

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 2 September 2022

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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



The photo shows a landscape view of Yangon at the background of the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Real estate transactions bounce back

AS the dollar and gold prices are high, the real estate transactions bounce back in the market, according to the real estate agents.

On 31 August, pure gold was priced at K3.7 million per tical and the opening price was K3 million per tical on 1 September, according to the gold market.

The gold and dollar prices hit record highs and it affected the property market.

“The gold and dollar prices are increasing drastically. It is K4,500 per dollar in the mar-

ket. The gold price was K3.7 million yesterday. As the Myanmar kyat depreciates against the dollar, the people who have gold and dollars in hand intend to purchase real estate. On the

other hand, the property prices surge drastically,” real estate agent Ko Ye Win Aung told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

SEE PAGE-4

Plan to sell one-tical, 0.5-tical, 0.25-tical gold coins

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation stated that it is making arrangements for selling gold coins weighing one tical, 0.5 tical and 0.25 tical respectively for the people to be able to purchase freely.—MNA

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

SPTT, RCSS delegation continue third-day meeting

PAGE-3

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Rice prices stable despite rise in other commodity prices

PAGE-5

LOCAL BUSINESS

Agricultural machinery exempt from applying for import licence

PAGE-7



Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 61/2022

7th Waxing of Tawthalin 1384 ME
1 September 2022

Appointment and Duty-Assignment of Minister of Yangon Region

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned U Myo Myint Aung to the duties of Minister for Economy of the Yangon Region government under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By Order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Confirmed Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

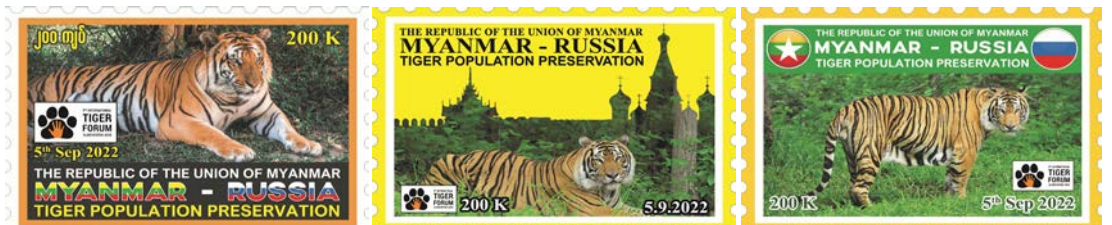
THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Win Naing Oo	Managing Director Myanma Economic Bank Ministry of Planning and Finance
(2) U Ye Nyunt	Director-General Pension Department Ministry of Planning and Finance

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

3 new special postage stamps to be issued to mark Myanmar-Russia Tiger Population Preservation



Three new special postage stamps.

THE Myanmar Post under the Ministry of Transport and Communications will issue three new postage stamps (worth K200 each) at 9:30 am on 5 September 2022 (11st Waxing of Tawthalin 1384 ME), for the International Tiger Population Preservation Forum to mark

the Myanmar-Russia Tiger Population Preservation that will be held in the Russian Federation. The special stamps will be sold at the Central Post Office in Nay Pyi Taw, General Postoffices in Yangon and Mandalay and other post offices in each region and state at the

same time.

As a special programme, the postage stamps purchased on 5 September 2022 at the Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, the Yangon Post Office and the Mandalay Post Office will have the embossed date marking. — MNA

94 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 1 September, total figure rises to 615,315

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **615,315** after **94** new cases— **6** imported and **88** local transmission—were reported on 1 September 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **593,652** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **19,439** after **one** died. —MNA

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

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council has released 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

Local people participation needed for disaster preparedness measures

NATURAL disasters are unpredictable and can break out at any time. This being so, I'd like to warn you of conducting disaster preparedness. Region-wise measures are needed to be taken to ensure a smooth flow of water to prevent floods from breaking out. In this regard, it is needed to alert the local populace against the outbreak of floods. Additionally, it is required to persuade them to take an active part in disaster preparedness measures.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the third-day coordination meeting held on 10 August 2022 in regard to matters relating to the activities being carried out by the Union Government)

SPTT, RCSS delegation continue third-day meeting

THE State Peace Talks Team continued its third-day meeting with the Restoration Council of Shan State-RCSS delegation at the meeting hall of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre yesterday morning.

State Administration Council Member Union Minister at the Union Government Office Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and members: SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun and NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung and RCSS Chairman General Yawd Serk, Secretary (1) Sao Sai Ngin

and Central Executive Committee Member Sao Saung Han participated in the meeting.

At the meeting, both parties discussed peace and development matters and signed the confirmed final agreements resulting from three days of negotiations.

Then, RCSS Chairman General Yawd Serk and Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae made their concluding remarks and presented the record book on the SAC's endeavours for the interests of the country published by the Ministry of Information, the Coalition Politics book, MRTV DTH receiver two feet satellite disc and gifts. —MNA



The third-day meeting between the State Peace Talks Team and the Restoration Council of Shan State-RCSS delegation is in progress yesterday.

MoI Union Minister discusses creating MTube video sharing and live streaming platform

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn attended the presentation session of the United Info-Sec Company regarding the MTube video sharing and live streaming platform yesterday.

First, the Union minister said the ministry is making changes upholding the three objectives – to inform, entertain and educate in accordance with the demand of time. In doing so, new MRTV channels are launched and media sectors are also expanded online. The media is essential to all sectors and it needs to be applied properly. The ministry drafted the MRTV application and it was removed from the platform and this destroyed the rights of people to receive



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn addresses the presentation session of the MTube video sharing and live streaming platform yesterday.

proper information. Despite challenges, the ministry is making efforts to fight false news and release true informa-

tion using various ways.

Nowadays, the ministry's news is restricted and removed on social media and it

is bullying using technology. Therefore, arrangements are being made to invent an MTube live streaming platform like

YouTube.

The Union minister continued that the ministry is responding to false news and information released by foreign media and media outlets that do not follow ethics.

He then exhorted the attendees to suggest providing the best services for the country and people in the educating, entertaining and informing sectors. Afterwards, Director U Kyaw Swar Min of the United Info-Sec Company clarified the MTube video sharing and live streaming platform.

The participants then asked what they wanted to know and the director and officials of the company responded to the queries. — MNA

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar 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.

59th Anniversary of Road Transport held



MoTC Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San addresses the 59th Anniversary of Road Transport event yesterday.

REVIEWING the strengths and weaknesses experienced through many years, staff are assignments unhesitatingly required to carry out their in accordance with the motto

“Transport and communications towards national interests,” said Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San on the 59th anniversary of Road Transport held at the office of the Ministry of Transport and Communications yesterday morning.

The Union minister continued to say that Road Transport is an enterprise that is responsible for transportation of not only goods and passengers but also equipment and machinery for national plans and that building infrastructure, maintenance, economy, effective supervision, adoption of rules and regulations and

capacity building of staff are the key requirements for the department to become a good and reliable transport service.

The Union minister spoke in honour of staff who perform their duties well and said that he put their services on record. Then, the Managing Director of Road Transport explained the history of the RT and the progress of work being implemented. Finally, the Union minister and deputy ministers awarded the first prizes to five outstanding employees and Good Public Service Medals to four employees. — MNA

Real estate transactions...

FROM PAGE-1

The property and apartment prices become stronger than before, depending on the exchange rate and gold prices, he continued.

“The flat that was priced K40 million before is sold at K50/60 million now. The detached house worth K80 million reaches over K100 million. The prices are on the steep rise. The people who have gold resell and buy apartments and real estate. The gold purchased at K1 or 1.2 million fetches over K3 million now and so the people can get K10 million worth of apartment or yard by selling just five ticals of gold despite the sale of K15 or 20 ticals of gold in the past,” real estate agent Daw Yi Swe told the GNLM.

Depending on the daily prices of dollars and gold, the buyers and sellers make direct sales in the market.

“The transactions are good in suburban townships and satellite towns. The 20 by 60 feet of land worth K9 or 10 million

can get nearly K20 million now. The price of 80 by 80 feet of land near Nay Pyi Taw railway station project area was not over K10 million. Now, we have to pay nearly K40 million for 40 by 80 feet of land. The 10 square feet wide land price in the centre of Yangon is valued at K70 or 80 million,” said Ko Ye Win Aung.

The numbers of people who settle in Nay Pyi Taw are on the rise and the property prices have doubled, said the chairman of the Myanmar Real Estate Development Association (Nay Pyi Taw).

“Some move to Mandalay, PyinOoLwin and Nay Pyi Taw from Yangon after selling the property in Yangon as they want to stay peacefully in the wide compound. Therefore, they sell real estate in Yangon to buy cheap ones in the countryside. Some buy real estate in the countryside just to relax. The property transitions are normal in Yangon and other regions,” real estate agent Ko Yan Naung Oo. — TWA/GNLM

Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation participating in Int'l Army Games-2022 in Russian Federation arrives back



Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation which participated in the International Army Games-2022 in the Russian Federation are welcomed back on their arrival yesterday.

THE Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation which competed in the International Army Games-2022 held in Moscow of the Russian Federation arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. The delegation was welcomed back by Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Zaw Hein, Tatmadaw members and fam-

ilies.

A total of 37 countries participated in the games which took place in 12 countries. The Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation participated in the tank biathlon, sniper frontiers, military medical relay race, army of culture, emergency area, and third CISM world cadet games.

The tank troop of Myanmar Tatmadaw stood first in the tank biathlon (division-2) among 11 troops, fourth in the military medical relay race among 16 teams, fourth in the sniper frontiers among seven

teams, seventh in the army of culture event among 17 troupes, fourth in the emergency area among six teams and eighth in the 3rd CISM World Cadet Games among 20 countries respectively.

Members of Myanmar Tatmadaw could raise the experiences of competitiveness, technological experiences and friendly relationships among international military organizations in the International Army Games-2022, and it decided to continue more competitions in the coming years. — MNA

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Hotline - 09 454237515

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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gnlmnews@gmail.com
www.gnlm.com.mm

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Shwedagon to hold Garu Dhamma Day ceremony on full moon of Tawthalin

THE ceremony of Garu Dhamma Day and observance of Five Precepts in the Buddhist Lent period will be organized at the Shwedagon Pagoda on 9 September on the full moon day of Tawthalin, 1384 ME, according to the pagoda board of trustees.

The event will be held at the ancient Buddha image prayer hall in the southern corner of the pagoda. On that day, the pagoda board of trustees, religious teams and staff will offer alms

food to the pagoda, conduct a question-and-answer session regarding Garu Dhamma Day and recite the verses on Garu Dhamma Five Precepts.

Ovadacariya Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagara, Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Ganthavacka Pandita of Mya Thein Tan Monastery will preside over the Five-Precept delivering ceremony at 9:30 am.

The Buddhists recognize the full moon day of Tawthalin

as Guru Dhamma Day as the Buddha delivered the Guru Dhamma story. Guru Dhamma means keeping Five Precepts and good people should practise these precepts and so it is called Guru Dhamma Five Precepts. — TWA/GNLM

Shwedagon Pagoda board of trustees are seen on Maha Samaya Day on the full moon day of Nayon 1384 ME.



Pharmacy companies no longer need to seek import permit



Shoppers are seen in a pharmacy.

FOLLOWING relaxations of the import permit, pharmaceutical and medical device importing companies can directly apply for the import licence through Myanmar Tradenet 2.0 portal, according to the statement released by the Trade Department.

The companies initially had to seek import permits from the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Association and the Ministry of Health. Since those procedures are eased, they can directly apply for the import licence from 31 August as before.

Earlier, the permits for the importation of pharmaceuticals and medical devices had to be submitted to the Ministry of Commerce. From April 2022, they started to be forwarded to the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee. Upon approval of this committee, the import can be undertaken. Furthermore, the prices of pharmaceutical and medical devices were in short supply following Kyat weakening against the safe-haven US dollar.

Afterwards, pharmaceutical companies can seek import licences if they purchase the dollars on the over-the-counter market in their own ways, according to a notification released by the Trade Department. — TWA/GNLM

Rice prices stable despite rise in other commodity prices

THE foreign exchange rate against the US dollar and the pure gold price has inched higher than the reference prices since early August 2022.

However, the rice market sees a flat price at the end of August as rice has self-sufficiency declared by the related department, monsoon paddy is harvested and the majority of the locals have stocked Pawsan, according to the market report.

The prices of high-grade rice went up in early August. Some low-grade rice prices climbed in mid-August. Nevertheless, the prices of high-grade and low-grade rice varieties showed no movement at the end of the month, Ko Naing Swe, who is involved in the rice warehouse at the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

In early August, the wholesale rice prices per bag were K88,000 for Pawsan from the

Shwebo area, K65,000 for Pawsan from Myaungmya and Pathein areas, K62,000 for Pawsan from the Pyapon area, K57,000 from Bogale and Mawgyun areas, K46,000 for Pawkywe variety, K45,000 for short matured rice (90 days) and K34,000 for rice grown under multiple cropping.

The retail prices of Pawsan varieties under the door-to-door system were K70,000 from Myaungmya and K67,000 from Pyapon.

The wholesale rice prices per bag slightly rose to K90,000 for Pawsan from the Shwebo area, K68,000 for Pawsan from Myaungmya and Pathein areas, K64,000 for Pawsan from the Pyapon area, K60,000 from Bogale and Mawgyun areas, K50,000 for Pawkywe variety, K47,000 for fast matured rice (90 days) and K38,000 for rice grown under multiple cropping in mid-August.

At the end of the month, the prices stood at K91,000 for Pawsan

from the Shwebo area, K70,000 for Pawsan from Myaungmya and Pathein areas, K67,000 for Pawsan from the Pyapon area, K63,000 from Bogale and Mawgyun areas, K54,000 for Pawkywe variety, K50,000 for short matured rice (90 days) and K42,000 for rice grown under multiple cropping.

The retail prices of Pawsan varieties under the door-to-door system were registered at K74,000 from Myaungmya and K70,000 from Pyapon in mid-August and K76,000 from Myaungmya and K72,000 from Pyapon respectively.

The commodity prices are moving upward spiral in recent days, yet the prices of rice are pretty stable, the GNLM quoted U Kyaw Tin, a rice depot owner from Bayintnaung Wholesale Market, as saying.

By end-September, the monsoon rice will flow into the market. Furthermore, new high-grade Pawsan varieties are expected to enter the market in mid-November. Monsoon paddy acreage in lower Myanmar regions (Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon) accounts for two-thirds of the overall acreage (1.3 million acres) across the country.

Foods destroyed paddy fields in August in previous years. However, there is no such case this year. Thus, the yield is not affected and the prices of low-grade rice varieties will go down, Ko Win, a rice trader, shared his opinion. — TWA/GNLM



Workers are seen carrying rice bags at a warehouse.

Myanmar exports 20 tonnes of live eels and crabs to China per day

MYANMAR exports about 20 tonnes of live eels and crabs to China per day after examining the quality at Yangon, Mandalay and Muse export quality control laboratories and water exchange tanks.

The live eels and crabs from Rakhine State, Ayeyawady Region, Yangon Region and Bago Region are exported to China through the Muse border trade zone. The products are checked at the laboratory for marine products and water exchange tanks in Shwepyitha Township in Yangon and then at the marine products quality control laboratory of the Natyaykan camp of Fisheries

Department in Mandalay and exchanged the water at three private water exchange tanks and are transported to Muse.

The Mandalay Fisheries Department launches a quality laboratory to control the quality of marine products and to reduce export damage by cooperating with private entrepreneurs and it can increase the foreign incomes of the country.

The country exports about 20 tonnes of eels and crabs per day through official border trade camps. If 100 visses are exported from Yangon, it leaves about 90 visses in Muse. Therefore, the water exchange process



The live eels and crabs from Rakhine State, Ayeyawady Region, Yangon Region and Bago Region are exported to China through the Muse border trade zone.

plays a key role. The service charges for one box containing 40 kilogrammes of eels/crabs

are reasonable. The Myanmar Fisheries Federation, Myanmar Eel Entrepreneurs Association,

Myanmar Crabs Entrepreneurs Association and water exchange tanks owners are cooperating to facilitate the eel/crab traders, establish quality water exchange tanks, increase eel/crab export volume and create a firm market based on the quality guarantee to earn revenues for the country using marine products.

Myanmar temporarily suspends the export of fish, prawn and frozen products to China but normally exports eels and crabs. If the new water exchange tank at the Natyaykan camp of Mandalay, the marine export volume will be higher than before. — Nyein Thu(MNA)/GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, consumer goods, foodstuffs, construction materials, industrial raw materials, car parts and vehicles confiscated

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

An on-duty inspection team under the instructions of the Kayin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections at the Myawady border trade zone on 28 and 31 August.

Officials confiscated K13,874,940 worth of industrial raw materials and car parts that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 30 August, an inspection team led by the Myanmar Police Force captured an unregistered AD Van car (approximately K7 million) in Khamti township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

In addition, a combined team led by the Myanmar Police Force made inspections under the management of the Taninthayi Region. They nabbed a total of 4.866 tonnes of illegal gum-kino timber worth K3,211,560 from a vehicle (approximately K50 million) between the 1042-Milepost and 1043-Milepost on the Bokpyin-Kawthoung Union Highway of Bokpyin township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Afterwards, a combined on-duty team conducted inspections at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint on 31 August. Officials confiscated K14,939,000 worth of edible oil



Seized goods in Kayin State.

and electronics that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from an Isuzu Giga 12-wheel truck (approximately K40 million) and a Mitsubishi Fuso 12-wheel truck (approximately K40 million) heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 31 August and 1 September, a combined on-duty team under the supervision of the Kayin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force examined vehicles heading from Myawady to Yangon at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint. They seized K269,355,000

worth of electronics and construction materials from three 22-wheel trucks with trailers (approximately K200 million) and action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, a total of 2.3910 tonnes of illegal teak worth K1,198,560 were seized in Bago and Thayawady districts and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 21 arrests (approximately K639,579,060) were made on 28, 30 and 31 August and 1 September, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

65 smuggled Bengalis, 4 traffickers captured

IT is reported that 65 smuggled Bengalis and four men who trafficked them were arrested in Pyapon Township, and seven died due to the bad weather and lack of food and water.

A combined team of security forces and administrative officials went to inspect the arrival of one boat carrying smuggled Bengalis near Gayatgyi Island (or) Khatta Island, Pyapon Township at around 10:30 pm on 29 August.

Officials found a fishing boat which has 38 feet in length and 10 feet in width between Kadong Kalay Island and Gayatgyi Island (or) Khatta Island and arrested 65 people including 37-year-old Kyaw Zaw Lin from Kwinwyne Village in Thandwe Township, 18-year-old Myo Chit Oo and 35-year-old Than Win from Minbya Township, 52-year-old Myint Shwe from Yanbye Township and 36 male Bengalis and 29 female Bengalis.

According to the investigation of Kyaw Zaw Lin, a boat driver who was arrested, connected with U Siman (under investigation) from Sittway and brought 65 Bengalis from Sittway to Pathein. He testified that U Siman had agreed to take the boat to Ngwethaungyan Beach for K20 million, and U Siman paid him

K2.5 million for deposit boat rental fee.

With 65 Bengalis, they drove from Sittway Harbour to Kyaukphyu-Manaung-Ngapali-Thandwe route and anchored in the sea near Shwethaungyan at 1 pm on 22 August.

U Siman said he called at 2 pm on 25 August as they could not dock at Shwethaungyan, so drove with seven points on the GPS, and anchored in the sea near Kadonkani Kyunthaya at 10 pm on 26 August and were detained by the security forces.

Four traffickers and 65 smuggled Bengalis were temporarily detained while five smuggled male Bengalis were detained so that they could be investigated and prosecuted under the law. Other eight women were in poor health conditions due to bad weather and lack of food and water on the way so they received the necessary medical treatment.

During medical treatment, three men and four women died and the remaining six are still under medical treatment.

The arrestee Bengalis and four traffickers, including Kyaw Zaw Lin, have been detained at the Bogale Myoma Police Station and are under prosecution under the law. — TWA/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Agricultural machinery exempt from applying for import licence

STARTING from 1 September 2022, the items related to agricultural machinery included in the HS code lines declared by the Ministry of Commerce are exempted from obtaining an import licence, according to the notification released by the Trade Department under the MoC on 31 August.

In a bid to support the country's agricultural development and facilitate the imports of agricultural machinery, 70 HS lines concerning the agricultural machinery and equipment were eased from licence requirements from 1 September.

Those items can be import-

ed in line with the regulations of the respective departments. At present, Kyat is depreciating against foreign currencies in the local forex market.

The foreign exchange rate stood at K110 for a Thai Baht, K560 for a Chinese Yuan and K4,000 for a dollar.

Consequently, imports nearly came to a halt due to the Kyat devaluation, importers stressed.

Among the import items, the price of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers is soaring. Additionally, the price of fuel oil used in agricultural machinery is rocketing as well. — NN/GNLM



Starting from 1 September 2022, those items related to agricultural machinery included in the HS code lines declared by the Ministry of Commerce are exempted from obtaining an import licence.

Black gram logs one-day price hike by K150,000 per tonne

THE price of black gram jumped to K2,100,000 per tonne in the domestic pulses market, indicating a sharp rise of K150,000 per tonne.

On 30 August, the black gram fetched K1,953,000 per tonne. On 31 August, the prices skyrocketed to K2,100,000 per tonne. The figures showed an increase of over K1470,000 per tonne within one day.

Similarly, the pigeon pea price edged up from K2,025,000 to K2,120,000 per tonne on 31 August, showing a significant rise of K95,000 per tonne within one day.

The local currency depreciation against the US dollar was the main contributor to the price upsurge. A dollar is exchanged for over K4,000 in the unofficial market.

The Central Bank of Myanmar raised the reference exchange of a US dollar from K1,850 to K2,100 on 5 August. Shortly thereafter, the prices of various pulses move onwards.

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 peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from the 2021-2022 financial year to the 2025-2026FY.

The market is required to closely observe as the prices of black gram in Myanmar are highly 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 Myanmar currency hit over K3,000 in the local forex market. The current market price made a new record.

Myanmar conveyed \$481.6 million worth of over 622,780.79 tonnes of various 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 worth of over 482,393.83 tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through the sea route, and over 140,386 tonnes worth \$94.67 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders.

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 worth of 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through sea route, and \$604.3 million valued in 786,920 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders.

Myanmar yearly produces approximately 400,000 tonnes of black gram and about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas. Myanmar is the top producer of the black gram which is primarily demanded by India, while pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are cultivated in Australia and African countries besides Myanmar. — NN/GNLM

Fuel prices down by over K200 per litre after CBM's FX intervention

FUEL prices fell by over K200 per litre after the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) declared to provide more than 200 million US dollars for the fuel oil sector, according to the market report.

On 31 August, fuel prices stood at K2,605 per litre of Octane 92, K2,670 for Octane 95, K3,245 for diesel and K3,330 for premium diesel.

On 1 September, the fuel prices slipped to K2,375 per litre of Octane 92, K2,440 for Octane 95, K3,140 for diesel and K3,225 for premium diesel.

The figures showed a decrease of K230 per litre of Octane 92 and Octane 95 and K105 per litre of diesel and premium diesel respectively.

The CBM declared on 31 August that it will provide more than US\$200 million through the foreign exchange market according to the decision made by Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee in order to ease the commodity inflation triggered by fuel price hike. The fuel prices descend accordingly. After the exchange rate against the US dollar hit over K4,000, fuel prices skyrocketed in recent days.

In early August, fuel prices stayed upward on the dollar price. As a result of this, some fuel stations in regions and states allegedly faced a shortage of supply.

Nonetheless, some petrol stations were allegedly suspend-

ing fuel sales and setting limited sales on the possible shortage of fuel oil, sparking consumers' concerns and raising fuel prices. They seemed to take advantage of the consumers' concerns for their benefits, according to the statement released by the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods on 16 August.

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

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

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

The Petroleum Products Inspection and Supervision Department, under the guidance of the committee, is issuing the daily reference rate for oil to offer a reasonable price to energy consumers. The reference rate in Yangon Region is set on the

MOPS' price assessment, shipping costs, premium insurances, taxes, other general costs and profit per cent of Singapore.

The rates for regions and states other than Yangon are evaluated after adding the transport costs and retail reference rates daily cover on the state-run newspapers and are posted on the media and official website and Facebook page of the department on a daily basis starting from 4 May.

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

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

OPINION

Work in concert to implement contract farming for all farmers

THE contract farming system has been introduced to farmers for many years in Myanmar but its development is seen in delay due to a lack of systematic implementation between the government and the farmers without adopting the necessary work procedures till today.

In fact, contract farming can be defined as encouraging the cultivation and production of crops with the provision of quality seeds, agricultural techniques and inputs and taking agreements between the private sector and farmers for sending the agricultural produce to the market. This being so, the government is responsible for disbursing loans at a soft interest rate to farmers in order to purchase necessary inputs as part of efforts for implementing

mutual cooperation between the government and farmers.

Recently, the government decided to implement the contract farming system to cultivate 850,000 acres of summer paddy and 500,000 acres of green gram. Primarily, the government will disburse K200,000 per acre to local farmers for buying quality strains of crops, inputs and fertilizers and K120,000 per acre for green gram. To do so, the government will issue K170 billion for summer paddy and K60 million for green gram at a one-per-cent interest rate.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will take responsibility for providing necessary agricultural techniques and management measures for the implementation of the contract farming process whereas the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development will assist in growing crops with inputs, forming cooperative societies with farmers and will give a helping hand to farmers in signing the agreements of cooperative societies.

In implementing the contract farming system, the efforts for collective ploughing, the arrangements for land preparations for cultivation

with the use of agricultural machinery and the harvesting of crops through collaborative efforts can save the expenditure on farming tasks in an easy management manner. To be able to do so, only when farmers need to work in groups or associations will grouping of farmers and the formation of cooperative societies be important.

As such, contract farming will be a great tool for increasing the high yield of paddy and green gram which are potential for foreign markets in order to boost the State economy and enhance the socioeconomic life of farmers. Hence, it is an onus for all to implement the contract farming system on a wider scale to have great success so as to directly solve the input problems of farmers engaging in the small farming plots and to create a stable market.

Australia: The Smallest Continent on Earth

By THAN HTUN (MYANMAR GEOSCIENCES SOCIETY)

THIS article is the last article of "Seven Continents of the World" which was published by the Global New Light of Myanmar on 28 August 2021. I am grateful to the Editors of the GNL M for their editing and permission.

Australia, the largest island and the smallest continent in the world, lies entirely south of the Equator and is called the 'land down under' or even the 'island continent'. The name Australia is derived from the Latin word 'Australis' meaning southern. Its official name is the Commonwealth of Australia.

Australia is the only continent that has one nation and is the sixth-largest country in the world. It also includes the large island of Tasmania and many small islands. Australia is newer than the new world. Europeans settled first in the American Continent and did not discover Australia until the early 1770s unexplored even much later. The origins of modern Australia date only from the first British settlement in 1788. Dutch ships were saved along the coast of northern Australia in 1606 but with little interest in the island. In 1642, another Dutch ship captained by Abel Tasman sailed south of Australia and discovered the island, now known as Tasmania. Long after Tasman quit the British sent a ship led by James Cook to know more about the island. Captain Cook, on reaching the Australian coast in 1770, hoisted the flag on Australia's fertile east coast and claimed it for England. He named

this part - New South Wales. Australia celebrates its National Day on January 26.

Location

Australia entirely lies in the Southern Hemisphere of the globe. The Tropic of Capricorn passes through its centre. Australia's location is 12°S to 38°S Latitude and 114°E to 154°E Longitude. The under Tasmania extends a little further south. Australia is bordered by the Indian Ocean in the west, the Southern Ocean in the south, and the Pacific Ocean in the east. The Great Australian Bight forms an arch along the southern coast and the Gulf of Spencer and Encounter Bay lie on the southeast. Australia lies close to South East Asia and maybe islands stretched between them. The remnants of the land bridge that once connected the two continents millions of years ago.

Beyond the east coast stretches the Pacific Ocean, with the Tasman Sea in the south and the Coral Sea in the north. The Timor Sea lies in the northwest, the Arafura Sea in the northeast, and the Gulf of Carpentaria along the northern coast. The Cape York Peninsula forms the northeast tip of Australia. The island of New Guinea lies to the north of Australia. Tasmania, lying to the south, is separated from Australia by the Bass Strait. New Zealand, lying to the southeast at a distance of nearly 2,000 kilometres, is separated from Australia by the Tasman Sea. Australia with its regular coastline and few inlets overseas have

no natural harbours except in the south. The Great Barrier Reef, made up of coral deposits, runs parallel to the northeast coast for a length of 2,000 kilometres. The Great Barrier Reef of Australia is the largest coral reef in the world.

Countries and Population

The countries in Australia Continent are Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Kiribati, Micronesia, Nauru, Marshall Island, Samoa, Solomon Island, Tonga, Tuvalu, Palau, and Vanuatu. The Australia Continent is the sixth most populous country in the world and its population is around about 35,670,000. The largest countries by size are Australia (7,686,850 square kilometres), Papua New Guinea (468,840 sq. km) and New Zealand (268,680 sq. km) respectively. The largest countries by population are Australia (22,028,000), Papua New Guinea (5,172,033), New Zealand (4,108,037). The smallest countries by size are Nauru (21 sq. km), Tuvalu (26 sq. km), and Marshall Island (73,600 sq. km). The smallest countries by population are Tuvalu (11,046), Nauru (12,329), and Palau (19,409) respectively.

Language

In Australia, English is the de facto national language. Australian English is a language with a distinctive accent and lexicon and differs slightly from other varieties of English in grammar and spelling. English is the only language spoken in the home about 72.7 per cent of the population. Other com-



Map of Australia. Source: nations online

mon languages spoken at home are Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese and Italian.

Physical Divisions

Australia can be divided into four major physical divisions; the Western Plateau, the Central Lowlands, the Eastern Highlands, and the Coastal Plains. The Western Plateau extends over almost two-

thirds of the continent. It spread across the whole of western and most of southern and northern Australia. Made up of ancient, hard crystalline rocks which are rich in minerals, most of the Plateau is flat, broken by occasional rocky ranges. The average elevation of the plateau is 365 metres making Australia the flattest continent in the world. The height increases

only in Mac Donnell Ranges and Musgrave Ranges. Ayers Rock or Uluru is the most famous high point and is visible from more than 80 kilometres. The western edge of the plateau slopes steeply to the sea and much of the Western Plateau is a desert or semi-desert.

The Central Lowlands lie between the Western Plateau and the Eastern Highlands, stretching

from the Gulf of Carpentaria in the north to Encounter Bay in the south. It can be divided into three parts on the basis of drainage. The Great Artesian Basin to the north, the Lake Eyre Basin in the centre, and the Murray-Darling Basin to the southeast.

The Great Artesian Basin, made of flatlands, is the largest artesian basin in the world. It is known for the underground water that is utilized through artesian wells. Although the water is hot with high salt content, it is very useful for cattle rearing in this dry region. Lake Eyre Basin is the low-lying area around Lake Eyre (named after E. J. Eyre, who discovered it in 1840) which is a large, shallow water lake with nothing but a dry white salt pan.

The lake depends on rain for water, which is not much in the region. Except for the rainy season, the lake is dry most of the time. The Murray-Darling Basin is made by the most important river system in Australia. The Murray, 2,574 kilometres long, is the main river and the Darling is its tributary. Both these rivers rise in the Eastern Highlands. The Murray has enough water. The Darling is erratic and dries up during drought.

The Eastern Highlands run parallel to the east coast from the Cape York Peninsula in the north through the Bass Strait and into Tasmania in the south. Australia's longest chain of mountain ranges is in the Great Dividing Range or the Australian Alps. Mount Kosciuszko (2,234 metres) is the highest peak in Australia. Murray and Darling rise on the western slope of the Eastern Highlands.

The Eastern Coastal Plains, lying to the east of the Great Dividing Range, has Australia's most fertile farmland and receives plenty of rain. It is cut by several short fast-flowing rivers that rise in the Eastern Highlands and empty into the Pacific Ocean.

Mountainous Areas

The Mountainous areas in the Australian continent are Hamersley mountains, Mac Donnell mountains, Musgrave mountains, Alpen mountains, and Great Devise mountains. The famous mountains are Bruce, August, Leisler, Ziel, Woodroffe, Cosciusco, Pauper, and Cook mountains.

Deserts

The deserts in the Australian continent are the Gibson Desert, Great Desert, Great Victoria Desert, Tanami Desert, and Simpson Desert.

Rivers

The rivers in the Australian continent are the Fortescue River, Ashburton River, De Grey River, Daly River, Victoria River, Georgina River, Paroo River, Mitchell River, Darling River, and Murray River.

Climate

The upper half of Australia enjoys a tropical climate and the bottom half is a sub-tropical climate. Australia and the Antarctic were together for many millions of years and it took a long time to separate about 34 million years ago they finally separated and Australia has been moving northwards ever since. That is moved Australia into dryer parts, dryer latitudes within the world. And that is another reason why Australia is such a low rainfall continent. Therefore Australia is a low, dry, old, and red continent with really relatively few people living in it.

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MORE than 50,000 monkeypox cases have been recorded in the global outbreak, WHO figures showed Wednesday, though transmission is slowing in the virus hotspots of Europe and the United States.

The World Health Organization's dashboard listed 50,496 cases and 16 deaths as reported this year to the UN agency, which declared the outbreak a global public health emergency in July.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the declines in new infections proved the outbreak could be halted.

"In the Americas, which accounts for more than half of reported cases, several countries continue to see increasing numbers of infections, although it is

encouraging to see a sustained downward trend in Canada," he told a press conference.

"Some European countries, including Germany and the Netherlands, are also seeing a clear slowing of the outbreak, demonstrating the effectiveness of public health interventions and commu-

nity engagement to track infections and prevent transmission.

"These signs confirm what we have said consistently since the beginning: that with the right measures, this is an outbreak that can be stopped."

A surge in monkeypox infections has been reported since

early May among men who have sex with men, outside the African countries where it has long been endemic.

The WHO triggered its highest level of alarm on 24 July, classifying it as a public health emergency of international concern, alongside Covid-19.

"Eliminating monkeypox needs three things: the evidence that it's possible, which we are now beginning to see; political will and commitment; and the implementation of public health measures in the communities that need them most," said Tedros.

"We don't have to live with

monkeypox."

Cases in 101 territories

Cases have been reported from 101 territories, though only 52 have reported new cases in the last seven days — of which 27 were reporting numbers in single figures.

The countries which have reported more than a thousand cases to the WHO in total are the United States (17,994), Spain (6,543), Brazil (4,693), France (3,547), Germany (3,467), Britain (3,413), Peru (1,463), Canada (1,228) and the Netherlands (1,160).

The number of new US infections appears to have recently slowed slightly, according to data from health authorities.—AFP

World monkeypox outbreak tops 50,000 cases

ENVIRON WORLD

Pakistan floods highlight need for climate 'loss and damage' help

RICH carbon polluters should feel "moral pressure" to help fund climate-vulnerable nations wracked by weather extremes such as Pakistan, where monstrous flooding has caused devastation, diplomats and observers told AFP.

Torrential monsoon rains have killed more than a thousand, left a third of Pakistan under water and displaced hundreds of thousands, months after the country was scorched by record-shattering heat, intensified by climate change.

While it is too early to quantify the contribution of warming, scientists say the rains are broadly consistent with expectations that climate change will make the Indian monsoon wetter.

The United Nations chief has called them a "climate catastrophe".

"This is not a freak accident," said Nabeel Munir, Pakistan's ambassador to Seoul and chair of the largest negotiating bloc of developing nations at UN climate negotiations.

"The science proves the frequency and the impact of these disasters is only going to increase and we have to be prepared for that."

The human and economic impact is already staggering and "this is an ongoing disaster; the rains are still going on", he told AFP. Countries like Pakistan that have contributed the least to global warming are often battered by the worst impacts, observers say.— AFP



Pakistan has estimated the cost of rebuilding at around \$10 billion. PHOTO: AFP

Californians told not to charge EVs as grid struggles in heat wave



Electric vehicle owners were being asked to limit charging to avoid putting a strain on California's creaky power grid as the state melts under a heatwave. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

CALIFORNIANS were told Wednesday not to charge their electric vehicles during peak hours, just days after the state

said it would stop selling gas-powered cars, as the ageing electricity grid struggles with a fearsome heatwave. Temperatures as high

as 112 degrees Fahrenheit (44 degrees Celsius) were forecast in some Los Angeles suburbs as a huge heat dome bakes a swathe of the western United States.

The sweltering weather will put huge demands on the already-stretched power grid, especially when people crank up the air conditioners during the broiling hours after work and school.

"Consumers are urged to conserve power by setting thermostats to 78 degrees or higher, if health permits, avoiding use of major appliances and turning off unnecessary lights," said the California Independent System Operator, which runs the state's power grid.— AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indonesia calls for more G20 action on climate change

GROUP of 20 chair Indonesia warned environment officials from the world's leading economies Wednesday they must act together to combat a warming planet or risk plunging it into "uncharted territory".

The call came at a one-day meeting on the resort island of Bali, at the end of a month in which more than 1,000 people died in Pakistan from flooding blamed on climate change and a crippling drought exacerbated by a record heat wave spread across half of China.

In opening remarks, Indonesian Minister of Environment and Forestry Siti Nurbaya Bakar told delegates "global environmental problems require global solutions", otherwise the planet could end up in a situation "where no future will be sustainable".

"We cannot hide from the fact that the world is facing increasingly compounding challenges," she said, referencing energy price spikes and global food shortages.— AFP

World's first case of bird flu in porpoise: Sweden

A porpoise found stranded on a Swedish beach in June died of bird flu, the first time the virus has been detected in a porpoise, Sweden's National Veterinary Institute said Wednesday.

"As far as we know this is the first confirmed case in the world of bird flu in a porpoise," veterinarian Elina Thorsson said in a statement.

"It is likely that the porpoise somehow came into contact with infected birds," she said.

The young male was found stranded, alive, on a beach in western Sweden in late June. Despite efforts from the public to get it to swim out to deeper waters, it was suffering from exhaustion and died the same evening.

The bird flu virus, H5N1, was found in several of its organs.— AFP

A Yangtze finless porpoise plays with a worker in a pool at Baiji dolphinarium in Wuhan, China, on 10 November 2018. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/JOHANNES EISELE/AFP/FILE



HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Monkeypox going 'in right direction' in Europe: WHO

THE World Health Organization said Tuesday it saw "encouraging" signs the monkeypox epidemic was slowing in Europe and heading "in the right direction", calling on countries to double down on efforts.

"There are encouraging early signs, as evidenced in France, Germany, Portugal, Spain, the UK, and other countries, that the outbreak may be slowing", the WHO regional director for Europe, Hans Kluge, told reporters.

"It's going in the right direction", he added.

However, "to move towards elimination in our region, we need to urgently step up our efforts".

In the 53 countries that make up the WHO Europe region, which includes Russia and countries in Central Asia, more than 22,000 monkeypox cases have been registered across 43 countries, accounting for more than a third of cases worldwide.



In this file photo taken on 6 August 2022, people line up to receive the monkeypox vaccine in Lille, northern France. **PHOTO: FRANCOIS LO PRESTI/ AFP**

Last week, the WHO reported a 21 per cent decline in new cases worldwide after four successive weeks of increases.

In order to eliminate the spread of the virus in Europe, the WHO urged countries to continue with measures of monitoring, targeted vaccinations, identification of contact cases, and engag-

ing with the male homosexual community, where the virus has mainly been spreading.

Kluge cited the example of Portugal, which, "in the absence of a full fledged vaccination campaign, did manage to curb the increase through behavioural change and engaging with the communities".—AFP

High energy prices threaten UK hospital services



People, some wearing face coverings to combat the spread of the coronavirus, arrive at and depart from St Thomas' hospital in central London on 23 December 2021. **PHOTO: JUSTIN TALLIS/AFP/FILE**

UK hospitals bosses on Thursday warned that patient care may have to be cut to offset huge increases in energy bills over the winter months.

Most hospital groups contacted by medical journal the BMJ said they expected bills to at least double, as the price hikes kicked in.

The NHS Confederation, which represents health providers in the publicly funded National Health Service, said there

would be a knock-on effect.

"The gap in funding from rising inflation will either have to be made up by fewer staff being employed, longer waiting times for care or other areas of patient care being cut back," the group's senior acute lead, Rory Deighton, told the BMJ.

"A failure to properly compensate the NHS for inflation will only heighten pressure on our health service as we move towards a winter that we know

will be particularly challenging this year."

UK inflation is at a 40-year high of 10.1 per cent with dire predictions that rates could climb to 18 per cent or more next year.

Last week households were told that their gas and electricity bills would go up by 80 per cent from October, with further rises set for next year.

But non-domestic customers are not covered by the energy price cap, making them more vulnerable to the surge in wholesale prices.

Businesses across the board have warned the huge increases could force many to close if the government does nothing to help.

The BMJ said bosses at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in London told it that they expected an energy bill of about £650,000 (\$756,000) a month in January and February next year.

At the same time last year, it was about £350,000.—AFP

Chinese researchers develop anti-SARS-CoV-2 nanomaterial

CHINESE researchers have recently developed a nanomaterial that targets the spike protein of coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 variants, including Delta and Omicron, and promotes viral elimination.

The research published in the journal Nature Nanotechnology revealed an ultrathin two-dimensional compound nanosheet made of Cuprum, Indium, Phosphorus and Sulfur (CIPS) as a new agent combating SARS-CoV-2 infection.

The researchers from the Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the National Centre for Nanoscience and Technology, the Institute of High Energy Physics under the CAS, and the Kunming Institute of Zool-

ogy under the CAS developed the nanomaterial and its anti-viral mechanism. According to the study, CIPS exhibits an extremely high and selective binding capacity for the receptor binding domain of the spike protein of wild-type SARS-CoV-2 and its variants, such as Delta and Omicron.

Testing shows that when associated with CIPS, the virus is quickly eliminated by the host's macrophages, suggesting CIPS could be used to capture the virus and facilitate virus elimination by the host.

Testing also shows that CIPS can inhibit viral entry and infection in cells, organoids and mice, and effectively relieve lung inflammation in mice caused by SARS-CoV-2 infection.—Xinhua



A medical worker takes a swab sample from a man for nucleic acid test in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, 26 August 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/GUO CHENG**

Australia cuts Covid isolation times, eases mask rules

AUSTRALIA on Wednesday announced mandatory Covid-19 isolation would be cut to five days and mask requirements lifted on domestic flights — the most significant easing of restrictions in months.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the country's still-stringent Covid rules would be relaxed slightly from 9 September, when isolation periods would be reduced from seven days, giving some relief to businesses struggling with chronic labour shortages.

"This was a proportionate response at this point in the pandemic," Albanese said.

Australia previously rolled out some of the world's most stringent Covid restrictions, sealing off its international borders for two years and locking down most major cities for months on end.

The strategy worked for much of the pandemic but since January there has been an enormous leap in detected cases — which have now surpassed 10 million.

Deaths have also risen, but high vaccination rates have limited fatalities to 14,000 since the virus first emerged, comparatively low in a country of almost 26 million people.—AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

India GDP surges 13.5% on pandemic rebound, despite headwinds

A post-pandemic rebound saw India's economy grow 13.5 per cent in the June quarter, official figures showed Wednesday, but inflation and other headwinds signal a looming slowdown in Asia's third-largest economy.

The double-digit expansion from last year reflects a dramatic uptick in activity since mid-2021, when the peak of the country's most devastating coronavirus wave began to recede. That outbreak saw thousands of people dying across India each day, overwhelming hospitals and crematoriums, and came after an extended lockdown that pummeled consumer spending and brought factories to a standstill.

Wednesday's figure from the national statistics office was the highest since the 20.1 per

cent expansion recorded during the same period last year, at a time when business activity was recovering from government shutdown edicts. State Bank of India chief economic advisor Soumya Kanti Ghosh said in a note that India was navigating well through global uncertainty "with leading indicators continuing to show acceleration".

A rebound in capital inflows in August after months of investor flight from Indian debt and equities also pointed to improved sentiment, Ghosh said.

But Wednesday's result is lower than the 16.2 per cent forecast by India's central bank, and other economists expect headwinds to buffet the economy and dampen growth into the next year.



Commuters drive past the National Stock Exchange (NSE) building in Mumbai. **PHOTO: AFP**

Elevated crude oil prices and a seven percent fall in the rupee this year have hit living costs and left India struggling with a deteriorating trade balance.—AFP

European stocks drop on record eurozone inflation

EUROPEAN equities slid Wednesday as record-high eurozone inflation fanned fears that more interest rate hikes could herald recession.

Frankfurt, London and Paris stocks dropped as data showed eurozone inflation hit 9.1 per cent in August on surging fuel prices, sparking talk of rising European Central Bank rates. Most Asian markets meanwhile fell on concerns the US Federal Reserve's rate-hiking policy would send the world's biggest economy into recession, with oil prices diving on demand jitters.

The ECB is set to lift borrowing costs next week, having increased them in July for the first time in a decade to help



Frankfurt, London and Paris stocks dropped as data showed eurozone inflation hit 9.1 per cent in August on surging fuel prices. **PHOTO: AFP**

tackle rampant inflation. "The reality is that a more aggressive (ECB) tightening is going to be needed, and when the economy

is already as fragile as it is, the situation quickly starts to look quite problematic," OANDA analyst Craig Erlam told AFP.—AFP

China's factory activity contracts for second straight month in August

CHINA'S factory activity shrank in August for the second month in a row, official data showed Wednesday, as the sector was hit by strict zero-Covid restrictions and extreme heat.

The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), a key gauge of manufacturing in the world's

second-biggest economy, came in at 49.4, up from July's 49.0 but still below the 50-point mark separating growth from contraction, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data showed.

Sporadic Covid-19 lockdowns around China have dampened consumer enthusiasm and business confidence,

while searing temperatures across large parts of the country this summer prompted power rationing for factories.

The economy faced "unfavourable factors including the epidemic and high temperatures" this month, NBS senior statistician Zhao Qinghe said in a statement.—AFP

Japan's plastic waste problem spurring grocery shopping novelty

JAPANESE shoppers are increasingly being given the opportunity to take reusable containers to buy food and other items by weight or volume to reduce the amount of plastic packaging they take home from the supermarket while cutting down on food wastage.

Consumers in Japan are faced with an overwhelming amount of plastic packaging when shopping at supermarkets as compared to other countries, leading certain companies and their loyal customers to make an environmentally-friendly change.

In various areas of the country, people are bringing their own reusable containers to stores and

buying just what they need, while a scale manufacturer has developed a device that automatically identifies and weighs products to serve the growing demand for a new way to shop at major stores.

Specialty store Poco Mucho, which opened in the city of Fukuoka, southwest Japan in April 2020, sells some 200 different foodstuffs and daily necessities by weight, such as smoked pistachios at 80 yen per 10 grammes and peanut butter at 55 yen for the same amount. Shoppers pay for products after they are weighed in a store-provided paper bag or bottle. Customers receive a three per cent discount if they bring their own shopping bags or containers.—Kyodo



Photo taken in June 2022 shows Poco Mucho, a specialty shop for sales by volume in Fukuoka, southwestern Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Volkswagen shifts gears with Oliver Blume taking wheel

VOLKSWAGEN on Thursday hands over the reins to new CEO Oliver Blume, tasked with steering the German automotive giant through challenging economic conditions after four turbulent years under his predecessor, Herbert Diess.

Blume, nurtured in house at Volkswagen and the current CEO of premium sports brand Porsche, is unlikely to signal a significant departure from the electric strategy laid out by his predecessor.

The board under “Herbert Diess has done



Herbert Diess stirred up discontent with his uncompromising push as CEO to electrify the group. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

a good job strategically and technologically”, Blume said at a conference Thursday. “We will keep up the current pace and where

possible, increase it.”

The success of a business is “always the product of a strong team”, said Blume, who will head up

a trimmed nine-person board.

Diess owed his exit in part to tensions with workers’ representatives, riled by his uncompromising leadership style. As such, Blume takes the wheel at a “really difficult time” for Volkswagen, said Matthias Schmidt, an analyst specializing in electric cars. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has not only compounded supply chain problems unleashed by the coronavirus pandemic, but introduced uncertainties over energy supplies across Europe.—AFP

Snap confirms cutting 20 % of staff

SNAPCHAT’S parent company confirmed Wednesday it is cutting 20 per cent of staff, as the troubled messaging app attempts to dig itself out amid competition and revenue woes, as well as recent quarterly losses.

A hit with young internet users in its early days, Snapchat has remained a small player in the social networking space as competition

from other apps, such as TikTok, has grown ever more intense.

“We must now face the consequences of our lower revenue growth and adapt to the market environment,” Snap CEO Evan Spiegel said in a note to employees Wednesday announcing the decision “to reduce the size of our team by approximately 20 per cent.”—AFP



People walk past Snap Inc. Snapchat signage displayed in downtown Los Angeles, California on 2 October 2021. PHOTO: PATRICK T. FALLON /AFP

Rapid foreign exchange rate moves undesirable: Japan gov’t

THE government on Thursday warned against the depreciation of the yen after it briefly fell to a fresh 24-year low in the 139

zone versus the US dollar, saying rapid movements of foreign exchange rate are “undesirable.”

Currency rates should

“move stably, reflecting economic fundamentals,” Japan’s Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said at a press con-

ference, adding that the government is “watching foreign exchange market moves with a high sense of urgency.”—Kyodo

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(27/2022-2023)

- Open tenders are invited for supply of the following item in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(1)	DMP/L-031(22-23) (Retender)	Mud Chemical (6) Items	Ks
- The open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 1 September 2022 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
- The interested bidder should submit the Technical Specifications and Commercial Quotation with Original Bid Bond in each separate sealed envelopes on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 12:00 pm on 15, September 2022.
- Tender Closing Date & Time- 15-9-2022, 12:00 pm

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. +95 67 - 411206

Notice for Change of Pesticides Trade Names

The foreign manufacturer AgriGate CropSciences Pte., Ltd will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board Changing trading names.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	A.I	Reg: Type	Reg: No.
1	Praise 400SC	Carben 400SC	Iprodione 200g/l + Pymrthanil 200g/l SC	Provisional	P2020-3468
2	Lal Yar Kaung 32WP	Yar Kyaw 32WP	Bispyribac-sodium 20% + Pyrazosulfuron-ethyl 12% WP	Experimental	E2021-5210

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading names of insecticide.

Address- Myanma Awba Group Co., Ltd
No.(95-A), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8th mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon Region, The Republic of Union of Myanmar.

MYANMA Port Authority “NOTICE of High Tide”

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.01 feet to 21.13 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of 9 September to 15 September 2022. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V FEDERAL INSPIRE VOY (V.HY22016)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V FEDERAL INSPIRE VOY (V.HY22016) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-9-2022 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT 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 UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB234A/235R)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB234A/235R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-9-2022 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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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Iraq political deadlock persists after bloody unrest

A months-long political crisis in Iraq showed little sign of abating Wednesday despite a fresh push for negotiations after nearly 24 hours of deadly violence between rival Shiite factions ended.

Baghdad's Green Zone, home to government buildings and embassies, returned to normality after 30 people were killed and 570 wounded in clashes pitting supporters of powerful Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr against pro-Iran factions.

Since elections in October 2021, political deadlock has left Iraq without a new government,

prime minister or president, due to disagreement over forming a coalition. The tensions escalated sharply on Monday when Sadr loyalists stormed the government palace following their leader's announcement that he was quitting politics.

But Sadr's supporters trickled out of the Green Zone in a steady stream on Tuesday afternoon when he appealed for them to withdraw within the hour.

A nationwide curfew was lifted, before shops reopened and infamous traffic jams returned to Baghdad's streets on

Wednesday as the government announced the resumption of school exams postponed by the unrest. But the hurdles obstructing a solution to Iraq's political crisis remained firmly in place, with rival powers disagreeing over a path forwards.

Early elections, less than a year after the last polls, and the dissolution of parliament have been key demands of Sadr.

Sadr's rivals in the pro-Iran Coordination Framework want a new head of government to be appointed before any new elections are held.—AFP



A Sadr supporter carries away items as they leave Baghdad's Green Zone. **PHOTO: AHMAD AL-RUBAYE /AFP**

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Moscow approves Japan stakes in Sakhalin energy project

TWO Japanese trading houses will maintain stakes in a Russian energy project despite Tokyo joining sanctions on Moscow over the war in Ukraine, as the Asian country looks to secure its power supply.

Moscow is transferring operation of the Sakhalin-2 oil and gas project to a new Russian firm, with foreign stakeholders required to apply for approval to maintain their interests.

Like other countries that have joined sanctions, Japan is seeking to reduce its reliance on Russian energy imports but struggling to find alternatives.

The resource-poor country faced a power crunch during a summer heatwave this year, and



File photo taken February 2009 shows pipes extending from a liquefied natural gas terminal (back) in Sakhalin Oblast, Russia, to a carrier ship. **PHOTO: KYODO**

is looking ahead to a potentially difficult winter. Mitsubishi Corp said Thursday that its 10 per cent stake in the Sakhalin-2 project

had been approved by Moscow, a day after Mitsui said its 12.5 per cent interest had also been given the green light.—AFP

Poland, Baltics mull barring Russians regardless of EU

POLAND and the three Baltic states said Wednesday they were considering barring Russian

travellers from entry if the EU as a whole fails to do so.

EU foreign ministers are

meeting in Prague, which holds the rotating EU presidency, to discuss travel restrictions on Russia following its invasion of Ukraine that started in February.

In a joint statement obtained by AFP, Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which all border Russia, said the suspension of a 2007 visa facilitation agreement between the EU and Russia, proposed by the presidency, was "a necessary first step".

The move backed by many EU members including Germany would make EU visas more costly for Russian travellers and lift a deadline on visa issuance times.—AFP



Baltic states, the north-eastern region of Europe containing the countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, on the eastern shores of the Baltic Sea. NATO has sent extra forces to train with Lithuania's small army in 2017. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

German civil servants probed on Russian spy suspicion: report

GERMAN intelligence services are investigating two civil servants at the economy ministry on suspicion of spying for Moscow, according to a local media report published Wednesday.

Germany's Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, the domestic intelligence service, opened an inquiry after senior ministry staff shared their concerns, according to weekly Die Zeit.

The ministry "cannot comment on individual cases", a spokeswoman told AFP when asked about the report.

She added that new leadership at the ministry had "completely overturned the pro-Russian policy pursued until the change of government" in December last year.

Germany has set about reducing its dependence on fuel imports from Russia in response to the invasion of Ukraine in February, with the economy ministry central to implementing the policy shift.—AFP

Insurance payments on defaulted Russia debt to move forward

RUSSIA'S default on its international debt was fully acknowledged Wednesday by a little-known panel of financial firms when they set a date for the procedure to compensate insured investors.

The Credit Derivatives Determinations Committee (CDDC) for Europe said it was scheduling an auction to settle credit derivative transactions on certain Russian government bonds on 12 September. Moody's ratings agency said in June that Russia defaulted on its foreign debt for the first time in a century, after bond holders did not receive \$100 million in interest payments.

But as Western ratings agencies were no longer able to rate Russian debt under Western sanctions, an official determination on whether Russia had defaulted and therefore payment of insurance claims could go forward, fell to the CDDC.

Based in London, the CDDC is made up of 15 leading banks and financial firms that field requests from investors who want to know whether a missed debt payment constitutes a "credit event".

If they do so, they schedule a procedure called an auction to determine the price paid on credit default swaps, a sort of insurance bondholders can purchase to protect against default by borrowers.—AFP

Laos expects to attract 900,000 foreign visitors in 2022

THE Lao government plans to attract 900,000 foreign visitors in 2022, which is expected to generate more than 218 million US dollars.

The outlook for the tourism industry is positive following the reopening of the country to international tourists since 9 May, according to the latest report from the Tourism Development Department under the Lao Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism.

The number of tourist

arrivals has increased significantly in recent months, giving a boost to the supply of foreign currency, which is urgently needed to buy imported goods, local daily Vientiane Times reported on Wednesday.

The full operation of the China-Laos Railway, and the draws of scenic Vangvieng, the Luang Prabang World Heritage Site and the low value of the kip are among the main attractions for visitors from neighbouring countries. —Xinhua



Aerial photo taken on 22 November 2021 shows the Luang Prabang station along the China-Laos Railway in Luang Prabang, Laos. Luang Prabang, the ancient capital of Luang Prabang Province in northern Laos, lies in a valley at the confluence of the Mekong and Nam Khan rivers. Inhabited for thousands of years, it was the royal capital of the country until 1975. PHOTO: KAIKEO SAIYASANE/XINHUA

Kazakh leader says plans to call snap presidential vote this autumn

KAZAKHSTAN'S President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said Thursday he plans to call a snap presidential election this autumn and will reduce the presidency to one seven-year term.

In an address to the Central Asian country's parliament, Tokayev also proposed holding snap parliamentary elections in the first half of 2023, after his country underwent a political crisis earlier this year that left more than 200 people dead.

"I propose that we hold early presidential elections in the autumn of 2022," Tokayev said, saying measures were needed to "strengthen our statehood" and "maintain the momentum of reforms".

A presidential vote had been due in Kazakhstan in 2024 and parliamentary elections in 2025.

Tokayev said he would move the parliamentary vote forward after constitutional changes earlier this year set "completely new standards for a political system with fair and open rules of the game".



It came after career diplomat Tokayev, 69, was hand-picked in 2019 by Nursultan Nazarbayev, who had ruled Kazakhstan for close to three decades, to replace him in the presidency. Kazakhstan's Senate chairman Kassym-Jomart Tokayev takes the oath as Kazakh interim president during a ceremony in Astana, 20 March 2019. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

The term of the presidency would meanwhile be limited to one term of seven years, he said, from the current two five-year terms.

"For me, the interests of the state are above all. Therefore, I am ready to go to early presidential elections, even despite the reduction of my term in office," Tokayev said.

January's unrest roiled energy-rich Kazakhstan, one of the most stable of the Central Asian

countries that gained independence with the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

The bloodshed — which grew out of peaceful protests over a spike in car fuel prices — left more than 230 people dead.

It came after career diplomat Tokayev, 69, was hand-picked in 2019 by Nursultan Nazarbayev, who had ruled Kazakhstan for close to three decades, to replace him in the presidency.—AFP

Rosmah Mansor, wife of Malaysia's ex-leader, convicted of corruption

ROSMAH Mansor, the wife of Malaysia's ex-premier Najib Razak, was found guilty of graft Thursday, just over a week after her husband began serving a 12-year jail term.

"The accused is found guilty of all three charges," High Court Judge Mohamed Zaini Mazlan said as Rosmah sat quietly in the dock.

The judge added that her defence was "bare denial and unsubstantiated".

The Kuala Lumpur court began mitigation on Thursday afternoon, ahead of sentencing.

Even after that, Rosmah will not go straight to jail, pending what could be a lengthy appeals process.

Prosecutors said Rosmah had sought a 187.5 million-ringgit (\$41.8 million) bribe and received 6.5 million ringgit for helping a company secure a

solar power project for rural schools in the Malaysian part of Borneo during her husband's rule.

She still faces 17 other charges involving tax evasion and money laundering.

The 70-year-old has long been reviled by Malaysians for

her reportedly vast collection of designer handbags, clothing and jewellery, acquired on jet-set overseas shopping trips.

Born the only child of two teachers in the country's south, Rosmah rose to become one of Malaysia's most influential people.—AFP



Rosmah Mansor (C), the wife of jailed former Malaysian PM Najib Razak, has been found guilty of corruption. PHOTO: AFP

Secret files 'likely concealed' at Trump home to block FBI probe

TOP secret documents found at Donald Trump's Florida home were "likely concealed" to obstruct an FBI probe into the former US president's potential mishandling of classified materials, the Department of Justice said in an explosive new court filing.

The filing released late Tuesday provides the most detailed account yet of a year-and-a-half long effort to recover hundreds of classified documents that were improperly taken to Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate when he left office in January 2021.

And the claim of obstruction piles further legal pressure on the Republican ex-president — who denies all wrongdoing and has denounced an unprecedented FBI raid on his palatial home this month as part of a "witch-hunt".

Trump's legal team re-

sponded Wednesday with a filing that described the government's pursuit of the documents as "unjustified", said the former president's possession of sensitive information "should have never been cause for alarm," and described the raid as "unprecedented, unnecessary, and legally unsupported."

The 8 August raid was triggered by a review of "highly classified" records that Trump finally surrendered to authorities in January this year — after months of back and forth with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

The Justice Department began investigating the matter after the 15 boxes were found to contain national defense information, including 184 documents marked as confidential, secret or top secret, a government affidavit showed.—AFP

Kazakh leader says plans to call snap presidential vote this autumn

PAGE-15



SPORT

Premier League clubs eye all-time transfer record despite cost of living crisis

THE cost of living crisis in England has passed Premier League clubs by with the all-time record for an entire season, £1.86 billion (\$2.15 billion) from 2017-18, under threat of being broken come the closing of the transfer window later on Thursday.

Cristiano Ronaldo's 37-year-old legs and sky-high wages have deterred Europe's aristocracy from signing him from Manchester United and granting his wish for Champions League football.

However, in contrast United and their domestic rivals have found no outlandish fee

or wage demands beyond them. As of last Thursday, gross spending by the 20 Premier League teams stood at £1.5 billion, surpassing the 2017 record of £1.43 billion spent by English clubs in the close-season window. It was also more than the £1.44 billion spent in the whole of last season.

Manchester United helped reduce the gap further early on Thursday as Erik ten Hag was reunited with another of his former Ajax proteges, Antony.

The 22-year-old was



Manchester United made Antony the fourth most expensive signing in Premier League history at 95 million euros. PHOTO: ANP/AFP/FILE

million euros, making the Brazilian forward the fourth most expensive player in Premier League history.

"This is an incredible moment in my career to be joining one of the most iconic clubs in the world," Antony said in a statement on United's website.—AFP

Neymar, Mbappe score as PSG see off Toulouse

Neymar and Kylian Mbappe both scored in PSG's comfortable win at Toulouse.

PHOTO: LIONEL BONAVENTURE /AFP



GOALS from Neymar and Kylian Mbappe helped Paris Saint-Germain stay top of the Ligue 1 table with a 3-0 victory at Toulouse on Wednesday. Christophe Galtier's reigning champions were never seriously threatened by their newly-promoted opponents and remain above Lens and Marseille on goal difference.

The fearsome front three of Lionel Messi, Neymar and Mbappe have now scored 18 times between them already this term. "MMN"? We can only be satisfied with their performances," said PSG coach Galtier.

Toulouse frustrated PSG early in the game, with goalkeeper Maxime Dupe making two smart stops from Mbappe and tipping a Messi shot wide. —AFP

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

China's Wu makes history after reaching US Open third round

WU Yibing created a piece of tennis history on Wednesday after becoming the first player from China to reach the third round of the US Open.

The talented 22-year-old defeated fellow qualifier Nuno Borges of Portugal in a five-set thriller to set up a David v Goliath showdown with defending champion Daniil Medvedev.

Wu — winner of the US Open junior crown in 2017 — recovered from two sets to one

down to close out a 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/4), 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 win in 3hr 47min.

Wu is the first player from China to reach the third round of any Grand Slam tournament since Kho Sin-Khie reached the same stage at Wimbledon in 1946.

Wu later revealed Wednesday's arduous battle with Borges was only the second time he had played a five-setter. —AFP



Wu recovered from two sets to one down to close out a win in 3hr 47min. PHOTO: AFP