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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.

Trade value at Myawady trade zone exceeds US\$171 million in August

THE value of trade at the Myawady border trade zone is estimated at US\$171.069 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce's statistics.

Myanmar's export via the Myawady border to neighbouring country Thailand was valued at \$51.221 million and import was worth \$120.848 million.

Myanmar's exports through the Myawady border were 1,195 tonnes of broken rice, over 20,165 tonnes of corn, 451 tonnes of black gram, green gram and black-eyed peas, over 6,700 tonnes

of onion, 513 tonnes of rubber, 26 tonnes of dried ginger and other goods.

Vehicle and auto parts, machines and equipment, construction materials, petroleum products, fertilizer, plastic raw materials, cotton, pharmaceuticals and other items were also imported through the Myawady border post.

The trade value was down by \$37.158 million compared to that of the corresponding period last year, with a decrease of \$31.596 million in exports and \$5.562 million in imports.

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Myanmar pockets over US\$22 mln from seaborne rice exports in August



Workers are pictured filling the bags with export rice at the rice mill.

MYANMAR'S seaborne rice exports to international trade partners amounted to US\$22.144 million in August 2022, the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce indicated.

Myanmar shipped over 29,000 tonnes of rice worth \$11.618 million and over 31,940 tonnes of broken rice worth \$10.526 million by the sea in August.

In August, Myanmar sent over 16,100 tonnes of rice to European Union member countries and over 12,900 tonnes of rice to

Asian countries. Myanmar conveyed over 3,920 tonnes of rice to Poland, over 2,320 to Italy, 1,350 to the Netherlands, over 1,270 to Belgium, over 1,230 to the Czech Republic, 1,800 to Romania, 1,020 to Slovenia, 1,000 to the UK, 500 each to Germany and Slovakia, 300 each to Croatia and France, 250 to Hungary, 275 to Libya and 50 to Estonia respectively.

Meanwhile, the export volume to Asian countries stood at 7,880 tonnes of rice to China, over 1,240 to Malaysia, 2,600 to the Philippines, 1,000 to Sri Lanka, over 130 to Hong

Kong SAR and 90 to Singapore respectively.

At that time, Myanmar conveyed approximately 12,470 tonnes of rice worth \$4.593 million to neighbouring countries via cross-border trade, with nearly 12,050 tonnes of rice through Myanmar-China border posts and about 420 through the Myanmar-Thailand border trade.

The volume of rice exported by sea and border routes totalled 41,470 tonnes with an estimated income of \$16.211 million in August.

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Judgements passed on 1 special criminal appeal case and 4 special civil appeal cases; 4 special civil appeal cases heard

THE special appeal court composing Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and Supreme Court Judges U Kyi Thein, U Tin Hone, U Thaug Naing and U Thein Ko Ko gave judgement on one special criminal appeal case – No 2/2022 (Mandalay), and also delivered judgements on four special civil appeal cases – No 2/2022 (Yangon), No 12/2021 (Mandalay), No 3/2022 (Yangon) and No 6/2022 (Mandalay), at the office room 1 of the Union Supreme Court yesterday morning.

Moreover, they heard four special civil appeal cases No 3/2021 (Magway), No 15/2021 (Yangon), No 41/2020 (Mon) and No 21/2022 (Yangon) following the COVID-19 health rules. — MNA

Statement on systematic purchases and registration of SIM cards

1. According to the investigation of the Department of Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, some SIM card users are using the SIM cards without filling up the correct user names and Citizenship Scrutiny Card numbers.
2. Currently, it will check the user names and CSC numbers used in SIM card registration with the e-ID Database of the Ministry of Immigration and Population. Therefore, the users should buy and use the SIM cards after registering with CSC (original) for names and card numbers, and if it is found the data of currently using SIM cards are filled incorrectly, they will be cancelled and the balances will be nationalized.
3. The operators and SIM card sellers should follow the instructions in selling the SIM cards and registration processes, and if they fail to do so, they will be taken action in accordance with the procedures.
4. Therefore, the users should fill in the correct data when they buy SIM cards and check whether the currently used SIM cards are registered correctly. If they are not, the users should register with correct data through the Online services of respective mobile operators, at sale counters and mobile shops in time to avert cancellation.

Posts and Telecommunications Department

Notification for public awareness

THE people are informed that they can solve the difficulties on citizenship scrutiny cards and household registration form-66/6 (AHtaSa) at relevant township immigration offices.

1. Citizenship scrutiny card

- (a) Those who lost CSC or have damaged CSC must report it to relevant township immigration offices.
- (b) Those who do not take CSC after turning 10 can apply for the cards at relevant immigration offices or join for the cards in the implementation of the Pankhinn project.
- (c) Despite having made the CSC for 10 years old, they have to change new cards in respective age-wise terms.
- (d) If they face some different facts in CSC, they have to amend these wrong facts at relevant township immigration offices.
- (e) No one is to hold more than one CSC. If so, they have to hand over these cards to relevant township immigration offices as quickly as possible. If they do not hand over the additional cards by 1 November 2022, the latest CSC will be approved, and the remaining ones will be inserted into the list of revocation.
- (f) Those who hold the national registration cards must change their cards to the CSC at the relevant township immigration office (as only chance for eligible persons).
- (g) If the persons suspect somebody of holding their CSC, they have to report it to relevant township immigration offices.

2. Form-66/6 household registration (AHtaSa)

- (a) Those who lost or have damaged Form-66/6 (AHtaSa) must report it to relevant township immigration offices for solving the problems.
- (b) If members of the family mentioned in Form-66/6 (AHtaSa) receive CSC, they have to fill CSC number at relevant township immigration offices without fail.
- (c) If facts and data at Form-66/6 (AHtaSa) are different from CSC, they have to amend them at relevant township immigration offices. (For example CSC number, name, date of birth, father's name and mother's name)
- (d) Those holding more than one Form-66/6 (AHtaSa) must report to relevant township immigration offices as quickly as possible. (For example: although they have made household registration in Pathein, they made one more registration again in Yangon.) If they do not hand over the additional registration till 1 November 2022, the latest registration will be approved and previous Forms-66/6 (AHtaSa) will be cancelled.
- (e) Whenever they have changes of data for Form-66/6 (AHtaSa) for moving in and out, giving birth or death, they have to amend new information at relevant township immigration offices.
- (f) Those who do not have any household registration form-66/6 (AHtaSa) in any area must contact nearby township immigration offices for receiving scrutiny under the Pankhinn project.

3. As the Ministry of Immigration and Population has enlisted more than 52 million people holding any cards of citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens and any IDs through e-ID biographic registration software, the people need to contact nearby township immigration offices for solving the problems of CSC and other IDs, additional IDs, differences in Form-66/6 (AHtaSa) and additional registration. Action will be taken against the overdue measures.

Ministry of Immigration and Population

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

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

In order to prevent the unnecessary loss of human resources, the State Administration Council has publicly invited the basic education staff who are absent from duty to resume their duties and those who take part in armed resistance under various names of groups, including PDFs. Meanwhile, 3,156 education workers, who were absent from their duties, another 1,009 people, who want to withdraw the cases that were opened against them, and 231 PDF members have contacted and returned to the legal fold. Then, they were given back to their parents systematically and the numbers of people who enter the legal fold and those who wish to are rising. Therefore, the government is making efforts to accept more numbers of those people.

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

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

Victory in sports needs time, training and development

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

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

Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering holds 2/2022 meeting

THERE are still weaknesses although the country is accelerating the processes of combatting money laundering and terrorist financing, said Member of the State Administration Council Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Chairman of the Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering during the 2/2022 meeting yesterday.

He continued that it should understand the risks of money laundering regarding drug cases, corruption, and smuggling at border and companies. It should conduct field study/court heard processes for non-financial businesses and professions.

It needs to supervise the Hundis, promote international cooperation, work with legal organizations, uncover the suspected cases, promote the investigation of financial status



MoHA Union Minister Lt-Gen Soe Htut makes the speech at the 2/2022 meeting of the Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering yesterday.

in criminal cases, take actions against the prominent money launderers, accelerate the action to nationalize the possessions, keep the money and property well until the order is

passed to nationalize and combat the terrorist financing and proliferation financing related to weapons of mass destruction.

He said the Financial Action Task Force-FATF put Myanmar

on the Grey List in February 2020. Therefore, the report on the progress of the country was sent to the Asia Pacific Joint Group-APJG once every four months. The country partici-

pated in the meetings and sent successive signs of progress to the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering-APG once a year to promote the standards on low-standard recommendations.

For such efforts, the country received better points in some recommendations of FATF. It has already sent the activities to APJG six times. The first report included the growths of 15 plans and it sent the progress of 11 plans starting the fifth report.

The FATF urged Myanmar to accomplish the work plans including the investigation of money laundering, prosecution and nationalization in October 2022, he added.

Then those present at the meeting coordinated the discussion and the Union Minister concluded the meeting.—MNA

Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity the most important for Myanmar

U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, addressed the speech at the meeting which was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Yangon), the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies' meeting

room on 19 September 2022 at 1:30 pm with the Senior Advisory Group and Executive Members of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS).

In the Union minister's opening remarks, he clarified the implementation and respon-

sibilities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, recent international cooperation by the ministry, the existing cooperation with the United Nations, and regional organizations, especially with ASEAN, and recent challenges in Myanmar. Furthermore, the Union minister explained

the purpose of the establishment of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies. Additionally, the Union minister coordinated the responsibility of the Board of Trustees, Senior Advisory Board and Executive Members of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies for their successful implementation of various tasks. In addition, the Union minister highlighted that the Nation's Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity are the most important for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Furthermore, he emphasized that the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies have to be contributing valuable advice from the perspective of academics through track-2 diplomacy in various sectors such as politics, defence and economy that can be beneficial for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Also, the Union minister encouraged the Myanmar

Institute of Strategic and International Studies to continuously analyze and identify the reviews and make recommendations for the development and National Interests.

Then, U Thant Kyaw, Chairman of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies explained the operational environments of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies. As well, Senior Advisory Board Members and Executive Members presented the suggestions and considerations in this meeting.

Chairman U Thant Kyaw of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Senior Advisory Members and Executive Members of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, the director-general of the Department of Strategic Studies and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the meeting.—MNA



MoFA Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin addresses the meeting at the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs(Yangon).

MoBA Union Minister meets UNHCR's Director of Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau



UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung met Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific of UNHCR Mr. Indrika Ratwatte in the meeting hall of the ministry at 2 pm on 19 September.

In the meeting, both parties discussed the development, pace

and stability of border areas in Myanmar, steps being taken for the development of socio-economic lives and human resources for ethnic people living in border areas, preparations being done to re-admit and resettle displaced persons from Rakhine State and plans to be implemented in the future from the National-level committee on resettlement and closure of temporary camps.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Phyo Thant, the permanent secretary, the director-general and officials. — MNA

The UNHCR Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau Director calls on the MoBA Union Minister in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

National Television and Radio Broadcasting Development Team holds 1st coordination meeting

THE National Television and Radio Broadcasting Development Team held its first coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, in his capacity as Chairman, said the ministry amended the Television and Broadcasting Law under the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No 53 on 28-8-2015 while the Amendment of the Television and Broadcasting Law under the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No 19 on 21-6-2018, the by-laws with Notification 104/2020 of the ministry on 20-10-2020, the second amendment law on 1-11-2021 with the State Administration Council Law No 63/2021. The processes of issuing by-laws for law amendments were suspended temporarily as the Ministry of Planning and Finance is operating to amend the Myanmar Court Fees Act.

In such doing, it includes the National Television and Radio Broadcasting Develop-

ment Team for the Spectrum Allocation and Technical Standard and Television and Radio Broadcasting Council for Content. The National Television and Radio Broadcasting Development Team was organized by the government on 25-1-2016 with Notification 21/2016 and it was reorganized under the amendment law's Section 4 with Notification No 86/2018 on 25-7-2018.

He continued that the team will cooperate with the council and the Ministry of Transport and Communications to draft a sustainable strategic plan and policies for broadcasting services. Moreover, it will supervise the release of the annual Spectrum Allocation of the country to the public, drafting of policies for broadcasting development, technical criteria for production, importing, distribution and sales of broadcasting technology and its related materials and the production, importing, distribution and sales of satellites, receivers and related materials. It will work for proper participation of



The first coordination meeting of the National Television and Radio Broadcasting Development Team is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

broadcasting services in the framework of the supervision of communications policy.

Although the team and council will serve as Regulators for the Broadcast Industry in the future, the council has not been organized so far. The team should serve the duty of

the council on behalf of it.

Then, the team vice-chairman Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications Brig-Gen Lu Mon coordinated the discussion.

Director-General of MRTV U Ye Naing reported on the Television and Broadcasting Law,

by-law, amendment and ongoing procedures, activities of the New FM Frequency Migration and broadcasting services with the MRTV DTH system.

The Union minister concluded the meeting after the presentations of the attendees. — MNA

MoI Union Minister meets broadcasting media companies



Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn addresses the meeting with broadcasting media firms in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE meeting of the Union Minister of the Ministry of Information and the broadcasting organiza-

tions was held in the ministry meeting hall yesterday afternoon. The meeting was attend-

ed by Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, the permanent secre-

tary and officials from respective departments and officials from the broadcasting media such as Forever Group, Shwe Than Lwin media, Fortune Broadcasting, KMA TeleMedia, My Multi-Media Group, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Padamyar FM, FM Bagan and Cherry FM.

In the meeting, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn said that as the role of the media is important, it is necessary to act correctly in the interests of the state and people forever. Media needs to be flexible with modern systems and consistent with state policies. Some media outlets are spreading fake news and rumours, therefore people lose the right to know the truth. The Union minister thanked the

media companies because they have been cooperating with governments for the people through the ages. Media companies need to broadcast good news and continue participating in the task of ensuring peace and stability of the State.

Then, the deputy minister discussed the points for broadcast media to be aware of.

Next, the MRTV director-general talked about TV and FM broadcasters, which are cooperating with the MRTV.

Furthermore, the permanent secretary discussed the conditions of broadcasting law enforcement. The participants discussed the work progress and finally the Union minister concluded the meeting. — MNA

World Ozone Day observed in Nay Pyi Taw

THE use of alternative materials that do not deplete the ozone will play an important role in the development and maintenance of cooling technologies that reduce global warming, said Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi during a ceremony held to mark World Ozone Day at the Environmental Protection Department in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

“Businesses need to reduce their use of ozone-depleting substances with high global warming potential. By using a combination of energy-saving cooling control technologies and efficiency-enhancing technologies, ozone depletion can be

reduced. In addition to reducing climate change, there will be benefits to prevent food loss,” the Union minister continued.

The Union minister also highlighted the theme “Montreal Protocol @ 35: global cooperation protecting life on earth” by saying that the Montreal Protocol has a broader impact on climate change and the theme emphasizes the need for countries to jointly address climate challenges and increase global cooperation to protect life on Earth for future generations.

As a member of the Montreal Additional Treaty on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the London Amendments, Myanmar signed the



MoNREC Union Minister speaks on the occasion of the World Ozone Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Vienna Convention on Ozone Layer Protection in 1993, the Copenhagen Amendment in 2009 and the Beijing Amendment in 2012, and is implementing the reduction and cessation of

ozone-depleting substances.

Afterwards, the World Ozone Protection Day commemoration video and the video message of the Executive Director of the United Nations

Environment Programme were shown, and the Union minister and attendees toured the display of cooling equipment and commemorative posters. — MNA

Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls in Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar

U Zaw Phyto Win, Director-General of the Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs called in Mr Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, at 0930 am on 19 September 2022 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yangon.

During the meeting, the director-general clarified the prevailing on ground situations regarding the firing incidents near the Myanmar-Bangladesh border in response to matters raised by the Bangladesh side at the meetings between the Myanmar ambassador to Bangladesh and the director-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh.

The director-general apprised that

the AA and terrorist group ARSA attacked the Taungpyo (Left) Border Guard Police Outpost at BP-31 with mortars on 16 September 2022 where three mortar shells landed inside the Bangladesh territory. He also explained that the AA and terrorist group ARSA again used the same weapons and attacked the Taungpyo (Right) Border Guard Police Outpost at BP-34 on 16 and 17 September 2022 where nine mortar shells landed into the Bangladeshi soil. The director-general underscored the fact that the AA and terrorist group ARSA have been deliberately carrying out such attacks to cause negative consequences on the existing cordial bilateral relations between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

The director-general further stated that while taking the necessary security measures close to the border with utmost caution, the Myanmar side always abides by bilateral agreements and international norms as well as respects the integrity and sovereignty of all nations, including Bangladesh. The director-general expressed that the Myanmar side will cooperate with the Bangladesh side to maintain tranquillity of the border area and stressed the significance of full and reciprocal cooperation from the Bangladesh side.

The director-general recalled that on 7 September 2022, the Bangladesh side was notified of the information of the trenches and bases of the AA and

ARSA terrorists located inside Bangladesh through the diplomatic channel and reiterated Myanmar’s call to take necessary and immediate actions to investigate on the ground and dismantle those structures and bases. Later, he handed over a non-paper containing true facts of the incidents to the Bangladeshi ambassador.

The actual account of the firing incidents near the Myanmar-Bangladesh border was published in daily newspapers of Myanmar, issued on 18 September 2022 as well as notified to the Bangladesh side by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the diplomatic channel on 7 September and 17 September 2022, respectively, it is learnt. — MNA

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Trade value at Myawady trade ...



Freight lorries are seen at the Myawady border trade zone.

FROM PAGE-1

The export was \$8.038 million less and the import \$3.121 million more than the trade volume last July, a decrease of \$5.17 million in toto in August.

Myanmar ships tonnes of corn to Thailand through the Myawady border as Thailand gives green light to corn imports through Mae Sot under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. Myanmar exported approximately 1.6 million tonnes of corn delivered to Thailand in FY2020-2021.

There are seven border posts between Myanmar and Thailand — Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Hteekhee, Myeik, Mawtaung and Meisei. The majority of the border trade with Thailand is conducted via Hteekhee and Myawady borders.

Between 1 April and 9 September of the current financial year 2022-2023, Myanmar's exports surpassed imports in trade with Thailand via those seven border posts, with exports reaching over \$1.594 billion and imports valued at over \$712.196 million, totalling \$2.3 billion, the Commerce Ministry's data showed. —TWA/GNLM

Myanmar pockets over US\$22 mln from seaborne rice exports in August

FROM PAGE-1

Last month, Myanmar maritime trade saw over 31,940 tonnes of broken rice exports valued at \$10.526 million, with 21,790 tonnes to Belgium, 500 to the Netherlands, 15 to the Czech Republic, over 8,890 to China, 520 to Malaysia and 230 to Singapore respectively.

On the other hand, over 30,670 tonnes of broken rice worth \$10.319 million were exported via cross-border points, with over 29,480 tonnes flowing to China and 1,190 to Thailand.

As a result of this, Myanmar's broken rice exports in normal and border trade generated an income of \$20.845 million from 62,610 tonnes. In August, the rice of rice and broken rice exports accumulated \$37.056 million from 104,080 tonnes, the trade data showed. — TWA/GNLM

Real estate transactions increasing despite higher prices

THE real estate transactions in Yangon Region are good despite the high prices, according to the real estate agents.

The gold and US dollar prices are stable recently and property prices have risen drastically, luring the interest of people to buy properties in new city areas.

"Although it is far from Yangon, the detached houses and land can be bought here at fairer prices which are similar to the prices of apartments in developed townships. The buyers like to make the investment in this township which will develop soon. Some make enquiries to buy but they don't buy it as it is far from the downtown area," real estate agent Ko Swe Tun from Shwepyitha Township told the Global New Light of Myan-

mar (GNLM).

Although the apartment prices in townships of Yangon Region are priced between K40 million and K80 million, the house and compound prices in Shwepyitha Township are only K70 million, he added.

The land plot and property sales in satellite towns such as Shwepyitha, Hlinethaya and east Dagon townships are higher than before.

"As the dollar and gold prices are not stable, the people are more interested in buying the properties. The land prices in the suburban areas cannot fetch the prices of apartments, the leasehold land and houses are in demand. The prices of land with a land permit are low. But the transactions are normal," Daw Thanda Lin, real estate agent

from Dagon Myothit (East) Township told the GNLM.

In Dagon Myothit (North) Township, the sale price of 40x60 feet two-storey building is above K300 million and the prices in South Okkalapa Township are higher than these prices.

The real estate market in Yangon is normal this month and the transactions are better compared to the same period of last year, said U Myo Myint Aung, secretary of the Yangon Region Real Estate Services Association.

"The rentals are good in the wards with economic potential. The rental fee is K1/2 million depending on the locations," said real estate agent Ko Arkar from South Okkalapa Township.

The tax fee is three per cent up to K1 billion and four per cent for stamp duty.— TWA/GNLM



Land plots for sale in Shwepyitha Township advertised on social network in September.



Officials receive compensation for deceased Ma Ei Phyu Aung, car crash victim in Thailand

A car carrying Myanmar nationals hit a 10-wheeler truck and overturned at No 323 main road in Sai Ro District, Thailand on 20 January 2022.

Three men and two women died in the accident. Thus, officials from Myanmar Labour Attaché Office in Thailand received compensation for the victims. In such doing, officials managed to secure Baht 0.5 million each for four victims with complete proof of Myanmar citizenship, totalling Baht two million on 10 August.

Officials continued the process to get compensation for the victim Ma Ei Phyu Aung who lived in Pyinpongyi, Bago Region and whose reference is incomplete. Therefore, they obtained Baht 0.5 million each of additional compensation money on 19 September, according to the Myanmar Labour Attaché Office.

It is reported that officials will systematically transfer the compensation money to family members of the deceased. — TWA/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Palm oil wholesale reference price slides to K4,690 per viss

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market went down again to K4,690 per viss, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

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

The reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market for a week from 19 to 25 September is set at K4,690 per viss, whereas the reference price for a week ending 18 September was set high at K4,730 per viss. The figures this week showed a small



Locals line up to buy palm oil at the reference price.

decrease of about K40 per viss compared to that of last week.

Despite the reference price, the current market price is still rocketing.

If the 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 ensure edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer reasonable prices to consumers and maintain price stability.

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 subsidized rates. They sell palm oil at K4,850 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 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 from Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/GNLM

Sugarcane growers excluded from Agri loan access for lack of Form 7 in degraded forests



SUGARCANE growers involved in degraded forests cannot get access to agricultural loans for the lack of land use certificate (Form 7), U Win Htay, vice chair of Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane Products Association.

Therefore, the related departments should relinquish the degraded forests for years after an inspection tour. The farmers who grow sugarcane in those forests had better be granted Form 7 to have a chance of getting an agricultural loan, he continued.

“For agricultural expansion, the growers have cultivated sugarcane for 15-20 years. However, those acres are not listed as agricultural land. As a result of this, Form 7 is not issued for them and the growers cannot acquire agricultural loans. That is why they are limited to expanding production. I would like to request the department concerned to surrender land for non-forest use unless the forests can be restored and to issue Form 7 for the sugarcane growers across

the country,” U Win Htay highlighted.

Sugarcane will be offered at K90,000 per tonne for the upcoming sugarcane season, sugarcane millers notified.

Additionally, new sugarcane growers will be contributed a cultivation loan of K200,000 per acre in advance for the 2023-2024 season.

Last 2021-2022 sugarcane season, the price was quoted at K60,000 per tonne only. This year, the offering price increased on account of the rise

in sugar price, high agricultural input cost and expansion of acreage, sugar and sugarcane businesspersons said.

Despite the price hike, sugarcane growers called for better deals amid the soaring input cost and fuel price rise.

Low inventory in domestic markets and lack of sugar imports pushed the sugar price to the highest. In the 2019-2020 season, sugar prices stayed below K1,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes). The prevailing price of sugar surged to over K2,500 per viss.

Approximately, 450,000 acres of sugarcane are grown across the country this year, with an annual production of

450,000 tonnes of sugar. Sugar was conveyed to China and Viet Nam in the past years beyond self-sufficiency. Now, it is only shipped to Viet Nam, according to Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane-Products Association.

Sugarcane is commonly found in the upper Sagaing Region, followed by northern Shan State. It is also found in the western and eastern Bago Region, Yangon Region and Mandalay Region.

The sugarcane is grown in December-January. It can be harvested from November to February of the following years. The sugarcane growing rotation cycle lasts four years in Myanmar. — NN/GNLM



Farm workers are pictured collecting sugarcane.

OPINION

Don't shirk responsibilities in the workplace

EVERY workplace is formed with a number of female and male workers who participate in work procedures in decision-making, operation, management, administration, finance, security, general and so on.

You can see every worker joining the work process by pouring out his efforts in a bit to contribute to successful production. You must keep a concept in your mind. Whenever you are working, all the other people in the workplace are also working similar to you. You should think when you are working, someone is shirking responsibilities.

If you do not discard your wrong thoughts, you may face the same reflection of your act. So, other workers will consider you may dodge the duty when they are working. Actually, nobody avoids the duties including you. So, you should hold up the correct thoughts related to the work process. As all workmates do not dodge assigned duty, you should not refuse to cooperate with other persons in production and you should work similarly to others.

In the workplace, nobody should take advantage more than other people. All workmates have to enjoy the rights of individuals on equal terms. All participants in the workplace need to work and take responsibility at different levels. Their salaries depend on their ranks and status in taking responsibilities under the management of their superiors. Every workplace must be formed with different positions of workers. It is the nature of the workplace.

Even though workplaces are formed in a systematic procedure, some persons think they alone are taking heavy responsibility. Their assigned duties are heavier than others. Such a concept is totally wrong. If you are in a position of the lower level at present, you may become a higher-level position depending on your efforts, hardworking results and other unwritten outstanding performances. Hence, you should underestimate other persons by carelessly assessing their efforts and outputs. Whenever you hold up the wrong concept, you never achieve success in relevant production and relationship with others.

Hence, you should change your mindset in associating with other workplace participants and should try your best in the workplace similar to other workers. Only when you dutifully serve your assignments will you keep abreast of others. If you do not have the correct attitudes, you will not achieve the correct assessment of others. If so, underestimation and wrong concepts will be interrelated endlessly for you. As such, you have to keep the positive attitude at fore forever, fostering empathy for others.

China's anti-COVID approach demonstrates unwavering human rights commitment

CHINA has made it clear that it will adhere firmly to its zero-COVID strategy that has proven both pragmatic and effective.

The strategy safeguards rather than violates the right to life, the most fundamental human right.

Figures speak. The COVID-19 death toll in the United States surpassed one million in May. The Chinese mainland number stands at 5,226.

For Chinese policymakers, people's lives are invaluable and not tradable options.

China has a large elderly population. The right to life for this vulnerable group should in no way be neglected.

A Nature Medicine study published in May said that China could see an Omicron wave resulting in approximately 1.55 million deaths and a projected intensive care unit (ICU) peak demand of up to 15.6 times the existing capacity, should its current dynamic zero-COVID strategy



Medics from south China's Guangdong Province test nucleic acid samples in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, 11 August 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/GUO CHENG

be lifted.

Some foreign experts are making objective observations. John V. Walsh, until recently a professor at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, said that comparing

the COVID death tolls in China and the United States "puts the United States to shame." He said in an Australian public policy journal this month that Western-centric media "tells a different story".

From 2019 to 2021, China's average life expectancy, the most basic measure of national well-being, increased from 77.3 years to 78.2 years. The life expectancy in the United States, a self-claimed global human rights

defender, declined a shocking 2.7 years in the same period, sinking from 78.8 to 76.1 years, its lowest level since 1996, according to a recently released National Centre for Health Statistics report.

Without a doubt, the implementation of a strict zero-COVID-19 strategy incurs economic and societal costs each time an outbreak occurs. China, however, has been attempting to juggle its COVID-19 response along with its economic and social development, which has been stressed by the country's leaders since the pandemic began.

While some ports and factories were unavoidably affected by temporary restrictions due to painstaking virus containment efforts, industries in the world's second-largest economy have remained largely unscathed through recent outbreaks.

As soon as local outbreaks waned, manufacturers quickly regained vigor and resumed delivering products such as iPhones and Teslas to consumers

worldwide.

China's foreign trade sustained growth momentum in the first eight months of the year, a positive indicator of economic recovery, as the government has continued to roll out measures to spur economic growth and stabilize foreign trade.

As some China observers have put it, were it not for China's swiftly implemented and constantly fine-tuned anti-COVID approach that has saved both lives and the national economy and safeguarded global supply chains, the world would be in a far worse situation.

And Walsh has also noticed China's efforts to tackle the pandemic. China upholds the philosophy that protecting health and wealth during a pandemic is not a zero-sum game.

In his article, Walsh wrote that contrary to what was believed in the West at the time, saving lives also turned out to be better for the economy.

SOURCE: XINHUA

Excess weight is linked to a higher risk of COVID-19 infection: Research

ACCORDING to a study, having a high body mass index (BMI) rather than having high blood sugar levels is associated with an increased risk of COVID-19 infection and prolonged COVID. The findings by Dr Anika Knuppel from the MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing, University College London, UK, and colleagues are being presented at this year's European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) Annual Meeting in Stockholm, Sweden (19-23 Sept).

Risk factors for becoming severely ill with COVID-19

"Early in the pandemic research identified diabetes and obesity as risk factors for becoming severely ill with COVID-19.

And we know that many people living with type 2 diabetes are also carrying excess weight. Our early findings support the idea that obesity-related mechanisms may be responsible for the excess risks of COVID-19 associated with dia-

betes, rather than high blood sugar per se," says Dr Knuppel.

Previous research showed that people with diabetes and obesity are more likely to become severely ill and die if they catch COVID-19, but are no more likely to contract it. However, the underlying mechanisms, and their role in prolonged post-COVID-19 symptoms (long COVID), remains unclear.

To find out more, researchers looked for associations between a range of clinical characteristics measured before the pandemic—HbA1c (average blood sugar level), self-reported or medication-based diabetes, body mass index (BMI) and waist-to-hip ratio (WHR)—and self-reported COVID-19 infection and long COVID in nine ongoing UK cohort studies [1].

The analyses included the most recent measurements (taken between 2002 and 2019) of HbA1c, weight, height, waist and hip circumference from each study as

well as information from questionnaires on health and lifestyle.

All eligible participants (maximum 31,252, aged 19-75 years old, 57 per cent female) had data on previous measurements and completed at least one questionnaire during the COVID-19 pandemic (May 2020 to September 2021) covering questions on COVID-19 and, where possible, questions on the length of ongoing COVID-19-related symptoms.

Based on a positive test or strong suspicion

Participants reported having COVID-19 based on a positive test or strong suspicion. Long COVID was defined as symptoms that went on or affected functioning for longer than four weeks post-infection and were compared to those reporting symptoms for less than four weeks.

Where possible, associations were adjusted for sex, smoking, ethnicity, income, and education at the time of measurement.

Between May 2020 and Sep-

tember 2021, 5,806 participants reported ever having COVID-19, and 584 reported having long COVID (around seven per cent of COVID-19 cases with information on symptoms length). Analysis of data from 31,252 participants in nine studies found higher BMI was associated with greater odds of COVID-19 infection—with the risk seven per cent higher for each 5kg/m² increase in BMI. People with overweight (BMI 25-29.9kg/m²) and obesity (30 kg/m² or greater) had ten per cent and 16 per cent greater odds of COVID-19 infection, respectively, than healthy weight individuals (less than 25 kg/m²; see the figure in notes to editors).

Similar results were observed for long COVID (4,243 participants, six studies)—with the risk 20 per cent higher for each 5kg/m² increase in BMI. People with overweight and obesity had 20 per cent and 36 per cent greater odds of long COVID, respectively.

However, for both COVID in-



Overweight people having exercise treatment at the Aimin (Love the People) Fat Reduction Hospital in the northern port city of Tianjin in 2015. PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/AFP/FILE

fection and long COVID associations with categories of BMI were not all statistically significant (so we cannot be sure they are not due to chance). Analysis investigating the association with WHR were inconclusive.

Focusing on average blood sugar level

Notably, studies focusing on average blood sugar level (HbA1c) and diabetes (15,795 participants and 1,917 for long

COVID) revealed no association with COVID-19 or long-COVID. The researchers stress the need for further research to explore the mechanisms underpinning these associations and to reduce the excess risk associated with high BMI. "Our early findings suggest a link of adiposity with COVID-19 infection and long COVID-19 even after taking into account socio-demographic factors and smoking.

SOURCE: ANI

ARTICLE

NATIONAL/WEATHER REPORT

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Confirmation and Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

- The State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names after the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Kyaw Kyaw Naing	Director-General Legal Advice Department Ministry of Legal Affairs
(b) Dr Thida Hla	Rector (Medical Superintendent/Medical Services) Yangon General Hospital Department of Medical Services Ministry of Health

- The State Administration Council has appointed Dr Aung Khin Myint, Pro-Rector of the Loikaw University, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, as Rector of the same university on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 19 September 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over northwest Bay and adjoining westcentral Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move northwestwards and reach to Odisha coast and intensify during next (24) hrs. Monsoon is weak to moderate over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate to strong elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 20 September 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in lower Sagaing Region and (northern and eastern) Shan State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Magway regions and southern Shan, Chin and Kayah states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Mon State and isolated heavyfalls in Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine and Kayin states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (8-10) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast and about (5-7) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in upper Sagaing Region and Kachin and Rakhine States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 September 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 September 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 September 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

269 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 19 September, total figure rises to 619,167

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **619,167** after **269** new cases were reported on 19 September 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **595,621** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reaches **19,448** with **two** deaths.

Preliminary analysis of COVID-19 vaccination of positive patients and deaths

ACCORDING to the analysis of the COVID-19 vaccination rate of positive patients between 28-1-2022 and 7-9-2022, 80 per cent of patients have not been vaccinated at all while 15.9 per cent are inoculated one time, four per cent have been fully administered with vaccines and 0.1 per cent received booster shots.

According to the analysis of the COVID-19 vaccination rate of deaths between 28-1-2022 and 7-9-2022, 84.1 per cent have not been vaccinated at all and have not been fully vaccinated, 14.4 per cent have been fully inoculated and 1.5 per cent received booster shots.

COVID-19 infection rate and vaccination

Out of Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patients			
80 per cent	15.9 per cent	4 per cent	0.1 per cent
have not been vaccinated at all	have been vaccinated one time	have been fully vaccinated	have received booster shots

COVID-19 death toll and vaccination

COVID-19 deaths		
84.1 per cent	14.4 per cent	1.5 per cent
have not been vaccinated at all and have not been fully vaccinated	have been fully vaccinated	have received booster shots

Therefore, according to the analysis of the COVID-19 vaccination and COVID-19 cases/deaths in Myanmar, it causes less severe illness and fewer deaths among those who are fully vaccinated and those who receive booster shots. The people should follow COVID-19 health rules, wear face masks and contact the nearest health departments, and village/ward administration offices to receive vaccines and booster shots.

Ministry of Health

Information Team of State Administration Council to hold 20th Press Conference

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council will hold its 20th Press Conference at the meeting hall of the Minister Office of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm on 20 September 2022 and local and foreign media are invited to the press conference.—MNA

MRTV to broadcast SAC Information Team's 20th Press Conference live

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council will hold a press conference 20/2022 at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm on 20 September. The conference will be broadcast live on MRTV-HD, MRTV News, MWD, MWD Variety, MITV, MOI Website, MOI YouTube, MRTV Website and aired live on Radio Myanmar, Thazin FM, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Padamyar FM, FM Bagan, Cherry FM and Star FM.—MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, animal food, consumer goods and vehicles confiscated

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

A combined on-duty team under the instructions of the Customs Department conducted inspections at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint in Mon State on 17 September.

Officials confiscated K1,890,000 worth of animal feed without any declaration in the Import Declaration (ID) from a Nissan Diesel 12-wheel truck (approximately K40 million) heading from Myawady to Yan-

gon. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, a team led by the Customs Department under the supervision of the Shan State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force made unexpected inspections on the Tahley-Parshoe-Kenglek Road in Tachilek township. They nabbed K2,830,000 worth of consumer goods not taxed yet in the Khamkun market near Parshoe village. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Afterwards, on 18 and 19 September, a combined team led by the Bago Region Forest Department captured a total of

24.9750 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K11,141,994 in Toungoo, Nyaunglebin and Thayawady districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 19 September, a combined on-duty team under the supervision of the Kayin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint. They seized K1,950,000 worth of rice cookers that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Therefore, seven arrests



Officials check the confiscated items.

(approximately K57,811,994) were made on three consecutive days from 17 to 19 September, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee.—MNA

Fossil fuel reserves contain 3.5 tln tonnes of CO2: database



A general view shows coal operations at the Kusile Power Station, a coal-fired power plant located on the Hartbeesfontein Farm in eMalahleni on 8 June 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

BURNING the world's remaining fossil fuel reserves would unleash 3.5 trillion tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions — seven times the remaining carbon budget to cap

global heating at 1.5C — according to the first public inventory of hydrocarbons released Monday.

Human activity since the Industrial Revolution, largely

powered by coal, oil and gas, has led to just under 1.2 degrees Celsius of warming and brought with it ever fiercer droughts, floods and storms supercharged

by rising seas.

The United Nations estimates that Earth's remaining carbon budget — how much more pollution we can add to the atmosphere before the 1.5C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement is missed — to be around 360 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent, or nine years at current emission levels.

The UN's annual Production Gap assessment last year found that governments plan to burn more than twice the fossil fuels by 2030 that would be consistent with a 1.5C world.

But until now there has been no comprehensive global inventory of countries' remaining reserves.

The Global Registry of Fossil Fuels seeks to provide greater clarity on oil, gas and coal reserves to fill knowledge gaps about global supply and to help policymakers better manage

their phaseouts.

Containing more than 50,000 fields across 89 countries, it found that some countries on their own held reserves containing enough carbon to blow through the entire world's carbon budget.

For example, US coal reserves embed 520 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent. China, Russia and Australia all hold enough reserves to miss 1.5C, it found.

All told, the remaining fossil fuel reserves contain seven times the emissions of the carbon budget for 1.5C.

"We have very little time to address the remaining carbon budget, said Rebecca Byrnes, deputy Director of Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, who helped compile the registry.

"As long as we're not measuring what is being produced, it's incredibly hard to measure or regulate that production," she told AFP. —AFP

Australian energy giant dumps major fracking project

ONE of Australia's top energy producers said on Monday it would sell its stake in a major fracking project that has come under criticism from environmental and Indigenous groups.

Origin Energy sold its stake in the Beetaloo Basin project to Tamboran Resources, a local natural gas company, it said in a statement.

The company said it expected to take a post-tax loss of up to Aus\$90 million (\$60 million) in the deal.

Fracking, a method of extracting hydrocarbons, has been criticized for its environmental and health costs.

Chief executive Frank Calabria framed the decision to sell its stake for \$60 million as evidence that Origin was focusing on transitioning to renewable energy.

"(It) will enable greater flexibility to allocate capital towards our strategic prior-

ities to grow cleaner energy and customer solutions," he said.

But "gas will continue to play an important role in the energy mix and it remains a core part of our business", Calabria said.

Under the terms of the deal Origin will be allowed to buy gas if it is produced at Beetaloo, which is located in the country's Northern Territory.

The energy company said Monday it was also reviewing its other gas exploration options "with a view to exiting those permits over time".

The company had pledged in April to push ahead with Beetaloo after receiving assurances that Russian oligarch Viktor Vekselberg's stake would not violate sanctions imposed on wealthy Russians following the invasion of Ukraine.—AFP

Power out in Puerto Rico, 'catastrophic' damage in several areas from Fiona



A flooded road is seen during the passage of hurricane Fiona in Villa Blanca, Puerto Rico, on 18 September 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

HURRICANE Fiona smashed into Puerto Rico, knocking out the US island territory's power while dumping torrential rain and wreaking catastrophic damage before making landfall in the Dominican Republic on Monday.

Landslides, blocked roads, fallen trees and power lines, as well as a collapsed bridge in the town of Utuado in the central mountainous region, were part of the destruction already caused by Fiona, Governor Pedro Pierluisi told an evening press conference. The storm carried max-

imum sustained winds of 90 miles per hour (144 kilometres per hour) as it hit the Dominican Republic, the US National Hurricane Centre (NHC) said on Twitter.

"Life-threatening flash and urban flooding is likely for eastern portions of the Dominican Republic," the NHC said in its latest advisory at 5:00 am local time (0900 GMT).

Ahead of Fiona's arrival in the Dominican Republic, President Luis Abinader suspended work on Monday and the island placed 13 of its 32

provinces, located to the north and east, on red alert ahead of the storm making landfall.

In Puerto Rico, the entire territory of more than three million people was left without power as the hurricane neared, with Pierluisi saying the electrical system was out of service.

On Monday, the island's power company said on its website that it had "reenergized some circuits" but did not have numbers on how many people were receiving electricity.

The NHC downgraded Fiona to a tropical storm in Puerto Rico but warned that destructive rain and devastating flash floods could continue to hit the island.

Fiona will go down as a "catastrophic event due to the impacts of flooding" in Puerto Rico's central, eastern and southern regions, Pierluisi tweeted, adding that 9-13 inches (23-33 centimetres) of rain had fallen in just five hours.

The hurricane has also left around 196,000 people without drinking water as a result of power outages and flooded rivers, officials said.—AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Group of Japanese firms may join Toshiba buyout bidder

A Japanese investment fund seeking to buy out Toshiba Corp is asking a group of Japanese companies to join hands to clear the second round of bidding for the troubled conglomerate, people close to the matter said Sunday.

By teaming up with domestic companies, the Tokyo-based fund, Japan Industrial Partners, could gain an advantage over other bidders, including US investment fund Bain Capital, in clearing government screening of offers for Toshiba, which is deemed crucial to Japan's national security because of its nuclear power and defence businesses.

Companies contacted by the fund include financial services firm Orix Corp, the sources said. Chubu Electric Power Co, a major power company serving central Japan areas, is considering investing in a Toshiba buyout scheme, a company official said Sunday without revealing whether it has been approached by the fund.

The fund has teamed up with Japan Investment Corp, owned in large part by the Japanese government, to move past the first round of bidding after Toshiba began accepting strategic options earlier this year, including a buyout and going private, following

its shareholders' rejection of a two-way split plan.

In addition to Bain Capital, two other bidders are expected to offer follow-up proposals, according to other sources familiar with the process.

Japan Industrial Partners is proposing to take Toshiba private, the sources said. Toshiba's market capitalization is currently around 2.2 trillion yen (\$15 billion).

The company's plight began with an accounting scandal in 2015, followed by the 2017 bankruptcy of its US nuclear plant subsidiary Westinghouse Electric Co.



This picture taken on 2 June 2022 shows the logo of Japanese industrial group Toshiba displayed on top of a building at their headquarters in Tokyo. **PHOTO: AFP**

A series of management woes have further tarnished its corporate image. In 2021, Toshiba executives were found to have colluded with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Indus-

try to prevent foreign activist shareholders from influencing the board by sending in directors, leading its shareholders to vote out some of the board members at the time.—Kyodo

Scholz to visit Saudi as Germany seeks energy supplies



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is pictured during a press conference on the sidelines of a conference of the German Armed Forces Bundeswehr in Berlin on 16 September 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

CHANCELLOR Olaf Scholz will visit Saudi Arabia and meet Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as part of a Gulf trip, his spokesman said Monday, as Germany rushes to secure energy supplies.

Scholz, whose two-day trip next weekend will also take him to Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, becomes the latest

Western leader to meet with the crown prince.

Bin Salman was until recently regarded as a pariah in the West due to his suspected role in the murder of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018.

But he is being courted again as Europe and its allies urgently seek fresh sources of fossil fuels

after Russia cut gas supplies amid soaring tensions over its invasion of Ukraine.

Scholz, accompanied by a business delegation, will visit Saudi Arabia on Saturday, where he will meet with the crown prince and — if his health permits it — King Salman, government spokesman Steffen Hebestreit said.

He did not go into detail about the reasons for Scholz's Gulf visit but said he would be "very surprised" if the topic of energy was not discussed.

The spokesman also offered assurances that "the murder of Mr Khashoggi will certainly figure in discussions". It is the latest sign of bin Salman's international rehabilitation — in July, French President Emmanuel Macron held talks with him in Paris, and US President Joe Biden visited the kingdom.—AFP

EU seeks emergency powers over supply chains

THE EU is seeking emergency powers that would force companies to quickly divert resources to urgently fix supply chain chokepoints, a draft legislation on Monday said.

The proposal is part of the EU's answer to its bruising experience during the worst of the Covid pandemic, when the United States and China stopped exports of vaccines and other crucial products in favour of serving their own citizens.

The measure, inspired by rules already existing in the United States, would force companies to prioritize the European market in an emergency and is intended as a weapon of retaliation when other countries do the same.

"We hope it will never be used," said Internal Market Commissioner Thierry Breton at a joint press conference

with Commission Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager.

The proposal also addresses pandemic-era frustrations when some EU member states hoarded critical supplies, denying their bloc neighbours without consultation.

The text would limit such restrictions on the movement of goods and people between member states during a sudden crisis. "The instrument basically implements the principle that in Europe we are strongest together," said German MEP Andreas Schwab who will spearhead the proposal through the European Parliament. The regulation still has to be negotiated with the European Parliament and the member states, which may resist handing such unprecedented powers to the EU executive in Brussels.—AFP

Lebanon currency hits new low, sparking protests

THE Lebanese pound fell to a new low against the US dollar on the black market Monday as a severe economic downturn has sparked bank hold-ups by angry depositors and anti-government protests.

Recent weeks have seen a spate of incidents in which people

armed with real or toy guns held up banks to demand access to their frozen savings, only to be celebrated as folk heroes.

Amid the turmoil, the pound plunged to 38,600 against the greenback on Monday, according to websites monitoring the exchange rate, a record low for

the beleaguered currency.

For decades, the Lebanese pound was pegged at 1,507 to the dollar, meaning that it has lost around 95 per cent of its black market value since 2019.

At the Justice Palace in Beirut on Monday, dozens stormed through a metal gate outside to

protest the detention of two people involved in last week's bank hold-ups. Elsewhere, activists angered by Lebanon's deep economic crash blockaded roads in the capital and in the northern port city of Tripoli. A financial crash widely blamed on government corruption and misman-

agement has caused the worst economic crisis in Lebanon's history. Lebanese banker Saeb El-Zein said the pound's decline was due to a rising demand for dollars on the black market following the government's decision to lift state subsidies, including on fuel.—AFP

Markets drop again as traders brace for another big Fed hike

MARKETS fell Monday as traders extended last week's rout across risk assets, with expectations high that the Federal Reserve will this week announce another outsized interest rate hike.

With recent data showing US inflation rooted at four-decade highs, investors are increasingly pessimistic about the outlook for the global economy.

Some observers have warned of a sharp recession in many countries caused by the huge rate increases, which are hitting families in the pocket.

And with uncertainty rife owing to a range of issues, including Russia's war in Ukraine and Chi-

na's lockdown-induced slowdown, equities are in danger of revisiting the lows they hit in June.

Several central banks are due to make rate announcements this week, with Japan and Britain among the biggest, although the main event is Wednesday's Fed decision.

There had been a hope that after two 75-basis-point increases in a row, and economic data showing weakness, officials would take their foot off the pedal this month.

But last Tuesday's disappointing consumer price figures shocked traders and ramped up bets for a third successive 75-point rise, while some



Traders work at the stock exchange in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany, on 15 June 2022. PHOTO: AFP

have predicted a whole percentage point move.

Policymakers, including Fed boss Jerome Powell, have repeatedly

said their ultimate aim is to bring inflation under control, even if that means sending the economy into recession.

"It is clear that the Fed will project hawkish messaging, once again reiterating that it will bring down inflation uncondi-

tionally," said Vasileios Gkionakis at Citigroup.

Wall Street's worst week since June ended with more losses after FedEx reported Thursday that it shipped fewer packages than expected over the summer owing to weakness in the global economy.

That came as CEO Raj Subramaniam said he expects a global recession.

Asian equity investors continued the selling on Monday.

Hong Kong closed down one per cent, even after reports that the city's government was considering ending mandatory hotel quarantine for incoming travellers.—AFP

VW puts Porsche at 70-75 bln euros for market launch

GERMAN auto group Volkswagen announced Sunday that it would launch its premium sports brand Porsche on the stock market at between nearly 70 and 75 billion euros.

The indicative price will fall between 76.50 and 82.50 euros per share, said a company statement. Porsche is due to be launched on the Frankfurt stock market on 29 September.

If the launch goes near the upper end of the range proposed by Volkswagen, it would be one of the biggest European launches in recent years.

The auto giant officially signalled its intention to go ahead with the IPO on 24 February, the day that Russia began its invasion of Ukraine.

The outbreak of the war has sown uncertainty

in financial markets, sending stocks tumbling and clouding the outlook for the economy.

But the luxury brand continues to attract the attention of investors.

Volkswagen, by selling off some of its stake in Porsche, is hoping to get the billions of euros it needs to finance its investment in electric, connected and autonomous cars.—AFP

German central bank sees signs of recession 'multiplying'

THE German central bank said Monday it was increasingly likely that Europe's largest economy would shrink for a "prolonged" period as Russia throttled energy supplies to the continent.

"The signs of a recession for the German economy are multiplying," the Bundesbank said in its monthly report, warning of a "broad-based and prolonged decline in economic

output".

The likely slump was above all down to "supply-side constraints", namely reduced deliveries of energy in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Moscow has dwindled supplies of gas to Europe and kept the Nord Stream pipeline shut since the end of August, heaping pressure on Germany's economy.

Germany had been highly reliant on Russian energy imports to power its industry and heat its homes, with 55 per cent of its gas coming from Russia before the outbreak of the war. German GDP grew fractionally by 0.1 per cent between April and June, but an increasing number of economic indicators, such as business and consumer confidence, have begun to flash red.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UAFL ATHENS VOY.NO. (22008N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UAFL ATHENS VOY.NO. (22008N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-9-2022** 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 BANDA VOY.NO. (262N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (262N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-9-2022** 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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINES

MYANMA Port Authority "NOTICE of High Tide"

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.14 feet to 20.90 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of 26 September to 30 September 2022. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kremlin dismisses as 'lies' mass grave reports in Ukraine

THE Kremlin on Monday said that reports mass graves were found in the formerly Russian-controlled city of Izyum in eastern Ukraine were fabrications.

"These are lies," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, adding Moscow "will stand up for the truth in this story".

For Peskov it was "the same scenario as in Bucha", a town outside the capital Kyiv where dozens of bodies in civilian clothing were found in the streets after Russian troops left.

Moscow has refuted accusations of extrajudicial killings there.

Last week, some 450 graves were discovered in forests outside Izyum after the strategic city was recaptured from the Russians by Ukrainian troops.—AFP

Rattled Taiwan hit by more aftershocks

AFTERSHOCKS struck southeastern Taiwan on Monday, including a 5.5-magnitude earthquake that was felt in the capital Taipei, a day after a more powerful tremor killed one person and injured around 150 others.

The latest quake hit around 10 am (0200 GMT), 66 kilometres (41 miles) south-southwest of the coastal city of Hualien at a depth of 13 kilometres, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) said.

Taiwan's central weather bureau put the magnitude at 5.9.

Rural and sparsely populated southeastern Taiwan has been rattled by a series of jolts since Saturday.

The most powerful, a 6.9-magnitude quake, struck on Sunday afternoon, tearing up roads and bringing down a handful of houses in the town of Yuli where at least one person was killed.

Four others were rescued from a collapsed building, while authorities said a total of 146 suffered injuries.—AFP

Britain and the world bid adieu to Queen Elizabeth II



The coffin of Queen Elizabeth II with the Imperial State Crown resting on top of it departs Westminster Abbey during the State Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II on 19 September 2022 in London, England. **PHOTO: GARETH CATTERMOLE / POOL / AFP**

BRITAIN said farewell to Queen Elizabeth II on Monday at a historic state funeral attended by world leaders, before a last ceremonial journey through London streets packed with sorrowful mourners.

Huge crowds gathered to watch as the queen's flag-draped coffin, topped with the Imperial State Crown, her orb and sceptre, was carried slowly to a gun carriage from parliament's Westminster Hall

where it had lain in state since Wednesday.

To the tune of pipes and drums, the gun carriage — used at every state funeral since Queen Victoria's in 1901 — was then drawn by 142 junior enlist-

ed sailors in the Royal Navy to Westminster Abbey.

The thousand-year-old church's tenor bell tolled 96 times at one-minute intervals — one for every year of her life — and stopped a minute before the service began at 11:00 am (1000 GMT).

In his funeral sermon, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby praised the queen's life of duty and service to the UK and Commonwealth.

"People of loving service are rare in any walk of life. Leaders of loving service are still rarer," he told the 2,000 guests, who included US President Joe Biden and Japan's Emperor Naruhito. The coffin was then borne, to the rhythmic strains of funeral marches, towards the queen's final resting place at Windsor Castle, west of London.

All along the route, a sea of arms were raised aloft, clutching mobile phones, to record the choreographed display of military precision.—AFP

Iran president demands US 'guarantees' on nuclear deal

IRANIAN President Ebrahim Raisi demanded US "guarantees" it will not withdraw again from a nuclear deal if it is revived ahead of his debut visit to the United Nations.

With Western hopes fading for restoration of the landmark 2015 agreement with world powers, the hardline cleric said in a US television interview that he would still back a "good deal and a fair deal".

But he said: "It needs to be lasting. There needs to be guarantees."

"We cannot trust the Americans because of the behaviour that we have already seen from

them. That is why if there is no guarantee, there is no trust," he told CBS News' "60 Minutes" programme.

Former president Barack Obama negotiated the agreement under which Iran drastically scaled back nuclear work in return for promises of sanctions relief. Three years later, Donald Trump pulled out and reimposed sweeping sanctions. President Joe Biden supports a return but Iran's call for guarantees has become a sticking point, with the Democratic administration saying it is impossible in the US system to say what a future president would do.—AFP



This handout picture provided by the Iranian Presidency shows Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi (C) being escorted by government officials on his way to his aircraft before departure from the capital Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport on 19 September 2022 to attend the 77th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 77) in New York. **PHOTO: AFP PHOTO / HO / IRANIAN PRESIDENCY**

Paris metro station honours Elizabeth II during funeral

A Paris metro station on the Champs-Élysées has been renamed Elizabeth II for the day as a tribute to the British queen during her funeral.

Signs in the George V metro station — named after the queen's grandfather — were replaced on Monday as a mark of respect for the British sovereign,

who will be buried later after a service in London.

"We wanted to join in the day of mourning by putting up the sign 'Elizabeth II 1926-2022' in the George V station on Line 1," a spokeswoman for the Paris metro operator RATP told AFP.

The station will revert to being called George V on Tuesday.

French flags have been ordered to fly at half mast on public buildings by the prime minister but a small number of mayors are resisting the instruction.

Patrick Proisy, the left-wing mayor of Faches-Thumesnil, northeastern France, said he would refuse to lower the flag on public buildings in his village.

Although he expressed his condolences after the queen's death, he said such a move contradicted France's republican principles of "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity".

"No concept is further from 'equality' than the monarchy," he wrote on social media on 10 September.—AFP

2 dead, dozen injured as typhoon slams southwestern Japan

A large and powerful typhoon moved across Japan's southwestern region of Kyushu on Monday, leaving two people dead and more than dozen injured.

Typhoon Nanmadol is expected to travel northeast along the main island of Honshu through Tuesday, with the Japan Meteorological Agency continuing to warn of violent winds, high tides and mudslides across western to northern Japan.

Around noon Monday, the 14th typhoon of the season was moving northeast near Hagi, Yamaguchi Prefecture, in western Japan at a speed of some 20 kilometres an hour.

It had an atmospheric pressure of 975 hectopascals at its centre, packing winds of up to 108 kph with maximum gusts of 162 kph.

After issuing a special typhoon warning to expect unprecedented winds and waves in Kagoshima and Miyazaki prefectures in southwestern Japan on Sunday, the weather agency has downgraded its warning level.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida ordered government officials at a meeting Monday to "continue assessing the damage as quickly as possible with a sense of urgency and take all possible measures to respond to the disaster," according to Koichi Tani, minister for disaster management.

Kishida also postponed a trip to New York by one day so he can monitor the situation. He will depart on Tuesday.

The government has issued evacuation orders over areas

where some 9.7 million people reside across 14 prefectures.

A man in Fukuoka Prefecture who it is thought was on his way to find shelter from the typhoon was found collapsed and

later confirmed to have died. Another man was declared dead after being pulled out of a car submerged in flooded farmland in Miyazaki Prefecture.

A man in his 40s is missing

in Miyazaki after his cabin was destroyed by a mudslide.

At least 17 people were reported injured as of 7:30 am Monday across seven prefectures in southwestern and western Japan, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency.

The weather agency warned of violent rain in western and eastern Japan through Tuesday and some areas in northern Kyushu, Chugoku, Shikoku, Kinki and Tokai regions could see linear rainbands.

In the 24 hours to noon Tuesday, the typhoon is forecast to bring up to 400 millimetres of rain to the Tokai region in central Japan, 300 mm to Kinki and Kanto-Koshin regions in western and eastern Japan, and 250 mm in Shikoku. —Kyodo



A general view shows the site of a landslide caused by Typhoon Nanmadol in Mimata, Miyazaki prefecture on 19 September 2022.

PHOTO: AFP

Japan, ASEAN to deepen economic ties toward 50th friendship anniv

JAPAN and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations agreed Sunday to deepen economic ties in areas such as supply chain resiliency ahead of the 50th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan friendship.

During an in-person meeting of economy ministers in Siem Reap, Cambodia, the two sides affirmed cooperation in building a system for corporations in each

country to share information on their supply inventories.

"We reaffirmed we will overcome challenges together through free and fair trade and investment to pioneer the future in a time of economic uncertainty," especially in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic and Russia's war on Ukraine, Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura

told reporters after the meeting.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Trade between ASEAN and the plus-three countries — Japan, China and South Korea — recorded an increase of 25.1 per cent, reaching a total value of \$1.10 trillion in 2021. —Kyodo

More than 90 dead in Tajik-Kyrgyz border clashes

AT least 94 people were killed in clashes between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan this week, in the worst violence the countries have seen in years, while the international community called for calm.

The situation on the contested border between the two Central Asian neighbours was, however, calm on Sunday afternoon, according to Kyrgyz authorities.

Clashes regularly erupt between the two former Soviet republics, as around half of their 970-kilometre (600-mile) border is still to be demarcated.

Tajikistan said on Sunday that 35 of its citizens were killed, the first official death toll since armed clashes broke out on



Volunteers collect humanitarian aid for people evacuated from the town of Batken in Bishkek on 17 September 2022. PHOTO: AFP

Wednesday.

On its Facebook page, the Tajik foreign ministry also reported 25 injured and said civilians, women, and children were among the victims.

The ministry accused Kyrgyz

soldiers of killing 12 people in a drone strike on a mosque, six others in an attack against a school and another seven when an ambulance came under fire. AFP was not able independently to verify the claims. —AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crowds jam London for Queen Elizabeth II's funeral

HUGE crowds built in central London overnight and from early morning on Monday to secure a spot to watch the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey.

As dawn broke over the River Thames, a steady stream of well-wishers streamed out of Embankment underground station headed for Parliament Square.

But many were already there, camping in sleeping bags behind the metal barriers along the Whitehall government district, where the funeral procession will pass.

"It's part of history," said Bethany Beardmore, 26, an accountant whose brother is a Grenadier Guard and part of the ceremonies. "Not in my lifetime is there going to be another queen."

Beardmore arrived at 9:00 pm (2000 GMT) on Sunday but, fuelled by too much sugar and caffeine, found it impossible to sleep in the cold. —AFP

US and Afghanistan carry out prisoner exchange: Taliban

THE United States and the Taliban have completed a prisoner swap, Afghanistan's foreign minister said Monday, with an American navy veteran traded for a key ally.

Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said Mark Frerichs — kidnapped in 2020 — was exchanged for Bashar Noorzai, a warlord and Taliban associate imprisoned for 17 years in the United States for heroin smuggling.

"Today, Mark Frerichs was handed over to the US and Haji Bashar was handed over to us at Kabul airport," Muttaqi told reporters in Kabul. He said the exchange happened "after long negotiations", adding that Frerichs was given to a US delegation. The US Navy veteran was working in Afghanistan as a civil engineer on construction projects when he was kidnapped, the US State Department said. —AFP



SPORT

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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



Myanmar team players celebrate the victory after beating the Maldives team 3-0 in their AFC U-20 Asian Cup Qualifiers played at Prince Mohamed bin Fahd Stadium in Dammam, Saudi Arabia on 19 September 2022.

PHOTO: MF

Myanmar beat Maldives 3-0 in AFC U-20 Asian Cup Qualifiers

IN the last match of the 2023 AFC U-20 Asian Cup Qualifiers Group A, the Myanmar U-20 team played against the Maldives U-20 team at the Prince Mohamed bin Fahd Stadium in Dammam, Saudi Arabia yesterday and team Myanmar won by 3 goals.

The Myanmar team lined

up with the best players.

The winning goals for the team Myanmar were scored by Kaung Htet Paing at 45 + 2 minutes, Swan Htet at 81 minutes, and La Min Htwe at 86 minutes.

The other match in the group was the match between China and the host Saudi Ara-

bia, and the Saudi Arabia team won by a single goal.

Group A matches have ended, and the Myanmar team played four games and won one game. Hosts Saudi Arabia and China, who finished first and second in the group respectively advanced to the qualifiers. — GNLM

Messi strikes early to keep PSG top in Ligue 1

LIONEL Messi struck after five minutes as Paris Saint-Germain edged Lyon 1-0 to regain top spot in the Ligue 1 table ahead of Marseille on Sunday.

Neymar set up the Argentinian with his seventh assist in eight Ligue 1 games.

The victory pulled PSG two points clear of Marseille who had taken top spot earlier with a 1-1 draw at home against Rennes.

Lorient, 3-1 winners over

Auxerre, are three points adrift of the leaders.

Lens dropped to fourth after being held to a goalless draw in Nantes.

“PSG played a great game tonight, against a difficult team which was waiting for us,” said PSG coach Christophe Galtier.

“We scored a good goal and could have scored others.

“We were much more balanced, Neymar in particular gave

us a balance which was really necessary. Even if we were less mobile in the second half we still had a lot of chances.”

PSG were imperious in the first half but did not finish off their opponent who woke up after the break with Johann Lepenant coming on in place of a tired Corentin Tolisso.

But Galtier’s side held on to inflict Lyon’s third defeat of the season.

Galtier’s “MNM” attack is firing on all cylinders, with eight goals in Ligue 1 for Neymar, seven for Kylian Mbappe and four for Messi.

Earlier, Marseille midfielder Matteo Guendouzi scored both goals in a 1-1 draw at home against Rennes. Guendouzi bundled past home keeper Pau Lopez to give Rennes the advantage after 26 minutes but the former Arsenal player redeemed himself with a header past ex-Marseille goalkeeper Steve Mandanda seven minutes after the break.—AFP



Paris Saint-Germain’s Argentine forward Lionel Messi (R) celebrates with Paris Saint-Germain’s Brazilian forward Neymar (L) after scoring a goal during the French L1 football match between Olympique Lyonnais (OL) and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) at The Groupama Stadium in Decines-Charpieu, central-eastern France, on 18 September 2022. PHOTO: AFP

Struggling Osaka aiming to break slump as Pan Pacific Open returns



Naomi Osaka of Japan attends a press conference at the start of the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Tokyo on 19 September 2022. PHOTO: AFP

STRUGGLING Naomi Osaka admitted Monday that she had gone through “more down than up” this year as she tries to break out of her slump at her home Pan Pacific Open this week.

The former world number one and four-time Grand Slam champion has plummeted to 48 in the women’s tennis world rankings after a wretched run that has seen her crash out in the first round of her last three

tournaments.

The Japanese 24-year-old has not won a title since last year’s Australian Open and has been hampered this season with injury.

But Osaka is hoping to right the ship at the WTA event in Tokyo where she is defending champion, albeit from three years ago as the tournament returns for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic.—AFP