relevant regions, build infrastructures for the tourism industry, create new tourist destinations, take information about the tourism market online on time and provide services to travellers online. If so, the tourism industry of Myanmar will have developed to some extent. To do so, all the people including businesspersons from the tourism industry need to participate in the tasks to boom tourism services.

Myanmar is located between the two countries with the world's largest populations and Thailand where people are keen to pay visits to significant places. As the number of travellers across the nation showed there were 60.7 million Chinese travellers and 35.4 million Thai citizens travelling throughout the world. Hence, Myanmar needs to revitalize the whole tourism sector for the interests of the State and the people. ■

ARTICLE

Buddhist Jataka Neymi juxtaposed with Dante's Divine Comedy

By Dr Myint Zan

THE Italian author and poet Dante Alighieri (circa 1265-1321) passed away 701 years ago on 14 September 1321. Dante completed his masterpiece a long, epic poem written in the Italian language *The Divine Comedy (Divina Commedia)* in 1320 a year before he died.

The Divine Comedy is an imaginative narration of Dante's visit to various circles of the Christian hell(s) (*Inferno*), purgatory (*Purgatorio*) and paradise (*Paradiso*).

About 460 years after Dante completed *The Divine Comedy* the Burmese Buddhist monk Sayadaw ('royal monk-teacher') Minbu U Awbartha (circa 1759-1799) translated from the Pali language the Buddhist *Jataka* (stories or tales from the Buddhist texts) Neymi Zat Taw နေမိဇာတ်တော် around the year 1786. U Awbartha translated from the Pali into Burmese eight out of the ten lives of the Buddha from the *Jatakas* where in each life the embryo Buddha (ဘုရားလောင်း) perfected the ten virtues for enlightenment prior to his last rebirth as Gautama Buddha.

It is stated that even though Dante completed *The Divine Comedy* in the year 1320 the first printed edition in the Italian language appeared over 150 years later in 1472.

One does not know when the first printed edition of the Burmese translation and adaptation of Neymi *Jataka* appeared - perhaps it was in the mid to late 19th century. The print version that this writer would refer to is from the compilation of all the ten Zattaws ဇာတ်တော် (*Jatakas*, dramas) titled *Pann Shwe Pyi Zat Taw Gyi* ပန်းရွှေပြည်ဇာတ်တော်ကြီး published in August 2008 (References below are to the page numbers from this book).

Why the Buddha Smiles

Neymi Zattaw of U Awbartha's grand, translated work opened with the Buddha himself narrating one of his past lives as king Neymi. U Awbartha (hereafter AWB) narrated that the Buddha on one occasion smiled which was 'just discernible from his golden lips'. AWB elaborated on four pages (pages 310 to 314) on the type of smiles of the Buddha and their significance. On being enquired about his smile the Buddha discoursed about his previous birth as king Neymi. The Burmese translation by AWB is not written as the Buddha himself was narrating his previous life story. It is written in the third person in the formal, grand at times grandiose and flowery Burmese literary prose style of the late 18th century. Dante's *Divine Comedy* narrated in verse Dante's own (claimed) experience of visits to hell, purgatory and paradise.

Whether generosity or morality is the superior virtue

King Neymi practised *Dhana* ဒါန generosity (giving alms/ donations). He also practised *Sila* သီလ morality doing good, meritorious deeds (*Kusala* ကုသလ in Pali, kuthow ကုသိုလ် in Burmese). *Sila* can be roughly translated as 'morality' but in the Buddhist context every Buddhist is expected, as part of the Buddhist precepts: (1) not to intentionally cause the death of any sentient being (2) not to take what is not given (3) not to tell untruths (4) not to engage in adultery/sexual misconduct (5) not to imbibe intoxicating drinks. In addition to these 'compulsory' precepts avoidance of solid food after mid-day, not singing, dancing, playing or listening to music, abstinence from all sexual activities, not handling gold, money and not residing in luxurious places and sleeping on luxurious beds are additional or recommended moral precepts that Buddhists should practice.

Once it occurred to king Neymi whether giving alms/ donations or keeping the precepts, following Buddhist moral norms were the more beneficial *Kusala* and produce more beneficial karmic effects. AWB described the thought of the embryo Buddha Neymi as 'wandering, wavering not leading to objective wisdom' (page 319).

As a result of king Neymi's high moral status thi gyar min သိကြားမင်း (*Sakka* in Pali, chief of the *Devas*; hereafter *Sakka*) who resided in the Buddhist higher physical *Deva* realms became aware of Neymi's dilemma. *Sakka* took upon himself the task of dissolving and resolving the doubts of king Neymi (page 319). Descending from his abode (in the sky) shimmering, iridescent the *Sakka* appeared before Neymi in his palace on Earth much to the initial 'shock and awe' of Neymi. *Sakka* stated to Neymi thus:

Your majesty Neymi: the highest status of donations/giving alms cannot match the lowest status of practising morality/keeping the precepts; *Sila* (morality) is more than a thousand times, more than a hundred thousand times nobler than *Dana* giving alms/ donations. Your majesty should kindly take heed of that (page 322).

Tour of the circles of heavens and hells

After *Sakka* returned to his abode in the sky he narrated about king Neymi on earth in the assembly of Nats (*Devas*, heavenly beings where *Sakka* is the chief, hereafter referred to as *Devas*) the *Devas* expressed their desire to give their respects to the hitherto earth-bound king Neymi. *Sakka* then instructed a *Deva* by the name of Matali to bring king Neymi to the abode of *Devas*. Matali descended to earth with his chariot drawn by a thousand horses (page 329).

When Matali reached Neymi's palace to send him to the assembly of the *Devas* Matali offered the king to tour the circles of hell as Neymi was a noble king who avoided misdeeds ဒုစရိုက် 'as though the misdeeds were iron hot furnaces' and embraced meritorious deeds သုစရိုက် as though they were 'golden abodes' (page 337). Apparently, the instruction from *Sakka* to Matali did not specifically include that Neymi be shown the realms of hell.

In *The Divine Comedy*, Dante had three different guides to show him during his visit to the Christian hell, purgatory and paradise. In Neymi Jataka the *Deva* Matali was the only 'guide' to show the various Buddhist hells and *Deva* realms.

AWB translated, interspersed with exegeses on the 14 various 'circles of hells' which Matali showed king Neymi in a tour. (pages 338 to 364). In each of the 14 hell realms when king Neymi was shown how the denizens of hell (nga yei thu in Burmese) were being punished king Neymi felt 'as though he himself were going through such severe punishments and his heart throbbed with great fear and shock'. The extremely severe punishments the denizens of hell had to go through for various types of evils they had committed in their previous human lives are translated by AWB in excruciating detail. In Dante's *Divine Comedy*, generically, the self-indulgent, the violent and the malicious are punished in various circles of hell. Generally, without carrying too far, in the Neymi *Jataka* those who are punished can be argued to have committed similar though not identical sins.

Of particular interest is what can be considered as the third worst or 'lowest' hell where both the denizens of hell and those who conducted the punishments were specifically mentioned as females (main ma). In that particular circle of hell, wrote AWB, there was not a 'single male' who had to go through various punishments which included hot iron balls being rolled on their bodies from four directions. AWB stated in a long sentence that these female denizens of hell had lustfully, committed adultery in their sojourn on earth. As an exegesis, AWB added that 'good women of high standing' အမျိုးကောင်းသမီး should be aware that any misdeeds မကောင်းမှု done covertly only gave temporary pleasure but soon thereafter they would deteriorate, became putrid and had [extremely] negative outcomes' (page 355).

The next hell (arguably worse than the preceding one) is relegated to those male adulterers who had to go through (among others) severe beatings by the punishers in hell ငရဲသိန်း and had their heads and bodies pushed down into the burning flames of hell fires. AWB warned all males to refrain from such misdeeds (page 356) lest they literally burn in that particular hell.

The 14th hell and the last and arguably the worst hell AWB described in nearly eight pages (pages 357 to 364) is (1) reserved for those who do not believe in the karmic consequences of bad acts and good acts in this life, and in past and future lives. Instead, they espoused that the trajectory and fate (rather than *Karma*) of the lives of persons are solely determined by Hindu gods (page 357). Perhaps in a very stretched manner this concept that (Hindu) gods alone determine one's fate can be juxtaposed (not necessarily analogized) with the predestination theology.

(2) AWB stated that those who believed and espoused that giving alms, practising the Buddhist moral precepts, etc. are 'useless' and did not bring any benefits will also be punished in this hell. Likewise, those who espoused that killing others, stealing etc. are not transgressions and they do not result in retribution and punishment of the wrongdoers are relegated to this hell.

Generically, those who adhere to and espouse these doctrines can be described as 'nihilists'. They are nihilists because they believe or espouse that nothing good or bad can result from one's good or bad deeds. Rest assured that AWB (in translation) stated these sorts of persons can also be punished in this 14th hell (page 348).

(3) those who adhere to the doctrine or concept that there are no moral causes or karmic effects or consequences of one's own actions also adhere to the wrong view. The doctrine that there are no moral causes or moral consequences, like the first two erroneous views, is evil doctrine မိစ္ဆာဒိဋ္ဌိ. Hence the espousers of all these doctrines were punished in this hell, AWB stated. Perhaps this third view partly overlaps with the second view of nihilism with large dollops of 'accidentalism'. This view is nihilistic as well as 'accidentalist' since 'accident' rather than morality or karmic causes and consequentialism explains the human condition. All those who espouse these three wrong doctrines were in this circle of hell which is last described in the Burmese translation of the Neymi *Jataka* (page 358).

In this regard across the religious, theological and cultural divide in Circle 6 of Dante's *Inferno* the denizens of the Christian hell are those who are heretics, who contradicted the doctrines of Christ. (*The Divine Comedy* Carlyle Oakley Wicksteed Unabridged Translation)

Sakka, while waiting for Matali and Neymi to arrive at the assembly of *Devas* with his 'ever-seeing eyes' discovered that Matali was showing the various circles of hell to king Neymi. AWB stated those hells are situated inside or underneath the earth. Sakka instructed Matali to bring king Neymi to the assembly of the *Devas*, 'post haste'. Consequently, Matali instead of visiting 'one layer of hell after another' as he had hitherto done let Neymi sees all the remaining hells 'kaleidoscopically in one sitting' (page 359).

After visiting 14 layers of hell, Matali took Neymi to ten circles of *Deva* 'heaven' where each circle of heaven is grander, more luxurious and more magnificent than the preceding one (pages 364 to 388). As in the visits to the circles of hell, Neymi asked and Matali explained the reasons for the male and a few other instances of female *Devas* enjoying the grand palaces and the pleasures of the Deva realms.

In gist, the good deeds of those residing in the circles of heavens include giving alms to the monks and persons of pure morality, and various other meritorious deeds. In resolving the doubts of king Neymi *Sakka* categorically affirmed that giving alms or being generous in giving away one's possessions (*Dana*) is much inferior to those of practising morality *Sila*. It would seem to this writer though that in classifying the moral causes of the meritorious deeds of the male and female *Devas* there seems to be more emphasis on *Dana* than *Sila* in the latter part of the Neymi *Jataka* as translated by AWB.

Declining to be king of the *Devas* and return to Earth

As instructed by *Sakka* Matali brought Neymi to the *Tavatimsa Deva* realm. Due to the immense adulation of the assembled *Devas* and himself, *Sakka* offered the throne of *Tavatimsa* heaven to Neymi (page 393). The embryo Buddha, king Neymi ('as he then was') pondered that 'positions and privileges conferred by others are not appropriate to be taken' and with the Dhamma in mind, he refused the offer made to him (pages 393 to 394).

Matali sent king Neymi back to the human realm and to his palace. After reigning 'for more than a hundred thousand years' king Neymi abdicated and left for the woods to become a monk. On his demise, king Neymi was reborn in – the exact words used are 'shifted his abode'- one of the Brahma realms (pages 400 to 401).

Reason for non-visit to the non-physical, formless Brahma realms

It can be briefly mentioned here that the Brahma realms are known as non-physical, formless realms အရူပဓါတု in Pali) and there are twenty such realms in Buddhist cosmology. Neither Matali nor *Sakka* took king Neymi to any of the *Brahma* realms. This might be so because they are non-physical, formless realms and they cannot be observed physically. Arguably, at that point in time *Sakka* himself has not practised *Bhavana Kusala* (the merits acquired through *Vipassana* meditation in Theravada Buddhism) adequately. *Sakka* and his subordinate Matali perhaps could not have travelled to those realms. Perhaps the future Buddha, king Neymi declined the offer of *Sakka* because he was setting his sight higher than those of *Sakka* which after all was in the 'lower' physical *Deva* realm. This statement is not specifically made by AWB but is an extrapolation by this writer.

Tribute to two literary geniuses

As stated, Dante and the Buddhist monk U Awbartha (AWB) flourished in different centuries in very different cultural, religious, and theological traditions and milieus. Both are literary geniuses with an intense belief in and determination to espouse their own religious doctrines. Sadly, U Awbartha passed away at the age of forty. In a period of about four years, roughly between 1783 and 1787 U Awbartha translated eight of the ten Buddhist Jataka tales into Burmese with exegeses and commentaries. His contributions to Burmese literature and in a sense the art of translation are significant. Perhaps Dante's work especially but not necessarily only in the West is more well-known. This writer is not aware of the existence of a full or even a short, executive summary of Dante's Divine Comedy in Burmese.

This article is obviously limited in scope and at the same time took religious and other 'liberties'. With that admission, I give tribute to these two great literati who flourished more than four centuries apart in different parts of the world. ■

SCI/ENVIRON
WORLD

Australia opposes UN "in danger" listing of Great Barrier Reef

File photo taken in December 2017 shows the Great Barrier Reef. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE Australian government expressed its opposition Tuesday to a recommendation by a United Nations-backed mission that the Great Barrier Reef be added to a list of "in danger" World Heritage sites, warning of the significant impact climate change is having on the world's largest coral reef ecosystem.

The recommendation came in a mission report released Monday, following a 10-day monitoring visit to the reef in March by officials from UNESCO and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

The report found that the Australian government's plans to protect the reef are "lacking clear climate change targets and implementation measures," and made 10 key recommendations, including the adoption of stronger emissions reduction policies consistent with preventing warming of 1.5 degrees.

Australian Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek said Tuesday that Canberra would make clear to UNESCO that there is no need to single out the Great Barrier Reef in this way, arguing that every coral reef in the world is affected by climate change.

"The reason that UNESCO in the past has singled out a place as at risk is because they wanted to see greater government investment or greater government action and since the change of government, both of those things have happened," Plibersek said in a press conference, adding that the report was based on monitoring done under the previous government.

According to Plibersek, several of the key criticisms raised in the report are no longer relevant, after the cancellation of nearby dam projects and the introduction of new legislation since the new Labour government took office in May.

Since being elected, the administration of Anthony Albanese has legislated an emissions reduction target of 43 per cent by 2030 and committed AU$1.2 billion ($800 million) for work to protect the reef in coming years.— Kyodo

Snow storms kill over 200 heads of livestock in Mongolia

AT least 216 heads of livestock have been killed in western Mongolia by heavy snow storms, the country's National Emergency Management Agency said Tuesday.

The incidents occurred Sunday in provinces of Uvs and Khovd where heavy snow storms hit with a wind speed reaching up to 72 kilometres per hour.

Large parts of Mongolia have been experiencing extreme cold and snow storms in recent days, with overnight temperatures dropping to minus 39 to minus 47 degrees Celsius, the country's National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring reported.

Mongolia's climate is typical continental, with long and frigid winters. Unstable weather events are also common in the country throughout the year. — Xinhua

Scientific issues critical to human society 2022 released

GLOBAL scientists have selected the top 10 scientific issues critical to human society development for 2022, the China Science Daily reported on Tuesday.

Focusing on the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this year's top 10 challenges mainly relate to climate, cities, and manufacturing.

The issues include coping with extreme weather and climate events, building a green and efficient recycling system of urban waste resources, and realizing a transition from resource-intensive, high-carbon to decentralized, low-carbon manufacturing industries.

These issues were proposed by chief editors, editorial board members, and strategic scientists of well-known sci-tech journals. Scientists from more than ten countries and regions, including China, the United States, and Britain, participated.

"Selecting and publishing the top 10 issues will help pool wisdom, build solution consensus, and deepen the openness, trust, and cooperation of the global sci-tech community," said Luo Xian'gang, an academic at the Chinese Academy of Engineering.—Xinhua

All regions experienced water extremes in 2021: UN

ALL regions of the world saw water extremes last year — both floods and droughts — and billions of people had insufficient freshwater, the United Nations said on Tuesday.

Large areas of the planet recorded drier than normal conditions in 2021, the UN's World Meteorological Organization said in its first annual State of Global Water Resources report.

The report assesses the effects of changes in the climate, environment and society on the Earth's freshwater resources — limited supplies that are under growing demand — so they can be managed better.

"The impacts of climate change are often felt through water — more intense and frequent droughts, more extreme flooding, more erratic seasonal rainfall and accelerated melting of glaciers — with cascading effects on economies, ecosystems and all aspects of our daily lives," said WMO head Petteri Taalas.

"And yet there is insufficient understanding of changes in the distribution, quantity and quality of freshwater resources."

Some 3.6 billion people face inadequate access to freshwater at least one month per year. That is forecast to rise to more than five billion by 2050, the report said.

Between 2001 and 2018, 74 per cent of all natural disasters were water-related, according to UN studies. In 2021, all regions saw devastating water extremes, the report said.

There were record-breaking floods in western Europe and the Amazon, while water levels in rivers in Paraguay and southern Brazil dropped to an all-time low. The report assessed streamflow — the volume of water flowing through a river — over a 30-year period.

Drops in water volumes were twice as widespread as rises.

Major river basins in the Americas and central Africa saw water volumes shrink. Rivers in northern India and southern Africa saw above average increases. —AFP

This aerial picture taken on 13 September 2022 at Glacier 3000 resort above Les Diablerets shows the Tsanfleuron pass free of the ice that covered it for at least 2,000 years. The thick layer of ice that has covered a Swiss mountain pass between Scex Rouge glacier and Tsanfleuron glacier since at least the Roman era has melted away completely. Following a dry winter, the summer heatwaves hitting Europe have been catastrophic for the Alpine glaciers, which have been melting at an accelerated rate. **PHOTO: AFP**

Argentina records first mpox death

Picture of a unit for screening patients with monkeypox, at the Arzobispo Loayza hospital, in Lima on 16 August 2022. Nearly 28,000 cases have been confirmed worldwide in the last three months and the first deaths are starting to be recorded. **PHOTO: ERNESTO BENAVIDES / AFP**

ARGENTINA registered its first death from mpox, the disease formerly known as monkeypox, when a patient died in a hospital in the capital Buenos Aires, the health ministry said.

The fatality was a 44-year-old man who was diagnosed with untreated HIV-AIDS and suffered septic shock, which caused his death, the health ministry said Monday.

The patient had been hospitalized since mid-September in intensive care with respiratory assistance and his death was registered on 22 November, the report added.

Argentina has reported 895 confirmed cases of mpox, overwhelmingly concentrated in the capital and the provinces of Buenos Aires and Cordoba, the health ministry said. — AFP

Vitamin K1 can help lower bone fracture risk in older population: study

AN Australian study has found that higher vitamin K1 intake is associated with lower long-term fracture-related hospitalization risk.

Researchers from Edith Cowan University (ECU) and University of Western Australia probed into the relationship between fracture-related hospitalizations and vitamin K1 intake in nearly 1,400 older Australian women over a 14.5-year period.

The study, published in the Food & Function journal, revealed that women who took in more than 100 mcg of vitamin K1, equivalent to about 125 g of dark leafy vegetables, were 31 per cent less likely to have any fracture than those consuming less than 60 mcg per day.

More positive results were reported regarding hip fractures, with those who ate the most vitamin K1 cutting their risk of hospitalization almost in half.

In a statement released on Monday, Marc Sim, lead author and senior research fellow at ECU, regarded the results as further evidence of the benefits of vitamin K1, which has also been shown to enhance cardiovascular health.—Xinhua

Greece to bring back unvaccinated health staff: minister

GREECE will restore thousands of health staff who refused to be vaccinated against Covid-19, the health minister said Tuesday, following a court ruling.

Like several other European countries, Greece brought in rules during the worst of the pandemic requiring staff at hospitals, doctors' offices and care homes to be fully vaccinated.

The move enforced a year ago led to some 6,500 unvaccinated staff being sidelined, and was strongly opposed by the main union of hospital workers.

Greece's top administrative court, the Council of State, called for the measure to be repealed last week, following a complaint brought by the union.

"The ruling will be implemented, though I tell you I think it is a dangerous decision for public health," Health Minister Thanos Plevris told Mega TV.

Plevris said the move would likely be repealed from 1 January, if not sooner.—AFP

Australia scraps 33,000 Covid fines

AUSTRALIA'S most populous state scrapped 33,000 fines issued for breaking Covid-19 rules Tuesday, after a top court ruled they were invalid.

New South Wales authorities were forced to retract more than half their pandemic-era fines, which were found to be too vague in describing the offence.

Revenue NSW said that because of the "technical" breach it would withdraw "fail to comply" penalties believed to be worth tens of millions of dollars.

"Fail to comply" fines were issued for a range of alleged offences from carpooling to public gathering.

They varied in severity but included fines of between $1,000 and $3,000 (US$670 and US$2,000) a piece.

Those who have already paid the fines will be reimbursed, Revenue NSW said.

Redfern Legal Centre, the legal aid organization that brought the court challenge, hailed the ruling as "momentous". "This case is about more than just two people's fines. It is about the need to properly adhere to the rule of law, even during a pandemic," centre solicitor Samantha Lee said before the ruling. The group alleged that the fines were also disproportionately issued to people living in poorer neighbourhoods and regions. — AFP

S Korea reports 71,476 new COVID-19 cases

A woman walks past a poster showing precautions against the Covid-19 coronavirus at a subway station in Seoul on 17 March 2022, after South Korea's daily infections rose sharply to hit a new high of over 600,000. **PHOTO: JUNG YEON-JE / AFP**

SOUTH Korea reported 71,476 new COVID-19 cases as of midnight Monday compared to 24 hours ago, raising the total number of infections to 27,031,319, the health authorities said Tuesday.

The daily caseload was up from 22,327 in the prior day, but it was lower than 72,860 tallied a week earlier, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA).

For the past week, the daily average number of new cases was 53,815.

Among the new cases, 84 were imported from overseas, lifting the total to 71,384.

The number of infected people who were in critical condition stood at 491, unchanged from the previous day.

Forty-one more deaths were confirmed, leaving the death toll at 30,454. — Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

Qatar announces first major gas deal for Germany

QATAR on Tuesday announced its first major deal to send liquefied natural gas to Germany as Europe scrambles to find alternatives to Russian energy sources.

Qatar's Energy Minister Saad Sherida al-Kaabi said up to two million tonnes of gas a year would be sent for at least 15 years from 2026, and that state-run QatarEnergy was discussing other possible deals for Europe's biggest economy.

Kaabi, who is also QatarEnergy's chief executive, said so many European and Asian countries now want natural gas that he did not have enough negotiators to cope.

The talks for the latest deal took several months as Germany has resisted the long-term contracts that Qatar normally demands to justify its massive investment in the industry.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February increased pressure on the German government to find new sources. And the latest deal will not help the country get through the looming winter.

(R to L) Saad Sherida al-Kaabi, Qatar's energy minister and CEO of QatarEnergy, gives a press conference with Ryan Lance, CEO of multinational corporation ConocoPhillips, in Qatar's capital Doha on 29 November 2022 announcing a new deal to send Germany two million tons of liquefied natural gas a year for at least 15 years.
PHOTO:AFP

The gas will be bought through US firm ConocoPhillips, a long-term partner with QatarEnergy, and sent to a new terminal that Germany is hurrying to finish at Brunsbuttel.

"We are committed to contribute to the energy security of Germany and Europe at large," Kaabi told a press conference after the signing ceremony with ConocoPhillips chief executive Ryan Lance.

Lance hailed the accord as "a vital contribution to world energy security".

Qatar last week announced a 27-year agreement to ship four million tonnes a year to China. It said this was the longest contract agreed in the industry.

Qatari officials would not discuss prices but industry analysts have said Germany will have to pay a premium for the shorter contract and the hurried start to deliveries.

Intense demand

Kaabi again stressed the "sizeable investments" that his country has made in extracting gas for deliveries around the world.

But he also said that Qatar was negotiating with German companies to further increase the "volumes" being sent.

The gas will come from the North Field East and North Field South projects that Qatar is developing with ConocoPhillips and other energy multinationals. North Field contains the world's biggest natural gas reserves and extends under the Gulf into Iranian territory.—AFP

Malaysia sees business confidence rise in Q4: survey

MALAYSIAN businesses remain upbeat despite signs of downward moderation in the fourth quarter, with a confidence indicator of 3.2 per cent, an official survey showed Tuesday.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) said in a statement that the services, industry, wholesale and retail trade sectors have a positive outlook for the fourth quarter.

Business sentiment in the services sector remains favourable with an indicator of 9.2 per cent in the cited quarter as against 13.6 per cent in the last quarter.

Similarly, sentiment in the industry sector continues to be positive by posting a confidence indicator of 3.7 per cent in the fourth quarter as compared to 6.6 per cent in the third quarter.

Meanwhile, the wholesale and retail trade sector expects an improved business situation with the confidence indicator rebounding to a positive trajectory of 1.9 per cent from minus 5.8 per cent in the third quarter.

The construction sector, however, remains the most pessimistic sector for consecutive quarters with the confidence indicator of minus 29.2 per cent as compared to minus 24.9 per cent in the previous quarter. —Xinhua

Negative wealth effects to weigh on US consumption: Bank of America

NEGATIVE wealth effects resulting from lower valuation of assets would weigh on consumer spending and contribute to an economic slowdown in the United States in 2023, according to Bank of America (BofA) on Monday.

"We could see some negative wealth effects on the balance sheets of consumers," said Michael Gapen, chief US economist with Bank of America, noting that equity markets have been down generally over the last 12 to 18 months and home prices are now starting to fall.

The United States would see a consumer-led slowdown sometime next year following the current slowdown led by investment, said Gapen at an online briefing by BofA.—Xinhua

Japan's job availability improves for 10th straight month in October

JAPAN'S job availability ratio edged up in October, marking the 10th successive month of increase, as the economy shows some signs of improving, the government said in a report on Tuesday.

According to the country's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, job availability in Japan inched up 0.01 points from September to 1.35 in October.

This equates to there being 135 job opening for every 100 people seeking employment.

The ministry said that jobs in the service sector comprised the most employment opportunities, with job offers in the accommodation and restaurant sector climbing 29.3 per cent from a year earlier in the reporting period.

Openings in the service sector were followed by offers in the wholesale and retail sector, which saw an 11.7 per cent increase from a year earlier in October, the ministry's data showed.—Xinhua

Luxury cruise ship arrives in Sri Lanka with 2,000 tourists

A super luxury cruise ship arrived at Colombo Port on Tuesday carrying over 2,000 passengers, the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) said.

The "Mein Schiff 5" owned by a German operator docked at the Sri Lankan capital in the small hours of Tuesday with ceremonies and cultural shows planned throughout the day.

Officials from the SLPA said the ship received a ceremonious welcome at the Colombo Port and the passengers would be offered excursions for the majority of the locations and tours covering Colombo, the south and the central highlands.—Xinhua

Japan automakers' Oct. output rises 14% as pandemic impact eases

MAJOR Japanese automakers' combined global output grew 14.4 per cent to 2.11 million units in October from a year earlier as parts shortages prompted by the coronavirus pandemic receded, their data showed Tuesday.

Six of the eight automakers, or all but Nissan Motor Co and Mitsubishi Motors Corp, reported increases in output, although it remains unclear wheter they can sustain the uptrend amid a continued shortage of semiconductors and China's COVID-19 lockdowns.

Toyota Motor Corp. said its global output grew 23.0 per cent to 771,382 vehicles and its global sales climbed 22.8 per cent to 832,373 units in October, both eclipsing the previous year's figures for a third consecutive month.

File photo taken 2 Aug 2018, shows Subaru cars awaiting export at a logistics centre in Kawasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture, near Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Honda Motor Co saw its October output rise 1.1 per cent to 330,002 units, marking a fifth consecutive month of increase. Suzuki Motor Corp advanced 14.1 per cent to 267,337 vehicles on the back of growth in its Indian production.

Subaru Corp's output soared 43.1 per cent in the month to 88,457 units. The company said the impact of the shortage of parts using computer chips remains, but it has become smaller compared with the previous year.—Kyodo

S Africa jobless rate edges down again despite power cuts

SOUTH Africa's unemployment rate fell slightly for a third consecutive quarter despite power cuts that hampered economic activity across the country, official data showed on Tuesday.

Between July and September, the jobless rate declined by one percentage point over the second quarter to 32.9 per cent of the workforce, StatsSA said.

The drop follows falls of 0.6 and 0.8 percentage points in the second and first quarters of the year respectively, the official statistics agency said.

Unemployment stood at 35.3 per cent at the end of 2021. StatsSA said 204,000 jobs were added in the third quarter, especially in manufacturing, trade, construction and transport.

Poverty, inequality and joblessness run high in South Africa, nearly three decades after the end of apartheid. —AFP

China's trade council promotes overseas trade exhibition projects to help firms retain orders

CHINA'S trade council has been advancing the approval process for overseas economic and trade exhibition projects in a bid to help companies snap up orders and expand markets, according to a spokesperson on Tuesday.

Since the beginning of November, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade has greenlighted 15 overseas economic and trade exhibition projects spanning from November 2022 to February 2023, the council's spokesperson Sun Xiao told a press conference.

These overseas exhibition projects, including 13 to participate in and two to host, are spread out over eight countries, including Germany, the United States, and the United Arab Emirates, and feature sectors related to textile, sporting goods, electronics, and consumer goods.

The largest exhibition area of the involved projects reaches 10,000 square metres, Sun said. —Xinhua

Shanghai Disneyland suspends operations

SHANGHAI Disneyland will be temporarily closed starting Tuesday in order to follow the requirement of pandemic prevention and control, according to a statement by Shanghai Disneyland Resort.

Disneytown, Wishing Star Park, and the two resort hotels will continue to operate normally.

The resort will notify guests as soon as it has a confirmed date to resume operations and will provide refund or exchanges for all guests impacted during this period, it said.

On Monday, Shanghai registered 20 new locally transmitted COVID-19 cases and 158 local asymptomatic cases, according to the municipal health commission. — Xinhua

S Korea's retail sale rises in October

SOUTH Korea's retail sale rose last month due to the eased measures against the COVID-19 pandemic, government data showed Tuesday. Revenue among major online and offline retailers grew 7.3 per cent in October from a year earlier, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

Sales by online retailers expanded 8.2 per cent last month thanks to high demand for travel-related services, sports tickets, and convenience food.

Revenue by offline retailers gained 6.4 per cent on the back of solid demand for food and clothing that offset weak demand for home appliances amid the warmer weather than before.—Xinhua

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR SOLO VOY.NO. (979N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR SOLO VOY.NO. (979N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-11-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (245W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (245W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-11-2022** 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.

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Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK AISA PTE., LTD.

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Talks kick off on global plastic trash treaty

DESPITE decades of effort, plastic pollution is only getting worse — a gloomy fact that representatives of almost 200 nations meeting in Uruguay Monday are determined to change.

Delegates in the seaside city of Punta Del Este began charting a path to the first global treaty to combat plastic pollution.

"We know that the world has a significant addiction to plastic," said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the Nairobi-based United Nations Environment Programme, at the start of the talks.

"A plastic crisis is also a climate crisis. Plastic has a heavy carbon footprint and a heavy chemical footprint," she said.

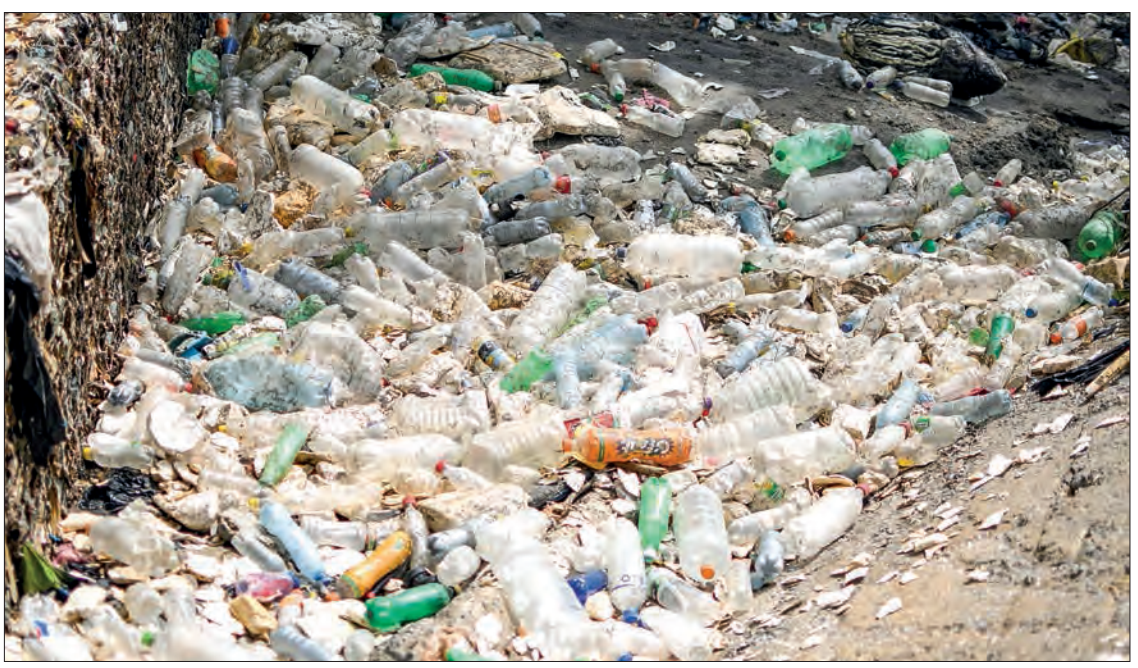
The Uruguay meeting comes after the parties at the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi in March agreed to create an intergovernmental committee to negotiate and finalize a legally binding plastics treaty by 2024.

The decision was seen as the biggest environmental advance since the Paris Agreement to curb global warming was signed in 2015.

By some estimates, a garbage truck's worth of plastic is dumped into the sea every minute. The amount of plastic entering the oceans is forecast to triple by 2040.

At the same time, microplastics have been found in human blood, lung, spleen, and kidney tissue, and even in fetal tissue.

Experts believe it is only an international, legally binding agreement that could truly begin to halt one of the worst environmental scourges on the planet — if there is enough political will.—AFP



View of plastic bottles on the banks of the polluted Las Vacas River, in Chinautla, Guatemala, on 8 June 2022, where the Dutch NGO The Ocean Cleanup will install The Interceptor, a giant metal fence to catch thousands of tonnes of plastic garbage. The Dutch NGO The Ocean Cleanup seeks to trap thousands of tonnes of plastic that each year flow into the Caribbean Sea generated from the capital of Guatemala by the Las Vacas River, a tributary of the extensive Motagua River, the promoter of the project Boyan Slat, reported on Wednesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

World's largest volcano erupts in Hawaii

THE world's largest active volcano burst into life for the first time in 40 years, spewing lava and hot ash Monday in a spectacular display of nature's fury by Mauna Loa in Hawaii.

Rivers of molten rock could be seen high up on the volcano, venting huge clouds of steam and smoke at the summit on Big Island, and sparking warnings the situation could change rapidly.

Pressure has been building at Mauna Loa for years, according to the United States Geological Survey, which reported the eruption could be seen from 45 miles (72 kilometres) away, in the town of Kona the west coast of Hawaii's main island.

The eruption, which began shortly before midnight Sunday, was initially contained within the caldera — the concave area at the top of the volcano — but vulcanologists said Monday lava was now escaping from cracks in its side.

"The eruption of Mauna Loa has migrated from the summit to the Northeast Rift Zone where fissures are feeding several lava flows," the USGS said on its website.—AFP

This aerial image released by the US Geological Survey (USGS) from Civil Air Patrol on 28 November 2022, shows the lava on the northeast rift zone of Mauna Loa in Hawaii. Hawaii's Mauna Loa, the largest active volcano in the world, has erupted for the first time in nearly 40 years, US authorities said, as emergency crews went on alert early Monday. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY / AFP**

UN urges shipping industry to cut emissions

THE United Nations warned Tuesday that carbon emissions from shipping were growing, calling on the vast industry to scrap old, polluting vessels and upgrade infrastructure to speed up its green transition.

The UN's trade and development agency UNCTAD highlighted the vital role shipping plays in the global economy, with over 80 per cent of all traded goods in the world moved by sea.

But while the world is becoming increasingly aware of the need to slash greenhouse gas emissions to avert catastrophic climate change, the global maritime fleet saw emissions rise by 4.7 per cent between 2020 and 2021 alone, it said.

"That number is heading in the wrong direction," UNCTAD chief Rebeca Grynspan told reporters ahead of the launch of the agency's annual report on maritime transport.

Grynspan, a former vice-president of Costa Rica, also raised concerns about the average age of ships sailing the seas currently standing at nearly 22 years old.—AFP

US approves $323 mln missile sale to Finland

THE US Defence Department on Monday announced the approval of a $323 million sale of AIM 9X Block II tactical missiles and AGM-154 Joint Stand Off Weapons to Finland.

"The proposed sale will improve Finland's air-to-air and air-to-surface weapons capabilities and will positively impact US relations with countries in the Nordic region," the Pentagon said in a statement.

The announcement on the sale of 40 AIM 9Xs and 48 AGM-154s comes more than nine months into Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which pushed both Finland and Sweden to seek NATO membership.

The US State Department approved the possible sale, and the Defence Security Cooperation Agency on Wednesday provided the required notification to Congress.—AFP

Missouri man to be executed for murder of police officer

A man convicted of murder is to be put to death in the midwestern US state of Missouri on Tuesday in an execution that his 19-year-old daughter has been barred from witnessing.

Kevin Johnson, a 37-year-old African American man, was sentenced to death for the 2005 murder of a white policeman in a suburb of St Louis.

Johnson is set to be executed by lethal injection at 6:00 pm Central Time (0000 GMT) in a prison in the town of Bonne Terre.

Johnson's daughter, Corionsa "Khorry" Ramey, sued to be allowed to witness her father's execution but a federal court turned down her request because she is below the minimum state age of 21. "I'm heartbroken that I won't be able to be with my dad in his last moments," Ramey said in a statement following the court decision.—AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Japan, Mongolia urge N Korea to stop missile, nuclear activities

THE leaders of Japan and Mongolia on Tuesday urged North Korea to stop its missile and nuclear activities, with Pyongyang repeatedly firing ballistic missiles amid growing concern that it could conduct a nuclear test.

In a joint statement issued after their meeting in Tokyo, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Mongolian President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh called on Pyongyang to "comply with" UN Security Council resolutions on peace and stability in Northeast Asia.

The leaders of Japan and Mongolia, which has diplomatic relations with North Korea, also demanded that Pyongyang "immediately resolve" the issue of its abductions of Japanese nationals in the 1970s and 1980s.

Having no diplomatic ties with the nuclear-armed country, Tokyo has often looked to Ulaanbaatar to act as a mediator with Pyongyang in dealing with the long-standing abduction issue.

North Korea has conducted missile tests more than 30 times since the start of this year, launching suspected cruise and ballistic missiles. Speculation has also been mounting that Pyongyang may carry out its seventh nuclear test, the first since September 2017.

Since 2006, UN Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on North Korea have obliged the nation to abandon its weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.— Kyodo

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (R) and Mongolian President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh issue a joint statement after their talks at the Japanese premier's office in Tokyo on 29 November 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

S Korea issues return-to-work order to truckers on strike

SOUTH Korea's transport ministry on Tuesday issued its first-ever return-to-work order to truckers who have been on a strike demanding reasonable freight rates.

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport issued the order that the truckers on strike should return to work after it was passed at a cabinet meeting.

Around 2,500 truckers in the cement industry will be subject to the order. It is the first time that such order has been invoked since relevant law was enacted in 2004.

Anyone defying the order can be punished with up to three years in prison or a fine of up to 30 million won (about 22,600 US dollars).

Thousands of truckers went on strike Thursday, demanding the government extend the temporary rule guaranteeing minimum freight rates that are set to expire at the end of this year.

The truck drivers claimed that without the minimum freight rates, they will be forced into speeding, overwork and overloading to earn their livings amid the surging fuel costs.

For the government's part, the order was issued as the strike slashed the country's cement supply by more than 90 per cent and caused disruptions at construction sites.—Xinhua

Malaysia's crime index declines 19.3% to 52,974 cases in 2021

MALAYSIA'S crime index, which consists of violent and property crimes, has decreased by 19.3 per cent to 52,974 cases in 2021 as compared to 65,623 cases in 2020, official data showed Tuesday.

Violent crime which comprise murder, rape, robbery and causing injury, fell by 13.4 per cent year on year to 11,495 cases in 2021, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) said in a statement.

Meanwhile, property crime, namely house break-in and theft, vehicles theft, snatch theft, and other thefts, slipped by 20.8 per cent to 41,479 cases in 2021.

Among the reasons for fewer criminal cases was the movement control order (MCO) with restrictions on social activities including cross-border movements between districts and states being imposed. — Xinhua

Japan governor OKs SDF's plan to build base for US military drills

File photo taken on 8 March 2022, shows Mage Island in Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE governor of Japan's Kagoshima said Tuesday that he has agreed to the construction of a Self-Defence Forces base on an uninhabited island in the southwestern prefecture, as a plan to relocate US military drills has been proceeding.

Koichi Shiota's acceptance of the project would pave the way for the relocation of the practice site of US carrier-borne fighters from Iwoto Island in the Pacific, about 1,250 kilometres south of Tokyo, after runways are constructed on the 8-square-km Mage Island.

"After careful consideration, I concluded that our prefecture has no choice but" to accept the plan regarding an SDF base on Mage Island in Kagoshima Prefecture, Shiota told a local assembly session.

Shiota said the "increasingly severe security environment" surrounding Japan is a reason behind his decision, apparently referring to China's maritime assertiveness in the East China Sea. Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada told a press conference in Tokyo, "I greatly appreciate (the governor's) understanding of the plan to build an SDF facility." Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said at a separate news conference that the envisioned drills on Mage Island will be "essential for the US aircraft carriers' permanent activities in the Asia-Pacific region".

The US military had conducted takeoff and landing practices at its Atsugi base near Tokyo, but the training site was moved to Iwoto Island temporarily due largely to noise complaints.

The fighters were all transferred from Atsugi to another US military base in Iwakuni, western Japan, by 2018, making the flight to the training site longer. Iwoto Island is around 1,400 km from Iwakuni. With Washington asking Tokyo to prepare a more convenient and permanent location for the drills, Mage Island, located about 400 km from Iwakuni, became a candidate site under a US military realignment accord between Japan and the United States in 2011.—Kyodo

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Japan, Mongolia urge N Korea to stop missile, nuclear activities

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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.

Attendees and officials pose for a group photo during the opening ceremony of the AFC/MFF B Diploma Coaching Course Part I at the Myanmar Football Federation meeting hall in Yangon on 29 November 2022. **PHOTO: MFF**

AFC/MFF B Diploma Coaching Course Part 1 opened

THE opening ceremony of the AFC/MFF B Diploma Coaching Course Part 1 jointly opened by the Asian Football Confederation and the Myanmar Football Federation was held on the morning of 28 November at the Myanmar Football Federation meeting hall in Yangon.

Advisor to the Myanmar Football Federation U Banni Tin Aung, General Secretary U Ko Ko Thein, Technical Director U Tin Myint Aung, training instructor, and officials from the Football Federation attended the event.

At the ceremony, U Ko Ko Thein, Secretary of the Football Federation, gave an opening speech, and U Tin Myint Aung, a former instructor, gave a welcome speech.

Then the participants took a group photo. The course is open from 28 November to 6 December, and 21 male trainees and three female trainees are attending the course. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar2022

Koulibaly sinks Ecuador to fire Senegal into World Cup knockouts

KALIDOU Koulibaly sent Senegal into the World Cup knockouts for just the second time in their history with the winner in Tuesday's dramatic 2-1 win over Ecuador.

Senegal opened the scoring through Ismaila Sarr's penalty late in the first half, but despite managing to keep Ecuador captain Enner Valencia quiet throughout, Brighton's Moises Caicedo levelled in the 67th minute before Koulibaly sent his team through and Ecuador home. On the 10-minute mark, Senegal's Boulaye Dia found himself one-on-one with Galindez, but he cut the ball just wide of the post.

Seemingly sparked into life by Senegal's fierce opening, Ecuador pushed forward and won a free-kick 30 metres from goal, with the South Americans taking the opportunity for a rare breather before Valencia slammed the ball into the wall.

After the furious opening exchanges, both sides began to settle and the first half looked set to end goalless before Ecuador defender Piero Hincapie clattered into Sarr, giving referee Clement Turpin no choice but to point to the spot. Sarr stepped up and coolly dispatched a fine spot-kick past Galindez, maintaining eye contact with the keeper as the ball went in.

From a free-kick, defender Felix Torres rose high to head the ball on to Caicedo, who was waiting at the far post and slammed the ball home. Senegal struck back immediately and in almost identical fashion, with Koulibaly lurking unmarked at the far post following a free-kick which was deflected into his path by Hincapie. —AFP

Netherlands see off sorry Qatar to reach World Cup last 16

CODY Gakpo scored again as the Netherlands booked their place in the World Cup last 16 as group winners with a straightforward 2-0 victory over hosts Qatar on Tuesday.

The Netherlands, needing just a point to be sure of progressing, put one foot in the next round inside the first half-hour as Gakpo scored for a third straight group game. Frenkie de Jong added another in the 49th minute as the Dutch cruised through in a flat atmosphere at the Al Bayt Stadium. Qatar, already eliminated before kick-off, suffered the ignominy of becoming the first home team in World Cup history to finish the group stage without a point.

Louis van Gaal's Dutch side ended with seven points at the top of Group A, while Senegal joined them in the knockout phase as runners-up after beating Ecuador 2-1. —AFP

World Cup 2022 Results

Netherlands	2 - 0	Qatar
Senegal	2 - 1	Ecuador