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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.

The increasing amount of the fund will be spent on education, health, social and welfare of persons with disabilities: Vice-Senior General



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win chairs the National Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities meeting 2/2022 in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 October 2022.

THE 2024 census enumeration must be conducted together with registration of persons with disabilities, said Chairman of the National Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities Vice-Chairman of the State Administration

Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the national committee meeting 2/2022 at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The five-year strategic plan

on rights of the persons with disabilities (2022-2027) was drawn in line with Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan and the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan 2025, and it was introduced on 15 September this year. The budget for the plan must be earmarked and

demanded in accordance with the financial rule in the coming financial year.

Categorizing the disabilities and registration of persons with disabilities are being implemented in four initial project areas namely Pobbathiri, Hlinethaya,

Hpa-an and Hopong townships. Assistance will be provided for those with disabilities in different categories. Registration of persons with disabilities will help provide effective assistance for them in regions and states.

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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 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

2022 Mid-Year Gems Emporium completes successfully



The winding up event of the 2022 Mid-Year Gems Emporium is in progress yesterday.

THE closing ceremony of the 2022 Mid-Year Gems Emporium was held at the Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

The bids for jade lots (from No 1,501 to No 2,150) were checked by officials and they announced that 519 jade lots were sold.

Four hundred pearl lots, 120 gem lots and 2,150 jade lots were

on sale at the 2022 Mid-Year Gems Emporium for local and foreign gem merchants under the open tender system between 20 and 25 October.

Through the sale, the emporium successfully sold 362 pearl lots, 55 gem lots and 1,836 jade lots.

It is reported that local and foreign gem dealers who succeeded in their bids at the

emporium will have to settle the payment within 60 days as specified in the transaction contract.

Many opportunities such as the financial circulation for gem merchants, the availability of raw materials for those who produce finished jewels and job prospects for workers in the gem sector can be opened up through the selling of Myanmar gems. — MNA

200-year-old Kanyin (Dipterocarpus alatus) discovered in Pantanaw Tsp

A 200-year-old Kanyin — wood-oil tree — was found in the Sasana Rakkhita Monastery compound in Kyaung-tawkalay Village of Tawkyang Village-track in Pantanaw Township of Maubin District in Ayeyawady Region.

The 200-year-old tree is 17 feet in girth and about 150 feet in height and is strangely grown in Ayeyawady Region. The Presiding Sayadaw of Sasana Rakkhita Monastery, villagers and officials of the Forest Department conserve it so far.

Various species of Garjan oil tree are Dipterocarpus costatus, Dipterocarpus alatus, Dipterocarpus kerrii King, Dipterocarpus obtusifolius, Dipterocarpus dyeri and Dipterocarpus turbina-



tus. The Dipterocarpus costatus mostly grows in upper Myanmar and the Dipterocarpus alatus in lower Myanmar, according to the Forest Department. — Pyae Phy Kyaw (IPRD)/GNLM



Forest Department officials measure the Kanyin tree.

Committing electoral fraud and using unscrupulous ways to fix the election will tarnish the image of the State and delay the democratic process of the country

The election is a national duty linked to the prestige of the State. Only when the election is free and fair, will multiparty democracy desired by the people flourish and only then will the nation have higher prestige in political history and among the international community. Committing electoral fraud and using unscrupulous ways to fix the election will tarnish the image of the State and delay the democratic process of the country. The voting fraud in the 2020 multiparty democracy general election tarnished the image of the State's efforts to achieve a democratic culture.

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

The increasing amount of the fund will be spent on ...

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The 2024 census enumeration must be conducted together with the registration of persons with disabilities. The Rehabilitation Department and Monetary Supervision Department must disburse loans from a K3 billion fund for the rights of persons with disabilities to micro finances in the three-year term. The increasing amount of the fund will be spent on education, health, social welfare of the persons with disabilities.

The National Committee for Rights of Persons with Disabilities allowed the formation of the committee for disbursement of loans, the committee for scrutinizing loans and the loans supervisory bodies. The workshops must be held for persons with disabilities in order to implement the socio-economic



It is important for the prestige of persons with disabilities, dependent standing, seeking vocational education, job opportunities and own incomes. Plans must be drawn for persons with disabilities to regularly participate in the vocational training conducted by relevant ministries.

life development programmes which will spend the fund and draw rules and regulations.

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training conducted by relevant ministries.

In creating chances for persons with disabilities, it is necessary to uplift health and fitness as well as the sports sector of the persons with disabilities. Although sports aim to ensure the health and fitness of the people, victories in sports events bring prestige to

the State and the nationals. As such, it is necessary to raise the standards of sports as a national duty.

It can be seen that persons with disabilities uplifted the prestige of the State in international sports meets. The Prime Minister himself deservedly honoured the victorious disabled athletes, he added.

Vice-Chair of the national committee Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine reported on the rights and development of the socioeconomic life of persons with disabilities. The secretary reported on decisions for the rights of the 1/2022 national committee meeting.

Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing, deputy ministers, members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, those from relevant organizations, boards, ministries and the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and others discussed rights of persons with disabilities.

The secretary reported on minutes earmarked for the meeting 2/2022. The Vice-Senior General coordinated the report and gave a concluding remark. — MNA

MoI launches No 2 course on documentary video editing, documentary photo shooting, news writing



Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn inaugurates the course No 2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE opening ceremony of documentary video editing, documentary photo shooting and news writing course No 2 was held at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn said the people are unable to identify the disinformation and misinformation on Facebook. The ministry is making efforts for the people to get the correct information.

Newsworthiness depends on the qualification of the media personnel. The trainees should present the efforts of respective ministries and how they are working for the inter-

est of the country and people. They also should carefully learn the lessons provided by the trainers and share the media knowledge with others, he added.

The course will last up to 11 November and teach camera function, photo shooting steps, news video production, documentary video recording, news editing, news writing, online news writing style and do's and don'ts for online news writer.

The training course is being attended by 46 participants from various ministries while there were 48 participants for the No 1 course opened in September. — MNA

Classes of second year and above will be opened on 10 November: MoE Union Minister



Union Education Minister Dr Nyunt Pe chairs the coordination meeting on the opening of universities and degree colleges yesterday.

UNION Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe presided over a coordination meeting on the opening of universities and de-

gree colleges under the ministry yesterday.

The Union Minister said all the second-year and above

classes will be opened on 10 November and the school enrollment will be starting from 27 October to 18 November includ-

ing the weekends. The first-semester exam will be on 9 March 2023 and so there should be full-time classes. The professors of respective departments should make preparations for teaching and should not discriminate in dividing the classes on a bias.

He then highlighted the instructions of State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing regarding building a warm community-like family among the upper and lower-level staff in order to gain mutual respect and accomplishments in work procedures.

He continued that the rectors, pro-rectors and professors should inspect the cleanliness and security of the university compound, departments and

classrooms, and supervise the daily attendance of demonstrators and tutors to their respective classes.

All education personnel should understand that they will face actions if they post confidential letters on social media Facebook, and should conduct effective research regarding their subjects that bring benefits to the regions. If so, the education will contribute to the MSMEs.

Then, Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Myint discussed the measures for universities' image and cleanliness, seeking suggestions for education promotion from the teachers who studied at foreign universities and capacity-building courses for teachers. — MNA

Preparatory meeting for 10th ASEAN Quiz (Regional Level) conducted virtually

THE preparatory meeting for the 10th ASEAN Quiz (Regional Level) was held with a video conferencing system yesterday morning. Led by SCI-Myanmar Chair Myanmar Radio and Television Director-General U Ye Naing, officials from ASEAN countries, officials from ASEAN secretary general office, and project managers who will represent the country in managing the 10th ASEAN Quiz (Regional Level) totalling 34 persons attended the meeting.

At the meeting, the MRTV director-general gave an opening speech. Then, preparatory activities regarding the organizing of the 10th ASEAN Quiz (Regional Level), contest rules and regulations, technical arrangements concerning questionnaires, preparations and



The preparatory meeting for the tenth ASEAN Quiz (Regional Level) is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

event plans at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw, where the contest will be held, were clarified by officials and representatives from ASEAN countries exchanged their views and opinions.

The 10th ASEAN Quiz (Na-

tional Level) was held at the Studio A of the Myanmar Radio and Television on 1 June 2022 to hold the 10th ASEAN Quiz (Regional Level). The preliminary selection (five students) was made by a panel of judges. To verify and

select three students out of the preliminary selection, training was provided online in July 2022. Examinations will take place in the first week of November and the selection will be made at the discretion of the panel of judges.

It is learnt that three students from each ASEAN country, totalling 30 students, will compete in the 10th ASEAN Quiz (Regional Level), which will be hosted by Myanmar at the MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw this year. — MNA



Myanmar ships over 66,000 tonnes of rice to external markets including EU countries

MYANMAR exported more than 66,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice to the international markets including European Union countries in September by sea, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

In September, Myanmar shipped over 8,870 tonnes of rice to Asian countries and over 15,490 to European Union countries. The seaborne trade earns US\$9.704 million from over 24,370 tonnes of rice exports in September.

The country delivered over 3,200 tonnes of rice worth \$1.207 million to China and 70 tonnes to Thailand via the cross-border trade routes last month. The volume of broken rice exports was estimated at 20,180 tonnes worth \$7.209 million through maritime trade channels, and over 18,410 tonnes worth \$6.4 million via border posts to China.

In September, the volume of rice and broken rice through both sea and border trade routes totalled 66,330 tonnes comprising 27,640 tonnes of rice and 38,590 tonnes of broken rice.

Furthermore, Myanmar has signed an agreement to export 250,000 tonnes of white rice to Bangladesh and 21,300 tonnes have been conveyed to Bangladesh so far. According to the Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and Bangladesh,



Two workers are handling rice bags to be loaded onto the vessel with the help of a crane system.

Bangladesh pledged to buy 250,000 tonnes of white rice and 50,000 tonnes of parboiled rice annually between September 2017 and September 2022.

The price of high-grade glutinous rice from the Pyapon area rose to K78,000 per 102-pound bag, while the glutinous rice from the Bogale-Mawgyun area was priced at K70,000 per bag. The old glutinous rice was valued at K65,000 per bag.

On 25 October, the prices of broken rice were K38,000-39,000 per

bag. The prices of low-grade rice were K40,000 for new rice, K44,000 for rice cultivated under intercropping system and K46,000 for low-grade short-matured rice (90 days). Meanwhile, the price of the Pawkywe rice variety was K48,000 per bag.

The wholesale prices of Pawsan rice varieties stood at K85,000-91,000 per bag from the Shwebo area, K57,000-61,000 from the Myaungmya and Pathein areas and K55,000-59,000 from the Pyapon area. — TWA/GNLM

First-year (first semester) day classes for those who passed 2022 matriculation exam start on 21 November

FIRST-YEAR (first semester) day classes for those who matriculated in 2022 will be opened at universities, degree colleges and colleges under the Higher Education Department of the Ministry of Education on 21 November, according to the announcement of the Higher Education Department.

In addition, the Higher Education Department announced that the first-year (second semester), and from second-year classes to master's degrees will be opened on 10 November.

In the 2022 matriculation examination, out of the 281,751 candidates, 132,077 students passed, according to the Department of Myanmar Examinations.

The Ministry of Education will publish the list of students who have been admitted to the first-year courses on the official website of the ministry <https://mcrd.gov.mm> and <https://ucmt.edu.mm> and for further information phone number 09-795300151 can be reached. — TWA/GNLM

Weekly kitchen grocery market update

DURING the week ending 25 October, some food commodities at Bayintnaung Wholesale Market jumped.

Onion

Onions were transacted at higher prices in the onion-producing regions on the back of demand by Viet Nam. Therefore, the price of onions was up to K200 per viss on 25 October despite the supply of 180,000 visses of onions two days before then.

The wholesale onion prices from Seikphyu Township increased from K2,900-3,500 on 22 October to K3,000-3,700 per viss on 25 October, and similarly, onions from the Myingyan area also climbed to K3,200-4,000 per viss.

Along with the price rise in regions outside Yangon following the demand from the Viet Nam market, the onion prices in Yangon markets have also risen accordingly.

Garlic

The garlic was priced at K3,525 per viss in the wholesale market on 21 October and the price increased to K3,800 per viss

on 25 October. Meanwhile, Kyukok garlic fetched K3,000-4,000 per viss.

Potato

Unlike the high price of Kyukok garlic, the wholesale prices of Chinese potatoes remained unchanged at K2,200 per viss on 25 October, while Shan potato prices were estimated at K1,550-2,000 per viss.

Chilli pepper

On 25 October, the prices of chilli pepper moved in the range of K15,000 and K20,000 per viss depending on different varieties (Moehtaung, long red chilli (Panye) and green chilli), whereas the bell pepper was sold at K20,000-25,000 per viss.

Palm oil

The wholesale reference price of palm oil in the Yangon Region this week (25-30 October) was set at K4,175 per viss, which is down by K215 per viss compared to the last week's price

On 21 October, the market price of palm oil stood at K6,000 on the back of low demand. Nonetheless, the price jumped to K7,000 per viss on the morning of 22 Octo-

ber after the international financial watchdog added Myanmar to the blacklist. The retail price was around K8,000-9,000 per viss in the evening.

The palm oil fetched K7,000 per viss in the wholesale market on 25 October.

Rice

The price of sticky rice went up in the Yangon market and the prices of other rice varieties do not change that much. The price of high-grade sticky rice from the Pyapon area rose to K78,000 per 102-pound bag, while the sticky rice from the Bogale-Mawgyun area was priced at K70,000 per bag. The old sticky rice was valued at K65,000 per bag.

On 25 October, the prices of broken rice were K38,000-39,000 per bag. The prices of low-grade rice were K40,000 for new rice, K44,000 for rice cultivated under intercropping system and K46,000 for low-grade short-matured rice (90 days). The wholesale prices of Pawsan rice varieties stood at K85,000-91,000 per bag from the Shwebo



The picture shows a retail shop of kitchen groceries.

area, K57,000-61,000 from the Myaungmya and Pathein areas and K55,000-59,000 from the Pyapon area. Meanwhile, the price of the Pawkywel rice variety was K48,000 per bag.

Pulses

On 25 October, the prices of various pulses stood at over K1,790,000 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K2,115,000 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC), K1,990,000 per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) RC and K4,000-4,250 per viss of chickpea in Yangon markets. — TWA/GNLM

160 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 25 October, total figure rises to 630,902

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **630,902** after **160** new cases were reported on 25 October 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **604,709** have recovered from disease. Death toll reaches **19,478** after **one** death.

According to the study of people who had COVID-19 and people who died of COVID-19 from 28-1-2022 to 15-10-2022, it has been found that 90.4 per cent of Covid patients and 80.9 per cent of Covid deaths are not vaccinated at all or fully vaccinated, respectively.

Status of COVID-19 injection	COVID-19 Patient	Death with COVID-19
People have no vaccination and have not been fully inoculated.	90.4%	80.9%

According to the international study, it is found that people who have been vaccinated do not suffer severely from the disease, need not to be hospitalized and are unlikely to die. If they have received booster shots, the death rates can be reduced more. Therefore, it is a must for people aged five and above to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

The Ministry of Health is giving free vaccinations to all people aged five and above. Booster shots of vaccine are being given to students between the ages of 12 and 18 and people aged 18 and over.

Therefore, people should contact local health centres and village/ward administration offices to receive vaccinations. The information about COVID-19 disease can be seen on the Ministry of Health official website www.moh.gov.mm. —MNA

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increasing of death rate based on the disease.

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

VACCINATION is being carried out in full swing in various regions and states as the vaccination programmes are one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 disease.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, and relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 199 people from Yankin and Tamway townships in Yangon Region, 385 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 2,578 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

Similarly, on that day healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 892 students from

twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region.

In addition, to assist in the control and prevention of the covid-19 disease, military officials from various military commands in collaboration with district and township administrative officials, departmental personnel and members of civil society organizations (CSOs) conducted educational campaigns such as prevention of COVID-19, wearing of masks in public places and distribution of masks to the locals at schools, markets, streets, city entry points and crowded areas in three townships in Taninthayi Region and , 44 townships in Yangon Region, and Phyarpon Town in Ayeyawady Region. —MNA



A local in Mandalay Region gets jabbed against COVID-19 on 25 October.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, communication materials, consumer goods, foodstuffs, motorbike parts and vehicles confiscated



Officials check confiscated illegal timbers.

SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, a combined team led by the Forest Department under the supervision of the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory Anti-Ille-

gal Trade Task Force nabbed a total of 8.5362 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K393,840 in Pyinmana, Lewe and Ottarathiri townships on 20 and 23 October. The action was taken under the

Forest Law.

On 22 October, an on-duty team captured K2.5 million worth of communication materials without official documents at the Yangon International

Airport Cargo Warehouse. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Afterwards, on 24 October, an on-duty team at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint seized 3,700 kilograms of detergent bags worth K1,942,500 that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a Nissan Diesel Tractor Head (estimated value of K115 million) heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, officials confiscated 150 cartons of beer worth K3 million without official documents from a Mitsubishi Canter car (approximately K17 million) heading from Hpa-an to Thaton at the Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an) Combined Checkpoint on 24 October and K1.6 million worth

of motorbike tyres without official documents from a vehicle at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint on 25 October. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 23 and 25 October, a total of 34.5878 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K19,948,302 was seized in the Toungoo, Nyaunglebin and Pyay districts and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 25 October, a team led by Myanmar Police Force captured K4 million worth of an unregistered Honda CR-V car and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Therefore, 16 arrests (estimated value of K165,384,642) were made on six consecutive days from 20 to 25 October, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. —MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Kyat depreciation persists as dollar exchange stands at K3,000 in market

KYAT depreciates against the hard currency US dollar at approximately K3,000 on the over-the-counter market although the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) set the reference exchange rate at K2,100, according to local forex traders.

To strengthen the domestic currency in the local forex market, the CBM set the currency trading band at 0.3 per cent for the Kyat to fluctuate between these two specified upper and lower exchange rates for transactions, selling or buying, according to a directive issued by the CBM

on 10 August 2022.

Therefore, financial institutions including banks and informal money changes set a dollar value of K2,100 for buying and K2,106 for selling.

Despite the trading band, the dollar transaction was made with a buying price of K2,970 and the selling price of K3,080 in the grey market.

Last August, a dollar value hit an all-time high of over K4,500 in the grey market and consequently, pure gold reached a record high of K3.7 million per tical in history.

Consequently, the CBM sold dollars at its auction market for the sectors in need, to control the soaring dollar.

A total of \$443.8 million were sold at an auction rate in 2021 as well.

Last September 2021, a dollar value hit a peak of over K3,000 in the black market, pushing pure gold up to K2.22 million per tical.

Under the guidance of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, the Monitoring and Steering Committee on Gold and Currency Market was formed on 17 Decem-



The office building of the Central Bank of Myanmar (Yangon branch).

ber 2021 as gold and currency market stability play a crucial role in the trade facilitation.

The objectives of the committee are inspecting and prosecuting market manipulation, checking if there is compliance with payment rules in the domestic market, and proceeding against

those unscrupulous traders who intend to interfere with the free and fair operation of the market under the existing laws, by-laws and regulations in line with the official directives, illegal foreign currency holding, illegal trade and taking legal actions against price manipulators. —NN/GNLM

Palm oil wholesale reference price regains to K4,000



The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transport costs, tariffs and banking services, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market increased again to K4,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transport costs, tariffs and banking services, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate

for edible oil on a weekly basis.

The reference prices of palm oil in the Yangon market were set at K4,175 per viss for this week from 25 and 30 October and K3,960 per viss for the week ending 24 October. The reference price this week was up by over K200 per viss.

Nevertheless, the current market price is too high compared to the reference price.

If those retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous

action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Special Goods Tax Law, MoC released a statement.

The Ministry of Commerce is striving for consumers not to worry over the supply of edible oil. The ministry is also trying to secure edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer reasonable prices to the consumers and maintain price stability.

At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July in order to offer palm oil at a subsidized rate.

They sell palm oil at K4,400 per viss to consumers directly. However, there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell palm oil at a reference rate depending on the volume quota.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at 1 million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. —NN/GNLM

Shan long chilli pepper, Shan Moehtaung, Indian chilli pepper enter Yangon market

FOLLOWING the extraordinary record price of chilli peppers in Yangon markets in the last week of October, Indian long chilli peppers which have not entered Myanmar for three years flowed into the domestic market with the six-viss burlap sacks.

Additionally, long chilli peppers and Moehtaung variety from Shan State entered Yangon markets on 25 October. However, the prices are still on an upward trend.

Indian long chilli peppers have not been imported since 2019 as that variety was locally produced from Hinthada to Salin areas. They are named Payne and Myarni long chilli peppers in the markets.

The prices of long chilli peppers processed in cold storage were K20,000-20,500 per viss in the wholesale market. However, the imported Indian long chilli peppers were sold at K18,500 per viss in Yangon markets. Those chilli peppers produced from cold storage fetch a higher price due to their appealing red colour.

The price of Indian long chilli peppers is K2,000 lower than the locally produced ones

due to its colour, said Ko Hlan Han, a seller of chilli pepper and tangerine on Seinpan Street, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The of Shan chilli peppers also entered the market at a high price, with K17,000-17,500 for long chilli peppers and K15,500 for the Moehtaung variety.

The newly harvested bell peppers this month were priced at K20,000 per viss in Yangon markets, which is four times higher than the price recorded last year. As a result of this, the growers are doing a roaring business.

Despite the supply from Shan State and inflow of Indian chilli peppers to Yangon markets, the prices still strengthen, GNLM quoted Ko Thet Aung, a dealer, as saying.

However, there is less chance for the chilli pepper price to go higher on the back of high inventory. Furthermore, consumer demand declined significantly.

The prices of chilli pepper were on the rise and so consumers reduced their consumption unlike the staple food rice and edible oil. —TWA/GNLM

OPINION

Be careful of the people playing dirty tricks against others

TRUE and false positions are standing back-to-back in society. Everybody thinks everything is true they did and the others are wrong they didn't. It is visible that it shows their selfishness with the underestimation of everybody and everything.

Although we think something is right, everybody keeps most of the wrong things in their minds. It is because they do not analyze or consider everything they face. Consequently, they cannot understand the real situation of correct things they do not see.

Indeed, it is necessary to be grateful to the persons who gave correct advice and point out wrong things. Practically, the persons capable of bravely pointing out the wrong things and acts are rare in society day by day. That is why everybody needs to value those persons with true and white mindsets. But, everybody needs to be careful of acts committed by the people who play dirty tricks against others by pretending the acts of pointing out incorrectness. Significantly, everybody needs to be a person accepting the wrong acts as they know.

Some persons do not know they are upholding the wrong attitude and outlook. If so, most of them miss the chance to return to the right things. Unexpectedly, a few numbers of them dare to open their eyes to seek right and wrong in society. It may be said that it is the greatest opportunity for them. They dare to change their mindsets to amend their wrong acts. If so, they reach the right track early.

Some persons in society really know their acts are wrong but they never move back and go forward. As such, it is sure that they may face wrong acts and events in the series. Moreover, some of them see the persons as enemies for pointing out their wrong acts. It is because their mindsets are based on anger, intolerance and selfishness. Hence, they miss the chance not to return to the arena of truth.

Indeed, it is necessary to be grateful to the persons who gave correct advice and point out wrong things. Practically, the persons capable of bravely pointing out the wrong things and acts are rare in society day by day. That is why everybody needs to value those persons with true and white mindsets. But, everybody needs to be careful of acts committed by the people who play dirty tricks against others by pretending the acts of pointing out incorrectness. Significantly, everybody needs to be a person accepting the wrong acts as they know.

Gradually, they see the things they misunderstand are OK and these are totally right.

Actually, most of the persons do not have adequate knowledge to analyze everything what is right and what is wrong and how to manage the right thing and the wrong ones. As such, they seem everything they do is absolutely true. It is very dangerous for them as well as society. Because they urge other people to believe the thing they have already faced as true ones.

Some persons do not know they are upholding the wrong attitude and outlook. If so, most of them miss the chance to return to the right things. Unexpectedly, a few numbers of them dare to open their eyes to seek right and wrong in society. It may be said that it is the greatest opportunity for them. They dare to change their mindsets to amend their wrong acts. If so, they reach the right track early.

Some persons in society really know their acts are wrong but they never move back and go forward. As such, it is sure that they may face wrong acts and events in the series. Moreover, some of

THE report addressed by Mr Xi, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, to the 20th CPC National Congress on Sunday unveiled a blueprint for advancing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization.

Chinese modernization, which is socialist modernization pursued under the leadership of the CPC, is dynamic and distinctive to the Chinese setting.

People's well-being and harmony have been seen as two underlying principles for the modernization of the Chinese economy and society, which employs a holistic approach that benefits not just a select few but everyone.

It contains elements that are common to the modernization processes of all countries, but it is more characterized by features that are unique to the Chinese context. As the report said, it is the modernization of a huge population, of common prosperity for all, of material and cultural-ethical advancement, of harmony between humanity and nature, and of peaceful development.

In contrast, the Western capitalist model of modernization that resorted to aggression, colonization and expansion is polarized and materialistic, leading to the vast gap between the affluent and the poor. China's pursuit of modernization aims for equality, allowing all Chinese people to enjoy prosperous, healthy, and culturally-rich lives.

China's modernization path offers inspiration for global peace and development

By Shamim Zakaria (Xinhua)



Aerial photo taken on 27 Sept, 2020 shows the science and technology park along the bank of the Dasha River in Nanshan District of Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province. PHOTO: XINHUA/MAO SIQIAN

This is evident from China's monumental achievements in poverty alleviation. Over 770 million have been lifted out of poverty since China's reform and opening up began in the late 1970s, and nearly 100 million in the past decade, perhaps the greatest victory over poverty ever in the history of humankind.

terminated path. Only exploration and adherence to one's own way can be deemed a pragmatic approach.

The success of China's own modernization efforts serves as a compelling reminder that there is more than one road to achieving modernization, and every nation has the right to pursue its own path to modernization, one that takes into account the specifics of its own history, culture, economy, and other factors. No modernization model should be regarded as the only model, nor is there a single standard for modernization that fits all.

As China's route to modernization broadens, the country's growth prospects will improve and the global community will reap additional benefits.

In its pursuit of modernization, China, as the world's most populous and largest developing nation, has also stressed the promotion of social values such as mutual respect, mutual assistance, and mutual trust, which will be a boon to world peace and harmony.

Insights from the Chinese model of modernization are highly relevant to the global quest for alternate paths to modernization, and China's success story can contribute to accelerating global human development and serve as an inspiration for other countries to map out their own plans for growth and for the international community to proceed a better future together.

The CPC places a high value on the Chinese people's interests, happiness and well-being, and stresses no one shall be left behind, and this is reflected in the outstanding successes achieved in areas such as economic growth, green development, improvement of education, job creation, and enactment of policies involving elderly and child care.

Just as the report said, "We must protect the people's fundamental interests, improve their well-being, and work tirelessly to ensure that development is for the people and by the people and that its fruits are shared by the people. We must do a better job of seeing that the gains of modernization benefit all our people fairly."

At the opening of the congress, Xi emphasized the importance of unity among all CPC members in building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and advancing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization.

However, in order to achieve modernization in a huge developing nation such as China, there is neither a precedent nor a prede-

Boston University researchers claim to have developed new, deadly COVID strain in lab

FOLLOWING a set of linked experiments that were first believed to have sparked the [global epidemic](#) in China, researchers at [Boston University](#) claim to have developed a new [COVID](#) strain with an 80 per cent [death rate](#). According to Fox News, the variant, a combination of omicron and the original virus in Wuhan, killed 80% of the mice infected with it, the university said. When mice were only exposed to omicron, they experienced mild symptoms. The research was conducted by a team of scientists from Florida

and Boston at the school's National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories.

As per the reports of Fox News, they extracted the spike protein from omicron and attached it with the strain first detected at the onset of the pandemic that began in Wuhan, China. They then documented how the mice reacted to the hybrid strain. "In...mice, while Omicron causes mild, non-fatal infection, the Omicron S-carrying virus inflicts severe disease with a mortality rate of 80 percent,"

they wrote in a research paper. According to researchers, the new strain has five times more contagious virus particles than the omicron variety. In a statement, the university stressed that the replicated strain was less dangerous than the original strain. "First, this research is not gain-of-function research, meaning it did not amplify the Washington state SARS-COV-2 virus strain or make it more dangerous." In fact, this research made the virus replicate less dangerous," the statement read. "Secondly,

the research was reviewed and approved by the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), which consists of scientists as well as local community members. The Boston Public Health Commission also approved the research. Furthermore, this research mirrors and reinforces the findings of other, similar research performed by other organizations, including the FDA. Ultimately, this research will provide a public benefit by leading to better, targeted therapeutic interventions to help fight against future pandemics."

According to Fox News, COVID-19 was first believed to have come from a wet market in Wuhan, though many believe the virus was engineered at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The World Health Organization continues to face criticism for its handling of the crisis in its early, most pivotal, days. The omicron variant is highly transmissible, even in those who are fully vaccinated. The spike protein is responsible for rates of infectivity, according to researchers, other changes to the virus' structure determine its

deadliness. One limitation of the study was the breed of mice used, as other types are more similar to humans.

SOURCE: ANI

According to researchers, the new strain has five times more contagious virus particles than the omicron variety. PHOTO: JACKIE RICCIARDI/BOSTON UNIVERSITY



ENVIRON WORLD

Singapore targets net zero by 2050, eyes hydrogen power



Low-lying Singapore is seen as especially vulnerable to rising sea levels. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SINGAPORE announced Tuesday it aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, giving a firm date for the first time, and will look at using hydrogen as a major power source.

The city-state targets for carbon emissions to peak in 2030 at 60 million tonnes, a reduction of five million tonnes from the previous goal, Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said.

The Southeast Asian nation also has plans to look at developing low carbon hydrogen as a major power supply in the long term. "If technology continues to advance, we foresee that hy-

drogen can supply up to half of our power needs by 2050, alongside domestic renewable energy sources and electricity imports," Wong said at an industry conference. He added that Singapore would experiment with key hydrogen technologies to see how it can be implemented on a large scale. "We do not have the land for large solar or wind farms, or fast flowing rivers for hydro-electric power," said Wong, the country's prime minister in waiting.

Green hydrogen is in sharp focus as governments seek to slash carbon emissions amid global warming and to safeguard

energy supplies hit by the invasion of Ukraine by oil and gas producer Russia.

But the "hydrogen economy" has not fully kicked into gear awaiting significant uptake from high-polluting sectors like steel and aviation. "Many hydrogen technologies are still under development, and a global supply chain has yet to be established," the Singapore government said in a statement.

"Nevertheless, there has been strong interest internationally from the public and private sectors to accelerate the development," it added.—AFP

Will climate change doom US truck habit? Detroit says no

THE US consumer's love for enormous vehicles has been seen by outsiders as a curiosity and sometimes a sign of profligacy.

Either way, rising concerns about climate change seemed to create a reckoning for the behemoth-sized pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles that recently have sustained US automaker profits.

Not so, according to Detroit auto giants, who have responded to the climate crisis by launching all-electric versions of the Ford F-150 pickup, the Chevrolet Blazer SUV and other best-selling giants that seemingly promise

the possibility that consumers can have it all: address global



Like other electric vehicles being developed by Detroit, Ford Motor Co.'s F-150 Lightning has been praised as an improvement in addressing climate change, although it requires more energy to recharge than does a smaller vehicle. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

warming without sacrificing the appeal of larger autos.—AFP

'We don't eat lithium': S. America longs for benefits of metal boon

THE turquoise glimmer of open-air pools contrasts sharply with the dazzling white of salt flats in Latin America's "lithium triangle", where hope resides for a better life fuelled by a metal bonanza.

A key component of batteries used in electric cars, demand has exploded for lithium — the "white gold" found in quantities larger than anywhere else in the world.

And as the world seeks to move away from fossil fuels, lithium production — and prices — have skyrocketed, as have the expectations of communities near lithium plants, many of whom live in poverty.

But there are growing concerns about the impact on groundwater sources in regions already prone to extended droughts, with recent evidence

of tree and flamingo die-offs.

And there are scant signs to date of benefits trickling down.

"We don't eat lithium, nor batteries. We do drink water," said Veronica Chavez, 48, president of the Santuario de Tres Pozos Indigenous community near the town of Salinas Grandes in Argentina's lithium heartland.

A poster that meets visitors to Salinas Grandes reads: "No to lithium, yes to water and life."

Lithium extraction requires millions of litres of water per plant per day.

Unlike in Australia — the world's top lithium producer that extracts the metal from rock — in South America it is derived from salars, or salt flats, where saltwater containing the metal is brought from underground briny lakes to the surface to evaporate.—AFP



"Lithium triangle" countries are looking towards battery manufacturing as a way to turn the natural bounty into an industrial revolution. **PHOTO: AFP**

Will Africa's metals boom suffer the same curse as oil?

MECHANICAL diggers are hard at work in the bleak landscape of the Moanda open-cast mine in Gabon, using giant jaws to rip out manganese and then dump the ore into trucks with a crash.

"We're lucky here in Moanda. We find it about five to six metres (about 18 feet) below the surface," said manager Olivier Kassibi, whose mine yields 36 tonnes of manganese each day.

Element number 25 on the periodic table, manganese has traditionally been perceived as

a useful if humdrum material widely employed in steel and alloys.

More recently, though, the silvery metal has gained star status thanks to its emerging role in rechargeable car batteries, helping to wean the world off carbon-spewing fossil fuels.

Decarbonization of the world economy will take centre stage at the UN's COP27 climate talks in Egypt next month.

And as the great transition goes into higher gear, eyes are turning to Africa.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Foreign tourism to Greece up but below pre-Covid peak

THE number of foreign tourists visiting Greece has sharply increased so far this year despite soaring inflation and the Ukraine war, according to official statistics published on Monday.

But the figures remained below the record pre-pandemic levels of 2019 that helped revive the country's tourism-dependent economy after years of crisis.

From January to late August, 19.12 million foreign tourists flocked to the sun-drenched southern European nation to explore attractions such as the Athens Acropolis or the Aegean islands, the Bank of Greece said.

That represented a 121-per cent increase on the same period in 2021, when Covid-19 travel and social restrictions weighed heavily on the tourism sector.

In August alone, traditionally the peak of the Mediterranean tourism season, more than 5.8 million foreign visitors came to Greece, a rise of 44 per cent on 2021 figures.

However, tourist numbers in the first eight months of this year were down 12.4 per cent on the same period in 2019.

Decades-high inflation is eating away at the budgets of many European households, while Russian tourists — frequent visitors to the beaches of Crete or Corfu — are down sharply due to the fallout from the Ukraine war and European sanctions.

Tourism represents a quarter of Greece's annual economic output, but questions linger over the future of the sector.—AFP



Tourists visiting the Acropolis in Athens in July. PHOTO: LOUISA GOULIAMAKI / AFP

Video games could improve kids' brains: study

PARENTS often worry about the harmful impacts of video games on their children, from mental health and social problems to missing out on exercise.

But a large new US study published in JAMA Network Open on Monday indicates there may also be cognitive benefits associated with the popular pastime. Lead author Bader Chararani, an assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Vermont, told AFP he was naturally drawn to the topic as a keen gamer himself with expertise in neuroimaging.

Prior research had focused on detrimental effects, linking gaming with depression and increased aggression.

These studies were however limited by their relatively small number of participants, particularly those involving brain imaging, said Chararani.

For the new research, Chararani and colleagues analyzed data from the large and ongoing Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health.

They looked at survey answers, cognitive test results, and brain images from around 2,000 nine- and ten-year-olds, who were separated into two groups: those who never played games, and those who played for three hours or more a day.—AFP



A concept from science fiction imagined by gamers for years is finally here, thanks to the internet and the global pandemic. PHOTO: BRUNO FAHY/BELGA MAG/AFP

DR Congo doctors protest after deadly militia attack

HUNDREDS of doctors protested in the eastern DR Congo city of Beni on Monday and declared a three-day hospital stoppage after health facilities were struck

in a deadly attack blamed on the notorious ADF militia.

One of the most ruthless of the scores of armed groups that roam the region, the ADF

— Allied Democratic Forces — is described by the Islamic State group as its affiliate in central Africa. Suspected ADF assailants last Wednesday torched a health centre in Maboya and a nearby hospital, killing seven people, including Sylvie Kavuke, a nun who also worked as a doctor.

Demonstrators carrying signs reading "Doctors are outraged" and demanding the rebuilding of the facilities marched to city hall and read out a statement, outlining a string of atrocities and kidnappings of medical staff in recent years.

They demanded heightened security at medical sites, a bonus for working in areas of risk, and the right for security guards to bear arms in dangerous "red zones".—AFP



There are more than 120 militias operating in the DRC's troubled east. The UN first deployed an observer mission to the region in 1999. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE / ALAIN WANDIMOYI / AFP/FILE

US math and reading scores crashed during Covid

AMERICAN students saw big declines in their reading and mathematics scores after years of disrupted learning due to the pandemic, with national test results described as "appalling and unacceptable" by the education secretary.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as the Nation's Report Card, released full data Monday for the first time since 2019, after the 2021 exams were postponed a year.

NAEP assessed a repre-

sentative sample of fourth- and eighth- grade students, finding reading scores dropped back to 1992 levels. Mathematics slid back to 2003 levels. One-quarter of fourth graders, and nearly four-in-ten eighth graders failed to grasp basic concepts.—AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Greening global economy brings dependence on critical minerals

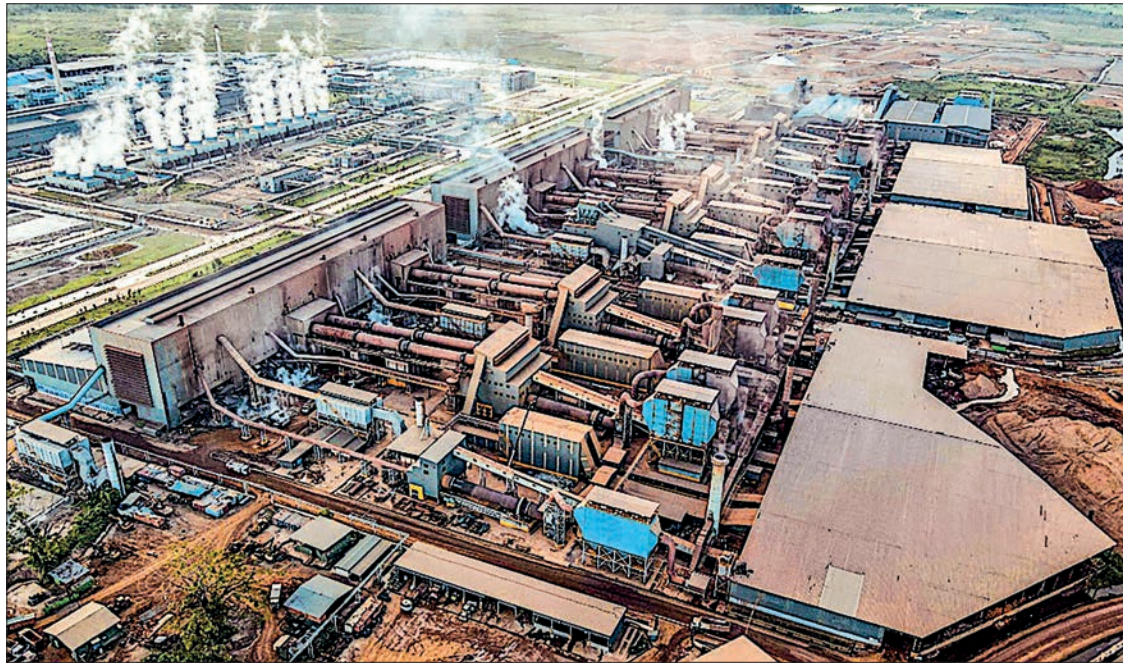
AFTER nearly a century of geopolitical tension over access to oil, experts worry that the global transition to clean energy is creating new dependencies on the critical minerals needed for solar panels, wind turbines and electric vehicle batteries.

Control over most of these essential elements is concentrated in a handful of countries, none more than China, they note. **Which metals are key for the energy transition?**

Cobalt, nickel, manganese and lithium are critical to making electric vehicle batteries. Rare earths such as neodymium, praseodymium and dysprosium are used in computer memory and magnets in wind turbines.

Copper and aluminium are used in electricity networks, and platinum is a catalyst for hydrogen.

These materials “will be at



A nickel smelting facility in Konawe, Indonesia. Experts are concerned that the global transition toward the use of clean energy is creating new dependencies after decades of geopolitical tensions over access to oil.

PHOTO: AFP

the centre of decarbonization efforts and electrification of the economy, as we move from

fossil fuels to wind and solar power generation, battery- and fuel-cell-based electric vehicles

(EVs) and hydrogen production”, consulting firm McKinsey reported earlier this year.—AFP

New PM inherits UK economy in crisis



A member of the public looks at residential properties displayed for sale in the window of an estate agents in London on 30 September 2022.

PHOTO: ISABEL INFANTES / AFP

BRITAIN'S new prime minister, set to be former finance minister Rishi Sunak, inherits a UK economy that was headed for recession even before the recent turmoil triggered by Liz Truss.

Outgoing Prime Minister Truss resigned after her budget of tax cuts funded by debt sent shockwaves through markets, crashing the pound.

That caused the government to U-turn on most of its budget, including scaling back a cap on soaring energy bills that have contributed heavily to

a cost-of-living crisis for tens of millions of Britons.

Data Monday showed Britain's economic downturn has worsened in October, with private-sector output at a 21-month low.

“October's flash PMI data showed the pace of economic decline gathering momentum after the recent political and financial market upheavals,” noted Chris Williamson, chief business economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence that helped compile the figures.—AFP

Portuguese textiles become international player

SHAKEN in the last 20 years by competition from Asia, Portugal's textile industry has found its footing again and become a major player, supplying firms not just in Europe but also in the United States.

The industry has benefited from its flexibility and inexpensive labour along with a spirit of innovation focused on limiting damage to the environment.

Near Vila Nova de Famal-

icao, in the northern district of Porto, the Riopelle factory hums with a deafening noise of nearly 200 state-of-the-art weaving machines that run 24 hours a day six days a week.

The textile industry's advantages are “reactivity and the capacity to adapt”, engineer Jose Rosas told AFP as he stood by a digital screen where he follows the massive workshop's activity in real time.—AFP



Portuguese textile exports from the Riopelle factory and others hit a record 5.4 billion euros last year. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rebuilding Ukraine a 'generational task' that begins now: Scholz

GERMAN Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Tuesday that rebuilding Ukraine was a “generational task” that must start immediately, even as Russia's invasion rages on.

Scholz as current head of the G7 club of wealthy nations said Ukraine could count on the support of the international community for decades to come as it seeks to repair and upgrade essential infrastructure.

“What is at stake here is nothing less than creating a new Marshall Plan for the 21st century — a generational task that must begin now,” Scholz said as he opened an international reconstruction conference for Ukraine in Berlin. Rebuilding Ukraine marks a “challenge for generations”, Scholz said, but one that also provided a chance to modernize its roads, bridges, schools, hospitals and transport links.—AFP

Japan's fair trade watchdog launches probe into “1 yen” smartphones

JAPAN'S anti-trust watchdog has launched a rare compulsory inspection on cellphone distributors selling smartphones for as low as 1 yen, sources familiar with the matter said Tuesday.

The Japan Fair Trade Commission aims to find out how such sales practices are possible and determine whether there are cases of dumping or abuse of dominant bargaining position by major mobile carriers against distributors to achieve their targets, the sources said.

The FTC has ordered distributors that had sold smartphones for less than 1,000 yen (\$7) to report the details of their transactions with carriers by 2 November according to the sources. Those who do not agree to the inspection or who make false reports are subject to fines.—Kyodo

China rail-sea intermodal trains complete 7,000 trade corridor trips



A rail-sea cargo freight loaded with imported goods is to leave Qinzhou railway station in Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region for Chongqing municipality. **PHOTO: CHEN LEI/ FOR CHINADAILY.COM.CN**

A cargo train carrying containers of goods, including paper pulp, quartz sand, and ceramics, arrived in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality on Saturday, marking the completion of the 7,000th rail-sea intermodal train trip running along the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor this year.

The train departed from Qinzhou port, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on Friday and arrived at the Tuanjie Village Station in Chongqing around 11 pm on Saturday, according to the New Land-Sea Corridor Operation Co Ltd.

Launched in 2017, the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor is a

trade and logistics passage jointly built by provincial-level regions in western China and ASEAN members.

Over the past five years, the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor has developed rapidly, expanding the number of destinations to 335 ports in 113 countries and regions.—Xinhua

HSBC profits slide on bank impairment charges

GLOBAL bank giant HSBC on Tuesday announced tumbling profits for the third quarter on impairment charges linked to a weak economic outlook and its upcoming sale of French retail operations.

The London-headquartered bank's share price was down nearly seven percent in early afternoon deals, making it the biggest faller on the British capital's FTSE 100 index.

HSBC also announced a boardroom shake-up with the appointment of a new chief financial officer, as the Asia-focused lender faces headwinds in China and global recession prospects.

Net profit slumped 46 percent to \$1.91 billion in June-September compared with the third quarter last year. Pre-tax profit slumped 40 per cent,

HSBC added in a statement.

The bank was hit by a \$2.4-billion write-off from the planned disposal of its French business next year, offsetting gains made by soaring interest rates.

HSBC has meanwhile set aside provisions totaling \$1.1 billion for loans expected to sour.

"Macroeconomic headwinds, including higher inflation and a

weaker outlook, continue to weigh on the global economy," it said.

The bank specifically cited global uncertainty sparked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the fall of the British pound and China's troubled real estate sector.

Stripping out the one-off hits, adjusted pre-tax profit jumped 18 per cent to \$6.5 billion, beating analyst expectations.—AFP



A man walks past an HSBC advertisement outside the bank's main building in Hong Kong on 2 August 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

UBS net profit down in Q3 as revenues fall

SWISS banking giant UBS on Tuesday reported a fall in net profits in the third quarter, though still better than expected against a backdrop of falling revenues at the investment bank.

Profits at Switzerland's largest bank were down 24 percent to \$1.7 billion from July to the end of September.

The firm also saw its income fall by 10 percent to \$8.2 billion in the same period, in a global economic and political environment that the group's chief executive Ralph Hamers described as "increasingly complex".

"Clients remain concerned about persistently high inflation, elevated energy prices, the war in Ukraine and residual effects of the pandemic," Hamers said in a statement.—AFP

Request for Bids Goods (Two-Envelope Bidding Process)

Country: Myanmar

Name of Project: RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Contract Title: Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Solar PV Systems for Households

RFB Reference No.: NCB S&I-DRD-4 (Re-bid)

1. The Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for supply, installation and maintenance of solar PV Systems for households in the following Regions:

Lot 1—Solar PV Packages in Ayeyarwaddy (11)

Lot 2—Solar PV Packages in Shan East (6)

Lot 3—Solar PV Packages in Shan North (7)

The Contracts will be financed by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

2. For quick reference, some key qualification requirements include:

• The average annual turnover (or annual sales volume) of the last five years should be a minimum of MMK 8,708 million for Lot-1, MMK 1,367 million for Lot-2 and MMK 2,319 million for Lot-3 or higher which varies by lot and is cumulative if bidding for multiple lots.

• The bidder has successfully completed at least two (2) contracts in supplying, installing, supervising, commissioning and/or maintaining off-grid solar PV systems with batteries, in any year over the last five (5) years, and total amount of the two (2) contracts had a value equivalent to or greater than 50% of the corrected Bid Price.

The details of the qualification requirements are in the bidding document.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Directive No. 1/2017 dated April 10, 2017 and 1/2022 dated March 17, 2022, Tender Procedures to be followed by Government Departments and Organizations in Construction, Purchase, Procurement of Services, Lease and Sale. In addition, please refer to paragraph 4 setting forth in the President's Office Directive policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the address below and inspect the bidding document during office hours 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at the address given below.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through e-mail only.

In case of any difficulty in obtaining the bidding documents, interested parties may contact in writing:

Dr. Soe Soe Ohn, Director, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

Office No. 36, Pandita Road, Oattara Thiri Township, Naypyitaw, Myanmar

Tel./Fax +95 673 418636, 418635, Email: ksaung@gmail.com; dr.soesoeohn@gmail.com; drdnep.solar@gmail.com

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **November 23, 2022 (10.00 a.m.) Myanmar time**. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. The outer Bid envelopes marked "ORIGINAL BID", and the inner envelopes marked "TECHNICAL PART" will be opened at the address below on **November 23, 2022 (10.00 a.m.) Myanmar time**. All envelopes marked "SECOND ENVELOPE: FINANCIAL PART" shall remain unopened and will be held in safe custody of the Purchaser until the second public opening.

7. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security" as stated in ITB 19.1—Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding Document.

8. The address referred to above is:

Attention: Dr. Soe Soe Ohn, Director of Department of Rural Development, Department of Rural Development,

Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Office No. 36, Pandita Road, Oattara Thiri Township, Naypyitaw,

Myanmar.

Tel /Fax: +95 673 418636, 418635, ksaung@gmail.com, dr.soesoeohn@gmail.com, drdnep.solar@gmail.com.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V T12 APPLE VOY.NO. (001EW)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V T12 APPLE VOY.NO. (001E/W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-10-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S T12 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

သတင်းစာ ဖြန့်ဖြူးပေးခြင်းကို ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

German president arrives in Kyiv for surprise visit

GERMAN President Frank-Walter Steinmeier arrived in Kyiv on Tuesday, his spokesperson told AFP, confirming his surprise visit to Ukraine.

The trip is his first to the country since Russia invaded Ukraine in February, and came five months after Steinmeier, then under heavy fire for his years-long detente policy with

Moscow, was snubbed by Kyiv.

The president also had to abort a trip at the last minute last week over security reasons, sparking criticisms from Germany's opposition.

"I am looking forward to my meeting with (Ukrainian) President Volodymyr Zelensky in Kyiv," he said, according to a confirmation sent by his spokes-

woman.

Before meeting Zelensky, Steinmeier will visit a town in the north of the country, near the Belarusian border, which Ukraine says has been liberated from Russian troops but left with its infrastructure destroyed.

Steinmeier will provide aid to the municipality for its energy infrastructure, he said.—AFP



A man walks on the snow-covered pavement in an empty street of the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, 1 March 2022. PHOTO: AFP

US left-wing lawmakers urge Biden to negotiate on Ukraine

LEFT-WING US lawmakers on Monday urged President Joe Biden to seek a negotiated settlement with Russia to end the Ukraine war including by exploring security arrangements acceptable to both sides.

In a letter, 30 House members from Biden's Democratic Party made clear they opposed Russia's "outrageous and illegal invasion of Ukraine" and agreed with the White House that a settlement was up to Kyiv.

"But as legislators responsible for the expenditure of tens of billions of US taxpayer dollars in military assistance in the conflict, we believe such involvement in this war also creates a responsibility for the United



Representative Pramila Jayapal has led an appeal by progressive Democrats for a negotiated end to the Ukraine war.

PHOTO: NICHOLAS KAMM/ AFP/FILE

States to seriously explore all possible avenues," said the lawmakers led by Representative Pramila Jayapal, leader of the House Progressive Caucus.

They called for direct engagement with Russia to find a solution "that is acceptable to the people of Ukraine".

"Such a framework would

presumably include incentives to end hostilities, including some form of sanctions relief, and bring together the international community to establish security guarantees for a free and independent Ukraine that are acceptable for all parties, particularly Ukrainians," they wrote.

"The alternative to diplomacy is protracted war, with both its attendant certainties and catastrophic and unknowable risks."

Russian President Vladimir Putin, before launching the invasion on 24 February had demanded guarantees that the former Soviet republic would never join NATO, the Western military alliance.—AFP

Head of Russian army holds telephone call with US counterpart: ministry

THE head of the Russian army on Monday held a telephone call with his US counterpart to claim that Kyiv's forces were preparing to use a so-called dirty bomb in Ukraine. The defence ministry in a statement said that Russia's army chief Valery Gerasimov held a conversation with General Mark Milley and said that: "During the conversation... the situation related to the possible use of a 'dirty bomb' by Ukraine was continued."

The call was the latest in a string of conversations between Russian defence officials and counterparts from NATO countries, during which Moscow said, without providing evidence, that Kyiv was planning to deploy the weapon.—AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Brazilian suspect in murder of British journalist, Amazon expert, granted house arrest



A mural in homage to murdered British journalist Dom Phillips and Brazilian indigenous affairs expert Bruno Pereira, in Belem, Para State, Brazil, in July 2022. PHOTO: AFP

A Brazilian judge has allowed one of the suspects in the murder of British journalist Dom Phillips and Brazilian Indigenous expert Bruno Pereira to be released on bail to house arrest, local media said Monday.

Ruben da Silva Villar, also known as "Colombia", was released last Friday, according to local press reports, after a ruling made three days earlier and which AFP gained access to on Monday.

Federal judge Fabiano Verli

ruled that Villar, who had been in custody since July, could pay 15,000 Brazilian reais — about \$2,800 dollars — and await trial at an address in Manaus, capital of the state of Amazonas.

"The favoured person is not a child and must strictly comply with the conditions for this legal favour," Verli ruled, stipulating that the accused must present himself to authorities in Manaus every month and will be monitored by means of an electronic device on his ankle.—AFP

S. Korea's Yoon says preparations for 7th N. Korea nuke test complete

SOUTH Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said Tuesday that North Korea has completed preparations for its seventh nuclear test, as his country remains on alert for further provocations by Pyongyang. North Korea "seems to have completed its preparations" for a nuclear test, Yoon said during a speech at the National Assembly, amid growing speculation that North Korea will soon carry out its first nuclear test since September 2017.—Kyodo

UK shrugs as Rishi Sunak becomes first PM of colour

IN winning the race for UK Conservative leader on Monday, Rishi Sunak will become the first prime minister of colour to govern a country that once ruled India, much of Africa and a great deal beyond.

It happened at the start of Diwali. The Hindu festival of lights celebrates the triumph of good over evil — and for a few of the religiously minded, it was a congruence written in the stars.

India's Hindu nationalist prime minister, Narendra Modi, congratulated his co-religionist on Twitter, while extending Diwali wishes to the "living bridge" of UK Indians as a whole.

The success of the UK-born Sunak rippled across the Atlantic

too.

Ro Khanna, a Democratic member of Congress representing a slice of Silicon Valley in California, said his own grandfather spent years fighting British rule in India.

"It is remarkable to see @RishiSunak, an Indian British of Hindu faith become PM on Diwali. Regardless of politics, this is a symbolic step in moving beyond a colonizer's world," he tweeted.

But for many UK South Asians, as with the country at large, the arrival of Britain's first prime minister of colour provoked as much debate about his economic credo as about the colour of his skin.—AFP



Sunak will be Britain's first PM of colour - but it still helps to have gone to the right school. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Children among 11 killed in fire at Uganda blind school

ELEVEN people, mostly children, have perished in a blaze that tore through a dormitory at a school for the blind in Uganda in the early hours of Tuesday as pupils were sleeping.

"The cause of the fire is currently unknown but so far 11 deaths as a result of the fire have been confirmed while six are in critical conditions and admitted (to hospital)," the Uganda Police Force said on Twitter.

The disaster occurred at about 1 am (2200 GMT Monday) at the Salama School for the Blind in the Mukono district, east of the capital Kampala.—AFP

Exiled Pakistani journalist shot dead in Kenya: wife

A top Pakistani news anchor was shot dead in Kenya, his wife said Monday, just months after he fled his home country to avoid arrest over sedition charges.

Arshad Sharif was a frequent critic of the powerful military establishment and supporter of former prime minister Imran Khan, who was ousted in a parliamentary no-confidence vote in April.—AFP

Italy's new PM Meloni sets out programme to parliament



Giorgia Meloni will address Italy's parliament for the first time as prime minister on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

GIORGIA Meloni will address Italy's parliament for the first time as prime minister on Tuesday, setting out her plan for government one month after her far-right party's historic election victory.

The 45-year-old, who was sworn in as Italy's first woman

premier on Saturday, is expected to outline her approach to challenges including soaring inflation, an energy crisis and looming risk of recession in the eurozone's third-largest economy.

But even before she spoke, her coalition ally Matteo Salvini,

leader of the anti-immigration League party and her new deputy prime minister and minister for infrastructure, set out his own programme.

In a series of tweets late Monday, he vowed action to help households with high energy bills, lower the pension age, extend a flat tax and finally build a long discussed bridge between mainland Italy and Sicily, which he said would create 100,000 jobs.

Meloni's coalition, which includes former premier Silvio Berlusconi's right-wing Forza Italia party, agreed before the election an expensive programme of tax cuts and spending promises.

But she herself has emphasised fiscal prudence, wary of Italy's colossal debt, and installed at the economy minister a figure who served under ex-premier Mario Draghi.—AFP



Tents for asylum seekers stir debate in Austria

THE white tents that Austria is using to house asylum seekers in a handful of towns have drawn rebuke from refugees'

Workers assemble tents to house refugees in eastern Austria. PHOTO: MARTIN BERNETTI/AFP

defenders and critics alike, while stirring memories of the 2015 migrant crisis.

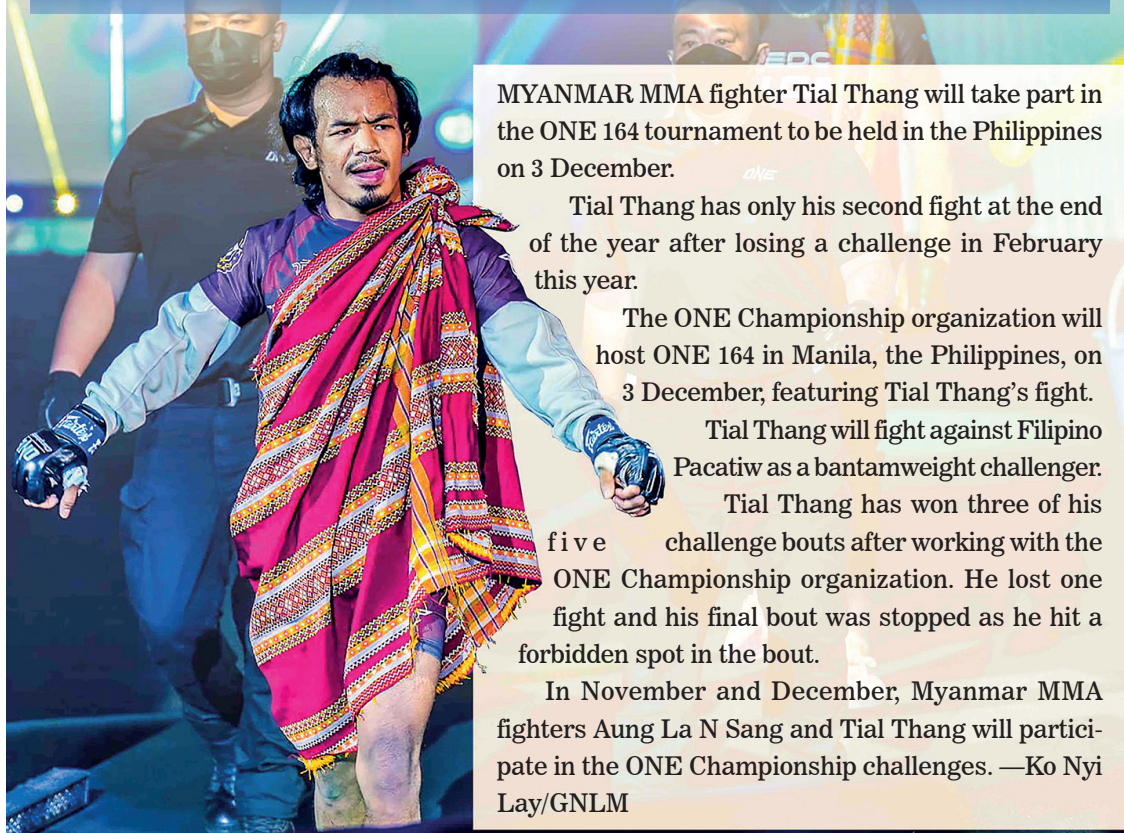
Arrivals in the Alpine EU nation are increasing — but unlike seven years ago, it's due in part to stricter border controls implemented by the conservative-led government. Now that federal shelters

are full, authorities have erected 40 tents, each housing up to eight people, at three points near Austria's border with Germany and two others near Slovenia.

That move has sparked fear, political positioning and accusations of inhumane treatment.—AFP



ONE 164 event to feature Myanmar fighter Tial Thang's bout



MYANMAR MMA fighter Tial Thang will take part in the ONE 164 tournament to be held in the Philippines on 3 December.

Tial Thang has only his second fight at the end of the year after losing a challenge in February this year.

The ONE Championship organization will host ONE 164 in Manila, the Philippines, on 3 December, featuring Tial Thang's fight.

Tial Thang will fight against Filipino Pacatiw as a bantamweight challenger.

Tial Thang has won three of his five challenge bouts after working with the ONE Championship organization. He lost one fight and his final bout was stopped as he hit a forbidden spot in the bout.

In November and December, Myanmar MMA fighters Aung La N Sang and Tial Thang will participate in the ONE Championship challenges. —Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Qatar hit by 'unprecedented campaign' over World Cup, says emir

QATAR has been hit by an "unprecedented campaign" of criticism over the football World Cup, its ruler said Tuesday, lashing out at "double standards" in a fierce rebuttal just weeks before the tournament starts.

The energy-rich and conservative Islamic Gulf state has spent tens of billions of dollars on hosting the first World Cup on Arab soil, but has faced mounting attacks over its human rights record. In a rare public airing of frustration, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani said Qatar was the victim of "fabrications", hinting at hidden motives behind the criticism.

"Since we won the honour of hosting the World Cup, Qatar has been subjected to an unprecedented campaign that no host country has faced," he said in a speech to the country's legislative council, 26 days from the 20 November kick-off.

FIFA awarded the World Cup to an Arab country for the first time after a contentious bidding process in 2010. Qatar

has since faced constant scrutiny over its treatment of foreign workers as well as LGBTQ and women's rights.

This week, the government angrily rejected a report by the Human Rights Watch group which said police have arbitrarily detained and abused members of the LGBTQ community ahead of the World Cup.

The emir said Qatar had initially accepted negative commentary "in good faith" and

"even considered that some criticism was positive and useful, helping us to develop aspects that need to be developed.

"But it soon became clear to us that the campaign continues, expands and includes fabrications and double standards, until it reached an amount of ferocity that made many wonder, unfortunately, about the real reasons and motives behind this campaign," he said.—AFP



The FIFA World Cup trophy and the 2022 tournament's official ball are displayed on stage during the draw in Doha on Friday. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

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.

Qualifiers to be held for Golf Tournament 2022 (PyinOoLwin)

THE Golf Tournament 2022 (PyinOoLwin), organized by the Myanmar Golf Federation and the Myanmar PGA, and supported by Myawaddy Bank Limited and Inwa Bank Limited, will be held in the second week of November at Cherry Lwin Golf Course in PyinOoLwin to promote the emergence of outstanding golfers in Myanmar.

Professional level competition, Amateur Level (Male) (Handicap 0-12), and Amateur Level (Female) (Handicap 0-18) will be allowed and the tournament will be held as per the St. Andrew's Rules of Golf and local rules.

As the number of golfers in the competition is limited, a qualifier will be held for the amateur level (Male) competition, and the right to participate will be screened and selected.

The Qualifier will be held on 31 October and 1 November at City Golf Course in Yangon and PyinOoLwin Golf Club in PyinOoLwin.

Those who want to compete in the qualifiers must register by calling 09-421002259 for Yangon and 09-426660003 for PyinOoLwin by 2 pm on 30 October.

Contestants participating in the competition do not need to pay an entry fee but must pay green fees and caddies to the golf course according to their plan.

A total of 40 golfers from the Yangon Qualifier and another 40 from the PyinOoLwin Qualifier will be selected for the tourney. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM