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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds separate talks with Heads of Government of Primorsky of Russian Federation and Republic of Buryatia

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held separate meetings with Head of Government of Primorsky of the Russian Federation Mr Oleg Nikolaevich Kozhemyako and Head of Government of the Republic of Buryatia Mr Aleksey Sambuyevich Tsydenov on the campus of FEFU in Vladivostok yesterday afternoon local standard time.

First, the Senior General held a meeting with the Head of State of Primorsky, attended by Council Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union ministers, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers, Myanmar Ambassador to Russia U Lwin Oo and Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Moe Kyaw, and officials of the regional government of Primorsky.

They exchanged views on the prospect to have success in cooperation between Primorsky and Myanmar in commercial commodity transport, promotion of the export and import sector; the soonest implementation of opening the Myanmar Consulate General and a Business Centre in Vladivostok, and



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents the commemorative gift to the Head of Government of Primorsky of the Russian Federation Mr Oleg Nikolaevich Kozhemyako in Vladivostok on 8 September 2022.

the warm welcome of the Primorsky regional government and its necessary assistance, learning of Myanmar scholarship students in various subjects and plans of the government to

provide necessary assistance for coming students from Myanmar, chances of Myanmar youths in the programmes similar to the Children Camp to exchange knowledge and ex-

periences among the youths in Primorsky, attracting Myanmar officials in the agriculture and livestock sector to Primorsky, and direct trade and the monetary circulation.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the Head of Government of Primorsky exchanged emblems and commemorative gifts.

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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

MoFA signs condolences for demise of former Russian President Mr Mikhail Gorbachev



MR Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the Russian Federation, passed away on 30 August 2022 and Director-General U Zaw Phyo Win of the Strategic Studies and Training Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

signed the book of condolences, which was accessible at the Embassy of Russia, located at No 38 on Sagawa Street in Dagon Township, Yangon Region, at 11 am on 8 September.

Former President Mr

Mikhail Gorbachev of the Russian Federation served as the first president of the Russian Federation from 1990 to 1991. It is learnt that he was 92 years old at the time of his demise. —MNA

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

187 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 8 September, total figure rises to 616,210

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **616,210** after **187** new cases—**five** imported and **182** local transmission—were reported on 8 September 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **594,071** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,442** without more casualties. —MNA

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

DOCTORS and nurses from public hospitals, Tatmadaw medical teams, healthcare workers and volunteers are working hard to give COVID-19 vaccines in different states and regions as the vaccination programme is one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 disease.

COVID-19 vaccine is administered daily to target groups regardless of race or religion, including Buddhist monks and

nuns, local people over the age of 40, students, religious leaders, prisoners, people with disabilities, ethnic armed groups, people with chronic diseases, people in IDP camps and over students above 12, respectively.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 13,100 people from twenty-six

townships in Ayeyawady Region, 1,612 people from three townships in Rakhine State, and 34,020 from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

Similarly on that day, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 425 students from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 2,144 students from six townships in Rakhine State and 643 students from seven districts in Mandalay Region.

It is reported that officials



A student from Kyauktaw Township in Rakhine State gets COVID-19 vaccine shot on 8 September.

from the respective regions coordinated the necessary work and state visited the site and —MNA

The Tatmadaw will carry out these responsibilities as a guardian for the benefit of the nation and the ethnic people

IN our country, we must continue to strengthen the “genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system” which is the desire of the people. The Tatmadaw has firmly guaranteed a union based on a multiparty democratic system and a democratic federal system. According to Section 20 (f) of the basic principles of the constitution, Sections 6, 7 and 8, which include three responsibilities, Tatmadaw has the main responsibility to protect the multi-party democratic system and the federal system. The Tatmadaw will carry out these responsibilities as a guardian for the benefit of the nation and the ethnic people.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting (2/2022) of the National Defence and Security Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 31st July 2022)

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds separate talks with Heads of Government of Primorsky of Russian Federation and Republic of Buryatia



FROM PAGE-1

In the evening, the Senior General visited the exhibition of the Republic of Buryatia at the 7th Eastern Economic Forum-2022 where Head of Government of the Republic of Buryatia Mr Aleksey Sambuyevich Tsydenov and party warmly welcomed the Senior General and party with traditional dancing.

The exhibition of the Republic of Buryatia displays the booths on traditional textile, industrial arts, timber and forest products arts, manufacturing of helicopters, painting, healthcare services combined with modern industrial technology, traditional healthcare, and mining of natural resources. The Senior General interestingly viewed all booths of the exhibition and raised questions about what he wanted to know, and the Head of State of the Republic of Buryatia and curators



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views the exhibitions of the Republic of Buryatia at the seventh Eastern Economic Forum-2022 in Vladivostok yesterday.

conducted the Senior General round the exhibition.

The Senior General met Head of Government of the Republic of Buryatia Mr Aleksey Sambuyevich Tsydenov at the parlour of the exhibition.

At the meeting, they frankly discussed with delightedness chances for showcasing the booths of Buryatia and chances for the guests to know traditional culture and development of the region, plans to explain

the regional development to the Senior General and party on their tour of Buryatia region, acceleration of economic cooperation with the Russian Federation, efforts of Myanmar to export quality domestic products

and other products to Russia, prospects of economic cooperation between Myanmar and Buryatia, and detailed discussions on the potential for economic cooperation while visiting Buryatia region. — MNA

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Rector of Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) in Vladivostok of Russian Federation



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds the meeting with Rector Mr Boris Nikolaevich Korobets of the Far Eastern Federal University yesterday.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held a meeting with Rector of Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) Mr Boris Nikolaevich Korobets at the university in Vladivostok of the Russian Federation yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, both sides exchanged views on functions of the university, attending of scholarship students from glob-

al countries, warm welcome to trainees from Myanmar to attend the university, reviews of the rector over the discussions of the Senior General with the title of the important role of Myanmar in the food security sector and good opportunities in investment at the plenary session of the 7th Eastern Economic Forum-2022 and taking a notice of the importance of the food security sector, conducting

advanced studies by Myanmar trainees at many universities in the western part of Russia, plans of Myanmar to send its trainees to take postgraduate medical courses at FEFU, prospects of improving cooperation in the education sector in enhancing bilateral relations of both countries and economic cooperation, arrangement of the university for Myanmar trainees, and a plan to sign an agreement between

FEFU and Yangon University of Foreign Languages in Myanmar.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the rector exchanged commemorative gifts.

The FEFU established in 1899 is now a 123-year-old institution which gives regional and international subjects, economic, management, educational, engineering, humanitarian, law, medical and environmental conservation subjects. The uni-

versity under the Education and Science Servant Department of the Russian Federation admits some 41,000 students. During the visit of the Senior General, the meeting focused on cooperation between universities in academic subjects and cooperation in education promotion including the situation to send Myanmar's medical scholarship students to the university. — MNA

Oral vaccine Paclovid soon to be distributed for COVID-19 treatment

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PRESCRIPTION ONLY MEDICINE

PREORDER NOW

A Myanmar national-owned pharmaceutical factory, Pacific Medical Industries Ltd, has successfully produced a PACLOVID/PAXLOVID (Nirmatrelvir 150 milligrammes; Ritonavir 100 milligrammes) medicine which is the latest treatment (oral medicine) for COVID-19 disease. It is a treatment that reduces hospitalization rates and will be distributed soon.

The latest treatment (oral medicine) for COVID-19 is recommended by the health organizations of the world's developed countries including WHO, US FDA, UK MHRA, Korea FDA and Singapore FDA as the most successful oral medicine in the treatment of COVID-19 and also received a permit by the FDA Myanmar with FDA No 2308ND012.

PACLOVID (Nirmatrelvir 150 mg; Ritonavir 100 mg) can reduce the rate of hospitaliza-

tion and up to 90 per cent of the death rate for those who are seriously ill if they receive early treatment. Delta and omicron variants can also be successfully treated and children aged over 12 and weighing over 40 kg can be cured, according to the laboratory tests.

A doctor's instruction will be needed to take this medicine for it is a prescription-only medicine-POM type. Those who want to preorder PACLOVID can contact AA Medical Products Ltd along with the request letter from the clinic/hospital or a doctor's prescription. It will be distributed into the market including doctors treating COVID-19 disease, hospitals, clinics and medical stores. The Ministry of Health alerts that the rate of Covid infection is resurging with the high rate of domestic transmission occurring in Myanmar.—TWA/GNLM

A PACLOVID/PAXLOVID (Nirmatrelvir 150 mg; Ritonavir 100 mg) medicine is seen at the Pacific Medical Industries Ltd.



Sports can enthral the hearts of the citizens of a nation and uplift the national pride and prestige: Vice-Senior General

STATE Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, in his capacity as Chairman of Education, Health and Human Resource Development Committee, attended the prize-giving ceremony held in honour of the athletes of Myanmar universities who won medals at the 20th ASEAN University Games.

In his speech on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General said that sports manifest the fitness, perseverance and industry of a people, that sports competitions are a show of prowess in a fair way and that sports can enthral the hearts of the citizens of a nation and uplift the national pride and prestige. Sports play a significant role in the all-round development of a nation and so all the nations in the world try to raise their standards of sports.

He disclosed that he was glad to know that Myanmar university athletes aimed to win fair victory with mutual respect, friendship and sportsmanship. He emphasized that student-athletes gained success because they were determined to be successful in all kinds of sports as a national duty and burnish the image of the nation.

The Vice-Senior General continued that systematic measures are being taken for the nation to be able to keep abreast of other nations in all spheres, including sports. In other words, attempts are being made to enhance people's fitness and national standards of sports. In any sports, outstanding athletes can't be turned out overnight and the physical and mental capabilities of athletes need to be built up.

He added that, with a view



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win speaks on the occasion of honouring the winning student-athletes of Myanmar universities yesterday.



The Vice-Senior General presents the cash award to the gold medalist.

to raising the sports standards of the nation, B.Sc (Sports) degree will soon be conferred at Dagon

University and Yadanabon University due to the cooperation between the Ministry of Educa-

tion and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs. Moreover, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health are working in cooperation to raise the intellectual capacity of children and build up their physical fitness.

He pointed out that Myanmar student-athletes started to participate in the 15th ASEAN University Games held in Thailand. Altogether 47 athletes took part in the games and got only three bronze medals in three events of sports.

Students secured one gold and two bronze medals in their second competition in the ASEAN University Games in 2012, three silvers and five bronzes in Wushu and Karatedo, two bronzes in Sepak Takraw and three bronzes in the track and field in the third competition in 2014, one silver in Sepak Takraw event in the fourth competition in 2016, 24 golds, 26 silvers and 29 bronzes in the fifth competition hosted by Myanmar in 2018 and two golds, two silvers and two bronzes in the sixth competition in 2022.

The Prime Minister provid-

ed K200,000 and US\$200 each to athletes and K100,000 and US\$100 each to coaches in competition.

Gold medallists will be honoured with K7.5 million each in the singles event, silver medalists K5 million each and bronze medalists K2.5 million each. K1 million each will be awarded to players from the football team which secured the bronze medal. Coaches and managers will be honoured with K2 million each for the gold medal, K1.5 million each for silver and K1 million for bronze. Hence, K55.5 million as the reward will be presented to the winners at the ceremony.

Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe reported on the competition of the athletes in the 20th ASEAN University Games.

The Vice-Senior General, Council Members General Mya Tun Oo and Daw Aye Nu Sein and Union Ministers Dr Nyunt Pe and U Min Thein Zan presented awards of honour to the winners.

On behalf of the winners, gold medalist Ma Aye Thitsa Myint of Wushu event spoke words of thanks. — MNA



MoTC Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San inspects the landslide protection work.

Landslide protection work inspected in Ayeyawady Region

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San made an inspection tour of landslide protection work yesterday in Ayeyawady Region.

Firstly, the Union minister inspected the Yankinsanyar jetty in 3 Ward of Nyaungdon township and the situation of the temporary protection work to alleviate landslides under the jetty before firm protection work is carried out.

He gave the necessary instructions after officials presented reports on their work implementation in detail.

Afterwards, the Union minister met officials from the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Hinthada township. He urged them to fulfil the ministry's housing needs, make cleaning activities in offices and housing compound in addition to paying special attention to security.

At noon, the Union minister inspected the landslide protection work at the Satumukha Stupa in Lemyethna township and gave instructions where necessary.—MNA

SAC member MoHA Union Minister makes inspection tours in Mandalay, Sagaing regions



SAC member MoHA Union Minister Lt-Gen Soe Htut meets security forces members.

STATE Administration Council member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut stressed the need to release

information regarding destructive elements, killings of innocent civilians, government staff and administrative officials and

robbery cases of the terrorists in the country, launch security measures and show loyalty to the members while meeting the

security forces members and families in Sagaing Region on 7 September.

He appreciated the border guard police force members who sacrificed their lives in the defence of their outposts attacked by armed terrorists recently.

He continued that the Prime Minister focuses on the education sector and that parents should prioritize the education of their children. Family members should operate small-scale agriculture and livestock farms and officers should encourage subordinates to do so successively. He also called for true news to be clarified and vigilance about spreading misinformation and rumours on social networks.

Then, the Union Minister inspected the region police training school and enjoyed lunch to-

gether with the trainees.

On 8 September, the Union minister went to the police officer training school in Mandalay and met family members of trainees. He provided cash assistance after having lunch together with the trainees.

The Union minister said it needs to implement a trainee-centred approach following the motto of "study-practise-follow" and use school libraries effectively. He also instructed the detailed points to motivate in carrying out security duties jointly with Tatmadaw.

Then, the Union minister met officials of affiliated departments of the ministry at the Mandalay Region Police Force office and left the necessary things. — MNA

MoI Union Minister attends dinner for International Literacy Day 2022 in Mandalay

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn attended the dinner party to mark International Literacy Day 2022 hosted in Mandalay yesterday.

Also present at the event were Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Maung Ko, regional ministers, departmental officials, artistes in literary, film, music and theatrical fields, the rector of the Mandalay University of Medicine and students.

The Union Minister spoke on the occasion appreciating the efforts of the Mandalay Region government, artistes in literary, film, music and theatrical fields, teachers and students for participating in development programmes despite the destructive actions of unscrupulous persons.

He also described the literary, film, music and theatrical luminaries as men of wisdom for their supportive efforts to the country. He then urged them to keep carrying out their art skills to ensure peace and development of the country and for the stu-



Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn makes the remark at the dinner to mark International Literacy Day 2022 in Mandalay.



dents to become reliable medics and physicians for the country.

Afterwards, the regional chief minister made a speech and the Union minister gave awards to five maestros of the Myoma Musical Troupe.

During the dinner, officials and participants watched the performance of artistes.

The Union minister also visited the construction sites of the

Sitagu Sanchi Pagoda and Sitagu Summer Resort in Htonebo village of PyinOoLwin Township yesterday morning.

The construction was led by Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Nyanissara and about 40 per cent completed.

He then inspected the district library in PyinOoLwin, the district IPRD office and locations to construct a training school. During the inspection tour, the

Union minister and wife presented gifts and cash assistance to the staff.

The Union minister also inspected the MRTV retransmission station in PyinOoLwin and paid homage to Sayadaw Pyinyeinda at the Vipassi Dhamma Yeiktha in Aungchantha village, 32 miles off PyinOoLwin, paid homage to the Buddha image in the cave, and viewed locations

for Yogis to do meditation in the Byama Cariya Dhamma Beikman. At noon, the Union minister met the staff of the Upper Myanmar Printing House (Mandalay) of the Printing and Publishing Department in Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay Region and provided cash assistance.

Then, he inspected the production process of the factory. — 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.

MoFA Union Minister attends meeting 1/2022 of Working Committee on cooperation with UN Agencies and International Organizations under Central Committee on Rakhine State's Peace, Stability and Development

THE meeting 1/2022 of the Working Committee on the cooperation with the United Nations Agencies and International Organizations under the Central Committee on Rakhine State's Peace, Stability and Development was held at the Ayeyawady Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) at 10 am yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, in his capacity as Chairman of the Working Committee for the cooperation with the UN Agencies and the International Organizations emphasized that the State Administration Council has formed the Central Committee on Rakhine State's Peace, Stability and Development, Coordination Committee and four Working Committees with the aim to promote Rakhine State's Peace, Stability and Development. The working committee will continue imple-

menting its work to prove tangible results at the international arena. Moreover, he underscored that it is important to effectively carry out the respective activities for the actual improvement of social lives of all communities in Rakhine State.

Moreover, the committee members discussed the ongoing implementation and the areas for further cooperation in the Rakhine State including the ongoing projects of UN agencies and international organizations as well as International Non-Governmental Organizations. Additionally, they discussed the arrangements for the repatriation process of the displaced persons from Rakhine State after the systematic verification has been carried out.

The permanent secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the capacity of the Secretary



The meeting of the Working Committee on cooperation with UN Agencies and International Organizations under the Central Committee on Rakhine State's Peace, Stability and Development 1/2022 is in progress.

of the Working Committee also discussed the future plan for the effective implementation of the tasks of the Working Committee while the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Information, co-secretary of the Working Com-

mittee deliberated the important role of disseminating the credible information.

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin in his capacity as Chairman of the Working Committee made emphasis on close

coordination among the ministries concerned for the effective contribution of the assistance of the UN agencies and international organizations to the areas where the assistance is actually in need. —MNA

Myanmar celebrates International Literacy Day 2022



Union Education Minister Dr Nyunt Pe gives the remark to celebrate International Literacy Day 2022.

THE high number of children out of school and the illiterate cause a huge challenge for the development of the country, said Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe at the ceremony of

International Literacy Day 2022 held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Union minister, in his capacity as Patron of the International Literacy Day Organizing Committee, continued that,

according to the 2014 Census, 3.5 million people over the age of 15 were illiterate while 2.7 million children did not complete their primary education for various reasons.

Plans are underway to reduce the number of illiterates over the age of 15. The ministry also drafted the projects to expand the alternative primary education and alternative middle education for the dropout children in the National Education Strategic Plan (2021-2030) and expanded basic literacy programmes for illiterates yearly.

As per this year's theme "Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces", relevant ministries, and region/state governments should participate in drafting suitable projects of literacy programmes for young people and adults who do not complete basic primary education in the country.

He also highlighted the free basic education stipulated in the

National Education Law 2014, completion of KG+9 and learning opportunities for agriculture and technical technicians.

Then, the Secretary-General of the Myanmar National Commission for UNESCO and Rector of the Yangon University of Foreign Languages read out the message for International Literacy Day 2022 from the UNESCO Secretary-General.

Next, the video clip for International Literacy Day 2022 was played and students from the No 5 BEHS in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw sang the song "Sar-Tat-Myauk-Yay-Wine-Ku-Pay."

The Union minister provided cash awards to the students and viewed round the booths. —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*

OPINION

Shape your life and enhance your capacity to build yourselves

ALL the events in the society are in different scenarios because all the persons are dancing to the tune of fortune while marching to the goal of life inch by inch.

Everybody seems they face tremendous troubles in their lives and their inconvenient measures are the most difficult. In fact, everybody is trying to overcome challenges at different levels. If you seem someone is convenient in their lives, it is sure to be wrong. There is no person who does not face any difficulties. Practically, everybody is complying with life by shaping themselves in the best situation to be able to accept the best convenient nature.

You should not be downhearted for all difficulties. Everybody is sure to face the difficulties and challenges of life. It is because only when the persons are alive will they face these challenges. A dead body does not have any reason to face challenges. So, if the persons wish not to face challenges in their lives or if they do not face life challenges, they may be similar to the dead body.

may be similar to the dead body.

No life is perfect. Likewise, nobody is perfect. But, it is not to be downhearted. As such, everybody needs to build their lives and shape themselves so as to enhance their capacity. If their capacity is higher, they will have the power to harness their lives for defying their fortune.

That is why everybody should not break the enacted rules and disciplines in their lives. They should try to take pride in their successes whenever they overcome challenges without harming others in any way.

Actually, everybody is doing personal affairs by wearing face masks with a smile even though their actual faces may be filled with tears. Most of the persons may face tragedy but they never show off their pains. They never surrender and they ever try to conquer overall measures despite having troubles more than you. Hence you should not be downhearted for your loss and pain while gazing at others without knowing comprehensive measures of their internal affairs.

In society, those who are mature in overcoming life hindrances never show off their plights on their faces with the aim of debarring bad reflections of their troubles over others. Hence, everybody needs to hold up the concept that they should not talk about their difficulties with others for any reason. Only when they achieve success in their lives should they thumb up for their victories.

You should not be downhearted for all difficulties. Everybody is sure to face the difficulties and challenges of life. It is because only when the persons are alive will they face these challenges. A dead body does not have any reason to face challenges. So, if the persons wish not to face challenges in their lives or if they do not face life challenges, they

Army 2022 International Military and Technical Forum: Russia shows the world its newest weapons

By Htet Myat

(CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY)

THE tank features a new turret, upgraded power & transmission systems and chassis, and an enhanced level of armour protection. Its highly automated weapon station is equipped with a multispectral gunner's sight and a commander's panoramic sight. This enables the commander not only to get more information about the situation but also to control the armament of the combat vehicle. The weapon station is equally suitable for installation on new-built combat vehicles, as well as for the modernization of equipment produced in previous years.

"The BMPT-72 is based on the idea of converting the decommissioned T-72 tanks into a new high-performance combat vehicle. It gives a unique opportunity to nearly 50 states and countries armed with the most produced tank of our time, the T-72, to quickly and at minimal cost turn their armies into a super-modern powerful, mobile, highly protected and well-armed force without purchasing new expensive armoured vehicles. Moreover, if there is a repair base, the necessary equipment and tooling, the modernization of tanks into the BMPT-72 can be carried out on the customer's territory."

The High Precision Systems holding company has shown the Kornet-EM mobile day/night precision-guided long-range missile

system with a jam-resistant laser-beam riding control system designed to counter ground and air targets. The firing range reaches 10 km, and two targets can be engaged simultaneously.

Also, High Precision Systems showcased the Planshet-M-IR mobile automatic gun/mortar/MRL fire control system. This is a compact portable system compatible with all types of Russian UAVs and can be integrated into other control systems.

The Kalashnikov Concern presented the latest models of combat and civilian small arms, missile and artillery weapons and special equipment, overalls and unmanned aerial vehicles at Army 2022. Presentations of the AK-308 assault rifle, Chukavin sniper rifle, PPK-20 Kalashnikov submachine gun, and an improved version of the AK-12 assault rifle were held during the forum.

A feature of this year's exhibition was the demonstration of a wide range of weapons for special operations units. Among the exhibit items were: the VSS special silenced rifle designed to defeat live targets protected by fragment-proof vests and riding in soft-skinned vehicles under conditions requiring silent and flameless firing; SR.3M compact and lethal modernized assault rifle specially designed for special operations units; SR.1M, one of the world's most lethal pistols

providing reliable defeat of live targets with penetration of a fragment-proof vest or a steel military helmet at ranges up to 100 metres; a wide variety of Lobaev and OR-SIS long-range rifles.

Rosoboronexport also showed the PTKM-1R smart top-attack anti-tank mine. The PTKM-1R can selectively engage armoured vehicles and singles out only those that meet the specified parameters in terms of noise and ground vibrations.

Naval weapons

A wide range of strike and defensive systems, primarily developed by the Tactical Missile Weapons Corporation and Almaz-Antey Corporation, was showcased in the naval weapons segment at Army 2022.

The UGST universal deep-sea homing torpedo presented by KTRV can be fired from 533 mm torpedo tubes fitted to submarines and surface ships. A distinctive feature of the UGST torpedo is its modular design with multi-level customization potential, which enables its quick integration with the

naval platform taking into account the specifics of employment. Its range is up to 50 km.

The PAKET-E/NK is a unique compact Russian anti-submarine system that combines attack and defensive capabilities. It is designed both to destroy submarines in the near field of the ship and torpedoes already fired at the ship. The PAKET-E/NK includes a control system, a dedicated sonar station, and two modular launchers with small-sized thermal torpedoes and anti-torpedoes. This configuration makes it possible

to destroy a submarine attacking the ship and torpedoes it fired in one engagement cycle. Owing to its small dimensions, the system can be easily adapted to ships of different displacements.

The Shtil-1 multichannel ship-based medium-range SAM system, presented by the Almaz-Antey, provides all-round collective protection of naval groups or convoys, as well as individual protection of the ships carrying the system against attacks by anti-ship missiles, aircraft, helicopters, boats and ships. The system has a vari-

able configuration and can simultaneously engage two to twelve targets, depending on the number of radio searchlight radars in the configuration. The modular design of equipment and instrumentation ensures a high level of survivability of the SAM system, ease of maintenance and operational use. At the exhibition, the Shtil-1 SAM system was demonstrated in the form of a scale model.

During the Army 2022 Forum, the Russian state special exporter Rosoboronexport and the Marine Instrumentation Corporation signed a joint action programme to promote naval equipment in the external market in 2022-2027.

"Following the key trend in the global arms market, we have placed special emphasis in the programme on the expansion of industrial cooperation. Under the signed programme, Rosoboronexport will offer its foreign partners solutions for adapting Russian equipment to naval platforms being upgraded and built at national shipyards. In addition, we will promote various formats of joint development and manufacture of naval weapons

Su-57



Verba MANPADS



Kh-69

ARTICLE



system is designed to counter almost all air threats, including precision-guided weapons like cruise missiles and guided air-

launched missiles. The system uses 12 Sosna-R high-speed precision missiles (the same as used in the Palma naval air defence missile/gun system). The missiles have a small weight which made it possible to exclude a transporter/loader vehicle from the SAM system. The Sosna can be mounted on various chassis and is available in a modular version. In the segment of long-range air defence systems, Almaz-Antey showcased the latest Antey-4000 air defence missile system (ADMS). The maximum range against aerodynamic targets is 380 km.

based on the latest Russian pieces of armament," said Alexander Mikheev, Director-General of Rosoboronexport. The signed programme aims to promote the Bal-E and Rubezh-ME coastal defence missile systems, various coastal surface and air surveillance radars, combat management systems, control and data exchange systems, shipborne radars, sonar and fire extinguishing equipment, as well as ship and submarine crew trainers.

Air defence

A wide range of air defence systems is traditionally showcased at Russian defence exhibitions - it is obvious that Russia has particularly serious baggage of experience and competencies in this segment. At Army 2022, Almaz-Antey Corporation unveiled a modular target acquisition radar system from the Viking mobile SAM system. This system could be seen consisting of the 9S38E modular target acquisition radar (exhibited for the first time), the 9A317ME TELAR, 9A316ME and 9A383E TELs. The Corporation stressed that the Viking system is capable of engaging current and emerging tactical and strategic aircraft, including those made using stealth technology, tactical and cruise missiles, helicopters, reconnaissance and strike complexes and unmanned aerial vehicles, and radio-contrast ground and surface targets. At the same time, the Viking can effectively operate in a heavy jamming and counter-fire environment. Its maximum range is 65 km.

The stationary fighting compartment of the Sosna automated short-range SAM system was demonstrated at the forum. The

in addition to the well-known Pantsir-S1 SPAAGM system, High Precision Systems presented to the guests of the exhibition its newest Verba MANPADS which is resistant to modern types of jamming and has the fire-and-forget principle of operation. It offers increased capabilities against low-heat-signature targets. The range is up to 6 km.

New developments were also presented in the field of special electronic warfare systems designed to counter unmanned aerial vehicles. The novelty of the year was the RB-504A-E system presented by Rosoboronexport, which is capable of neutralizing short- and medium-range UAVs.

The Repellent-Patrol mobile electronic warfare system for countering small-sized UAVs can carry out multi-channel suppression of their communication links and effectively counter a swarm of UAVs. The UAV communication link detection range is 25 km. As noted in Russia, Repellent Patrol has expanded capabilities to identify and counter commercial UAVs. It can be supplied in both mobile and fixed versions. A version of a wheeled chassis was exhibited at the exhibition.

CURRENT AFFAIRS



The photo shows an advertisement for Wave Money.

Citizenship scrutiny cards required for remittance, withdrawal of wave money

THOSE who want to transfer or withdraw money through Wave Money, a mobile financial services provider, need to take citizenship scrutiny cards, according to Wave Money's statement on 8 September.

To secure mobile financial services for the users, security measures for mobile money remittance are stepped up. Therefore, citizenship scrutiny cards have become obligatory for remittance or withdrawal and must be presented to the agents, Wave Money stated.

"Remittance cannot be done without a national scrutiny card", the company directed. Earlier, users had to fill in the six digits of citizenship scrutiny cards. Then, they just put in any six digits to complete the process. Now, it

can't go like that. We can proceed with the national scrutiny card," Daw Phyu Pyar, an agent of Wave Money told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The Central Bank of Myanmar notified on 15 August that mobile money service shops must install CCTV to record the users.

Wave Money is the leading digital money service company in Myanmar. Wave Money is the first company to be registered under the new Mobile Financial Services Regulation.

"Only individuals above 18 years old can get access to this mobile financial service. One who transfers the money must present the national scrutiny card. The company will send the password automatically to the

receiver. However, we are not liable if the sender put the incorrect phone number," Ko Arkar San, an agent from Thingangyun Township, told the GNLM.

Wave Money was a joint venture between Yoma and Telenor group in November 2016, with Telenor Myanmar holding 51 per cent of the stake, Yoma group having 44 per cent of shares and Yoma Bank owning the remaining five per cent. In January 2022, Telenor agreed to sell its 51 per cent stakes to Yoma.

Wave money has more than 45,000 wave money agents in 295 townships across the country, according to Telenor's statement.

Wave Money processed the transaction volume of Myanmar Kyat worth US\$8.7 billion in 2020. — TWA/GNLM

Ooredoo Myanmar to be sold to Singapore company for US\$576 million

OOREDOO (Myanmar), a telecom operator in Myanmar, is to be sold to Singapore-based Nine Communications Pte Ltd for \$576 million, announced on the Ooredoo website.

In addition to the business value, the company will receive a total equity value of \$162 million, according to the announcement.

At present, the board of directors has agreed, and the transaction will be carried out in line with Myanmar's procedures.

It is also reported that Ooredoo Myanmar, which is the third largest telecommunication operator in Myanmar, had around 15 million users by 2020.

Ooredoo shares rose 4.6 per cent in the market after news of the transaction was announced and departmental approval was in a pending stage.

The increase is the highest one in Ooredoo's share value since mid-August last year, according to Bloomberg News. — TWA/GNLM



Rising commodities prices, low demand affect freight forwarding service

FREIGHT flows normally decline in the monsoon season. This year, a drop in freight volume, delays in some routes and fuel hikes posed a negative impact on truck freight forwarding service compared to the corresponding period of the previous years.

The frequency of truck freight forwarding service dropped by half. Some highway cargo service has gradually slowed down and operated every other day. A bus terminal owner Ko Htay posted on his Facebook that traffic congestion daily occurred on Kayay Street at Bayintnaung Wholesale Market. This month, the number of vehicles declined.

Similarly, Yetama, Nguwah



Lorries loaded with goods are seen near the warehouses at Bayintnaung Wholesale Market.

and Aungthabyay streets were packed with around 30 trucks carrying onions and potatoes. This month, the truck inflows significantly dropped. That being so, there is low traffic on Kayay

and Yetama streets with the truck freight forwarding services to regions inside and outside Yangon going down, Ko Aye Myint who works in a warehouse located on Yetama Street, told the

Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Moreover, along with commodities prices soaring, freight volume ordered by regions outside Yangon has drastically fallen, especially building materials.

Also, the delivery of palm oil from Yangon to other regions and states decreased more than by half, Ko Aung Tun Lin, a trader who delivers the goods to regions outside Yangon, told the GNLM.

Even the highway passenger express bus carried the cargo without passengers, resulting in a drop in freight volume for the cargo trucks. One truck liner running to delta regions notified the customers of a K15 increase per viss due to a fuel price spike.

However, other truck operators stay strong and the freight rate remains unchanged. As a result of this, one truck liner can raise the price by K5 per viss instead of K15, the GNLM quoted Ko Myo, a purchaser who sends truck loads of goods to other regions every day.

There are over 300 truck gates in Bayintnaung. The number of trucks decreased from 10 to four per day in September, Ko Naing from Freight Forwarding Association, told the GNLM.

Although truck operators are struggling with the low profit, they cannot help running the trucks to cope with the earnings of their workers in the difficult times, Ko Nay, an owner of the truck stand, said. — TWA/GNLM

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

India approves “world’s first” intranasal COVID-19 vaccine

INDIA’S drug regulator has approved what a local vaccine innovator calls the “world’s first” intranasal COVID-19 vaccine, restricted for use in emergency situations for those aged 18 and above.

The approval of Bharat Biotech International Ltd.’s iNCOVACC vaccine on Tuesday came two days after China authorized use of an inhalable coronavirus vaccine, another needle-free option.

The Hyderabad-based company, in a statement, said the vaccine with the nasal delivery system has been designed to be cost effective in low- and middle-income countries with limited medical facilities and staff.



Indian Minister of Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya. PHOTO: HINDUSTAN TIMES/GETTY/KYODO

Drug makers in several countries, including Japan’s Shionogi & Co, are developing nasal vaccines for coronavirus.

Bharat Biotech collaborated with Washington University in St. Louis in developing the iNCOVACC vaccine.— Kyodo

Relaxing COVID-19 protocols to hurt business, health in long run: scholars



Travellers arrive at a deserted Qantas terminal at Melbourne Airport, Melbourne, Australia, 26 Aug 2021. PHOTO: AFP

AS Australia cut its COVID-19 isolation from seven days to five days and dumped mask mandates on domestic flights, health experts warned that the

change may bring about long-term health effects and disrupt business even more.

“First and foremost, there is no scientific basis for the

change,” said Nancy Baxter, head of the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at the University of Melbourne, and Raina MacIntyre, professor of global Biosecurity at the University of New South Wales, in a recent analysis published by the media network the Conversation.

The two experts pointed out that COVID-19 is the third most common killer of Australians, resulting in 11,746 deaths so far this year. “And there is mounting evidence survivors of COVID face the risk of long-term health effects on the lungs, heart, brain and immune system,” they said.— Xinhua

Italy greenlights Omicron-adapted COVID-19 booster shots

THE Italian Medicines Agency (AIFA) on Tuesday gave its approval to the distribution of two coronavirus vaccines specifically tailored to confront the spread of the Omicron variant of the virus.

The approval from AIFA came after the European Medicines Agency (EMA) last week endorsed the use of the updated Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines and concluded

ed the Comirnaty and Spikevax vaccines were safe for use in individuals over the age of 12.

Italy began distributing COVID-19 vaccines in December 2020, but the new boosters represent the first time the country has approved a coronavirus vaccine dose engineered for a specific variant of the virus.

As in the past, priority will be given to those aged over 60

or other residents with health conditions that make them specifically vulnerable to COVID-19.

“The AIFA-continuous booster dose is available to all subjects under the authorized indication and may be administered at least three months after completion of the primary vaccination cycle or any booster dose already received,” said the agency in a press release.— Xinhua

US children confront severe learning losses over COVID-19: WSJ

FOR two years, American schools and researchers have wrestled with pandemic-era learning setbacks, resulting mostly from a lack of in-person classes, reported The Wall Street Journal on Tuesday.

National data show those children who were learning to read earlier in the pandemic have the lowest reading proficiency rates in about 20 years.

According to the US Department of Education, from 2020 to 2022, average reading scores for 9-year-olds slid 5 points, to 215 out of a possible 500, in the sharpest decline since 1990.

Average math scores fell 7 points to 234, the first statistically significant decline in math scores since the long-term trend assessments began in the 1970s.

Learning loss generally is worse in districts that kept classes remote longer, with the effects most pronounced in high-poverty districts, said the report. The possible reasons are that some students stayed remote after in-person classes resumed, COVID-19 outbreaks led to additional quarantine, and class routines were disturbed by social distancing.— Xinhua



Elementary students walk home from school in Plano, Texas, the United States, on 31 Aug 2022. PHOTO: XIN JIN/XINHUA

US under pressure in curbing monkeypox outbreak as caseload tops 20,000

MORE than three months into the monkeypox outbreak, over 20,000 monkeypox cases have been confirmed in the United States, according to the latest data from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Concerns are mounting that the window of opportunity for containing the escalating monkeypox outbreak in the country may be closing, with vaccine shortages leaving some at-risk groups waiting weeks to get vaccinated.

A total of 20,733 known monkeypox cases had been reported nationwide as of Tuesday, CDC data showed.

California had the most cases with 3,833, followed by New York with 3,526 and Florida

with 2,126, according to CDC data. So far the United States has the world’s highest tally of monkeypox cases.

While monkeypox cases are increasing nationally, the speed of the outbreak appears to be slowing, said CDC Director Rochelle Walensky recently.

However, health officials caution that lags in data reporting can offer an incomplete picture of the outbreak in recent weeks, making it hard to know if cases have truly peaked.

Public health experts warn it is still too soon to make pronouncements about the country turning a corner. They are concerned that failure to get the outbreak under control could see it spillover into other populations or species.— Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

East Timor says China could help fund major pipeline project

EAST Timor leader Jose Ramos-Horta on Wednesday said China could help fund a vast fossil fuel project seen as crucial to the nation's economic future, dismissing Western concerns over Beijing's growing influence.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in Canberra, the president and Nobel peace laureate said "of course, China" could be involved in the Greater Sunrise project, which aims to tap trillions of cubic feet of natural gas.

The project, located in waters between East Timor and Australia, has long been touted as a joint venture between the two countries.

But exploration has been stalled for years due to disputes over maritime boundaries and whether the gas should be re-

fined in Australia or East Timor.

Ramos Horta is pushing hard to gain foreign financing and to have LNG facilities built in his country, seeing it as a potential economic game-changer.

He told reporters that a number of Asia-Pacific countries could be involved in the project — including Japan and South Korea — but also mooted Beijing's involvement, aware it was likely to raise hackles in Canberra.

"Of course China (could be involved). It's a pipeline, we are not talking about maritime security. It's just a pipeline. China would just be an investor," he said. But policymakers in Canberra are likely to balk at Chinese involvement in critical infrastructure so close to Australia's borders.

Australia is already concerned about China's rapidly



Aerial photo taken on 20 Feb 2021 shows the Bozhong 13-2 field, which is situated in the middle of the Bohai Sea, 140 km away from north China's Tianjin Municipality. **PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/TIANJIN BRANCH OF CHINA NATIONAL OFFSHORE OIL CORPORATION (CNOOC)/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

expanding regional influence, including in East Timor, which

gained independence in 2002 and sits just a few hundred kilo-

metres (miles) off Australia's northern coast.—AFP

Germany can 'survive' winter despite energy turmoil: Scholz

CHANCELLOR Olaf Scholz voiced confidence Wednesday that Germany was well prepared to "survive" the winter despite turmoil in the energy markets in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In a speech heavily critical of his predecessor chancellor Angela Merkel's energy policies that left Germany dependent on Russia for power, Scholz said Germany will keep moving "at great speed" to shed the reliance in the wake of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Germany has not only raced to fill up its gas storage tanks, but also sped up the building of terminals to receive liquefied natural gas, Scholz told



A valve wheel on pipework at the Radeland 2 compressor station for the European Gas Pipeline Link (EUGAL), a downstream pipeline for Nord Stream operated by Gascade Gastransport GmbH, in Radeland, Germany, 11 March 2022. **PHOTO: CFP/CGTN/XINHUA**

parliament. "Because we started so early, when it wasn't even such a big awareness of the problem in Germany, we are now in a sit-

uation that we can head into the winter courageously and bravely — our country can survive," he said.—AFP

Energy bills 'unaffordable' for low-income Europeans: unions

SOARING electricity and gas bills are becoming unaffordable for low-paid Europeans, costing them more than a month's wages, a study conducted for the European Trade Union Confederation has found.

The (ETUC) called on to European energy officials, who are holding an emergency meeting on Friday, "to take decisive action

to end Europe's unsustainable energy price rises".

The study found the average annual energy bill is now more than a month's wages for low-paid workers in the majority of EU member states, with more energy price hikes likely in coming months unless government action is taken.

Already 9.5 million people in

work had difficulties paying their energy bills before the cost-of-living crisis began. Energy costs in July were up by 38 per cent from the same month last year.

That means an Estonian worker earning the minimum wage has to work an additional 26 days to pay for their annual energy bill, or 54 days in total. — AFP

US services sector expands in August as prices ease: survey

THE American services sector expanded at a slightly faster pace in August amid signs of easing supply issues and slowing price gains, according to an industry survey released Tuesday.

The Institute for Supply Management's services index rose to 56.9 per cent, just slightly above the July level, defying expectations of a slowdown.

The new orders index jumped 1.9 percentage points, and employment rose 1.1 points, ISM said, while prices slipped 0.8. "The services sector had a slight uptick in growth for the month of August due to increases in business activity, new orders and employment," ISM survey chair Anthony

Nieves said in a statement.

Firms responding to the survey noted "some supply chain, logistics and cost improvements; however, material shortages remain a challenge," he said.

On the plus side, "employment improved slightly despite a restricted labour market."

The sector accounts for two-thirds of the US economy and comprises a wide variety of services, from education to IT to medicine. Even amid soaring US inflation, the sector has grown steadily for 151 months, except for a two-month contraction as the United States grappled with the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic in April and May 2020.—AFP



A couple eats inside a plastic bubble dining pod, dubbed a "space bubble," in a restaurant amid the COVID-19 pandemic in Arlington, Virginia, the US on 23 December 2020. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Eyeing tourism boom, Saudi scrambles to train hotel staff



Students take part in a practical training course, as part of a Saudi state-run "Tourism Pioneers" programme, in Riyadh. **PHOTO: AFP**

UNDER the watchful eye of an instructor, Munira al-Rubaian spreads fresh bed linen in a mock hotel room in the Saudi capital, aiming to land a job in the desert kingdom's growing tourism sector.

The unemployed 25-year-old is one of thousands of Saudis enrolled in the state-run "Tourism Pioneers" programme, which aims to prepare 100,000 job-seekers for a field that government officials insist is set to take off.

At two facilities in Riyadh,

Rubaian and other trainees study tasks like welcoming hotel guests, plating food in upscale restaurants and keeping luxury suites squeaky-clean.

Others are sent abroad for short courses in countries with far more advanced tourism industries, including the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and France. This army of newly minted bellboys, cleaners and higher-paid hospitality managers is expected to help Saudi Arabia -- a famously conservative and

closed-off Gulf kingdom that only opened its doors to tourism three years ago -- make a positive impression on first-time visitors.

The scheme also supports the government's goal of employing more Saudis in roles traditionally occupied by migrant labourers.

The niqab-wearing Rubaian signed up for Tourism Pioneers after her own efforts to find a job at a hotel went nowhere.

She is optimistic the experience will help her get a foot in the door.

"I've had the opportunity to learn and improve my capabilities for employment," she told AFP.

"I will now have the experience and self-confidence to deal with people."

Aiming high

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's 37-year-old de facto ruler, is counting on a tourism boom to diversify the economy of the world's largest oil exporter.—AFP

All options on table if yen fall continues: Japan currency official

JAPAN will take necessary steps if the yen's rapid pace of depreciation continues, with all options on the table, the country's top currency official said Thursday after the Japanese unit plunged to a 24-year low against the US dollar.

Senior Finance Ministry official Masato Kanda told

reporters that recent yen fluctuations are "excessively volatile", adding that they are "extremely concerning".

He made the remarks after a tripartite meeting among the Finance Ministry, the Bank of Japan and the Financial Services Agency.—Kyodo



The yen tumbled to the lower 144 range and hit a new 24-year low of 144.38 against the US dollar on Wednesday in Tokyo.

PHOTO: KYODO

British cinema chain Cineworld files for US bankruptcy

BRITAIN'S Cineworld, the world's second biggest cinema chain, announced Wednesday that it has filed for bankruptcy protection in the United States as it seeks to restructure after facing low audience numbers.

The group, which operates hundreds of movie theatres in the United States, said in a statement that it filed for Chapter 11 at a bankruptcy court in Texas.

Chapter 11 of the US bankruptcy code is a court-supervised restructuring process that provides companies time to negotiate with its creditors to reach a settlement on the reduction of debts.

Cineworld said it "will seek to implement a de-leveraging transaction that will significantly reduce the Group's debt, strengthen its balance sheet and provide the financial strength and flexibility to accelerate, and capitalize on, Cineworld's strate-



People walk past a cineworld cinema in Leicester Square, London. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

gy in the cinema industry".

The statement said it hoped to emerge from bankruptcy proceedings in the first quarter of next year, and had \$1.94 billion in financing from existing lenders to help it through that period.

The company also warned existing shareholders that their

holdings would likely be considerably diluted as part of the bankruptcy process.

Eric Snyder, a bankruptcy expert at Wilk Auslander, said Cineworld's creditors aren't giving them "a lot of time to make the decision between reorganizing or selling it".—AFP

Dutch city to ban meat ads in world first claim

THE Dutch city of Haarlem is set to become the first in the world to ban advertisements for most meat because of its impact on climate change, officials said Wednesday.

The city of 160,000 people near Amsterdam has agreed to outlaw ads for intensively farmed meat on public places from 2024.

The move was approved by the city council in November, but went unnoticed until last week when a councillor announced he had officially notified advertising agencies.

"It will be the first city in the Netherlands — and in fact Europe and indeed the world — to ban 'bad' meat ads in public places," Ziggy Klazes, councillor for the GroenLinks (Green-Left) party who drafted the motion, told AFP.

She said it went against the city's politics to "earn money by renting the city's public space to products which accelerate global warming".

The ban would target all "cheap meat from intensive farming", she said, adding "as far as I'm concerned that includes ads from fast food chains". The city had not yet decided whether to ban ads for organic meat. Amsterdam and The Hague have already banned ads for air travel, petrol-driven cars and fossil fuels but now Haarlem is set to add meat to that list.

The ban has been criticized by the Dutch meat industry and some political parties who see it as a form of censorship and stigmatization of meat eaters.

"Banning ads for political reasons is nearly dictatorial," Joey Rademaker, a Haarlem councillor for the right-wing BVNL party, said in a statement.

The plan comes at a sensitive time for the Netherlands, which has seen months of protests by farmers angry at government plans to cut nitrogen emissions to meet EU environmental targets.—AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Eyeing Asia pivot, Putin says 'impossible' to isolate Russia

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin said Wednesday it was "impossible" to isolate Russia and hailed Asia's growing global influence, as Moscow looks east in the face of unprecedented Western sanctions over Ukraine.

Washington and Brussels have pummeled Moscow with a barrage of economic and personal sanctions after Putin sent troops into Ukraine on 24 February. Facing deteriorating ties with Western capitals, Moscow is seeking to pivot the country towards the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

"No matter how much someone would like to isolate Russia, it is impossible to do this," Putin told the Eastern Economic Forum in Russia's Pacific port city



Russian President Vladimir Putin said it was 'impossible' to isolate Russia. PHOTO: TASS HOST PHOTO AGENCY/AFP

of Vladivostok.

He said the coronavirus pandemic has been replaced by other global challenges "threatening the whole world", including "sanctions fever in the West".

Putin has repeatedly insisted that Russia's economy is weathering the barrage of sanctions well, as the Kremlin's ties with the West sink to new lows. —AFP

Putin says Ukraine grain going to EU, not developing nations

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that most of the grain leaving Ukrainian ports after a blockade that fuelled a global food crisis is reaching the EU instead of developing nations.

"Almost all the grain export-

ed from Ukraine is sent not to the poorest developing countries, but to EU countries," Putin told the Eastern Economic Forum in Russia's Pacific port city of Vladivostok.

Ukraine, one of the world's largest grain exporters, was

forced to halt almost all deliveries after Russia started a military operation in late February. Exports of grain across Black Sea ports resumed after Kyiv and Moscow in July inked a deal with the United Nations and Türkiye acting as guarantors. —AFP

Russia ruling party proposes 4 Nov annexation votes for occupied Ukraine

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin's ruling United Russia party on Wednesday proposed holding referendums on 4 November to annex territories taken by Moscow's forces in Ukraine.

"It would be right and symbolic" to hold the votes on 4 November, Russia's Day of National Unity, party secretary general Andrey Turchak said on its website.

After the votes, he said, "Donetsk, Lugansk and many other Russian cities will finally return to their home port. And the Russian world, now divided by formal borders, will regain its integrity."

"We will prepare for this precise date... even if we are ready for this referendum to take place right now," a senior pro-Russian official in the Kherson region, Kirill Stremousov, told Russian news agency TASS following the announcement.

Putin recognized the Donetsk and Lugansk regions of eastern Ukraine as independent days before launching Russia's military offensive on 24 February.

The Russian army has since taken control of several southern areas of Ukraine including Kherson. —AFP



The Russian army has since taken control of several southern areas of Ukraine including Kherson. A Ukrainian army serviceman takes part in the Sea Breeze drills at the shooting range in the Kherson region of Ukraine on 2 July 2021. PHOTO: OLEKSANDR GIMANOV/AFP

WORLD NEWS HEADLINES

S.Korea proposes talks with DPRK for reunion of separated families



Members of separated families from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) attend the private gatherings with their relatives from South Korea during the three-day reunions held in Mount Kumgang in southeast DPRK, 21 Aug 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

SOUTH Korea on Thursday proposed talks with the Democratic People's Republic of Ko-

rea (DPRK) for the reunion of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War. South Korean Uni-

fication Minister Kwon Young-se said in a statement that the South Korean government publicly offers to hold talks with the DPRK to discuss the issue of the separated families.

Kwon said the South Korean government hopes for responsible officials of the two sides to meet in person as soon as possible for a candid discussion on humanitarian matters, including the issue of separated families.

The South Korean government will approach the dialogue with an open mind and make sure to take into account the preferences of the DPRK including the date, venue, agenda and format of the talks in a positive manner, said Kwon.—Xinhua

Denmark's popular Queen Margrethe II marks 50th jubilee

DENMARK'S artistic and chain-smoking Queen Margrethe II has been hailed for unifying and modernizing the monarchy in her 50 years on the throne, a milestone to be celebrated in pomp and circumstance this weekend.

The 82-year-old Margrethe, with her trademark white-haired bun is the first woman to hold the position of reigning queen. And she has become the second longest-serving monarch in Danish history.

Having come to power amid waning support for the royals in 1972, she helped restore its standing in the decades that followed.

"She has managed to be a queen who has united the Danish nation in a time of large changes: globalization, the appearance of the multicultural state, economic crises in the 1970s, 1980s and again in 2008 to 2015, and the pandemic," historian Lars Hovebakke Sorensen told AFP.

"The basis of her popularity is that the queen is absolutely non-political," he said.

Margrethe marked the 50th anniversary of her accession in January with a scaled-down celebration due to Covid. The full festivities were postponed until this weekend.—AFP

Israel PM opposes prosecuting soldier who likely shot Jazeera reporter

ISRAEL Prime Minister Yair Lapid on Wednesday pushed back against suggestions of prosecuting a soldier who likely shot dead Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh during an army operation this year.

The veteran Al Jazeera reporter was wearing a bulletproof vest marked "Press" and a helmet when she was shot in the head during the army operation in Jenin refugee camp, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The Israeli army conceded Monday for the first time that one of its soldiers had likely shot Abu Akleh, after having mistaken her for a militant.

"There is a high possibility that Ms Abu Akleh was accidentally hit by IDF (army) gunfire that was fired towards suspects identified as armed Palestinian



Israel's acknowledgement comes after months, in which the army had insisted it was impossible to determine the source of the deadly shot that killed the Palestinian-American Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, saying it could have been militant fire. **PHOTO: AFP**

gunmen," said the army's final report into her 11 May death.

The acknowledgement comes after months in which the army had insisted it was im-

possible to determine the source of the deadly shot that killed the celebrated Al Jazeera journalist, saying it could have been militant fire.—AFP

France to send latest nuclear shipment to Japan

A shipment of reprocessed nuclear fuel arrived in the early hours of Wednesday at the French port city of Cherbourg, according to an AFP photographer, bound for Japan to be used in a power plant.

Japan lacks facilities to process waste from its own nuclear reactors and sends most of it overseas, particularly to France.

The load of highly radioactive Mox, a mixture of reprocessed plutonium and uranium, was transported overnight from

a plant in the Hague in secure containers on two trucks, the French nuclear technology group Orano said.

The convoy arrived around 3:45 am at the port surrounded by law enforcement vehicles, according to an AFP photographer.

Shortly after 6 am, the fuel package was loaded aboard a specially designed ship from British company PNTL, which has extensive experience with this type of transport, Orano said.

It will take a little more than

two months for the ship to reach Japan, it said, the eighth such shipment from France since 1999. The previous transport of Mox fuel to Japan was in September 2021 and drew protests from environmental group Greenpeace.

"Transporting such dangerous materials from a nuclear proliferation point of view is completely irresponsible," said Yannick Rousselet of Greenpeace France about the latest planned shipment.—AFP



A container of highly radioactive Mox being loaded aboard a specially-designed ship at Cherbourg. **PHOTO: AFP**

Queen Elizabeth II dies at 96: palace



QUEEN Elizabeth II, the longest-serving monarch in British history and an

icon instantly recognizable to billions of people around the world, has died aged 96, Buckingham Palace said on Thursday.

Her eldest son, Charles, 73, succeeds as king immediately, according to centuries of protocol, beginning a new, less certain chapter for the royal family after the queen's record-breaking 70-year reign. —AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

French court upholds Assad uncle's conviction over ill-gotten assets

FRANCE'S top judicial court on Wednesday confirmed the conviction of Rifaat al-Assad, uncle of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, in an "ill-gotten gains" case over wealth estimated at 90 million euros (\$89 million).

Rifaat al-Assad, 85, is the younger brother of Bashar's father and former Syrian dictator Hafez al-Assad, and himself held the office of vice-president but fled the country in 1984 after a failed coup.

He had made a final appeal to France's Court of Cassation after a lower court last year confirmed his four-year jail sentence for conspiracy to launder Syrian public funds between 1996 and 2016.

In the same judgement, he was convicted of concealing serious tax fraud and employing servants off the books, with authorities confiscating a slew of his properties. Rifaat, who has not attended hearings due to ill health, insists his property empire stretching across Spain, France and Britain stems from gifts from Saudi crown prince and later king Abdullah, who died in 2015.—AFP

Evangelicals flex muscle in Brazilian election race

GIOCIANI Lucio, an evangelical Christian, stands on a street corner in Rio de Janeiro waving a flag with images of two would-be lawmakers who support President Jair Bolsonaro, flanking a well-known pastor.

"Only Jesus can save Brazil from corruption and from Lula," Lucio says of the leftist former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, the frontrunner in presidential elections next month.

Bolsonaro has grown close to Brazil's evangelical churches over the course of his four-year term. With the slogan "Brazil above and God above everyone", Bolsonaro has been a fierce defender of conservative positions such as banning abortion and he also named an evangelical to the Supreme Court for the first time.

In Congress, evangelical lawmakers are a powerful bloc with 112 of 513 seats, while they are estimated to account for about 30 per cent of the population. In Brazil, which observes separation of church and state, this conservative branch of Protestant Christianity is reaching the upper echelons of power. —AFP

Queen Elizabeth II dies at 96: palace

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SPORT



Ayeyawady United team Captain Aung Naing Win (red) touches the ball into the net during the Myanmar National League Week 10 match at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 8 September 2022. PHOTO: MNL

Ayeyawady United beat ISPE FC 2-0 in MNL Week 10

AYEYAWADY United made a win over ISPE FC 2-0 in the Myanmar National League Week 10 match played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Both teams played with their utmost efforts but the better team got the victory. Core players participated on both sides and the match became a thrilling one.

Ayeyawady United found an ice-breaker after grabbing a penalty shootout at 35 minutes and it was scored by Yan Kyaw Htwe. After 1-0, ISPE made an opening attack but Ayeyawady knew how to respond to their opponents well and the result was unchanged till the end of the first half. In the second half, both teams changed their

tactics but Ayeyawady United found their second winning goal at 62 minutes. The goal was beautifully scored by Captain Aung Naing Win at 62 minutes.

In the remaining minutes, both teams played back and forth and the game was over after no more goals could be scored. — 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.

Liverpool's early-season flaws exposed by rampant Napoli

LIVERPOOL came close to being crowned kings of Europe for a seventh time last season but Jurgen Klopp is looking for a reboot after his side were savagely swept aside by Napoli on Wednesday.

The Reds' early-season troubles showed no sign of going away at the Stadio Maradona, the 4-1 scoreline flattering them and leaving their coach wondering what he can do to pull his team out of a deepening slump.

"I need time to say the right things because at the moment it's not 100 per cent clear," Klopp told reporters.

Napoli coach Luciano Spalletti said he didn't want to hear talk of his side dishing out a football lesson but there was only one team on the pitch until the hosts decided that they had dished out enough punishment.—AFP



Liverpool came close to being crowned kings of Europe for a seventh time last season but Jurgen Klopp is looking for a reboot after his side were savagely swept aside by Napoli on Wednesday. PHOTO: AFP

Graham Potter 'verbally agrees' to become new Chelsea boss: reports



Tuchel was axed by Chelsea on Wednesday after a third defeat in just seven matches this season. A general view shows Chelsea's Stamford Bridge stadium in London on 3 March 2022. PHOTO: AFP

GRAHAM Potter has agreed in principle to become Chelsea's new manager after the shock sacking of Thomas Tuchel, according to widespread reports on Thursday.

Chelsea's new US owners

are understood to have met a release fee in the Brighton boss's contract, with his club allowing the Blues to talk to their manager. The former Swansea City and Ostersunds coach is expected to have his Chelsea deal finalized

in time for him to take charge of Saturday's Premier League trip to Fulham.

Chelsea are understood to have made initial contact with former Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino and Sporting Lisbon boss Ruben Amorim, as well as considering Zinedine Zidane and Leicester's Brendan Rodgers.

Potter was reportedly at Brighton's training ground on Thursday.

The 47-year-old, who has been touted as a future England manager, has won many admirers for his attractive playing style and has Brighton sitting fourth in the early Premier League table despite operating on a limited budget. Tuchel was axed by Chelsea on Wednesday after a third defeat in just seven matches this season.—AFP