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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.

The implementation of a mutual farming system through collaborative efforts of organizations will be beneficial for the production of the agricultural sector: Senior General

AN agricultural engineering subject must be taught at the schools at different levels so as to efficiently utilize the water, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening of the meeting on the enhancement of the agriculture sector and socioeconomic life of farmers by Participatory Irrigation Management, at the training school of agricultural education and rural development of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking at the meeting, the Senior General said a total of 245 dams and reservoirs, as well as 210 river water pumping stations, were built on Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Thanlwin and Sittoung rivers and tributaries.

There are 25.517 million acres of rainfed and irrigated farmlands, some 15 million acres of monsoon paddy and some three million acres of monsoon paddy.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round the booths at the inauguration event to discuss the enhancement of the agriculture sector and socioeconomic life of farmers by Participatory Irrigation Management in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

... the government has set up the K230 billion fund allotted from the K400 billion State economic promotion fund for successfully growing 850,000 acres of summer paddy and 500,000 acres of green gram through a mutual farming system as of the coming season.

Among them, more than 20 per cent of 33.2 million net sown acres are irrigated by dams. If more than 6 million irrigated farmlands are placed under triple cropping pattern such as paddy-bean-paddy, paddy-sunflower-paddy, paddy-sesame-paddy and paddy and other two crops with systematic irrigation facilities, the socioeconomic life of farmers will face a

great change.

An agricultural engineering subject must be taught at the schools at different levels so as to efficiently utilize the water. Farmers themselves need to effectively participate in the efficient utilization of agricultural water from dams built across the nation.

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SAC Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win leaves for Russia

TO attend the closing ceremony of the International Army Games 2022 held in the Russian Federation, a Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win left Nay Pyi Taw on the morning of 25 August.

The Vice-Senior General and party were seen off by Members of the State Administration Council General Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe, Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Senior Officers of the Office of the Command-



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win was seen off at the Airport on 25 August 2022.

er-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air), Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Zaw Hein, and Russian Military Attaché to Myanmar Colonel Sergei Kurchenko and officials

concerned at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

The Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation arrived at Sheremetyevo International Airport in Moscow, the Russian Federation in the evening of Local Standard Time.

The delegation led by Vice-Senior General Soe Win were welcomed by Deputy Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation Colonel General A. V. Fomin, Myanmar Ambassador to Russia U Lwin Oo and wife, Myanmar Military Attaché to Russia (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Moe Kyaw and wife, Alexander V. Ostrvovskiy from FSMTC and officials concerned at the Airport. — MNA

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

border areas for those who would like to return to the legal fold.

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

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

Temporary power cut on 27 August in some townships of Yangon



The Shweli Power Plant No 1 in Namhkam Township, Shan State.

MAINTENANCE work on the 230 kV Shweli-Mansan No 2 power line will be carried out on 27 August, according to the Yangon Electricity Supply Cooperation.

The enamel of tower No 215 of the 230 kV Shweli-Mansan No 2 power line was found to have broken. So, the 230 kV Shweli-Mansan No 1/2 power

line will be shut down and the maintenance and repair work will be done from 7 am to 4 pm on 27 August.

It is reported that while the work is underway, the power output from the Shweli power plant in the power system network will be reduced by about 400 mW, so load reduction will be adjusted.

It is announced that there will be temporary power outages in some townships in Yangon Region during periods of high electricity consumption and that measures will be taken to ensure that there are no power outages in important areas. — TWA/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

“Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal”

IN line with the theme “Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal” our government will build a better nation and improve the socio-economic conditions to serve the interests of the State and ethnic national people. In line with the theme “The Strength of the Nation Lies Within”, I would like to conclude by calling for unity and cooperation.

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

The implementation of a mutual farming system through collaborative efforts of organizations will be beneficial for the production of the agricultural sector: Senior General



The Senior General watches the video clip on the enhancement of the socioeconomic life of farmers and the agriculture sector through Participatory Irrigation Management.

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The implementation of a mutual farming system through collaborative efforts of organizations will be beneficial for production of the agricultural sector. Currently, the government has set up the **K230 billion fund allotted from the K400 billion State economic promotion fund for successfully growing 850,000 acres of summer paddy and 500,000 acres of green gram through a mutual farming system** as of the coming season.

The Senior General urged farmers to participate in the management of the irrigation system in the entire nation on a wider scale through collaborative efforts so as to shape the nation as a prosperous and food-sufficient country for serving the interests of the State and themselves.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo reported on the enhancement of the socioeconomic life of farmers and the agriculture sector through Participatory Irrigation Management.

Then, the video clip was presented on the enhancement of the socioeconomic status of farmers and the implementation of the agriculture sector through Participatory Irrigation Management.

The Senior General urged farmers to participate in the management of the irrigation system in the entire nation on a wider scale through collaborative efforts so as to shape the nation as a prosperous and food-sufficient country for serving the interests of the State and themselves.

ipatory Irrigation Management.

After cordially greeting the farmers who are leaders of water users groups across the nation, the Senior General visited the booths of water users groups, Ngalaik dam irrigation system, irrigation development training school, machinery used in underground water survey, management for the emergency state of dams, solar-powered pumps, mechanized farmland reclamation, water supply functions, natural fertilization production, agricultural machinery,

solar-powered pump system produced by Myanmar agricultural machinery factory (Ingon), cultivation of crops with the use of Head Mist Sprinkler, Water Supply Flimpipe (Drip), Rootzone Mini-Sprinkler; measurement of Global Water Flow Probe, types of canals, supply of water from valves from sluice gates, and irrigated monsoon paddy plantations.

After asking about necessary facts what he wanted to know, the Senior General gave the necessary guidance.

The meeting was attended by 200 farmers who are leaders of water user groups from regions and states with an attendance of 250 more farmers through online virtual.

They will participate in the roundtable discussions under the title of enhancement of agriculture sector and socioeconomic life of farmers by Participatory Irrigation Management, joined the leadership course and agricultural research lecture and courses on dam management and role of water user farmers, and crops and land utilization. — MNA



The Senior General takes the documentary group photo with attendees at the event.

Diamond Jubilee event of Sarpay Beikman held

CHAIRMAN of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sent a video message to the Diamond Jubilee ceremony of Sarpay Beikman of the Printing and Publishing Department under the Ministry of Information yesterday.

The ceremony was held at the Sarpay Beikman Hall at the corner of Merchant Road and 37th Street, Yangon and attended by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing of the Ministry of International Cooperation, Union Minister U Ko Ko of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Lt-Gen Thet Pon from the office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein, Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe, the deputy ministers, regional ministers, departmental heads, the Myanmar Press Council chairman, literary scholars and guests.

First, the video message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was played, and the documentary video of the history of Sarpay Beikman.

(The speech delivered by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is reported separately.)

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn said the SAC presented Lifetime National Literary Award, National Literary Award, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award to ensure the social status of literary scholars. Moreover, it awarded honorary titles and medals. It also arranges to provide healthcare services to the lifetime nation-



The event plays the video message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

al literary award winners.

Arrangements are being made to construct an Art Centre to carry out artworks of literary, film, theatrical performances and music industries keeping abreast of international countries. Similarly, it is nearly to build the Sarso Beikman to support the creations of great writers and literary scholars, ensure the collective work of people of the literary world, lifelong existence of Myanmar literature development activities and chances for book lovers to be able to study.

The Union minister also expressed thanks to the SAC Chairman for his care and efforts in the literary arena.

He continued that the ministry is also working hard to accelerate the drive for the publishing enterprise of Sarpay Beikman and facilitate the Myanmar literature development programmes, explore good literature, publish books that meet the trend and proper literature that support the public, especially the youths.

All literary scholars should participate in building

a Union based on democracy and federalism.

He also urged them to keep supporting the processes as they supported the country's development with the power of the pen.

He then highlighted the important role of literature and extended best wishes marking the Diamond Jubilee event of Sarpay Beikman.

Afterwards, Union Minister U Ko Ko expressed his willingness that the Sarpay Beikman will accelerate the momentum to improve Myanmar literature and open the people's eyes to the world of literature by preserving tradition.

He said Sarpay Beikman is the representative of the government, the original literature award winner, organization that provides Myanmar literature and lamp for the people.

Then, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air) families, donors and the Yangon Region chief minister gave cash donations and presents to respective officials.

published by Sarpay Beikman, Myanmar Encyclopaedia, year books of Myanmar Encyclopaedia, books published by the Myanmar Translation Society, Shwe Thway Journal and record photos of the National Literary Award.

After the ceremony, the Union minister and officials enjoyed lunch together with the literary scholars who attended the 75th anniversary of Sarpay Beikman.

Sarpay Beikman created its milestones in the history of literature by serving its duties as per the motto "Light, where darkness was". It supported



The MoI Union Minister gives the honorary gift.

After the gift exchange occasion of the officials, Sayagyi U Myat Thu expressed words of thanks.

The Union minister and attendees to the event also viewed the displayed record photos, books and journals

people's lives by publishing school textbooks, People's Handbook Series, Myanmar Encyclopaedia, Thuta Padetha or Magazine of General Knowledge, Shwe Thway or Children Journal, translation and so on. — MNA



The Yangon Region chief minister presents K7.5 million donation to the literary fund.



Lt-Gen Thet Pon provides gifts to literary scholars.



Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein presents K214 million donated by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air) families and donors to the literary fund.

The Speech Delivered by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of Sarpay Beikman

FIRST of all, I would like to extend my greeting to and wish the physical and mental well-being of the Union Ministers, Regional Government Member Ministers, luminaries of the literary world, departmental officials, responsible personnel from the publishing houses and guests.

Today, 26th August of 2022, is the auspicious occasion of the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of Sarpay Beikman, which has a high tradition in the literary world in Myanmar. In those days, there were many things which attributed to the development of a race and a nation. These days, however, education is the only thing needed for development as accepted by all nations around the globe. Education requires learning from early childhood. When at work, we do the learning in a different way — i.e., continuous learning, which involves the reading of books and holding discussions about the books read. The participants are required to listen to, discuss and do the creation based on the lessons learned.

To enable the learners to read, study and share, we need books, which are distributed around the globe extensively. With the passage of time, the learning materials have changed, commencing from stone inscriptions to palm leaf manuscripts, to books and to electronic books. The changes in technology have created different formats; yet, the very essence is the same. As known to you all, we, the Myanmar, have set a very value on books and literature. This fact is obvious in the following sayings: **one word is equal to one pagoda; wisdom lies in literature, and books are friends of the people.** Thanks to this high value we hold, we could have preserved our literature and culture for a thousand years or so. Looking back, we will see that we have been under the yoke of colonialism for more than a century. Nevertheless, there are certain colonized countries that have lost their literature and culture while other colonized countries have had their literature and culture affected. Our ability to have maintained the literature and culture can be attributed to the words of advice by Reverend Maha Ratthasara, whose eight



famous words we have had to learn since childhood: Thu, Si, Pu, Ba, Wi, Li, Thi, Da, which calls for learning every day — the continuous learning.

Since the pre-independence period, Sarpay Beikman has consistently been performing literary duties to its utmost until today, disseminating knowledge among the people. It is a great institution which we are all very much proud of.

The background history of Sarpay Beikman dates back to 7 June 1947. This was the day on which a conference was held in the building called Sorrento Villa to draw the two-year economic development plan of the Union of Myanmar. The conference was attended by our national leader General Aung San. He said, *inter alia*, that a translation department should be opened with the objective of enabling the people to be possessed modern knowledge so that people can contribute their part towards national development. In compliance with the guidance of General Aung San, officials led by Prime Minister U Nu and the people from the literary world founded the Burma Translation Society-BTS, on 26 August 1947, which was the beginning of Sarpay Beikman. The first Governing Council was formed with 12 people chaired by Prime Minister U Nu himself. Later, the council grew into one with 15 councillors. On 15 January 1948, the first BTS office was temporarily opened on the Judson College Campus by

renting the residence of Professor Dr Hla Bu. Then, with the growing number of office staff, the BTS office was moved to the Sorrento Villa Building located at No 361, Pyay Road, Yangon. And the name was changed to Sarpay Beikman.

The motto was written in the Myanmar Language by Sayagyi U Wun (Min Thu Wun), which was translated into English by Saya K (U Khin Zaw), who was the first librarian of the University of Yangon and who founded in the post-war period BBS. The English motto is: “Light, where darkness was”. Later, the printing and publishing activities developed, demanding a new place, and so, a plot of land at the corner of Merchant Road and 37th Street was purchased to construct a new building to be opened as a branch office in the downtown area.

The new Sarpay Beikman building was opened on 5 May 1955 by then Prime Minister U Nu. This building is now more than 67 years old. With the objective of opening the eyes of the public, the Luhtu Ahlin, the Luhtu Eik Hsaung and Luhtu Tekkatho were first published. In 1954, Myanmar Encyclopaedia Volume I [Ka-Kon] was published, and in 1977, Vol 15 was published. These are the landmarks. Sarpay Beikman also published the school textbooks, the Terms Bank, 50-year Sarsin, Sarpay Beikman Magazine, Pyithu Letswe, Thutapadetha and Shwe Thway (children journal).

In March 1956, Sarpay Beikman Library was founded while Sarpay Beikman Association was established in 1960. The literary conferences, the paper-reading sessions and the international book year ceremonies are held every year. Additionally, for the development of Myanmar literature, the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award was created. Then, this award was extended to Fine Arts Award, the National Literary Award and the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award. Commencing in 2001, the Lifetime National Literary Award for Literary Achievement, which is the highest national award, has been given. Now, we have already conferred this award on 34 great writers. Sarpay Beikman has not only published great books which bring benefit to the nation but also nurtured writers. I would like to express my sincere appreciation and pay respect to those writers of different periods who have widened the scope of knowledge of the people and at the same time brought benefit to the nation. Most of the national literary award winners were produced by Sarpay Beikman. In co-operation with Tun Foundation, Myanmar Encyclopaedia books are being edited, and now, Volume I [Ka-Kote] has been updated and published again. I myself have read the books published by Sarpay Beikman since my youth. And I have been a member of Sarpay Beikman Library Association, and so, I rarely missed the books, maga-

zines and journals published by Sarpay Beikman. The knowledge I have gained from reading these books is invaluable, and they are still useful these days. And the reading habit has made me learn continuously. I believe those who are of my same age, those who are my seniors and those who are my juniors have had a golden opportunity to keep pace with the modern world thanks to the publications of Sarpay Beikman. And it is also believed that the readers must have applied the experiences they gained from reading these publications to nation-building activities and those activities will contribute to the development of their communities concerned at least.

Currently, our country has trodden on the path to genuine, disciplined multi-party democracy, which suits our country's national characteristics and culture. Additionally, the democratic system must have an education system which will not adversely affect our culture. The education system is aimed at not teaching democratic politics; it should be aimed at developing good democratic practices. The education system should focus on continuous learning. To be able to do so, all citizens are needed to be well educated. We should be aware of the advice given by former United Nations Secretary-General U Thant who has told us about the link between education and democracy.

“Democratic system is the most difficult among the systems governing the country. The people must have adequate knowledge and rationality for achieving success in democratization. Education is the genuine basic foundation of the State. The democratic system will cause chaos in the country with lack of knowledge.” Hence, priority must be given to enabling all the citizens to have an educational qualification in order to ensure the strengthening of **multiparty democracy** and build **the Union based on democracy and federalism** which are two political visions of the nation. The 3-Rs literacy campaign was vigorously launched in the country for our citizens who were weak in education due to the wars. But,

National Peace Talks Team, peace delegation of PNLO, LDU and ALP discuss separately, continuing fourth-day meeting

THE State Peace Talks Team met with the peace delegation led by chairman of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO Khun Thurein, Lahu Democratic Union-LDU Chairman Kyar Solomon and Arakan Liberation Party-ALP Vice-Chairperson Saw Mra Raza Lin separately at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre's reception hall in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 August morning.

At the meeting, the participants had an open discussion with each other regarding the implementation of agreements from the first-day meeting, additional requirements to be fulfilled and regional development activities. Then, the State Peace Talks Team and the PNLO, LDU and ALP delegations continued their fourth-day meeting at the meeting hall of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre.

The fourth-day meeting



The National Peace Talks Team and the peace delegation of PNLO, LDU and ALP continue the fourth-day meeting yesterday.

was participated by SAC Member Union Minister at the Union Government Office National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Chairman State Peace Talks Team Leader

Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Team Member SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung, committee members: Lt-Gen Min Naing, Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein and Lt-Gen Aye Win,

and Chairman Khun Thurein and Vice-Chairman Khun Tun Tin of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO, Lahu Democratic Union-LDU Chairman Kyar Solomon and General Secretary

Kyar Ya Kok, Arakan Liberation Party-ALP Vice-Chairperson Saw Mra Raza Lin and Member of the Central Executive Committee Khine Soe Mra.

According to the negotiations resulting from the four-day meetings, the opinions of both sides were discussed again and the final agreement was reached. The agreements are confirmed and signed by both parties.

Afterwards, Chairman Khun Thurein of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO, on behalf of the ethnic armed groups attending to the meeting and SPTT Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae gave conclusion remarks and presented the record book on the SAC's endeavours for the benefit of the country published by the Ministry of Information, the Coalition Politics book, MRTV DTH receiver two feet satellite dish and gifts. — MNA

MoI Union Minister meets members of National Literary Award, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award selection committees, members of Myanmar Press Council



MoI Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn addresses the meeting 2/2022 with the National Literary Award Selection Committee and the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committee yesterday in Yangon.

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn met members of the National Literary Award Selection Committee and the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committee at the meeting hall of the Printing and Publishing Department on the Theinbyu

Road in Botahtaung Township on 26 August afternoon.

During the meeting, the Union minister said that plans are being made to present the literary awards for the year 2021 grandly on the coming literary day (Sarsodaw Day) which falls on 23 November

2022. The literary experts who attended the meeting should openly discuss the difficulties they encountered in choosing the awards and select the most correct and deserved winner for the Lifetime Literary Award, the National Literary Award and the Sarpay

Beikman Manuscript Award, he added.

Then, the director-general of the Printing and Publishing Department submitted the completion of the selection meetings for the National Literary Award and the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award.

Afterwards, Vice-chairman U Sein Hlaing (Thura Zaw) of the National Literary Award Selection Committee, Chairman U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe) of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committee and literary scholars discussed the matters concerning the difficulties encountered in selecting literary awards and the activities for prize selection.

After that, the Union Minister and Deputy Minister U Ye Tint completed the discussions and the Union minister made a concluding remark.

In the afternoon, the Union minister met the Myanmar Press Council chairman and council members and urged them to build a better media community and educate the public about false information and fake news. Then, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint gave a word of thanks to the Myanmar Press Council for successfully carrying out its activities. After that, the Chairman of the Myanmar Press Council and members had a discussion and the Union Minister gave a closing speech.

Chairman U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe) of the Myanmar Press Council, Vice-Chairman 1 U Myo Tun (Maung Sein Naung-Lewe), Vice-Chairman 2 U Tin Maung Oo (Gyobingauk-Tin Maung Oo) and council members attended the meeting. — MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Ayeya Pawsan paddy price breaks above K1.4 million per 100-basket

THE prices of Ayeya Pawsan paddy soared to over K1.4 million per 100-basket (46 pounds), according to Ayeya Trade Centre.

On 1 August, the price of high-grade Ayeya Pawsan paddy was only K1,264,000 per 100-basket. The price jumped up to K1,420,000 million per 100-basket this week ended 25 August, indicating an increase of K150,000 per 100-basket in 25 days.

Similarly, the prices of low-grade paddy prices (Emahta variety) were under K900,000 per 100-basket on 1 August. The prices rose over K1 million on 25 August. Low inventory and strong demand from millers and traders in Yangon and other domestic markets elevated the paddy price are contributing factors to the paddy price rise.

Following higher paddy prices, rice prices have also gained



The prices of Ayeya Pawsan paddy soared to over K1.4 million per 100-basket (46 pounds), according to Ayeya Trade Centre. Rice bags are produced at one rice mill in the picture above.

accordingly. On 25 August, Pawsan rice prices reached the lowest of K63,000 per bag and the highest of K91,000 per bag. Short ma-

tured rice price (90 days) fetched K48,000 per bag. Meanwhile, the prices of low-grade rice varieties (Emahta, Ngasein and Meedon)

moved in the range of K36,000-51,000 per bag.

Starting from 3 August, Myanmar Rice Federation,

Myanmar Rice Producers and Planters Association, Myanmar Rice Millers Association, and traders and brokers engaged in Wahdan Rice Wholesale Centre and Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre have been working together to offer fair prices for Shwebo Pawsan and other rice varieties to the consumers at the Wadan Wholesale Centre in the working days between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

The offer prices are K75,000-77,000 per bag of Shwebo Pawsan, K52,000-55,000 per bag of Ayeyawady Pawsan, K55,000-60,000 per bag of Kyapyan, and K35,000-37,000 per bag of short-matured rice varieties (90 days) at the Wadan Rice Wholesale Centre.

Sales volume is limited to one bag per household. Those traders and retailers are not entitled to buy them. — NN/GNLM

Domestic sugar prices on the rise tracking global influences

DOMESTIC sugar price stays high as global sugar prices strengthen, U Win Htay, vice chair of Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane Related Products Association told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

At present, the FOB price of sugar hit US\$550 per tonne tracking the dollar gains.

“When we calculate sugar price on the exchange rate. The international sugar price is \$550 per tonne. Consequently, domestic sugar prices peaked at over K2,000 per viss. The domestic sugar price is correlated with global sugar prices,” U Win Htay elaborated.

However, domestic sugar price is lower a bit although it is determined by the international sugar price index. The sugar price is K2,260 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the domestic market. Domestic sugar prices stood at only K900-1,000 per viss in the previous years.

There are approximately 450,000 acres of sugarcane across the country, with annual sugar production of 450,000 tonnes. In addition to the domestic consumption, the remaining was shipped to China and Viet Nam in the previous years. This year, it is only ex-

ported to Viet Nam, the association stated.

“The sugar consumption per capita is estimated at eight kilogrammes. If we calculate it with the whole population of over five million, the domestic consumption totals about 350,000-400,000 tonnes. Therefore, only a small volume of sugar is left for exports beyond self-sufficiency. Earlier, Myanmar delivered syrup to China. During the pandemic, syrup export halted amid China’s strict virus policy. So, we will convey the surplus sugar to Viet Nam via maritime trade for now,” U Win Htay continued.

Sugarcane is commonly found in the upper Sagaing Region, followed by northern Shan State. It is also found in the western and eastern Bago Region, Yangon Region and Mandalay Region.

The sugarcane is grown in December-January. It can be harvested from November to February of the following years. The sugarcane growing rotation cycle lasts four years in Myanmar.

Some sugar companies offered the price of sugarcane at K80,000 per tonne for the upcoming sugarcane season 2022-2023. — NN/GNLM

Pure gold price hit record high of over K2.8 mln per tical in domestic markets

THE price of pure gold reached an all-time high of over K2.8 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) in the markets, said gold traders.

The record price is attributed to the Kyat depreciation against the safe-haven US dollar. The exchange rate against a US dollar is worth over K3,000 in the unofficial forex market.

Despite the price spike in the markets, Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association set the pure gold price at K2,055,000 per tical on 26 August.

The association determined the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar’s reference exchange rate against a dollar at K2,100, YGEA Chair U Myo Myint told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

There is a large gap of over K700,000 between the market price and the YGEA’s set price. The black market might arise again following the soaring dollar, resulting in the suspension of gold bar transactions, he stated.

The authorities also interrogated some gold traders and currency exchange operators accordingly in end-July.

During the end of September 2021, a dollar value hit an all-time high of over K3,000 in the gold exchanges and consequently, the pure gold reached a high of K2.22 million per tical.

Under the guidance of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, the Monitoring and Steering Committee on the Gold and Currency Market was formed on 17 December 2021 as gold and currency market stability play a crucial role in trade facilitation.

The objectives of the committee are inspecting and prosecuting market manipulation, checking if there is compliance with payment rules in the domestic market, proceedings against those unscrupulous traders who intend to interfere with the free and fair operation of the market under the existing laws, by-laws and regulations in line with the official directives, illegal foreign currency holding, illegal trade and taking legal actions against price manipulators. — NN/GNLM



Gold jewellery is seen at one gold outlet in Yangon.

OPINION

Expose, arrest illegal traders, seize illegally imported goods

LEVYING taxes for the State is a vital role in the development of the State. Practically, a large sum of taxes which should flow into the State fund is lost in various ways and means due to corruption, bribery and illegal trade committed by unscrupulous traders and businesspersons.

Officials concerned and relevant departments need to inform the people about losses in illegal trade on a wider scale through the media sector while making efforts for levying taxes for the State as a national duty.

In preventing illegal trade activities, staff members assigned duties need to take action against the offenders and seize the illegally imported goods beyond the import declarations. In this regard, relevant task forces and departments must stay away from illegal trade activities and corruption.

Moreover, staff members assigned at the checkpoints must be checked surprisingly and severe action must be taken against those staff who participated in the illegal trade moves.

Importantly, officials should not waste time during the period from the seizures to the auction in carrying out the measures for seized goods. If the working procedures delay seized goods, the special task forces will lose the trust of the people despite implementing good missions and visions.

The duty assigned staff need to expose and seize narcotic drugs, arms and ammunition and explosives carried by vehicles without customs duty at the checkpoints. In doing so, they have to take care of security for those staff.

If undutiful staff are assigned at the checkpoints due to bribes despite the fact that the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee adopted the best policy for the prevention of illegal trade, the commodities without paid tax and quality guarantee will flow into the country in a short time.

Special task forces and OSS members need to effectively seize the illegally imported goods. On the other hand, they have to pave the right way for traders and businesspersons to correctly operate the trading process as much as possible. While arresting the persons who operate their trading in the wrong way, officials should help traders and businesspersons reach the correct way of doing business and trading.

Myanmar is marching towards the status of economic development of the nation not only for the State economy but for booming the private economic sector. As such, the government and the business persons are really responsible for doing business in a correct way without committing malpractices and breaking the laws for the interests of the State and the people.

AFRIEND in need is a friend indeed. Do-gooders in need are Myanmar people indeed. They are well known for their kindness and generosity, traditionally or in an emergency.

Take a look at any place in Myanmar. There is no ward or village tract that does not have an ambulance vehicle on its own. It is in addition to many social associations that existed on a self-help basis. They are generally formed with a view to either flourishing religion or enhancing welfare or saving lives or assisting funerals. They stand and operate on assistance and donations from people.

It sounds good and looks great.

But there is a piece of the jigsaw missing to get a complete set of arrangements for saving lives at a community level. It is none other than a first aider. For emergency response, a person in need is the first aider indeed, not onlookers standing around or taking photos for online media posts. In most real situations, laypersons such as family members, friends, neighbours or bystanders are the first ones who assist the injured for survival before the trained first aiders or paramedics arrive on the scene.

Time is important to save lives. Within four minutes after breathing stops, the victim's heart stops beating. Within four to six minutes after breathing stops, the

victim's brain ceases functioning. Then there is an irreversible occurrence of death. In the first few minutes of traffic accidents, there is over 50 per cent of deaths from

the crash. The above statistics point out that a trained first aider on the scene in the nick of time can make a real difference and save lives.

It is a crucial window time for a victim in the first minutes after a serious injury as the prompt effort for life-saving matters most. With proper first aid performed,

Community Care with First Aid

By Chit Ko Pe



First aid treatment is the most essential step in intervention for the victim to improve the chance of survival before proper medical treatment. **ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF FREEPIK**

the victim can survive from inhalation of toxic gases in a confined space, or from asphyxiation due to airways blocked, or from profuse bleeding due to massive cuts/wounds, or from a severe degree of burns in contact with fire or acid. First aid treatment is the most essential step in intervention for the victim to improve the chance of survival before proper medical treatment.

Therefore, first aid treatment is a prelude to medical care to avoid severity or fatality. First-aid training and assignment of first aiders are legally necessary at the workplace. Though there is no such legislation, communities shall follow suit on a necessary basis. Not being content with an array of materialistic emergency facilities, personal capabilities of saving lives shall be engaged in all human habitat areas. No community shall be left untouched. As long as people are concerned, there shall be some proportionate people with trained knowledge of first aid. It is even better to have at least a trained first aider in every household which is the same goal of the Myanmar Red Cross Society. If not, a ward or a village tract shall strive to have one in a ten-household group or a street-wise group. If so, there will be a pool of trained first aiders who are available individually or in a team to attend to any injury cases in their habitant areas

round the clock and seven days a week (24/7). Elsewhere too, they can render their first aid to the victims who come across.

First aid treatment primarily covers two types (1) injuries & care, and (2) emergencies & care. The former is with eye injuries, cuts, blisters, burns, strains & sprains, breaks & fractures, shock, heat-related illness and choking while the latter with automated external defibrillators (AED), cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and steps for first aid with Drs ABCD, acronyms of Dangers, Responsive, Send for help, Airway, Breathing, Compression and Defibrillator.

Further and detailed knowledge can be obtained through face-to-face training sessions for which all communities shall look into and materialize as part of people's well-being.

Before the ambulance vehicle flashes a light and/or blares a siren, there should be a guardian angel who is a first aider being readily or arriving immediately at the scene attending to the victim simultaneously. It ensures that every community in Myanmar is guaranteed safer and more resilient against any home/work/road accidents through community care with first aid – the equitable and sustainable social protection system.

Global monkeypox cases dropped last week: WHO

According to the WHO's latest situation report issued Thursday, some 23 countries reported an increase in the weekly number of cases. Iran and Indonesia reported their first cases in the past seven days.

MONKEYPOX cases fell by a fifth last week as infections in Europe dropped but the outbreak is going through "intense transmission" in the Americas, the World Health Organization said Thursday.

The WHO sounded the alarm for Latin America in particular, pointing to a lack of awareness and public health measures to control the spread of the virus.

A surge in monkeypox infections has been reported since early May outside the African countries where it has long been endemic.

The WHO triggered its highest level of alarm on 24 July, classifying it as a public health emergency of international concern,

alongside Covid-19.

There have been 45,355 cases and 15 deaths this year, across at least 96 countries, according to the WHO's dashboard.

After four consecutive weeks of increase, the number of monkeypox cases newly reported dropped by 21 per cent last week compared to the previous seven days, from 5,907 to 5,213.

"In the early stages of the outbreak, most reported cases were in Europe, with a smaller proportion in the Americas," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a press conference.

"That has now reversed, with less than 40 per cent of reported cases in Europe and 60 per cent

in the Americas," which is going through a steep rise, he said.

"There are signs that the outbreak is slowing in Europe, where a combination of effective public health measures, behaviour change and vaccination are helping to prevent transmission.

"However, in Latin America in particular, insufficient awareness or public health measures are combining with a lack of access to vaccines to fan the flames of the outbreak."

Cases breakdown

The countries with more than a thousand cases are the United States (15,877), Spain (6,284), Brazil (3,984), Germany (3,387), Britain (3,340), France (2,889),



South Korea on 22 June 2022 confirmed its first case of monkeypox virus and pledged to strengthen monitoring and response systems. A couple share an umbrella as they walk along the Han River during a light rain shower in Seoul on 10 June 2022. **PHOTO: ANTHONY WALLACE / AFP**

Peru (1,207), Canada (1,206) and the Netherlands (1,136).

According to the WHO's latest situation report issued Thursday, some 23 countries reported an increase in the weekly num-

ARTICLE Weather Report



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 26 August 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 27 August 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in upper Sagaing region and Kachin, Kayah states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi regions and Shan, Kayin, Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squall with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (30- 35) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and (4-7) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 August 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 August 2022: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 August 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Yangon regions.

Print With Us

The Global New Light of Myanmar



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ber of cases. Iran and Indonesia reported their first cases in the past seven days. Sixteen countries have not reported new cases for more than 21 days, the maximum incubation period of the disease.

Among cases with sexual orientation reported, 96 per cent identified as men who had sex with men. The median age of cases was 36. A sexual encounter was the most commonly reported type of transmission, at 82 per cent.

"The majority of cases were likely exposed in a party setting with sexual contacts," said the WHO. Among cases with known HIV status, 45 per cent are HIV positive, it added.

SOURCE: AFP

The Speech Delivered by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of Sarpay Beikman

FROM PAGE-5

the future of the State is not sufficient with just learning education. It is necessary to have constant reading and learning. To do so, it is necessary to build the infrastructures, schools, learning centres, books, publishing organizations, writers, researchers, libraries and motivators. These infrastructures must be genuine and noble for the nation, national, literature and culture of the country. It is necessary to disseminate the knowledge without isms. Literature must be free from toxicity. It can be seen that some books published after 2011, especially after 2015 and talks under the literary talks led to a highly divided society against democracy for our country. So, we have to consider it not happening again.

According to the pilot census released in 2019, some one-

third of our population is weak in education. So, the government is prioritizing education promotion plans for the citizens. The Constitution stipulates that efforts shall be made for every citizen to learn basic education primary education. Our government carries out the tasks exceeding the target for all citizens to reach the KG+9 (basic education middle school level). It shows we are basically building the future of the State and democracy. All ethnic national people will have a chance to enjoy the fruits of higher education standards and the development of the future nation. We have to strive for encouraging all literates to read and all readers to have better knowledge so as to keep the spirit of nation-building endeavours in their minds.

In building the nation with

the strength of human society with high knowledge and a white soul, the Sarpay Beikman had effectively done the assigned tasks and must try to participate in similar tasks at present and in the future. This effort of the Sarpay Beikman is serving the national duty with the literary power. Due to reading good fiction and non-fiction books published by the Sarpay Beikman, the people will have national characters and a nationalistic spirit endowed with knowledge and skill and it will increase the number of educated new generations who will adore their own culture, language and customs. Only when those educated new generations emerge will the future image of the State be brighter.

In accord with the theme of Sarpay Beikman's "Light,

where Darkness was", the good literary works were published without dogmatism and literary views which may harm the national cause but with the aims of turning out good and able citizens equipped with a good attitude, ideas and knowledge in line with the 38 auspicious ways. Only when the number of educated youths increases will a new human society emerge for leading the development of Myanmar's social economy. In the efforts of the Sarpay Beikman in nation-building endeavours, I honour all officers and staff who have served at the Sarpay Beikman within 75 years.

In conclusion, as our government is building a better State and socio-economic lives prioritizing the interests of the State and ethnic national people in line with the motto of

the government "Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal", I believe that the Sarpay Beikman is also participating in the work process with the strength of literature.

Now, the Sarpay Beikman has been actively serving the literary works till the Diamond Jubilee period along with the implementation of the national cause. So, I wish the long-term existence of the Sarpay Beikman from the Diamond Jubilee celebration to many future years by serving the greater nation-building tasks, developing the nation and production of good literary works in the future. And, may the Sarpay Beikman strive for nation-building endeavours with greater efforts.

Thank you all.

UN high-seas biodiversity treaty struggles to leave port

A two-week negotiating session on a treaty to protect the high seas wraps up Friday, with UN observers holding their breath that the long-stalled deal can cross the finish line.

After 15 years, including four prior formal sessions, negotiators have yet to reach a legally binding agreement to address the growing environmental and economic challenges involving

the high seas, also known as international waters -- a zone which encompasses almost half the planet. Many had hoped that this fifth session, which began on 15 August at the United Nations headquarters in New York, would be the last and yield a final text on "the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction," or BBNJ for short.

The High Ambition Coalition, a group of some 50 countries led by the European Union, had even called for a comprehensive BBNJ deal to be finalized by the end of the year.

But according to international environmental group Greenpeace, the talks are on the brink of failure because of what it considers "the greed of countries in the High Ambition Coalition and others like Canada and the United States." One of the most sensitive issues revolves around the sharing of possible profits gained from developing genetic resources in international waters, where pharmaceutical, chemical and cosmetic companies hope to find miracle drugs, products or cures.

Such costly research at sea is largely the prerogative of rich nations, but developing countries do not want to be left out of potential windfall profits drawn from marine resources that belong to no one.—AFP



After the catch. A fishing boat sails off the coast of the Moroccan city of Larache. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP

Pakistan declares emergency as millions affected by floods



Rural residents sit on a traditional charpai bed in a flooded part of Rajanpur district. PHOTO: AFP

HEAVY rain pounded parts of Pakistan Friday after the government declared an emergency to deal with monsoon flooding that it said had affected more than four million people.

The annual monsoon is essential for irrigating crops and replenishing lakes and dams across the Indian subcontinent, but each year it also brings a wave of destruction.

The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) said Friday that more than 900

people had been killed this year — including 34 in the last 24 hours — as a result of the monsoon rains that began in June. Officials say this year's floods are comparable to 2010 — the worst on record — when over 2,000 people died and nearly a fifth of the country was under water. "I have never seen such huge flooding because of rains in my life," octogenarian farmer Rahim Bakhsh Brohi told AFP near Sukkur, in southern Sindh province. —AFP

44 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 26 August, total figure rises to 614,888

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 614,888 after 44 new cases— nine imported and 35 local transmission—were reported on 26 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 593,389 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,437 without more casualties. —MNA

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE

North Korea says new fever cases were flu, not Covid

NORTH Korea said Friday that the fever cases it detected earlier this week were found to be influenza, and not a Covid-19 resurgence as initially suspected.

The state media announcement came a day after authorities said they had locked down parts of Ryanggang province — which borders China — after finding four new “fever” cases there.

North Korea refers to “fever patients” rather than “Covid patients” in case reports, apparently due to a lack of testing capacity.

The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said Thursday that the new cases were “suspected of being infected with the malignant epidemic” — just two weeks after the country declared victory over Covid-19.

But on Friday, it said they were actually not Covid infections, and that the lockdown in the area had been lifted.

“All the fever cases... in Ryanggang Province were ones with influenza,” KCNA said, citing data from the state emergency epidemic prevention headquarters.



Experts and the World Health Organization have long questioned North Korea's Covid statistics and its claims to have brought the outbreak under control. **PHOTO: KIM WON JIN AFP/FILE**

“The fever cases recovered with normal temperature.”

The isolated nation, which has maintained a rigid block-

ade since the start of the pandemic, confirmed an Omicron outbreak in the capital Pyongyang in May.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un — who also fell ill during the outbreak — declared victory over the virus earlier this month and ordered the lifting of the country's “maximum emergency epidemic prevention system” as officially reported cases fell to zero.

North Korea has recorded nearly 4.8 million “fever” cases and just 74 deaths for an official fatality rate of 0.002 per cent, according to state media.— AFP

Naomi Osaka headlines as Pan Pacific Open returns after Covid

HOME favourite Naomi Osaka will defend her title at the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo next month, organizers said on Friday, as the tournament returns for the first time since the pandemic.

Four players currently ranked inside the top 10 will compete in the 17-25 September event, including two-time Grand Slam winner Garbine Muguruza and fellow Spaniard and world number four Paula Badosa.

Japan's Osaka beat Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in the 2019 final but the tournament was cancelled for the past two years because of coronavirus.

Osaka, a four-time major winner and former world number one, has slipped to 44 in the rank-



Naomi Osaka will attempt to defend her title at the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo next month. **PHOTO: MATTHEW STOCKMAN /AFP**

ings and lost in the first round of the ATP/WTA Cincinnati Masters last week.

Former champion Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic

also returns to Tokyo, while world number six Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus and Russia's world number 10 Daria Kasatkina make their tournament debuts.— AFP

Australian national airline posts 3rd-year of pandemic losses

AUSTRALIA'S national airline, Qantas, has posted its third consecutive year of losses bringing the total toll from the COVID-19 pandemic to nearly seven billion Australian dollars (about 4.83 billion US dollars).

Revealed in the airline's results for the financial year from 1 July 2021, to 30 June 2022, released on Thursday, the airline suffered a statutory loss of 860 million Australian dollars (about 594 million US dollars), an improvement from the previous financial year's loss of 1.7 billion Australian dollars (about 1.17 billion US dollars).

“The past year has been

challenging for everyone. We had to ramp down almost all flying once Delta hit and stay that way for several months before ramping back up through multiple Omicron waves as we all learned to live with COVID-19 in the community,” said Qantas CEO Alan Joyce alongside the results announcement. Despite the continuing fall into the red, the airlines group maintained confidence in the recovery, indicated by a stock buyback of 400 million Australian dollars (about 277 million US dollars), the first return of capital to shareholders since the beginning of the pandemic.—Xinhua

2022 MONKEYPOX OUTBREAK

‘Rising Monkeypox cases will not lead to HIV’: Top ICMR scientist

A top scientist of the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology on Monday stated that the rising Monkeypox cases will not lead to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

In an exclusive interview with ANI, Dr Pragya Yadav, a senior scientist at ICMR-NIV, Pune said, “Spike in Monkeypox cases will not lead to HIV. These Monkeypox cases would have been tested for HIV during

the detailed diagnosis to rule out other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).”

While discussing the potential for asymptomatic monkeypox patients and the importance of serological monitoring, Dr Yadav said, “The Monkeypox cases could be asymptomatic. In order to conduct such studies, an ELISA assay is currently being developed.”

Asked about the effectiveness of the smallpox vaccine

against Monkeypox, she stated that the smallpox vaccination is 86 per cent effective at preventing monkeypox.

Dr Yadav commented on the first occurrence of Monkeypox-related mortality in Kerala, saying, “The other aetiology for the encephalitis in the death case was not discovered and the patient was already confirmed to have the disease. Therefore, Monkeypox may have been the likely cause of death.”—ANI



Passengers undergo monkeypox screening at the Chennai International Airport. **PHOTO: ANI/FILE**

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan retains economic view in Aug., warns of rising prices impact

THE Japanese government on Thursday kept intact its assessment that the economy continues to recover from the coronavirus pandemic fallout, but warned of rising commodity prices taking a toll on households and businesses.

“The Japanese economy is picking up moderately,” the Cabinet Office said in the overall assessment for August, while upgrading its view on industrial production and public investment.

As for short-term prospects, the monthly report warned of downside risks derived from “a slowing down of overseas economies due to global monetary tightening” and called for attention to the “impact of price increases on households and businesses and supply-side constraints”.

By component, the government revised upward its assessment of industrial production for the first time in seven months, saying it is showing signs of pick-

ing up as the impact of Chinese lockdowns prompted by the pandemic gradually recedes.

It also upgraded its view on public investment, reflecting progress in public works projects, a government official said.

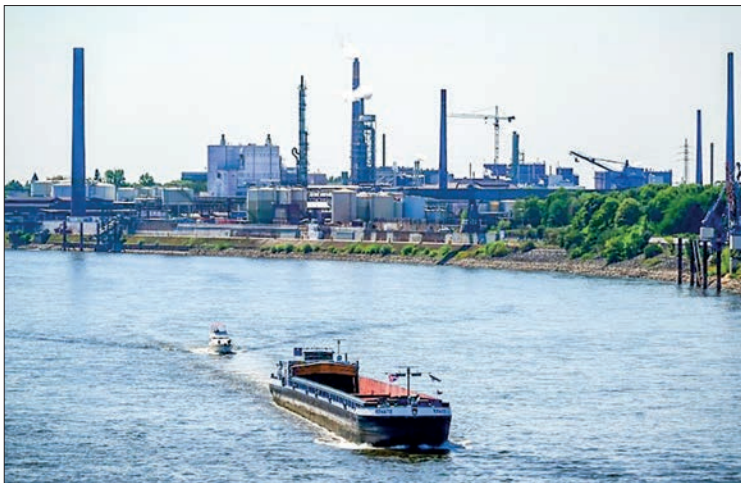
The report said private consumption continues to pick up moderately, reflecting recovery in use of transportation during the summer holidays and the holding of major summer festivals for the first time in three years,



Customers shop at a newly opened Lawson Mart in Osaka last month. PHOTO: KYODO

although spending for travel-related expenses was affected by the resurgence of COVID-19, the official said.—Kyodo

German economy grew in second quarter, better than feared



Europe's biggest economy has been slowing as inflation soars, with Russia's invasion of Ukraine sending energy and food prices through the roof. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

GERMANY'S economy grew slightly in the second quarter, an upgrade from a previous estimate of stagnation, revised official data showed Thursday, pushing back the spectre of recession.

Output expanded by 0.1 per cent in the April to June period, according to the federal statistics agency, which had previously pro-

jected zero growth.

The economy was propped up by both private and public domestic demand, with spending by the state up by 2.3 per cent.

Private spending rose 0.8 per cent from the previous quarter as the end of Covid-19 restrictions brought more tourism and restaurant dining.

Europe's biggest economy has been slowing as inflation soars, with Russia's invasion of Ukraine sending energy and food prices through the roof.

Germany has been highly reliant on supplies of Russian gas to meet its energy demands, but Moscow has slowly dwindled supplies since the start of the war.

The threat that Russia could cut deliveries completely has raised the possibility of shortages over the winter and brought Germany closer to rationing supplies, with a punishing impact on business.

Even if the latest data offered Germany some reprieve from negative growth, economic indicators in the last days are painting a pessimistic picture.

The Ifo monthly confidence barometer, based on a survey of 9,000 companies, slumped for a third month in a row in August to reach 88.5 points.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

India's retail sector expected to see rise of digital commerce with 5G network

INDIA'S merchandise retail sector is set to see a rise of digital commerce in the next decade with the government-planned introduction of 5G network, according to participants in an Indian retail sector meeting held in the Indian financial hub.

The two-day Phygital Retail Convention 2022 starting from Wednesday focuses on the evolution of the retail sector and understanding the trend and changes the sector is expected to see in the South Asian country. Speaking at the inaugural session, Arvind Singhal, chairman of Technopak Advisors, a management consulting firm in India, said, “Open network for digital commerce will be the biggest transformation in Indian retail as the 5G network penetrates and facilitates in product discovery much faster.”—Xinhua

Swiss aim to cut gas consumption by 15%: govt

SWITZERLAND is aiming for a 15-per-cent cut in gas consumption, the authorities announced on Wednesday, following the target set by the European Union in response to the energy crisis. The Alpine nation, which depends entirely on imports for its gas, is adapting to the supply problems provoked by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and Moscow's response to Western sanctions.

It imports 75 per cent of its gas from Germany. The Federal Council announced in a statement that it would do everything it could to avoid shortages.—AFP

Qatar to invest \$3b in Pakistan economy

QATAR said on Wednesday it would invest \$3 billion in Pakistan's economy.

Pakistan has been scrambling for finance in recent months, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is due to meet next Monday to discuss reviving a suspended \$6 billion loan programme.

The United Arab Emirates

this month said it would invest \$1 billion in Pakistan and, according to reports, Saudi Arabia is considering extending an emergency \$2 billion loan made last year.

The latest boost came in talks between Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani and Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif. The emir “stressed the importance of the

brotherly and strategic relations between the two countries” and the need to bolster their economic partnership, an official Qatari statement said. “In this regard, the Qatar Investment Authority announced its intention to invest \$3 billion in various commercial and investment sectors in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan,” it added.—AFP



Pakistan has been scrambling for finance in recent months, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is due to meet next Monday to discuss reviving a suspended \$6 billion loan programme. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

S Korea strikes nuclear power plant export deal, 1st in 13 years

SOUTH Korea announced Thursday it has struck a deal to build a nuclear power plant in Egypt, its first such contract in 13 years.

Under the deal worth three trillion won (\$2.25 billion), a South Korean company will reportedly supply the equipment and a Russian firm will be in charge of constructing the reactors at Egypt's first nuclear power plant in the northern city of El Dabaa.

The project between the two state-run enterprises, is South Korea's biggest nuclear power plant export, according to

the country's media. The Asian nation won the bid to build the Barakah nuclear power plant in the United Arab Emirates in 2009.

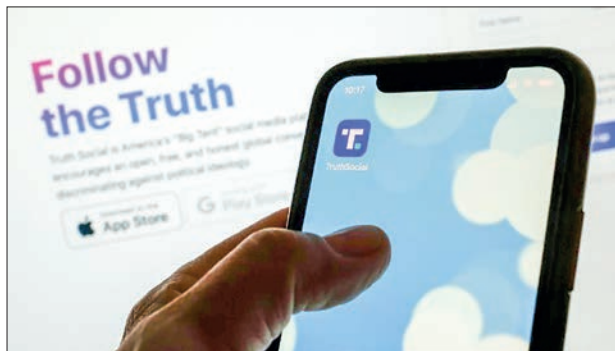
The South Korean company said it is aiming to begin commercial operations of the power plant in Egypt in 2028.

President Yoon Suk Yeol, who took office in May, has pledged to export 10 atomic power reactors to other countries by 2030, as he reversed the nuclear phase-out policy set by the administration of his predecessor Moon Jae In. — Kyodo



Under the deal worth three trillion won (\$2.25 billion), a South Korean company will reportedly supply the equipment and a Russian firm will be in charge of constructing the reactors at Egypt's first nuclear power plant in the northern city of El Dabaa. The first concrete is poured for unit 1 of the El Dabaa plant. **PHOTO: THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AUTHORITY (NPPA)**

Trump social media platform faces money woes, modest following



The platform's parent company, Trump Media and Technology Group, did not respond to a request for comment. **PHOTO: AFP**

SIGNS are growing that Donald Trump's social media platform Truth Social is in financial trouble, with just a modest following six months after launching.

Fox Business Network reported Thursday that the platform has halted payments to the company that hosts it, RightForge, and owes \$1.6 million. The platform's parent company, Trump Media and Technology Group, did not respond to a request for comment.

A RightForge spokesman would not comment on the reports that Trump Social is not paying its bills.

"RightForge was on the ground floor of building Truth Social and will con-

tinue to support president Trump in his endeavors," the company said.

Meanwhile the parent company's merger with Digital World Acquisition Corp — a blank check company formed specifically to carry out a merger — has yet to take place, 10 months after the announcement that it would happen. This fusion is supposed to bring in fresh funding for the Trump platform.

DWAC published Thursday a call for a special shareholders meeting 6 September at which investors will be asked to approve a one-year delay for carrying out the merger, until 8 September of 2023.—AFP

Christie's to auction Microsoft co-founder Allen's \$1bn-plus art collection

CHRISTIE'S announced plans on Thursday to auction the art collection of late Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, which it estimated to be worth more than \$1 billion.

The November sale of more than 150 pieces spanning 500 years of art will be "the largest and most exceptional art auction in history," Christie's said in a statement.

The works will include "La montagne Sainte-Victoire" by French painter Paul Cezanne, valued at more than \$100 million, the auction house said.

It is holding the auction with the late billionaire's estate. Christie's said all proceeds will go to charitable causes, as per the wishes of Allen, who was an avid art collector, innovator and philanthropist.

Allen, who died in

2018 at the age of 65, co-founded Microsoft with Bill Gates in 1975. Together, they came up with the PC operating system that made a fortune for the US technology giant.

Allen left the company in 1983, due to health problems and a deteriorating relationship with Gates, who remained in charge of Microsoft until 2000.

The auction record for a private collection was set this spring by the US couple Harry and Linda Macklowe, with \$922 million fetched in auctions conducted by Sotheby's.

Other than the work by Cezanne, the Allen collection features a work entitled "Small False Start" by American painter Jasper Johns, valued at more than \$50 million, The New York Times reported.— AFP

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER
ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE
(Tender No. EPGE PV 03/ 2022-2023)

In accordance with section 8.2 "AMENDMENTS" of Request for Proposals (RFP) of EPGE PV 03/2022-2023, EPGE herewith would like to announce that Bid Submission Date shall be amended as 30th September 2022 and the Addendum No.3 shall be issued.

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER
ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE
(Tender No. EPGE PV 04/ 2022-2023)

In accordance with section 8.2 "AMENDMENTS" of Request for Proposals (RFP) of EPGE PV 04/2022-2023, EPGE herewith would like to announce that Bid Submission Date shall be amended as 16th October 2022 and the Addendum No.1 shall be issued.

Ministry of Energy

Invitation for Letter of Expression of Interest for Long-term Leasing of the Fertilizer Plants

1. The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar hereby announces an Invitation for Expression of Interest - EOI to the local and foreign investors for renovating, upgrading and long-term leasing works of the following Fertilizer Plants which are being operated under Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE) to augment the in-country capabilities for production of fertilizer.

- (a) No.(4) Fertilizer Plant (Myaungdagar)
- (b) No.(5) Fertilizer Plant (Kangyidaunt)

2. The interested parties are cordially invited to submit the Letter of Expression of Interest- LOEI together with Constitution of Company, Certificate of Incorporation, Audited Financial Statement or Financial Report for last three years, Detail Track Record for fertilizer production experiences (if Consortium, Detail Track Record for fertilizer production experiences of Consortium Members), Company's Organization Structure constituted with Experts and Professionals and related documents. One set of Original Hard Copy, (3) Sets of Hard Copies attached with the Soft Copy of the aforementioned documents shall be submitted in person to the following address not later than (12:00) PM of 27-9-2022.

Director General
Oil and Gas Planning Department
Ministry of Energy
Office No.6, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone: 067 3 411046/ 067 3 411134
Email: moe.planttender2022@gmail.com

3. Regarding the required information for the preparation of the Letter of Expression of Interest, the explanation will be made at Oil and Gas Planning Department, Office No.6, Nay Pyi Taw on 8-9-2022 at (14:00) PM.

4. The interested parties can contact the following addresses for any inquiry.

(1) **Director General**
Oil and Gas Planning Department
Ministry of Energy
Office No.6, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone: 067 3 411046/ 067 3 411134
Email: moe.planttender2022@gmail.com

(2) **Managing Director**
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Ministry of Energy
Office No.44, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone: 067 3 411059
Email: mpeict@gmail.com

5. The internet website page www.energy.gov.mm of the Ministry of Energy is available for any viewers.

Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee
Ministry of Energy

GLOBAL AFFAIRS



Lee Sang Ryeol (C), director-general for Asia and Pacific affairs at the South Korean Foreign Ministry, arrives at the Japanese Foreign Ministry in Tokyo on 26 Aug 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

S Korea working to solve wartime labour issue: Japan official

A senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official said Friday that South Korea is working toward a resolution of the long-pending issue of wartime labour compensation that has soured bilateral relations.

The official told reporters that he could see “efforts were being made by Yoon Suk Yeol’s administration”, but did not elaborate.

He made the remarks fol-

lowing a meeting between Takehiro Funakoshi, director-general of the ministry’s Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, and his South Korean counterpart Lee Sang Ryeol in Tokyo.

The official made the remarks when asked about the current state of Seoul’s domestic discussions regarding the wartime labour issue under the leadership of Yoon, who took office in May with a pledge of thawing icy

ties with Japan.

The meeting came amid media reports that the South Korean Supreme Court may finalize soon, possibly within this month, a court order to liquidate assets in South Korea seized from Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd.

Mitsubishi Heavy is one of two Japanese firms sued over forced labor during Japan’s 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula.—Kyodo

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia says killed over 200 Ukraine troops in rail strike

RUSSIA’S defence ministry said Thursday that it killed over 200 Ukrainian troops in a railway station attack in central Ukraine that Kyiv said left 25 people, including children, dead.

“As a result of a direct hit by an Iskander missile on a military train at the Chaplyne railway station in the Dnipropetrovsk region, more than 200 servicemen of the reserve of Ukraine’s Armed Forces and 10 units of military equipment were destroyed,” the ministry said in its daily briefing.

It added that the train was “en route to combat zones” in the eastern Donbas region that



Ukraine’s state railway company said three of its employees were killed and four others injured. **PHOTO: UKRAINIAN RAILWAYS/AFP**

Moscow seeks to fully control.

The EU has condemned the “heinous” attack on civilians that was carried out on the day

Ukraine marked Independence Day and six months since the start of Moscow’s military intervention.—AFP

Grain prices ease back but fertilizer costs growing risk



The Panama-flagged Navi Star carrying 33,000 tonnes of grain, arrives at the Foynes Port in County Limerick, on 20 August 2022 after leaving southern Ukraine’s main port of Odessa two weeks ago. **PHOTO: AFP**

GRAIN prices have dropped sharply from the record highs they reached following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, but another menace to global food security

remains: a shortage of fertilizer.

The conflict sparked fears of famine in poorer countries reliant on agricultural goods from Ukraine and Russia, two nations

that were responsible for nearly a third of global wheat exports last year. Wheat prices reached a peak of nearly 440 euros (\$440) a tonne on the European market in mid-May, double the level of one year ago, as crucial Ukrainian shipments were stuck at port due to a Russian naval blockade in the Black Sea. But prices have fallen to around 300 euros in August.

“The situation began to calm down at the end of May, beginning of June with the first reassuring harvest forecasts for Europe and the resumption of Ukrainian exports, first by road and rail, then by sea,” said Gautier Le Molgat, analyst at consultancy Agritel.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Latvia removes controversial Soviet monument

LATVIA on Thursday took down a Soviet-era monument in Riga following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, despite protests from the Baltic state’s ethnic Russian minority to keep it.

Demolition machinery was used to remove the 79-metre (259-foot) World War II memorial, which has become a rallying point for pro-Kremlin supporters in Latvia, according to an AFP journalist at the scene.

Latvia, like fellow Baltic states Estonia and Lithuania, is a NATO and EU member that has shown strong support for Ukraine in the conflict with Russia.

Built in 1985, the Monument to the Liberators of Soviet Latvia and Riga from the German Fascist Invaders had featured statues of soldiers and a woman surrounding a central obelisk.

Local officials were forced to take down the monument after parliament voted to remove all remaining Soviet statues, plaques and bas-reliefs by mid-November.

Latvia’s ethnic Russian community – which makes up 30 per cent of the population – had protested against the removal of the Victory Memorial. — AFP

Nearly 100 dead in attacks on Ukraine healthcare: WHO

THERE have been 473 verified attacks on healthcare in Ukraine since Russia invaded six months ago, which have killed nearly 100 people, the WHO said Wednesday.

The World Health Organization’s Europe chief Hans Kluge branded the attacks “unconscionable”.

As well as the 98 people known to have been killed in verified attacks on healthcare, at least 134 others were wounded, the WHO’s figures showed.

Nearly 400 of the attacks hit health facilities. Dozens of attacks struck transport, including ambulances, while warehouses, supplies, personnel and patients were also damaged.

Jarno Habicht, the WHO’s representative in Ukraine, said the number of attacks on health care was unprecedented.

“These attacks are not only a violation of international law, they are also a barrier for many who need health care during the war,” he told reporters in Geneva, via video-link from a bunker in Dnipro.

Although the war had had a devastating impact on the health and lives of Ukraine’s people, the health system had not collapsed, said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.—AFP

Pope Francis asks North Korea to invite him to visit

POPE Francis has asked Pyongyang to invite him to North Korea, saying in a televised interview on Friday that he would not turn down a chance to visit and work for peace.

A potential papal visit to the isolated, nuclear-armed country was previously floated in 2018 when Seoul's former president Moon Jae-in embarked on a round of diplomacy with Pyongyang's leader Kim Jong Un.

Moon, who is Catholic, said during a summit that Kim told him the pontiff would be "enthusiastically" welcomed.



Pope Francis has asked Pyongyang to invite him to North Korea. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Pope Francis replied at the time that he would be willing to go if he received an official invitation.

But Pyongyang has largely cut off contact with Seoul following the collapse of a second summit between Kim and then-US president Donald Trump in 2019, which has left talks at a standstill.

"When they invite me -- that is to say, please invite me -- I won't say no," Pope Francis told South Korea's state broadcaster KBS in an interview that aired Friday.

"The goal is simply fraternity," he added.

Ties between North and South Korea have been at a frosty low since Seoul inaugurated a hawkish new president, Yoon Suk-yeol, in May.

Yoon offered aid to the North in return for denuclearization, but Kim's regime ridiculed the plan.

The North blamed South Korea for its May outbreak of Covid-19 and earlier this month threatened to "wipe out" Seoul's authorities in retaliation.—AFP

More US states ban abortion as Democrats push back



An abortion rights activist during a demonstration in front of the White House. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

ABORTION became illegal in three more US states on Thursday, further restricting access to elective terminations for millions of women despite some signs of

popular and judicial pushback.

Two months after the Supreme Court struck down the constitutional right to abortion, nearly 21 million women have

already lost access to the procedure in their home states, according to an analysis by The Washington Post.

And with Idaho, Tennessee and Texas joining 10 other Republican-controlled states on Thursday in implementing near-total bans on abortion, that number is set to rise. Another dozen states are expected to follow suit with their own restrictions. The laws in Idaho, Tennessee and Texas were "triggered" after the Supreme Court on 24 June overturned the landmark 1973 "Roe v. Wade" decision enshrining a woman's right to an abortion and allowed states to set their own laws.—AFP

Colombia dangles olive branch to drug lords

COLOMBIAN drug traffickers facing charges in the United States will avoid extradition if they turn themselves in, the new leftist president Gustavo Petro said Wednesday.

Petro said members of the powerful and heavily armed Gulf drug cartel will enjoy "legal benefits" if they quit the narcotics trade and surrender but he did not specify if this meant not having to serve prison time, as happened with leftist guerrillas under a 2016 peace accord.

"A drug trafficker who negotiates with the government," Petro told a press conference, "will not be extradited".

Petro, the first leftist president in Colombia's history, took power on 7 August.

He said he would negotiate with the United States on how to implement the non-extradition offer. After four decades of international efforts to fight the

drug trade, Colombia is still the world's largest cocaine producer and the United States is the biggest consumer of the drug.—AFP



Colombian drug lord and head of the Gulf Clan, Dairo Antonio Usuga - also known as 'Otoniel' - boards a plane to the US on 5 May 2022. PHOTO: COLOMBIAN PRESIDENCY VIA AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australia launches formal inquiry into ex-PM's secret power grab

AUSTRALIA on Friday tapped a former high court judge to investigate ex-prime minister Scott Morrison's decision to secretly appoint himself to several key ministerial portfolios.

Incumbent Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced the creation of the inquiry, saying the country's system of "parliamentary democracy" had been tested.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, conservative leader Morrison appointed himself to the ministries of health, treasury, finance, resources and home affairs without telling colleagues or the public.

Albanese said the inquiry was essential "to ensure that this can never happen again".

The probe will be led by former high court judge Virginia Bell and will report by 25 November.

"We need to have a quick and appropriate inquiry," said Albanese, adding this is "not about the politics, but how this happened, why this happened and who knew about it."

He did not rule out Morrison or other former government ministers from being compelled to give evidence if necessary.—AFP

Woman on trial over rare 'jihadist' attack in Switzerland

IN a rare case of alleged Islamist "terrorism" in Switzerland, a woman will go on trial next week over a brutal knife attack on two shoppers at an upscale department store.

The woman, who cannot be named, allegedly tried to slit the throats of two women shopping at the Manor store in Lugano, in Switzerland's southern, Italian-speaking Ticino region on 24 November 2020.

The defendant, 28 at the time, is suspected of committing a "jihadist knife attack" and had "intended to kill her victims and to commit a terrorist act on behalf of IS" (the Islamic State group), the attorney-general's office said earlier this year.

When her trial opens at the Federal Criminal Court in Bellinzona, near Lugano, on Monday, she will face charges of attempted murder and violating laws against association with Al-Qaeda, IS and related groups.—AFP

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27 AUGUST 2022
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

SPORT



The file photo shows Myanmar star striker Aung Thu (No 9) carrying the ball during an international friendly match against Singapore on 11 June 2019. **PHOTO: MFF**

FIFA Ranking: Myanmar team stands sixth in ASEAN after Asian Cup Qualifiers

THE Myanmar men's national football team is currently standing sixth in the ASEAN region and ranked 158th in the world with 1,012 points, according to the FIFA rankings released in August 2022.

Team Viet Nam is still standing first in ASEAN with a world ranking of 97th and 1,219 points earned.

Meanwhile, Thailand's national football team is placed second in ASEAN with a FIFA

ranking of 111 and 1,173 points.

The Philippines squad is third with a world ranking of 134th and 1,115 points.

Next, Malaysia's national team is fourth in ASEAN and the team stands 148th in the world ranking with 1,057 points earned and the Indonesia team is fifth in ASEAN with 155th world rank.

In the meantime, Singapore is following Myanmar with a FIFA world ranking of 159th and 1,001 points.

Next, Cambodia and Laos are in the eighth and ninth place in ASEAN with FIFA ranking 174th and 183rd.

Brunei team is next in the tenth place with a FIFA world ranking of 190th and Timor Leste is in the eleventh place with a FIFA ranking of 198th.

According to FIFA, Myanmar had the highest records in FIFA ranks as 97th in April 1996 and the lowest as 182nd in August 2012. —GNLM

German motor giant Audi to make Formula One debut in 2026



German car giant Audi are to enter Formula One for the first time in 2026 as an engine supplier saying it is the right fit as a global stage for their brand. **PHOTO: AFP**

GERMAN car manufacturer Audi will become an engine supplier in Formula One for the first time in the 2026 season, chairman Markus Duesmann

announced on Friday.

Audi will announce the team they will supply by the end of the year although it is widely expected to be Sauber, who pres-

ently race as Alfa Romeo with a Ferrari engine.

Those expectations moved closer to reality when Alfa Romeo announced in a statement later on Friday they would cut ties with Sauber "at the end of 2023".

The Audi announcement was made at Spa Francorchamps, the venue for Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix with Formula 1 President and CEO Stefano Domenicali and Mohammed ben Sulayem, President of the International Automobile Federation (FIA), motorsport's governing body present.

"Formula 1 is both a global stage for our brand and a highly challenging development laboratory," Duesmann said in a statement.—AFP

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Arsenal boss Arteta hints at deal to replace Pepe



Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta. **PHOTO: AFP**

MIKEL Arteta said on Friday Arsenal could sign a replacement for Nicolas Pepe after the Ivory Coast winger left the Premier League leaders to join Nice.

Pepe's loan move to Ligue 1 has increased the chances of Arsenal making another move into the transfer market before the summer window closes on 1 September.

Arsenal has been linked with a move for Wolves winger Pedro Neto and Arteta admit-

ted he could adapt his transfer philosophy after prioritizing early deals for Manchester City duo Gabriel Jesus and Oleksandr Zinchenko at the start of the window.

"We have done it in a different way. At the start of the window we signed players before getting other players out," Arteta told reporters. "Now we have done something different, we have let a player go and maybe we'll be able to recruit somebody."

"But it's not a guarantee because the players are still not here. What I guarantee is the day the window closes, for me this is the best team in the world and I will try to get the best out of them, that's it."

Arsenal are the only club to boast a perfect start to the Premier League season with three successive wins. They host Fulham on Saturday looking to consolidate their surprise position at the top of the table.—AFP