

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Locals need to participate in reviving mangroves of Mainmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary



The picture shows a scenic view against the Mainmahla Kyun (Island) of the Ayeyawady Delta.

THE Mainmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary in Bogalet Township of Pyapon District, Ayeyawady Region, has been designated as a natural re-

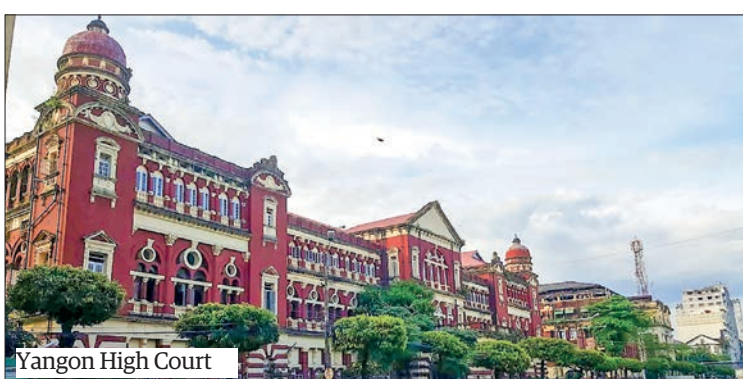
serve by the Ministry of Forestry on 5 January 1993 and an ASEAN heritage park in 2003. The mangrove forest in this wildlife sanctuary is a natural habitat

for many endangered plant and animal species, and the source of livelihood and income for more than 8,000 households from 32 surrounding villages. More im-

portantly, this mangrove forest also protects its environment from natural disasters which were caused by climate change.

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14 new district courts expanded in Yangon Region



Yangon High Court

THE original four district courts of the Yangon Region were abolished and 14 new district courts have been formed, according to the statement of the Chief Justice of the Union Supreme Court on 17 August.

The setup of new district courts to conduct measures of the judiciary was confirmed and approved under the decision of

the Union Government meeting (5/2022) held on 29 July 2022 and released Notification No (556/2022) and (572/2022).

“There were township courts respectively in the past and then changed into four districts of Yangon – eastern, western, southern and northern. If there is a criminal case,

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

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

In order to prevent the unnecessary loss of human resources, the State Administration Council has publicly invited the basic education staff who are absent from duty to resume their duties and those who take

part in armed resistance under various names of groups, including PDFs. Meanwhile, 3,156 education workers, who were absent from their duties, another 1,009 people, who want to withdraw the cases that were opened against them, and 231 PDF members have contacted and returned to the legal fold. Then, they were given back to their parents systematically and the numbers of people who enter the legal fold and those who wish to are rising. Therefore, the government is making efforts to accept more numbers of those people.

The government opens reception centres in bor-

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

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

Special Envoy of United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar departs from Myanmar



SPECIAL Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar, Ms Noeleen Heyzer, departed from Myanmar on the afternoon of 18 August 2022 and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs saw her off at the Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw International Airports, respectively.—MNA

Locals need to participate in reviving mangroves of ...

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However, the destruction of mangroves from the Mainmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary started in 1985 when it was selected as a forest reserve for firewood extraction. People's excessive and unregulated use of trees and Cyclone Nargis that hit in 2008 caused the ruination of mangrove swamps.

The deterioration of the mangrove ecosystem generated from the destruction of mangroves produced effects on the biodiversity on which it depends, and the instability of the food chain, resulting in damage in food and water supply of locals.

Thus, forestry experts, en-

vironmental and wildlife conservation groups and social groups are already implementing the process of mangrove restoration planting, increasing plant growth density, improving the biodiversity including endangered mangrove species and making the mangrove ecosystem healthier. Therefore, there is a major need for the participation of residents.

The project implementers also want the local people to participate, and if they participate, they will get income opportunities, in addition to a healthier mangrove ecosystem that will increase agricultural produce and livestock products. — Moe Sat (Bogale)/GNLM



Objectives of 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2022

- To uplift national prestige and integrity and to preserve the cultural heritage and national characteristics
- To discover, preserve and uplift the traditional cultural heritage of performing arts of ethnic nationals and national cultural characteristics
- To preserve traditional cultural performing arts in order to further revitalize adoration of the State and hand it down to new generation youths
- To contribute much to the restoration of perpetual peace

31 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 18 August, total figure rises to 614,541

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **614,541** after **31** new cases were reported on 18 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **593,169** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,437** without more casualties.—MNA

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

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

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

SAC Member Union Minister receives special envoy of United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar



SAC Member Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae presents the gift to the Special Envoy.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL Yar Pyae, Member of the State Administration Council, Union Minister for the Ministry of Government Office -1, received Ms Noeleen Heyzar, special en-

voy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar at the Ministry of Government Office -1 yesterday.

During the meeting, both sides cordially and frankly ex-

changed views on the implementation of Myanmar's peace process and the provision of humanitarian assistance. — MNA

14 new district courts expanded in Yangon ...

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the township courts prosecute or open the case at the respective district courts. Now, According to the notification, 14 new district courts were set up after abolishing the four original district courts. Such doing is good for the judiciary system. Some district-level cases can cause some transportation issues for clients and defendants," a lawyer told the GNLM.

The newly expanded district courts are Taikgyi District Court, Hlegu District Court, Hmawby District Court, Mingaladon District Court, Insein District Court, Thingangyun District Court, Botahtaung District Court, Dagon Myothit

District Court, Thanlyin District Court, Twantay District Court, Kyauktada District Court, Ahlon District Court, Mayangon District Court and Kamayut District Court.

"The township courts are upgraded into district-level courts. The upgraded courts are newly constructed office buildings and some are just old ones. There would be difficulties with spaces in old office buildings. The main aim is to hear the criminal cases and civil cases," the GNLM quoted a higher-grade pleader as saying.

There will be one township court each under Taikgyi and Hlegu district court while two under Hmawby District Court,

another two under Mingaladon District Court, three under Insein District Court, four under Thingangyun District Court, five under Botahtaung District Court, four under Dagon Myothit District Court, five under Thanlyin District Court, five under Twantay District Court, five under Kyauktada District Court, three under the Ahlon District Court, three under Mayangon District Court and two under Kamayut District Court.

The newly expanded district courts are authorized to hear and pass judgement for criminal cases and civil cases in the townships of these court areas according to Judiciary Law Section 63. —TWA/GNLM

In-house Skill Development Training No 38 for Senior Auditors opened

THE opening ceremony of In-house Skill Development Training No 38 for Senior Auditors was held at 4 pm on 16 August at the Assembly Hall of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, Nay Pyi Taw and the Union Auditor-General, the permanent secretary, the director-general (Audit Department), the deputy permanent secretary, deputy directors-general, responsible persons, trainers, and trainees attended the ceremony.

At the ceremony, the Union Auditor-General Dr Kan Zaw delivered an address that the training aims to enhance the capability of audit and strengthen human resource development; the senior auditors, as members or leaders of the audit team, need to be aware of the progressive changes in office and professional auditing practices and conduct the work adaptably. Consequently, he added that the auditors are the ones who protect the public interests and steer to ensure that the revenues are fully received and the expenses are utilized effectively and beneficially for the public by auditing to strengthen public financial management; therefore, it is needed to understand the

nature of the audited departments and organizations by communicating with mutual respect and conducting the audit effectively in line with International Standards.

In addition, he urged the trainees to apply the knowledge from training effectively in the field and try to become good civil servants who can fulfil the visions of the office and the nation.

Then, the headmistress of the training school, the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, clarified the training information.

Afterwards, the Union Auditor-General greeted the trainees with a friendly greeting and the ceremony concluded.

During the three-week training period of 16-8-2022 to 8-9-2022, two from the Head Office and the Union Territory each and 107 from the Auditor-General's Offices of States/Regions, totalling 111, will attend the training, and six subjects, including ISSAI-Based Financial Audit, Performance Audit, and Compliance Audit, and practical activities related to the auditing process in the form of role-playing, will be taught. — MNA



Union Auditor-General Dr Kan Zaw opens the In-house Skill Development Training No 38 for Senior Auditors in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 August.

MoI Union Minister inspects information work in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the information work in the Nay Pyi Taw Council area together with Deputy Minister U Ye Tint and officials yesterday.

The Union minister and party first arrived at the Community Centre (Pynmana) and officials reported on the ongoing training courses and sports competitions.

Then, the Union minister joined the discussion of the Book Club of the Community Centre (Pynmana) and discussed the current situation of the country and other tasks to be carried out, and gave presents.

The director-general of the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) then reported on the work processes for 2022 and the Union minister gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at the Nay Pyi Taw printing press in Zeyathiri Township, the director-general of the Printing and Publishing Department (PPD) clarified the history of the factory, workforce



Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views round the Community Centre (Pynmana) yesterday.

and operations, and the Union minister inspected the factory compound.

Afterwards, he met the PPD staff and personnel of the News and Periodicals Enterprise at Boe Wazira Hall of the Nay Pyi Taw Printing Factory.

He also inspected the printing machines of daily newspa-

pers.

He then went to the IPRD office in Tatkon Township and looked into the kids' reading, library and ancient materials displayed in the booth. He also provided cash awards to the staff.

At noon, the Union minister met the MRTV staff officers in its conference room.

During the meeting, he cordially greeted the trainees of basic training courses for producers and gave cash awards.

He also met the selected persons who completed the training of news announcers, presenters and MCs at the auditorium.

In the evening, the Union minister and party went to the

Aircon Chiller construction site and viewed the preparations at the Shwetaunggon Guesthouse.

During the visits, the Union minister underscored the need for the staff to carry out community-based activities more actively than before, find out proper ways to advance the public knowledge rather than book rentals, conduct entertainment programmes for the public to be familiar with community centres, publish quality books and journals by the Printing and Publishing Department at fairer prices meeting the deadline, raise the State funds and carry out effective ways for the interests of the country and departments.

He then appreciated the layout designs and newsworthiness of the daily newspapers and urged the staff to use the appropriate choice of words and make presentations to lure the interest of the people. He finally highlighted the vital role of the MRTV as a State-owned media. — MNA

CBM Vice-Chair attends SEACEN High-Level Seminar & Meeting for Deputy Governors

THE SEACEN High-Level Seminar and Meeting for Deputy Governors (Financial Stability and Supervision) was held yesterday at 7:30 am via videoconference.

Deputy governors of central banks from Southeast Asian countries, officials, Vice-Chair of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe, and staff from various departments of the Central Bank of Myanmar attended the meeting.

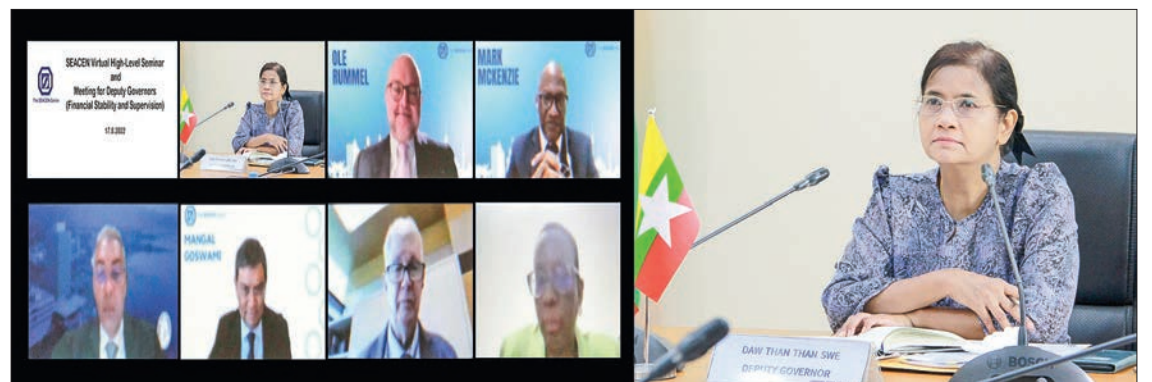
The meeting is an annual conference held by the Vice-Chairs of the Central Bank of SEACEN member countries who are involved in financial system stability and supervision.

The central bank vice-chairpersons and central bank employees and executives from the private sector attended and discussed the stability of the fi-

nancial system, innovation and the risk of loss.

Officials discussed sovereign debt and financial stability in emerging market economies, challenges of central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) and lessons learned from the implementation of digital currencies in Caribbean countries, stability of ASEAN countries' financial systems and possible losses, challenges related to cyber-attacks and cyber threats in financial system stabilization, and advantages and disadvantages of Big Techs and Fin Techs.

They also focused on global oil prices rising along with the global macro trend, climate change, natural disasters, cyber-attacks, and conducting stress testing exercises for banks considering multiple



CBM Deputy Governor Daw Than Than Swe virtually joins the SEACEN High-Level Seminar and Meeting for Deputy Governors yesterday.

channels.

Due to geopolitics, policy-makers need to increase effective regulatory oversight of state-owned banks in order to stabilize the financial system, officials said during the meeting.

They exchanged experiences and discussed the need for strong banking crisis manage-

ment frameworks and the need for monetary policy and fiscal policy to be interconnected.

The second day of the SEACEN High-Level Seminar and Meeting for Deputy Governors (Financial Stability and Supervision) continued yesterday at 7:30 am via videoconference.

Topics that may affect the

stability of the financial sector due to cryptocurrency and plans that can be implemented in the financial sector to overcome the challenges that may arise due to cryptocurrency were focused on.

They also discussed plans to protect the financial sector from possible losses due to climate change. — MNA

Thai authorities hand over convicted 172 Myanmar nationals

THAI authorities transferred 172 Myanmar citizens, who were released from the immigration prisons after serving their sentences, to Myanmar authorities from Ranong, Thailand, to Kawthoung, Myanmar, by sea.

A total of 172 workers, including 116 men, 48 women and eight children (six males and two females), were brought by 10 rudder boats on 17 August noon.

They were received by Labour Officer U Ye Lin Htet, border committee officials, officials from Ranong District Immigration Department and officials from Anti Cross-border Special Force.

The transferred Myanmar workers are the ones who were trapped in Thailand for various reasons during the outbreak of Covid-19 and those who were given punishment. Kawthoung District and Township Administration officials, Department of Health and other respective departments, and NGOs will check the returnees to confirm the involvement of people suspected of COVID-19 infection, non-Myanmar citizen and drugs. Then, they provided the necessary sup-



Freed Myanmar citizens are seen before being transferred to Myanmar.

port for food and health.

Myanmar workers who have re-entered and received two doses of the Covid-19 vaccine will be given a third booster dose and those who have not been vaccinated at all and only once have been tested for infection,

and are placed in three quarantine centres in Kawthoung where men and women are kept separately. They will be sent back to their respective homes only after a strict three-day travel restriction and no infection is detected, it is learnt. — TWA/GNLM

Palm oil prices rocket to new high in edible oil markets

THE prices of palm oil hit a peak of K10,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the Yangon wholesale market on 17 August 2022, Ko Aung Tun, a trader from the Nyaungpinlay market told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Similarly, the prices of palm oil were estimated at K130,000 per 18-litre jerry can (10 visses). The wholesale prices of palm oil stood at K8,600 per viss last week. Shortly thereafter, the prices gradually rose to K9,400 per viss on 15 August, K9,700 per viss on 16 August and K10,000 per viss on 17 August, said Ko Myo, a trader who delivers the goods to the areas outside Yangon Region.

When the palm oil price spiked, the wholesale price of peanut was priced at K14,000-15,000 per viss on 18 August 2022. During the year-ago period last year, the edible oil prices were registered at K7,000 for peanut oil and K3,640 for palm oil. On 18 August 2020, peanut oil was valued at K6,500 per viss and palm oil fetched K1,775 per viss in the wholesale market.

A buyer Ma Than Win from Sanchaung Township told the GNLM that I purchased palm oil at K4,500 per viss and peanut oil at K5,500 per viss from Yenanchaung town in November 2021.

However, after nine months, the price reached the high of K10,000 per viss of palm oil and K14,000-15,000 per viss of peanut oil. There is still a large gap between palm oil and peanut oil, a seller Ko Nay Lin elaborated on market prices to the GNLM.

It is difficult to buy palm oil at the Nyaungpinlay market. A deep-fried dough stick vendor named Ko Win Sein reported that as the wheat price is also higher, I sell a dough stick at K250 for now. I will raise the price in need depending on the prices of the ingredients. — TWA/GNLM

Myanmar citizens abroad urged to make legal remittances through licenced banks or financial institutions



Western Union Company (NYSE: WU) announced on 5 April 2013 that 100 KBZ Bank branches in Myanmar have remittance services. PHOTO: KBZ FB

THE Department of Revenue has announced that Myanmar citizens abroad should transfer money to the country

through a bank or financial institution that is permitted for legal remittance.

According to the 2022 tax law of the Union, the salary received abroad in foreign currency by a citizen living abroad will be exempted from income tax.

The income used to transfer domestically to purchase vehicles and basic materials and to carry out construction and investment must be verified through the income verification process according to the existing income tax law.

In such verification, the remit-

tance of Myanmar nationals living abroad to the country can only be received through tax benefits under the existing tax law if the transfer is made through a bank or financial institution that has an official money transfer licence.

Therefore, the Department of Revenue has issued a notification that Myanmar nationals should use a bank or financial institution that has an official money transfer licence to receive the full tax benefits when purchasing basic goods with their tax-exempt salary income. — TWA/GNLM



Residents are seen queuing to buy palm oil at subsidized rates through MEODA's mobile market.

Over K4,040 mln political pensions awarded to 491 politicians, MPs for 2nd Hluttaw

THE government granted over K4,040 million of political pensions to 491 political officials and elected MPs for the second Hluttaw term.

The authorities reviewed the applications for lump-sum political pensions and issued to politicians and elected MPs for the second term of Hluttaw.

The government granted political pensions to a total of 491 persons – nine Union-level officials, 50 region- or state-level officials, 152 Pyithu Hluttaw MPs, 88 Amyotha Hluttaw MPs and 192 Region or State Hluttaw MPs.

According to the 2008 Constitution, the Union-level officials, region- or state-level officials, MPs of the

Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, Region or State Hluttaw, members of the Self-Administered Zones are provided with cash awards and allowances for serving the country and citizens.

The political pensions, lump-sum payouts are awarded to them and it has granted over K4,040 million to date. — TWA/GNLM

YCDC chairman inspects greenery activities

CHAIRMAN of the Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay and officials observed the planting of seasonal flowers in nurseries and land preparation for new nurseries at the People's Square and People's Park in Dagon Township at 7 am on 18 August. Then, he exhorted responsible personnel to grow a variety of flowers including seasonal ones and display the information including botanical names of saplings and plants for the knowledge of visitors who came for daily physical activity and recreation.

Afterwards, the Yangon mayor viewed round the People's Square and highlighted decorat-

ing the visual axis of the Shwe Dagon Pagoda with lamp posts, flower boxes and landscapes to depict the offering with flowers and candles, to upgrade the Elephant Pond and fountains and to repair the damaged concrete floor.

Then, he inspected the preparation of bamboo groves along the roadside of Wahshewah lane and directed to fulfil the needs of the bamboo decoration work for relaxation, landscaping improvement and cleaning work of the path. — MNA

Yangon Mayor is pictured inspecting the People's Square and Park.



CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, consumer goods, foodstuffs, materials, motorbike parts and vehicles confiscated



Confiscated illegal goods and a saloon in Mandalay Region.

SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, responsible personnel are taking action to prevent illegal trade under the law.

Under the instructions of the Mandalay Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, an inspection team led by the Customs Department made inspections on 16 August.

Officials confiscated K18,816,000 worth of motorbike parts without official documents from four Nissan AD Van cars (approximately K52 million), K2,970,000 worth of consumer goods and foodstuffs from a Nissan AD Van car (approximately K13 million), K3,150,000 worth of transformers and electronic devices from a Toyota HiAce (approximately K13 million) and 20 cartons of Chinese Lily worth K2 million without official documents of duties at the 22 Milepost on the Muse-Lashio-Mandalay

Road. Action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, a combined team led by the Insein Township Forest Department conducted inspections under the management of the Yangon Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force.

They captured a total of 2.1070 tonnes of illegal teak worth K1,390,620 from a Toyota HiAce car (approximately K15 million) near the Htaukkyant Tollgate on the side of the Yangon-Bago Road in Mingaladon of Yangon North district. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, on 17 and 18 August, an on-duty team at the Kawareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint nabbed K2,745,000 that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 18 August, an inspec-

tion team under the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force seized a total of 3.4176 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K1,498,902 in the Bago and Toungoo districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Afterwards, a team led by the Myanmar Police Force conducted inspections and confiscated an unregistered Toyota Hilux car (approximately K5 million), an unregistered Vanguard car (approximately K4.5 million) and an unregistered Honda Fit car (approximately K3 million) between the 2/0 and 2/1 Mileposts on the Yangon-Mawlamyine (Moatpalin). The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Therefore, 23 arrests estimated at K138,070,522 were made on three consecutive days from 16 to 18 August, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Drugs captured in Waimaw, Mogok and Tachilek townships

ON 17 August at 4:50 pm, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a room of a guesthouse and captured 5,550 stimulant tablets from Ma Aye Aye Mar who stayed in room No 106.

Similarly, at 3:30 pm on the same day, Police Force searched the house of Hla Min (aka) Aike Maung in Shwebontha Ward of Mogok township and seized 0.2 kilogramme of heroin and 5,180 stimulant tablets in a storeroom of his house.

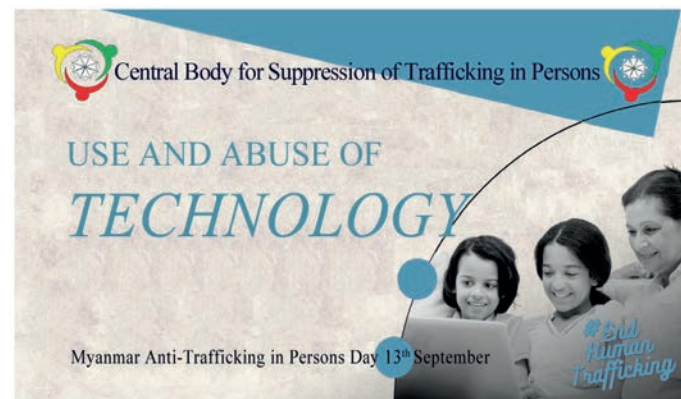
Afterwards, at 9:30 am, a

combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a house of Aike Aye (aka) Sai Aye in Yankham village of Tachilek township and impounded 4,000 stimulant tablets, several arms and ammunition including an AK-47 and four bullets with 80 cartridges, 10,000 stimulant tablets and two kilogrammes of stimulant powder but Aike Aye (aka) Sai Aye was not found.

The suspects are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, it is learnt. —MNA

2022 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Days' Objectives

- * To mobilize the participation of all citizens in combating human trafficking as a national duty;
- * To have the public instilled with awareness about and knowledge of trafficking in persons;
- * To protect and care trafficked victims with empathy; and
- * To strengthen cooperation and coordination among all counter trafficking stakeholders government agencies, civil society organizations, UN agencies, international organizations and general public.



LOCAL BUSINESS

Peanut, sesame prices remain upward trajectory

THE prices of peanut and sesame seeds continued upward spiral. Peanut prices hit over K7,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the domestic market, according to Mandalay's market price data.

On 18 July, the peanut prices moved in the range of K4,700 and K4,900 per viss depending on varieties, whereas the price jumped to K6,400-7,000 per viss on 18 August. The figures reflected an increase of K1,800-2,100 per viss within one month.

Similarly, the prices of sesame hit the highest of K122,000 per 45-viss bag of Niger seed, K185,000 per bag of brown sesame, K250,000 per bag of white sesame and K250,000 per viss of black sesame (Samone variety) on 18 July. The prices



The prices of peanut and sesame seeds continued upward spiral. Peanut prices hit over K7,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the domestic market, according to Mandalay's market price data.

soared to K160,000 for Niger seed, K227,000 for brown sesame, K280,000 for white sesame and K265,000 for black sesame on 18 August. The price of various sesame seeds showed a significant rise of K15,000 to 43,000 per bag in one month.

After Myanmar's export ban on oil crops was eased and Kyat weakened against the US dollar in the local forex, the prices of peanut and sesame prices climbed, according to the commodities depot.

At present, an abundant

supply of newly harvested peanuts and sesame is entering the market. The local millers are also increasingly purchasing them, coupled with the foreign demand, according to the commodity warehouses.

The hikes in peanut and

sesame seeds raised the peanut oil price to K15,000 per viss and the sesame oil price to K10,000 per viss.

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

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

Fuel market sees slight decline in prices



The Supervisory Committee on Fuel Oil Import, Storage and Distribution stated that domestic fuel price is due to the price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in Southeast Asia.

FUEL prices dipped in the domestic market these days, according to the fuel price market.

On 16 August, the prevailing fuel prices stood at K2,365 per litre for Octane 92, K2,445 for Octane 95, K2,780 for premium diesel and K2,700 for diesel, whereas fuel prices decreased to K2,290 per litre for Octane 92, K2,370 for Octane 95, K2,760 for premium diesel and K2,685 for diesel on 18 August, showing a slight decline of K15-75 per litre.

The Supervisory Committee on Fuel Oil Import, Storage

and Distribution stated that domestic fuel price is due to the price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in Southeast Asia.

Additionally, the drop in fuel prices and Kyat depreciation against the US dollar are contributing factors to the price fluctuation.

The Central Bank of Myanmar set the reference exchange rate for a dollar at K2,100, whereas the exchange rate against the US dollar hit K2,800 in the grey market.

The fuel price experienced

an upward spiral in recent days when Kyat devalued at K3,000 against the dollar. Some fuel stations in regions and states faced short of supply.

However, some petrol stations are allegedly suspending fuel sales and setting limited sales on the possible shortage of fuel oil, sparking consumers' concerns and raising fuel prices. They are taking advantage of the consumers' concerns for their benefits, according to the statement released by the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods on 16 August.

The committee has assured adequate fuel supply until this month. It is also working together with Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association to ensure a steady fuel supply in order for the energy consumers to mitigate concerns.

Therefore, the consumers can complain about the halt in fuel sales and limited sales through the contact numbers of the respective regions and states if they find those stations that violate the rules, the committee stated.

The committee is governing the fuel oil storage and distribution sector effectively not to have a shortage of oil in the domestic market and ensuring price stability for energy consumers.

The Petroleum Products Regulatory Department, under the guidance of the committee, is issuing the daily reference rate for oil to offer a reasonable price to energy consumers. The reference rate in Yangon Region is set on the MOPS' price assessment, shipping cost, premium insurance, tax, other general cost and health profit per cent.

The rates for regions and states other than Yangon are

evaluated after adding the transportation cost and the retail reference rates daily cover on the state-run newspapers and are posted on the media and official website and Facebook page of the department on a daily basis starting from 4 May.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. The domestic fuel price is highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss between the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than in Myanmar. Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also poses only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. — NN/GNLM

OPINION

Forge humanitarian spirit not for all but for us

EVERYBODY needs to hold up humanitarianism upon all for sharing good things with each other to enjoy happiness together. In fact, humanitarianism is acceptable for all global peoples as well as countries to shape the world for flourishing four cardinal virtues. If so, the whole world will enjoy the fruits of peace and prosperity.

In Myanmar traditions, humanitarianism is based on sharing of enjoyment with each other. Especially, it is necessary to provide aid to needy persons from wealthy persons. Those who have plenty of useful things but they do not afford to use them all along their lives need to share these things with other needy persons. If so, the things which cannot be affordably used will be useful for others.

Myanmar people need to show off their humanitarian spirit to all by providing all sorts of useful things for needy persons throughout the nation. In this regard, it is necessary to share humanitarian aid together with physical and mental encouragement to others to be able to meet the target all the people aspire to: building a peaceful and prosperous nation.

That is why five years later, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution designating 19 August as World Humanitarian Day (WHD) as part of efforts for easing the humanitarian crises. With record-high humanitarian needs around the world, this year's World Humanitarian Day (WHD) builds on this metaphor of collective endeavours to grow global appreciation of humanitarian work.

The 2022 World Humanitarian Day campaign shines a light on the thousands of volunteers, professionals and crisis-affected people who deliver urgent health care, shelter, food, protection, water and much more.

Everybody must show the importance, effectiveness and positive impact of humanitarian work to mark world humanitarian day this year. Everybody needs to let flowing out of their compassion and empathy together with humanitarian aid to needy persons across the world.

Myanmar people need to show off their humanitarian spirit to all by providing all sorts of useful things for needy persons throughout the nation. In this regard, it is necessary to share humanitarian aid together with physical and mental encouragement to others to be able to meet the target all the people aspire to: building a peaceful and prosperous nation.

The Workplace and Benefit of Creative Thinking

By Yin Nwe Ko

THINKING skill has not been popular in Myanmar until the beginning of the 21st century. Most teachers in Myanmar have already known four skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Now, almost every teacher become aware of the presence of thinking skills and their importance vividly. There are several types of thinking skills viz. convergent thinking, divergent thinking, critical thinking, creative thinking, etc. Among them, I would like to emphasize the last one.

The idea behind the School or University Life competencies is that they prepare learners with skills that will be useful in the English language classroom and their future work environment. This article will also look at how creative thinking competency can be incorporated into classroom activities for teens and how this practice could directly impact a given work situation. Now, let us make a glimpse at it with the following categories.

Thinking outside the box

One of the essential concepts behind Creative Thinking is the ability to "Think outside the box", to solve problems by coming up with new and original solutions or by taking a different angle on things. This requires us to be open-minded, organized, communicative (being a good listener is essential), and curious (feeling the need to enquire and ask questions

about a topic). However, it doesn't necessarily require an amazing imagination; this is a common misconception about Creative Thinking. It is all to do with honing the skills, resources, and prior knowledge that particular students may have at their disposal.

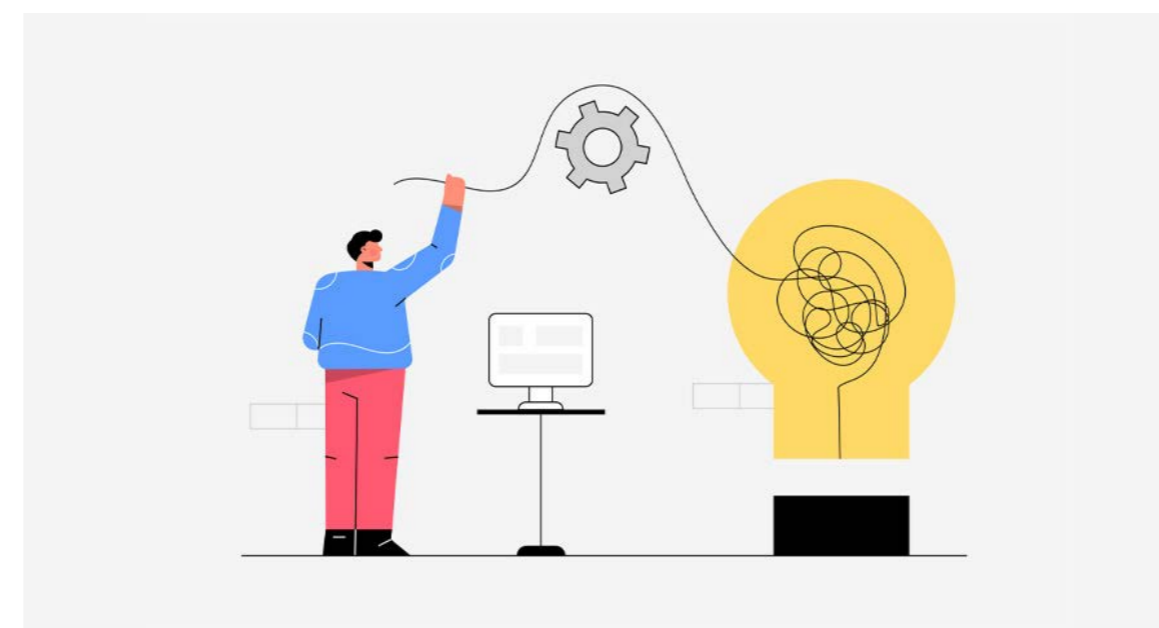
Front classroom task

To show the connection between the classroom world and that of the work environment, consider the current topic of the climate crisis and climate strikes and what we can do in our daily lives to help save the planet. The fact that Greta Thunberg, a Swedish, has had such a prominent role in environmental activism in the world should, of course, act as an inspiration for teenage students in the classroom. Indeed, a nice angle for the topic is to focus on this new breed of teenage activists who come from different parts of the world but share Greta's concerns. However, the important thing here is to engage the learners not just with the content but with the skill of employing their ideas to solve problems rather than just repeating ones that have been previously suggested. Students could start by brainstorming their eco-friendly suggestions and applying them to their school environment.

In the real world of the work

It is not difficult for these practical suggestions to be transposed to a work setting. Indeed, for

examples such as these, we could choose virtually any professional context. The skill on the part of the students lies in applying what they know to that particular situation. For example, we could ask students to imagine they worked for the marketing department of a world trade fair or confer-

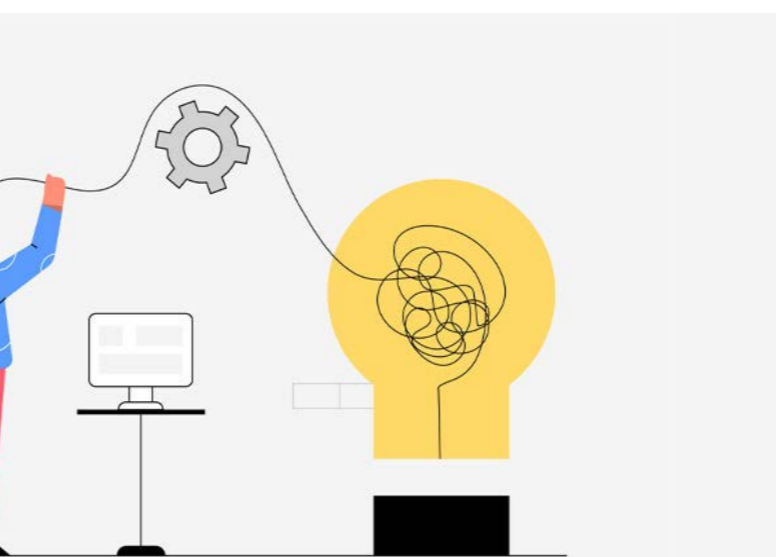


Creative thinking shows us that there are many solutions to any problem, and developing one's creative thinking skills helps them recognize innovative solutions more quickly. **ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF FREEPIK**

ence. How could they employ their knowledge of eco-friendly products to make their marketing plans more respectful of the environment?

To ask this question, students need to think of different angles on the topic and respond imaginatively. For example, they could think of the freebies that marketing departments give to customers - say at a trade fair - and how the materials could be greener. For instance, rather than gifts

such as plastic USB sticks, these could be made of bamboo and bags made from a potato-based product. To do this, students need only look around them at other examples from their worlds (e.g., potato-based bags are now available in most supermarkets) and apply them to their new context.

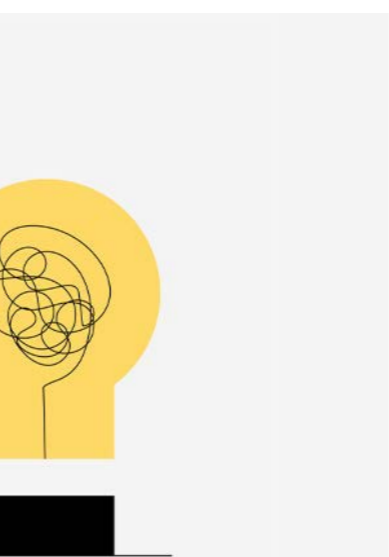


Other freebie products could be family or social life, hobbies, and interests) as potential templates for understanding or solving work challenges is one of the most important "can do" statements for the Creative Thinking competency.

Adaptation and Collaboration

As mentioned earlier, the im-

portant thing about an approach like this is that it does not require learners to be great innovators or inventors, the "Thinking outside the box" is done within the restrictions of students' prior knowledge and world experience. Indeed, bringing in ideas and solutions from other life domains (e.g.,



direction. Again, this is another skill that can easily be practised in class whenever students need to work in groups to solve a problem, and once again it stands the students in good stead for their future work experience.

Importance of Creative Thinking

It is easy to get stuck in the same thought patterns, especially at work. However, those thought patterns may be hampering one's innovation and keeping them stuck in routines that do not serve them. Creative thinking shows us that there are many solutions to any problem, and developing one's creative thinking skills helps them recognize innovative solutions more quickly. Plus, creativity was the most sought-after soft skill in 2020, so strengthening their creativity skills can set them apart at work, too. Alongside critical thinking and focus, creative thinking is crucial to help recognize patterns that may not be obvious at first glance. Thinking creatively makes one a better problem-solver, which has far-reaching benefits in both their work and personal life. Expressive, creative thinking helps us challenge our own assumptions, discover new things about ourselves and our perspective, stay mentally sharp, and even be more optimistic.

The Benefits of creative thinking

Creative thinking does not just make one a better employee; it also makes one a better par-

easy to get frustrated when something is not working correctly. That frustration can cause our productivity to plummet. Taking a moment and engaging in a creative thinking strategy can renew one's motivation, reinvigorate one's passion, and help one find new solutions when they are stuck.

Improved problem-solving capabilities

We do not just solve problems at work, and we should not only use our creative thinking skills at work, either! Developing one's creative thinking abilities can help one solve a wide variety of problems faster. As one's mind becomes more accustomed to using different thought techniques, one will quickly recognize patterns that one might not have before.

Stronger interpersonal connections

Creative thinking can help one communicate their ideas more clearly, which leads to better conversations and relationships with their friends, family, and coworkers. Plus, many creative thinking methods work best when they are done in a group. Developing new ideas together can strengthen bonds and help them combine ideas to create something truly innovative.

Heightened productivity

It may seem like creative thinking is a time-consuming distraction from one's work, but that could not be further from the truth. When we get stuck in thought patterns, it's

ARTICLE

Weather Report

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 18 August 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observation at (17:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over the Eastcentral Bay and adjoining Northeast Bay of Bengal, Northern part of Rakhine coast moved Northwestwards and now lies as a Well Marked Low Pressure Area over Northeast Bay and adjoining Southeast Bangladesh coast-northern part of Rakhine coast (Myanmar). It is likely continue to move Northwest wards and concentrate into a Depression during next (18)hrs and it may reach North Bay and adjoining West Bengal-Bingladesh coasts. It is likely to move West-Northwest wards and may cross West Bengal and North Odisha (India). Monsoon is vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 19 August 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and Shan, Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Magway, Ayeyawady Regions and Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States and isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Taninthayi Regions and Chin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Low Pressure Area Condition

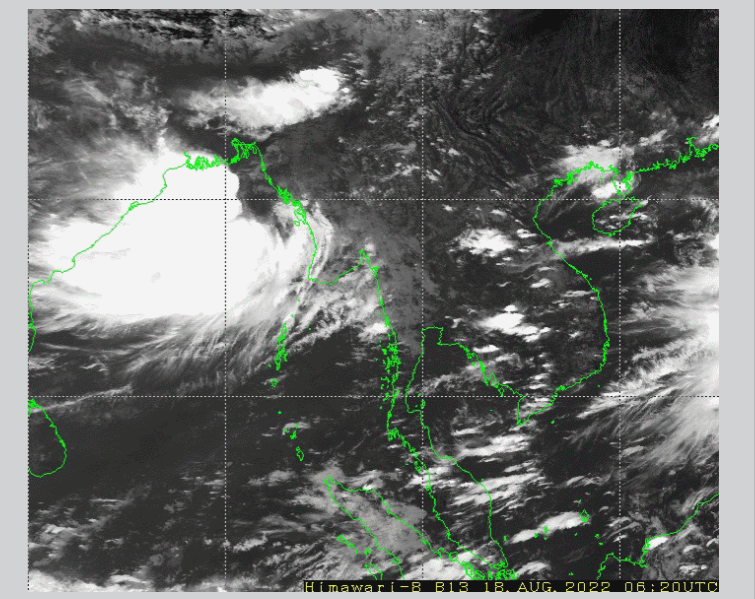
Issued at (14:00) hours MST on 18-8-2022

ACCORDING to the observation at (13:30) hrs MST yesterday, the low-pressure area over the East-central Bay and adjoining Northeast Bay of Bengal, the northern part of the Rakhine coast still persists. It is likely to move Northwest wards and become a well-marked low-pressure area during the next (6) hrs and concentrate into a Depression during the next (24) hrs. It is likely to move West-Northwest wards and may cross West Bengal and North Odisha (India).

Due to the low-pressure area, rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Chin, Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States with the likelihood of regionally and isolated heavy falls with strong wind during yesterday noon to (20.8.2022).

Warning

People should be aware of the heavy rainfall with strong wind, the natural disasters such as flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flight. — DMH



Reference:
Teaching Teen & Better Up

ENVIRON WORLD

16 killed, many missing in northwest China floods

SIXTEEN people were killed and many left missing in flash flooding in northwest China, state media reported Thursday, as the country battles extreme weather that has shuttered factories and caused rolling power cuts.

The deluge comes during a summer of soaring temperatures and torrential rains in China, with multiple cities clocking their hottest days on record and floods causing hundreds of millions of dollars worth of damage.

Floods hit this week in a mountainous region of Datong county in Qinghai province, af-

fecting more than 6,200 people from six villages, state broadcaster CCTV said.

Photos of the aftermath showed roads covered in mud, uprooted trees, damaged homes and rescue workers carrying shovels. "As of noon on the 18th, 16 people have been killed," added CCTV, saying that rescue work was ongoing.

At least 18 people are missing and 20 have since been rescued, and a "frontline headquarters" has been set up to organise the emergency response, according to state media reports.

"The rescue work is progressing in an orderly manner," the report said, adding that sudden heavy rainfall Wednesday night had triggered the situation.

Extreme weather

Scientists say extreme weather across the world has become more frequent due to climate change, and will likely grow more intense as temperatures rise.

Severe flooding in southern China in June displaced more than half a million people and caused an estimated \$250 million in damage.—AFP



A road is damaged after a flash flooding caused by a sudden downpour triggered mudslides in Datong county, Xining city, in China's northwestern Qinghai province on 18 August. **PHOTO: CNS/AFP**

Hundreds evacuated as 'frightening' floods hit New Zealand



A submerged car stricken by the Maitai River. **PHOTO: ANDREW APP/ AFP**

HUNDREDS of families on New Zealand's South Island were forced to leave their homes on Thursday after dramatic flooding prompted a state of emergency in three regions.

A tropically fuelled storm has dumped more than 30 centimetres (11 inches) of rain on parts of the South Island, causing

rivers to burst their banks. The extreme weather has also felled trees, blocking major roads.

A state of emergency was declared Wednesday in Buller, on the west coast, and Nelson — where 233 homes have been evacuated after a month's worth of rain fell in just 15 hours.

The deluge transformed Nel-

son's main river, the Maitai, into a torrent — flooding houses, exposing pipes and leaving streets knee-deep in water.

City mayor Rachel Reese described the flash flooding as a "one-in-100-year event" as search and rescue teams, plus military personnel, helped people on submerged streets.

Reese warned locals to treat all water as contaminated, because some sewers had broken.

Nelson resident Sam Lagrutta said the situation was "frightening" after police gave him just five minutes to leave his home.

"I literally just grabbed a carry-on bag and filled it with my passport, wallet and anything important I could find," he told the New Zealand Herald.

A further 160 households along the South Island's west coast were also asked to evacuate. Buller has been repeatedly hit by flooding in recent years.—AFP

Dutch anglers save fish as Rhine drought bites

ANGLER Mark Kouwenhoven grins as he wades into what's left of a dried-up Dutch lake where his colleagues are throwing slime-coated fish into buckets. It's not the kind of catch they're used to — but that's because this time they're helping the government to save the fish from the drought gripping Europe. Each fish will be moved nearby to the River IJssel, a Dutch branch of the drought-hit River Rhine that until recently had fed the lake with fresh water. "It's a dirty job but somebody has to do it," says the 32-year-old Kouwenhoven, a member of the Eastern Netherlands Sportfishing Association.

"We're fishermen, we care for the fish, we don't want them to die. We love fish!" he adds, dressed in a pair of long waterproof waders.

The Netherlands is famed as a "land of water" where ca-

nals and dikes protect against rising seas, but the country declared an official water shortage earlier this month. One key factor in the drought has been the low water levels in the Rhine. Europe's mighty river rises in Switzerland and flows through several countries including France and Germany, before flowing into the sea in a huge delta in the Netherlands.

'Big net'

Dry, parched banks are now exposed to the air along the Dutch distributaries of the Rhine such as the Waal, the Nederrijn and the IJssel.

The water in the small lake near the town of Giesbeek used to be about a metre higher, with fish swimming in from a channel from the IJssel, but is now down to about 10 centimetres, anglers say.—AFP



'It's a dirty job but somebody has to do it,' says fisherman Mark Kouwenhoven. **PHOTO: AFP**

Wildfires in Portugal, Spain contained

MASSIVE wildfires in Portugal and Spain were largely under control Thursday after forcing thousands from their homes and destroying large swathes of land.

The fires in both countries followed punishing heatwaves and long dry spells, leaving forests parched and primed to burn.

In Portugal, over 1,000 firefighters were still deployed in

the Serra da Estrela national park, but the blaze was mostly contained after days of burning out of control.

With more hot weather forecast, however, there were fears it could flare up again.

"The fire is under control, but it is not extinguished. Consolidation work will continue in the coming days," civil protection

commander Miguel Oliveira told TSF radio.

"It is always possible, and very likely, that there will be new reactivations, but we hope that they do not take on worrying proportions," he said.

The huge fire in central Portugal was brought under control last week, only to restart again Monday.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

2022 MONKEYPOX OUTBREAK

WHO says Monkeypox vaccines efficacy below 100 %

VACCINES against monkeypox are not 100 per cent effective and that is why, people must reduce their own risks of infection, WHO technical lead Rosamund Lewis said on Wednesday.

This comes as more than 35,000 cases of monkeypox have been reported worldwide across more than 92 countries and 12 deaths have been attributed to the disease.

Addressing a press briefing, Lewis said that WHO is “not expecting a 100 per cent efficacy” for these vaccines for the prevention of monkeypox.

“We don’t have the exact information ... it reminds us that vaccine is not a silver bullet? That every person who feels that they are at risk and appreciates the level of risk and wishes to lower their risk have many interventions at their disposal, which includes vaccination where available, but also includes protection from activities, where they may be at risk,” she said.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that almost 7,500 cases were reported last week, which is a 20 per cent increase over the

previous week.

The WHO chief also said that most of the monkeypox cases are being reported from Europe and the Americas—among men who have sex with men.

“More than 35,000 cases of monkeypox have now been reported to WHO, from 92 countries and territories, with 12 deaths. Almost 7,500 cases were reported last week, a 20 per cent increase over the previous week, which was also 20 per cent more than the week before,” he said during a media briefing.

Back in July, Tedros an-



A doctor looks at an image of a monkeypox lesion on his computer screen at a sexual health clinic in Lisbon, Portugal. PHOTO: WHO/KHALED MOSTAFA

nounced that the global monkeypox outbreak represents a public health emergency of international concern.— ANI

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE WORLDWIDE

China’s service sector sustains recovery amid COVID-19 resurgence

CHINA’S service sector, a key driver of its economic growth, has sustained recovery momentum in July despite a resurgence of sporadic COVID-19 cases and a weak property market.

The services production index grew 0.6 per cent year on year last month, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed. In the first seven months, the index dropped by 0.3 per cent year on year, narrowing 0.1 percentage points from that of the first six months. Overall, the recovery trend of the service sector remains unchanged, said Fu Linghui, a spokesperson with the NBS. Modern service industries witnessed good growth momentum, according to Fu. Information transmission, software and information technology services and financial intermediation services posted strong performance as their indices climbed 10.3 per cent and 4.9 per cent year on year, respectively, in July.

Multiple industries stayed within the high expansion range of 55 per cent and above, including railway and air transportation, accommodation, catering, and culture, sports and entertainment, he said.

Adding to the evidence of a recovering service sector, the index for business activities in the sector, boosted by the pro-growth policies, stood at 52.8 in July, according to the NBS.

The index for business ac-

tivity expectations in the service sector came in at 58.8 last month, which was within the high expansion range and reflected rebounding confidence among most companies in the sector.

Investment in the service sector also picked up. In July, fixed-asset investment in high-tech services grew by 14.3 per cent year on year, NBS data showed.

Investment in services for the transformation of scientific and technological achievements and research, development and design services went up by 16.2 per cent and 15.5 per cent, respectively. Fu also noted that the downward trend in the property industry had put a damper on the service sector, which dragged down the July services production index by 1.7 percentage points. At the same time, the reduction in

service business activities like conventions and exhibitions, due to the resurgence of COVID-19 cases last month, weighed on the index as well, he said.

The recent, frequent international instabilities and the resurgence of the sporadic domestic virus have both posed new challenges for the development of the service sector, Fu pointed out. But the spokesperson voiced optimism over the recovery momentum in the service sector.

While stressing support from the modern service industries and stable expectations of most service companies, Fu said transportation and travel services have also improved as the targeted measures to contain the epidemic have allowed both goods to circulate at a faster pace and people to go out and travel more.— Xinhua



Baristas prepare coffee at a cafe in east China’s Shanghai, 29 June 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/DING TING

Malaysia reports 3,516 new COVID-19 infections, 15 new deaths

MALAYSIA reported 3,516 new COVID-19 infections as of midnight Wednesday, bringing the national total to 4,744,929, according to the health ministry.

There were three new imported cases, with 3,513 cases being local transmissions, data released on the ministry’s website showed.

Another 15 deaths were reported, pushing the death toll to 36,117. The ministry reported 2,541 new recoveries, bringing the total number of cured and discharged to 4,667,111.

There are 41,701 active cases, with 92 being held in intensive care and 49 of those in need of assisted breathing.

The country reported 5,782 vaccine doses administered on Wednesday alone and 86 per cent of the population have received at least one dose, 84.1 per cent are fully vaccinated and 49.6 per cent have received the first booster and 1.3 per cent have received the second booster.— Xinhua

Singapore reports 3,762 new COVID-19 cases

SINGAPORE reported 3,762 new cases of COVID-19 on Wednesday, bringing the country’s total tally to 1,805,698.

Of the new cases, 382 cases were detected through PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests and 3,380 through antigen rapid tests (ART), according to statistics released by the Ministry of Health. Among the PCR-confirmed cases, 352 were local transmissions and 30 were imported cases.

Among the ART-confirmed cases with mild symptoms and assessed to be of low risk, there were 3,207 local transmissions and 173 imported cases, respectively. A total of 479 cases are currently warded in hospitals, with 11 cases in intensive care units.— Xinhua

Brazil lifts mandatory mask use in airports, on flights

BRAZIL’S National Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa) on Wednesday lifted the mandatory use of face masks in Brazilian airports and on flights, due to the current COVID-19 epidemiological situation.

However, Anvisa said it continues to recommend the use of face masks and social distancing as they are effective measures to mitigate the risk of disease transmission.

“Given the current situation, the use of masks that was adopted as a collective health measure will become an individual protection measure,” it said.— AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Indian economy revives as car sales, exports pick up

RISE in vehicles' sales and exports of various commodities including merchandise, agriculture products and sugar indicate that the Indian economy is reviving bit by bit, after being battered by COVID-19 over the past two-and-a-half years.

The country's economy is expected to get a further boost in the remaining part of the current calendar year as the festive season, which has just begun and will last till the year-end, is expected to witness a surge in purchases particularly of vehicles, jewellery and housing units.

Total production of vehicles including two-wheelers and three-wheelers in the country rose to nearly 2.2 million in July 2022, registering a growth of 5.61 per cent compared to the same month in the previous year. Similarly, passenger vehicles' sales rose to 293,865, an increase of 6.55 per cent over July 2021.

The production and sales of an increasing number of ve-



The production and sales of an increasing number of vehicles in the country indicate a rising purchasing power. Students attend a car workshop sponsored by Maruti Suzuki India Ltd at Ganpat University in Khenva, some 85 kms from Ahmedabad. **PHOTO: AFP**

hicles in the country indicate a rising purchasing power, which means the overall employment scene has improved in recent weeks compared to the past two-and-a-half years.

Data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) showed that India's unemployment rate in July 2022 dropped to a six-month low of

6.8 per cent, attributing mainly to a better monsoon and an uptick in agricultural activities in rural areas.

The joblessness rate dropped from 7.8 per cent in June 2022 to 6.8 per cent in July 2022. But, in urban India, the unemployment rate rose to 8.21 per cent in July from 7.3 per cent in June.—Xinhua

China reconnects nuclear reactor after shutdown due to damage

A nuclear reactor in southern China has been reconnected to the electricity grid more than a year after it was shut down to repair damage, its operator said.

Part of Taishan nuclear power plant in Guangdong province was taken offline last July after Chinese authorities reported minor fuel rod damage and a build-up of radioactive gases at the plant.

Operators reconnected the

damaged reactor after months of "inspection and maintenance", China General Nuclear Power Group (CGN) said in a stock exchange filing late on Tuesday.

"The monitoring results of Taishan Nuclear Power Plant and its surrounding environment are normal," CGN said in the filing, without giving further details.

The plant is operated in a partnership with French en-

ergy giant EDF and uses the European Pressurised Reactor (EPR) design, which was developed to relaunch nuclear power in Europe after the Chernobyl catastrophe of 1986.

The design is touted as offering higher power and better safety, but EPR projects in Finland, France and Britain have been plagued by delays and cost overruns.

There are more than 60,000 fuel rods in the reactor and the proportion of damaged rods was "less than 0.01 per cent", China's environment ministry and nuclear regulator said before the reactor's closure.

They called the damage "inevitable" due to factors including fuel manufacturing and transportation.

EDF also previously blamed the build-up of radioactive gases at the Taishan plant on deteriorating coating on some uranium fuel rods.—AFP



File photo of Taishan Nuclear Power Plant in south China's Guangdong Province. **PHOTO: CFP/CGTN**

Japan logs trade deficit in July for 12 months in row as imports rise

JAPAN posted a trade deficit of 1.44 trillion yen (\$10.7 billion) in July against a backdrop of rising import prices driven by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the yen's weakness, remaining in the red for the 12th straight month, government data showed Wednesday.

Imports jumped 47.2 per cent from a year earlier to 10.19 trillion yen, increasing for the 18th straight month and bringing the deficit to all-time high for July. Exports rose 19.0 per cent to 8.75 trillion yen, up for the 17th month in a row.

The values of imports and exports were both the highest since comparable data became available in January 1979, according to the Finance Ministry's preliminary report.

Analysts warn that the outflow of income under the prolonged trade deficit is hurting companies and households at home at a time when the broad-

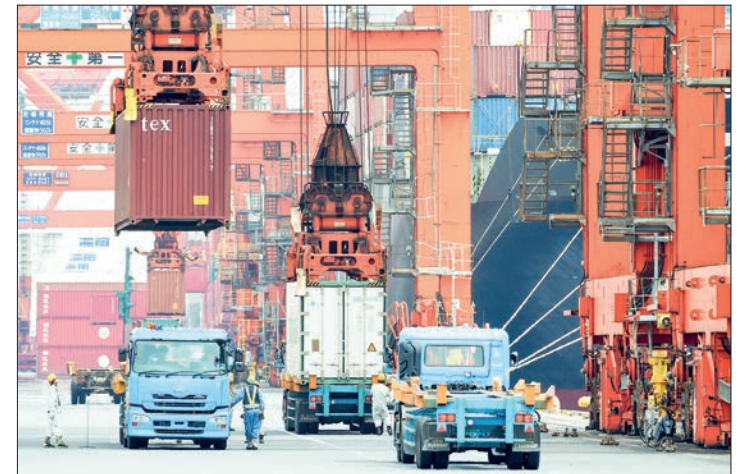
er economy shows few signs of sharp recovery from the novel coronavirus shock.

Imports soared as prices for crude oil from the United Arab Emirates and those for coal and liquefied natural gas from Australia were higher.

Exports gained due largely to brisk shipments of automobiles and semiconductor manufacturing devices to the United States and those of diesel fuel to the Philippines, the ministry said.

A ministry official attributed the expansion in imports and exports mainly to rising prices, while saying crude oil prices were around twice as high compared with the same month last year.

The value of petroleum imports rose to 1.14 trillion yen in the reporting month from a year earlier, increasing for the 16th consecutive month, the ministry said.—Kyodo



Containers are loaded onto trucks from an international freighter at Tokyo port. **PHOTO: AFP**

New Zealand hikes official cash rate to 3%

THE Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ)'s Monetary Policy Committee raised the Official Cash Rate (OCR) to three per cent from 2.5 per cent on Wednesday.

The Committee agreed it remains appropriate to continue to tighten monetary conditions at a pace to maintain price stability and contribute to maximum sustainable employment. Core consumer price inflation remains too high and labor resources remain scarce, said the central bank in a statement.

The central bank uses the OCR to control inflation, encouraging people to either spend or save. The OCR is the interest rate the RBNZ pays on settlement accounts and is reviewed seven times a year.—Xinhua

US retail sales flatline in July as gas prices fall

US retail sales held steady in July as gas prices fell sharply, but the new data released Wednesday showed consumers are still spending, keeping the pressure on the Federal Reserve to continue its aggressive interest rate hikes.

Americans flush with savings have been a key driver of the US pandemic recovery, and the Fed is keeping a careful eye on economic data as it battles to quash red-hot inflation without tipping the world's largest economy into recession.

cession.

While the headline data of the closely-watched report flatlined at \$682.8 billion, rather than rise slightly as economists had expected, sales increased 0.7 per cent when gasoline and motor vehicles are excluded from the calculation, the Commerce Department said.

"Despite the flat headline reading, the core retail sales figures in July show the consumer has staying power," Kathy Bostjancic of Oxford Economics said.—AFP

Fashion designer Hanae Mori dies at 96: Japanese media

JAPANESE fashion designer Hanae Mori, who cracked the elite world of Parisian haute couture, has died at her home in Tokyo aged 96, Japanese media reported Thursday.

Nicknamed "Madame Butterfly" for her signature winged motif, over the decades Mori's luxurious creations were worn by Nancy Reagan, Grace Kelly and numerous other members of high society.

But she was also a pioneer for Japanese women as one of a tiny number to head an international corporation.

Mori died on 11 August, Kyodo news agency said on Thursday, citing her office, without giving further details.

Public broadcaster NHK and other media outlets also reported the news, saying a private family funeral had already taken



Japanese fashion designer Hanae Mori was also a pioneer for Japanese women as one of a tiny number to head an international corporation. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

place and giving the cause of her death as "old age".

Mori's trailblazing career took her from Tokyo, where she started out making costumes for cinema, to New York and

Paris, where in 1977 her label became the first Asian fashion house to join the rarefied ranks of haute couture.

Her first collection abroad, in New York in

1965, celebrated the theme "East Meets West".

Japanese fashion greats such as Issey Miyake, who died earlier this month, followed in her path.—AFP



Americans continue to use their savings to spend, despite high inflation. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Damaged freighter blocks traffic at drought-hit Rhine

A stranded cargo ship caused traffic to be halted Wednesday at the Rhine river in western Germany after suffering a technical fault, authorities said, at a time when water transport was already ailing from a drought. The vessel is stuck at St Goar and Oberwesel, in between the cities of Mainz and Koblenz, water police said, adding that they were expecting to clear the stricken ship within the day. The machine damage came as water levels in the Rhine had dropped to critical points at several locations, including at nearby Kaub — a known bottleneck for shipping where the river runs narrow and shallow. The gauge at Kaub stood at 34 centimetres (13 inches) on Wednesday, well below the 40-cm reference point.—AFP

MYANMA Port Authority "NOTICE of High Tide"

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.00 feet to 20.51 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of August 27th to September 2nd, 2022. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (201W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (201W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES



Kyaukphyu SEZ Deep Sea Port Project ESIA Scoping Invitation to Public Consultation Meeting

CITIC Consortium Myanmar Port Investment Ltd. (CITIC Consortium) and Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone Management Committee (KPSEZ MC) entered into transaction documents and jointly established a joint venture, Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone Deep Seaport Co., Ltd. (the "Project Company") in 2020 for conceptualization, design, build, finance, operation, maintenance and transfer of Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone Deep Sea Port (KPSEZ DSP) Project in Kyaukphyu. In accordance with the transaction documents, CITIC Consortium is authorized to carry out the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) on three components, Made Island Port, Yanbye Island Port and a 15 Km Access Road and Bridge of KPSEZ DSP Project on behalf of the Project Company.

In accordance with the requirements of Myanmar EIA Procedure and International Practice, Myanmar Survey Research (MSR) Consortium (a third party to conduct the ESIAs) would like to hold a Public Consultation Meeting at which discussions will be held with relevant government departments, Community Service Organizations (CSOs), INGOs and the public.

In this consultation, KPSEZ MC, the Project Company, CITIC Consortium, Hatch (the Project Management Consultant) and MSR will explain the project, identify potential impacts on the environment and socio-economic conditions and present a plan to minimize the impacts as best as possible.

We cordially invite you to attend the Public Consultation Meeting to further your understanding of the project and contribute your comments and opinions.

Schedule

Public Consultation Meeting 1:

Day: August 27, 2022 (2nd Waxing of Tawthalin, 1384 ME)
Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Venue: Kyauk Phyu Hotel

Public Consultation Meeting 2:

Day: August 28, 2022 (3rd Waxing of Tawthalin, 1384 ME)
Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Venue: Made Island (Monastery)

Contacts:

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Opposition demands extra Diet session to probe Unification Church ties



Participants of an international conference of the Universal Peace Federation pay tribute to slain former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Seoul on 12 August 2022. **PHOTO: PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION / KYODO**

JAPANESE opposition parties called Thursday for an extraordinary parliamentary session to be opened as soon as possible to examine the controversial links between members of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's government and the Unification Church.

The move came as increasing numbers of ruling party lawmakers have been tied to the religious group, a major political issue in the wake of the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Among them, Koichi Hagiuda, policy chief of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, who has come under public scrutiny after being reported to have

visited a facility linked to the religious group accompanying a then-LDP candidate in June, told reporters on Thursday that he has "never received financial support or donations from the organization" or asked for help in election campaigning.

But Hagiuda and his office said his support group and a local LDP chapter have paid fees for attending charity parties to a group linked to the church on six occasions between 2012 and 2019.

Still, Kishida, who reshuffled his Cabinet earlier this month, is unlikely to succumb to the pressure to hold the extraordinary session, given he is considering one in October, sources close to the premier said. — Kyodo

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

China to send troops to Russia for joint military drills

CHINESE troops will travel to Russia to take part in joint military drills, Beijing's defence ministry said. Beijing and Moscow have close defence links and China has said it wants to push bilateral relations "to a higher level," even as Moscow faces international sanctions and widespread condemnation over its war in Ukraine.

China's defence ministry said Wednesday its participation in the annual "Vostok" exercises — which Moscow has said will take place from 30 August to 5 September — is part of a bilateral cooperation agreement with Russia.—AFP



The annual "Vostok" exercises will take place from 30 August to 5 September 2022. Russian military forces perform a landing during the Vostok-2018 (East-2018) military drills at Klerka training ground on the Sea of Japan coast, outside the town of Slavyanka, some 100km south of Vladivostok, on 15 September 2018. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

'Urgent' inspection of nuclear plant

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg says it is "urgent" that the International Atomic Energy Agency be allowed to inspect the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine that is under Russian military control.

Speaking of the danger of "a nuclear accident or incident", he tells reporters in Brussels that Moscow's military control of the facility "endangers the population of Ukraine, of neighbouring countries and of the international community".

Crimea bridge should be 'dismantled'

UKRAINIAN presidential aide Mykhaylo Podolyak calls for Moscow's main bridge connecting the Kremlin-controlled Crimea to the Russian mainland to be "dismantled", in the wake of several attacks on the peninsula. The 19-kilometre (12-mile) bridge inaugurated in 2018 by Russian President Vladimir Putin is Moscow's key military and civilian land corridor to the peninsula, which it annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

SOURCE: AFP

Crimea attacks: Ukraine puts pressure on lost territory

TWO massive attacks on Russian bases in Crimea far from the frontline in recent days have given Ukraine a boost -- eight years after Russia's humiliating takeover of the strategic peninsula.

Russia's defence ministry said a series of explosions at an ammunition storage facility

near the village of Dzhankoi on Tuesday, which also damaged a railway line, were an act of "sabotage".

There was no public claim of responsibility by Ukrainian authorities, but presidential aide Mykhailo Podolyak called it "demilitarization in action" — using the same terminology

employed by Russia to justify its invasion of Ukraine.

The blasts came exactly a week after an attack on an air base which a senior Ukrainian official speaking on condition of anonymity described as a "well-prepared, special partisan job". —AFP



Russia annexed the Crimea peninsula from Ukraine in 2014. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Once hated by the left, FBI is now US conservatives' evil demon

AGENTS of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation are used to criticism, but never in the agency's history have they faced anything like the attacks from conservatives after last week's raid on former president Donald Trump's Florida home.

Over its more than 100-year history, the FBI has been excoriated by southerners committed to racist segregation, by civil libertarians defending political activists and especially by African Americans whose 1960s liberation movement was treated as an acute national threat by

the agency.

But the extraordinary threats of the past week originate in the FBI's political bedrock: conservative Republicans.

"It's the world turned upside down," said Kenneth O'Reilly, a retired University of Alaska historian, who has written books about the FBI and politics.

According to O'Reilly, the FBI has historically been a "deeply conservative institution" with a bipartisan constituency in Washington.

But since Trump condemned the FBI as corrupt and

fascist after they searched his Mar-a-Lago estate on 8 August for illegally retained top secret documents, the attacks have kept coming — and his supporters have fanned the flames.

Republican National Committee chairwoman Ronna McDaniel accused the bureau of "abuse of power".

Senator Marco Rubio, a Republican from Florida, compared the agency to secret police in a Marxist dictatorship, while Representative Paul Gosar declared: "We must destroy the FBI". — AFP



The US Federal Bureau of Investigation came under attack by conservatives after its agents raged Donald Trump's home. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Malaysia's Najib starts final bid to overturn 1MDB jail sentence

MALAYSIA'S top court on Thursday began hearing ex-leader Najib Razak's appeal to overturn his jail sentence for corruption in a high-stakes legal gambit that could see him locked up or potentially launching a political comeback.

The Federal Court on Tuesday dismissed the former prime minister's plea for a retrial, clearing the way for the hearings, which will be held until 26 August.

But as the hearing started, lead defence lawyer Hisyam Teh Poh Teik surprised the court by telling the panel of five judges that he wanted to be discharged from the case, sending the tribunal into a recess. The hearing resumed after two hours, with the court refusing to discharge Hisyam and Chief Justice Tengku Maimun Tuan Mat ordering the prosecution to present its case. — AFP

Death toll in Kabul mosque blast rises to 21: police

A blast which ripped through a mosque packed with worshippers in the Afghan capital Kabul killed at least 21 people and wounded more than two dozen others, police said Thursday.

The number of bombings across Afghanistan has dropped since the Taliban returned to power, but several attacks — many targeting minority communities — have rocked the country in recent months, including several claimed by the jihadist Islamic State group. — AFP

Cuba unable to identify remains of 14 firefighters after fuel plant blaze



Sixteen firefighters were killed and 17 others hospitalized due to a massive fire in Matanzas, on Cuba's northern coast. PHOTOL AFP

THE remains of 14 firefighters who died combatting a major blaze at a Cuban fuel depot last week are too badly burned to be identified, a specialist said Wednesday.

In total, 16 firefighters were killed and 17 others hospitalized due to the massive fire in Matanzas, on Cuba's northern coast.

"Given that the remains found were subjected to high temperatures for a long time, it is not possible to apply DNA extraction," Jorge Gonzalez Perez, president of the Cuban Society of Legal Medicine, told a press conference.

The fire first broke out on 5 August, when lightning struck a

tank containing 26 million litres of fuel.

Early the next morning, a major explosion occurred when a second fuel tank caught fire.

Gonzalez Perez said that at the time there were 30 people near the second tank, and that testimony from the survivors allowed investigators to locate remains of those who perished.

"We have explained to the relatives that we have 14 groups of skeletal remains, which correspond to the 14 who are missing, but we cannot differentiate one from the other and name any of those who are there," he said.

Four of the eight tanks at the depot — each with the capacity to hold 50 million litres (13.2 million gallons) of fuel — collapsed during the blaze, which was finally extinguished late last week. — AFP



Police arrest suspect in deadly Ecuador blast

ECUADORAN police on Wednesday arrested a suspect in a week-end blast that killed five people in the port city of Guayaquil and was blamed by the government on organized crime, the interior

minister said Wednesday.

The suspect "admitted to being involved in the terrorist attack" in the neighbourhood of Cristo del Consuelo, minister Patricio Carrillo said on Twitter.

The man had "a history of murder and robbery", he added.

Five people died and 17 were wounded — two seriously

— when two people on a motorcycle threw a bag of explosives into a restaurant in Guayaquil on Sunday.

"This is the type of crime that now faces Ecuador, a clear message for all: either we act as a... determined State or the consequences will be very serious," said Carrillo. — AFP

The government blamed the explosion on organized crime. PHOTO: AFP



Man. Utd legend Giggs cites disciplinary record in assault trial



Taking the stand at Manchester Crown Court for the second day running, the former United and Wales forward broke down in tears as he described spending a night in the cells as the "worst experience of my life". **PHOTO: AFP**

FORMER Manchester United footballer Ryan Giggs, on trial for assaulting and coercively controlling an ex-girlfriend, told a UK court Wednesday that his record of one sending off in a 24-year career showed he was not prone to violence.

Taking the stand at Manchester Crown Court for the second day running, the former United and Wales forward broke down in tears as he described spending a night in the cells as the "worst experience of my life".

Giggs denies physically assaulting former partner, PR agent Kate Greville, and her sister nearly two years ago.

He also denies controlling Greville during their rocky years-long relationship.

Giggs claims that injuries sustained by Greville were an accidental result of a three-way tussle between her and her sister over a mobile phone.

The former winger admitted he "may have caught her and her sister", but that his playing career showed he was not violent.

He told the court it was "part and parcel" to be verbally abused and provoked on the pitch.

"On any occasion did you react to any of that with violence?" asked his lawyer Chris Daw.

"No," replied Giggs, saying he had only received the red card once in more than 1,000 appearances.— AFP

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

GFA grab sweet victory in Myanmar National League Week 8

THE final day of the 2022 season Myanmar National League Week 8 continued on 18 August, and GFA won against Rakhine United by two goals to one.

In a crucial match for the relegation zone, GFA won with a late goal to give their hopes of climbing out of the relegation zone level with eighth-placed Maha United. Rakhine United team has faced eight consecutive losses and will struggle to get out of the relegation zone.

As it was important for the relegation zone, both teams used multiple players, but the GFA team played a better attack with two foreign players.

In the 14th minute of the game, the GFA team scored first, and it was scored by Yokusi.

After that, the Rakhine United

ed team tried to equalize while the GFA team tried not to give the goal back and played hard to get another goal.

The Rakhine United team made a high attack by substituting some players, including foreign players, and in the 85th minute, the team got the equalizer and Ibrahim scored.

Rakhine United team came close to getting the first win when they scored an equalizer near the end of the game, but they had to concede a goal in overtime and continued to lose.

The winning goal for the GFA team was scored by Than Toe Aung in the 90th + 1st minute.

Maha United and GFA have six points each, while Rakhine United have lost all eight matches and are yet to score.

After Week 8, the defending champion Shan United continues to lead with 24 points.

— Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



A GFA player (red) attempts to pass over the Rakhine United player during their Week 8 match of the Myanmar National League at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 18 August 2022. **PHOTO: MNL**

ISPE FC lose two consecutive games in Asian Women's Club Championship

THE second day of the 2022 Asian Women's Club Championship in the East Asia Zone group continued yesterday in Chonburi, Thailand, where the Thai club College of Asian Scholars beat the Myanmar club ISPE FC by 2-0.

ISPE FC fought for their last hope of progressing to the next round but suffered another defeat to ensure their exit from the group stage.

ISPE came out with young Myanmar footballers and lost by conceding two goals in the first half.

Most of the Thai national team players participated in the host Thai club team and scored the winning goals in the 15th minute by Erapun and Kanranath scored in the 33rd minute.

There are three clubs in the East Asian zone, the Thai club College of Asian Scholars and the Chinese Taipei club Taichung Blue competing to advance to the next level with three points from each game.

Myanmar club ISPE FC has been eliminated from the group as both games were low-key and did not get any points. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM