

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

It needs to hold deep discussions for the interests of the Union: Senior General

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received the peace delegation led by Vice-Chairman Nai Aung Min of New Mon State Party (NMSP) at the parlour of Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon to talk about peace issues.

Also present at the talk together with the Senior General were Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council members General Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun and Lt-Gen Yar Pyae. The Vice-Chairman of New Mon State Party (NMSP) was accompanied by Central Executive Committee member Nai Banyar Lei and Central Committee member Nai Am Saik Cham.

At the talk, the Senior General explained the designation of the year 2022 as the year of

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State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing takes the documentary group photo while receiving the New Mon State Party peace delegation in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 October 2022.

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Rakhine State govt holds Patthana recitation ceremony



SAC Member Daw Aye Nu Sein and congregation take Five Precepts from Sayadaws in Sittway yesterday.

THE Rakhine State government organized the opening ceremony of the Patthana recitation at Lawkananda Pagoda in Sittway Township yesterday. The event was attended by State Administration Council Member Daw Aye Nu Sein, Rakhine State Chief Minister Dr Aung

Kyaw Min, Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Htin Latt Oo, Chief Justice Daw Wah Wah Tun of Rakhine State High Court, state cabinet members, military personnel and departmental officials.

First, SAC Member Daw Aye Nu Sein and party donated the first meals to monks led by Rakhine State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Gandhavasaka Pandita Bhaddanta Nanda Siri of Nanda Yama Pariyatti Monastery.

After the opening proce-

dures of the Patthana recitation ceremony, they took Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanda Siri.

Then, Rakhine State Ovadacariya Sayadaw of Dhamma Thukha Monastery, Joint Secretary of the Sittway Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw of the Dekkhina Yama Monastery and lecturer Sayadaw of the Dekkhina Yama Monastery delivered sermons and recited Gatha.

Afterwards, Sayadaws, monks, SAC member and guests recited the Patthana. — 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 border areas for those who would like to return to the legal fold. Moreover, those wishing to return home can contact respective townships' Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. It is guaranteed that they will be able to lead their daily lives peacefully.

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

292 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 11 October, total figure rises to 626,982

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **626,982** after **292** new cases were reported on 11 October 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **601,046** have recovered from disease. Death toll still stands at **19,467** without more casualties.

Myanmar reported 145 COVID-19 deaths between 28-1-2022 and 26-9-2022. Of them, 102 deaths (70 per cent) had underlying chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, liver, kidney, lung and cancer.

According to the analysis of the COVID-19 vaccination rate of deaths with underlying chronic diseases, 81.4 per cent have received no vaccination at all and have not been fully inoculated, 17.2 per cent have received full vaccination and 1.4 per cent has received booster shots.

COVID-19 vaccination rate of deaths with underlying chronic diseases

Out of COVID-19 deaths with underlying chronic disease		
81.4 per cent	17.2 per cent	1.4 per cent
have not been vaccinated at all and have not been fully vaccinated	have been fully vaccinated	have received booster shots

Therefore, according to the analysis of the COVID-19 vaccination rate of deaths with underlying chronic diseases, it causes fewer deaths obviously among those who are fully vaccinated and those who receive the booster shots. The people who are suffering from chronic diseases should follow the COVID-19 health rules, wear face masks and contact the nearest health departments, and village/ward administrative offices to receive the vaccines and booster shots.

More detailed information about COVID-19 can be found on the website of the Ministry of Health: moh.gov.mm. — MNA

Public Notice

1. The Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to effectively curb corruption.
2. The ACC used SMS on the mobile phone to ask the public who seek services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via Short Code No "1111" for feedbacks, including the Public Feedback Programme-PFP.
3. According to the PFP, the right replies of the citizens via Short Code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.
4. Therefore, the public should make a reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at Short Code No "1111" and such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

*Anti-Corruption Commission
Answer "1111" to fight against corruption
Answer "1111" to improve services
Let's work together to eliminate corruption towards prosperity*

Advertise with us/ Hot Line : 09974424848

Victory in sports needs time, training and development

REGARDING sports, achievement of victory requires taking of time, improving training and development. As for the promotion of public health, the easiest way is walking, jogging and doing physical exercises. Only when people are healthy will they be able to be engaged in education, business and other activities. The construction of the sports grounds region-wise needs to be foresighted.

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

It needs to hold deep discussions for the interests ...

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peace, invitation to the peace talks for seeking resolution over different opinions based on politics without any restrictions, plans to continue the restoration of peace based on the Constitution (2008) and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), exercising the genuine, discipline-flourished multiparty democratic system, efforts being made for building the Union based on democracy and federalism as the political aspiration, open and frank discussions on demands of the ethnic armed organizations and appropriate measures for the region and the State in the peace talks, and needs for deeply holding discussions with a wide range of scope for the sake of the Union.

The Vice-Chairman and party of New Mon State Party (NMSP) expressed thanks for

talking about peace issue for the second time without any restrictions, adding that New Mon State Party (NMSP) on its part is steadfastly participating in the track of peace with the aspiration to restore peace across the nation. They showed off their attitudes and stances on the situations that the different opinions based on politics should be solved under the political trend.

In his responses to the discussions, the Senior General said the Hluttaw is the politically highest in the democratic system, and more ethnic groups should participate in the Hluttaw, the political platform to demand the rights of their regions under the law. If the political parties are analyzed, they can be seen as the parties representing politics, regions and ethnicities. They should not emphasize their single party but focus on the interests of the Union through the



SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives the Vice-Chairman of the New Mon State Party-NMSP yesterday.

Union spirit. Both sides cordially exchanged views on peace issues and regional development.

After the talks, the Senior General presented gifts to the Vice-Chairman of New Mon

State Party (NMSP) and party and posed for documentary photos together with the attendees.

The delegation led by the Vice-Chairman of New Mon State Party (NMSP) will hold

peace talks with the Peace Talks Team and the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee formed with council members by the State Administration Council. — MNA

Visitors warmly welcomed to Ahmawday Valley in open season



PHOTO: KANU

THE Ahmawday Valley on Kengtung-Mongkhun and Mongkhok-Monghsat roads about 19 miles from Kengtung Township of eastern Shan State is packed with visitors in the early cold season yearly and still crowded with visitors in early this October. The locals expect larger numbers of visitors to the Ahmawday Summit with its natural picturesque scenes in this open season than the previous year.

Atop the Ahmawday Valley located on Kengtung-Mongkhun and Mongkhok-Monghsat road paved between the green mountains, is clouded by mist like the sea of clouds that go as far as the eye can see. In early October, the youths and fami-

lies from Kengtung and tourists from Tachilek make day trips to enjoy the natural landscape.

The visitors usually go there from Kengtung and Kengtung-Mongphyat road and business is brisk for the Kengtung-based tour companies. It takes about one and a half hour from Kengtung to the summit by car. During one and a half hour drive from Kengtung to the summit, it will reach the 19-mile Thabawataya Yeiktha first, and after three miles trip, it will arrive at the 6,770 feet high Lwalpikawla Summit, Ahmawday Village where the Lahu people live in. The place is crowded with visitors the whole year round for its good transportation.

The mountain of the 19-mile Thabawataya Yeiktha is attractive with the natural beauty of monsoon season and the perfect landscape, sky structure and beauties in the winter season. People pay visits there by cars, bicycles and motorcycles. The 19-mile Thabawataya Yeiktha and Ahmawday Summit became popular for its natural beauties in 2021, and the visitors there can enjoy the traditional food of the Lahu people, local crops and good transactions of foodstuffs, and it supports the businesses of residents. The tour companies and locals warmly welcome the visitors in the early cold season of November. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

SAC Vice-Chair Dy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends opening ceremony of 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, in his capacity as the Patron of the Leading Committee on Organizing the 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition, addressed the opening ceremony held at Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw at 9 am yesterday.

In his address, the Deputy Prime Minister said that it was in 2016 that the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition was last held and that, due to the encouragement of the Prime Minister, the 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition could be held again on a grand scale.

The Vice-Senior General interpreted the 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition as an augury for the mental and physical well-being of the people and the nation.

According to scholars, Pyu city-states emerged along the Ayeyawady River, the lifeblood of Myanmar, in the second cen-



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win delivers the inaugural address to open the 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

ture BC, and Tagaung, Hanlin, Beikthano and Sri Ksetra are ancient capital cities of the Pyu era, said the Deputy Prime Minister. He also added that Pyu people were Buddhists and well-versed in irrigated cultivation, handicraft, casting coins, gold filigree work, pottery and systematic construction of houses and religious buildings and that there was concrete evidence the Pyu cultural troupe paid a friendship visit to China in 802 AD.

The Deputy Prime Minister went on to say that religion, cul-

ture and fine arts have flourished from the Pyu era to successive eras such as Bagan, Pinya, Inwa, Toungoo, Nyaungyan and Konbaung, that Myanmar is home to various indigenous peoples and each national group has its own language, literature, culture, traditions and fine arts. He also said that, in the current competition, dancers from regions and states would compete in the Mon traditional dance.

The Vice-Senior General continued to say that schools of fine arts were opened in Yangon

and Mandalay in 1951 and 1952 respectively and the universities of national culture and arts were opened in 1993. He emphasized that the State Administration Council regarded it as a calling dictated by history to maintain and foster traditional culture and fine arts and so he said that one of the nine objectives of the State Administration Council was "to respect and promote the customs and traditions of all national peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics".

Finally, the Deputy Prime Minister urged all professional and amateur participants to cherish and value the national culture and national dignity and preserve them as long as the world exists.

The opening ceremony was attended by SAC members, the chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal, the chairman of the Union Election Commission, Union Ministers, Union-level personnel, Supreme Court judges, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and deputy ministers. — MNA



Myanmar exports high-grade rice to Bangladesh under G2G

MYANMAR started the exportation of 21,300 tonnes of high-grade rice to Bangladesh by MV VTC Ocean, which docked at Sule Port of Yangon under the agreement of the two countries.

The Myanmar Rice Federation and Bangladesh Food Department inked a contract to export 250,000 tonnes of high-grade rice this year, and the export cargoes will be carried by MV VTC Ocean according to the implementation of the contract.

— 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

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23rd Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition kicks off



Contestants from regions and states take part in the singing, dancing, composing, playing harp and playing piano competitions. (above photos)

THE 23rd Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition took place in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The township-level, district-level, regional and state-level competitions have been held. Altogether 1,883 contestants will participate in the central-level competition and will be evaluated by 170 experts.

“Maha Gita” singing competitions for higher education

level women, amateur level (first class) men and basic education level women aged 10 to 15 were held in Banquet Hall of Myanmar International Convection Centre II yesterday.

“Kar la paw tay” (modern song)singing competitions for basic education level men aged 10 to 15 and amateur level (second class) women were held in the Signing Room of the Myanmar International Convention

Centre II.

Amateur level (first class) women’s dance competition and basic education level men’s dance competition were held in the Plenary Hall of MICC II.

Composing competitions for amateur level (first class), amateur level (second class), higher education level and basic education level aged 15 to 20 were held in Yin Kyay Hmu Yadanar hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

Harp competitions for higher education level men and women, amateur level (first class) men and women and basic education level men aged 15 to 20 were held at the Mini Theatre of the National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw).

Myanmar orchestra group competitions for amateur level (second class) men and women and basic education level men aged between 15 to 20 were held

women, higher education level men and women and basic education level women aged 10 to 15 were held in the News Briefing Room of MICC II.

State Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung, Union-level officials, Ministers for Ethnic Affairs and Ministers for Social Affairs of regions and states, Advocates-General and officials attended the competitions.

Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions started in 1993. It has been the 23rd time now. The 22nd competition was held in 2016. The competitions could not be held for five years. It is only this year that the competition can be held again in the same way as before. In this 23rd competition, the participants from regions and states will compete in the traditional dance of the Mon people. — MNA

in Wunzin MinYaza hall of the National Library in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar orchestra single competitions for basic education level men aged 15 to 20 and amateur level (first class) men and women were held at the training theatre of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

Piano competitions for amateur level (first class) men and



Orchestra (group/single) at amateur, basic education and high education (men/women) competitions are in action. (above photos)

China-Myanmar power cooperation achieves new milestone



The MoEP deputy minister, the Chinese ambassador and officials cut the ribbon to inaugurate the power plant.

THE opening ceremony of the gas-fired combined cycle power station in Kyaukpyu Township of Rakhine State took place on Monday.

First, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai said the China-Myanmar economy and trade cooperation receives the proper compatibility and it supports the Belt and Road

Initiative and building the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor. China also pledged to expand the cooperation work in Myanmar's basic infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing and financial sectors, and now the Kyaukpyu power plant is operational as a success of the bilateral cooperation in the power sector. He then talked about the key role of

that power plant in supporting the economy and social status of locals as Kyaukpyu is located in a major place for the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor and further cooperation in all sectors of Myanmar.

Then, Deputy Minister for Electric Power Dr Aung Zeya said the government implemented 135-MW Kyaukpyu Gas-fired

Combined Cycle Power Station project that generates 1,000 million kW hours of power per year by using 22 million cubic feet of natural gas per day to meet the country's power need. It recycles the waste heat and uses seawater instead of underground water like natural environmental conservation techniques. The GIS substation is installed at the plant and so the power system will be stable and reliable. The power will be distributed via the 230-MW Kyaukpyu sub-power station to houses, businesses, industries and power systems in Rakhine State. He then expressed thanks to those who participated in the project. Then, the chairman of

PowerChina Resources Co Ltd explained the projects via videoconferencing and expressed words of thanks.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister Dr Aung Zeya, Rakhine State Natural Resources Minister U Than Tun, Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai, officials of PowerChina Resources Co Ltd and Kyauk Phyu Electric Power Co Ltd cut the ribbon to launch the power plant and took commemorative photos.

After the ceremony, Myanmar officials met the Chinese ambassador, and they held an informal meeting to discuss cooperation work in the power and energy sectors. — MNA



CRIME NEWS

Illegal consumer goods, raw jade and coal confiscated

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

A combined team led by Myanmar Police Force under the supervision of the Kachin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force inspected a vehicle near Uruyadana Jade Hill Bridge in Phakant township and captured 845 kilogrammes of illegal raw jade worth K2,745,500 on 9 October. The action was taken under the Myanmar Gemstone Law.

In addition, a combined inspection team under the management of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections and confiscated illegal coal bags and firewood worth K536,000 in Tatkon township on 11 October. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, the Kawkaeik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint nabbed 120 lady handbags worth K2.4 million without official documents from a vehicle heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Therefore, three arrests (estimated value of K5,681,500) were made on 9 and 11 October, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Two suspects receive 10-year prison term with hard labour for forcing girl into prostitution



Dekkhina District Court in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE two people who forced a girl into prostitution received a 10-year prison term with hard labour in Nay Pyi Taw according to Zeyathiri District Court.

The two suspects Ma Moe Moe Htwe (aka) Ange Lay

(aka) Katonema and Ma Yi Yi Lwin (aka) Ma Lwin and Ma San San Nwe (aka) Daw Toke (who is still at large) persuaded an 18-year-old girl from Pobbathiri Township with a promise of a job at military

hospital (1,000-bed) in Tatkon Township, and then sent her to Thabyay Chaung village in Tatkon and forced her into prostitution.

The Htonepho Myoma police station opened a case under Section 24/32 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law and the suspects were prosecuted at Zeyathiri District Court.

Then, the court sentenced Ma Moe Moe Htwe (aka) Ange Lay (aka) Katonema and Ma Yi Yi Lwin (aka) Ma Lwin to 10 years imprisonment with hard labour under Section 24 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law, and Ma San San Nwe (aka) Daw Toke has been declared a fugitive under the Penal Code Section 87/88 on 6 October. —TWA/GNLM

Tankers carrying over 6 mln gallons of fuel oil to unload cargoes at terminals of Thilawa Port

TANKERS carrying over 6 million gallons of fuel oil have arrived at terminals in Thilawa Port located in Thanlyin city. The unloading of cargo will be undertaken in a matter of days, according to the Supervisory Committee on Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

Moreover, MT Aulac Vision loaded with 2.9 million gallons of premium diesel and MT Yu Yi carrying 1.6 million gallons of diesel and 1.86 gallons of premium diesel will dock at the terminals of Thilawa Port.

Tracking the fuel oil price spike in international markets, the oil price in the domestic market also slightly increased, according to the committee.

Additionally, 0.02 million gallons of Octane 92 and 2.8 million gallons of premium diesel were unloaded from MT Yu Dong on 10 October, while 0.14 million gallons of Octane 92 were removed

from MT Bowmore.

In September, a total of 246.14 million gallons of fuel oil were unloaded at Thilawa Port, including over six million gallons of fuel oil on 25 September and eight million gallons of fuel oil on 28 September.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations whether they are overcharging or not. The authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging rather than the set reference rate.

The committee is ensuring not to have shortage of supply at the private fuel stations in each region and state.

However, an armed group attacked an oil tank truck en route to Myaungpetrol station in Monywa city, Sagaing Region in the previous week, causing delays. — TWA/GNLM

Candidates to get 3-year ban for cheating with fake examinees in EPS-TOPIK test

IF fake examinees are found in the EPS-TOPIK (Employment Permit System) qualification test, the candidates will get banned for three years and the intoxicated persons will not be allowed to enter the exam room, according to an oversea recruitment agency's statement.

EPS-TOPIK exams will take place from September to mid-2023 in batches. More than 37,000 people submitted an EPS-TOPIK application and the majority of them are from regions and states outside Yangon.

There are over 50,000 Myanmar labour forces in the Republic of Korea and more workers are employed monthly as well.

EPS exam for agriculture and livestock jobs is scheduled to be held between 29 September and 27 October. The first batch for the manufacturing job test will be held between 31 October and 29 December. Between 3 January and 3 April 2023, the second batch of entrance exams for manufacturing jobs will be held. Those who want to join construction jobs can take the exam between



Some Myanmar workers are seen departing for South Korea at Yangon International Airport.

17 April and 15 May 2023.

The test dates for the first and second batches of manufacturing jobs and construction jobs can be changed, according to the announcement of POEA.

Employers in Korea will recruit potential candidates among those who passed the EPS-TOPIK test, according to POEA.

Sending workers to the Republic of Korea temporarily halted in June 2020 amid the coronavirus consequences and resumed in December 2021.

Over the past year, 42,832

successful candidates were officially sent to the Republic of Korea. There are about 27,000 migrant workers legally working in South Korea. At present, the government of South Korea is continuously recruiting new workers and experienced workers.

The minimum wage in South Korea stood at 9,000 Won per hour in 2022. As there are employment protection legislations in South Korea, local people are keen on finding jobs in South Korea, the Ministry of Labour stated. — TWA/GNLM

Weekly kitchen grocery market update



A female grocer is seen at the grocery.

DURING the week ending 11 October, the prices of palm oil and chilli pepper slid at Bayint Naung Wholesale Market. The prices of onion, garlic and potato were stable.

Onion

As of 11 October, the prices

of onions in the Yangon market remained unchanged despite exports to Thailand's border areas.

The market during the Thadingyut Festival was pretty slow-moving. On 11 October, 60,000 visses of onions entered the market yet the price was

stable.

The market prices stood at K2,750 -3,200 per viss of onions from Seikphyu Township, K2,600-2,850 per viss of onions from the Pyawbwe area and K2,650-3,100 per viss of onions from Meiktila Township.

Garlic

On 11 October, the wholesale prices of garlic moved in the range of K2,800-3,900 per viss from Shan State (Aungban area) while Kyukok garlic fetched K3,550-3,600 per viss.

Potato

The wholesale prices of Chinese potatoes on 11 October were estimated at K2,200-2,250 per viss, while there is no supply of Shan potatoes in the market.

Chilli pepper

The prices of chilli pepper declined to K13,000 and K18,500

per viss depending on different varieties (Moehtaung, long red chilli (Panye) and green chilli), whereas the newly harvested bell pepper is sold at K17,500 per viss.

Rice

The new Pawsan rice varieties are going to enter the market in one month. The demand for old Pawsan rice is dropping. Therefore, the prices of high-grade Pawsan rice dipped.

The prices of low-grade short matured rice (90 days) were K45,000-47,000 per bag. The wholesale prices of Pawsan rice varieties stood at K82,000-91,000 per bag from the Shwebo area, K64,000-67,000 from the Myaungmya area and K60,000-63,000 from the Pyapon area. Meanwhile, the price of the Pawkywel rice variety was stable at K50,000 per bag respectively.

Palm oil

The wholesale reference price of palm oil in the Yangon Region this week (10-16 October) was set at K3,880 per viss, which is down by K140 per viss compared to the last week's price.

On 10 October, palm oil fetched K6,400 per viss in the wholesale market. The prices decreased to K6,200-6,250 per viss on 11 October.

Pulses

On 11 October, the prices of various pulses stood at over K1,795,000 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K2,115,000 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC), K1,975,000 per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) RC and K4,000-4,200 per viss of chickpea in Yangon markets. —TWA/GNLM

OPINION

Take care of food safety in daily life

THE safety of food is playing a crucial role in the daily consumption of people. Clean and fresh meals supplied for people on a daily basis are a wider consumption measure. Currently, people unavoidably select cheaper consumer products which are low quality rather than clean and fresh foods due to sky-rocketing prices of foodstuffs. As a result, these low-quality foodstuffs are hazards to the health of consumers.

Some manufacturers focus on gaining profits the priority of turning a blind eye to the production of full nutrition, healthiness and safe products for the consumer people. The government has enacted the National Food Law in Myanmar. In line with the law, the Food and Drug Supervisory Committee supervises the production and distribution of healthy drugs and foodstuffs for public consumption. At an opportune time, the department releases announcements on the list of inappropriate foodstuffs for people to avoid them.

Foods and fruits containing fertilizers, chemical residues, animal oil and saturated oil may cause diarrhoea, cholera, dysentery and indigestion and cancer diseases in the inner body organs of humans, bad cholesterol and heart diseases. As medicines and charges of medical treatment are high at present, people need to take special care of foodstuffs and daily living styles for avoiding Covid-19 and other diseases.

Hence, people need to have health awareness that there are many kinds of foodstuffs harming health in the domestic market. Food producers need to uphold genuine goodwill, noble spirit and empathy for consumers in operating their business of manufacturing foodstuffs. If so, consumers will have a chance to understand the safety of food in selecting the foodstuffs in the market. The World Food Organization stated that about two-thirds of the children under five in Myanmar are facing a shortage of safe foods and unpurified water. The chemicals and prohibited dyes found in foodstuffs are very dangerous for children.

Foods and fruits containing fertilizers, chemical residues, animal oil and saturated oil may cause diarrhoea, cholera, dysentery and indigestion and cancer diseases in the inner body organs of humans, bad cholesterol and heart diseases. As medicines and charges of medical treatment are high at present, people need to take special care of foodstuffs and daily living styles for avoiding Covid-19 and other diseases.

Love, Wisdom and the Fifth Covid-19 Wave

By Koug Aung

IT has been almost three decades since I happened to read the shortest personal interview in the Hmya Nat Maung Magazine. The interviewer is New Oo whereas the interviewee is Htoo Ein Thin. As it is the shortest interview, the question is short and the answer is a curt reply.

**Q. What matters most in life?
A. Love and wisdom.**

Despite the Q&A Session being rather short, it means a lot to me, provoking a train of thought. If we want the world to be beautiful, love and wisdom are indispensable with both being important in their own ways, and therefore, none of them can be left behind.

Thinking of love and wisdom, I remember Mahatma Gandhi, the father of India's peace. I hope most people know him. Nonetheless, I would like to recall some of the peculiarities people may miss. Once he came late for the train he was going to catch. When he arrived at the railway station, the train started to leave, and so, he hastily jumped onto the train with the help of the passengers standing at the door. In his haste, he dropped one slipper onto the railway platform. What do you



PHOTO: KOUNG AUNG

think he did, our readers? Gandhi immediately took off the other slipper and threw it onto the railway platform.

When asked by the passengers nearby why he did so, Gandhi

replied, "The person who gets the slipper I dropped cannot use it because it is only half of the pair of slippers. That's why I threw another one down so that he can have the full pair of slippers." It is

wise of him to have thrown another one because if he didn't do so, neither Gandhi nor the one who got one slipper can wear them. In that case, the slippers will be of no use to them both. This act not only

demonstrates his wisdom but also his love for the people

The Ministry of Health released an announcement at 8 pm on 10 October regarding monitoring and controlling of Covid-19. The announcement says that the Ministry of Health is carrying out with might and main Covid-19 prevention, treatment and monitoring activities and that the Ministry is conducting Covid-19 tests on those suspected of being Covid-19 positive and confirmed positive as well as on those who have had close contact with the positive persons and those who are quarantined. According to the announcement, 232 people were found positive out of 10,215 people on whom Covid tests were conducted. Therefore, the positive percentage was 2.27.

Those who are closely watching the Covid-19 situation in Myanmar are of the opinion that the fifth wave has entered Myanmar. Regardless of the truth of their forecast, we cannot neglect their prediction. We must be on alert. And the media are writing that Covid is raising its head again because many people are not wearing face masks and face shields, not washing their hands

frequently and not keeping the six-foot physical distance, merely bent upon the rumours of the price hikes. Matter-of-factly, we ought to be vigilant as we have already suffered dramatically from the worst consequences of the outbreak of the third wave. We must be well prepared through the employment of all means and tools available. Otherwise, we can suffer the same fate as in the third and fourth waves.

In the face of the fifth wave, we have to protect ourselves against Covid-19 with the use of not only physical means but also abstract or intangible means like love, wisdom and mindfulness. In this regard, I would like to present two Covid-19 cases that took place during the second wave.

The first case is concerned with a man who abides by the Covid-19 rules and regulations. When he arrived at Aung Mingala High Way Bus Terminal, he remembered his better half saying, "When you arrive at Yangon, you do not come back home direct. Go to a quarantine centre first. And only when you are clear of Covid, return home." Recalling what his wife said, he could not be happy although he was back in Yangon.

Notwithstanding, he knew that he must pay heed to his spouse's suggestions as he believed that staying at a quarantine centre will give protection not only to him but also to his wife and children and all at home in addition to the people he might have contact with on his return home.

Having decided, he tried to hire a taxi to go to the quarantine centre opened in Hlaing Township. Actually, he could not afford to hire a taxi. However, he was forced to do so as he was afraid of possibly spreading the virus on board a bus if he were positive. And so, instead of riding on a bus, he chose to take a taxi. And he was sincere in dealing with the taxi drivers, telling them his history—i.e. his itinerary. Upon hearing that he was back from Sittway, no taxi drivers wanted to give him a ride for fear of being infected with the virus because, at that time, there were cases of Covid in Sittway. He realized that no taxi drivers would take him to the quarantine centre as long as he provided his itinerary.

Nevertheless, he hated to tell a lie, so, he chose to walk home. It is a very far distance from the highway bus terminal to the quarantine centre in Hlaing. Under the scorching sun, he had had to struggle hard with his whole body yielding sweat. This is, in fact, an ordeal. When he arrived at the quarantine centre in Hlaing, it was already evening. He related what had happened to him to

the health personnel there who accorded him a warm welcome, offering him dinner outright. After dinner, they did everything they deemed necessary. He was relieved only when he was informed that he was Covid negative.

The second case is concerned with a woman from an educated community. She came to Yangon from which she flew to Sittway, where she stayed for some time. Then, she proceeded to Kyaukpadaung.

Next, she left Kyaukpadaung Yangon by air. From Yangon, she returned to her native town. Upon arrival there, she did not go to the quarantine centre. Not staying in isolation at home, she went to the Ocean Centre. Additionally, she attended a funeral, and she also did the shopping at Maung Ngan Market. Hearing her itinerary, a volunteer relief team called her and persuaded her to go to a quarantine centre. Upon having a Covid test conducted on her, she was found to be positive.

Reading the two different covid cases, the readers will learn that the woman in the second case is not wise enough despite her educational qualification. This being so, we can jump to the conclusion that people may not be wise despite holding degrees or diplomas and that those with the academic background can do harm to the mankind if they lack wisdom.

Translated.

Japan Cabinet OKs penalizing hospitals not securing promised COVID beds

THE Japanese Cabinet on Friday approved a bill to penalize hospitals that fail to abide by agreements with local governments to prepare beds for patients with COVID-19 and other infectious diseases and provide outpatient care.

The bill also calls for setting penalties for people entering Japan with suspected infections who fail to report their health conditions when in isolation. In addition, the state will be allowed to request or instruct business operators to produce or import vaccines and medical supplies such as face masks and needles.

Major infectious disease outbreaks

The bill is part of efforts to enable the central and local governments to respond more swiftly to major infectious disease outbreaks after criticism that the country was too slow to ensure its medical system could effectively fight the coronavirus pandemic.

Japan has also been criticized for lagging behind other advanced nations in giving COVID-19 vaccine shots.

The government aims to revise the infectious diseases law and other related legislation during

the current Diet session and start implementing the new rules in fiscal 2024.

"We will prepare for the emergence and the spread of infectious diseases that could have a grave impact on people's lives and health," said health minister Katsunobu Kato at a press conference.

Under the envisioned law, prefectural governments will sign agreements with key local medical institutions requiring them to prepare beds for patients when infection spread.

If the medical institutions fail to abide by the prearrangements,

local governments will be able to issue advisories and orders to make them comply and disclose the institutions' names if they still do not abide by the agreements.

Advanced treatments

Local authorities can also revoke the medical institutions' certification as key institutions that provide advanced treatments and support local clinics, which would result in a reduction in remuneration for their medical services.

Local clinics will also be asked to decide what role they want to play in responding to

outbreaks, such as providing outpatient services for people with fever, responding to patients recuperating at home and dispatching doctors.

But since agreements with local governments are to be made on a voluntary basis, the effectiveness of the system will depend on how many medical institutions actually take part.

The legal revision will also enable dentists and clinical laboratory technicians to give vaccine shots and allow dentists to collect samples from people to conduct PCR tests.

SOURCE: Kyodo



The government wants to prepare for future epidemics by asking all medical institutions in the country to cooperate in signing agreements with prefectural governments with regard to the provision of medical care. PHOTO: KYODO

ENVIRON WORLD

Egypt replants mangrove 'treasure' to fight climate change impacts

ON Egypt's Red Sea coast, fish swim among thousands of newly planted mangroves, part of a programme to boost biodiversity, protect coastlines and fight climate change and its impacts.

After decades of destruction that saw the mangroves cleared, all that remained were fragmented patches totalling some 500 hectares (1,200 acres), the size of only a few hundred football pitches.

Sayed Khalifa, the head of Egypt's agriculture syndicate who is leading mangrove re-

planting efforts, calls the unique plants a "treasure" because of their ability to grow in salt water where they face no problems of drought.

"It's an entire ecosystem," Khalifa said, knee-deep in the water. "When you plant mangroves, marine life, crustaceans and birds all flock in."

Between the tentacle-like roots of months-old saplings, small fish and tiny crab larvae dart through the shallows — making the trees key nurseries of marine life.

Khalifa's team are growing tens of thousands of seedlings in a nursery, which are then used to rehabilitate six key areas on the Red Sea and Sinai coast, aiming to replant some 210 hectares.

But Khalifa dreams of extending the mangroves as far "as possible", pointing past a yacht marina some six kilometres (four miles) to the south.

The about \$50,000-a-year government-backed programme was launched five years ago.—AFP



Workers replant mangrove trees at the site of a state-sponsored mangrove reforestation project in the Hamata area south of Marsa Alam along Egypt's southern Red Sea coast on 16 September 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Iraq drought displaces 1,200 families in parched south



The reputed home of the biblical Garden of Eden, Iraq's swamplands have been battered by three years of drought and low rainfall, as well as reduced river flows from neighboring Türkiye and Iran. **PHOTO: AFP**

SOME 1,200 Iraqi families have been forced out of southern marshes and farmlands over the past six months, a local official told AFP, as drought ravages swathes of the country.

The Mesopotamian Marshes, a UNESCO World Heritage site, have been battered by low rainfall and reduced flows in the

Tigris and Euphrates rivers due to dams built upstream in Türkiye and Iran. Oil-rich Iraq, battered by decades of war, is also the world's fifth-most vulnerable country to some key effects of climate change, including water scarcity and desertification, say the United Nations. Saleh Hadi, head of the agriculture authority

in Dhi Qar province, said "about 1,200 families of buffalo herders and farmers in the marshes and other areas of the province were displaced from their homes do to water shortages". The mass exodus began in April, Hadi said, adding that more than 2,000 buffaloes had died as a result of the drought.—AFP

Climate refugees flee as Bangladesh villages washed away

FOR generations Paban Baroi's family guarded a temple to Shiva, the Hindu god of destruction, until Bangladesh's mighty Padma river wreaked havoc of its own, wiping out the shrine, their home, and 200 other houses

in their village. The 70-year-old and his neighbours are among thousands in the country who will be rendered destitute this year as surging waters and eroding lands reshape the landscape — a phenomenon made worse by

climate change. One day in September, the waterway abruptly changed course and a swathe of the tight-knit community in Baroi's village vanished as the very land on which it stood was washed away.—AFP

New Zealand outlines plans to tax livestock burps, farts

NEW ZEALAND on Tuesday unveiled plans to tax the greenhouse gas emissions from farm animals, in a controversial proposal designed to tackle climate change.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said the levy would be the first of its kind in the world.

Gases naturally emitted by New Zealand's 6.2 million cows are among the country's biggest environmental problems.

The scheme would see farmers pay for gas emissions from their animals, such as methane gas in the farts and burps from cows, and nitrous oxide in the urine of livestock.

Ardern told farmers they should be able to recoup the cost by charging more for climate-friendly products.

She said the "pragmatic

proposal" would reduce agricultural emissions while making produce more sustainable by enhancing New Zealand's "export brand".

The government hopes to sign off the proposal by next year and the tax could be introduced in just three years' time.

But with New Zealand going to the polls in the next 15 months, the proposal could cost Ardern rural votes as farmers quickly condemned the plan.

Andrew Hoggard, president of the Federated Farmers lobby group, said the scheme would "rip the guts out of small-town New Zealand".

He argued the tax could push farmers into growing trees on fields currently used to rear livestock.—AFP



Gases naturally emitted by New Zealand's 6.2 million cows are among the country's biggest environmental problems. **PHOTO: AFP**

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

UN chief calls for making mental health global priority



Nearly 1 billion people live with a mental health condition. But mental health remains one of the most neglected aspects of health care. **PHOTO: PLOY PHUTPHENG/WHO**

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday called for making mental health a global priority and urged actions to promote universal quality mental health care. Nearly 1 billion people live with a mental health condition.

But mental health remains one of the most neglected aspects of health care, Guterres said in a message marking the World Mental Health Day, which falls on 10 Oct. "Some countries have only two

mental health workers for every 100,000 people. The social and economic repercussions are profound," he said, noting that anxiety and depression alone cost the global economy an estimated 1 trillion US dollars per year.

The UN chief stressed the need to strengthen the capacity of health services to offer quality care to those in need, in particular young people. Stigma and discrimination must be addressed along with breaking down the barriers that stop people from

seeking care and support, he said. Guterres also underscored the importance of preventing the root causes of mental health conditions, including violence and abuse, adding that the UN is committed to working with partners to promote mental wellbeing.

"As we mark World Mental Health Day, let us make it a global priority and act urgently so that everyone, everywhere has access to quality mental health care," he said.—Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nepal President tests positive for COVID-19

NEPAL President Bidya Devi Bhandari, who was undergoing treatment at a hospital in the capital Kathmandu, tested positive for COVID-19, a hospital official said on Sunday. The president, who was admitted to the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital on Saturday, tested positive for COVID-19 in a PCR test, said Dr Dinesh Kafle, executive director of the hospital. "President Bhandari has tested positive for Covid-19," Dr Dinesh Kafle told The Kathmandu Post. "Her condition is better today (Sunday) compared to Saturday." Doctors attending to the head of state said she was given intravenous fluids on Saturday, and started oral medicines from Sunday.—ANI

Chinese researchers launch language neuroimaging dataset

CHINESE researchers have presented a synchronized multimodal neuroimaging dataset covering almost 10,000 Chinese words for studying brain language processing, according to the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) on Monday. The dataset sorted and processed functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and magnetoencephalography (MEG) data on the same 12 healthy volunteers while the volunteers listened to six hours of naturalistic stories, as well as high-resolution structural, diffusion MRI, and resting-state fMRI data for each participant, the recently published research article reported in the journal Scientific Data.—Xinhua

Japan scraps COVID border controls in hopes of reviving tourism boom

JAPAN removed on Tuesday its cap on daily arrivals and its ban on individual, non-prearranged trips as it seeks to revive the country's struggling inbound tourism sector by easing its COVID-19 border controls.

In addition to lifting the 50,000-person entry cap and ending the requirement that tourists travel on package tours, Japan will no longer require visitors to obtain a visa if they are citizens of a country with which Japan had a waiver agreement before the pandemic.

Domestically, the government started the National Travel Discount programme, offering a financial subsidy of up to 11,000 yen (\$76) per person per night up to a total of seven nights.

The programme started in all of Japan's 47 prefectures except for Tokyo, which will join on 20 Oct.

The relaxation of border



Travellers arrive from overseas at Kansai airport in Osaka Prefecture on 11 Oct 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

controls is "meant to further facilitate international exchanges between our country and overseas while taking advantage of a weak yen, and it is beneficial for Japan's socioeconomic activities" said Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno.

"Through these measures, we hope to promote tourists' travel both domestically and internationally and help revive demand hit by the pandemic and revitalize regional areas," the top government spokesman added.—Kyodo

COVID-19 pandemic may change US gun ownership for long haul: report

THE number of estimated gun sales skyrocketed by 80 per cent, topping 2.3 million in a single month for the first time in the United States in March 2020, with the first COVID-19 pandemic-related lockdowns sweeping the country, reported US news portal HuffPost last week.

"Gun sales brushed against that monthly peak several times

over the next year," said the report, citing a data analysis from the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the firearm industry's trade group.

More than two years later, with the worst of the pandemic long over, COVID-19 appears to have left a lasting legacy on gun sales, as Americans were still on track for their third-highest gun-buying year of all time, ac-

cording to NSSF spokesperson Mark Oliva. Fears that a crime wave would overwhelm police appeared to drive the initial pandemic spike in March 2020, experts interviewed by HuffPost largely said.

However, "sales also seemed to break new records repeatedly on the heels of separate, if loosely related, events," said the report.—Xinhua



People participate in a demonstration to seek age raise for AR-15 sales in Austin, Texas, the United States, 27 Aug 2022. **PHOTO: BO LEE/XINHUA**

ECONOMY WORLD

S.Korea's export logs double-digit fall in 1st 10 days of October



A woman walks past an advertisement for the Samsung Galaxy Z Fold2 and Z Flip smartphones at a Samsung Electronics store in Seoul. **PHOTO: AFP**

SOUTH Korea's export logged a double-digit fall in the first 10 days of October on weaker demand for locally-made products, especially semiconductors, customs office data showed Tuesday.

Export, which accounts for about half of the export-driven economy, came to 11.8 billion US dollars in the 1-10 October period, down 20.2 per cent compared to the same period of last year, according to Korea Customs Service.

Semiconductor export

tumbled 20.6 per cent in the cited period, after sliding for the past two months amid growing worries about the global economic slowdown.

Shipment for oil products, steel, mobile devices and auto parts dwindled in double figures in the 10-day period.

Export to the United States, Viet Nam and Japan dropped in double digits, but shipment to the European Union (EU) expanded by 11.1 per cent.

Import retreated 11.3 per

cent over the year to 15.62 billion dollars in the first 10 days of October.

Import for crude oil and coal gained 7.6 per cent and 10.4 per cent each, but those for natural gas and oil products declined 16.1 per cent and 14.3 per cent respectively.

The trade deficit amounted to 3.82 billion dollars in the 10-day period.

The trade balance stayed in red for six successive months through September.

—Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Algeria, France hail 'new dynamic' in economic ties

THE Algerian and French prime ministers on Monday hailed a "new dynamic" as they launched a joint economic forum during a visit to Algiers by France's Elisabeth Borne.

Borne's two-day trip to the former French colony and major gas exporter comes just weeks after President Emmanuel Macron concluded his own three-day visit in August, following months of tensions.

In remarks during the forum's inauguration, Algerian Prime Minister Aïmene Benabderrahmane called for "a sustainable dynamic" in trade with France based on "reciprocity and mutual interests".

Borne called for "a new dynamic of economic cooperation".

Before returning to Paris, she also met with President Abdelmajid Tebboune and said bilateral ties will continue with "regular visits and exchanges on the economic, political and technical levels".

Borne and her cohort are the latest in a string of top European officials to visit Algeria, Africa's top natural gas exporter, as officials seek alternatives to Russian energy supplies since the start of the war in Ukraine.—AFP

UK facing 'painful' cuts to fix public finances: study

BRITAIN faces "big and painful" cuts in public spending to fix state finances should it decide against more U-turns over recently-unveiled tax cuts, a leading think tank warned Tuesday.

The verdict from the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) came one day after finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng brought forward a debt-reduction plan and economic forecasts after the budget spooked markets.

Kwarteng, whose official title is chancellor of the exchequer, has already been forced to axe a tax cut for the richest earners, in the face of outrage as millions of Britons face a cost-of-living crisis with UK inflation around 10 per cent.

The government of new Prime Minister Liz Truss last month sparked turmoil with a costly tax-cutting budget that triggered panic over ballooning state debt.

Her intention, to boost Britain's recession-threatened economy, had the opposite effect, crashing the pound and pushing up the government's repayments on borrowing.—AFP

54 poor nations urgently need debt relief: UN

CASCADING global crises have left 54 countries — home to more than half of the world's poorest people — in dire need of debt relief, the UN said Tuesday.

In a new report, the United Nations Development Programme warned that dozens of developing nations were facing a rapidly deepening debt crisis and that "the risks of inaction are dire". UNDP said without immediate relief, at least 54 countries would see rising poverty levels, and "desperately needed investments in climate adaptation and mitigation will not happen".

That was worrisome since the affected countries were "among the most climate-vulnerable in the world".



People shop from pedlars along a road in the popular souk (market) of Bab el-Fellah in Tunisia's capital Tunis. **PHOTO: AFP**

The agency's report, published ahead of meetings of International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and also of G20 finance ministers in Washington, highlighted the need for swift

action. But despite repeated warnings, "little has happened so far, and the risks have been growing," UNDP chief Achim Steiner told reporters in Geneva.—AFP

Hong Kong's financial industry has huge future opportunities: financial secretary



Photo taken on 31 July 2021 shows the statues on the square of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) in south China's Hong Kong. **PHOTO: XINHUA/WU XIAOCHU**

HONG Kong has huge opportunities for future development as an international financial centre, said Paul Chan, financial secretary of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government.

Hong Kong has both "quali-

ty" and "quantity" advantages for being a pioneer and a developed market, Chan said in a blog post on Sunday.

Compared with other international financial centers, Hong Kong's biggest and core advantage is that it is the country's premier international financial centre serving as the "super-connector" under the "one country, two systems," he said. He said the institutional strength of the "one country, two systems" gives Hong Kong a unique position and advantage, as the Basic Law of the HKSAR protects the free flow of capital into and out of Hong Kong and the legal status of Hong Kong dollar.—Xinhua

Hong Kong has both "quali-

Block 'busted': India's Bollywood faces horror show at box office



Picture taken on 1 October 2022, moviegoers wait at the ticket counters outside the G7 multiplex in Mumbai. **PHOTO: AFP**

INDIA'S Bollywood film industry, long part of the cultural fabric of the movie-mad country of 1.4 billion people, is facing its biggest-ever crisis as streaming services and

non-Hindi language rivals steal its sparkle.

The South Asian giant churns out on average around 1,600 films each year, more than any other country, traditionally

headlined by glitzy Bollywood, with fans worshipping movie stars like gods and crowds thronging premieres.

But now cinemas have fallen quiet, even in

Bollywood's nerve centre of Mumbai, with box-office receipts plunging since Covid curbs were lifted.

"This is the worst crisis ever faced," veteran Mumbai theatre owner Manoj Desai told AFP. Some screenings were cancelled as the "public was not there".

The usually bankable megastar Akshay Kumar had three back-to-back films tank. Fellow A-lister Aamir Khan, the face of some of India's most successful films, failed to entice audiences with the "Forrest Gump" remake "Laal Singh Chaddha".

Of the more than 50 Bollywood films released in the past year, just one-fifth have met or surpassed revenue targets. —AFP

BMW doubles sales of all-electric vehicles

THE BMW Group sold more than 128,000 fully-electric BMW and MINI vehicles in the first nine months of 2022, more than doubling the number of battery electric vehicles (BEV) sold year-on-year, the German car manufacturer said on Monday in a press release.

Sales of fully-electric models showed a "dynamic growth," BMW AG Board member Pieter Nota said, adding that the company was continuing to "press ahead with the transition towards electromobility".

By the end of 2025, the carmaker aims to sell more than two million fully-electric vehicles.

In Germany, a purchase premium for new electric vehicles of up to 9,000 euros (8,730 US dol-

lars) will run out at the end of 2022. The country's government is aiming to have 15 million all-electric cars on the road by 2030.

Total sales of the BMW, MINI and Rolls-Royce brands fell by 9.5 per cent year-on-year to almost 1.75 million vehicles in the year to September because deliveries decreased in the first half of 2022 due to supply bottlenecks and the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

However, BMW sales for the third quarter (Q3) were "on a par with the previous year", BMW said. Sales of BMW and MINI cars decreased by 11.1 per cent in Europe in Q3 but increased by 3.8 per cent in the United States and by 5.7 per cent in China. —Xinhua

Yen weakness likely to mute impact of Japan's reopening for airlines

JAPAN'S long-awaited lifting of border restrictions may not lead to a quick recovery to pre-pandemic levels for the nation's airlines, as the current weakness of the yen is expected not just to boost inbound tourism but also suppress demand for outbound trips while

higher fuel costs will keep airfares high.

Japan on Tuesday removed its cap on daily arrivals, most recently set at 50,000, and resumed visa-free individual trips to the country, discontinuing most of what had been criticized as overly strict COVID-19 border control

measures.

That is expected to lead to a surge in inbound tourism, helping Japan's airlines to recover after they battled to survive through a sharp cut in flight services and staff furloughs to trim costs during the coronavirus pandemic.

The country ranked top on a list of destinations in a 2021 travel and tourism development report by the World Economic Forum, and the yen's slide to its lowest level against the dollar in 24 years is likely to make Japan even more enticing to foreign tourists. — Kyodo



A concept vehicle is revealed at a BMW event in Munich. BMW — like other German carmakers — is planning a slew of all-electric and hybrid models. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA RIA VOY.NO. (KRIA0159N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA RIA VOY. NO. (KRIA0159N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-10-2022** 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 PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BIG DOG VOY.NO. (239W/240E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BIG DOG VOY. NO. (239W/240E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-10-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V QUANG HAI 09 VOY.NO. (NN220921)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V QUANG HAI 09 VOY.NO. (NN220921)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-10-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MMKH** 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 RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Türkiye calls for Russia, Ukraine ceasefire 'as soon as possible'

TÜRKIYE on Tuesday called for a viable ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine as soon as possible, saying that both sides were moving away from diplomacy as the war has dragged on.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has long sought to bring together Russian and Ukrainian counterparts, Vladimir Putin and Volodymyr Zelensky, for truce talks in Istanbul. He is due to meet Putin on the margins of a regional summit in the Kazakh capital, Astana, on Wednesday.

"A ceasefire must be established as soon as possible. The sooner the better," Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said in a televised interview.

NATO member Türkiye,



Russian President Vladimir Putin seen at a meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in September. **PHOTO: AFP**

which has tried to stay neutral since Russia's war in Ukraine, has good ties with its two Black Sea neighbours.

"Unfortunately (both sides) have quickly moved away from diplomacy" since the talks be-

tween Russian and Ukrainian negotiators in Istanbul in March, Cavusoglu said.

"As the Ukraine-Russian war drags on, unfortunately, the situation gets worse and more complicated," he added. —AFP

G7 to hold crisis talks on Russia's bombing blitz in Ukraine

THE United States and other G7 powers will hold crisis talks Tuesday on Russia's recent bombing blitz across Ukraine, with Britain's Liz Truss expected to insist they "must not waver one iota" in their support for Kyiv.

The meeting comes a day after Russian missiles rocked

the Ukrainian capital for the first time in months, with President Volodymyr Zelensky warning Moscow that his country "cannot be intimidated".

Russian forces rained more than 80 missiles on cities across Ukraine on Monday, according to Kyiv, in apparent retaliation for an explosion that damaged a

key bridge linking the Crimean peninsula to Russia.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said the strikes showed Moscow was "desperate" after a spate of embarrassing military setbacks, as Russian President Vladimir Putin warned of "severe" responses to any further attacks. —AFP

US airport websites hit by suspected pro-Russian cyberattacks

THE websites for a number of major US airports were briefly taken offline on Monday following a cyberattack promoted by a pro-Russian hacking group.

The distributed denial of service (DDOS) attacks hit the airport websites of several major US cities including Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Phoenix and St Louis.

A DDOS attack involves knocking a website offline by flooding it with traffic.

The airport websites were targeted after the pro-Russian hacking group known as "KillNet" published a list of sites and encouraged its followers to attack them. The DDOS attacks only affected the public-facing websites of the airports, which supply flight and service infor-

mation and do not have any impact on operations.

Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson Airport said its website is "up and running after an incident early this morning that made it inaccessible to the public". "An investigation into the cause of the incident is underway," it said. "At no time were operations at the airport impacted."

Most of the airport websites targeted appeared to be functioning normally after being temporarily knocked offline.

KillNet claimed responsibility last week for attacks on a number of US state government websites, and it has taken aim at other countries opposing Russia's invasion of Ukraine. —AFP



The DDOS attacks only affected the public-facing websites of the airports. **PHOTO: PATRICK T. FALLON/AFP**

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

If victorious, Lula will have to battle 'hostile' Congress

BRAZIL'S new right-leaning Congress risks making life difficult for leftist Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva should he win a third presidential term in elections this month, analysts say.

For far-right incumbent Jair Bolsonaro, however, it is a boon — whether he wins or loses.

Bolsonaro, 67, exceeded polling predictions by coming a closer-than-expected second to Lula, 76, in a first election round on 2 October. The two men will face off in a deeply polarized second round on 30 October.

Though still trailing front-runner Lula, Bolsonaro emerged strong from the first round in



Brazil's former President (2003-2010) and presidential candidate for the leftist Workers Party (PT) Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva faces a hostile Congress if he wins the election. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

more ways than one: his Liberal Party (PL) did well in legislative elections held on the same day,

and will be the biggest single party in Congress when its new term starts in February. —AFP

Alarm grows over Iran protest crackdown in Kurdish city

RIGHTS groups voiced alarm Tuesday over the extent of an Iranian crackdown on a Kurdish-populated city that has become a hub for protests, as oil refinery workers pressed strikes in a new tactic.

Three weeks of protests

Iran's clerical authorities have been shaken by over three weeks of protests that erupted after the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year old Iranian of Kurdish origin, who had been arrested by the notorious morality police.

Despite the use of brutal force by the authorities that activists say has left dozens dead, and led to hundreds of arrests, there is so far no sign of the protest movement coming to an end.

Protests have been especially intense in the city of Sanandaj in the western province of Kurdistan, Amini's home region, where rights groups fear heavy casualties and accuse authorities of resorting to shelling of neighbourhoods. —AFP

Experts sound alarm over violent speech ahead of US midterms

WHEN a Donald Trump supporter was killed by police after shooting up an FBI office in the US Midwest, investigators turned to the assailant's social media to confirm a motive they already feared.

It turned out he had discussed leading an "insurrection against the people who usurped our government" in revenge for the bureau's raid on the former president's Florida home in August.

"I am proposing war," read one post from his since-deleted account on Trump's Truth Social

platform, US media reported. "Kill the FBI on sight."

In the 21 months since a pro-Trump mob ransacked the US Capitol, violent rhetoric and the attacks it foments have become an increasingly worrying confusion on the US body politic, analysts warn.

Many experts are bracing for a spike in the already burgeoning discourse around "civil war" as the 8 November midterm elections approach and campaign rhetoric becomes more bellicose.

Twitter mentions of the

phrase skyrocketed in the hours after the FBI's search for mis-handled government secrets at Trump's beach club — from 500 tweets an hour to 6,000, according to The New York Times.

It is often used hyperbolically to refer to bitter partisanship, but many of the mentions were literal calls to arms, envisaging war, or years of insurgency.

A YouGov poll in August showed that 54 per cent of self-identified "strong Republicans" believe a civil war was at least "somewhat likely" in the next decade. —AFP



In the 21 months since a pro-Trump mob ransacked the US Capitol, violent rhetoric and the attacks it foments have become an increasingly worrying confusion on the US body politic, analysts warn. PHOTO: OLIVIER DOULIERY/AFP/FILE

UK's top court to assess legal basis for new Scottish independence vote



The UK Supreme Court will consider the legality of Scottish moves to hold a new referendum on independence next year. PHOTO: AFP

THE UK Supreme Court will on Tuesday consider the legality of Scottish moves to hold a new referendum on independence next year without the consent of the government in London.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's nationalist government in Edinburgh wants a fresh vote on the question: "Should Scotland be an independent country?"

On Monday, she told her

Scottish National Party's annual conference the hearing would not have been necessary if the UK government in Westminster respected Scottish democracy.

"But Westminster has no such respect. That means this issue was always destined to end up in court sooner or later — better, in my view, that it is sooner," she said. "If the court decides in the way we hope it does, on 19th October next year there will be an independence referendum."

The Supreme Court hearings — initiated by Scotland's top legal adviser — will see senior lawyers wrangle over the powers of the devolved parliament in Edinburgh versus Westminster. — AFP

Thousands march in Haiti to protest calls for intervention

THOUSANDS of Haitians demonstrated Monday in Port-au-Prince to protest against the government and its call for foreign assistance to deal with endemic insecurity, a humanitarian crisis and a burgeoning cholera epidemic.

A day after UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for immediate deployment of a special international armed force in Haiti to help the crisis-hit Caribbean state, the demonstration in the capital

was marred by violence, with police using tear gas to disperse looters, an AFP correspondent said.

"We certainly need help to develop our country, but we don't need boots" on the ground, one protester told AFP, charging that the international community was "interfering in the internal affairs of Haiti" and that the government had "no legitimacy to ask for military assistance".

Several people were shot and one person was reported

to have been killed during the rallies. Protesters blamed the police for the fatality.

"It is a crime perpetrated by the police. This young girl posed no threat. She was killed expressing her desire to live in dignity," said another protester, who declined to give his name.

Haiti has been the scene for several weeks of violent demonstrations and looting, after the announcement by the head of government of an increase in fuel prices. — AFP

Families gather for mass cremation of Thai nursery victims

DEVASTATED families in Thailand gathered Tuesday for the cremation of their loved ones, killed in a nursery massacre that claimed 36 lives — including 24 children.

The kingdom has been stunned by the tragedy in northeastern Na Klang province, one of the worst mass killings in its history, with flags at half-mast and King Maha Vajiralongkorn visiting the families of the victims.

At Wat Rat Samakee temple in Na Klang, chanting monks began the ceremony as the exhausted and grieving close-knit rural community prepared to say a final goodbye to 19 of those killed. "An incident like this shouldn't have happened," said Thanakorn Nueangmatcha, 39, ahead of the funeral at the temple.

"They were only children."

Other victims of the attack — perpetrated by a former police officer, who went on to kill his wife and her child before taking his own life — will be cremated at other temples in the area. At Wat Rat Samakee, incense and the fading scent of hundreds of flower bouquets hung in the air as volunteers continued to prepare the adjacent area for the cremations.

The funerals, sponsored by the royal household, will end three days of rites that began Saturday. Tuesday's mass ceremony is highly unusual — bodies are normally cremated alone — but the area's small local temples have been overwhelmed by the number of victims.

Temporary furnaces have also been set up at other nearby temples, local media reported. —AFP



Thailand has been stunned by the nursery massacre that claimed 36 lives, including 24 children. PHOTO: AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Türkiye calls for Russia, Ukraine ceasefire 'as soon as possible'

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

SPORT



Men's freelance basketball tournament held in Yangon

The Dauei Dragon team played against the Oldest-2 team in the Men's Basketball Tournament held at National Indoor Stadium 1 in Yangon on 11 October 2022. **PHOTO: BALA SOE**

ABOUT 200 athletes participated in the men's and women's freelance basketball tournament organized by the Myanmar Basketball Federation at the National Indoor Stadium 1 in Yangon yesterday.

The Dauei Dragon team

and Oldest-2 team, Dream team and WEPOZT team, Taunggyi team and VIP team, Sunday Club team and RRY team played yesterday in the first stage of the round-robin tourney.

Eighteen men's teams and three women's teams from Yan-

gon, Pyay, Dawei, Mandalay, and Kachin State participated in the competition.

The competition will be held until 18 October, and anyone can enter and watch for free, tournament organizers said. — Bala Soe/GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Liverpool star Diaz ruled out until after World Cup



Liverpool forward Luis Diaz is set to be sidelined until after the World Cup due to a knee injury. **PHOTO: AFP**

LIVERPOOL forward Luis Diaz is set to be sidelined until after the World Cup due to a knee injury, according to reports on Monday.

Diaz suffered the injury during the first half of Liver-

pool's 3-2 defeat at Arsenal in the Premier League on Sunday.

The 25-year-old Colombian left the Emirates Stadium on crutches with his knee in a brace.

Scans have revealed Diaz does not require surgery, but it has been reported the injury will keep him out until after the World Cup, which starts on 20 November.

Diaz will miss at least 10 matches for Jurgen Klopp's struggling side, who are 14 points behind Premier League leaders Arsenal.

It is another blow for Liverpool. Diaz has emerged as an influential figure since joining from Porto in January.

He will hope to return to action by the time the Premier League resumes in December after the World Cup.

The Reds already have a host of injury problems, with Trent Alexander-Arnold waiting for the results of tests on an ankle injury suffered against Arsenal—AFP

Tiger hits new ranking low but excites fans at par-3 course



Tiger Woods' world ranking has fallen to a career-low following his 2021 car accident. **PHOTO: AFP**

FORMER world number one Tiger Woods, recovering from severe leg injuries in a 2021 car crash, sank to a career-low 1,206th in the world golf rankings released on Monday.

The 15-time major winner, second only to the record 18 won by Jack Nicklaus on the all-time list, fell seven spots below his previous worst mark, which came in 2017 after back surgery.

Woods spent a record 683 weeks atop the world rankings but tumbled after numerous back and leg injuries.

Woods delighted fans last weekend by playing his nine-hole par-3 course, The Hay at Pebble Beach, social media posts showing off his putting and driving skills and walking some hilly ground as well.

Woods, who shares the all-time record of 82 PGA Tour triumphs with Sam Snead, has made only a limited comeback since suffering leg injuries in February 2021 in a one-car accident in Southern California that left him hospitalized for weeks and bed-ridden for months.

He returned to competition last April in the Masters after a 14-month layoff, finishing 47th after walking 72 holes at Augusta National.

The 46-year-old icon withdrew after three rounds at the PGA Championship in May at Southern Hills and missed the cut in July at St. Andrews in the British Open in his most recent start.—AFP