

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Myanmar high-level delegation led by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Vostochny Cosmodrome

THE Myanmar high-level delegation led by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing left the Vladivostok International Airport of the Russian Federation yesterday morning for the Ignatyev International Airport in Blagoveshchensk of Amur State. The Senior General and party were seen off at the airport by Deputy Governor of Vladivostok Mr Stegny Daria and officials.

At the Ignatyev International Airport in Blagoveshchensk, the Senior General and party were welcomed by Head of Government of Amur State Mr Vasilii Orlov and party. The Senior General and party proceeded to the Vostochny Cosmodrome by helicopter.

At the Vostochny Cosmodrome, the Senior General and party were welcomed by Director-General Mr Yuri Borisov of State Space Corporation "Roscosmos" of the Russian Federation, International Cooperation Leading Expert Mr Nikita Perminov of "Roscosmos" and officials.

They arrived at the construction site of the Angara rocket launching station and the Soyuz-2 rocket launching station. Officials explained technological arrangements for the stations, and the Senior General

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State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for the documentary group photo in the background of the Soyuz-2 Rocket at the Vostochny Cosmodrome.

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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*

Myanmar high-level delegation led by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Vostochny Cosmodrome

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asked for further information. Officials conducted the Senior General and party round the rocket assembling workshop and satellite assembling workshop in the technical complex. The Senior General asks about each workshop and they all posed for documentary photos in front of the Soyuz-2 rocket in the rocket assembling workshop.

The Vostochny Cosmodrome was established in August 2012 and it launched the first spaceship in 2016. So far, 11 spaceships have been launched.

On arrival at the Engineering-technical building (GP-5), the Senior General held a meeting Director-General Mr

Yuri Borisov of the State Space Corporation "Roscosmos" of Russia.

At the meeting, they exchanged views on the assistance of the Russian Federation for aerospace technology development in Myanmar with experiences, recommendations, technologies and turning out of human resources, and technological cooperation between the two countries.

The Senior General and party left the Ignatyev International Airport of Blagoveshchensk in Amur State for Baikal Airport in Ulan-Ude of Republic of Buryatia. They were seen off at the airport by Head of Government of Amur State Mr Vasilii Orlov and party. — MNA



The Senior General meets Director-General Mr Yuri Borisov of the State Space Corporation "Roscosmos" of Russia.

Objectives of 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2022

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

191 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 9 September, total figure rises to 616,401

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **616,401** after **191** new cases—**16** imported and **175** local transmission—were reported on 9 September 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **594,128** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,442** without more casualties. —MNA



ကမ္ဘာ့ရှေးဦးပြုစုခြင်းနေ့
World First Aid Day

၂၀၂၂ ခုနှစ်၊ စက်တင်ဘာလ(၁၀)ရက်။

“ရှေးဦးပြုစုအတတ်ပညာ ဘဝတစ်သက်တာသင်ယူပါ”
Lifelong First Aid Learning

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

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

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

Myanmar high-level delegation led by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrives in Ulan-Ude of Republic of Buryatia, visits Ivolginsky Dastan Buddhist Temple



The Senior General and high-level delegation arrive in Ulan-Ude of the Republic of Buryatia.



The Senior General pays homage at the Ivolginsky Dastan Buddhist Temple.

THE Myanmar high-level delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrived at Baikal Airport in Ulan-Ude of the Republic of Buryatia via the Ignatyev International Airport of Blagoveshchensk in Amur State of the Russian Federation yesterday afternoon and was welcomed by Head of Government of the Republic of Buryatia Aleksey Sambuyevich Tsydenov and officials.

At the airport, Head of Government of the Republic of Buryatia Mr Aleksey Sambuyevich Tsydenov explained the interior and exterior upgrade of the helicopter developed by his Repub-

lic and capacity to the Senior General who asked for further information.

On arrival at the Ivolginsky Dastan Buddhist Temple, Pandito Khambo Lama of Mahayana Buddhism Damba Bandmaeich Ayusheev and members of the Sangha welcomed the Senior General and party and explained the religious measures of the Buddhism in the temple.

The Senior General and party paid homage to the remains of the 12th Lama and listened to efforts for the propagation of the Sasana explained by the current Lama.

The Senior General and party were hosted a tea party by Lama Damba Bandmaeich

Ayusheev and venerable Sangha members at the parlour of the temple.

The Lama explained the propagation and flourishing of Buddhism in the Russian Federation, the pleasures of members of the Sangha from the Ivolginsky Dastan Buddhist Temple for preserving ancient temples and stupas in original works and for the flourishing of Buddhism culture in all areas during their missionary to Myanmar. The Lama said the first building of the Shwezigon replica pagoda in the Ethnomir world cultural city of Kaluga in Moscow was for the first time of Buddhist pagoda in the Russian Federation, contributing to the propagation

of Buddhism.

After listening to the speech of the Lama, the Senior General supplicated freedom of belief for other religions in Myanmar where Buddhism is the religion for the majority of the People, maintenance and preservation of religious edifices, efforts for building the Maravijaya Buddha image which would be the highest marble-carved Buddha image in the Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw, and progress of carving the Buddha's teachings on the stone plaques in Pali and Romanize language with the use of modern machinery so as to build the stone plaque chamber Cetis.

The Senior General pre-

sented Buddha images and collective donated cash for the flourishing of Buddhism of delegation members to the Lama who returned Dhamma gifts.

The Ivolginsky Dastan Buddhist Temple located near Verkhnyaya Ivolga Village in the Buryatia region, 23 kilometres from Ulan-Ude city, was established in 1945. In the past, the temple was the base of the Central Spiritual Board of Buddhists of the USSR. Later, it has been used for Sangha organizations in Russia. The site is a headquarters of Buddhists in Russia as well as the site for Buddhism professions and training. — 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.



IOM Chief of Mission for Myanmar presents his Accreditation Letter to Union Minister for Foreign Affairs

MR Dragan Aleksoski, Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Myanmar, paid a cour-

tesy call and presented his Letter of Accreditation to U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw 10 am on 9 September 2022.

The MoFA Union Minister receives the accreditation letter of the IOM Chief of Mission for Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were the senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. —MNA

Regional development activities inspected in Shan State

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung inspected the concrete paving work and the construction of the clinic in the Buddha Park in Pankwe village in Loimwe village-tract of Kengtung township on 7 September.

The Union minister arrived at the border youth development training centre (Loimwe) and provided school uniforms, notebooks, stationeries and sports wears. He then warmly greeted students and inspected the school compound.

The Union minister viewed the solar-powered irrigation facilities under the implementation of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development on the bank of the Namkhin Creek in Kengtung township.



MoBA Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung makes inspection tours in Shan State.

The Union minister then inspected the solar-powered irrigation facilities through the Namlwe Creek implemented by the Ministry of Border Affairs

and the pilot project cultivation in Wamkok village of Mongkhet township and fulfilled the necessary things.

He also inspected the so-

lar-powered irrigation facilities in Taungthonlone village of Mongkhet township, the road paving work, concrete bridge construction on the inter-village

road in Kathtike village-tract of Kengtung township and the gravel road paving work on the Kathtike-Loipantoung-Ingolon road. — MNA

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

The following telephone numbers, fax and email address can be reached to safely report information in connection with illegal trade.

Auto telephone number - 067 409 883
 Mobile phone - 09 404339969
 Fax - 067 409 886
 Email address - antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com
Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

Regarding the "request for money from departmental organizations in conducting trade", the following numbers can be reached to safely report such information.

Auto telephone number - 067 409 881
 Mobile phone - 09 699611116
 Fax - 067 409 887
 Email address - antiillegaltradeoffice@gmail.com
Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee



Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

MoI Union Minister meets staff of affiliated departments

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn met the staff of affiliated departments under the ministry in Mandalay yesterday.

During the meeting with the staff of the region, district and township IPRD office, Sarpay Beikman (Mandalay) of Printing and Publishing Department, Sub-Printing House (Mandalay) of News and Periodical Enterprise and MRTV retransmission station (Mandalay), the Union minister said it needs to emphasize all sectors as the ministry is running the media, on the other way, it is not operating the normal



Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn meets departmental personnel of the ministry in Mandalay yesterday.



procedures but there would be changes according to the time and circumstance of a situation. Therefore, it should not think just like a normal process.

The impact of media is tremendous and so it should improve the skills and carry out with a strong spirit and stance.

The Union minister, then,

added that it needs to report the activities of government regarding the political, economic and social affairs to the public and fight the misinformation,

disinformation and false news in various ways.

In doing so, the staff need to upgrade their skills and share their attributes with their colleagues.

The staff should keep seeking the opinion and serving public relations to gain positive attitudes of the public.

Then, the Union minister gave gifts to the staff.

He finally inspected the printing factory of Sub-Printing House (Mandalay), CTP (Computer to Plate) and the Advertising Department, and greeted the employees cordially.—MNA

MoTC Union Minister makes inspection tour in Ayeyawady Region



UNION Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San inspected the measures to prevent riverbank erosion at Lawkananda pagoda and Cable Landing Station of SEA-ME-WE-5 in Pathein Township of Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

First, the Union minister went to the Ngawun riverbank erosion prevention works at the foot of Lawkananda pagoda and sand quarrying processes at upstream.

Then, he stressed the need to maintain the riverbank affect-

ed by erosion as per the standards and preparations for sand mining at certain places not to occur further riverbank erosion.

The Union minister and party inspected the harbour of Myanma Port Authority at Wedaunt jetty in Pathein Township and highlighted the repair works on the harbour and sand mining process near it.

He went to the Cable Landing Station of SEA-ME-WE-5 and talked about the proper international communication system and timely maintenance works on the disconnection of submarine ca-

bles and land cables.

During the meeting with the departmental staff of the ministry, the region-level officials reported on the ongoing work plans, budget raising and expenditure and allowance for staff.

Then, the Union minister stressed the need to improve the missions, duties and abilities of the departments concerned, effective public transport and services, security affairs for staff and natural disaster prevention and adherence to COVID-19 health rules according to the SOP. —MNA

MoSWRR Union Minister meets IOM Chief of Mission

UNION Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement met Mr Dragan Aleksoski, Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration-IOM at the ministry's meeting hall on 9 September.

Both parties discussed cooperation efforts and the progress of the Memorandum of Understanding-MOU signing negotiation with the Department of Disaster Management.

The IOM discussed matters related to humanitarian assistance to internally dis-

placed persons-IDPs and the Union minister re-discussed the support and assistance to IDPs from Rakhine, Chin, Kayah and Shan (South) States and the Magway Region, the government's plan for the repatriation of IDPs from Rakhine State and the project activities for Rakhine State development by signing an MOU with India.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister U Aung Tun Khine, the permanent secretary and directors-general from respective departments. —MNA



The MoSWRR Union Minister holds talks with the IOM Chief of Mission for Myanmar on 9 September.

Daily newspapers available online

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Seven Myanmar trafficked victims return home

DUE to the cooperation between Myanmar-Dubai Police Forces, the human traffickers were transferred and seven Myanmar women were sent back to the country, according to Myanmar Police Force.

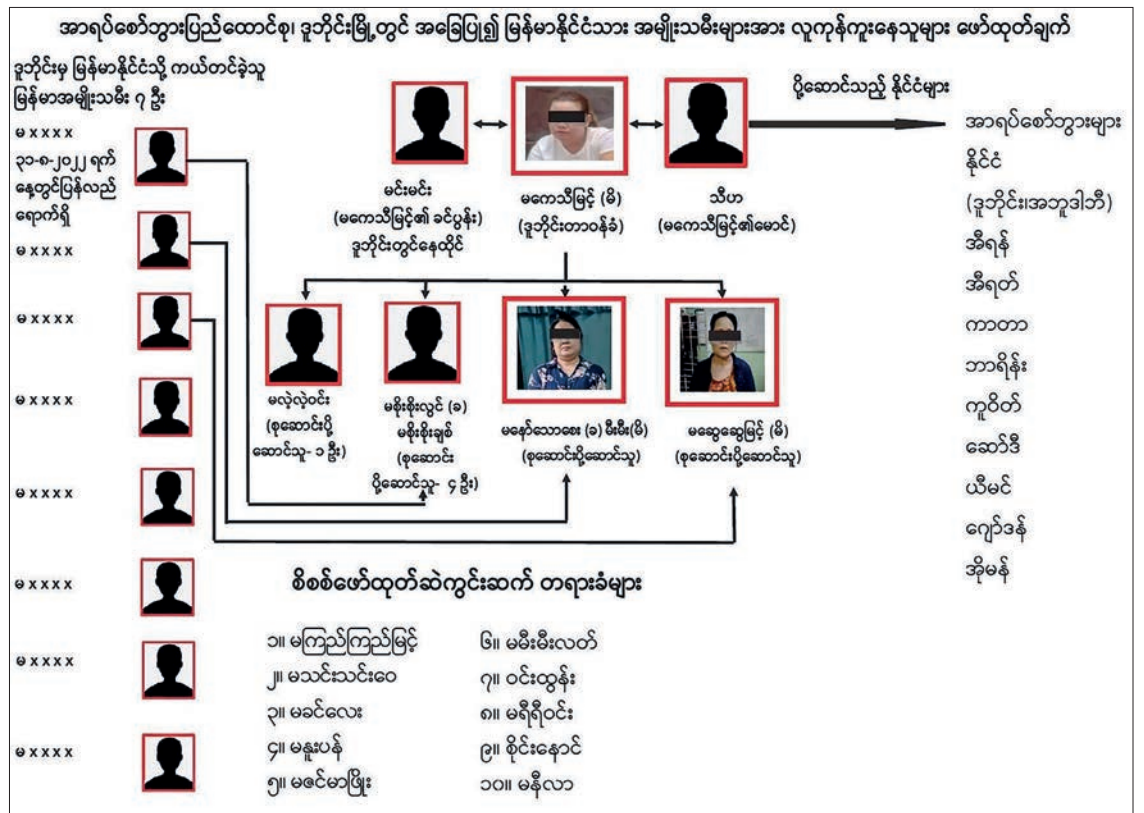
According to police, investigations were conducted in early August as one Myanmar citizen group living with a permanent residence permit in Dubai, the UAE, convinced the Myanmar young women by promising a well-paying job in Dubai and sold to “Iran, Iraq, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi, Yemen, Jordan and Oman.”

On 25 August, one seven Myanmar women group went live on Facebook asking for help as they got into trouble in Dubai. They said Ma May Phone (aka) Ma Htet Htet (aka) Ma Kay Thi Myint offered them well-paying jobs for

ment and rented a small room paying fees for 10 days and so on. The officials of the Myanmar Police Force investigated the Facebook Live starting at 6 pm on 25 August and were able to contact these seven Myanmar women on messenger at 7:25 pm on 26 August and knew their location at 8 pm on the same day.

According to the online investigation of the police, the suspect Kay Thi Myint persuaded the young Myanmar girls by promising illegal jobs, trafficking them to third countries, threatening the victims if they did not accept their plans, asking for compensation and exploiting their salary for three or six months. Therefore, a case was opened at the Tamway Myoma police station in Yangon.

On the afternoon of 26 Au-



The network of human traffickers and their trafficking channels.



Trafficking victims safely arrive back in Myanmar.



trafficking on 31 August.

With the cooperation work of the Myanmar Police Force, Dubai Police Force and Interpol NCB (Abu Dhabi), and the efforts of the Myanmar Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the Myanmar government repatriated the suspect Kay Thi Myint and seven victims in Myanmar National Airlines UB-9502 at 9 pm local time of Dubai on 8 September and they arrived at Yangon International Airport at 4:30 am yesterday.

The suspect Kay Thi Myint will face legal actions for trafficking Myanmar girls in 2021 and 2022 and Myanmar Police Force will keep investigating to arrest the remaining suspects, supporters and groups that offer jobs illegally.

The seven victims will be sent to their parents after a proper interview. —MNA

the position of a housemaid in Dubai and they were not employed for over three months, they were kept in a small room for over one month. Ma Kay Thi Myint took all the passports. They will be sent to Iraq and have to give K10 million if they don't want to go there. They run away from the apart-

ment, Myanmar Police Force reported to Dubai Police Force in the UAE and Naif Police Station in Dubai and exchanged information with Interpol at the same time. According to such efforts of the Myanmar Police Force, seven Myanmar women were sent to the Dubai women's care centre under the

arrangement of the Dubai Police Force on 26 August.

According to the investigation, Mee Mee (aka) Naw Thaw Sae living in Myanmar who sent Myanmar women to the suspect Kay Thi Myint living in Dubai was detained at the Tamway Myoma Police station on 26 August and Ma Swe Swe Myint

(aka) Athay Lay on 29 August.

Myanmar Police Force kept reporting the timely news to Dubai Police Force and Interpol NCB (Abu Dhabi) and the suspect Kay Thi Myint was arrested by Dubai Police Force on 30 August. Interpol released Red Notice that Kay Thi Myint was a fugitive who committed

2022 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Days' Objectives

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

CURRENT AFFAIRS

171 Myanmar migrant workers transferred from Thailand

A total of 171 Myanmar migrant workers: 125 males and 46 females, who were charged and stranded in Thailand for various reasons, arrived in Kawthoung on 8 September via Ranong, Thailand by boat.

It is reported that they were handed over to responsible organizations. Myanmar migrant workers were stuck in Thailand for various reasons during the COVID-19 outbreak and were prosecuted.

Kawthoung district and township administrative officials, health staff, departmental personnel and NGOs are examining the COVID-19 infection. Non-Myanmar nationals were also screened for the virus and provided with food, health and necessary assistance.

Those who had been vaccinated twice received the third dose while those who had never been inoculated and vaccinated once were tested for infection. They undergo surveillance for three days with men and women being separated at three quarantine centres in Kawthoung. Then, they can return to their home unless they are infected. — TWA/GNLM

Some shopping centres put limit on sales per capita

THE sales of some commodities such as instant noodle, edible oil and MSG are limited per capita at some shopping centres, Ma Aye, a shopper from Lanmadaw Township, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Commodities prices are soaring in Yangon markets. There are price changes at shopping centres as well. As the prices of some products have remained unchanged yet, buyers keep those goods in hands, forcing the retailers to put a limit on sales of some products.

A customer is limited to buying only two packs of instant noodles. The retail price of instant noodles is K350-400 per pack. One packet of instant noodles that contain 5 packs costs only K1,500-1,550 at shopping centres.

Only sunflower oil, sesame oil and peanut oils are available at the centres for now. I cannot find any palm oil and vegetable oil at mall shelves on 9 September; Daw Wai Wai Lwin, a shopper, shared her experience with the GNLM.

A customer is entitled to buy only two bottles of branded sunflower oil as well. A bottle of sunflower oil (0.9 litre) is priced at K7,200. Price tag mention two bottles per capita. Meanwhile, some other brands do not make the limit. A popular branded peanut oil is nowhere to be found at the shopping centres in recent days.

The peanut oil prices range between K16,200 and K21,000 per viss. A peanut oil worth K16,200 per viss has also limited sales with the price tag mentioning two bottles per capita. At present, the prices of peanut and sunflower oil have become the same, as a seller. Furthermore, only two packs of 500-gramme MSG are limited per capita, according to the buyers seen at the cash counter.

Majority of the MSG buyers are street food sellers. Only small number of packs of 10 eggs are seen on 9 September. One pack of 10 eggs is worth at K2,000-2,300.

Meanwhile, free-range eggs are priced at K2,900 per 10 eggs. Locally produced tea leaf pack is



Some grocery items on the mall shelves are seen at a shopping centre.

valued at K2,000 per 100-gramme box, which rose from K1,600. The prices of 200-gramme box increased from K3,200 to K3,800, according to price tags of mall shelf. In 2021, the price of sweetened condensed milk can was only around K1,000. In September 2022, the price nearly tripped to K2,950 per can. Similarly, the price of a pack of 1,000-gramme milk powder doubled to K8,000 in recent days compared to that of 2021.

Panic buying is rarely seen in

the difficult times. However, limited sales on the locally products are still witnessed at the centres.

A soap bottle worth K11,000 is discounted at K9,000 in July. In the first week of September, the price rose to K13,500.

The price of a 500 sheet-A4 paper package also jumped to K13,500 from K7,000 in two months. The price tags of the shopping centres indicate the rocketing prices of food items and consumer products vividly, the consumers said. — TWA/GNLM

Two Myanmar women saved from charges in Thailand

TWO Myanmar women have been rescued from imprisonment for displaying fake dollars as show money at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Thailand, according to the statement of the Myanmar Labour Attaché office on 9 September.

In the case of the four Myanmar women – Ma Than Yu May, Ma Phyo Zar Wai, Ma Lin Lin Wai and Ma Khin Yu May – who will be working in Thailand, when they arrived at Suvarn-

abhumi Airport on 12 February the authorities found fake dollars, which were shown at Immigration Control as show money. They were imprisoned for possession of fake dollars at Samut Prakan jail.

They were sent by the Wai Yan Htoo agency, which is also fake, with an airline to Thailand on 11 February. Their families had no contact with them so they asked for help from the Myanmar Labour Attaché office on

8 April. After investigation, Ma Than Yu May and Ma Phyo Zar Wai were sentenced to two years and six months with fines and house arrest/deportation. They were rescued with the help of Thai lawyers from Samut Prakan Jail and transported to Myawady via the Mae Sot border on 30 May.

Furthermore, Ma Lin Lin Wai and Ma Khin Yu May were charged with making and having fake dollars. Efforts are ongoing with the assistance of Myanmar

and Thai lawyers for the reduction of punishment.

Regarding Myanmar migrant workers travelling by airlines, they need the address in Thailand, 20,000 baht for individuals and 40,000 baht for family (an equivalent amount of dollars) for show money. They can get help by contacting 020030015 or via social media page's messenger, according to the Myanmar Labour Attaché office. — TWA/GNLM



Three arrestees are seen together with seized accessories and a motorbike.

3 arrested for possessing over K8 mln counterfeit notes with accessories used in counterfeiting

AUTHORITIES arrested three men along with over K8 million of forged notes and accessories used in counterfeiting in Myitkyina on 8 September.

According to the information, Paing Lin Htwe (aka) Kar-yan Phyo, aged 23 and Paing Soe Thu (aka) Kama, aged 27, who lived in the Shan Su Ward (South), Myitkyina, were arrested and examined by authorities. They confiscated one original K10,000 note, 27 fake K10,000 notes, four packs

of 100 counterfeit K10,000 notes covered with Yoma Bank label straps, a pack of forged K5,000 notes and two cellphones.

During the investigation of the two suspects, they committed a crime with their housemate Aung Thura, aged 21 and there are still more counterfeit notes out there, they admitted. Thus, officials were able to seize a cellphone, a stack of 15 counterfeit K10,000 notes wrapped with a Yoma Bank label strap, 87 K10,000

notes, 90 K10,000 notes, two packs of 100 K10,000 notes, a printer EPSON CL3210 which is used in counterfeiting, one original K10,000 notes used for scanning, one A4 paper pack containing 50 papers and accessories: knife, rubber rings, steel ruler, paper cutter and wires. Those found guilty of possessing and using counterfeit notes were charged under Sections 105/106 of the Central Bank of Myanmar Law. — TWA/GNLM

OPINION

Honour golden hand owners of first-aid treatment

THE second Saturday of September falls on 10 September this year. More than 100 Red Cross and Red Crescent societies around the world have been marking World First Aid Day since 2000 so as to raise public awareness of how first aid activities can save lives every day and in situations of crisis.

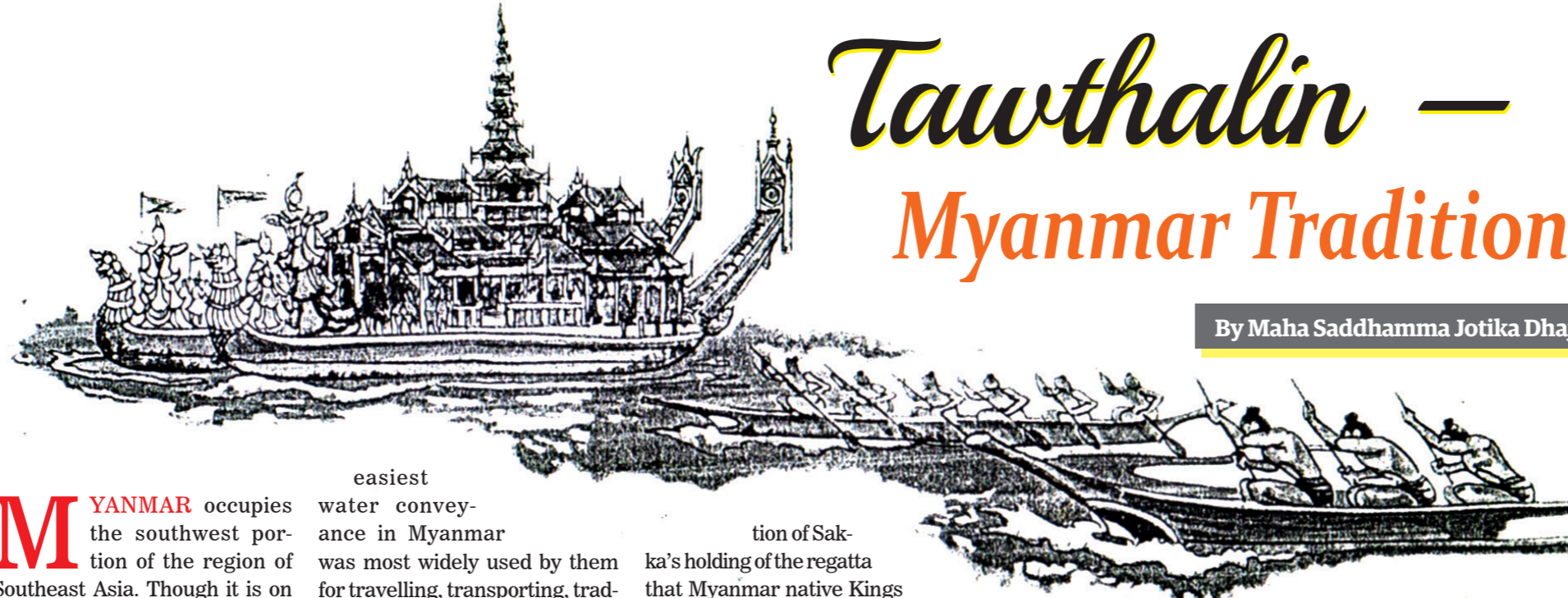
The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) believes that first aid should be accessible to all including the most vulnerable, and should also be an integral part of a wider developmental approach.

Most of the accidents may leave injuries and deaths. Likewise, most of the attacks caused by humans or animals may bring casualties to society. Moreover, people may face loss and damage of property and death and injuries in natural disasters. In these cases, as bleeding may be harmful to life, emergency patients need first-aid treatment for saving their lives.

In Myanmar, many voluntary organizations especially the Red Cross brigades under the Myanmar Red Cross Society are reserved forces of the nation in order to save the people in various kinds of crises due to unexpected occurrences. Members of those organizations prioritize the first-aid treatments to be given to the injured persons by setting aside their interests and own affairs. They apply first-aid techniques they learned in saving injured persons and persons suffering unexpected shocks.

First aid is about the first response after injury and it can be done by anyone, friends, teachers, colleagues and paramedics. It is necessary to give training on techniques of first-aid treatment to the youths of school students as part of nurturing them as new generation forces. It is necessary to reinforce the first-aid knowledge of students and introduce the work of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent. Moreover, student youths need to be introduced to a global angle the World First Aid Day by asking students to consider access to first aid in more deprived communities and overseas. If so, student youths will have a golden hand to give first-aid treatment to those from accidents.

■



Tawthalin — Myanmar Traditional Regatta

By Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja, Sithu Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

MYANMAR occupies the southwest portion of the region of Southeast Asia. Though it is on the mainland it is not landlocked. Myanmar is accessible to the sea which neighbours it on the West and South. A very long coastline runs from where Bangladesh and Myanmar meet, right down to the most southern tip near the Isthmus of Kra where Thai and Myanmar borders co-terminate. This long coastline has three sections – the Rakhine coastline, the coastline of the Ayeyawady and the Taninthayi coastline - they form on the map the shape of figure 4. Its rivers flowing mostly from north to south pass through its States and Regions and thus provide a network of natural communication. The four main rivers, the Kaladan, the Ayeyawady, the Sittoung and the Thanlwin with their tributaries and distributaries emptying themselves into the Indian Ocean serve as a means of contact not only between Myanmar nationalities but also with the outside world. There are natural lakes such as Indawgyi, Inlay, Reh, Kyi Pyu Kan, Maing Tone etc to mention but a few, let alone many dams and canals dug at different places in different periods of its history. This presence of water almost everywhere in the country has blessed its inhabitants with a thriving amphibious environment.

Hydric civilizations grew up along the coasts and the rivers — the Rakhine kingdoms on the western coast, the Mon kingdoms on the deltaic and Taninthayi coasts, the Pyu, Tagaung, Bagan, Sagaing, Pinya, Innwa, and Konbaung kingdoms along the Ayeyawady and the Taungoo kingdom on the bank of the Sittoung. Each of them had its own aquatic legend formed and tradition set since the beginning of its founding. The boat, the earliest and

easiest

water conveyance in Myanmar

was most widely used by them for travelling, transporting, trading, fighting, and amusement. Although other better and larger carriers such as rafts, barges and ships had been invented, the boat remains today the common water transport in Myanmar. Boat not only plays a major role in the daily life of Myanmar people but also holds the pride of place in Myanmar culture. One of the twelve Myanmar traditional festivals of the calendar is the “Ye Khin Taw” or “The Royal Regatta” held in the month of Tawthalin (late September). The astrological name of Tawthalin is Kanya (Virgo) which heralds the open season because the monsoon gradually thins out as it is about to recede this month leaving the rivers and lakes brimful with rainwater. The comparatively calm weather of this month favours the holding of boat races.

Pyu, Mon, Rakhine, Myanmar and Shan Kings all shared the same cultural background. Although they embraced Theravada Buddhism as their devotedly professed Faith, their culture was tinged with the impact of animism and Brahmanic Hinduism which predated Buddhism. Court ceremonies reflected Brahmanic mythologies and rites and Royal Regatta was no exception. All indigenous kings of Myanmar claimed that they belonged to the Adicca Vamsa i.e Solar race, as such, they were entitled to perform the ploughing ceremony in June when the southwest monsoon begins and the ceremony of boat race in late September when the monsoon is about to end. Sakka the god of Thunder one of the important deities in the Brahmanical Pantheon holds his boat festival in the sacred River Mandakini in his celestial kingdom of Tavatimsa. It was in imita-

tion of Sakka’s holding of the regatta that Myanmar native Kings performed yearly the ceremony of boat races.

The most popular boat legend was associated with one prominent King of the Bagan dynasty by the name of Alaung Sithu (Mani Sithu) (AD 1112-1167) who lived longest and reigned longest. Besides being the greatest builder of pagodas, monasteries and canals, this King was the most enthusiastic traveller. He spent much of his time on water journeys both inland and abroad. Legend has it that the Barge he used was built of wood that contained a philosopher’s stone. This stone gave the Barge the supernatural power of turning into the water at any place the King pointed. The King sailed from the port of Pathein to start his sea voyages which took him to Malaya, the isles of Rakhine and “the Indian land of Bengal”.

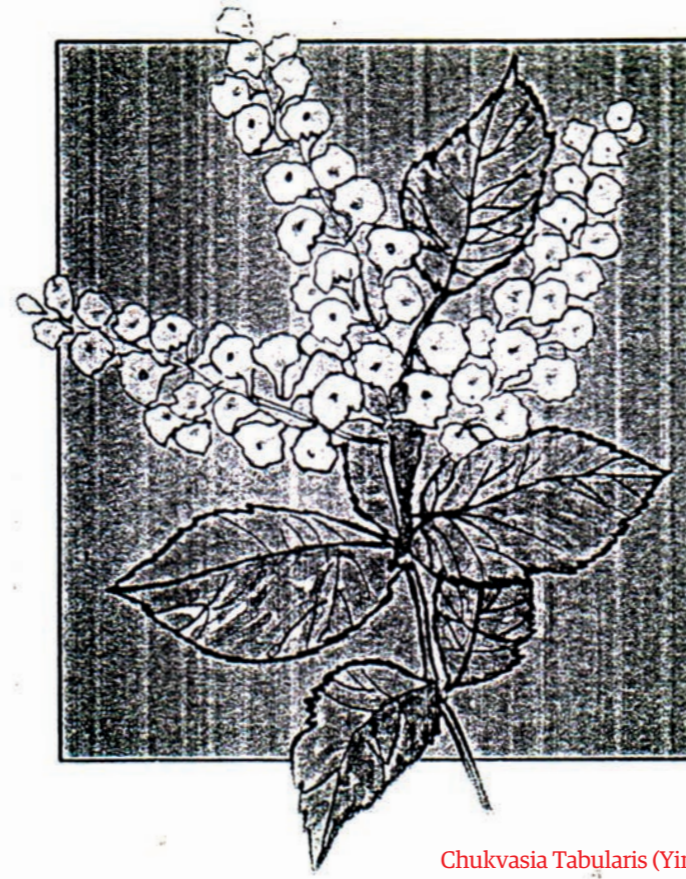
Legend claims that King Alaung Sithu nearly reached Mount Meru but for the interruption of Sakka the Thunder god who gave him celestial gifts and persuaded him to turn back. Like Ulysses of the ancient Greek epic Odyssey, Alaung Sithu encountered many fantastic adventures during his sea journeys. When he came to the Malay peninsula, Sakka again appeared and presented him with a magic tree. Alaung Sithu made a boat out of this tree which became known as Sakka Dana Boat or the Boat presented by Sakka. Later it was corrupted to sound like Thakadan Boat. As he proceeded his Barge came to halt at an island on which was found a big nest built of elephant tusks in which a monster reptile live. The creature had killed many elephants to eat their brains and used their tusks for its

nest. While the reptile was away hunting for prey. Alaung Sithu’s men broke up its nest took the tusks on board and the Barge left. The monster on returning from the hunt found no more of its nest. Furiously it swam across the ocean to chase the Barge. Being exhausted and unable to catch up with the Barge it showed its head, tail and four legs spread out to impress the King. Then it turned back. In memory of this encounter, the King made a boat in the shape of the reptile and named it “E Kin Boat” (This Reptile Boat). Another name for the Reptile Boat is “Hlaw Ka Taw Gyi” (The big Royal Boat with oars spread out like the legs of the Reptile).

Legends apart, what remains till today are many Phaungdaw-U Pagodas all over Myanmar. They are the pagodas built to mark the sites where Alaung Sithu’s Royal Barge halted for a sojourn. So such pagodas are found on the seacoast, on the river bank or on the island in the lake. Well-known are Paungdaw-U Pagoda in Inlay Lake in southern Shan State, Phaungdaw-U Pagoda in Minbu, Phaungdaw-U Pagoda in Thayetmyo, and Phaungdaw-U Pagoda in Mogok. All claimed to have been built by King Alaung Sithu. Their annual festivals hold boat races. The Inthas, the inhabitants of Inlay Lake believe that their ancestors were from Dawei, a seacoast town in the Taninthayi Region, who joined the flotillas of Alsung Sithu when the King’s Barge arrived there. They came with the King to Inlay Lake where they were given settlements by the King. Today the Inthas build their houses facing

south i.e. in the direction of Dawei, as they feel nostalgic for their ancestors’ home town. They are expert leg rowers because of their Dawei descendency. Some similarities in dialect and accent, customs and habits of the Inthas and Daweithas suggest that the two peoples must have had historic connections.

Myanmar traditional warfare mentioned four armed forces — infantry, elephantry, cavalry, and chariotry. This is theoretically in



Chukvasia Tabularis (Yin Ma)

line with the warfare described in the Jataka stories. But in practice, there was no chariotry in Myanmar military organization. Chariots or rather coaches were used only for ceremonial purposes. Instead of chariotry, archery and fleets of war boats were employed in fighting. Ar-

chery was gradually replaced by gunnery and artillery in the late 14th or early 15th century but the fleet remained an essential force throughout. Military campaigns were led by land and water, and battles were fought on grounds as well as on water. Innwa’s Kings defended their Capital or attacked their enemies by the army and navy. The position of Ratanapura (Innwa) at the confluence of five rivers — Ayeyawady, Samon, Duthtawady, Zawgyi and Panlaung provided a favourable location for holding boat races in peacetime. This is also true of Mon Capital Hanthawady situated on the bank of the Bago River. King Razadarit (1385-1423),



Queen Shin Saw Pu (1453-1472), King Dhammazedi (1472-1490) and King Banyan Dala (1747-1757) kept good fleets of water conveyances for both peaceful and military uses. King Bayint Naung (1551-1581) enlarged his armed forces by building many war boats of various sizes equipped with

modern weapons supplied by the Portuguese. They were employed in his unifying campaigns as well as in despatching his envoys to foreign countries. With his magnificent fleet, he went in state to Pathein to welcome and receive the religious mission from Ceylon (Sri Lanka) bringing a replica of the Sacred Tooth and other religious gifts for him. In 1553 AD he built a grand new palace named “Kambawza Thadi” and in 1566 AD he founded a new Capital “Hanthawady”. On all such auspicious occasions, boat races were held as part of public celebrations.

Command of the sea was a strategic necessity for the Rakhine Kings if they were to hold their way in the Bay of Bengal. So they built strong armadas which they stationed along their coast to ward off the invaders from the sea and constructed stone fortresses to defend their Capitals against the besiegers.

Kings Minbin (AD 1531-1553) and Minyazagyi (AD 1593-1612) were founders of the Rakhine navy which their successors made use of. With a fleet of 200 sea-going crafts as big as galleys King Minkhamaung (AD 1612-1622) broke the power of the Portuguese in his dominions and King Sandathudama (AD 1652-1684) re-pulsed the invading Moghuls. The period 1550-1666 was the peak of Rakhine power sustained by well-armed warships. Myanmar’s counterpart of King Min Khamaung was King Anaukpet Lun (AD 1605-1628) second King in the line of the Nyaung Yan dynasty. It was he who in 1613 marched on Innwa to Thanhlyin by land and water to break up the Portuguese stronghold under the command of the notorious Feringhee adventurer named Philip de Brito. The King employed 120,000 men and 400 vessels of considerable strength. Thanhlyin was captured and destroyed and its master De Brito was impaled to death.

Among the Konbaung Kings Alaungpaya (AD 1752-1760), Sinbyushin (AD 1763-1776), Bodawpaya (AD 1782-1819), and Thawaddy (AD 1837-1846) were noted for their naval strength which they used for fighting as well as for display. The first three Kings des-patched flotillas of war canoes loaded with men of arms to fight local and foreign wars. In September 1841 King Thawaddy and his court came down

to Yangon with 25,000 men via the Ayeyawaddy River with the declared reason of ‘worshipping at the Shwe Dagon Pagoda. But the ulterior motive was to alarm the British by the display of his military strength. Boat races were held at the celebration of the victory of naval battles or military displays.

Myanmar chronicles and literature have references to boat races. There are music and songs composed especially for this occasion. One particular piece of literary work which describes graphically Myanmar’s traditional regatta deserves mention here. It is “Tayoke Than Yauk Mawgun” (A poem recording the arrival of the Chinese Embassy). Mawgun is a kind of poetic composition that records an event or events of historical importance. This Mawgun was composed by one Poet laureate called Nawade the Second whose literary works included 14 Mawguns and 6 Ratus.

Myanmar and China had exchanged diplomatic missions with complimentary gifts and religious relics since the time of the Pyu Kings. Successive Kings in both countries had kept this customary practice as their time-honoured tradition. During the reign of King Bagyidaw (AD 1819-1837) one Chinese embassy arrived bringing credentials and royal gifts to be presented to the King. Bagyidaw gave a grand reception to the Chinese envoys. They were accorded the warmest welcome and first-class treatment. A magnificent Regatta was held in their honour. Grand titles were conferred upon them in addition to the costly presents they received. When they returned home, a Myanmar embassy was sent to the Court of

Beijing: with royal letters and gifts. They were given equal treatment. They saw the Great Gala of Fireworks held for five successive nights. After fulfilling their assignments Myanmar envoys returned to Innwa. Bagyidaw rewarded them with promotion titles and gifts. All these events were recorded in the 62 stanzas of the said Mawgun which was completed and submitted to the King in February 1823. The holding of the Royal Regatta was described in fine poetic language in stanzas 16 to 28. From them, we learn that the following boats and barges participated in the races.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

LOCAL BUSINESS



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

Sugarcane price set at K90,000 per tonne for upcoming sugarcane season

MONGYAI Sugar Mill notified sugarcane growers that sugarcane will be offered at K90,000 per tonne for the upcoming sugarcane season.

Last 2021-2022 sugarcane season, the price was quoted at K60,000 per tonne only. This year, the offering price increased on account of the rise in sugar price, high agricultural input cost and expansion of acreage, sugar and sugarcane businesspersons said.

Despite the price hike, sugarcane growers called for better deals amid the soaring input cost and fuel price spike.

Low inventory in domestic markets and lack of sugar imports pushed the sugar price to

the highest. In the 2019-2020 season, sugar prices stayed below K1,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes). The prevailing price of sugar surged to K2,260 per viss.

Ngwe Yee Pale Sugar Company has planned to provide K200,000 per acre in advance for those growers who are interested in sugarcane cultivation due to the price rise. The plan aims to support sugar production for the 2023-2024 season.

Approximately, 450,000 acres of sugarcane are grown across the country this year with an annual production of 450,000 tonnes of sugar. Sugar was conveyed to China and Viet Nam in

the past years beyond self-sufficiency. Now, it is only shipped to Viet Nam, according to Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane-related Products Entrepreneurs Association.

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. Once growing sugarcane can be harvested three years in Myanmar.—NN/GNLM

10 Singapore-listed enterprises put FDI of over \$1 bln in Myanmar as of 31 Aug

TEN Singapore-headquartered enterprises pumped foreign direct investments of US\$1.089 billion into Myanmar in the past five months (April-August) of the current financial year 2022-2023, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration's statistics showed. Singapore companies mainly put investments into urban development, real estate, power and manufacturing sectors.

Also, Qatari telecommunication company Ooredoo has signed an agreement to sell its Myanmar unit to a Singapore-based firm.

Hong Kong SAR stood as the second largest investor this FY with an estimated capital of over \$70.239 million drawn by seven projects. China is ranked third in the investment line-up with more than \$56.7 million from 15 projects.

One enterprise each from Brazil, Japan and China (Taipei) also made investments in the past four months respectively. The existing enterprises from China (Taipei), China, Hong Kong SAR, the Republic of Korea, India and Thailand also increased investments.

Myanmar Investment Commission gave green light

to 35 foreign projects, with an estimated capital of \$1.23 billion during the April-August period, DICA's statistics indicated.

Those enterprises are to execute in agriculture, manufacturing, power, real estate and service sectors respectively. Myanmar has attracted foreign direct investment of more than \$647.127 million from 49 enterprises in the past mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022), according to the statistics released by the DICA.

Singapore stood as the largest foreign investor in Myanmar in the previous years, pulling in the FDI of \$1.85 billion in the FY2019-2020, \$2.4 billion in the FY2018-2019, \$724.4 million in the mini-budget period (April-September, 2018), \$2.16 billion in the 2017-2018FY, \$3.8 billion in the 2016-2017FY, \$4.25 billion in the 2015-2016FY, \$4.29 billion in the 2014-2015FY, \$2.3 billion in the 2013-2014FY and \$418 million in the 2012-2013FY respectively.

Additionally, Singapore emerged as the second-largest foreign investor in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone after a top investor, Japan.—KK/GNLM

Peanut, sesame prices continue upward trajectory

THE prices of peanut and sesame seeds continue to rally in the domestic market, according to Mandalay's market price data.

In early August, the prices of sesame hit the highest of K135,000 per 45-viss bag of Niger seed, K190,000 per bag of brown sesame, K230,000 per bag of white sesame and K235,000 per bag of black sesame (Samone variety). The prices tremendously surged to K170,000 for Niger seed, K255,000 for brown sesame, K355,000 for white sesame and K320,000 for black sesame in early September. The price of various sesame seeds

showed a significant rise of K35,000 to K125,000 per bag in one month.

Similarly, the peanut prices moved in the range of K5,000 and K6,100 per viss depending on varieties in early August, whereas the price jumped to K6,200-7,200 per viss in early August. The figures reflected an increase of K500-1,400 per viss within one month.

After Myanmar's export ban on oil crops was eased and Kyat weakened against the US dollar in the local forex, the prices of peanut and sesame prices rose. At present, newly

harvested peanuts and sesame are entering the market when foreign demand dries up. The local millers are also increasingly purchasing them, according to the commodity depots.

Following the hikes of peanut and sesame prices, peanut oil is priced at K14,500 per viss and sesame oil fetched K11,000 per viss.

Last April, the world's top palm oil exporter Indonesia, which is one of the main oil suppliers to Myanmar, declared an export ban on cooking oil export to reduce the domestic shortage. Consequently, Myanmar's Trade



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

Department under the Ministry of Commerce temporarily suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) from 9 May in order to have oil self-sufficiency.

Exports of Myanmar's edi-

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

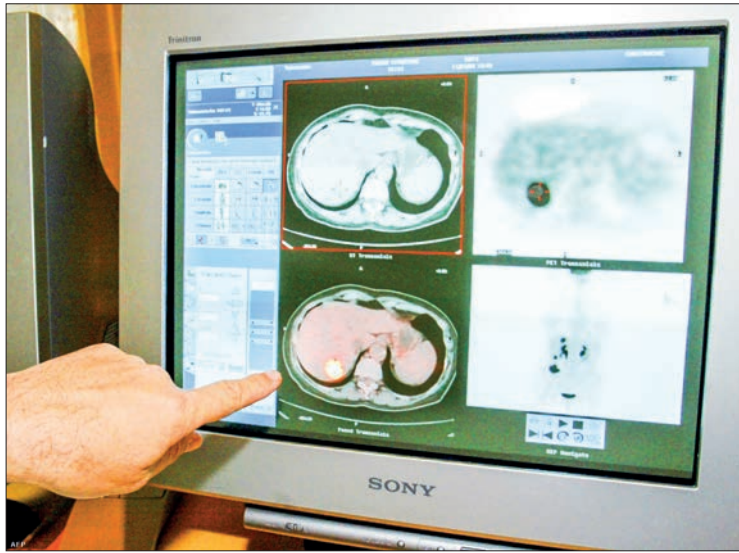
Vaccination, cancer, Ukraine on EU health ministers' agenda in Prague

HEALTH ministers of the European Union (EU) member states concluded an informal meeting in Prague on Wednesday dedicated to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fight against cancer and healthcare support for Ukraine.

"Today's discussions took place in light of the approval of the first adapted COVID-19 vaccines in the EU and the set of concrete measures we proposed last week to prepare for another challenging autumn and winter," European Commissioner for Health Stella Kyriakides told a press conference following the meeting.

She stressed "the urgent need" to have robust vaccination strategies in place in all member states in preparation for the months ahead.

"The pandemic is not over, and we need to communicate this clearly to citizens. Vaccination and boosting remain our strongest assets against the virus," she said.



Every year, 2.7 million people in the European Union (EU) are diagnosed with cancer, and 1.3 million die from it. **PHOTO: AFP**

EU health agencies on Tuesday issued considerations for the use of the newly authorized updated COVID-19 booster shots to support vaccination campaigns. They recommended prioritizing boosting with adapted vaccines for specific risk groups, such as those above 60 and persons with underlying health conditions.

The ministers also discussed the key health priorities: oncology, the availability of cancer care, early screening and the centralization of the complex networks of specialized centers across Europe. The EU's "Beating Cancer" plan was also on the agenda, according to the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU.—Xinhua

Mercury pollution makes ducks more likely to get bird flu: study

DUCKS contaminated by mercury pollution are significantly more likely to get bird flu, a study found Wednesday, pointing towards another way that human-driven changes to the natural world increase the risk of viruses spreading.

Bird flu rarely infects humans but persistent outbreaks in the US and UK among other countries have led to millions of poultry being culled so far this

year. Wild waterfowl such as ducks are believed to be super-spreaders of the virus in part because they travel so far as they migrate, potentially infecting other birds along the way.

For the new study, scientists shot down nearly 750 wild ducks from 11 different species in California's San Francisco Bay, which is in a migratory path that stretches from Alaska to Pata-



For the new study, scientists shot down nearly 750 wild ducks from 11 different species in California's San Francisco Bay, which is in a migratory path that stretches from Alaska to Patagonia. **PHOTO: AFP**

gonia. They then tested the ducks for mercury contamination and whether they were infected with bird flu — or had antibodies for the virus in their system.

The results, published in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, showed that ducks contaminated with mercury were up to 3.5 times more likely to have had bird flu at some point over the last year or so.

The study's lead author, Claire Teitelbaum, a quantitative ecologist at the USGS Eastern Ecological Science Centre, said mercury contamination "can suppress the immune system, and that might make infection with anything — including influenza — more likely".

The San Francisco Bay is also a "significant hotspot for mercury contamination in North America... largely from historical gold mining, where mercury was part of that process," she told AFP.—AFP

US law can't require coverage of HIV prevention drugs, judge rules

A US judge ruled Wednesday in favour of Christian employers who refuse, on religious grounds, to provide workers with health insurance that covers the cost of drugs that help prevent HIV/AIDS.

District Judge Reed O'Connor of a Texas federal court, known for making several rulings hostile to former president Barack Obama's sweeping healthcare law, took aim at a new aspect of the legislation nicknamed Obamacare.

The law requires private insurers to reimburse certain preventive care as defined by health authorities. In 2020, they included PrEP — pills that act to prevent HIV transmission.

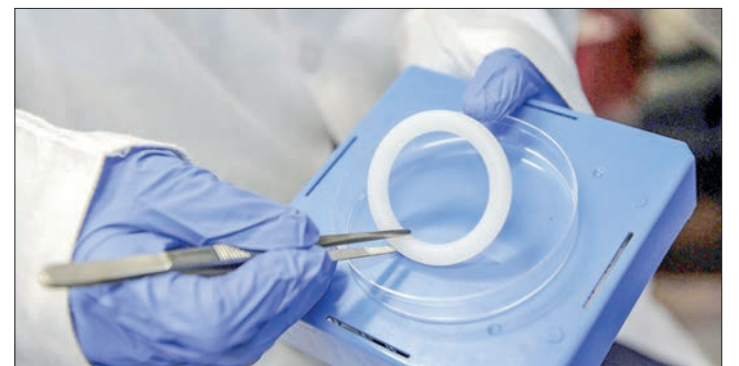
Two companies and several individuals went to court to challenge the coverage of the drugs, saying it violates their

religious beliefs by making them "complicit in facilitating homosexual behaviour," O'Connor said in his decision.

One of the plaintiffs was facing fines of \$100 per employee per day for failing to comply with the Obamacare law, said the judge, who ruled that the requirement to reimburse the cost of PrEP pills violates the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

President Joe Biden's Democratic administration will likely appeal the ruling.

"The administration is reviewing today's decision by the Northern District of Texas," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said on Twitter, noting that the Affordable Care Act "has been the law of the land for over 10 years."—AFP



The Dapivirine vaginal ring used in HIV prevention trials. **PHOTO: STEPHANE DE SAKUTIN/AFP**

Scientists warn of staying threats of coronavirus, long-time symptoms in US

WHILE the US health authorities and public start to take down COVID restrictions, many scientists warned that coronavirus is evolving in "worrying ways", calling for greater awareness of its threat.

According to an AP report on Tuesday, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention has dropped COVID-19 quarantine and distancing recommendations. Furthermore, more people have returned to pre-pandemic activities without wearing masks.

However, scientists said that the latest omicron variant

gaining ground in the United States, BA.4.6, appears to be even better at evading the immune system than the dominant BA.5.

According to health and medical experts cited in the AP report, getting vaccinated and boosted is an effective way to protect oneself from the virus, at least from severe disease and death.

In addition, "people can also keep protecting themselves by taking other precautions like, for example, wearing masks indoors when COVID rates are high," the report said.—Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

US launches Asia economic forum to counter China

THE United States began a series of meetings with ministers from the Asia-Pacific in Los Angeles on Thursday at an economic summit aimed at countering China's growing influence in the region.

The two-day event is the first face-to-face meeting between members of the new Indo-Pacific Economic Prosperity Framework (Ipef), an initiative launched in May by US President Joe Biden.

With this new trade partnership, the Biden administration hopes to reinforce its presence in

a region that felt cold-shouldered under former president Donald Trump.

Trump's isolationist "America First" policy saw him yank the United States from the Asia-focused trade agreement called the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a move criticized as ceding ground to China in an economically crucial part of the world.

"It's past time for the United States to have an affirmative concrete economic vision in the region," US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo said at the opening of the summit, not-

ing that the 14 members of the alliance account for more than 40 per cent of global GDP.

Washington hopes to forge common standards throughout the region, but without promoting access to its domestic market in the manner of a traditional free trade agreement.

Discussions will focus on four main points: the digital economy, supply chains, green energy, and the fight against corruption. The alliance has already been criticized as little more than a talking shop that offers nothing beyond symbolism.—AFP



US Trade Representative Katherine Tai speaks during a ministerial pillar meeting at the Indo-Pacific Economic Ministerial in Los Angeles, California. **PHOTO: AFP**

Facing beleaguered Europe, Norway keen to protect energy windfall



Offshore Norwegian platforms and facilities are running at full capacity to make up at least some of the shortfall. **PHOTO: XIANE LEROUGE / AFP**

NORWAY, a major producer and supplier of energy, is well placed to help alleviate Europe's energy crisis — and reap the profits, a situation not all of its European partners welcome.

The Nordic country was already a leading exporter of

electricity thanks to its many hydroelectric dams.

But since the cut in natural gas supplies from Russia following the invasion of Ukraine, it has now emerged as Europe's main supplier in that field.

Offshore, Norwegian plat-

forms and facilities are running at full capacity to make up at least some of the shortfall.

"The most important contribution Norway can make in the current situation is to maintain high gas production," oil and energy minister Terje Aasland told parliament last month.

The country is set to increase its gas exports by eight per cent this year, bringing production to a record 122 billion cubic metres, according to Aasland.

But the sharp rise in gas prices also means greater profits. The state's oil and gas revenues are expected to smash last year's record 830 billion Norwegian kroner (\$83 billion), potentially reaching 1.5 trillion in 2022 and 1.9 trillion next year, according to projections by Norda Markets.—AFP

Energy majors exaggerating green performance: analysis

ENERGY majors are exaggerating their green credentials in public messaging while continuing to allocate the majority of new investment to oil and gas projects, according to an industry analysis released Thursday.

Campaigners say this "significant misalignment" between communication strategies and business plans could allow five of the biggest privately-owned energy firms to continue to delay the decarbonisation needed to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Industry watchdog InfluenceMap analysed the content of more than 3,400 public communications from BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Shell and TotalEnergies in 2021, from press releases, speeches and

company and CEO social media accounts.

They found that 60 per cent of all messages contained at least one "green" claim — such as emissions reduction targets, transitioning the energy mix, or promoting fossil gas as part of a clean energy solution.

These public communications were found to contrast with the five's planned capital expenditure for 2022, with just 12 per cent of new investments earmarked for low-carbon activities. "You can see this real difference between a high use of green claims in public communications versus this ongoing strategy to kind of undermine and block climate policy," report co-author and program manager Faye Holder told AFP.—AFP

BoE defends itself against planned Truss review

THE Bank of England on Wednesday defended itself against accusations of being too slow to tackle sky-high inflation, as new Prime Minister Liz Truss plans a review of its independence.

BoE Governor Andrew Bailey told a parliamentary committee that maintaining independence on how to meet a government-set inflation target of two per cent was "very important".

He also expressed confidence in bringing down the rate

of UK inflation, even as the BoE forecasts it to keep soaring beyond the current 40-year high above ten per cent.

Bailey told lawmakers that Britain was "heavily exposed" to the surging price of gas after key producer Russia's attack on Ukraine.

Truss, who took office Tuesday following the resignation of scandal-hit Boris Johnson, has proposed examining the statute that gave the BoE operational independence over monetary policy in 1997.

Market watchers and some MPs within Truss' own Conservative Party have hit out at the BoE, accusing it of being too slow to react to soaring prices.

Truss will Thursday outline plans to freeze a looming surge in domestic energy bills as Britain suffers a cost-of-living crisis.

BoE chief economist Huw Pill, sitting alongside Bailey on Wednesday, said the package that is expected to be worth tens of billions of pounds (dollars) could "lower headline inflation".—AFP



Protesters hold smoke flares as they take part in a demonstration organized by the global environmental movement Extinction Rebellion and the Dutch climate activist group Code Rood at the Shell headquarters in The Hague on 18 May 2021. **PHOTO: BART MAAT/ ANP/AFP/FILE**

Online car giant Cazoo shuts EU ops to focus on UK

UK online used car retailer Cazoo will axe 750 jobs and shut EU activities including sport sponsorships in a cost-cutting overhaul to refocus on key market Britain, it said Thursday.

“Cazoo proposes to wind down operations in mainland Europe to focus on (the) core UK market,” it announced in a statement after a strategic review.

And it will curtail sport partnerships in mainland Europe, including shirt deals with French football clubs Lille and Olympique de Marseille.

Cazoo also sponsors Italy’s Bologna, Germa-



Cazoo, which is based in Britain but listed on the New York Stock Exchange, has now slashed almost a third of its workforce so far this year. **PHOTO: CAZOO**

ny’s Freiburg and Spain’s Valencia football teams, as well as the French Open golf tournament.

“In terms of sports sponsorships, Cazoo has a number of partnerships in mainland Europe and will work with their partners to ensure an orderly wind down of these relationships,” a spokesman

told AFP.

It had already axed 750 jobs three months ago, faced with soaring costs and the threat of recession. Cazoo, which is based in Britain but listed on the New York Stock Exchange, has now slashed almost a third of its workforce so far this year.—AFP

Apple unveils new gadgets despite supply chain woes

APPLE launched new smartphones Wednesday at prices similar to recent models despite inflation and supply chain woes, while unveiling a premium digital watch with a price tag to match.

While a 90-minute presentation at the company’s California headquarters did not include any surprise reveals, the

tech giant did unveil new digital identification system to obviate the need for a physical sim card.

The company’s newest smartphone, the iPhone 14, costs \$799 for the base model—the same price as the current version, while a premium iPhone 14 Pro Max will go for \$1,100.

The set of updated products, which also in-

cludes new earbuds, is designed to keep customers loyal to its lucrative technology ecosystem.

“Apple continued its strong growth in the first half of 2022, driven by robust demand for the iPhone 13—which was the best-selling smartphone worldwide,” said Le Xuan Chiew, an analyst at Can-

Transfer of Distributorship of Registered Pesticides

Distributor of the following pesticides, registered by Corteva Agriscience (Myanmar) Co., Ltd will be transferred from Myanma Awba Group Co., Ltd. located at No.95-A, KyaikWaing Pagoda Road, 8 Mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon, Myanmar to Corteva Agriscience (Myanmar) Co., Ltd. Located at Junction City Tower, #03-13, No.3/A, Corner of Bogyoke Aung San Road and 27th Street, Pabedan Township, Yangon. Any objection regarding to this transfer can be filed with the Co-Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayintnaung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within 14 days.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of Permit	Registration Number
1	Novlect™ 120 EC	Cyhalofop-butyl 10.64% w/w + Florpyrauxifen-benzyl 2.13% w/w EC	Provisional	P2022-4976

Corteva Agriscience (Myanmar) Co., Ltd
Ph: 01-9253390

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (242N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (242N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NORDBORG MAERSK VOY.NO. (233W/236E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORDBORG MAERSK VOY.NO. (233W/236E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

Changing Manufacturer Name for Registered Pesticides

Manufacturer Name of Pesticides **Novlect™ 120 EC (Cyhalofop-butyl 10.64% w/w+ Florpyrauxifen-benzyl 2.13% w/w EC)** Reg; No: P2022-4976, registered by Corteva Agriscience (Myanmar) Co., Ltd at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, is changing name from **PT.Dow AgroSciences Indonesia** to **PT.Corteva Agriscience Manufacturing Indonesia**. Any objection to this name change can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, West Gyogone, Insein, Yangon within 14 days.

Corteva Agriscience (Myanmar) Co., Ltd
Ph: 01-9253390

Ads

Call

09251022355

09974424848

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS FENJA VOY.NO. (036W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS FENJA VOY.NO. (036W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HANSA BREITENBURG VOY.NO. (234W/235E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HANSA BREITENBURG VOY.NO. (234W/235E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IONIC UNITED

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IONIC UNITED VOY.NO. (49)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

N Korea's Kim vows to never give up nukes amid US threat



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un says with the newly enacted law, the status of the country as a nuclear weapons state has become irreversible. **PHOTO: AFP**

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un has pledged his country will never give up its nuclear weapons, alleging the United States ultimately aims to cause the Pyongyang regime to collapse, state-run media reported Friday.

Kim made the remarks Thursday in a speech to the Su-

preme People's Assembly, the country's top legislature, which adopted legislation detailing its policy on the use of nuclear forces, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

The law said the country's nuclear forces "shall obey the monolithic command" of Kim, who shall have "all decisive pow-

ers concerning nuclear weapons" as supreme leader.

"In case the command and control system over the state nuclear forces is placed in danger owing to an attack by hostile forces, a nuclear strike shall be launched automatically and immediately to destroy the hostile forces," it said.

The KCNA said the country's status as a nuclear weapons state has become "irreversible" with the enactment of the nuclear force policy.

In April, Kim said in a speech that North Korea will bolster its development of nuclear weapons at an increased pace and use them if its fundamental interests are threatened.

North Korea is believed to have completed preparations for its seventh nuclear test and the first since September 2017, with speculation mounting that the Asian country may carry out it soon.—Kyodo

Four killed in Memphis shooting rampage, suspect arrested

A man killed at least four people and wounded three others in an hours-long shooting rampage across Memphis on Wednesday, before a high-speed chase that ended with his arrest, police in the US city said.

Officers identified the suspect as Ezekiel Kelly, 19, and said he was apprehended with two weapons in his vehicle at approximately 9:00 pm local time (01:00 GMT on Thursday).

"(Kelly) was taken into custody without incident by the Memphis police department and the Shelby County sheriff's office," said Memphis police chief Cerelyn Davis at a news conference.

Kelly is alleged to have killed his first victim just after midnight on Wednesday, and gone on a shooting spree across the Tennessee city in the afternoon and early evening, Davis said.—AFP



The suspect, identified as Ezekiel Kelly is alleged to have killed his first victim just after midnight on Wednesday, and gone on a shooting spree across the Tennessee city in the afternoon and early evening, police say. **PHOTO: SCREEN GRAB/AFP**

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Ukraine admits hitting Russian military bases in Crimea

VALERIY ZALUZHNYI, the commander in chief of Ukraine's armed forces, on Wednesday for the first time admitted that Ukraine had carried out missile strikes that hit Russian military bases in annexed Crimea.

Ukraine has "successfully carried out missile strikes on enemy military bases, including Saki airfield", Zaluzhnyi wrote in an article published by the state-run Ukrinform news agency.

Major blasts at the Saki



A top military official acknowledges that Ukraine was behind an attack on a Russian air base in Crimea. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

air base in Crimea last month, which left at least one person dead and destroyed military aviation hardware, have been explained by Moscow as an accident.

But analysts have said that satellite imagery pointed to a likely attack by Ukrainian forces, with no public acknowledgement by Kyiv officials at that time.

Ukraine's military sarcastically commented on Russia's

"technical difficulties", saying they may have been caused by smokers in unauthorized areas.

Zaluzhnyi hailed as "successful" the efforts of the Ukrainian armed forces to "physically transfer fighting" to the territory of Crimea in recent weeks.

Russia uses the peninsula as a major base to attack Ukraine after Moscow launched the invasion in February, but Crimea has rarely been targeted.—AFP

EU berates Belarus for detaining diplomat

THE European Union on Thursday blasted the authorities in Belarus for briefly detaining a senior EU diplomat in Minsk.

EU spokesman Petetr Stano said Brussels had summoned the Belarusian envoy to protest Tuesday's "unacceptable and deplorable" two-hour detention of its charge d'affaires.

"This illegal detention

of our diplomat is a serious breach of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations that guarantees the personal inviolability of diplomats, and undermines their security in Belarus," Stano said.

The EU diplomat was held by Belarusian police after leaving a court hearing where "10 political prisoners were sentenced to unjustifiably long and harsh sentences",

Stano said.

"We have demanded very strongly explanations for this grave incident and stressed that this cannot be repeated," Stano said.

Ties between the EU and Belarus have worsened sharply since President Alexander Lukashenko launched a brutal crackdown on opponents in the wake of a disputed 2020 election.—AFP

Both sides in Ukraine war face ammunition squeeze

WITH Ukraine dependent on Western military aid following Russia's invasion and Moscow burning through stocks and under sanctions, both sides fear exhausting their shells, bombs and missiles, experts say.

Moscow's economic exclusion means it is "having to buy artillery rounds from North Korea", Pentagon spokesman John Kirby told reporters recently,

pointing to deals for "millions of rounds, rockets and artillery shells".

Meanwhile Britain's Ministry of Defence said this week it "is likely that Russia is struggling to maintain stocks" of drones. Sanctions make it difficult for Moscow to obtain the vital components needed to replace drones destroyed in combat.—AFP

King Charles III starts reign as mourning begins for late queen



The new King Charles III, 73, has spent his life preparing to take the throne. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE**

KING Charles III on Friday readied to address his mourning subjects on the first full day of his new reign as Britain and the world commemorated the extraordinary life of his late mother, Queen Elizabeth II.

At 73, Charles is the oldest monarch yet to ascend the throne of the United Kingdom, following the death of his “cherished” mother at her Scottish estate of Balmoral on Thursday.

He was due to return to London from Balmoral, where the 96-year-old queen died “peacefully” after a year-long period of ill-health and decline, at the culmination of a record-breaking reign of 70 years. “During this period of mourning and change, my family and I will be comforted and sustained by our knowledge of the respect and deep affection in which the queen was so widely held,” Charles said in a

statement.

One of the planet’s most recognizable people, she was the only British monarch most people alive today had ever known.

The tributes were universal, including from Russia and China.

New York’s Empire State Building was illuminated after sunset in silver and royal purple, while the Eiffel Tower in Paris dimmed its lights in tribute.

President Joe Biden described Queen Elizabeth as “a stateswoman of unmatched dignity”, and relayed the comforting words she gave when the United States was plunged into mourning on 9/11.

They were the same words chosen by the Daily Telegraph for its sombre front-page: “Grief is the price we pay for love.”

Other British newspapers also printed special editions to mark the occasion. “Our hearts are broken”, headlined popular tabloid the Daily Mail.

The Mirror wrote simply: “Thank you.”—AFP

Thai court asks for more evidence in PM suspension case

THAILAND’S Constitutional Court on Thursday asked for more evidence as it considers whether to terminate suspended prime minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha’s term in office.

The court suspended the former army chief, who came to power in a 2014 coup, from office last month as it weighs a case brought by opposition parties arguing he had reached the end of his eight-year term limit and must step down.

Under Thailand’s 2017 constitution, no prime minister may serve more than eight years in office, but when Prayut’s term began is the subject of dispute.

The Constitutional Court said Thursday it required more information and reports from the official group that drafted the constitution.

Deputy Prawit Wongsuwan has taken over as caretaker prime minister, while Prayut continues to serve as defence



Anti-government protesters hold their mobile phones aloft as they take part in a pro-democracy rally in Bangkok on 19 Sept 2020. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

minister.

Prayut led the military coup that ousted Yingluck Shinawatra’s democratically elected government, and led the junta government until becoming prime minister after a general election in 2019.

Supporters of the 68-year-

old leader argue the clock on his term began when the 2017 constitution came into law, or even after the 2019 general election.

If the court agrees, Prayut could technically continue to serve until 2025 or 2027 — if he wins a general election due by March.—AFP

‘Everyone wants me to run in 2024’: Trump

DONALD Trump has dropped another hint at a White House campaign in 2024, with the former US president telling Indian television that a run for office would “make a lot of people very happy”.

“Everyone wants me to run. I am leading in the polls,” Trump said in an excerpt of an interview with NDTV to be broadcast in full later on Thursday.

“In every poll, in Republican polls and in Democrat polls, and I will make a decision in the very near future, I suspect. And I think that a lot of people are going to be very happy,” he added.

The billionaire former reality TV star, 76, also repeated false claims that the 2020

election in which he lost to current President Joe Biden was rigged.

“There is tremendous proof, there is tremendous evidence,” Trump said.

The Republican has faced intense legal scrutiny over his efforts to overturn the results of the poll and over an attack on the US Capitol by his supporters on 6 January last year.

Since leaving office, he has remained America’s most divisive figure, continuing to sow falsehoods that he won the vote.

He is currently under investigation for potential mishandling of classified documents, with the FBI raiding his Florida home last month.—AFP



Donald Trump has dropped another hint at a White House campaign in 2024, with the former US president telling Indian television that a run for office would “make a lot of people very happy”. **PHOTO: AFP**

Greece approves controversial US artefact deal

GREECE’S parliament on Thursday ratified a landmark deal for the acquisition of a prominent US archaeological collection whose provenance has sparked controversy among experts.

Under the terms of the agreement, 15 of the 161 Bronze Age antiquities formerly in the collection of US billionaire and philanthropist Leonard Stern will be displayed at the Museum of Cycladic Art in Athens for a year, Greek officials said.

These items — including idols, vases and bowls — will then be returned to the US and exhibited together as a collec-

tion at New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art until 2033.

After that, the Met will return 15 antiquities every five years, and as part of the deal will also receive additional antiquities from Greece on loan.

The main opposition leftist Syriza party has accused the government of failing to vet the provenance of the Stern collection and of thereby “laundering” the fruits of antiquity smuggling.

“The treasure held by Mr Stern has been illegally exported from Greece,” Syriza deputy Sia Anagnostopoulou told parliament on Thursday.—AFP

King Charles III starts reign as mourning begins for late queen
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SPORT



Myanmar team players are seen before leaving for Saudi Arabia at Yangon International Airport on 7 September 2022. PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar to play against China today in U-20 AFC Cup Qualifiers

THE 2023 Asian Cup U-20 qualifiers will be held today and Myanmar national men's football team will take on the Chinese team.

Myanmar team is placed in Group A together with China, host Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, and the Maldives.

Uzbekistan will play against the Maldives at 9:45 pm Myanmar Standard Time on 10 September and team Myanmar will

face the Chinese team at 1 am Myanmar Standard Time on 11 September.

As for the Uzbekistan team, they will host the final tournament and the results of the meeting with this team will not be taken into account because they have already qualified.

The qualifying matches of the Asian U-20 Championship will be contested by 44 teams

divided into 10 groups, and the first ten teams from each of the ten groups and the best five second-placed teams will advance to the next round.

As the Myanmar team is in the tough group, every match is important to win the qualifiers and they must get as many points as possible, said Myanmar team officials.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Napoli striker Osimhen out with thigh injury

NAPOLI striker Victor Osimhen will miss the Italian team's home fixture with Spezia on Saturday with a thigh injury, the Serie A club announced.

In a statement, Napoli said that the Nigeria forward had hurt the femoral bicep in his right thigh, an injury suffered in the first half of Wednesday's 4-1 hammering of Liverpool in Naples.

The 23-year-old was substituted

four minutes before half-time in the Champions League win at the Stadio Maradona and replaced by recent signing Giovanni Simeone. Osimhen is expected to be out until at least after this month's international break. He will almost certainly also miss next week's Champions League trip to Scottish club Rangers and their clash with title rivals AC Milan the following Sunday.—AFP

Coe pushing for Paris Olympic city events, confident of security

TRACK and field supremo Sebastian Coe is pushing organizers of the 2024 Olympics to include live events in downtown Paris in a bid to "democratize" sport, playing down any security fears over their hosting.

Before taking over as president of World Athletics, Coe headed up the organizing committee for the London Olympics

in 2012, widely regarded as one of the most successful in recent times. Athletics is touted as the premier sport of the Olympics and Coe is keen for certain events to be moved out of the Stade de France, north of Paris, into street locations to increase exposure.

"I would like to," Coe told AFP in an interview in Zurich,



World Athletics chief Sebastian Coe. PHOTO: AFP

host of the Diamond League finals. "And I know the International Olympic Committee (IOC) are keen and I have had these discussions with Tony (Estanguet) and Etienne (Thobois) (head and CEO of the Paris 2024 organizing committee respectively).—AFP

Premier League fixtures postponed following queen's death: statement



All Premier League matches this weekend have been postponed as a mark of respect following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, it was announced on Friday. PHOTO: AFP

ALL Premier League matches this weekend have been postponed as a mark of respect following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, it was announced on Friday. The English top flight took the decision despite guidance from the British government that cancelling sporting events was not compulsory during a period of national mourning. "At a meeting this morning, Premier League clubs paid tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II," the Premier League said in a statement. "To honour her extraordinary life and contribution to the nation, and as a mark of respect, this weekend's Premier League match round will be postponed, including Monday evening's game."

All matches in the English Football League and Women's Super League have also been postponed. Other sporting action in Britain scheduled for Friday, including Test cricket and European golf's PGA Championship, have been cancelled as a mark of respect. Those sports could restart over the weekend.

However, sporting chiefs have been advised to avoid any clash with a state funeral, the date of which has yet to be announced. "There is no obligation to cancel or postpone events and sporting fixtures, or close entertainment venues during the national mourning period," the government said in a guidance statement.—AFP