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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.

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends closing ceremony of International Army Games-2022

THE 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, who is currently in the Russian Federation, attended the closing ceremony of the International Army Games-2022 at the Convention Center of Moscow in Russia on 27 August.

The Vice-Senior General and party visited the booths of House of Friendship at Alabino training ground together with other attendees.

At the final match of the Tank Biathlon (Division-1) event, the tank troop of Russia secured the first prize with 1 hr 29 min 36 sec record, Belarusian tank troop the second with 1 hr 41 min 04 sec and Chinese tank troop the third with 1 hr 44 min 03 sec.

An official, on behalf of the Russian Minister of Defence, spoke words of honour and thanked the heads of state sending the contending troops. Officials presented prizes to the winning teams in the division-1. **SEE PAGE-3**



SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior-General Soe Win views participation of tank troupes in Tank Biathlon (Division-1) event in Russia on 27 August.



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

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

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

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

The government opens reception centres in 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*

33 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 28 August, total figure rises to 614,962

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **614,962** after **33** new cases— **4** imported and **29** local transmission—were reported on 28 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **593,475** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,437** without more casualties.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 27-8-2022, a total of **30,360,709** people above 18 and a total of **6,368,312** people under 18 have been vaccinated. —MNA

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

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

Plan underway to enhance tourism activities before Shwesettaw pagoda festival



An aerial view shows environs of Shwesettaw Pagoda and Shwesettaw wildlife sanctuary in Minbu Township. **PHOTO: ZEYAR HTET**

THE tourism promotion activities will be carried out at Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary, which is situated in Minbu Township, Minbu District in the Magway Region before the Shwesettaw

pagoda Buddha Pujaniya festival, according to the U Aung San, Assistant Director of the Department of Natural Environment and Wildlife Conservation of Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary.

Pilgrims and travellers will have a chance to explore Minbu city's eminent pagodas and many landmarks for rare species of Golden Dear and Star tortoise of Myanmar at the Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary as habitats.

Staying at bungalows and enjoying elephant-ride at Shwesettaw Mann creek Resort Elephant Camp, travellers can observe 14 mammals, 22 species of fish, 43 species of amphibious, 113 species of butterflies, horn-

bills, hummingbird, Burmese Eurasian skylark, and prince of birds. It is reported that the tourism industry has been operating since August so that people can see and study rare wildlife in peace of mind.

Shwesettaw pagoda Buddha Pujaniya festival is one of the longest festivals in Myanmar as 12 months festivals and is held three months from the 5th waxing of Tabodwe to the Myanmar New Year Day.

Now, the eminent pagodas and landmarks on Minbu city have been renovated, so that tourists from all over the areas can view round there. —Zeyar Htet (Minbu)/GNLM

Investment capital must be supported for broiler and pig farms

CONCERNING livestock breeding, breeding of broiler and pigs for the purposes of production of meat is a business which can yield early return on investment, and so, such businesses must be supported with investment capital. The chief ministers, on their part, are required to focus on the development activities that cover their entire region and state. Only when the socioeconomic life of the rural people develops will the national development progress faster.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the coordination meeting held on 8 August 2022 with regard to matters relating to the activities being carried out by the Union Government)

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends closing ceremony of International Army Games-2022



SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior-General Soe Win views performance of cultural troupes of armed forces from many countries on 27 August.

FROM PAGE-1

The International Army Game-2022 was joined by 37 countries and events were hosted by 12 countries including Russia. The Myanmar Tatmadaw participated in the tank biathlon, sniper frontiers, military medical relay race and army of culture events.

The Myanmar tank troop

stood first in the tank biathlon (tank crew competition) division-2 with Syria, Laos, Iran, Tajikistan, South Ossetia, Abkhazia, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Armenia and Mali in the driving to set records, firing three cartridges of 125mm artillery and 15 bullets of 12.62mm surface to air machine gun. Crew-1 of the troop set 27 min and 43

sec record, crew-2 38 min and 14 sec and crew-3 30 min and 28 sec, totalling 1 hr 36 min 25 sec, hitting 14 of 15 targets. So, Myanmar deservedly won the first prize.

Myanmar team stood fourth among seven contending teams in sniper frontiers and diligent award and fourth among 16 teams in the military medical relay race.

Likewise, Myanmar Tatmadaw cultural troupe secured the first prize in the music playing, the first in the dual singing (Russian song), the third in dancing, the second in female solo singing, the third in traditional culture performance, the third in the folk national instrument and the third in the traditional cultural booth.

Significantly, the Myanmar team won the first prize in the people's choice award by public voting.

The Myanmar Tatmadaw teams performed enhancement of competitive experiences, technical experience and friendly relations in the games and decided to continuously participate in the games in coming years.—MNA

Leader of Ethnic Armed Organization arrives in Nay Pyi Taw to participate in peace talks

AS Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing called for peace talks with ethnic armed organizations-EAOs to restore perpetual peace in the country and make an end to the armed conflicts, a peace delegation led by Chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) General Yawd Serk from Tachilek of Shan State arrived by air in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

On the arrival at Nay Pyi Taw Airport, the delegation was welcomed by members and officials of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, ethnic people from the Department of Fine Arts of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and locals who wants



Official and ethnic national people warmly welcome peace delegation of Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 August.

peace holding miniature State flags and placards bearing, "Perpetual peace is the real aspiration of the people", "Achieving peace is the true desire of all citizens", "Let's hold talks for peace in the Union", "Only the ethnic nationalities are in unity, stability, peace

and tranquillity will be achieved".

The peace delegation held the peace talks for the first time from 20 to 22 May 2022. Strengthening of multiparty democratic system, building the Union based on democracy and federalism and further striving for ensuring

peace and development of the Union were agreed in the talks. It was reported that the peace delegation is allowed to openly discuss its political anticipations and future talks in the second time talk. Moreover, the ethnic armed organizations which do not join the

peace talks yet are also invited to the talks without advance restrictions in any situations. When the peace delegation arrived at No 2 Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge in Tachilek in eastern Shan State yesterday afternoon, they were welcomed by officials from Tachilek Station, departmental personnel, those from political parties and local people who supported stability, peace and development of the nation holding placards bearing, "Support peace talks", "Perpetual peace is the real aspiration of the people" and "Support the State Administration Council's peace talks" from the union highway of Tachilek to the airport road. Then, the delegation led by General Yawd Serk of RCSS/SSA arrived at Nay Pyi Taw Airport from Kengtung Airport.—MNA

Luminary artistes from film, music and theatrical arenas urged to join variety show

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn delivered a speech at the meeting to discuss holding the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 commemorative variety show at the Motion Picture Promotion Branch of the Information and Public Relations Department in Bahan Township of Yangon yesterday morning.

A plan is underway to stage a variety show to mark the 2023 Diamond Jubilee Independence Day in coming November. It is necessary to separately draw make the independence day honouring programmes and entertainment programmes, aiming at ensuring relaxation of the people and disseminating knowledge about the independence.



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn speaking at the meeting to discuss successful holding of Diamond Jubilee Independence Day commemorative variety show in Bahan Township on 28 August.

The Union minister urged luminary artistes from film, music and theatrical arenas to join the variety show and give sugges-

tions for successfully holding the show. Chairman of the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day Variety Show Organizing Working

Committee Deputy Minister U Ye Tint explained arrangements for the show whereas officials from Myanmar Motion Picture Organ-

ization, Myanmar Music Association and Myanmar Theatrical Performers Association gave necessary suggestion.—MNA



Myanmar delegate explains current true events of Myanmar at Dili Dialogue Forum



THE Dili Dialogue Forum under the title of Media Challenges in Timor-Leste and Southeast Asia took place in Timor-Leste on 25 and 26 August, attended by member of Myanmar Press Council U Aye Chan, on behalf of the MPC Chairman, together with chairs of media councils from Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

In the first day session of the forum, President of Timor-Leste Dr José Ramos-Horta warmly welcomed the delegates includ-

ing Myanmar. At the forum, U Aye Chan of Myanmar caught the attention of all delegations with his presentation on current events in Myanmar with the use of figures.

The attendees expressed their astonishment over the presentation at the forum in comparison with the fake news of Myanmar mentioned in the international media.

Myanmar delegate U Aye Chan arrived back in Yangon on 27 August.—MNA

Delegates to Dili Dialogue Forum poses for group photo at the forum in Timor-Leste.

MoNREC designates North Pauk 1 as protected public forest

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation designated the area of 3,817 acres in Pauk Township, Pakokku District in Magway Region, as "North Pauk 1 protected public forest" as of 26 August 2022, under notification No 130/2022 by exercising the authority conferred under Sub-section (e) of Section (6) of the Forest Law promulgated in 2018.

The North Pauk 1 protected forest is intended to increase the area of forest coverage by carrying out forest conservation activities, for the local people to systematically extract more wood and forest products and this protected forest is intended to be established as a buffer forest area for the climate balance and the forest

belts in the west and northwest Pondaung Ponnya Region.

In the North Pauk 1 protected public forest, valuable trees such as iron tree, sal trees, Shorea oblongifolia, Chukrasia tabularise, palm trees, white plum, and myrobalan are mixed growth. In the protected forest area is a grazing area of animals such as muntjac, dhole, jungle cat, and deer and birds such as woodpecker, quail, Burmese francolin, and Columbidae. As it is necessary to properly maintain and administer the forest under the laws, this area was designated as a protected public forest area.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation



A distance view catches North Pauk 1 protected public forest in Pauk Township.

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Enough rice left over for domestic consumption

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Commerce, there is a surplus of rice left for domestic consumption until the new rainy season.

Deputy Minister for Commerce U Nyunt Aung said that the demand for 55 million people in the country is more than 9 million tonnes of rice, so the ability to export rice is more than 2 million tonnes.

The domestic consumption of 55 million people is 9.402 million tonnes of rice. The amount of foreign exports is about 2.88 million tonnes.

Domestically, in 2021, there were about 1.5 million acres of rainfed rice and the rice production was 1,088 million baskets, and two million acres of summer rice were cultivated and 213 million baskets produced, making a total of 1,301 million baskets of rice produced.



Photo taken shows a thriving monsoon paddy field.

More than 13 million tonnes of rice were obtained last year, and the net surplus after deducting waste was more than 12 million tonnes of rice.

As of the end of 2022 August,

the amount of rice exported abroad was 1.338 million tonnes and only 0.808 million tonnes of broken rice, so there was about 3.635 million tonnes of rice left in the country at the end of August.

As of the end of August, the balance of domestic rice is more than 3.134 million tonnes, and the remaining rice is the amount needed for domestic consumption for four months from Sep-

tember to December.

In addition, by the end of September, 15 million acres of monsoon rice planted this year will begin to emerge, so rice can be exported as usual and there is no need to worry about domestic consumption.

Export of basic food products, including domestically produced agricultural crops, is permitted only if there is a surplus of domestic consumption. In addition to this, when exporting rice to foreign countries, domestic self-sufficiency is prioritized and allowed to be exported in a systematic manner only after being scrutinized.

The current price of rice goes up from a minimum of 750,000 kyats to more than 900,000 kyats per 100 baskets, so the price of rice is continuously rising.—TWA/GNLM

CBM combats against illegal foreign currency trading



Dollar transaction over the counter market was earlier seen.

THOSE online businesses involved in illegal foreign currency trading will face a strict action under the rules of the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee, the Central Bank of Myanmar issued a notification on 27 August.

Furthermore, unregistered social media sites spared public concerns with exaggerating messages for the fuel oil, exchange rate and foreign currency reserve.

They posted highly exaggerated stories on social media stating that shortage of foreign currency will push

the exchange rate to devalue the local currency rate and shortage of fuel oil will drive the price up.

The department concerned, fuel importers and banking institutions are working together on the fuel price to decline and easy process to get foreign currency.

Therefore, the CBM's statement mentioned not to worry about that and not to trust manipulators. Those online businesses executing illegal foreign currency trading will face legal actions under the existing rules of the

committee.

At present, Fed interest rate hike in recent days made the dollar strengthen. The exchange rate of other currencies against the safe-haven dollar is depreciating.

In a bid to strengthen the local currency and support economic growth, the governments of the world countries are governing the currency markets with fiscal policies, foreign reserve, tax exemption and increased government spending.

Myanmar is also stepping up for economic growth and financial stability with trade and financial policies amid the fluctuation of global oil prices and global trade imbalance.

The CBM set the reference exchange rate for the US dollar at K2,100, whereas the dollar is valued at over K3,000 in the unofficial FX market.

The CBM has directed a 0.3 per cent trading band to fix the floor and ceiling exchange rates. However, there is a gap of K1,000 between the reference rate and unofficial rate in the local forex market.—TWA/GNLM

Chinese sailors rescue eight Myanmar people floating in sea for more than 48 hours

IT is reported that Chinese sailors rescued eight Myanmar nationals who had been floating in the sea for more than 48 hours.

On the morning of 26 August, the TRUMP SW ship managed by China's Wuhan Fuyang Maritime Service Co., Ltd rescued eight Myanmar nationals who were in danger during their voyage to the port of Viet Nam, according to the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar.

According to initial reports, the rescued Myanmar people were from a fishing boat that sank due to a storm.

Reports say they had been floating in the sea for two days and two nights, relying on a floating oil container.

After the rescue, the crew of the TRUMP SW ship applied antiseptic bandages to the injured person's leg, and the others had food after being cleaned by a shower.

It is reported that the rescued Myanmar people will go to Viet Nam by TRUMP SW ship.—TWA/GNLM



Eight Myanmar nationals are being rescued by TRUMP SW ship in the sea.

Freight cost to delta region volatile



Trucks transporting goods to the warehouses in Bayintnaung Brokerage.

THE freight rates for a 150-mile Yangon-Labutta trip will be changed to K70 per viss from 29 August 2022. Transportation of palm oil will be charged at K80 per viss, Ko Myo Win Ko, a trader who delivers goods from Yangon to delta region told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

For a Yangon-Myaungmya

route which is 30 miles less than Labutta trip, freight cost is set at K40 per viss and palm oil transportation is charged at K45 per viss. Truck operators running the Yangon-Labutta trip blamed the fuel price hike for raising the freight rate to K70-80, he continued.

The rate for Yangon-Labutta

route can be the highest among the delta regions, freight forwarders said.

Earlier, transport by shipping was the only viable option. At present, the number of ferry passengers has dropped. Some ferries have stopped running for five years. This way, road transport has become the popular

mode of transport, Ko Naing Lin, a grocer in Bogale Township, told the GNLM.

On 24 August, the price of diesel which is used in trucks stood at K3,000 per litre. The price slightly rose to K3,225 on 26 August and K3,195 on 27 and 28 August, retail price data of Yangon Region indicated. For a 113-mile Yangon-Pathein road trip, some truck owners raise the freight rate, the GNLM quoted U Htaw, an owner of trucks, as saying.

The amount of fuel consumed for the Yangon-Pathein route by six-wheel truck (16 tonne capacity) is 80 litres to Bayintnaung and 100 litres to Myaungtagar. Freight rate for rice was estimated at K1,000 per bag while vehicle operating cost for solid waste was K240,000. When a rice bag is charged at K1,200 for transportation, waste costs K300,000 per truck, U Htaw added.

The truck operators plan to cover wages of drivers, toll and

other general costs with a return trip from Yangon. The owners can generate only K50,000 profit per round trip if they earn K500,000, said an owner on 27 August.

Earnings from freight transportation for the Yangon-Pathein trip is lower than income for the Pathein-Yangon route, Ko Maung Yu, a six-wheel truck driver, told the GNLM.

Similarly, freight cost for a Yangon-Labutta route is over K300,000. When the freight rate continues to increase, it will be much higher compared to the costs of other similar routes.

At present, the rate is higher than those of Myaungmya and Pathein routes if it is calculated on transportation distance and chargeable weight of the consignment, said a trader from regions other than Yangon told the GNLM.

Increase in freight cost posed a burden on the consumers only, Ko Chit, a trader shared his opinion.—TWA/GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, consumer goods, electronic equipment, motorcycle spare parts, and vehicles impounded

SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, effective action is being taken against offenders to prevent illicit trade under the law.

A combined inspection team under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal trade task force of Mandalay Region, led by the on-duty supervisor from the combined team inspected at 16th-mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint on 24 August. They found restricted security force accessories without official documents, electronic equipment, and motorcycle spare parts, which are untaxed estimated at K166,091,800, and a Hohan (Sino truck) tractor and trailer at an estimated value of K32 million carrying the goods. The total worth of the seizures amounted to K198,091,800 and the action was taken under the Customs Law.

Similarly, a combined team found a tug-boat estimated K80 million near Magyeekan village in Sinbaungwe Township on 25 August. The action was taken under the Myanmar Coastal and Inland Water Transport Law and the Inland Water Transport Ves-

sels Law. And the team seized 21.818 tonnes of illegal timber at an estimated value of K87,272 at Aungchantha village in Myothit Township and the action was taken under the Forest Law. The total worth of the seizure amounted to K80,087,272.

A combined team comprising the Anti-Illegal trade task force at the district level and staffs from the Customs Department of Myawady Township conducted surprised check at the

Thingan-nyinaung checkpoint on 27 August. They found foodstuffs from two vehicles estimated value of K32,322,400 and two vehicles carrying foodstuffs estimated K40 million. The total worth of the seizure amounted to K72,322,400 and the action was taken under the Customs Law.

In addition, an inspection team led by the Myanmar Police Force inspected on Yadanabon bridge of Tagaung ward, Sagaing. They seized a Nissan super sa-



Equipment for security forces illegally imported abroad were seized at 16th-mile Kyaukchaw Checkpoint in Mandalay on 24 August.



loon estimated K2 million, and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Similarly, another team led by the Myanmar Police Force conducted inspection near the Bago Region electricity supply enterprise office and Pyay airport on 28 August. They seized a Caldina worth K3 million without licence and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law. Therefore, 14 cases at estimated value of K355,501,472 were taken action on 24, 25, 27 and 28 August, according to the Anti-Illegal trade Steering Committee.—MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Areca nut price inches higher to K8,000 per viss

THE price of areca nuts climbed to K8,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), according to the areca nut market.

On 1 August, the prices of areca nuts ranged between K5,100 and K6,100 per viss. The current market price significantly jumped to K6,500-K8,000 per viss, showing a sharp increase of K1,400-K2,000 per viss in the past four weeks.

“Low inventory is the main reason for the price rise,” an official of Nyi Nyi Areca Nut Trading told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The prevailing price of areca nuts was K30 per piece last year. This year, the price jumped to over K60. The farm

owners are keen on selling the soft and moist areca nut fruits rather than dried ones.

The brokers go down to farms and buy areca nut fruits from 17-18 gm sized fruits to over 30 gm sized fruits.

The farm owners expressed an interest in the harvest of ripe betel nut fruits on the back of China demand with high prices. The market grew this way and farm owners make a handsome profit at present.

As a result of this, the dried areca nut production is likely to drop in future and the prices are likely to go up on low inventory and possible foreign demand, traders shared their opinions.—NN/GNLM



Areca nut palm plants are thriving in the farm.

Pure gold price reaches fresh peak of over K2.9 mln per tical in domestic markets

THE price of pure gold hit an all-time high of over K2.9 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 K3,200 in the unofficial forex market.

Despite the price spike in the markets, Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association set the pure gold price at K2,037,000 per tical on 27 August.

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

There is a large gap of over K900,000 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, U Myo Myint stated.

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



Gold ornaments are displayed at the goldsmith.

The Monitoring and Steering Committee on the Gold and Currency Market also discussed with the officials involved in gold smelting and refining businesses in Yangon, Mandalay and Mawlamyine cities regarding prospects for gold business on 27 August 2022.

Present at the meeting were officials from the General Admin-

istration Department, Bureau of Special Investigation, No 2 Mining Enterprise and municipal office.

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.—NN/GNLM

Black gram price surges to K1.9 mln per tonne

THE prices of black gram are moving onwards following the Central Bank of Myanmar's hike in reference exchange rate. Black gram prices hit over K1.9 million per tonne in the domestic pulses market.

On 1 August, the black gram fetched only K1.666 million per tonne. On 27 August, the prices skyrocketed to K1.9 million per tonne. The figures showed an increase of over K230,000 per tonne in a month.

Similarly, pigeon pea price jumped from K1.58 million to K1.99 million per tonne on 27 August, showing a significant rise of K410,000 per tonne within four weeks.

According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon pea (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-



Samples of pulses and beans are displayed at the brokerage.

2026 FY.

The prices of black gram in Myanmar is correlated with India's demand, fuel price hike and Kyat value against the hard

currency US dollar.

Last September 2021, the prices hit a record high of K2 million per tonne when the US dollar exchange rate with My-

anmar currency hit over K3,000 in the local forex market.

Myanmar conveyed \$481.6 million worth of over 622,780.79 tonnes of beans and pulses to

foreign trade partners between 1 April and 19 August 2022 in the current financial year 2022-2023. The country shipped \$386.935 million valued over 482,393.83 tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through sea route, and \$94.67 million valued over 140,386 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through land border.

Myanmar exported US\$1.57 billion worth of over 2 million tonnes of various pulses to foreign trade partners last financial year 2020-2021. The country shipped \$966.4 million valued 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through sea route, and \$604.3 million valued 786,920 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through land border.

Myanmar yearly produces approximately 400,000 tonnes of black gram and about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas.—NN/GNLM

OPINION

Choose the best way for mankind every day

Nuclear weapons have been posing threats to all of mankind until today since nuclear weapons testing began on 16 July 1945. At a time when nuclear weapons are tested, the effects of such occurrences never benefit the global people but leave devastation on human life only.

Hindsight and history have shown the global people the terrifying and tragic effects of nuclear weapons testing, especially when controlled conditions go awry, and in light of the far more powerful and destructive nuclear weapons that exist today.

As such, the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 64/35, declaring the 29th of August as

the International Day against Nuclear Tests. The resolution calls for increasing awareness and education “about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.”

Since nuclear weapons testing began on 16 July 1945, over 2,000 have taken place. In the early days of nuclear testing little consideration was given to its devastating effects on human life, let alone the dangers of nuclear fallout from atmospheric tests. Hindsight and history have shown us the terrifying and tragic effects of nuclear weapons testing, especially when controlled conditions go awry, and in light of the far more powerful and destructive nuclear weapons that exist today.

Since its establishment, many bilateral and multilateral governmental level developments as well as broad movements in civil society have helped to advance the cause of banning nuclear tests.

In other ways, global people need to choose the best option except testing nuclear

weapons. They have to anticipate electrification for uplifting their living standard and for ensuring smooth processes in all aspects. In this regard, such a kind of electrification needs to rely on nuclear tests to electrify the world and generate energy for all moves.

It is necessary to set aside the testing of nuclear weapons which may directly cause global warming and climate change, leaving bad impacts on global peoples. Indeed, the current nuclear test for electrification was based on the testing the nuclear weapons. Hence, all global peoples should not stand for any extremism but for choosing the best way and options to serve the interests of mankind.

Time is passing decade by decade as well as century by century. The intelligence quotient of global peoples is gradually higher and higher. So, all need to choose the best for mankind every day.

World reaches ‘tragic milestone’ of one million COVID-19 deaths so far in 2022

Although welcoming progress on coverage of high-priority groups, Tedros stressed that more must be done as one-third of the world's population remains unvaccinated.

There have been one million COVID-19 deaths so far this year – a “tragic milestone” that must lead to more people being vaccinated against the disease, World Health Organization (WHO) chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus reported on Thursday. “We cannot say we are learning to live with COVID-19 when one million people have died with COVID-19 this year alone, when we are two-and-a-half years into the pandemic and have all the tools necessary to prevent these deaths,” said Tedros, speaking during his regular briefing from Geneva.

He again urged all governments to step up action to vaccinate all health workers, older persons, and others at highest risk, as part of efforts towards inoculating 70 per cent of the global population.

Progress for priority groups
Tedros said he was pleased

to see that some countries with the lowest vaccination rates are now gaining ground, especially in Africa.

In January, WHO and partners launched the COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Partnership, focused mainly on the 34 countries that were at or below 10 per cent coverage. All but six are on the continent.

Today, only 10 countries still have less than 10 per cent coverage, most of which are facing humanitarian emergencies.

Vaccinations still lagging

Although welcoming progress on coverage of high-priority groups, Tedros stressed that more must be done as one-third of the world's population remains unvaccinated.

This includes two-thirds of health workers, and three-quarters of older persons in low-income countries.

“All countries at all income levels must do more to vacci-



A medical worker (bottom C) inoculates a man with a dose of the Covaxin Covid-19 coronavirus vaccine at an indoor stadium in Guwahati, India on 22 April 2021. PHOTO: BIJUBORO / AFP

nate those most at risk, to ensure access to life-saving therapeutics, to continue testing and sequencing, and to set tailored, proportionate policies to limit transmission and save lives.

This is the best way to drive a truly sustainable recovery,” he said.

Monkeypox reversal

Meanwhile, intense Monkeypox transmission continues in the Americas region, although the number of cases globally fell by more than 20 per cent last week.

While most cases in the early stage of the outbreak were in Europe, with a smaller proportion in the Americas, the situation has now reversed.

Currently, less than 40 per cent of reported cases are in Europe and 60 per cent are in the Americas.

There are signs that the outbreak is slowing in Europe,

Tedros reported, 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,” he said.

Tedros thanked vaccine manufacturer Bavarian Nordic, which on Wednesday signed an agreement with WHO's Regional Office for the Americas to support access to its Monkeypox vaccine in Latin America and the Caribbean.

He expressed hope that the development will help to bring the outbreak under control in the region.

SOURCE: UN NEWS

Russia develops Delta & Omicron-adapted Sputnik V vaccine

“The Delta and Omicron-adapted version of Sputnik V is the most promising version of the vaccine specifically adapted to new variants as compared to those tailored against the combination of the original strain and Omicron variant”: the Russian medical research institute.

Russia's Gamaleya National Research Center of Epidemiology and Microbiology (Gamaleya Center) and the Russian Direct Investment Fund announced the development of the Sputnik V vaccine specifically adapted against Delta and Omicron variants of coronavirus.

Over the course of the pandemic, the Gamaleya Center has been consistently studying the new emerging variants of SARS-CoV-2 and adapting Sputnik V to

them accordingly. The new version of Sputnik V has been Delta and Omicron-adapted as Omicron is currently the dominant variant around the globe. This new version is also addressing the L-452-R mutation in Omicron BA5 variant which was not present in the BA1 variant.

Most promising version

“The Delta and Omicron-adapted version of Sputnik V is the most promising version

of the vaccine specifically adapted to new variants as compared to those tailored against the combination of the original strain and Omicron variant. The Sputnik V vaccine adapted against the Delta and Omicron variants provides for a significant reduction in the viral load in the lungs of animals infected with the Omicron BA5 variant,” the Russian medical research institute said in a statement.

The existing version of Sputnik V shows excellent results in

preventing hospitalization and death caused by Omicron. A study conducted by a team of Russian scientists including representatives of the City Clinical Hospital No. 67 named after L.A.

Vorokhobov and the Gamaleya Center has demonstrated Sputnik V's efficacy against hospitalisation caused by Omicron for those vaccinated with 3 or 4 components (re-vaccination with Sputnik Light or Sputnik V after Sputnik V) was 97 per cent and

99.4 per cent against critical cases. These results have been published in June 2022 in the Vaccines leading peer-reviewed medical journal.

Most exported pharmaceutical product

Sputnik V has become the most exported pharmaceutical product in Russian history being one of the safest and most effective vaccines against coronavirus in the world. SOURCE: ANI



A shipment of Russia's Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccines arrives at the Tunis-Carthage International Airport in Tunis, Tunisia, on 9 March 2021. PHOTO: FETHI BELAID/AFP

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD



Photographers set up their remote cameras as NASA's Artemis I rocket is launched, at Kennedy Space Center, on 25 August 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

'Sight to behold': tourists flock to Florida for Moon rocket launch

SEEING a rocket blast off to the Moon is "a once-in-a-lifetime thing to experience," says Joanne Bostandji.

The 45-year-old has traveled all the way from northern England to Florida with her husband and two children for a space-themed vacation, and they're prepared to make sure they don't miss a second of the action as NASA's newest and most powerful rocket is scheduled to launch for the first time Monday.

"The plan is to drive very early in the morning and get a spot" on Cocoa Beach, she said, not far from the Kennedy Space Center.

"I know it's going to be from a far distance, but I still think it's going to be a sight to behold," Bostandji told AFP as the family waited to enter a park dedicated to space exploration.

Between 100,000 and 200,000 visitors are expected to attend the launch of the mission, called Artemis 1, which will propel an empty capsule to the Moon as part of a test for future crewed flights. The "historic nature" of Monday's flight, the first of several as the United States returns to the Moon, "certainly has increased public interest," Meagan Happel of Florida's Space Coast Office of Tourism told AFP. —AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ethereum crypto overhaul targets environmental impact

THE world's second biggest cryptocurrency after bitcoin, ethereum, will soon overhaul its blockchain technology to curb the network's much-criticised environmental impact.

Ethereum, whose digital unit ether tumbled in a crypto crash earlier this year, will in September undergo a major technical revolution.

So what is the backdrop for the looming reset – known as the Merge – and how will it calm prices and cut electricity usage? —AFP

Dust to downpour: US weather whiplash shows climate change

A series of "once-in-a-millennium" rainstorms have lashed the United States in recent weeks, flooding areas baked dry by long-term droughts, as human-caused climate change brings weather whiplash.

And scientists warn that global warming means once-rare events are already much more likely, upending the models they have long used to predict possible disasters – with worse to come.

At least 40 people have been killed in the last month by storms in Kentucky, Illinois, Texas and Missouri, inundating areas that in some cases had seen little to no rain for months. —AFP

Two foreign banks to provide loans through carbon-reduction supporting tool

THE People's Bank of China said Friday that two foreign lenders have been added to the list of financial institutions that can provide firms with low-cost loans through a supporting tool for carbon emission reduction.

Deutsche Bank (China) Co., Ltd. and Societe Generale (China) Ltd. are the two banks that have just received the nod, the central bank said. —Xinhua

UN's plan for derelict oil tanker off Yemen still needs 16 mln USD

THE United Nations (UN) is still working on raising the funds to prevent a massive oil spill from the Safer oil tanker in the Red Sea off Yemen, which still goes 16 million US dollars short, a Yemeni government official told Xinhua on Friday.

According to the local official who asked to remain anonymous, "the UN is getting close to receiving enough funds to reach the 80-million-dollar target to salvage oil from the rotting Safer tanker that's falling apart off the war-ravaged Arab country."

"Yemen's private sector, particularly the multinational HSA Group, announced that it will donate 1.2 million dollars to fund the UN's salvage operation," he added.



The FSO Safer is carrying 1.1m barrels of oil - four times the amount spilled in the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster. **PHOTO: THE CONFLICT AND ENVIRONMENT OBSERVATORY (CEOBS)**

The Yemeni official reaffirmed his government's full support for the UN efforts aimed at pumping more than 1 million barrels of oil from the 45-year-old Safer tanker and stopping an environmental catastrophe

in the Red Sea.

In June, the UN launched a crowdfunding campaign to avert oil spill from the decaying FSO Safer that is moored in the Red Sea north of the Yemeni port city of Hodeidah. —Xinhua

China allocates 10 bln yuan for drought relief, autumn grain production

CHINA'S Ministry of Finance on Friday earmarked 10 billion yuan (about 1.46 billion US dollars) central reserve funds to support drought relief and the production of autumn grain.

Some 6.5 billion yuan of the funds will be used for water conservancy and drought relief to ensure the supply of drinking

water for the people and water for agricultural irrigation.

Another 3.5 billion yuan will be designated for autumn grain production.

It will be mainly used to support farmers affected by drought to buy fuel, pesticides, seeds and other materials needed to restore agricultural production

and subsidize on chemicals that can help crops resist drought.

The ministry urged local governments to allocate the funds in time, further strengthen fund management and well implement work related to drought relief and grain production. —Xinhua

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

China's domestic tourism on track to bounce back from pandemic lows: Fitch Ratings

CHINA'S domestic tourism, a key indicator of retail spending, is on track to make a comeback from the pandemic lows, CNBC has reported.

The increase in holiday bookings has indicated that tourism spending would be recovering in the second half of the year, Fitch Ratings was quoted as saying on 15 August.

This buoyancy comes after tourism revenue in China hit a trough in the first half

of 2022 and fell by nearly half compared to the same period in 2019 before the pandemic struck, Fitch added.

"A slow recovery in the tourism sector has put a drag on the economy given its large contribution, accounting for around 11 per cent of GDP and 10 per cent of national employment in 2019," China-based Fitch Ratings analysts Flora Zhu and Jenny Huang said in a note. —Xinhua



Visitors pose for a group selfie in front of the Temple of Heaven during the National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival holiday in Beijing, on 4 October 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA

Moderna sues Pfizer, BioNTech for Covid-19 vaccine patent infringement

MODERNA said Friday it is suing rival vaccine makers Pfizer and BioNTech, alleging the partners infringed on its patents in developing their Covid-19 shot administered to hundreds of millions around the world.

The lawsuits set up a high-stakes showdown between the leading manufacturers of Covid-19 shots that are a key tool in the fight against the disease.

"Moderna believes that Pfizer and BioNTech's Covid-19 vaccine Comirnaty infringes patents Moderna filed between 2010 and 2016 covering Moderna's foundational mRNA technology," the US-based biotech



A man stands outside Moderna headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on 18 May 2020. PHOTO: JOSEPH PREZIOSO/AFP

firm said in a statement.

"This groundbreaking technology was critical to the development of Moderna's own mRNA Covid-19 vaccine,

Spikevax. Pfizer and BioNTech copied this technology, without Moderna's permission, to make Comirnaty," Moderna added. —AFP

India's daily COVID-19 caseload falls below 10,000 mark



Carton boxes of the Covishield vaccine developed by Pune based Serum Institute of India (SII) are unloaded at the Mumbai airport on 24 February 2021, as part of the COVAX scheme. PHOTO: AFP

INDIA'S daily COVID-19 caseload on Saturday fell below the 10,000 mark, with 9,520 new cas-

es being reported during the past 24 hours, taking the total tally to 44,398,696, according to official

data.

With the reporting of fresh cases, India's active caseload currently stands at 87,311.

The country also logged 41 related deaths during the past 24 hours, pushing the overall death toll to 527,597 since the beginning of the pandemic, the ministry said.

With the increase in cases, the daily positivity rate stands at 2.50 per cent and the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 2.80 per cent, the ministry data showed. —Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Positive results for Pfizer vaccine against deadly respiratory virus

PHARMACEUTICAL giant Pfizer on Thursday announced positive results in the elderly for a vaccine against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), for which there are currently no authorized shots. The virus causes bronchiolitis, a respiratory disease that mainly affects infants, but can also be dangerous for the elderly, who can develop pneumonia.

More than 177,000 elderly people are hospitalized each year in the United States because of RSV infection, and about 14,000 die, according to US health authorities. —AFP

Malaysia reports 2,491 new COVID-19 infections, 5 more deaths

MALAYSIA reported 2,491 new COVID-19 infections as of midnight Saturday, bringing the national total to 4,774,003, according to the health ministry.

There are no new imported cases, with all 2,491 cases being local transmissions, data released on the ministry's website showed. ANOTHER five deaths have been reported, pushing the death toll to 36,196.

The ministry reported 3,715 new recoveries, bringing the total number of cured and discharged to 4,703,299.

There are 34,508 active cases, with 72 being held in intensive care and 49 of those in need of assisted breathing. —Xinhua

Canada confirms 1,228 monkeypox cases

THE Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) confirmed 1,228 cases of monkeypox including 32 hospitalisations in the country as of Friday. The health agency said that of the confirmed cases, 582 cases are from Ontario, 478 from Quebec, 129 from British Columbia, 31 from Alberta, three from Saskatchewan, two from the Yukon and one each from New Brunswick, Manitoba and New Brunswick. Experts say monkeypox is a viral disease that can spread from person to person through close contact with an infected person, including through hugs, kisses, massages or sexual intercourse. —Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

India will be among top three economies of the world by 2047: Rajnath Singh



Indian workers work on a railway bridge built over the Ganges River in Allahabad on 30 November 2018. **PHOTO: SANJAY KANOJIA/AFP/FILE**

UNION Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday asserted that India had made a strong recovery after the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic and was on course to become one of the three top global economies of the world by 2047.

“India is the fastest growing economy...A reshaped economic recovery is happening after the Covid-19 pandemic. By 2047, India will be among the top three economies of the world,” Singh said at an event at the Lucknow University here.

To achieve the goal to make India among the top three economies in the world by 2047, the Defence Minister said, all efforts are being made by the Central government.

“Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s target is to set India among the top three economies of the world, and we (the Central government) have been taking each and every step to achieve the goal in this direction.”

Singh said India has achieved an export target of USD 418 billion this year. Singh said the world did not take India as seriously on international fora earlier. “Now, the credibility of India has increased.”

“Earlier, India’s stance on world affairs was not taken seriously. But today, India has reached a level where the world listens to us carefully,” he said. “If someone tries to hurt India’s honour, then we have the power to deal with it.” —ANI

Energy crisis pushes nuclear comeback worldwide

AS the costs of importing energy soars worldwide and climate crises wreak havoc, interest in nuclear power is on the rise with nations scrambling to find alternative sources.

Investment in nuclear power declined after Japan’s 2011 Fukushima disaster, the world’s worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl in 1986, as fears over its safety increased and governments ran scared.

But following Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine in February, the subsequent squeeze on energy supplies and Europe’s push to wean itself off of Russian oil and gas, the tide is now



Following Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine in February, the subsequent squeeze on energy supplies and Europe’s push to wean itself off of Russian oil and gas, the tide is now turning back in favour of nuclear. **PHOTO: AFP**

turning back in favour of nuclear. Governments face difficult decisions with rising gas and electricity bills and scarce resources threatening to cause widespread suffering this winter. —AFP

Spain PM to talk energy with Scholz in Germany

SPANISH Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez will hold talks with Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Germany next week, his office said Friday, with the talks expected to focus on Europe’s energy crisis.

The two leaders will meet for talks on Tuesday at the German government retreat in Meseberg castle, some 70 kilometres (45 miles) north of Berlin, where Sanchez will also attend a cabinet meeting chaired by

Scholz.

The meeting comes as Europe struggles to reduce its dependence on Russian gas following its February invasion of Ukraine.

With Moscow cutting back on deliveries, EU nations are scrambling to avoid possible shortages this winter as gas and electricity prices soar.

In recent weeks, Spain and Germany’s stance on energy

have come a lot closer, with Scholz backing plans for a gas pipeline linking the Iberian peninsula with central Europe to reduce reliance on Russian gas — a project long championed by Madrid.

Sanchez’s office did not say what would be on the agenda at the August 30 visit which El Pais daily described as “a special invitation” extended by Scholz. —AFP

Taming inflation will inflict ‘pain’ on Americans: Fed’s Powell

TAMING US inflation will inflict “pain” on American families and businesses, but failure to wrestle prices down from their current 40-year high would be even more harmful, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said Friday in a hotly-anticipated speech to global policymakers.

Addressing the annual gathering of central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Powell did not hold back or leave room for doubt about the Fed’s plans, pledging to act “forcefully.”

He warned that the world’s largest economy is likely to slow for a sustained period,

and the strong US job market will suffer in order to get prices down — consequences he called the “unfortunate costs of reducing inflation.”

The Fed this year launched an aggressive campaign to raise interest rates — and in his unusually short, notably direct remarks, Powell made it clear that the fight against inflation is not over.

“Restoring price stability will take some time and requires using our tools forcefully to bring demand and supply into better balance,” he told the gathering, held against the backdrop of the majestic Grand Teton mountains. —AFP



Customers shop at a supermarket in Millbrae, California, the United States, 10 August 2022. **PHOTO: LI JIANGUO/XINHUA**

JAXA, Mitsui Sumitomo to sell insurance for civilian space travellers



The SpaceX Falcon Heavy rests on Pad 39A at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, on 5 February 2018, ahead of its demonstration mission. **PHOTO: JIM WATSON/AFP/FILE**

THE Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co. will jointly develop insurance products for space travellers as they bet more

civilians will venture beyond the Earth in the future. The new products will likely cover travellers against damage to possessions just like existing

travel insurance as well as bodily damage before and after the adventure, the two organizations said last month. JAXA will provide

information such as the causes of accidents observed during its space missions or related training while Mitsui Sumitomo will offer insurance-related expertise such as risk assessment.

The number of civilians who stayed in space totaled 29 last year, exceeding the number of astronauts who did so for the first time. The two organizations are aiming to launch the products before space travel becomes more common. The new insurance could be the first of its kind as existing space-related products center around compensation for damaged property such as rockets and satellites, an industry source said. —Kyodo

Plenty of roadblocks for automakers seeking EV success

THE world's top automakers — motivated either by governmental regulations or pure profit — have made a sharp turn away from fossil fuel vehicles. But there are plenty of obstacles on the road to a future full of eco-friendly cars.

Will there be enough lithium and other vital raw materials to make electric car batteries? Will there be sufficient charging stations? How will carmakers ensure that their offerings are affordable for the average driver?



Tesla is the undisputed leader in the electric vehicle sector, but its rivals are trying to catch up. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Following the success of Elon Musk's Tesla, built solely on electric vehicles, most of the biggest names in the sector are planning

to invest tens of billions of dollars to reorient their businesses toward clean energy. Stellantis, the world's fifth-largest auto-

maker, plans to sell only electric cars in Europe by 2030. Toyota expects to release about 30 electric models in that same timeframe. GM hopes to stop making cars with combustion engines by 2035.

These corporate ambitions have dovetailed with efforts by national and local governments to go green. On Thursday, California announced that from 2035, all new cars sold in the Golden State — the most populous in America — must be zero-emission. —AFP

Huawei hosts job fair linking new graduates to Ethiopia's ICT sector

HUAWEI Ethiopia has hosted its second-round regional job fair in Bahir Dar, capital of the Amhara region, aiming to link new Ethiopian graduates to the country's ICT sector.

The job fair, which was

held from 24 to 25 August with a goal of discovering local talent, was organized in collaboration with Bahir Dar University and other partners with the purpose of promoting jobs to newly graduating students.

The event attracted graduates from Bahir Dar, Gondar, Enjibara and Debark universities, in which more than 800 resumes were collected from participants at the event, Huawei Ethiopia disclosed

in a statement issued Friday.

The best candidates will be chosen from the resumes and will be given a chance to join the company, the statement noted. —Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB233A)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB233A) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-8-2022 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

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Pabedan Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Dated: 29 August 2022

The Global New Light of Myanmar

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Angola pays homage to ex-leader dos Santos amid vote dispute

ANGOLANS started paying their final respect to former president Jose Eduardo dos Santos on Saturday as the veteran strongman's historically dominant party emerged from its worst electoral result.

Dos Santos, who ruled Angola with an iron fist for 38 years, died on July 8 at a hospital in Spain after suffering a cardiac arrest.

His tenure saw members of his family plunder the nation's oil riches while most

Angolans remained mired in poverty.

He will be buried at a state funeral on Sunday, on what would have been his 80th birthday.

The funeral is set to be attended by about a dozen foreign leaders, including the presidents of Portugal, Mozambique and South Africa.

A brown casket carrying dos Santos's body and draped with the Angolan flag made the solemn trip through the streets

to the city's central Praca da Republica plaza.

Most people went about their daily lives while some watched the cortege slowly drive past.

The coffin will lie in state in a tent for the public to pay their last respects. Hundreds of blue seats neatly laid out in the square for mourners were empty with a few MPLA supporters filing past the coffin to bid their final farewell. —AFP



The cortege carrying the remains of former Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos arrives at the Praca da Republica in Luanda on 27 August 2022, where he will lie in state ahead of his funeral. **PHOTO: AFP**

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

In Germany, the stuttering bid to jumpstart coal plants



Russia's curtailing of gas exports to Germany in the wake of the Ukraine war has forced Berlin to make the radical decision to restart coal power stations, at least temporarily. **PHOTO: AFP**

A year after the last wisps of smoke disappeared into the skies from the imposing chimneys of the Moorburg coal plant, hopes had grown that the mothballed site would see new life as Germany scrambles to secure energy supplies.

Russia's curtailing of gas exports to Germany in the wake of the Ukraine war has forced Berlin to make the radical decision to restart coal power stations, at least temporarily.

But infrastructure issues, manpower shortages and legis-

tical problems are proving to be major obstacles for the restart.

At Moorburg, operator Vattenfall has dashed hopes of new operations, saying simply that "restarting it would be neither technically, economically nor legally feasible".

"Many parts have been dismantled and sold," said Robert Wacker, director of the site.

Even power plants that had not been completely shut, but put in reserve to generate power only occasionally, are struggling with a complete reboot.

Further south from Moorburg, energy group Uniper will on Monday fire up its Heyden 4 site, which had been a reserve plant since mid-2021.

But the company warned that its output would be affected by railway capacity limits in ferrying hard coal to the site. —AFP

Czech lower house approves Finland, Sweden's NATO accession

THE Czech Republic's lower house of parliament approved Finland and Sweden's bid to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), it announced on Saturday.

The Chamber of Deputies is the second of the country's two parliamentary bodies to give its approval, following the Senate's

decision. It now must be signed by the country's president to complete the ratification.

The two Nordic countries applied for membership into the military bloc in early July amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict. In order to be accepted, their accession documents must be ratified by all 30 NATO members.

Finland and Sweden's NATO bids were initially blocked by Türkiye, which accused them of supporting anti-Türkiye groups as they rejected Ankara's extradition requests for suspects affiliated with the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and the Gulen Movement. —Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

US State Department confirms American mercenary killed in Ukraine: Reports

THE US State Department has confirmed the death of a US "volunteer fighter" in Ukraine amid Russia's special military operation there, Newsweek reported on Saturday.

Earlier in the day, the governor of Russia's far eastern Primorsky Krai region, Oleg Kozhemyako, said via Telegram that Russian volunteers in Ukraine killed Joshua Jones, a 24-year-old mercenary from the US state of Tennessee, and presented his passport as proof.

"We can confirm the death of a US citizen in Ukraine," the report cited a State Department statement as saying.

A Ukrainian military card was also found on Jones. He had been enrolled with Ukraine's military since July 24 as a member of the A344 unit, the report said. To date, at least six US citizens have been killed while fighting in Ukraine against Russia, according to the report. —ANI

Risk of radioactive leak at Ukraine nuclear plant: operator

THERE is a risk of a radioactive leak at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant — Europe's largest — which is occupied by Russian troops, the state energy operator said Saturday.

Energoatom said Moscow's troops had "repeatedly shelled" the site of the plant in southern Ukraine over the past day, whilst Russia's defence ministry claimed Kyiv's troops were responsible. "As a result of periodic shelling, the infrastructure of the station has been damaged, there are risks of hydrogen leakage and sputtering of radioactive substances, and the fire hazard is high," Energoatom said on Telegram.

The agency said that as of midday Saturday (0900 GMT) the plant "operates with the risk of violating radiation and fire safety standards".

Russia's defence ministry said Ukrainian forces "shelled the territory of the station three times" in the past day.

"A total of 17 shells were fired," the ministry said in a communique. The Zaporizhzhia facility was seized by Russian troops in the opening weeks of the February invasion and has remained on the front line ever since. —AFP

Russia blocks adoption at UN of nuclear disarmament text

RUSSIA on Friday prevented the adoption of a joint declaration following a four-week UN conference on a nuclear disarmament treaty, with Moscow denouncing what it said were “political” aspects of the text.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which 191 signatories review every five years, aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, promote complete disarmament and promote cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

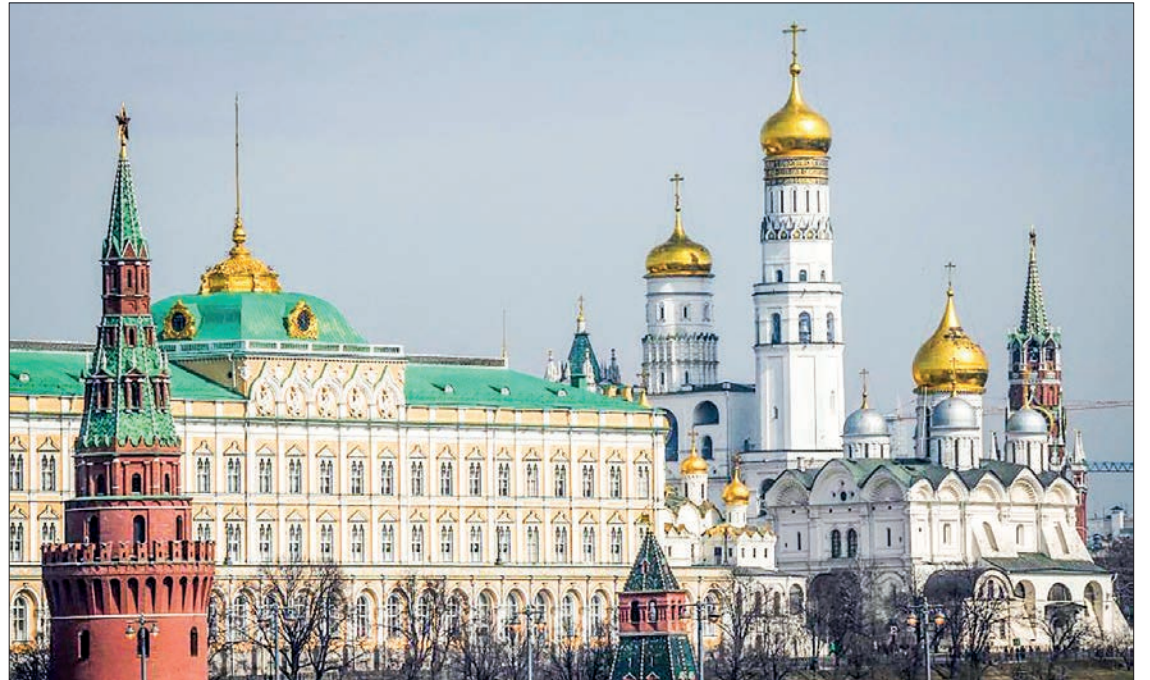
The nations have been gathered at UN headquarters in New York since August 1 participating in a month of negotiations, including a final session that was postponed for several hours on Friday.

In the end, the conference’s president, Gustavo Zlauvinen of Argentina, said it was “not in a position to achieve agreement” after Russia took issue with the text.

Russian representative Igor Vishnevetsky said the draft final text, which was more than 30 pages long, lacked “balance.”

“Our delegation has one key objection on some paragraphs which are blatantly political in nature,” he said, adding that Russia was not the only country to take issue with the text.

According to sources close to the negotiations, Russia was opposed in particular to paragraphs concerning the Ukrainian nuclear power plant in Zaporizhzhia, which is occupied by the Russian military. —AFP



A file photo shows a view of the Kremlin towers and cathedrals in Moscow. PHOTO: MLADEN ANTONOV/AFP

Greek PM rules out snap election over phone tapping scandal

GREEK Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis rejected on Friday opposition parties’ calls for a snap election over the recent revelations of the phone tapping of an opposition leader by the Greek National Intelligence Service (EYP).

“We will get through this difficult winter together,” he said during Parliament’s first plenary debate after the summer break.

The conservative government’s four-year term ends next summer.

Earlier this month, the Greek leader had accepted the resignations of the EYP’s chief and the secretary general of his



Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis (L, Front) speaks during a Parliament’s debate in Athens, Greece, on 26 August 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/MARIOS LOLOS

office in the wake of revelations that Nikos Androulakis, European Parliament member and president of the Movement for

Change (KINAL) and the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK), was under surveillance last year. —Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Serbia, Kosovo reach free movement agreement: EU

SERBIA and Kosovo have agreed on an arrangement for free movement between their countries, the European Union’s foreign policy chief Josep Borrell announced Saturday.

Serbia had agreed to abolish its entry-exit document for Kosovo ID holders, and Kosovo had agreed to not introduce them for Serbian ID holders, said Borrell, in a video statement posted online.

“Kosovo Serbs, as well as all other citizens, will be able to travel freely between Kosovo and Serbia using their ID cards,” he added.

The agreement came after talks in Brussels earlier this week between Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti and Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, chaired by Borrell.

“I am very happy that we have found a European solution that facilitates travel between Kosovo and Serbia,” said Borrell, thanking both leaders. —AFP

Libya clashes kill 23, spark fears of new war

CLASHES between backers of Libya’s rival governments killed at least 23 people and damaged six hospitals in Tripoli on Saturday, sparking fears that a political crisis could spiral into a major new armed conflict.

Small arms fire and explosions rocked several districts of the capital overnight and into Saturday, when smoke could be seen rising from damaged buildings.

But cautious calm appeared to have returned on Saturday night, an AFP correspondent said.

The head of the government in Tripoli, Abdulhamid Dbeibah, posted a video of himself surrounded by bodyguards and greeting fighters supporting him.

In an updated toll, the health ministry in Tripoli said 23 people had been killed and 140 wounded



Smoke billows as rival Libyan groups exchange fire in the capital Tripoli. PHOTO: AFP

in the fighting.

Six hospitals were hit and ambulances were unable to reach areas affected by the clashes, the ministry had said earlier, condemning “war crimes”.

The two rival administrations vying for control of the North African country and its vast oil resources — one based in the capital, the other approved by a parliament in the country’s east — exchanged blame. —AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Russia blocks adoption at UN of nuclear disarmament text
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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

SPORT

Golf Tournament for professionals to be held on 30 August

THE Golf Open Junior and Professional Golf Tournament organized by the Myanmar Golf Federation will be held at the Yangon Golf Course (Danyingon) in Yangon on 30 and 31 August 2022.

The competition will include professional level and junior level competition under 14 years of

age, under 18 men's and women's competitions. The tournament will be held according to the St. Andrews Rules of Golf and local rules, said Myanmar Golf Federation officials. Professional level and junior golf athletes from all over Myanmar will participate in the tournament said the fed-

eration officials. All competing players are not allowed to ride Buggy. Green and caddy fees of the players will be covered by the tournament committee. Cart rental and caddy by name will be charged according to the players' plan. The competition entry fee is set as free, officials said.—GNLM



Olivier Giroud ensured Milan took the points with his team's second of the night. **PHOTO: MIGUEL MEDINA/AFP**

AC Milan brush aside Bologna, Abraham snatches point on Dybala's Juve return

AC Milan continued their unbeaten start to their Serie A title defense with a 2-0 win over Bologna on Saturday as Tammy Abraham earned Roma a 1-1 draw at Juventus on Juventus's return to his old stomping ground.

Champions Milan eased to a routine win at the San Siro with goals either side of halftime from Rafael Leao and Olivier Giroud to go top on goal difference.

Stefano Pioli's side took full advantage of Inter Milan's lose at Lazio on Friday night to move a point above their local rivals.

"We're more concentrated and have more self-belief than in the past, we played with a real commitment to attacking and defending as a unit," Pioli told Sky Sport Italia.

"I'm happy with our performance but I know we can still

get better."

Milan are one of four teams locked on seven points, with Roma, Lazio and Torino — 2-1 winners over promoted Cremonese.

Napoli will reclaim the summit should they win at Fiorentina on Sunday night, Luciano Spalletti's flamboyant side on a perfect six points after two stunning displays in their opening fixtures.—AFP

Serena Williams prepares for final curtain call at US Open

AFTER a glittering 27-year professional career in which she became one of the greatest players of all time, Serena Williams is preparing to bid farewell to tennis at the major where it all began.

The 40-year-old sporting icon ended the guessing game surrounding her future earlier this month by revealing that the "countdown" to

her retirement had started, with her final Grand Slam appearance expected at the US Open in New York starting on Monday.

"There comes a time in life when we have to decide to move in a different direction," Williams wrote. "That time is always hard when you love something so much."—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.

Smith among PGA players set for LIV Golf jump: reports

BRITISH Open champion Cameron Smith of Australia is among several US PGA Tour players who will defect to the Saudi-backed rival LIV Golf Series, according to multiple reports Saturday. World number two Smith had been the subject of several reports about joining LIV Golf shortly after lifting the Claret Jug last month, but has avoided discussion of the subject while playing in this month's PGA FedEx Cup playoffs.

Golf Channel, ESPN and Sports Illustrated cited un-

named sources in reporting that several big-name PGA players were waiting until after Sunday's completion of the PGA's Tour Championship in Atlanta to announce their plans to join LIV Golf. Smith will play in next week's LIV Golf event in Boston along with compatriot Marc Leishman, India's Anirban Lahiri, Chile's Joaquin Niemann and Americans Harold Varner and Cameron Tringale, according to Sports Illustrated and ESPN; while Golf Channel named all but Lahiri.—AFP



World number two Cameron Smith, the reigning British Open champion from Australia, is among several players set to leave the PGA Tour for LIV Golf after the end of the PGA's Tour Championship. **PHOTO: AFP**