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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Makarov Pacific Higher Naval School in Vladivostok, Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Commercial Port of Vladivostok

THE high-level delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who is currently in the Russian Federation, visited the Makarov Pacific Higher Naval School in Vladivostok, the Pacific Fleet Headquarters and the Commercial Port of Vladivostok yesterday.

On arrival at Makarov Pacific Higher Naval School in the morning, the Senior General and party were welcomed by Commandant Rear-Admiral Vladimir Vasilievich Burakov and party.

The commandant explained the settlement of trainee hostels and departments in the compound of the training school, the selection of trainees on a yearly basis for their attendance, conducting of training for trainees in respective training terms and subjects, and the brief history of training. The Senior General asked what he wanted to know.

The Senior General and party viewed systematic training in the classrooms with use of teaching aids and multimedia



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round the Pacific Fleet Headquarters in Vladivostok yesterday.

rooms at the naval school, practical training of trainees at the mechanical workshops, fulfilling

of food supply, accommodation and administrative measures for convenience of trainees,

running of the library in IT technology, test-running of the solar-powered vessel innovated

by trainees, maintenance unit and hostels. The commandant,

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Statement issued by the National Committee on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

1. Based on the allegations of sexual violence that reportedly occurred in northern Rakhine State in 2017, Myanmar has been listed in the annexe of the annual report of the United Nations Secretary-General on Conflict-related sexual violence since 2018. With the aim of delisting Myanmar from the annexe

of the said report, the Joint Communiqué on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence was signed between Myanmar and the United Nations on 7 December 2018. Then, the National Committee on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related

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

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council has released statements inviting CDM staff, students and youths, who are in border areas and ethnic armed groups, they can contact the nearest reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations if they want to enter the legal fold and the government will guarantee their lives following the rules and regulations.

In order to prevent the unnecessary loss of human resources, the State Administration Council has publicly invited the basic education staff who are absent from duty to resume their duties and those who take

part in armed resistance under various names of groups, including PDFs. Meanwhile, 3,156 education workers, who were absent from their duties, another 1,009 people, who want to withdraw the cases that were opened against them, and 231 PDF members have contacted and returned to the legal fold. Then, they were given back to their parents systematically and the numbers of people who enter the legal fold and those who wish to are rising. Therefore, the government is making efforts to accept more numbers of those people.

The government opens reception centres in bor-

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

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

Statement issued by the National Committee on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

FROM PAGE-1

- Sexual Violence was established on 26 March 2019. Since Myanmar remains committed to preventing conflict-related sexual violence, the State Administration Council reconstituted the National Committee on Prevention and Response to Conflict-related Sexual Violence on 31 March 2021.
- The drafting process of the National Action Plan on Prevention and Response to Conflict-related Sexual Violence was initiated in 2019 and nine National Committee meetings were organized for that purpose. The representatives from UN agencies and the Office of Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict participated in the 3rd and 5th National Committee meetings. The National Action Plan on Prevention and Response to Conflict-related Sexual Violence was adopted in June 2021. The elements contained in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2106, the priorities laid down in the Joint Communiqué, and the inputs provided by the Special Representative were appropriately incorporated in the National Action Plan. The National Action Plan was set for the period of one year from 10 November 2021 to 10 November 2022 and it has been implemented for the second quarter.
 - Myanmar shared its National Action Plan with the Office of Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict on 5 November 2021. In addition, Myanmar further updated on the progress of the implementation

of the Action Plan with the Office on 4 July 2022 and has been maintaining its cooperation with the United Nations.

- However, it is disappointing to note that Myanmar was again listed in the annexe of the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on conflict-related Sexual Violence which was released on 29 March 2022. The annual open debate on the report was held at the United Nations Security Council on 13 April 2022. It is the universally accepted principle to fairly reflect the response made by the Government whenever the United Nations makes allegations against a country. Instead, the report excluded the information shared by the Government in addition to the failure of the Office to verify the alleged cases contained in the report with the concerned country.
- Although the report made unfounded allegations against the members of the armed forces, it did not include place, date and time or any other verifiable information of alleged incidents. The fact clearly proves that the report itself is not credible while it more attempts to discredit Myanmar on political grounds.
- It is for the military personnel to abide by the military laws, orders and directives in addition to the domestic laws. If a military person is found to have committed sexual violence, the Tatmadaw takes punitive measures including maximum sentences against the perpetrator. For instance, it was found out that a soldier committed rape against a woman in Phakhet village in Kutkai

Township in northern Shan State and the case was tried in open court in a transparent manner as per zero tolerance against sexual violence. The case was already informed to the public in November 2021.

- Since 29 November 2016, 24-hour Helplines to receive sexual violence complaints have been established and special attention has been given to keeping the victim's information confidential. Well-trained case managers meet with survivors and served as a referral mechanism for necessary psycho-social, security, health and legal support, livelihood, and capacity rebuilding. Moreover, online communication channels such as Viber and a Helpline-DSW Facebook Page were set up on 5 January 2022 to lodge complaints and it has been announced through newspapers, Television and radio.
- Based on the specific situation of survivors, One Stop Women Support Centres (OSWSCs) have been established in six States and Regions across the country to provide special care. In response to resolving the sexual violence cases, the Government provides travel expenses for litigation and financial support for the livelihood and rehabilitation of survivors based on their needs.
- Efforts to prevent conflict-related sexual violence will be further strengthened in cooperation with the relevant ministries and organizations and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will take serious action against perpetrators in accordance with the zero-tolerance policy.

Interim order given to one special civil appeal case, judgements passed on one special criminal appeal case and 4 special civil appeal cases; one special criminal appeal case and 4 special civil appeal cases heard

THE special appeal court comprising Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and Supreme Court Judges U Tin Hone, U Thaug Naing, U Thein Ko Ko and Daw Thin Thin Nwet gave an interim order on one special civil appeal case – No 10/2020 (Mandalay), and also

delivered judgements on one special criminal appeal case No 7/2022 (Shan) and four special civil appeal cases – No 28/2021 (Yangon), No 30/2021 (Magway), No 32/2021 (Mandalay) and No 20/2022 (Yangon), at the office room 1 of the Union Supreme Court yesterday

morning.

Moreover, they heard one special criminal appeal case No 2/2022 (Mandalay) and four special civil appeal cases No 21/2021 (Shan), No 22/2021 (Shan), No 23/2022 (Shan) and No 24/2021 (Shan) following the COVID-19 health rules. —MNA

95 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 5 September, total figure rises to 615,654

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **615,654** after **95** new cases— **five** imported and **90** local transmission—were reported on 5 September 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **593,816** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **19,441** after one died. —MNA

Create chances for youth for pursuing higher education

THE Hluttaw is the highest platform in political trend in democracy, and more ethnic representatives must join the political platform in the Hluttaw so as to demand the rights of their regions under the law.

The Tatmadaw decided to continue serving as the guardian of the country and is carrying out the tasks under the law, adding that ethnic organizations are to do their tasks for enjoying the democracy and federal rights under the law, disciplines and democratic practice.

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

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits ...

FROM PAGE-1

senior officer instructors of respective units and trainees conducted the Senior General round the units. The Senior General asked about further information and what he wanted to know.

The Senior General signed the guests' book of the school and presented the gift to the commandant and officials, who returned the gifts.

The Senior General replied to queries and suggestions raised by media trainees from the naval school and left.

The Makarov Pacific Higher Naval School is under the control of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation to commission the officers for the Pacific Fleet of Russia. It was established as the third naval school of Russia on 8 November 1937.

On arrival at the Pacific Fleet Headquarters, the Senior General and party were welcomed by Deputy Commander of

the Pacific Navy Fleet Rear-Admiral Vladimir Astakhov and officials who explained the maintenance of submarines at the headquarters and facilitation of logistic measures for these submarines. The Senior General asked for further information on what he wanted to know. The Senior General and the Deputy Commander of the Pacific Navy Fleet exchanged gifts.

The Pacific Fleet Headquarters is conducting naval exercises in the water territory of Russia while serving the security duty of the State every day and night.

In the evening, the Senior General and party visited the Commercial Port of Vladivostok where they were welcomed by the Head of Far Eastern Shipyard Company (FESC) Mr Andrey Severilov and members of the Board of Directors. The head of Far Eastern Shipyard Company (FESC) explained the functions of the company, efforts for the flow of commodities together



The Senior General looks into the teaching aid at the Makarov Pacific Higher Naval School.

with Southeast Asian countries and the potential for operating port measures and commodity transport with Myanmar.

The Senior General dis-

cussed the potential for enhancing the trade sector between the Russian Federation and Myanmar and commodity transport, and other necessary measures

that he wanted to know. Then, they exchanged gifts.

The Senior General and party visited the port where Managing Director Mr Vladimir Korchanov of Commercial Port of Vladivostok and officials explained the functions of container terminal and universal terminal, operation of FESC by private-owned vessels, containers, railways and road transport vehicles. After asking for information about what he wanted to know, the Senior General and party posed for documentary photos.

The Commercial Port of Vladivostok was built as the Russian Naval Headquarters in 1872. During World War I, the port was primarily used for military transport measures. In the Second World War, some cargo ships of foreign countries started docking at the port. In the 1950s, foreign vessels anchored there, and it was named the Commercial Port of Vladivostok in 1990. It is the largest port in the eastern part of the Russian Federation. — MNA



The Senior General pays observation tours at the Commercial Port of Vladivostok.

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Medical School, Medical Centre of Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) in Vladivostok



The Senior General pays study tours round the Medical School of the Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok yesterday.

THE high-level delegation headed by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, currently in the Russian Federation, visited the Medical School and the Medical Centre of the Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok yesterday afternoon.

On arrival at the Medical School, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and the high-level delegation were welcomed by Vice-President of the Medical Affairs of FEFU Dr Oleg I. Pak and members. Then, at the hall of the university, responsible

personnel explained the teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate medical courses to regional and international students, the teaching of paramedic subjects in addition to medical subjects in theory and in practice, and the teaching of research studies by using animals as guinea pigs, the conducting of surgical operations by using robotic and mechanistic technologies, providing medical care at 250-bed treatment centre affiliated with the university and the purpose of the school to turn out outstanding human resources and appointment of outstanding students as tutors and demon-

strators. At present, students from 46 countries are studying at the university and responsible personnel said that students from Myanmar will be admitted if they are sent to the university.

After hearing explanations by responsible personnel, the SAC Chairman Prime Minister asked detailed questions about the selection criteria for sending students to study at the university, attending advanced medical courses and the opportunities postgraduate students can get. Next, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win discussed the matters relating to sending

postgraduate students and cooperation between medical universities and between hospitals.

Afterwards, the SAC Chairman Prime Minister and party went round the Medical School and responsible personnel gave explanations on the variety of situations about the outbreak of diseases with the help of simulation patients, performing delicate operations by the use of ECG, ultrasound technologies and microsurgical simulators and the functions of Biotechnology Department which carry out research by examining tissues as samples.

Then, the SAC Chairman Prime Minister and party proceeded to the Medical Centre and

Director-General Professor Dr Igor S. Bryukhovetskiy of Medical Centre gave explanations about the undertakings of the department. The Prime Minister asked questions about all he wanted to know.

Finally, the SAC Chairman Prime Minister gave souvenirs to the Vice-President of the Medical Affairs of FEFU and the Director-General of the Medical Centre. The Medical Centre on the campus of FEFU covers 53,000 square metres and about 200 specialists, doctors and paramedics are working there. The FEFU Medical Centre has 14 medical departments and gives treatments for various kinds of diseases. — MNA



The Senior General presents the souvenir to the Medical Centre.

MoNREC Union Minister attends 2nd International Tiger Conservation Forum in Russian Federation



The second International Tiger Conservation Forum is in progress.

WHILE accompanying the high-level delegation led by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Sen-

ior General Min Aung Hlaing to the Russian Federation, Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi of the

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, along with Director-Gen-

eral U Htay Aung of the Forest Department, attended the 2nd International Tiger Conservation Forum held on the FEFU Campus in Vladivostok of the Russian Federation yesterday.

The Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation launched the second International Tiger Conservation Forum and officials from 14 countries took part in the event. Four Union Ministers signed on postage stamps to mark the ceremony and viewed the displayed booths.

President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation delivered the opening remark at the preliminary forum.

In his discussion, the Union minister underscored the

condition of tiger conservation in Myanmar, the expansion of conservation areas including the habitat of tigers, the recorded numbers of tiger population in Myanmar in 2021-2022, the spending of funds on the habitat restoration programme for wildlife animals, the 2020-2025 plan for the conservation of tiger population in Myanmar, cooperation with local and foreign organizations, expected results from the undertakings in line with the global tiger recovery programme and future plans.

Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation Mr Alexander Kozlov gave concluding remarks and the forum ended in the evening. — MNA

Documentary video editing, photo shooting, news writing training held



MoI Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn opens the training in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE opening ceremony of the No 1 course on documentary video editing, documentary photo shooting and news writing was held at the assembly hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn of the Ministry of Information said, "As the media can attract and organize people's minds, trainees should try to help the improvement of the future of the country through the media. Media covers widespread areas and can enhance the country's image. Media must be relevant to give entertainment and knowledge to the people. The quality of the picture

and sound can enhance news value; therefore, news writing and video editing are interrelated. In the process of documentary photo shooting and video editing, trainees should learn to present news and videos systematically in line with the present time."

It aims to enhance the capacity in shooting and editing documentary videos and photos on the undertakings of the respective ministries and to write news items in an accurate way on social media, the Union minister added. The training course is being attended by 48 participants from various ministries and the CBM and it will last from 5 to 23 September. — MNA

Domestic gold prices fall over gold coin sales news

ACCORDING to market reports, domestic gold prices are falling due to the announcement that gold coins will be sold.

The reference price statement of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association mentioned that for the first time this year, the reference price dropped below K2 million per tical.

The Ministry of Natural

Resources and Environmental Conservation issued a press release on 1 September 2022, saying that it plans to sell gold coins weighing one tical, 0.5 tical, and 0.25 tical respectively.

Following the announcement, the Yangon gold market index reached K1,996,000 per tical on 2 September 2022.

The price of one tical was over K3 million in the market. — TPT/GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, consumer goods, working materials and vehicles confiscated



Seized illegal foodstuffs in Kayin State.



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 Customs Procedures, an on-duty inspection team made inspections at the Ma-yanchaung Permanent Checkpoint on 3 September.

Officials nabbed K6,552,000 worth of edible oil and fabrics that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from two vehicles (approximately K108 million) and a trailer (approximately K25 million). The action was taken under the Customs Pro-

cedures.

Similarly, on 4 September, a combined team under the Taninthayi Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted surprised checks and captured K2,524,000 worth of fishing nets and fishing lines without official documents near the Tawwin bridge in Kawthoung township. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 5 September, an on-duty team made inspections at the Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an) Combined Checkpoint and confiscated K3.9 million worth of edible oil without official doc-

uments from two vehicles (approximately K21 million). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, a total of 5.3294 tonnes of illegal teak and hardwood worth K2,114,480 were captured in Yedashe township of Toungoo district and Minhla township of Thayawady district. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 12 arrests estimated at K169,090,480 were made on three consecutive days from 3 to 5 September, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA



A one-tical fine gold coin issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar -CBM. (file photo)



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CURRENT AFFAIRS

Myanmar bags \$500 mln from export of various pulses in nearly 5 months



Export bags of beans and pulses are loaded onto the ship.

MYANMAR earned over US\$500 million from export of various pulses in nearly five months of the current financial year 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar shipped US\$513.347 million worth of over 660,806 metric tonnes of various pulses to foreign countries between 1 April and 26 August 2022, according to statistics re-

leased by the Ministry of Commerce.

During the nearly past five months, the country shipped over 519,868 tonnes of pulses to external markets through sea trade, generating an income of \$418.152 million, while \$95.195 million worth of 140,937 tonnes of pulses were sent to the neighbouring countries via cross-border posts.

Myanmar conveyed US\$1.57 billion worth of over 2.02 million tonnes of various beans and pulses to foreign trade partners in the 2020-2021FY. The country shipped \$966.4 million worth of over 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through sea route, and \$604.3 million valued at over 786,920 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders, the MoC's trade data showed.

Myanmar's bean cultivation covers 20 per cent of overall growing acres. Among them, black beans, pigeon peas and green grams constitute 72 per cent of bean acreage. Other beans including peanuts, chickpea, soybean, black-eyed beans, butter bean and rice beans are also grown in the country. Myanmar's agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's economy and various pulses are included in the main agricultural export items. — TWA/GNLM

5 EV charging stations to be established at 5 locations on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway

THE pilot project will be implemented to construct five charging stations at five locations on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, the Ministry of Electric Power announced.

One charging station has a capacity of 50 electric vehicles and a total of 250 vehicles can be charged at the same time in five stations. The first five charging stations will be at Zero Mile No 3 Highway junction, 115th Mile Pyu Rest Stop, 201/2nd milepost Nay Pyi Taw C-junction, 284/4th milepost Theegon bus terminal and 352/3rd milepost Sagainn junction on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

The ministry also informed the YESC and MESC to submit the names and locations of the 66 and 33 kV substations, grid and main power stations to expand a 20 MVA substation and new power grid for the charging stations. Officials should carry out the work licences for location, factory and workshops for the assembly of electric vehicles in municipality areas, implement charging stations at the parking spaces of public areas and relevant committees should

submit their work plans to the leading committees, said Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay during the second coordination meeting of the national electric vehicles and related industry development steering committee and the supervisory committee on the special concession of the electric vehicles and related industry held on 24 August.

Officials reported on the taxation, policy and procedures for the electric car assembly factory and industry in industrial zones, licence requirements for municipal areas for factories and related businesses and 36 locations for charging stations.

Moreover, they discussed import, export and assembly of materials for electric vehicles, creation of chances to improve the use of electric cars, submission of a draft to the steering committee regarding non-budget sectors and management sector, and incentive measures to expand the use of electric cars and lure the public interest and matters related to the management to save fees for the use of roads, bridges and parking spaces. — TWA/GNLM

Private company to upgrade Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Park

THE government signed a long-term rental agreement with a private company to upgrade the Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Park into a modern amusement park.

The Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee agreed with tender-winning company San Myat Tun Company to upgrade the Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Park with 48 types of modern sports for entertainment purposes on 1 September.

During the agreement term, a total of 48 types of sports activ-

ities including Roller Coaster, Zip Line, Surfing (big), Artificial Wave, High Roller and Mono Train will be implemented under a three-year project. Moreover, it will also upgrade the three-storey lake, waterfall, Water Movie and Water Dancing.

While shaping the Nay Pyi Taw into a Green City, a Clean City and a Smart City, the cleanliness and modernity of the Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Park play a key role, and so the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee invited tender to create

the park into a modern one in accordance with the rules and regulations.

The tender-winning companies should fix the entrance fee that the people from all walks of life can afford, arrange the traditional food stalls of ethnic people, textile shops, restaurants, playground and shows in the park and emphasize the creative doings year on year and upgrade work successively, said Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee Chairman Mayor U Tin Oo Lwin. — TWA/GNLM



An electric car charging station is seen on a highway in South Korea.

4-hour power rotation system in Hline Township following explosion of RIR substation

THE RIR substation in Hline Township of Yangon Region was attacked with explosives at 8 pm on 4 September, according to the statement of Yangon Electricity Supply

Corporation.

The explosion destroyed Radiator including three 30 MVA transformers and one 20 MVA transformer and caused power outages, it said.

The YESC did repair work to supply power as usual, but they still conduct maintenance work for the (66/11-6.6) kV, 20 MVA transformer at the RIR substation, it added.

Therefore, there will be a four-hour power rotation system for two groups – Group A: No 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16 wards in Hline Township and No 3 ward in Mayangon Township

and Group B: No 7, 9, 10, 13, 16 wards in Hline Township and No 2 and 3 wards in Mayangon Township. — TWA/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Palm oil wholesale reference price soars back to K5,200 per viss

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market rose again to over K5,200 per viss, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The supervisory committee 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 rate of palm oil in the Yangon market for a week from 5 to 11 September is set at K5,220 per viss, whereas the reference price for a week ending 4 September was set low at K4,910 per viss. The figures this week showed an increase

of K50 per viss, showing an increase of K310 per viss compared to that of last week.

Despite the reference rate, the current market price touched a high of K10,000 per viss.

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.



The wholesale reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market rose again to over K5,200 per viss, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with the 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 K5,400 per viss to consumers directly. However, there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell the palm oil at a reference rate depending on the volume quota.

"The edible oil price is moving an upward spiral. We rush to queue to buy the oil when the mobile market trucks arrive in our ward," a housewife said.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at one 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

Fuel oil prices stable on high trend

FUEL prices remained constant on the high side, according to the fuel oil market. The prices slipped at the end of August. Then, the price stayed stable on the high side between 3 and 5 September.

The prevailing fuel prices stood at K2,395 per litre for Octane 92, K2,495 for Octane 95, K3,125 for premium diesel and K3,040 for diesel.

Kyat depreciation against the US dollar is a contributing factor to the price rise.

The Central Bank of Myanmar set the reference exchange rate for a dollar at K2,100, whereas the exchange rate against the US dollar hit around K3,500 in the grey market.

The Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated that domestic fuel prices are following the price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in southeast Asia.

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

The Petroleum Products Regulatory Department, under the guidance of the committee, is issuing the daily reference



Fuel oil is filled into a car at one petrol station in Yangon.

rate for oil to offer a reasonable price to energy consumers. The reference rate in Yangon Region is set on the MOPS' price assessment, shipping cost, premium insurance, tax, other general cost and reasonable profit per cent.

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

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. The domestic fuel price is

highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss between importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries. Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than that of Myanmar. Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also poses only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. — NN/GNLM

Equities market records highest trading value in Aug

THE equities market sees the highest trading in August 2022 with 109,809 shares worth K370 million, the Yangon Stock Exchange's monthly price data indicated.

The stock trading value of seven listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) amounted to K246.9 million with 72,843 shares in July, the Yangon Stock Exchange's monthly price data indicated.

Trading of 61,435 shares valued at K282 million was recorded on the exchange in January 2022 and the trading volume rose to 80,291 shares in February, with an estimated value of K414.9 million. A total of 52,408 shares with an estimated value of K233.634 million were traded on the exchange in March. The trading value slightly rose to K276 million with 53,059 shares traded on the exchange in April. The equities market saw K314 million worth 55,024 shares traded in May and K200.63 million worth 40,062 shares in June, according to the monthly report of the YSX.

At present, shares of seven listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank

(FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co., Ltd (EFR) and Amata Holding Public Co., Ltd. (AMATA) were traded in the equity market. The share prices per unit were closed at K7,300 for FMI, K2,450 for MTSH, K6,800 for MCB, K18,000 for FPB, K2,300 for TMH, K2,450 for EFR and K4,900 for AMATA respectively in August.

Regardless of the collapse of the stock markets worldwide, the local equity market has been able to continue operating without stopping trading.

Additionally, YSX launched a pre-listing board (PLB) on 28 September 2020 in order to provide unlisted public companies with fund-raising opportunities and build a bridge toward listing on YSX.

Next, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) has allowed foreigners to invest in the local equities market since 20 March 2020.

The YSX was launched four years ago to improve the private business sector. It disseminates rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading through stock investment webinars and training courses. — KK/GNLM

OPINION

Don't be absent from following Covid-19 protocols

MYANMAR people need to take care of the rising number of patients with positive results in laboratory tests conducted for the Covid-19 pandemic on a daily basis. Now, the number of positive-result patients is on the rise day after day due to the high local transmission of the virus.

As the Omicron variant is speedier than past variants of Covid-19, people need to focus on the preventive measures of Covid-19. In recent days, the weakness of the people in following the preventive measures of the pandemic would have been an important fact to resurge the internal infection rate.

Whatever viruses trigger the terrible outbreak of diseases, for example, infection of Covid-19 disease, everybody needs to follow the restrictions issued by the Ministry of Health. The people need to avoid public places as well as crowds of people, wear face masks wherever they join public places and wash their hands, if necessary, the whole their bodies under showers whenever they come back home.

As such, all the people need to understand the efforts of the government which strive for declining the Covid-19 infection rate by providing vaccinations to the people and urging them to strictly abide by Covid-19 preventive measures and restrictions with conscientiousness on a daily basis without fail.

More people need to live in compliance with the Covid-19 protocol restricted by the Ministry of Health in order to decline the infection rate.

Up to now, the Covid-19 virus is influencing most global countries including Myanmar's neighbouring countries, according to international news. In Myanmar, all ages of people including school-age children are jabbed against Covid-19 and people above 18 years old are provided booster jabs.

As such, all the people need to understand the efforts of the government which strive for declining the Covid-19 infection rate by providing vaccinations to the people and urging them to strictly abide by Covid-19 preventive measures and restrictions with conscientiousness on a daily basis without fail.



The study's findings revealed that people, especially those living in metropolitan areas, appeared to have developed fresh respect for nature and green spaces. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP

Study: People's appreciation of nature was reignited by COVID-19

MANY of the effects of the pandemic on our lives will undoubtedly continue for years to come.

Our perspective of nature has changed, according to UConn researchers, even as the impact of these changes may last for quite some time. Nature Scientific Reports published the findings. Sohyun Park, assistant professor in the UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, observed some intriguing trends as people flocked to outdoor spaces for recreation in the spring of 2020. More people were on the trails, and many of those people

had travelled from far away to enjoy nature.

A study analyzing the trends

In contrast to urban trails, Park notes that usage of rural routes grew. I sought to learn how people were altering their attitudes, mindsets, or views.

In order to accomplish this, Park and his co-authors Seungman Kim, Jaehoon Lee, and Biyoung Heo of Texas Tech University, as well as James Corner Field Operations, turned to social media data and machine learning techniques to help make sense of the enormous amounts of data on Twitter and try to find a pattern among those data, according to Park.

They made use of Twitter's Application Programming Interface (API), which enables scientists to gather data from posts on Twitter. "We were interested in learning from the people who had visited green spaces about their activities and Twitter posts. We used extremely cutting-edge machine learning techniques," explains Park. "The keywords were sorted by the computer into many categories that are easily understood by people. Unrelated to nature was one group. The second category consists of all customary park-related activities, while the third group is undoubtedly COVID-related, including mask-wearing and other social exclusionary

behaviours.

A newfound appreciation for nature

The researchers saw some substantial variations in term usage between pre-pandemic and pandemic Twitter, with people regularly citing nature and their experiences inside it.

However, what people were doing in the parks did not alter considerably.

Users started posting images or videos of activities related to nature on Twitter, according to Park.

It was extremely intriguing since, in the past, fewer terms like that were used; instead, people used keywords like "playing",

"walking the dog", "baseball", and other common, active park activities that they were taking part in while they were in the parks. If you look at post-2020 Twitter, you may also find keywords that express gratitude to God or love for the outdoors by describing the sounds of the birds chirping or the water.

The study's findings revealed that people, especially those living in metropolitan areas, appeared to have developed fresh respect for nature and green spaces. As a landscape architect, Park was curious to find out whether there was more to the findings and whether they would have any design consequences.

SOURCE: ANI

'Beginning of the end': patients hail new treatment for drug-resistant TB

VOLODYMYR is celebrating a major milestone on Wednesday — it's his final day of taking a new treatment hailed as a turning point in the fight against drug-resistant tuberculosis.

The 25-year-old doctor in Ukraine's capital Kyiv said he had nasty neurological side effects when he was on a previous drug regimen, which takes up to two years, involves a huge number of pills and is less than 60-per-cent effective.

But the new treatment course took just six months, and gave him very few side effects. "It was very easy," he told AFP.

A scan on Wednesday showed he was clear of tuberculosis, and he plans to start work next week after eight months off sick.

"Now I can start life again," said Volodymyr, who did not give his last name.

Tuberculosis, once called consumption, was the world's biggest infectious killer before the arrival of Covid-19, with 1.5 million people dying from the disease each year.

Around five per cent of new cases are resistant to commonly prescribed antibiotics, making them difficult to treat.

However a new drug regimen, called BPaL because it combines the antibiotics bedaquiline, pretomanid and linezolid, has been seen as a breakthrough since it was first approved by the US Food and Drug Administration in 2019.

Research in 2020 showed that the BPaL regimen cured more than 90 per cent of drug-resistant patients, however there was a high rate of side effects linked to linezolid, including nerve pain and bone marrow suppression.

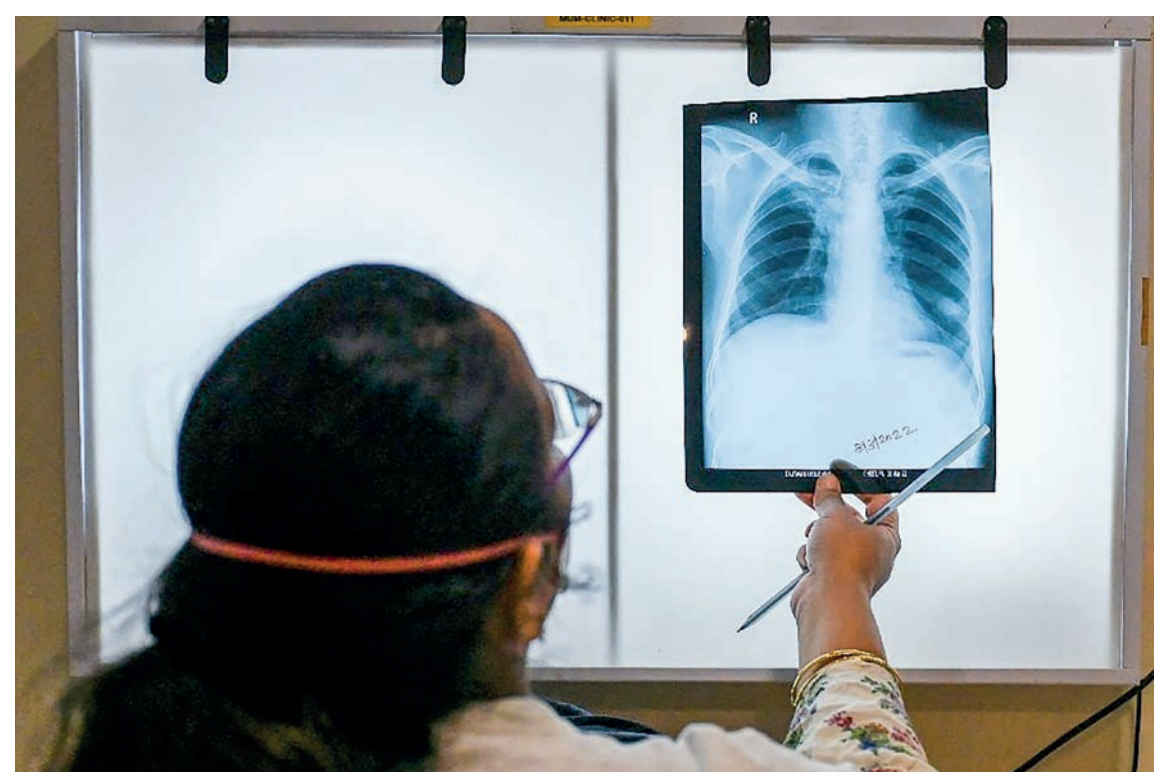
From 23 to five pills a day

But a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine on Wednesday indicated that the dosage of linezolid can be halved.

A trial involving 181 participants with drug-resistant tuberculosis was carried out in Russia, South Africa, Georgia and Moldova — all countries with high TB rates.

It found that while 1,200 milligrams of linezolid over six months had a cure rate of 93 per cent, that number only dropped to 91 per cent if the dosage was halved to 600 milligrams.

The number of participants with the side of peripheral neuropathy — which causes nerve pain — fell from 38 to 24 per cent at the lower dosage, while the rate of bone marrow suppression dropped from 22 to two per cent.



In this picture taken on 22 March 2022, a doctor checks Gautam Kamble's chest x-rays, who is diagnosed with tuberculosis, during a routine consultation at the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) clinic, which treats people with drug-resistant tuberculosis, in Mumbai. PHOTO: PUNIT PARANJPE / AFP

The study's lead author, Francesca Conradie of South Africa's University of the Witwatersrand, said she was "overwhelmed with how successful this regimen was".

"This is the beginning of the end of drug-resistant TB," she told AFP.

"The quicker you treat someone's TB, the less infectious they

are — it's like Covid in many ways."

It is also far easier for patients to take BPaL, she added, saying previous courses could involve 23 pills a day — and up to 14,000 total pills over the maximum two-year course.

BPaL involves five pills a day — and fewer than 750 over six months.

Could TB surpass Covid?

Natalia Lytvynenko, who has overseen BPaL treatments in Ukraine, said the more manageable amount of pills meant it was easier for patients to continue treatment after being displaced by the war in her country.

The World Health Organization indicated earlier this year that it would soon update its guidelines

to recommend most patients with drug-resistant TB use BPaL with 600 milligrams of linezolid.

Two experts not involved in Wednesday's study said the research and the WHO guidance were "major advances".

The BPaL treatment "is one of the defining achievements of the tuberculosis research community in this century," Guy Thwaites of Britain's Oxford University and Nguyen Viet Nhung of Vietnam's National Tuberculosis Control Programme wrote in an editorial in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The advances come amid warnings that the pandemic has stalled progress against tuberculosis.

"I very much worry that TB will — whether it's this year or next — again become the largest single killer of any infectious disease in the world," said Mel Spigelman, the president of the non-profit TB Alliance which funded the research.

Volodymyr meanwhile said he hoped that progress would continue so the treatment timeline gets even shorter.

"Maybe it will be two months — or even one," he said with a smile.

SOURCE: AFP



BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and south Bay and weak elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 6 September 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Magway regions, fairly widespread in lower Sagaing, Bago, Yangon regions and Kayah states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Ayeyawady region and isolated heavyfalls in Sagaing, Mandalay, Taninthayi regions and Kachin state. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squall with rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (30-35) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and (4-6) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Taninthayi region and Kayah, Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 September 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 September 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 September 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Germany seeks 'forgiveness' 50 years after Munich Olympics massacre

GERMANY on Monday sought "forgiveness" from families of victims in the 1972 Munich Olympics attack, admitting responsibility for a litany of failings that led to the deaths of 11 Israelis.

The apology by President Frank-Walter Steinmeier on behalf of Germany 50 years on came after a bitter and long fight by bereaved relatives for appropriate compensation and for Berlin to own up to mistakes made that led to the massacre.

"We cannot make up for what has happened, not even for what you have experienced and suffered in terms of defensiveness, ignorance and injustice. I am ashamed of that," said Steinmeier at a solemn

ceremony at the Fuerstenfeldbruck airbase where the attack reached its tragic climax.

"As head of state of this country and in the name of the Federal Republic of Germany, I ask you for forgiveness for the lack of protection of the Israeli athletes at the time of the Olympic Games in Munich, and for the lack of clarification afterwards, and for the fact that what happened happened."

On 5 September 1972, eight gunmen of the Palestinian militant group Black September stormed into the Israeli team's flat at the Olympic village, shooting dead two and taking nine Israelis hostage.

West German police responded with a bungled rescue



German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier (R), Israel's President Isaac Herzog (L) and Bavaria's State Premier Markus Soeder (background, C) attend a ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of an attack on the 1972 Munich Olympics, at the Fuerstenfeldbruck Air Base, southern Germany, on 5 September 2022. **PHOTO: THOMAS KIENZLE / AFP**

operation in which all nine hostages were killed, along with five of the eight hostage-takers and a police officer.

Despite the devastation, the International Olympic Committee announced on the morning of 6 September that

the Games would go on.

Steinmeier summarized the entire episode as triple failings — in the preparation of the Games and its security concept; the events of 5 and 6 September; and the "third failure began the day after the assassinations — the silence, the suppression and the forgetting".

For decades, there was disregard for the victims' suffering, he said, calling it "years of hardheartedness".

The Games were meant to showcase a new Germany 27 years after the Holocaust, and to be a marked difference from Hitler's 1936 propaganda showcase. But instead, they opened a deep rift with Israel.—AFP

Legionnaires' disease claims fifth life in Argentina: officials

LEGIONNAIRES' disease has claimed a fifth life among patients and staff at a clinic in northern Argentina, provincial health officials announced Sunday.

The health ministry in Tucuman province had announced four earlier deaths on Saturday, all in the clinic in San Miguel de Tucuman, and said a total of 11 people had been infected by the rare, but severe, lung disease.

The latest death was that of a 64-year-old man with co-morbidities, officials said.

Of the six others infected, three remain in hospital and the others are being monitored at home, said Luis Medina Cruz, the Tucuman health minister.

Local officials said they are examining the clinic's water sup-



This handout picture released by the Health Ministry of the Province of Tucuman shows Health Minister Carla Vizzotti (2-L), the representative in Argentina of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Eva Jane Llopis (2-R), and provincial Health Minister Luis Medina Ruiz (L) during a press conference in Tucuman, Argentina, on 3 September 2022. **PHOTO: TUCUMAN PROVINCE HEALTH MINISTRY / AFP**

ply and air-conditioning system.

The disease, which first appeared at a 1976 convention of the American Legion veterans group in the United States, has

been linked to contaminated water and unclean aeration systems. Symptoms include high fever, aches and trouble breathing.—AFP

Japan eyes new scheme to cap large firms' gas use in supply crunch

JAPAN looks to set up a scheme to enable a natural gas usage restriction order for large companies in the event of a sudden shortage, in a bid to address fears over energy supplies in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the industry ministry said Monday.

The plan is part of proposals compiled by a ministry panel the same day to ensure stable energy procurement. The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry aims to revise the gas business law to establish the new scheme before demand picks up for

this winter.

The global spot market of liquefied natural gas has become extremely tight, with Europe increasing LNG imports in preparation for the winter and bracing for the risk of a supply disruption by Russia.—Kyodo

China approves world's first inhalable Covid-19 vaccine

CHINESE drug regulators have approved the world's first inhalable Covid-19 vaccine, made by Tianjin-based manufacturer CanSino Biologics, boosting the company's share price by seven per cent on Monday.

The National Medical Products Administration gave the go-ahead for the vaccine for emergency use as a booster, the company said in a statement to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange on Sunday.

Following the announcement, company shares surged 14 per cent on Monday morning before closing 7.1 per cent higher than their opening value.

The needle-free vaccine — which can be stored and administered more easily than intramuscular jabs — will be given through a nebulizer, the company said.

"The approval will have a positive impact on the company's performance if the vaccine is subsequently purchased and used by relevant government agencies," the statement added.

The company did not offer details on when the adenovirus-vectored vaccine will be made available for public use.

There is no publicly avail-

able verified or peer-reviewed data on the efficacy of the new vaccine.

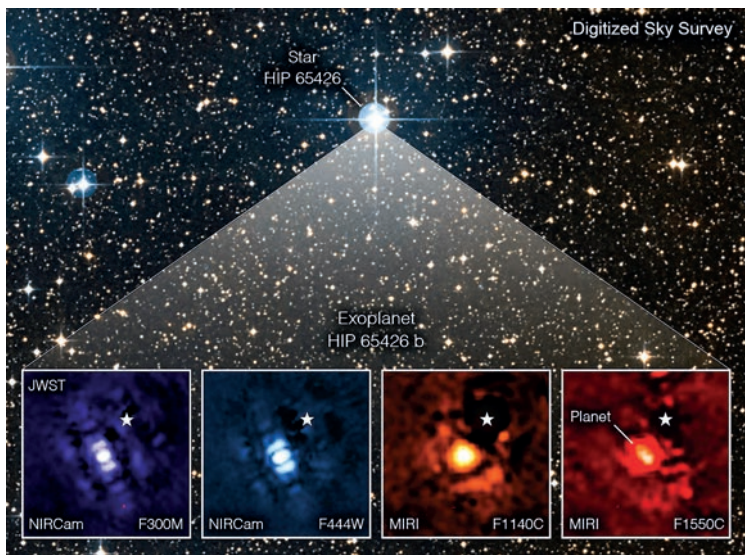
Scientists in several countries including Cuba, Canada and the United States are also trialling inhalable Covid-19 vaccines.

China has so far approved eight other locally manufactured injectable vaccines since 2020.

But the country's drug administrator is yet to greenlight any foreign vaccines, including mRNA shots produced by Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna that have better efficacy rates compared to other types of vaccines. China is the only major economy sticking to a zero-Covid policy, disrupting travel and businesses.

Officials across the country are now under pressure to curb local virus flare-ups ahead of a key political meeting next month. The southern tech hub of Shenzhen, with more than 18 million residents, imposed a weekend lockdown in most parts of the city on Saturday, while more than 21 million people in the southwestern metropolis of Chengdu are undergoing mass testing from Monday through Wednesday.—AFP

Webb telescope captures its first image of exoplanet



This annotated image obtained from NASA on 2 September 2022, shows a James Webb Space Telescope direct image of a planet outside our solar system. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / NASA/ESA / AFP**

THE James Webb space telescope has taken its first image of an exoplanet — a planet outside our solar system — as astronomers hail the device's performance since its launch last year.

Images from the most powerful space telescope ever built have thrilled observers in recent months as it orbits the Sun a million miles (1.6 million kilometres) from Earth.

Its latest pioneering pictures show the exoplanet, called HIP 65426 b, is a gas giant with no rocky surface and could not be habitable.

"This is a transformative moment, not only for Webb but also for astronomy generally,"

said Sasha Hinkley, astronomy professor at the University of Exeter, who led the observation team.

Webb's infrared gaze and coronagraphs — telescopic attachments that block out starlight — enable it to take direct images of exoplanets.

"It was really impressive how well the Webb coronagraphs worked to suppress the light of the host star," Hinkley said in a NASA statement on Thursday.

The HIP 65426 b exoplanet is six to 12 times the mass of Jupiter and young — about 15 to 20 million years old, compared to the 4.5-billion-year-old Earth.

The telescope, which only

released its first images in July, has already revealed dazzling new detail of the Phantom Galaxy and of the planet Jupiter.

The Hubble space telescope previously captured direct exoplanet images, but in far less detail.

"I think what's most exciting is that we've only just begun," said Aarynn Carter, of the University of California. "We may even discover previously unknown planets." The \$10-billion Webb telescope is a collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency and the Canadian Space Agency. It is expected to operate for approximately 20 years.—AFP

Floods cripple Indian tech hub Bangalore

FLOODS blamed on shoddy infrastructure crippled Indian IT hub Bangalore on Monday, with employees in the huge tech sector told to work from home and dozens of areas reportedly left without drinking water.

The southern metropolis of around 8.5 million people boomed in the 1990s, with its myriad outsourcing and software companies now employing millions in the "back office of the world".

But the city's companies have complained that infrastructure development has not kept up, with perennial traffic jams and unplanned construction on the dried-up beds of lakes leading to frequent flooding even after moderate rainfall.

On Monday large parts of the city were under water, with authorities deploying rubber dinghies to ferry people around and footage on social media showing

tractors being used to transport travellers from the airport.

The umbrella group for the IT sector, the Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA), advised employees to work from home while many schools and colleges were shut.

The supply of drinking water to more than 50 areas of the city was halted for two days after a pumping station was inundated, media reports said, as more rain was forecast.

"Honestly, the traffic situation in Bangalore is always bad but this is now another level," said one back-office employer for food delivery company Swiggy, requesting to stay anonymous.

"It's worse than ever before because of how many people have rushed back to the city after Covid. The infrastructure can't take the strain," he told AFP.—AFP

Iron Age ivory plaques unearthed in ancient Jerusalem mansion



A picture shows ivory plaques unearthed in excavations in the Givati Parking Lot in the City of David National Park near the walls of the old city of Jerusalem on 5 September 2022. The items, according to the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), are believed to have been inlaid in a couch-throne and can be dated to the Biblical First Temple era. **PHOTO: AFP**

ARCHAEOLOGISTS revealed Monday ivory plaques found in a luxurious Jerusalem Iron Age residence, a first-of-its-kind discovery at this location that sheds light on the owner's wealth and social status.

The ivory pieces were found in a building from around the eighth or seventh century BC, the First Temple era, in the City of David just below the current location of the Old City in east Jerusalem.

Sifting through the ruins in the building, likely burnt during the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BCE, diggers found around 1,500 ivory fragments, said Reli Avisar from Tel Aviv University, which excavated the site along with the Israel Antiquities Authority.

"This is a large collection, and when we took it to restoration, we discovered there was a finite number of motifs," she said. The decorations consisted of frames with rosettes and a tree in their centre, or lotus flowers and geometric patterns, and the plaques were probably used as decorations for wooden furniture.

Ivory, which is mentioned in the Bible in the context of royalty and wealth, was one of the most expensive goods in antiquity — pricier than gold — and the pieces at hand were taken from elephant tusks, the IAA said.—AFP

Famine 'at the door' in Somalia: UN humanitarian chief

THE UN's humanitarian chief warned on Monday that drought-ravaged Somalia was on the brink of famine and time was running out to save lives.

"Famine is at the door and we are receiving a final warning," Martin Griffiths, head of the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

(OCHA), told a press conference in Mogadishu.

"We are in the last moment of the 11th hour to save lives," he declared.

An upcoming food and nutrition report on Somalia has concrete evidence that famine will strike two regions between October and December, Griffiths

said.

"I've been shocked to my core these past few days at the level of pain and suffering we see so many Somalis enduring," said Griffiths, who began a visit to the country on Thursday.

Somalia and its neighbours in the Horn of Africa including Ethiopia and Kenya are in the

grip of the worst drought in more than 40 years following four failed rainy seasons that have wiped out livestock and crops.

Humanitarian agencies have been ringing alarm bells for months.

The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) last month said the number of people at risk of

starvation across the region had increased to 22 million.

In Somalia alone, the number of people facing crisis hunger levels is 7.8 million, or about half the population, while around a million have fled their homes on a desperate quest for food and water, UN agencies say.—AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Türkiye's inflation stays at 80% in boost to Erdogan

TÜRKIYE'S official inflation rate barely changed on Monday in a sign that a year-long crisis that has seen prices soar by 80 per cent may finally be starting to ease.

The TUIK state statistics agency said that consumer prices rose by 80.2 per cent in August from a year earlier.

The figure was fractionally higher than the 79.6 per cent reported in July and only a small bump up from the 78.6 per cent reading in June.

Türkiye's prices have been steadily rising since a low of 16.6 per cent in May 2021.

The strategically important developing nation lurched into its latest economic crisis when President Recep Tayyip Erdogan launched an unorthodox

experiment that attempted to fight inflation by lowering the main interest rate.

Conventional economic theory embraced by almost every other big nation pursues the exact opposite approach.

But Erdogan argues that higher interest rates contribute to price increases by making borrowing more expensive for businesses.

The pious president also says that charging interest violates Islamic rules against usury.

The central bank said over the weekend it expects the inflation rate to fall to 65 per cent by the end of the year.

Erdogan himself says prices will only start falling in January.—AFP



People shop at a vegetable and fruit market in Ankara's historic Ulus district on 14 April 2022. PHOTO: AFP

ECB poised for big rate hike in face of record inflation



(FILES) In this file photo taken on 21 July 2022 the headquarters of the European Central Bank (ECB) is pictured prior to the news conference on eurozone monetary policy following the meeting of the governing council of the ECB in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany. After raising interest rates for the first time in over a decade at their last meeting, European Central Bank policymakers are poised to deliver another bumper hike on 8 September 2022 in a show of determination to tame soaring inflation. PHOTO: AFP

AFTER raising interest rates for the first time in over a decade at their last meeting, European Central Bank policymakers are poised to deliver another bumper hike on Thursday in a show of determination to tame soaring inflation.

Steep increases in the price of energy in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine have heaped pressure on households and sent the pace of consumer price rises to new highs.

Eurozone inflation hit 9.1 per cent in August, a record in the history of the single currency and well above the two-per-

cent rate targeted by the ECB.

The "only question" for the ECB's meeting was "whether it will be a 50 or 75 basis point hike," said Carsten Brzeski, head of macro at the ING bank.

Speaking at the annual Jackson Hole central banking symposium at the end of August, ECB board member Isabel Schnabel said the ECB needed to show "determination" to tame price rises.

Under this approach, the central bank would respond "more forcefully to the current bout of inflation, even at the risk of lower growth and higher unemployment", she said.—AFP

Cuban peso at weakest in decades as economic crisis persists

THE Cuban peso is at its weakest against the US dollar since the 1990s, a currency tracker said Sunday, as the communist island struggles through its worst economic crisis since the fall of the Soviet bloc.

It now takes 150 Cuban pesos to buy a US dollar — and the same to buy a euro — on the informal currency market, according to independent journal El Toque, which publishes a daily listing of unofficial exchange rates.

"The exchange rate is a reflection of the contraction in national productive activity,

of scarcity, of monetary imbalances and of despair," Colombia-based Cuban economist Pavel Vidal told AFP.

Cuba is undergoing its worst economic crisis since the 1990s, with food and medicine shortages and daily blackouts.

The island's currency hit its low point of 150 at week's end, slipping slightly from the previous rate of 148 pesos to the dollar.

The island's central bank, trying to put the brakes on peso devaluation, last month began trading at a fixed parity of 120 pesos in state exchange houses

— the same rate then prevailing in the informal market.

The dollar's value skyrocketed in January 2021 after the central government in Havana announced financial reform measures and set the official exchange rate at 24 pesos.

That unleashed a spiral in costs, with the inflation rate hitting 70 per cent by the end of 2021.

Vidal said the government's "desperate" effort to obtain foreign currency to pay for imports and support productive activity was understandable.—AFP

Euro hits 20-year low against dollar

THE euro sunk below \$0.99 on Monday, a 20-year-low, following the announcement last week that Russia would cut off gas deliveries to Germany via the Nord Stream pipeline.

The euro fell 0.70 per cent to 0.9884 dollars Monday at 0535 GMT, its lowest since December 2002.

The European currency has continued to weaken against the dollar since the

start of the year, hammered by economic turbulence and uncertainties sparked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Russian gas giant Gazprom said Friday the Nord Stream pipeline due to re-open at the weekend would remain shut indefinitely.

It said it had discovered "oil leaks" in a turbine during a planned three-day maintenance operation, and that the pipeline would remain closed

until it was repaired.

Resumption of deliveries via the pipeline which runs from near Saint Petersburg to Germany under the Baltic Sea, had been due to resume on Saturday.

Following the imposition of economic sanctions over the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine, Russia has reduced or halted supplies to different European nations, causing energy prices to soar.—AFP

German car sales up in August but outlook stays gloomy



The Sion car, a solar electric vehicle (SEV) developed by Sono Motors, is surrounded by viewers in Munich, southern Germany, on 25 July 2022, during the unveiling of the final series production design. **PHOTO: AFP**

GERMAN car sales rose in August, official figures published Monday showed, despite persistent supply bottlenecks which have led to hefty declines in recent months.

Just under 200,000 vehicles were registered in Germany in August, three per cent more than in the same month last year, the federal transport authority KBA said in a statement.

The increase arrests months of decline with new registrations falling by 12.9 per cent and 18.1 per cent in July and June, respectively.

However, the rise was “simply the result of an extremely weak August

last year, as well as an extra working day in August 2022”, the VDIK car importers’ federation said in a statement.

“Minimal growth in car registrations cannot hide the fact that the German car market is headed towards its worst result in 30 years,” VDIK president Reinhard Zirpel said.

Monthly sales were still “well below” the average of recent years, while new orders had decreased “significantly”, he said.

Auto manufacturers have had to deal with supply issues for months, with shortages of key components leading to intermittent production stops and a slump in sales.

In particular, a shortage of semiconductors, used in the vehicles’ electronic systems, has slowed the industry down.

The production issues have been compounded by rising energy prices, which have dampened demand and put Europe on course for a recession later this year.

Battery-powered vehicles continued to outperform the general car market, with sales up 10.9 per cent in August on the previous year.

With slightly more than 32,000 units sold, the electric vehicles represented 16.1 per cent of the car market in August.—AFP

European stocks, euro tumble as Russia fuels energy crisis

EUROPEAN stocks tumbled Monday and the euro hit a new 20-year dollar low on energy crisis fears, after Russia said it would not restart gas flows to Germany and effectively most of the continent.

Natural gas prices spiked almost a third, while oil rallied on expectations OPEC and its Russia-led allies could decide at a meeting Monday to lower crude output in a bid to lift prices.

Europe’s fast-moving gas crisis sent Frankfurt equities slumping more than three per cent before trimming losses, while Paris shed two per cent at one stage.

London stocks also lost ground before the much-anticipated announcement of Britain’s next prime minister at around 1130 GMT.

‘Weaponization of energy’

“Russia’s ongoing

weaponization of energy supplies continues to increase downside risks for European economies and the euro,” said Lee Hardman, currency analyst at financial services group MUFG.

The euro sank Monday to \$0.9878, its lowest since December 2002, despite expectations the European Central Bank will hike interest rates again Thursday to combat soaring inflation.

The shared eurozone unit has collapsed by about 13 per cent against the dollar since the start of the year, hit also by the US Federal Reserve’s more aggressive monetary tightening.

State gas giant Gazprom announced late Friday the key Nord Stream pipeline would remain shut indefinitely, blaming leaks.

Gazprom’s announcement came the same day

as the G7 nations said they would work to quickly implement a price cap on Russian oil exports, a move that would starve the Kremlin of critical revenue for its war on Ukraine.

Resumption of deliveries via the pipeline, which runs from near Saint Petersburg to Germany under the Baltic Sea, had been due to resume on Saturday after what Gazprom had described as three days of maintenance work.

‘Grim shadow before winter’

The news intensified an energy crisis caused by Europe’s sanctions on Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine in February.

Investors are fearful of an energy supply crunch during the peak-demand northern hemisphere winter.

That could potentially lead to a painful recession.—AFP

Changing Trade Name of Pesticide

Aventine Limited would like to change the trade name of the following pesticide which is registered by RHF PTE., LTD.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg. No.
1.	Armo Cyano 10% EC	Armo Cyper 10% EC	Cypermethrin 10% EC	F2016-991

And we would like to invite any objection for the above changing trade name within (14) days of the publication of this notice to the Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogon, Insein.

Distributor: Aventine Limited

No.126(A), Kabaraye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (22016S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (22016S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S X-PRESS FEEDERS LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (766N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (766N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BMC PANDORA VOY.NO. (09/22)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BMC PANDORA VOY.NO. (09/22)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **SPW-6** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S’PORE) PTE LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Liz Truss named as UK's third woman prime minister

BRITAIN'S Conservative party Monday announced Liz Truss as its new leader to succeed Prime Minister Boris Johnson and confront Britain's deepest economic crisis in decades.

The foreign secretary comfortably beat her rival, former finance minister Rishi Sunak, by about 57 to 43 per cent after a gruelling summer-long contest decided by just over 170,000 Conservative members — a tiny sliver of Britain's electorate.

In a short victory speech at the announcement in a central London convention hall, Truss said it was an "honour" to be elected after undergoing "one of the longest job interviews in



New Conservative Party leader and Britain's Prime Minister-elect Liz Truss (L) reacts next to her husband Hugh O'Leary as she hears the announcement of the winner of the Conservative Party leadership contest in central London on 5 September 2022. **PHOTO: STEFAN ROUSSEAU / POOL / AFP**

history".

"I campaigned as a Conserv-

ative, and I will govern as a Conservative," she said, touting Tory

values of low taxes and personal responsibility.

Truss vowed a "bold plan" to address tax cuts and the energy crisis. Details are expected in the coming days. Truss, 47, will be only the UK's third female prime minister following Theresa May and Margaret Thatcher.

She will formally take office on Tuesday, after Johnson tenders his resignation to Queen Elizabeth II.

The leadership contest began in July after Johnson announced his departure following a slew of scandals and resignations from his government, including Sunak's.

Truss reserved a portion

of her short speech to praising Johnson's record, including on Brexit and the Covid pandemic, and said he was "admired from Kyiv to Carlisle".

That won warm applause from the Tory faithful present. However, the right-wing ideologue faces a tough task in winning over public opinion.

A YouGov poll in late August found 52 per cent thought Truss would make a "poor" or "terrible" prime minister. Forty-three per cent said they did not trust her "at all" to deal with the burning issue of the rise in the cost of living, as energy prices and inflation generally rocket amid Russia's war in Ukraine.— AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

3-yr-old dies after left for hours in bus, heatstroke suspected

A 3-year-old girl died Monday after she was likely left for about five hours inside a kindergarten school bus in Makinohara, Shizuoka Prefecture, southwest of Tokyo, police said.

The girl is suspected of dying of heatstroke, according to the Shizuoka city fire department, which has jurisdiction over Makinohara.— Kyodo

2 Russian embassy staff killed in Afghanistan bombing: report

TWO Russian embassy staff were killed Monday in a blast near the country's diplomatic mission in Kabul, Reuters reported, citing the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The report also cited the Russian news agency RIA and said that a diplomat and an embassy security guard had been wounded in an apparent suicide bombing in the Afghan capital.— Kyodo

Iran considers buying Sukhoi Su-35 jets from Russia

IRAN is weighing plans to buy Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets from Russia, Air Force chief Hamid Vahedi was reported as saying by local media.

"The purchase of the Sukhoi 35 from Russia is being considered by the Air Force" of Iran, Vahedi told Borna news agency which affiliated to the sports ministry, on Sunday.

It comes after the United States military said last week that Russia began receiving Iranian combat drones to be used in the Ukraine war, with many of them having already proven faulty.

Both Iran and Russia are targeted by stringent sanctions

— Iran after the US unilaterally pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers, and Russia since it invaded Ukraine in February.

The two countries have responded to the sanctions by boosting cooperation in key areas to help prop up their economies.

Tehran and Moscow have for years been in talks for the purchase of Sukhoi 30 jets, a prospective deal that drew a sharp rebuke from Washington.

But Vahedi said on Sunday that "the purchase of Sukhoi 30s is not on the agenda".

"We hope to acquire in the future the so-called fourth gen-

eration of Su-35 fighter jets," he added.

In 2007, the two countries concluded a contract for the purchase of Russia's S-300 anti-missile system, but Moscow suspended the sale in 2010 in compliance with a United Nations Security Council resolution against Iran's nuclear programme.

The deal was put on the table once again in 2015, shortly before the signing of Iran's nuclear accord with world powers.

Iran's defence ministry then confirmed in May 2016 that the Islamic republic was "in possession of the strategic S-300 system".—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Western sanctions to blame for halt to Germany gas shipments: Kremlin

THE Kremlin said on Monday the halt of gas deliveries to Germany via the Nord Stream pipeline was caused by Western sanctions that prevent the maintenance of its infrastructure.

"Problems with pumping (gas) arose due to sanctions that were imposed against our country," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, several days after the key pipeline was closed indefinitely for repairs.

"Sanctions that prevent

the units from being serviced, that prevent them from being moved without appropriate legal guarantees... it is these sanctions imposed by Western states that have brought the situation to what we see now," Peskov added.

He said the Kremlin "rejects attempts" by the West to "place responsibility and blame" on Moscow. "It is the collective West — in this case the European Union, Canada and Britain — that are to blame for the situation

reaching this point," Peskov said.

Russian gas giant Gazprom said Friday that the Nord Stream pipeline due to reopen at the weekend after three days of maintenance would remain shut for repairs after "oil leaks" were discovered in a turbine. Following the imposition of economic sanctions over the Kremlin's offensive of Ukraine, Russia has reduced or halted supplies to different European nations, causing energy prices to soar.—AFP



(FILES) In this file photo taken on 30 August 2022 facilities to receive and distribute natural gas are pictured on the grounds of gas transport and pipeline network operator Gascade in Lubmin, northeastern Germany, close to the border with Poland - the industrial infrastructure includes a receiving and distribution station for the Nord Stream 1 pipeline and is also the place. **PHOTO: AFP**

OPEC+ weighs output decision, with a possible cut

THE OPEC+ oil cartel is expected to agree on another small production increase Monday, though it could opt to cut output to lift prices that have tumbled over recession fears.

The 13 members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) cartel, led by Saudi Arabia, and their 10 Russian-led allies will hold a regular meeting to adjust their quotas for October.

Oil prices soared to almost \$140 a barrel in March after Russia invaded Ukraine, but they have since receded amid recession fears, Covid lockdowns in major consumer China and a possible Iran nuclear deal.

The main international benchmark, Brent, and the US contract, WTI, have since fall-

en under the \$100 mark, fuelling speculation that OPEC+ could cut output to prop up prices.

“The group is expected to leave output targets unchanged but it’s likely that a cut will be at least discussed which, if followed through on, would create more volatility and uncertainty at a time of considerable unease,” said Craig Erlam, market analyst at OANDA trading platform.

“An output cut won’t make them any friends at a time when the world is facing a cost-of-living crisis already and the group has failed to keep up with demand this year,” said Erlam.

At its last meeting, OPEC+ agreed to a small increase of 100,000 barrels per day for September – six times lower than its previous decisions.



A man makes a phone call outside the OPEC headquarters during the 177th Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meeting in Vienna, Austria, on 6 December 2019. PHOTO: AFP

OPEC+ cut oil production at the height of the Covid pandemic in 2020 to reverse a drastic drop in prices, but it began to increase them again last year.

The United States has

pressed the cartel to step up production in order to tame energy prices that have sent inflation to a decades high, threatening to spark recessions in major economies. —AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

M6.8 quake kills 30 in China's southwestern province of Sichuan

A magnitude 6.8 earthquake hit China's southwestern province of Sichuan on Monday, leaving at least 30 people dead and over 30 injured, Chinese media reported.

The quake struck Luding County in Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture at 12:52 pm at a depth of 16 kilometres, prompting authorities to dispatch personnel for rescue efforts, they said. The quake was felt in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan, which is 226 km away from the epicentre, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. Chinese President Xi Jinping ordered all-out rescue efforts to minimize casualties, the Xinhua report said. Earthquakes frequently strike Sichuan. A large quake that jolted the province in 2008 left over 87,000 people dead or missing, including a number of pupils under flattened school buildings. — Kyodo

At least six killed in Afghanistan earthquake

At least six people were killed and nine others injured after an earthquake in eastern Afghanistan overnight, an official said on Monday.

The 5.3-magnitude tremor that hit districts along the eastern border with Pakistan comes less than three months after a powerful quake killed more than 1,000 people, also along the same frontier.

The latest quake was felt in the provinces of Kunar, Laghman and Nangarhar, and in the capital Kabul.

“We are collecting information from other areas regarding casualties and damages,” deputy minister for disaster management Sharafuddin Muslim told AFP.

Afghanistan is frequently hit by earthquakes — especially in the Hindu Kush mountain range, which lies near the junction of the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates. —AFP

China accuses US of ‘tens of thousands’ of cyberattacks



China has accused the US National Security Agency of launching ‘tens of thousands’ of cyberattacks. PHOTO: AFP/FILE/SAUL LOEB

BEIJING on Monday accused the United States of launching “tens of thousands” of cyber-

attacks on China and pilfering troves of sensitive data, including from a public research university.

Washington has accused Beijing of cyberattacks against US businesses and government agencies, one of the issues over which ties between the two powers have nosedived in recent years.

China has consistently denied the claims and in turn lashed out against alleged US cyber espionage, but has rarely made public disclosures of specific attacks.

But a report released Monday by its National Computer Virus Emergency Response Center (CVERC) accused the US National Security Agency (NSA) of carrying out “tens of

thousands of malicious attacks on network targets in China in recent years”.

It specifically accused the NSA's Office of Tailored Access Operations (TAO) of infiltrating the Northwestern Polytechnical University in the city of Xi'an.

The university is funded by China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, and specializes in aeronautical and space research.

CVERC alleged that TAO infiltrated the university's networks and took “control of tens of thousands of network devices” including servers, routers and network switches. —AFP

Powerful typhoon Hinnamnor may approach southwestern Japan Tuesday

POWERFUL typhoon Hinnamnor may approach Japan's southwestern main island of Kyushu on Tuesday, the weather agency said, while warning of high waves, strong wind gusts and mudslides.

The season's 11th typhoon was moving slowly north over the East China Sea after passing between Ishigaki and Miyako islands in Okinawa Prefecture, the Japan Meteorological Agency said Sunday. The agency said people in eastern and western Japan should also stay alert for heavy rain and related mudslides



People hold onto a roadside tree due to strong winds caused by typhoon Hinnamnor on 4 September 2022, in Naha, Okinawa Prefecture. PHOTO: KYODO

and floods. It upgraded the intensity rating of the typhoon from “strong” to “very strong” on Sunday afternoon. According to a forecast for the 24 hours through 6 pm Monday, 180 millimetres of rain is expected in southern Kyushu and Shikoku, 150 mm in Okinawa, the Amami Islands and the Tokai region, and 120 mm in northern Kyushu. As of 6 pm Sunday, Hinnamnor was located around 270 kilometres west-northwest of Kume Island, moving north at around 20 km per hour, the agency said. —Kyodo

OPEC+ weighs output decision, with a possible cut

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SPORT

Reece James signs new long-term deal at Chelsea



West Ham United's Spanish midfielder Pablo Fornals (L) fights for the ball with Chelsea's English defender Reece James (R) during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and West Ham United at Stamford Bridge in London on 3 September 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

CHELSEA and England defender Reece James has signed a new five-year contract that will keep him at Stamford Bridge until 2027, the Premier League club announced on Monday.

The 22-year-old right-back has made 128 appearances for the Blues after coming through their academy.

"I am over the moon with

my new contract and I'm thankful for the fans, the new ownership and everyone involved in the club," James told Chelsea's website.

"I cannot wait to see what the future holds, and I am sure we will have the chance of winning many trophies.

"I grew up supporting this club and I've been here since I

was a six-year-old. I put pen to paper on a new deal because this is the club I want to be at. We have a bright future ahead of us."

Chelsea chairman Todd Boehly said: "We are thrilled to give Reece a new long-term contract at Chelsea. He is an outstanding player and a true Chelsea man." —AFP

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Italian FA probing anti-semitic chants from Juve, Inter fans

THE Italian Football Federation announced Monday that they have launched an investigation into anti-semitic chanting from Juventus and Inter Milan fans over the weekend. A video posted on Twitter shows a group of Inter fans chanting "the champions of Italy are Jews" just before kick-off in Saturday's Milan derby, when both sets of supporters were doing their pre-match displays. Milan published the video on their account with the comment in English "such a shame".

Another video circulated of Juventus fans in the away end of Fiorentina's Artemio Franchi stadium chanting "the Viola aren't Italians, they're a pack of Jews". —AFP

Myanmar team leaves for Saudi Arabia to participate in 2023 Asian U-20 Qualifiers

THE Myanmar national U-20 team left for Saudi Arabia yesterday to enter the 2023 AFC U-20 Asian Cup Qualifiers.

Eight members of the coaching staff and 23 players are participating in the U-20 Myanmar team which will play against China, Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, and the Maldives in the tourney.

The qualifying matches of the Asian U-20 Championship will be contested by 44 teams divided into 10 groups, and the first ten teams from each of the ten groups and the best five second-placed teams will advance to the next round.

Myanmar team's Group A includes Kazakhstan, which will host the 2023 Asian U-20 final tournament, and Uzbekistan which has won direct qualification. So the results of playing against these teams will not be



The Myanmar national U-20 team together with coaches are seen at the Yangon International Airport yesterday ahead of the 2023 AFC U-20 Asian Cup Qualifiers. **PHOTO: MFF**

taken into account, but only the results of Saudi Arabia, China, Maldives and Myanmar's group games will be calculated

to determine which will win the qualifiers.

Myanmar will play against China on 10 September, Uzbek-

istan on 12 September, Saudi Arabia on 16 September, and Maldives on 18 September. —GNLM