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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 government needs to implement the political landscape into normalcy: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the third-day coordination meeting on undertakings of the Union government in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 August 2022.

AN emphasis must be placed on strengthening the State economy in shaping the Union based on democracy and federalism, Chairman of the State Administration

Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was quoted as saying at the third-day coordination meeting on undertakings of the Union government at the SAC Chairman Office yes-

terday morning.

First, Union ministers and Union level officials reported on missions and visions of ministries, duties and functions, the progress of projects and future

plans.

In his speech, the Senior General said the information measures must be taken in a correct and prompt process with releasing the true information to

the people on time. The Senior General stressed the need for contestants from regions and states to participate in the performing arts competitions.

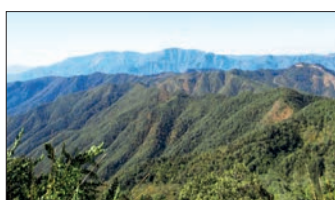
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Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 45/2022

14th Waxing of Wagaung 1384 ME
10 August 2022

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Union Election Commission member

THE State Administration Council has transferred and appointed U Than Aung Kyaw, deputy minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, as a member of the Union Election Commission under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By Order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 46/2022

14th Waxing of Wagaung 1384 ME
10 August 2022

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Deputy Minister

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned Dr Wah Wah Maung as the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By Order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

MoNREC designates Kyieyeeyan Mountain National Park in Thantlang Township

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has designated the area of 6,804.50 acres in Thantlang Township, Haka District in Chin State, as “Kyieyeeyan Mountain National Park” as of 8 August 2022, under Notification No 121/2022 by exercising the authority conferred under Sub-section (a) of Section (9) of the Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Law promulgated in September 2018.

The Kyieyeeyan mountain is intended to be conversed as a famous rocky mountain and is situated 43 miles from Thantlang township in Chin State. It is a recreation place for locals and tourists, with various trees and

biodiversity, a unique geological region and a direct motorway to Mizoram state in India by the Haka-Thantlang-Sarsichauk road.

As a trademark of the Chin State, cherry trees, white rhododendrons, and red rhododendrons bloom in the National Park, and wildlife animals are living in pastures, including critically endangered species such as wild goats, mountain goats, leopards, and pangolins. A unique geological region with waterfalls and natural reefs, along with small bats in caves, is about a person’s height. Thus, the area is declared Kyieyeeyan Mountain National Park. — MoNREC/GNLM



An aerial view of the Kyieyeeyan Mountain National Park.

Announcement for opening reception centres to receive CDM staff, students and youths

THE State Administration Council has been striving for the all-round development of the country including economic, social, education and health sectors. In addition, security forces are performing their duties day and night so that the entire mass of national people in various regions across the Union should be able to lead their lives and earn their living in the peace of mind. The State Administration Council gives priority to achieving genuine and perpetual peace, building up the united strength of the national brethren.

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, to return to the legal fold if they wish to, and is systematically receiving the returnees.

It is found that, due to the persuasion, instigation and coercion of CRPH and NUG terrorist groups, some CDM staff, students and youths went to the strongholds of some ethnic armed organizations and received training in arms, ammunition and explosives.

It is known that some of those who have completed the training no longer want to be involved in terrorist attacks and so they fled to the regions within and without the country and are working there for their living. When they see terrorist attacks with their own eyes, they cannot accept such terrible acts at all. On the other hand, they have come to believe in the government’s five-point roadmap and its endeavour for

lasting peace. Moreover, they want to live peacefully in their hometowns again with their parents and relatives. Nevertheless, they cannot do so because of the coercion and intimidation by CRPH and NUG terrorist groups and their subordinates, it is learnt.

Therefore, the government is taking measures to be able to open reception centres in border areas for those who would like to return home to their respective regions. Moreover, those wishing to return home can contact Tatmadaw units and police stations. It is guaranteed that they will be able to lead their daily lives peacefully.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Union spirit is the resolve to build a Union through mutual amity between all the nationalities

UNION spirit is the foundation of the historic independence struggle, and it will also be the cornerstone of the future democratic country. In fact, the Union spirit is the resolve to build a Union through mutual amity between all the nationalities. As a peaceful and stable democratic State will be built only with the Union spirit, we must nurture a highly qualified new general possessing a strong Union spirit.

(Excerpt from the message sent by Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing on the occasion of 74th Anniversary Union Day which fell on 12 February 2021)

The government needs to implement the political landscape ...

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He stressed the need to lessen number of species of crops as officials face difficulties in sales and management of various species of crops in the agriculture sector. He also added that it is necessary to reclaim the cultivable lands with the use of heavy machinery while officials need to supervise preventive measures for the depletion of fish sources.

He urged officials to continue the formation of cooperative societies in regions and states by organizing the persons who are actually keen to implement the cooperative plans so as to improve the socio-economic life of the rural people.

The Senior General also

noted that an emphasis must be placed on the enumeration of the census of the nation through collaborative efforts of relevant ministries and region and state authorities.

In order to turn out necessary human resources for agriculture, livestock and industrial sectors, plans are underway to establish more and more agriculture, livestock and technical high schools across the nation.

The Senior General urged relevant ministries to provide education, health, economic and transport facilities for ethnic people. Hence, relevant ministries need to cooperate with each other in work processes. It is necessary to preserve the languages and cultures of eth-

nic people as well as Myanmar literature, language and culture.

Then, Council members and the joint secretary of the council reported on the timely releasing of true information, implementation of public security system, sabotage acts of CRPH, NUG and so-called PDF terrorists in regions and states, and discovery of information for ensuring peace and stability.

The Vice-Senior General discussed deaths and injuries of innocent people, service personnel, monks and nuns in attacks and murdering of terrorists during the time of the State Administration Council, plans to form public security teams to restore regional peace

and stability, coordination of regional and state chief ministers for continuously vaccinating the remaining people, restriction for inflow of illegal goods through land borders, issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards to the eligible citizens so as to successfully hold the election in line with the five-point roadmap.

In his response to the reports, the Senior General said that a government must strive for the economic development of the people and the nation. An emphasis must be placed on strengthening the State economy in shaping the Union based on democracy and federalism. The government needs to implement the political landscape into normalcy.

Relevant ministries and regions and states must strive to surge the economy of the nation. It is necessary to achieve progress for the nation within six coming months.

The graduates must have skills to apply their experiences of social and knowledge from their respective majoring subjects in practical arenas. As individual skills of applying their knowledge will benefit the State, it is necessary to create a good environment at universities.

The Senior General stressed that as insufficiency of food may harm other sectors, all are focused on ensuring food sufficiency as well as making efforts for the development of regions and states. — MNA

Media and Information Literacy Training Course opens in Nay Pyi Taw



MoI Deputy Minister U Ye Tint gives the opening address at the event.

SUPERVISED by the Ministry of Information, the opening ceremony of the Media and Information Literacy Training Course was held at the Ministry's meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw, at 9:30 am on 10 August. The ceremony was attended by

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint of the Ministry of Information, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, the directors-general, departmental officials, training instructors, and trainees.

At the ceremony, the deputy minister interpreted that

Media and Information Literacy means getting the contents from the media and information and evaluating, creating, sharing and using them. He urged trainees to learn the subjects enthusiastically until they can make them practical and effec-

tive in their workplaces. The minister also pointed out that trainees should be sharing the contents of the course with their colleagues who didn't get the chance to attend.

The training course would last till 12 August and 31 government officials from various departments will attend. It is learnt that the following subjects would be taught by the training instructors from the Department of Information and Public Relations: Introduction and Background History of Media and Information Literacy, Framework and Ecosystem relating to Myanmar Media and Information Literacy, Information Literacy, Information chaos (Seven Basic Patterns), False Information, Fabricated news and Hate Speech on Social Media, Freedom of Expression, Hate Speech and its effects, and Verification of Information. — MNA

36 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 10 August, total figure rises to 614,276

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 614,276 after 36 new cases were reported on 10 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 593,049 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,434 without more casualties.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 9-8-2022, a total of 30,256,498 people above 18 have been vaccinated. A total of 6,170,602 people under 18 have been vaccinated. —MNA

Transport security important for smooth and swift flow of marine products into Yangon market

THE waterway transport sector plays a key role in the inflow of various marine products and swift and smooth flow of commodities into the Yangon fish market which is a distribution hub of marine products to Yangon Region as well as to other regions and states on a daily basis.

Freshwater and seawater marine products from the Ayeyawady Region flow into two fish markets in Yangon – Central Sanpya Fish Market and Shwepadauk Fish Market. In order to meet the local demand for marine products, freshwater fish products are being produced. But heavy rains may inundate fish farms, causing loss and damage. Hence, local fish farmers net fish at the fish farms before the monsoon and reduced the number of fingerlings at the farms due to the high prices of aquafeeds. Consequently, the inflow of freshwater rohu and sturgeon into the market declined in July and August less than in the remaining months.

Two kinds of fish are taking market shares in local consumption of Yangonites and those from the countryside. Fish farmers transport their aqua



Freshwater and seawater marine products from the Ayeyawady Region flow into two fish markets in Yangon – Central Sanpya Fish Market and Shwepadauk Fish Market. **PHOTO: KANU**

products to the Yangon market along Twantay Canal but they unexpectedly face some cases of extortion of marine products and money as robberies committed by unscrupulous persons along the route. As such, they encounter difficulties in waterway security measures.

“In fact, the Central Sanpya Fish Market and Shwepadauk Fish Market are of importance

not only for Yangon Region but for marine product consumption of the whole nation. Regularly, more than 300,000 visses of freshwater products and some 100,000 visses of seawater fish products flow into the markets. This month, the volume of marine products dropped in the markets. Although seawater products flow into the market on tidal days, as usual, the inflow

process of freshwater fish into the market faces some difficulties with security measures. So, motor schooners do not accept hire for transporting the fish products. Moreover, the shortage of labour to be assigned to transport fish products is one of the punches on the fish farmers when they pass the Twantay Canal. So, marine products do not flow into the market in

competitiveness. After enquiring about the market situation, they decided things whether they should send their products to the market or not. Only when they firmly contact the purchasers will they do their business. As a result, the volume of freshwater fish products declines more its flow into the market,” said U Aung Kaung Kywe from the Myanmar Food Part Co Ltd.

Various freshwater fish species such as sturgeon, rohu, Barbus, tilapia and river catfish and seawater fish species namely tuna, bummalo, catla, and seawater shrimps are primarily sent to the Yangon fish market from fish farms in Twantay and Maubin fish farms. More than 500,000 visses of marine products flowed into the Yangon fish market on a daily basis but more than 250,000 visses of marine products enter the market now. If the road transport for freshwater marine products leading to the Yangon fish market is safe, local fish farmers will have a chance to cut the transport charge, contributing much to the inflow of a larger volume of freshwater products to Yangon. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions



A local in Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region gets COVID-19 vaccine shot on 10 August.

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

COVID-19 vaccine is administered daily to target groups regardless of race or religion, including Buddhist monks and nuns, local people over the age of 40, students, religious lead-

ers, prisoners, people with disabilities, ethnic armed groups, people with chronic diseases, people in IDP camps and over 12-year-old students, respectively.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 82 people from Tamway Township in Yangon Region, 7,288 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 1,462 people from seven townships in Rakh-

ine State, and 9,815 from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

Similarly on that day, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 8,376 students from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 376 students from Minbya and Kyaukpyu townships in Rakhine State and 22,355 students from seven districts in Mandalay Region.

It is reported that officials from the respective Military Commands visited the site and coordinated the necessary work. — MNA

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Shwedagon to hold conveyance of Ceti made from flowers

SHWEDAGON Pagoda Board of Trustees will hold the conveyance of Ceti made from flowers on the Full Moon Day of Wagaung on 11 August (today).

The ceremony includes the

offering alms and Ceti made from flowers at the Shwedagon Pagoda starting at 5 am.

Afterwards, the successful completion of the ceremony will continuously be held and merits

shared after listening to the sermons delivered by Ovadacariya Sayadaw of Shwedagon Pagoda Bhaddanta Nagita at about 9:30 am. —TWA/GNLM



The conveyance of Ceti made from flower was held at Shwedagon Pagoda in 2016.

PHOTO NEWS

Fire breaks out in Hlinethaya No 2 Industrial Zone

AT 6:27 am on 10 August, a fire broke out in Seikkantha street, No 2 industrial zone, Hlinethaya township in Yangon region. With level 2 vehicles, the Myanmar Fire Service Department extinguished it at 7:58 am.

It is currently unknown about the loss due to the fire, which destroyed three trading posts and a backpack factory nearby.

— Photo : MFSD



ATOM contributes K1 bln to monastic, orphan schools

ATOM (Advancing Telecommunications of Myanmar) undertakes corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities. It pledged to contribute K1 billion to monastic and orphanages across the country, with a view to providing quality facilities and infrastructure.

It aims to support needed facilities at the schools and to create a better education environment for a minimum of 5,000 children.

On 5 August, ATOM contributed to the building of a ceremony hall for school activities at the YGW Taikkyi monastic school in Taikkyi Township of Yangon Region. Moreover, ATOM's in-house doctor and healthcare expert also gave a health and nutrition talk to the community at the event.

"We are very grateful for this contribution from ATOM. We have over 500 students at our monastic school and they are pleased with their new ceremony hall and facilities. May it be an inspiration to the students to do better and pursue their dreams. I am so thankful for contributions in difficult times," said the venerable Ashin Tejinda of YGW Taikgyi monastic school.

Additionally, ATOM will support a school building at the Dhammika Rama monastic school in Bagantaung village, Thanlyin.

ATOM has allotted K3 billion for CSR projects by 2023. This initiative with a contribution of one-third of the pledged corporate social responsibility fund is expected to upgrade existing facilities and infrastructure and provide a more effective and comfortable environment for learning and development for the children.

"ATOM took this initiative in the hopes of not only giving back to the community as a responsible business but also providing quality facilities to monastic and orphan schools. Upon completion of this CSR initiative, we truly hope we could help improve the lives and educational environment of the students in many schools across Myanmar. Furthermore, we are working closely with a consulting firm that has a strong record in human rights risk assessment and management. The firm will advise ATOM on their activities to keep ATOM's commitment to respect human rights at work," said U Win Paing Kyaw, deputy chief executive officer of ATOM.

With a 4.5G network, ATOM offers a wide range of affordable, secure and world-class digital products and services that improve lives, transform businesses, and strengthen communities. — GNLM



Border trading reaches US\$2.153 million at two Myanmar-Bangladesh border posts

IN July 2022, Sittway Trade Station (Shwemingan Port) and Maungtau Border Trade Station (Kanyinchaung Economic Zone) between Myanmar-Bangladesh border exported \$2.148 million and imported \$0.005

million, totalling \$2.153 million worth of trade volume.

From Sittway Trade Station (Shwemingan Port), exports worth \$0.499 million and imports worth \$0.002 million were handled. The Maungtau

Border Trade Station (Kanyinchaung Economic Zone) was able to export \$1.649 million and import \$0.003 million.

Starting from 8 August 2022, Bangladesh-Myanmar border trade operators have

been allowed to exchange currency (US dollars) for trade at the Maungtau Branch and Sittway Branch of the Myanmar Economic Bank at the Central Bank rate of K2,100.

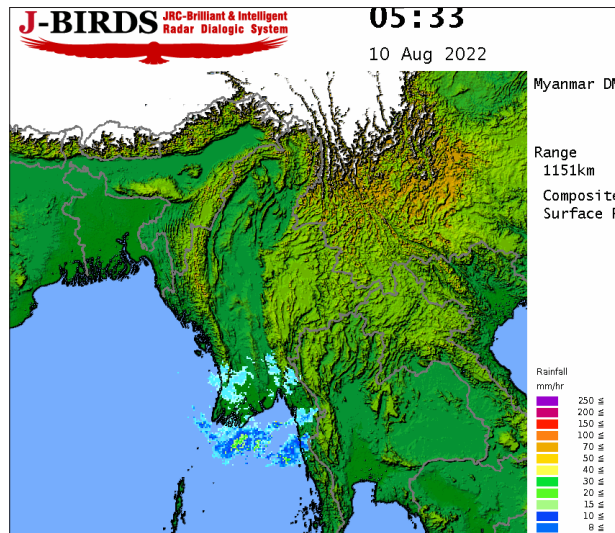
In order to promote the

Bangladesh-Myanmar bilateral trade, the Coastal Shipping Line (Yangon-Sittway-Chittagong) is being implemented by officials of the two countries to enhance direct trade. — TWA/GNLM

Land Depression

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm yesterday, the Depression over coastal Odisha, India moved westwards and now lies over interior Odisha as Land Depression. It is likely continuous to move West-Northwestwards and gradually weaken into a Low Pressure Area over Chhattisgarh, India.

This is the last news for the depression. — DMH



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

CRIME NEWS

Drugs seized in Pyigyidagun, Lashio townships

DRUGS were captured in Pyigyidagun and Lashio townships, the Myanmar Police Force stated.

At 4:40 pm on 9 August, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a motorbike driven by Ma Yi Yi Htwe (aka) Moe Moe accompanied by Ma Nwet Nwet Yi on the Lepyin village road in Lonkhin village-tract of Phakant township and seized 3,420 stimulant tablets.

According to the investigation, Anti-Drug Police Force continuously searched a house of Ma Aye Kyi (aka) Ma Shay in Nyeinchanthaya village in Phakant township and 190 more stimulant tablets were confiscated at 5:15 pm.

Similarly, at 4:20 pm, members of the Anti-Drug Police Force raided a house of Ma Tin Tin Yi in Pyigyida-

gun township and impounded 2,000 stimulant tablets.

In addition, at 5:15 pm on the same day, a combined team including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a flat of Sai Pun Seng in No 1 Ward of Lashio township and seized not only 0.616 kilogramme of Ketamine, 480 Ecstasy tablets, 0.03 kilogramme of low-grade opium but also a Crown car which parking with Sai Pun Seng, Sai Aung Moe, Win Thein, Nay Lin Htun and Sai Aung Hein in the house.

According to the investigation, MPF continuously confiscated a Volks Wagen Golf car at a hotel in No 1 Ward of Lashio township where Nay Lin Htun and Win Thein stayed.

The suspects are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, it is learnt. — MNA

Illegal timbers, auto parts, consumer goods, vehicles and machines confiscated



Seized industrial machines at Thilawa International Port.

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

Under the instructions of the Shan State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, a team led by the head of the Lashio Township Customs Department made inspections on 7 August.

Officials nabbed K20,440,000 worth of LED light bulbs, car parts, motorbike parts and used sewing machines from a Hino (approximately K21 million) heading from Muse to Mandalay. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, on 8 August, an on-duty team made inspections under the management of the Yangon Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force.

They seized K19,137,510 worth of clothes and consumer goods that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a JAC

HFC 22-wheel truck (approximately K35 million) near the 45th milepost on the Yangon-Hpa-An-Myawady Road, and K18,949,550 worth of motorbike parts, three-wheel baby bikes and baby accessories that were different from the Import Declaration (ID) from a Hino Profia 12-wheel truck (approximately K18 million). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, on 8 August, an on-duty combined inspection team at the container terminal of Thilawa International Port confiscated a Hino Dutro Truck (approximately K12,010,640), a Toyota HiAce (approximately K16,187,100) and two heavy machinery (approximately K63,430,000) that were taken out over three years after filling the Import Declaration (ID). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, a total of 20.0304

tonnes of illegal sawn teak worth K13,220,064 from two trucks (approximately K90 million) on the Yangon-Pyay Road in Taikkyi township were confiscated on 8 August; a total of 0.9952 tonnes of illegal teak parquets worth K656,832 from two vehicles (approximately K26 million) at the 0/0 Milepost on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in Hlegu township were captured on 9 August. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, a team led by the Myanmar Police Force impounded an unregistered a three-wheel motorbike (approximately K500,000) in Ayataw township under the Sagaing Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Afterwards, a total of 6.1302 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K2,798,664 were caught in Bago, Pyay and Thayawady districts and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

An inspection team led by the Myanmar Police Force seized an unregistered AD Van (approximately K2 million) and a Hilux without a licence (approximately K1.5 million) in Kyaukdaga and DaikU townships and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Therefore, 20 arrests estimated at K360,830,360 were made on four consecutive days from 7 to 10 August, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA



Five arrestees are pictured along with seized drugs and two saloons.

LOCAL BUSINESS

CBM narrows currency trading band from 0.5% to 0.3%

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) changed the trading band around Kyat on 10 August.

To stabilize the exchange rate, the CBM set the currency trading band at 0.5 per cent for the Kyat to fluctuate between these two specified upper and lower exchange rates for the transaction, selling or buying, according to a notification issued by the CBM on 9 November 2021.

This directive was cancelled, hence, the CBM made a 0.3 per cent trading band to fix the floor and ceiling exchange rates starting from 10 August 2022.

Authorized dealers, money changers or non-bank financial institutions are obliged to maintain the exchange rate within the 0.3 per cent trading bank for any forms of transactions and foreign remittance.

This action came into effect starting on 10 August. Breaching the currency control rules will result in legal action according to



Authorized dealers, money changers or non-bank financial institutions are obliged to maintain the exchange rate within the 0.3 per cent trading bank for any forms of transactions and foreign remittance.

the Foreign Exchange Management Law and Regulations, according to the statement signed by the CBM's deputy governor U Win Thaw.

Kyat devalued against the hard currency US dollar at approximately K2,600 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.

Consequently, authorities sold the dollars at its auction market for the sectors in need,

to control the soaring dollar and the outflow of foreign capital.

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

Last 28 September 2021, a dollar value hit an all-time high of over K3,000 in the black mar-

ket and consequently, pure gold reached a record high of K2.22 million per tical (0.578 ounce, or 0.016 kilogramme) in history.

Under the guidance of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, the Monitoring and Steering Committee on the Gold and Currency Market was formed on 17 December 2021 as gold and currency market stability play a crucial role in 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

86 companies forwarded to GACC for legalizing corn exports



At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons - winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year.

OUT of the companies that have submitted the Expression of Interests, 86 have been forwarded to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) to seek permits for legalize corn exports to China, said U Aye Chan Aung, chair of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Those companies are left to receive a registration code at the

final stage, he added.

"When GACC grants the registration code to those companies, corn can be legally shipped to China. Those companies have passed the preliminary stage," U Aye Chan Aung pointed out.

Upon issuing the registration code this month, the corn export to China is expected to commence in September, according to the association.

Additionally, 26 companies have initially passed the tests on Myanmar's side. They will also proceed to the GACC, the association stated.

The SPS Protocol (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Protocol) for biosecurity is a must for legitimate export to China, the main trade partner of agricultural products with Myanmar. Myanmar's Ministry of Agriculture,

Livestock and Irrigation and GACC have signed an agreement to legally ship corn to China. This being so, the corn industry is endeavouring to seek permits from the GACC and to meet the import food safety criteria.

Therefore, the exporter companies have been notified to submit EOIs to the working task force by 31 March 2022 in order to meet the SPS protocol requirements and file annual registration.

A total of 142 companies submitted EOIs for legalizing corn exports. The working task force screened the EOIs in line with the protocols. Myanmar's Department of the Consumer Affairs and Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service (MITS), the authorized organization of the State, conducted a survey of the drying mills and warehouses as well.

The protocols include the exporters must have a company or institution which can handle the standard drying mill or warehousing operation for exports or can strictly adhere to the agreements during the set period. Those who have a his-

tory of corn exports to China or other foreign countries must also present the relevant documents. The company has to comply with the rules and regulations set by China. Additionally, they need to adopt Good Agricultural Practice-GAP and contract farming in need to enhance the corn sector and ensure food safety.

The prevailing prices stood at K860-K880 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) and FOB prices were approximately US\$290-310 per tonne, according to the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayinnaung Commodity Wholesale Centre).

Myanmar exported 2.3 million tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the 2020-2021 financial year. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to China, India and Viet Nam.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons - winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/GNLM

OPINION

Nurture human resources to develop the nation

PUTTING investments in education and health sectors contributes much to turning out educated human resources with health and fitness. In fact, the qualification of human resources is crucial for relevant countries capable of standing in keeping abreast of other countries.

In order to fully develop human resources, it is necessary to seek collaborative efforts from other sectors to support the education and health sectors. Only when human resources improve will it have the capacity to, directly and indirectly, support all other sectors so as to shape a joyful society. Educated human resources are sure to develop society through intelligence quotient and emotional intelligence.

If the education sector does not have improvement, the country will not develop in any way. The government is making efforts for all school-age children to complete the KG+9 (middle school level). As a new plan, one basic education high school in each of 50 selected districts will teach agriculture, livestock and mechanical subjects to students in grade 10 to grade 12 in the coming academic year. Students having completed Grade 12 will have the chance to continue learning at three-year courses at agriculture, veterinary science and technical institutes. Outstanding students will have the chance to continue at universities and pursue higher education.

Students from the regular basic education high school will be able to choose the universities they like after completion of Grade 12. Currently, more than half of the total population of the nation has completed just middle school education. Only when the education standard of the people improves will the social-economic status of the

people develop. As such, the development of human resources is concerned with all, but the Ministry of Education alone.

All the sectors of a country need to recruit human resources. But such a resource is interrelated with the education standard of youths. As such, it is necessary to enhance the education standard while creating job opportunities and alleviating the poverty of the people. Although it will be a tremendous plan for the country, making all-out efforts will secure a success one day as a Myanmar saying goes: Slow and steady wins the race.

Poverty, fewer job opportunities and low-grade education standards are intertwined with one another. Such a vicious circle is rounding and rounding in the country. However, every problem has a great solution. So, the government and all walks of life need to firmly join hands in successive eras to control the vicious circle to have a proper situation for all.

The Age In Which Kids and Youths With Coding

By Yin Nwe Ko

RECENTLY, I have taken notice of a piece of information about the kids on Facebook. It was such an interesting issue that I was curious to know (to be frank, to understand). It was nothing but why our kids should be taught coding. It is a way to teach the kids coding in order to introduce the latest concepts of the 21st century. Recent research by experts suggests that coding will be at the forefront of future careers. Then, I started being curious about why kids are taught coding and why it is so important. I found...

1) Coding is a kind of Language

Coding is a language that is now one of the most widely used languages in the world. Coding is a great way for kids to learn about the world around them. It is also another language that teaches them to understand more about technology. That might be why many kids are learning coding from an early age.

2) Coding fosters Creativity

Coding helps children learn about the technologies they are exposed to on a daily basis. Learn how to create their own games and software, not just to use games and applications, yes, their experiments and inventions strengthen the brain. Coding develops children's creativity.

3) Coding helps children with Math Skills

Coding is arithmetic that is Alphabet Math and it strengthens the child's understanding of geometry, algebra, and physics. Understanding the concepts of mathematics allows kids to apply math in real-world situations. Coding makes math fun and creative. It will definitely improve the child's math skills.

4) Coding helps children become confident and makes them problem solvers

The kid will become a smart and confident young child who will be able to deal with real-life situations and problems by finding



Coding helps children learn about the technologies they are exposed to on a daily basis. **ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIK**

fault with the project they created and correcting it before doing so. Coding is the basic literacy of the digital age. It is important for children to understand the technologies around them. Teaching children coding at an early age prepares them for their future.

What is more, if one has always wanted to create his own website or understand the ins and outs of creating platforms like apps, he must need a particular

skill set and some pretty particular knowledge. He needs to know how to code. Fortunately, it is to learn to code. It is so easy to learn this high-tech skill that one can get started online today, right from home and right from his computer. He can search online for easy courses and classes that will have him learning to code in no time at all. If the parents are wondering whether they should direct their

kids to learn code and if the ones who are wondering about searching for personal improvement in life, the followings are just a few of the ways it could benefit them. Suppose, one is expecting to pursue a new career or job opportunities in the tech sector; learning to code can be greatly beneficial. In fact, having a set of coding skills can actually help him meet the qualification requirements for many of today's jobs. With coding skills becoming increasingly

important for every industry and every kind of job, coding gives one a versatile skill set. Therefore, one could become a software developer, a database administrator, a computer system analyst, or even a business intelligence analyst. Coding is applicable to so many jobs that you'll have a wealth of opportunities.

In addition, computer programming is a profession that is growing rapidly. The demand for coders is very high and there simply are not enough job seekers available to fill all of the available positions. The need for computer programmers and coders is projected to grow at a rate of 30 per cent, making it a fast-growing profession. With coding listed on one's resume, you may also be able to secure a raise or even a higher salary at a new job. In other words, coding is a demand even in non-technical fields and job positions. Even roles like designers, marketers and project managers can benefit from hiring individuals with coding skills. And if one happens to have those exact skills, one will be more appealing and more qualified than others. That means that companies are often willing to pay them more. Once one adds technical skills

to his background, one will be able to negotiate a higher salary. You can negotiate your current pay rate at his current job, or he can ask for a higher salary at his next job. Coding is highly valuable and highly desirable. Furthermore, coding gives one a set of concrete skills or skills that you can put to use while developing websites, creating software, and working with computers in several different ways. But coding also gives you soft skills or skills that one can apply well beyond his computer screen.

Research has proven that learning how to code can improve his ability to better understand other subjects and material. For example, when one learns how to code, he is learning how to break problems down into smaller steps. He is also learning how to understand a new language, a computer-based language. As a result, one will apply these same analytical skills to other problems and projects. One will be able to break down large concepts or complex issues into small pieces, understanding how to approach and process them. Coding helps one process large amounts of information too. It will help one develop a mindset

that looks at both the bigger picture and the steps one will need to take to circumvent obstacles and frustrations. It can also help one become a better problem solver. And these skills are all critical no matter what industry, field, or particular job he is working within. According to the information mentioned in the earlier paragraphs, if one is ready to take the leap into coding, it is easy to get started. One can actually find - and begin taking - beginner coding classes online in no time at all. There are plenty of organizations and websites that offer free coding classes that cover many of the critical skills one will need. He just has to search for them. For example, one can find free classes like intro to Programming and How to Make Apps at Skillshare. One can learn how to code on different platforms and software with a course like Mastering MS Excel for Beginners and Mastering the Basics of HTML. Code-academy also offers a wealth of courses on coding languages like JavaScript.

Therefore, all one needs to do to find coding classes is start a search. There is a wealth of information and different types of classes from beginner to advanced right online. Moreover, these courses may not cost them anything at all to take.

■

What we know of the symptoms and spread of monkeypox

WITH monkeypox surging across the world, experts are gathering more evidence on how people catch it and its typical symptoms.

Several months into the epidemic, it is clear the wave of infections is linked above all to sexual intercourse between men.

Nearly 28,000 cases have been confirmed worldwide in the last three months and the first deaths are starting to be recorded.

Here is a summary of what we know:

Who is catching it?

Monkeypox has been around in a dozen African countries for decades, but in contrast to previous outbreaks on the continent, the virus is now predominantly spread through sexual activity. Some 99 per cent of US cases have

so far been among men who have sex with men (MSM).

In Africa, the virus notably affects children.

In the last three weeks studies printed in leading medical publications -- British Medical Journal (BMJ), The Lancet and New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) -- painted a clinical picture of the current spike in infections, even if it is still early days and the results are based on only a few hundred cases.

In each study, the MSM community accounts for nearly all cases.

How is it transmitted?

The male sex link was no surprise as it appeared from the first recorded observations and has been targeted by health authorities.

This leads to the sensitive question of whether the virus is transmitted

through sexual activity.

The latest clinical reports leave little doubt.

"Our study strengthens the evidence for skin-to-skin contact during sex as the dominant mechanism of transmission of monkeypox, with important implications for disease control," said The Lancet with data from several Spanish hospitals.

The viral charge had been found to be much higher in patients' skin lesions than in their breathing equipment.

This observation seems to undermine the idea pushed by some researchers that airborne transmission was also playing a major role in the spread of cases.

At the same time monkeypox is not thought to be caught via sperm, and although that has not been totally ruled out, current research is far from proving it.

Symptoms?

All three studies agreed on the main symptoms.

"The characteristics of the cohort we describe differ from those of populations affected in previous outbreaks in endemic regions," the BMJ noted in the study of UK cases.

The two key elements are fever, often with muscular aches, and skin lesions which scab over.

But the details vary, probably because of the type of transmission, with recent cases heavily linked to sexual activity.

For all three studies, the lesions often break out in the anus, penis and mouth. One complication that has previously been rarely observed has been inflammation of the rectum or a swelling on the penis.

The Lancet found complications occurred in 40 per cent of cases and

the NEJM in some 20 per cent.

But there was also some good news about the gravity of the illness.

"Clinical outcomes in this case series were reassuring. Most cases were mild and self-limited, and there were no deaths," the NEJM said.

"Although 13 per cent of the persons were admitted to a hospital, no serious complications were reported in the majority of those admitted."

Questions remain

The Lancet report raised the issue of the efficacy of vaccines, given that 18 per cent of cases were in people who had already received a jab meant to protect against monkeypox.

But some patients had had the vaccination for many years, even decades before catching the virus.

It is also unclear how other illnesses increase the risk of catching mon-



People wait in line to receive the monkeypox vaccine at a vaccination site at the Balboa Sports Center in the Encino neighborhood of Los Angeles, California. **PHOTO: AFP**

keypox. About 40 per cent of patients in the Lancet study carried HIV, but it was impossible to work out if there was a direct link between the two.

SOURCE: AFP

ENVIRON WORLD

On the menu at a UK restaurant: carbon footprint

THE menu at The Canteen in southwest England doesn't just let diners know how much a dish costs. They can also check its carbon footprint.

The carrot and beetroot pakora with yoghurt sauce is responsible for just 16 grammes of CO₂ emissions. The aubergines with a miso and harissa sauce with tabbouleh and Zaatar toast caused 675 grammes of carbon dioxide.

As customers weigh their options, the menu at the vegetarian restaurant in Bristol includes a comparison with a dish that it does not serve: the emissions



Switching to a plant-based diet is one of the most effective ways for an individual to reduce their carbon footprint, experts from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change say. **PHOTO: AFP**

from a UK-produced hamburger. "Three kilos for a burger, wow! I can't believe it," exclaimed Enyioma Anomelechi, a 37-year-old diner sipping a beer outside in the sunshine.

The menu notes that a real beef burger's emissions is "10 times the amount of its vegan alternative".

The carbon footprints of businesses and consumers have come under growing scrutiny as countries scramble to limit global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius and to achieve net-zero emission by 2050.

The Canteen became in July

the first restaurant to agree to put its carbon footprint on the menu under a campaign spearheaded by UK vegan campaigning charity Viva! The restaurant's manager, Liam Stock, called the move a way to "see what we are doing; to understand and improve ourselves". The average British person has an annual carbon footprint of more than 10 tonnes, according to UK government figures. Britain has set the ambitious goal of reducing harmful emissions by 78 per cent by 2035, compared with 1990 figures, in order to meet its international climate change commitments.—AFP

Pakistan zoo cancels lion auction, plans expansion instead

A Pakistan zoo has called off plans to auction 12 lions from its ever-growing pride to private buyers, saying it would instead create new enclosures for the big cats.

The auction planned for Thursday had drawn condemnation from the WWF, which urged authorities at Lahore Safari Zoo to instead rehome them with oth-

er government wildlife facilities.

"The main reason behind the auction was the lack of space," deputy director Tanvir Ahmed Janjua told AFP, adding officials had decided to speed up work building two new enclosures.

"Now that this issue is to be resolved soon, there is no need for the auction to take place."

Set over 200 acres, Lahore Safari Zoo is considered one of the best in the country — where zoos are known for disregarding animal welfare.

The Lahore facility is currently home to 29 lions, six resident tigers and two jaguars.

Zoo officials had set a reserve of 150,000 Pakistan rupees (\$700) per cat — about the same price as a cow — but hoped each would fetch around two million rupees at auction.

Keeping lions, tigers and other exotic wildlife as pets is not uncommon in Pakistan, and is seen as a status symbol.

Wealthy owners post images and video clips of their big cats on social media, and rent them out as props for movies and photoshoots.

Janjua denied opposition from animal rights activists had led to the decision to cancel the auction.—AFP



Lahore Safari Zoo cancelled an auction of lions from its growing pride and said it would expand current facilities instead. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ailing beluga put down in last-ditch French rescue bid

AN ailing beluga whale that strayed into France's Seine river was put down by vets Wednesday during a last-ditch rescue attempt to keep the animal alive, local officials said.

The fate of the whale captured the hearts of people across the world since it was first spotted in the highly unusual habitat of the river that flows through Paris, far from its usual Arctic waters.

Rescuers had worked overnight to lift the male out of the Seine by crane for transfer to a saltwater pen, in a delicate, final effort to save the life of the ailing mammal, which was no longer eating.

It was then driven at a painstakingly slow speed north to the Normandy port of Ouis-

treham, where vets hoped to release the animal into a harbour-side pen and then possibly into the wild.

But the experts unanimously decided after examining the beluga on arrival in Ouis-treham that there was no other option than to put the male down, the local authority of the Calvados region said.

"Despite the technical and logistical efforts, the condition of the cetacean unfortunately deteriorated during the trip," it said.

"Examinations showed that the beluga was in a state of great weakness and its respiratory activity failing. The decision was therefore taken collectively, with the veterinarians, to euthanize it," it added.—AFP



The rescue team spent six hours getting the ailing beluga whale out of the water and into a refrigerated lorry for transport. **PHOTO: AFP**

Heat, drought rekindle huge wildfire in southwest France

A fire that destroyed thousands of hectares of tinder-dry forest in southwest France has flared again amid a fierce drought and the summer's latest wave of extreme heat, officials said Wednesday.

AN additional 6,000 hectares (15,000 acres) of pine forest have

burned in the so-called Landiras blaze since Tuesday afternoon, forcing the evacuation of around 6,000 people, Gironde regional officials said in a statement.

"The fire is extremely violent and has spread to the Landes department" further south, home of the Landes de Gascogne re-

gional park, the prefecture said, and further evacuations are likely.

"It's a major fire... much more intense and fast-moving" than at the height of the Landiras blaze that ignited in July, Marc Vermeulen of the regional fire-fighting authority told journalists.—AFP

Shionogi confirms efficacy of oral COVID drug for Omicron subvariant

JAPANESE pharmaceutical firm Shionogi & Co. said Wednesday its oral COVID-19 drug currently under development has been confirmed in preclinical testing as effective against the Omicron subvariant BA.2.75 that has been detected in Japan.

The announcement came after a health ministry panel in July postponed the granting of emergency approval for the drug. Discussions are slated to resume after the results of the final stage of clinical trials currently under way.

The BA.2.75 subvariant has been reported in various locations across Japan, including in Tokyo, and Aichi and Osaka prefectures amid signs of community transmission.

The pharmaceutical company previously confirmed the efficacy of its oral drug against the BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants



Pedestrian cross the street in famous luxury shopping district of Ginza in the heart of Tokyo. PHOTO: AFP

in preclinical testing.

Also on Wednesday, US pharmaceutical giant Moderna Inc. announced it has applied for health ministry approval for the production and sale of its bivalent COVID-19 vaccine effective against the Omicron variant.

The bivalent vaccine,

named after its combination of ingredients deriving from existing COVID-19 shots and from the Omicron variant's BA.1 subtype, has been reported as providing an increase in neutralizing antibodies against the BA.5 subvariant currently prevalent across the country.—Kyodo

WHO decries Brazil monkey attacks over pox fears

THE World Health Organization stressed Tuesday that monkeypox outbreaks were not linked to monkeys, following a number of reported attacks on the primates in Brazil.

“What people need to know is that the transmission we are seeing is happening between

humans,” WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris told reporters in Geneva.

She insisted the primates could not be blamed for the surge in monkeypox cases Brazil after reports of a hike in physical attacks and poisonings of monkeys in the South Ameri-

can nation.

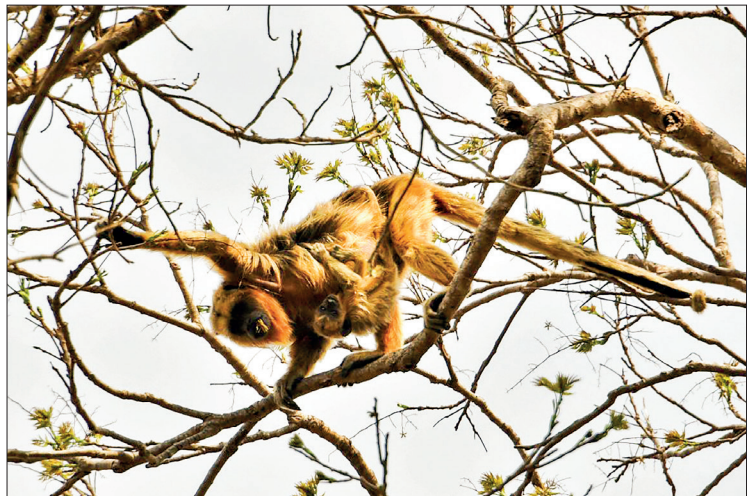
Local media have detailed a spike in attacks on monkeys using stones or poison in a number of Brazilian cities.

In a natural reserve in Rio do Preto, Sao Paulo state, 10 monkeys appeared to have been poisoned or intentionally injured in less than a week, according to news site G1.

Rescuers and activists suspect the monkeys were poisoned and attacked after three monkeypox cases were confirmed in the area, G1 said.

Globally, more than 28,100 cases and 12 deaths have been recorded, amid a global surge in monkeypox infections since May outside the West and Central African countries where the disease has long been endemic.

To date, Brazil has registered over 1,700 cases and one death, according to WHO data.—AFP



In a natural reserve in Rio do Preto, Sao Paulo state, 10 monkeys appeared to have been poisoned or intentionally injured in less than a week. PHOTO: AIZAR RALDES/AFP /FILE

Tibet's Lhasa launches city-wide COVID-19 testing

LHASA, the capital of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, launched city-wide nucleic acid testing on Monday night after the city reported 18 positive COVID-19 tests.

According to the analysis on the positive tests and the virus gene sequencing results, the current outbreak was caused by the Omicron subvariant BA.2.76.

Lhasa has so far designated one area as high-risk for COVID-19 and 15 as medi-

um-risk, said Yan Zhouzhong, deputy director of the Lhasa municipal health commission, at a press briefing Tuesday.

The high- and medium-risk areas in Lhasa are currently under static management. The city has temporarily closed bars, KTV bars, internet bars and other public gathering places. Scenic spots in the city, such as the Potala Palace, Norbulingka and the Tibet Museum, also suspended services from Tuesday.—Xinhua



A staff member transports drinking water at a freight station in Lhasa, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, 10 April 2022. Tibet sends living materials including drinking water and yak meat to east China's Shanghai and drinking water to northeast China's Jilin Province Sunday, to help the fight against the recent resurgence of COVID-19 pandemic in these areas. PHOTO: XINHUA/ZHANG RUFENG/FILE

Tourists return but Easter Islanders draw lessons from Covid isolation

DURING more than two years of the coronavirus pandemic, Easter Island was closed to tourism — forcing inhabitants to turn to a more sustainable way of life and relearn forgotten skills.

Now that the island's borders are open once again, local people, including the Rapa Nui indigenous population, want to resist the temptation to return to their pre-pandemic lifestyle.

“The time has come that the ancients predicted,” Julio Hotus, a member of the Easter Island council of elders, told AFP.

Hotus said the Rapa Nui people's ancestors had warned about the importance of maintaining food independence because of the risk the island faced of one day becoming isolated, but that recent generations had ignored the warnings.

Before the pandemic, the island's food supply was almost exclusively provided by Chile.

Easter Island lies 3,500 kilometres (2,100 miles) off the west coast of Chile and is world renown for its monumental statues of human figures with giant heads, called moai.—AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Sri Lanka raises electricity tariffs by up to 264%



People stand in a queue to buy diesel at a petrol station in Colombo on 2 March 2022. **PHOTO: ISHARA S. KODIKARA/AFP/FILE**

SRI Lanka's state-run electricity monopoly will raise tariffs by a stinging 264 per cent for people consuming the least, it announced Tuesday, while higher users will face a smaller increase.

The loss-making Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) said the

regulator had allowed it to carry out the sharp increases, the first in nine years, from Wednesday to recoup part of its accumulated losses of \$616 million.

The CEB had asked for a bigger tariff increase of over 800 per cent, but the regulator capped it

at a maximum of 264 per cent, officials said.

Two-thirds of the 7.8 million households using less than 90 kilowatts a month will be affected by the highest increases, while bigger consumers will pay about 80 per cent more, according to official records.

The smallest consumers, currently charged 2.50 rupees a unit, will be charged 8.0 rupees. Bigger consumers, being charged 45 rupees a unit, will have to pay 75 rupees (\$0.20).

Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis after running out of foreign exchange reserves to finance even its most essential imports such as food, fuel and medicine.

The country is also facing hyperinflation and lengthy electricity blackouts after the CEB was unable to buy oil for its thermal generators.—AFP

In Norway, old oil platforms get a second life

AT an industrial yard in southwestern Norway, decommissioned oil platforms are slowly being dismantled for a second life in the circular economy.

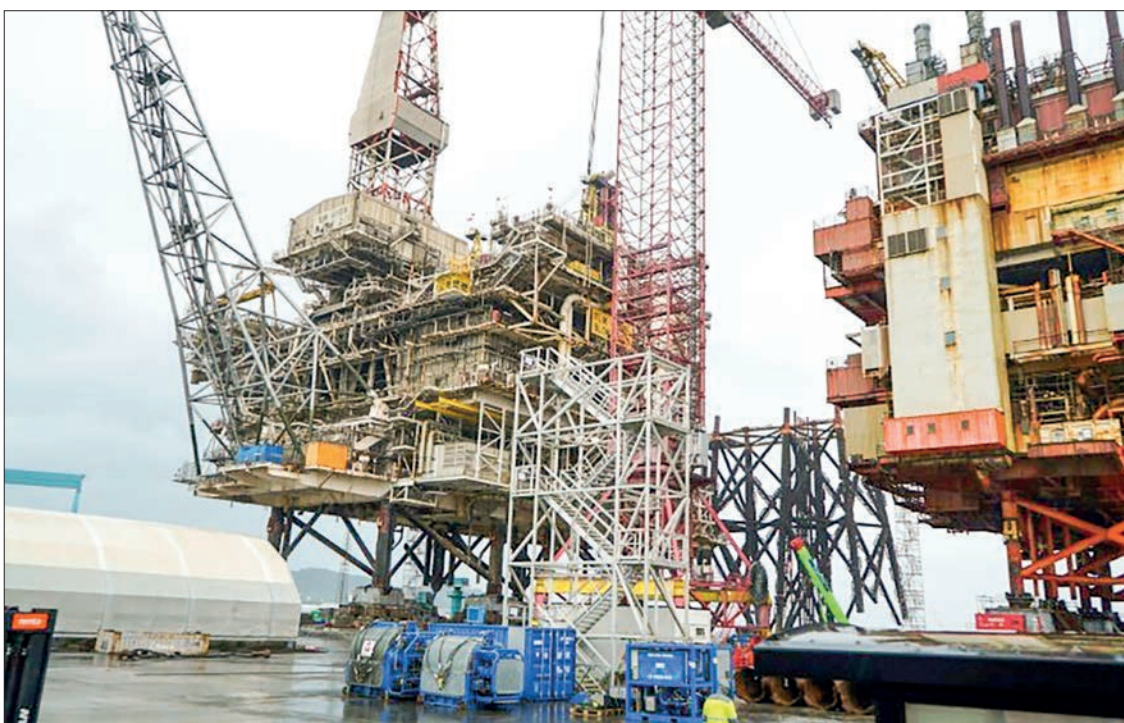
Three gigantic disused platforms stand on the docks on the island municipality of Stord where they are being taken apart bit by bit — as much as 98 per cent of their total 40,000 tonnes

is suitable for recycling.

“If you come here in a year-and-a-half, you will see nothing left”, says Sturla Magnus, a senior official at Aker Solutions, a group specialized in both building and dismantling oil platforms.

Behind him, workmen in hardhats and fluorescent jackets are busy on the three structures: the platform from the Gyda

field that was closed in 2020, and two others that have paid their dues at the Valhall field still in operation. Once the security inspections are complete and the electrical equipment and dangerous materials like asbestos have been removed, the remainder — the giant, empty shells — are left to powerful cutting machines.—AFP



Three gigantic disused platforms are being taken apart bit by bit. **PHOTO: AFP**

Experts see inflation reprieve in America

IS inflation finally slowing down in the United States?

Inflation data due to be released Wednesday is expected to show at least a partial cooling down of consumer prices and bring a breath of fresh air for US President Joe Biden just months before crucial midterm elections.

Fuelled by aggressive consumer spending of pandemic savings, global supply chain snarls, domestic worker shortages, and Russia's war on Ukraine, inflation reached 9.1 per cent in June, year over year, the highest in 40 years.

But it is expected to fall to 8.6 per cent in July, according to MarketWatch.

White House spokeswoman Karine Jean-Pierre said that although the administration has not seen the fresh statistics yet,

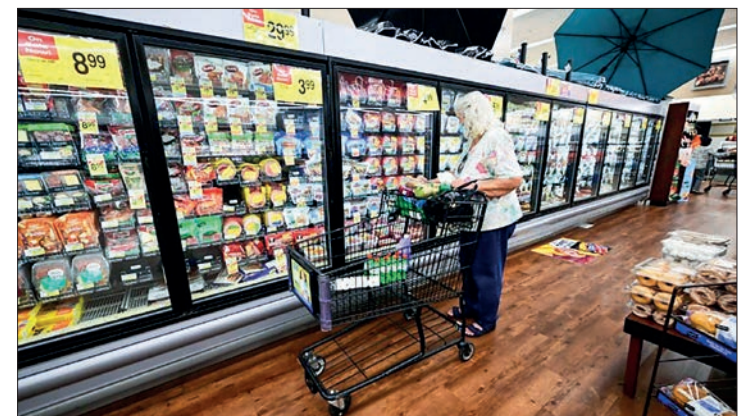
“We know that gas prices have fallen.”

“And we hope those gas price declines will factor into the CPI inflation data,” Jean-Pierre told reporters Tuesday.

Consumer prices have continued to climb in the United States, squeezing family budgets and, and by extension, Biden's popularity.

His opponents accuse Biden of precipitating inflation with his gigantic \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, which he enacted in March last year, shortly after assuming office.

And Republicans renewed their criticism of Biden's economic policy, saying Sunday's passage in the Senate of his massive climate and healthcare bill titled the “Inflation Reduction Act”, does the opposite of its stated purpose.—AFP



Fuelled by aggressive consumer spending, global supply chain snarls, domestic worker shortages, and Russia's war on Ukraine, US inflation reached 9.1 per cent in June. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

China's consumer inflation pushes higher

CHINA'S consumer inflation rose in July to a two-year high, official data showed Wednesday, with a surge in pork prices pushing up the cost of food.

Compared with other countries, consumer costs in the world's second-biggest economy have not skyrocketed, largely spared the impact of a global surge in food prices after the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

China's consumer price index (CPI), a key gauge of retail inflation, grew less than expected at 2.7 per cent from a year ago in July, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data showed.

CPI rose slightly on-year “due to an increase in prices of pork, fresh vegetables and other food, as well as seasonal factors”, NBS senior statistician Dong Lijuan said in a statement.

Food prices were up 6.3 per cent on-year, with pork spiking 20.2 per cent in July, she added.

Prices of the staple meat rose in part because of the reluctance of some farmers to sell — ostensibly to maximize profits — and a pick-up in consumer demand, according to the NBS.—AFP

Over 1 mln tonnes of goods transported on China-Laos Railway

THE total volume of imported and exported goods transported via the China-Laos Railway has reached 1.02 million tonnes since the railway's opening eight months ago, with total worth of about 9.14 billion yuan (about 1.35 billion US dollars).

Customs of Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, said

Tuesday that the customs handled 1,996 international freight trains along the railway during the period.

"After the opening of the China-Laos Railway, the variety of the company's imports and exports increased," said Zhang Xianzhou, manager of an international logistics company based in Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous

Prefecture, Yunnan.

The company's business volume increased, while the customs clearance time was significantly reduced, Zhang said.

Kunming customs said it has rolled out a series of efforts to guarantee the efficient operation of international freight trains on the China-Laos Railway. These measures include



Cross-border goods are reloaded at a freight transit yard of China-Laos Railway's Vientiane South Station on 1 July 2022. PHOTO: KAIKEO SAIYASANE/XINHUA

optimizing supervision measures and improving port functions. As a land-

mark project under the Belt and Road Initiative, the 1,035-km China-Laos

Railway connects China's Kunming with the Laotian capital Vientiane.—Xinhua

Honda lifts FY 2022 operating profit outlook on weak yen, price hikes

HONDA Motor Co. said Wednesday it has raised its full-year operating profit forecast to 830 billion yen (\$6.2 billion) from the previously projected 810 billion yen, helped by the weaker yen and price hikes in overseas markets in re-

sponse to global inflation.

The Japanese automaker also revised upward its sales outlook for the current business year through March to 16.75 trillion yen from 16.25 trillion yen. But its net profit estimate was unchanged

at 710 billion yen due to an impairment loss and a higher tax burden.

The carmaker revised its operating profit estimate upward as it changed its assumed exchange rate for the year to 125 yen against the U.S. dol-

lar from the previous 120 yen. Still, the new projection means a 4.7 per cent drop from the year before.

The yen has fallen against the dollar sharply since March, reaching 24-year lows in July, on expectations that the inter-

est rate gap between the two countries will widen because of their differing monetary policies. The weaker yen assumption boosted its operating profit outlook by 80 billion yen from the previous forecast, according to the company.

Honda raised its profit outlook also because it was able to pass on higher material costs to consumers in overseas markets, including the United States where inflation reached the highest in more than 40 years.—Kyodo

Deliveroo says losses grow, to exit Netherlands

DELIVEROO, the international delivery food app, announced Wednesday a big increase in losses as investment costs ate into rising revenues, adding it planned to exit its struggling Netherlands market.

Loss after tax jumped 41 per cent to £153.8 million (\$186 million) compared with the first six months of last year, the British group said in a statement.

Revenue grew 12 per cent to £1 billion despite easing Covid curbs and



Deliveroo has enjoyed strong sales growth in a short space of time but faces questions over its sustainability. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

controversy over treatment of its riders. Deliveroo

said the outlook was clouded by strong inflation

and the Ukraine war. However, company founder and chief executive Will Shu expressed confidence in the company's ability "to adapt financially to any further changes in the macroeconomic environment".

Netherlands exit

Deliveroo said it "proposes to consult on ending its operations in the Netherlands", noting it did "not hold a strong local position" in the country.—AFP

Jury finds ex-Twitter worker spied for Saudi royals

A former Twitter worker was found guilty on Tuesday of spying for Saudi officials keen to unmask critics on the platform.

Ahmad Abouammo was pronounced guilty

on criminal counts including money laundering, fraud, and being an illegal agent of a foreign government, according to a copy of the verdict. Prosecutors in fed-

eral court in San Francisco told jurors that Abouammo sold Twitter user information for cash and an expensive watch some seven years ago. His defense team

contended that he did nothing more than accept gifts from free-spending Saudis for simply doing his client management job.—AFP

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER
ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE
(Tender No. EPGE PV 03/2022-2023)

In accordance with section 8.2 "AMENDMENTS" of Request for Proposals (RFP) of EPGE PV 03/2022-2023, EPGE herewith would like to announce that Bid Submission Date shall be amended as 30th August 2022 and the Addendum No.2 shall be issued.

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS



Japan's Kishida revamps Cabinet as public support slips

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Wednesday reshuffled his Cabinet and party executive lineup, seeking to stem a decline in public support and cut any dubious links to a religious group in the spotlight due to the killing of former premier Shinzo Abe.

Kishida hopes the personnel changes, relying on a number

of familiar faces, will pave the way for a long-term, stable administration to tackle what he has described as “the biggest challenges of the postwar era,” ranging from COVID-19 and inflation to Russia’s war in Ukraine and heightened tensions across the Taiwan Strait.

The prime minister retained his right-hand man, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno, Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki.

Japan is facing growing threats from China, North Korea and Russia, and downside economic risks from surging prices and COVID-19 cases.

Former Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada took the defence portfolio again, as Japan seeks to reinforce its defences through increased spending.

Hamada, who was defence minister between 2008 and 2009, replaced Nobuo Kishi, the younger brother of Abe who was fatally shot during a campaign speech in July.

The assailant has said he held a grudge against the Unification Church, now formally known as the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, and believed the former premier had connections with the group, according to investigators.—Kyodo

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida arrives at his office in Tokyo on 10 Aug 2022, wearing a face mask for protection against COVID-19. **PHOTO: KYODO**

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Ukraine evacuates thousands from Donetsk under mandatory leave order

UKRAINE has transported at least 3,000 people from the battled-scarred eastern region of Donetsk since it initiated mandatory evacuations ahead of gruelling winter months, Kyiv said Tuesday.

“In the last six days, more than 3,000 citizens were evacuated including almost 600 children and 1,400 women. Obligatory evacuations continue,” said Kyrylo Tymoshenko, the deputy head of the Ukrainian president’s office.

Kyiv said it had launched compulsory evacuations last

week from the eastern Donetsk region — now bearing the brunt of Russia’s offensive — because the government does not expect to be able to provide it with heat in the cold winter months.

Tymoshenko said that since Russia invaded in February around 1.3 million people were evacuated from Donetsk, which has been under the partial control of Russian-backed separatists since 2014.

“Now on the territory of the region there is a population of 350,000, including 50,000 children,” he added.—AFP



Russian soldiers patrol a street on 11 April, 2022, in Volnovakha in the Donetsk region. The picture was taken during a trip organized by the Russian military. **PHOTO: ALEXANDER NEMENOV / AFP / FILE**

Russia planning to connect nuclear plant to Crimea: Ukrainian operator

RUSSIAN forces occupying the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in southeast Ukraine are preparing to connect to Crimea, annexed by Moscow in 2014, and are damaging it by reorienting its electricity production, Ukrainian operator Energoatom warned Tuesday.

It is the largest nuclear power plant in Europe and was occupied by Russia early in its invasion. Kyiv and Moscow blamed each other for attacks on the plant last week.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Monday raised the spectre of nuclear disaster after strikes on the plant.—AFP



Pro-Russian mayor of Energodar Andrey Shevtchik (C) walks past the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station in Energodar on 1 May, 2022.

PHOTO: ANDREY BORODULIN/AFP

Russia says Crimea airbase blast was ammo detonation, not attack

MOSCOW insisted Tuesday that major blasts at a key military airbase on the Russian-annexed Crimea peninsula were caused by exploding ammunition rather than Ukrainian fire.

Dramatic amateur footage shared on social media appeared to show panicked holidaymakers fleeing a Crimean beach with

young children, as ballooning clouds of grey smoke rose over the horizon.

The blasts rocked the Saki airfield on the 167th day of Moscow’s invasion.

Russia annexed the Crimean peninsula in 2014 and has used the region as a staging ground for its attacks on Ukraine, but

it has rarely been a target for Ukrainian forces.

The Russian defence ministry said “several aviation munitions detonated” at the base in an incident the head of the region said had left one person dead.

Local health officials earlier said five people, including one child, had been injured.—AFP

Biden signs ratification of Finland, Sweden NATO bids



Momentum is building in Sweden for the country to apply for Nato membership. 8 September 2017 FILE PHOTO: Sweden made its biggest military exercise in 23 years with the help of a strikingly large contingent of US troops. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

PRESIDENT Joe Biden on Tuesday signed US ratification of bids by Finland and Sweden to enter NATO, taking expansion of the Western alliance in response to Russia's Ukraine invasion one step closer.

Biden said the two northern European countries would become "strong, reliable highly capable new allies" by making the "sacred commitment" to mutual defence in the US-led transatlantic alliance.

Earlier this month, the Sen-

ate voted 95-1 in favour of the Nordic states' accession, making the United States the 23rd of the 30 NATO countries to give formal endorsement. Unanimous support is needed for new membership.

Biden, who has made restoring traditional US alliances a cornerstone of his administration after Donald Trump's move to upend ties around the world, praised NATO as "the foundation of American security".

"The United States is com-

mitted to the transatlantic alliance."

Biden also praised Finland and Sweden, saying both have "strong democratic institutions, strong militaries and strong and transparent economies" that would now bolster NATO. President Vladimir Putin's Russia "shattered peace and security in Europe" by invading Ukraine, Biden said. "Putin thought he could break us apart.... Instead, he is getting exactly what he did not want."—AFP

Taliban torn over reforms one year after seizing power

ONE year on from the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan, some cracks are opening within their ranks over the crucial question of just how much reform their leaders can tolerate.

Infamous during their first reign for their brutal crackdowns on rights and freedoms, the Islamists vowed to rule differently this time.

On a superficial level at least, they appear to have changed in some respects.

Officials in Kabul have embraced technology, while cricket matches are cheered in full stadiums. Televisions were banned under the Taliban government's first incarnation, while Afghans now have access to the internet and social media. Girls are allowed to attend primary school and women journalists are interviewing government officials — un-

thinkable during the Taliban's first stint in power in the 1990s.

The group's hardline core, composed of battle-hardened veteran fighters, is against any significant ideological change that could be viewed as a sign of capitulation to their enemies in the West.

"You have one (Taliban) camp, which is pushing ahead with what they're seeing as reforms, and another camp that seems to think even these meagre reforms are too much," said Ibraheem Bahiss, an Afghanistan analyst with International Crisis Group.

The United States and its allies — which had bankrolled Afghanistan for 20 years — have locked the country out of the global banking system and billions in frozen assets abroad, as they hold out for reforms from the Taliban.—Xinhua



A Taliban fighter watches as Afghan women hold placards during a demonstration demanding better rights for women in front of the former Ministry of Women Affairs in Kabul on 19 September, 2021. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

FBI raid on Trump's home ignites political firestorm

TOP Republican leaders flung their support behind former US president Donald Trump on Tuesday after an extraordinary FBI raid on his palatial Florida residence sparked a political firestorm in an already bitterly divided country.

The FBI move marked a stunning escalation of legal probes into the 45th president and comes as he is weighing another White House run.

Several former advisors to the 76-year-old Trump urged him to immediately confirm that he would be a presidential candidate in 2024.

"Nothing like this has ever happened to a President of the United States before," Trump said of the FBI operation at his Mar-a-Lago resort in West Palm Beach.

He denounced the FBI raid as a "weaponization of the Justice System" by "Radical Left



A Secret Service agent outside former president Donald Trump's at Mar-a-Lago home in Palm Beach, Florida. PHOTO: AFP

Democrats who desperately don't want me to run for President in 2024".

At the White House, Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said President Joe Biden did not have any advance notice about the raid and respected the independence of the Justice Department.

Asked about the potential for civil unrest in reaction to Trump's legal problems, Jean-Pierre said "there's no place for political violence in this country."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, which is led by Christopher Wray, a Trump appointee, declined to provide a reason for the raid.—AFP

Police kill knife-wielding man at Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport

POLICE officers shot and killed a man who brandished a knife at the Charles de Gaulle airport outside Paris on Wednesday, police and airport sources said.

"Officers neutralized a threatening individual in possession of a knife at the Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport," the Paris police department said on its Twitter account.

An airport source said the

incident occurred at the busy Terminal 2F at around 8:20 am (0620 GMT), when "a homeless man started bothering security agents and border police were called in to remove him".

Initially the man left while yelling curses but he soon returned and brought out a knife, when one of the officers fired his weapon.

An AFP photographer who

witnessed the scene said "a large person of colour brandished something that looked like a knife at the police".

"He was ordered to stop but kept advancing toward them, and an officer fired a single shot."

The man was quickly put on a stretcher and evacuated, the photographer said.—AFP



SPORT

Serena Williams says 'countdown' to retirement has begun

US tennis great Serena Williams announced on Tuesday that "the countdown has begun" to her retirement from the sport.

"There comes a time in life when we have to decide to move in a different direction," the 40-year-old, 23-time Grand Slam winner said in a post on Instagram. "That time is always hard when you love something so much. My goodness do I enjoy tennis. But now, the countdown has begun."

"I have to focus on being a mom, my spiritual goals and finally discovering a different, but just exciting Serena. I'm gonna relish these next few weeks."

Williams won the last of her 23 Slams at the 2017 Australian Open when she was already pregnant with daughter, Olympia.

However, she has failed to add a 24th major which would take her level with Margaret Court's all-time record.—AFP



Myanmar U-19 men's football team pose for the group photo.
PHOTO: VFF

Myanmar to play Thailand today for 3rd place in U-19 Viet Nam invitational tourney

THE third place match and the final of the Viet Nam U-19 Invitational Tournament, which is being held in Binh Duong, Viet Nam, will continue today, and the Myanmar team will play the third-place match against the Thai team.

Team Myanmar match will begin at 3 pm Myanmar Standard Time, and host Viet Nam will take on Malaysia at 6 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

After the group matches, the host Viet Nam stood first in the group with nine points. The Malaysian team qualified for

the final with four points, while the Thai team finished third in the group with four points. The Myanmar team has lost all three matches and is at the bottom of the group without points and will have to play for third place.

The Malaysian and Thai teams had the same score, but the Malaysian team qualified for the final by finishing second on goal difference.

In the group match, the Thai team beat Myanmar by 1-0, while the Malaysian team lost to the Vietnamese team by 1-2. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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



Myanmar misses final after penalty decision of AFF U-16 semi-finals

MYANMAR U-16 boy's football team failed to make the final after the penalty decision of the ASEAN U-16 boy's championship semi-final match against host Indonesia at Maguwoharjo Stadium in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Both teams played 1-1 draw till the 90 minutes.

There were no extra times and the winner was decided by shooting the penalty kicks.

The host team dominated over team Myanmar at the start but Myanmar's defence was too strong for the opponents.

From the counter-attack, Myanmar made an icebreaker at 44

minutes and the goal was beautifully scored by Nay Min Htet.

Myanmar led the first half by 1-0.

Myanmar played more defensively in the second half but Indonesia found their equalizer at 70 minutes and the goal was scored by Riski Afrisal.

Both teams could not change their opportunities into goals till the final whistle.

Myanmar missed one goal during the penalty shootout and that mistake made the opponents advance to the final.

Myanmar will play the third-place match against the Thai team and Indonesia will take on Viet Nam for the championship trophy on 12 August. — GNLM

FULL TIME

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INDONESIA

PHOTO: MFF