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Muse border trade bags more than US\$60 million in August



Freight lorries are pictured piling up at the Muse 105th-mile trade zone.

MYANMAR'S 105th-mile Muse trade zone for cross-border trade with China accumulated US\$60.178 million in August.

Exports surpassed imports

with exports valued at \$37.856 million and \$22.322 million worth of imports. Myanmar exported agricultural produce, forest products, fishery products, minerals,

finished industrial goods and other goods to China, while capital goods and intermediate goods were imported into the country.

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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.

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Ayeyawady Bridge (Thayet-Aunglan) Project completes 52%



The photo shows a general view of the Ayeyawady Bridge (Thayet-Aunglan) Project.

THE Ayeyawady Bridge (Thayet-Aunglan) project in Magway Region is now 52 per cent complete, according to the Bridge Task Force (3) of the Bridge Department.

“We completed the foundation for the main bridge. From RP 1 to RP 13, only RP2 is left.

We will start the RP2 operation when the water level of the Ayeyawady river falls and all the RP of the main bridge will be 100 per cent completed this 2022-2023FY. For the deck operation of the approach bridge, we complete nine 30-metre-wide spans out of ten on the bank of Thayet and seven

spans out of eight on the bank of Aunglan. The bridge handrail and deck paving operations will be completed in 2022-2023FY,” said U Htay Aung, Director of the Bridge Task Force (3).

The feasibility study for bridge construction was conducted in 2015 and Bridge Task

Force (3) of the Bridge Department of the Ministry of Construction started the construction on 17 December 2018.

They launched pre-engineering processes in the 2018 mini-budget, approach bridge foundation and body construction in the 2018-2019FY, approach bridge foundation, body and upperstructure construction in 2019-2020FY, pier foundation and bridge body construction of the main bridge in the 2020-2021FY and mini-budget of the 2021-2022FY.

“The iron frame tender for the main bridge has been invited at the Bridge Department of the Ministry of Construction in Nay Pyi Taw. Depending on the number of iron frames, we will keep carrying out the conveyance and installation of iron frames. The project will be accomplished depending on the fund. We estimated to complete the entire project in 2025-2026FY,” said the director of the Bridge Task Force (3). — Than Min Aung (MNA)/GNLM

Statement on systematic purchase 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, the Ministry of Immigration and Population builds a National Database listing over 52 million people, holders of any cards of citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens and any IDs through the e-ID Biographic Registration Software. Therefore, the user names and CSC numbers used in SIM card registration will be checked with the National Database of the Ministry of Immigration and Population, and 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 completed incorrectly, they will be cancelled for good 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, action will be taken against them under the procedures. The operators must send SMS to SIM card users.
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 extra 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 (only 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 it to relevant township immigration offices as quickly as possible. (For example: although they have made household registration in Patheingyi, 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 listed 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

Public Notice

THE Central Bank of Myanmar makes efforts for the emergence of a secure and quality national payment system, as the technologies are well developed, the money transfer services can be made easily through mobile payment.

Meanwhile, unscrupulous persons do not fill in the correct data to commit illegal money transfers and swindling of money using mobile payments. Solving such frauds can be done only when people fill in their personal data correctly. Moreover, it should follow the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism procedures in making cross-border payments.

Currently, the Ministry of Immigration and Population builds a National Database listing over 52 million people, holders of any cards of citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens and any IDs through the e-ID Biographic Registration Software.

According to the international standards for the Electronic – Know Your Customer (e-KYC) processes, the user names, citizenship scrutiny card numbers and SIM-card numbers filled in mobile payment accounts will be checked with the National Database of the Ministry of Immigration and Population and SIM Registration Database of the Posts and Telecommunications Department.

Therefore, the users need to fill up the correct data for KYC. The mobile payment accounts will be cancelled for good if the users fail to fill up the data within the fixed duration.

The users of bank-led mobile payment, banks and enterprises allowed for mobile banking, mobile banking services and merchant acquiring operating under the permission of CBM should go to the nearest Agents/banks to make Level 2 upgrade in time. The service providers must send SMS to the Level 1 customers to upgrade it to Level 2 of KYC. Those who do not want to upgrade it to Level-2 can contact the banks and mobile banking service counters to ensure the proper ways to use the remaining balance.

Central Bank of Myanmar

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Need to conduct disaster preparedness region-wise

NATURAL disasters are unpredictable and can break out at any time. This being so, I'd like to warn you of conducting disaster preparedness. Region-wise measures are needed to be taken to ensure a smooth flow of water to prevent floods from breaking out. In this regard, it is needed to alert the local populace against the outbreak of floods. Additionally, it is required to persuade them to take an active part in disaster preparedness measures.

[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].

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Law Amending the Union Government Law

13th Waning of Tawthalin 1384 ME
22 September 2022

THE State Administration Council has enacted this law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

1. This law shall be called the Law Amending the Union Government Law.
2. Sub-section (b) of Section 6 of the Union Government Law shall be substituted as follows: -
“(b) The Permanent Secretary/Director-General of the Office of the Union Government shall be Secretary of the Union Government in compliance with the designation.”

I hereby signed this law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 62/2022

13th Waning of Tawthalin 1384 ME
22 September 2022

Appointment of Deputy Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned Dr Lin Aung to the duties of Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

NSPNC Secretary receives delegation led by Cambodian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Nay Pyi Taw

SECRETARY Lt-Gen Min Naung of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee-NSPNC received the delegation led by Dr Kung Phoak, Secretary of State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Head of the Office of the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair, at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the NSPNC Secretary discussed the status of meetings with ethnic armed organizations-EAOs, and conditions of cooperation with relevant organizations for hu-

manitarian assistance matters.

Afterwards, the Head of the Office of the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair also discussed the issues of humanitarian assistance for Myanmar and solving the current political situation in Myanmar.

It is learnt that the participants warmly exchanged their views and opinions at the meeting. — MNA

The Cambodian delegation calls on NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Muse border trade bags more than US\$60 million in August

FROM PAGE-1

Figures showed \$10.992 million, a slump in trade compared to that of July, with a decrease of \$1.841 million worth of exports and \$9.151 million worth of imports as exports of

agricultural produce including kidney bean, green gram, rice bean, various sesame seeds and dried tea leaf declined in August. However, exports grew in the manufacturing and mining sectors. The imports

of intermediate goods, capital goods and consumer goods also fell, according to the Muse Trade Zone.

The value of trade was up by \$46.468 million compared to the corresponding period

last year with an increase in exports worth \$36.228 million and imports valued at \$10.240 million.

Myanmar sent rice, various pulses, onion, cashew nut, natural rubber and other

agricultural produce, forest products, fishery products, livestock products, minerals, finished industrial goods and other goods to China through the Muse border trade zone.— TWA/GNLM

16th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime continues

THE 16th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (16th AMMTC) was held via videoconference on 21 September.

Minister-level AMMTC leaders and high-ranking officials from China, Japan, and South Korea and ASEAN Deputy Secretary General and representatives attended its related meetings at 7 am yesterday.

The 9th AMMTC + China consultation was held in the morning and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs/Chief of Myanmar Police Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet and Public Security Minister of People's Republic of China Mr Wang Xiao Hong acted as co-chairs.

In the meeting, the latest developments regarding the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between ASEAN and China (2019-2023) were exchanged and a joint statement was approved.

Deputy Minister Chief of Myanmar Police Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet said that the non-conventional security role will be able to solve the chal-



The sixteenth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime is in progress via videoconference yesterday.

lenges. Both sides will identify ways to strengthen mutual understanding and trust, he said.

In the implementation of the identified methods, the existing cooperation mechanisms must be carried out under the domestic laws and procedures of each country, he added.

He suggested the two countries pay attention to fighting against the criminal gangs hiding on the border between the two countries.

After that, a consultation with the 12th AMMTC + 3 (China, Japan, Korea) was held and Cambodian Deputy Prime Min-

ister and Home Affairs Minister Samdech Kralahom Sar Kheng acted as chairman and Minister-level representatives from 10 ASEAN countries and China, Japan, and South Korea attended the meeting.

In the meeting, representative of Myanmar Deputy Minister MPF Chief Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet said that the global terrorist threat has changed significantly in the past years.

Terrorists are using new technologies, including information and communication technologies (ICT), he said.

In addition, they have been

carrying out terrorist attacks using improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and drones. In the future, terrorists will use drones to carry out more explosives.

He said that it is possible that terrorists make an attempt to commit a major modern-day 9/11 attack like the attack on the World Trade Center on 11 September 2001.

Arms smuggling crimes are linked to terrorist groups and pose a threat to the safety and security of communities, he added.

He said that he would like to analyze drones seized dur-

ing terrorist attacks under the framework of the ASEAN + 3 cooperation work plan and develop capacity-building programmes for identifying digital evidence.

Similarly, the 7th AMMTC + Japan consultation was held at 11 am and the 3rd AMMTC + ROK consultation was also held at 2:30 pm.

Officials focused on illegal drug trade, human trafficking, money laundering, international economic crime, prisoners, immigration, and capacity building for law enforcement agencies concerning investigations and high-tech crimes.

They discussed that enhancing cooperation through the exchange of good procedures and technical expertise will be effectively implemented through the framework of the current collaborative work plan 2019-2023.

After that, the AMMTC chairmanship was handed over to Indonesia, which will host the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Combatting Transnational Crime in 2023. —MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Mayor invites int'l investors, partnership orgs to participate in "Digital Transformation Strategy"

NAY Pyi Taw Mayor U Tin Oo Lwin extended an invitation to international investors and partnership organizations, expected to join the "Digital Transformation Strategy" of Nay Pyi Taw.

On 21 September evening, Mayor U Tin Oo Lwin, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee, attended the Mayor's Roundtable Forum of the International Forum Kazan Digital Week - 2022 online, which was held in Kazan, the Russian Federation. The NPT Mayor gave a speech at the event and extended the invitation.

The International Forum Kazan Digital Week - 2022 was held from 21 to 24 September in Kazan, the Russian Federation,

and the Mayor's Roundtable themed: "Digital Transformation of the City Management" was held separately from 21 September. The Nay Pyi Taw Mayor interpreted the current status of the Nay Pyi Taw city administration and management operated by digital technology and the human resources management activities, the measures for anti-corruption using ICT technology by forming the Corruption Prevention Unit (CPU) in collaboration with the Anti-Corruption Commission, the situations of receiving comments from the public through online regarding the public service activities of municipal affairs, the state of being able to pay water bills to the Nay



Nay Pyi Taw Mayor U Tin Oo Lwin joins the Mayor's Roundtable of the International Forum Kazan Digital Week-2022 online.

Pyi Taw Development Committee through the e-Payment system, the status of Nay Pyi Taw being built as a Safe City and the

conditions in implementing the GIS Database for Nay Pyi Taw.

The forum was attended by mayors and chiefs from the Rus-

sian Federation, the Republic of Türkiye, Moldova, People's Republic of China and Kyrgyz Republic, it is learnt. — MNA

EPS exam to be held on 29 September

THE EPS-TOPIK (Employment Permit System) qualification test will be held on 29 September 2022, according to the announcement of POEA.

EPS exam for agriculture and livestock farming is scheduled to be held between 29 September and 27 October. The first batch for the manufacturing job test will be held between 31 October and 29 December. Between 3 January and 3 April 2023, the second batch of entrance exams for manufacturing jobs will be held. Those who want to join construction industry can take the exam between 17 April and 15 May 2023.

The test dates for the first and second batches of manufacturing jobs and construction jobs can change, the statement mentioned.

The EPS-TOPIK tests for manufacturing and construction were earlier scheduled between 16 August and 15 October 2022. However, verification of the high number of EPS candidates de-



Myanmar workers were seen before leaving for South Korea at Myanmar International Airport in July.

layed the exam.

More than 37,000 people submitted an EPS-TOPIK applications in July 2022 and the majority of them are from regions and states outside Yangon.

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

Sending workers to the Republic of Korea temporarily halted in June 2020 amid the coronavirus consequences and resumed in December 2021. Over the past year, 42,832 successful

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

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

Multilateral checkpoint between Myanmar and India to be built in Tamu

THE Indian Embassy to Myanmar announced on 20 September that a project agreement on the construction of a multilateral checkpoint in Tamu, Tamu District, Sagaing Region was signed on 16 September 2022.

The multilateral checkpoint project will be built with the help of the Indian government, and the Indian officials have already built the multilateral checkpoint in Moreh, India, according to a statement from the Indian embassy.

The construction of a new multilateral checkpoint at the Moreh-Tamu border on the Myanmar side will facilitate trade and travels between India and Myanmar, as Tamu is the northwestern gateway to Myanmar.

The construction of multilateral checkpoints on the border of the two countries will

encourage border trade and tourism, and will also improve the socio-economic development of the border regions.

Both Myanmar and India have opened the Tamu-Moreh trade zone at the Myanmar-India border in Sagaing Region for bilateral trade. It was opened on 8 August 2018 in Tamu Township.

Then, due to the high level of COVID-19 epidemic, Myanmar-India border trade zones were closed from March 2020, but the border trade zone (1) and (2) were reopened to import medicine in August 2021.

It is reported that the trade volume between Myanmar and India at the end of July 2022-2023 financial year is US\$357.627 million, while the export volume is \$179.324 million, and the import volume is \$178.303 million. —TWA/GNLM

Police arrest undocumented persons in Pyay

RELEVANT departmental officials seized 37 undocumented migrants in the secret hiding place of the lorry at the Nawade bridge checkpoint in Pandaung Township of Pyay District.

A total of 33 men and four women were arrested at the Nawade bridge checkpoint of Pandaung Township at 10:30 am on 20 September. They were carried from the Pathein-Monywa Road of Min-

bu Township and they paid K40 million for each as fees to deliver them to Malaysia. The police force arrested the driver and make ongoing investigations.

Similarly, a suspicious person was found near the rice mill of Ngamyinchaung village in Myaungmya Township in Ayeyawady Region on 19 September. The result of the interrogation followed 26 men, 16 women and 25 under the age of 18 being detained. After de-

tainees underwent COVID-19 tests, three of them were found infected.

Next, officials arrested 31 persons and five schooner men from the beach of Nwenyochaung village, Pathein Township in Ayeyawady Region on 18 September.

A total of 35 undocumented migrants were also captured in Pandaung and Okshitpin of Pyay district in June and July. —TWA/GNLM



Officials exchange the signed Memorandum of Understanding-MoU on the project agreement on the construction of a multilateral checkpoint in Tamu.

Users can report to CBM directly if their accounts are frozen unfairly: KPay



The undated photo shows a KBZ Bank staff helping a customer to open a KPay account.

THE customers of KPay, a mobile wallet powered by the KBZ Bank, can directly submit their complaints to the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) if their accounts are temporarily restricted for no apparent reason, according to KPay's statement.

At present, some KPay accounts were temporarily frozen according to a directive of the Financial Regulatory Institution. We sincerely regret any inconvenience to the customers, said the KBZ in its statement. If the customers believe that their accounts are frozen

without reason, they can file complaints directly to the CBM through complaint@cbm.gov.mm.

There are two KPay apps depending on the customer segment, with the Customer App coloured blue for customers and KPay Partner App coloured red for businesses.

Under the Financial Institutions Law 2014, the banks and all non-bank financial institutions provide services holding licences issued by the CBM. All banks are committed to directives, rules and regulations of the Central Bank, in-

cluding notifications regarding the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) in 2015.

The identification of the mobile wallet users will be verified with that recorded at the immigration. Therefore, the users of mobile wallet apps are required to upgrade to Level 2 status and all the information must be filled in correctly. Unless they do so, their accounts will be cancelled, according to the CBM's notification dated 16 September. —TWA/GNLM



New white baby elephant of 2022 lives happy and healthy with his mother

A white male elephant was born at 6:30 am on 23 July 2022 by the 33-year-old female elephant called Zar Nan Hla from the Myanma Timber Enterprise in Taungup Township of Rakhine State. The baby elephant was two feet and five inches in height, three feet and one inch in girth and weighs 180 pounds at birth.

The newly-born white elephant has pearl-coloured eyes, a plantain branch-shaped back, white hair, a distinctive tail, auspicious plot signs on the skin, reddish-brown or pinkish skin, five claws on the front legs, four

claws on the back legs and big ears. Therefore, these features conform with seven out of eight characteristics.

At this time, the baby white elephant is two months old, with two feet and seven-half inches in height, three feet and eight inches in girth and weighs about 204 pounds. He stays healthy and happy with his mother elephant. It is reported that the baby white elephant has been tame by humans since childhood and is being trained by the Human-Friendly Training system to be much tamer. — MNA

409 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 22 September, total figure rises to 620,444

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **620,444** after **409** new cases were reported on 22 September 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **596,280** recovered from disease. Death toll reaches **19,452** with **one** death.

Myanmar reported 138 COVID-19 deaths between 28-1-2022 and 19-9-2022. Of them, 97 deaths (70 per cent) had underlying chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, liver, kidney, lung and cancer.

According to the analysis of the COVID-19 vaccination rate of deaths with underlying chronic diseases, 79.4 per cent have received no vaccination at all and have not been fully inoculated, 18.6 per cent have received full vaccination and two per cent has received booster shots.

COVID-19 vaccination rate of deaths with underlying chronic diseases

Out of COVID-19 deaths with underlying chronic disease		
79.4 per cent	18.6 per cent	2 per cent
have not been vaccinated at all and have not been fully vaccinated	have been fully vaccinated	have received booster shots

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

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

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, electronics, goods, construction materials confiscated

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

The on-duty team under the supervision of the Customs Department made inspections.

Officials confiscated K300,000 worth of a DJI Phantom4 Drone without official documents from a suitcase at the Yangon International Airport on 15 September and K9,338,700 worth of China-made dried tea without official documents at the warehouse of Yangon International Airport on 20 September. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, on 19 and 20 September, an on-duty inspection team nabbed 3,230 kilogrammes of steel pipes and 254 solar panels worth K37,368,870 that exceeded the

Import Declaration (ID) from two containers at the Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa (MITT), 40 Brand new car body fits (KIA brand) worth K200 million that did not match the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at Dry port (KM) Warehouse and 50 Roland AC Adaptors worth K630,000 that were not declared in Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Hteedan Container Checkpoint. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, on 22 September, the Yadanabon Bridge Combined Checkpoint seized 250 bags of illegal charcoal worth K750,000 and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Afterwards, the combined inspection teams led by Bago Region Forest Department captured a total of 98.0168 tonnes of illegal timber worth



Confiscated illegal items.

K49,970,070 in the Toungoo, Nyaunglebin and Nattalin districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

A total of 7.537 tonnes of

illegal timber worth K421,022 was seized in Thandwe township and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 12 arrests es-

timated at K298,778,662 were made on 15, 19, 20 and 22 September, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Dollar exchange rate stands at K3,200 in black market despite CBM reference rate of K2,100

KYAT depreciates against the hard currency US dollar at approximately K3,200 on the over-the-counter market although the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) set the reference exchange rate at K2,100, according to local forex traders.

To strengthen the domestic currency in the local forex market, the CBM set the CBM set the currency trading band at 0.3 per cent for the Kyat to fluctuate between these two specified upper and lower exchange rates for transactions, selling or buying, according to a directive issued by the CBM on 10 August 2022.

Therefore, financial institutions including banks and infor-

mal money changers set a dollar value at K2,100 for buying and K2,106 for selling.

Despite the trading band, the dollar transaction was made with the buying price of K3,180 and the selling price of K3,250 in the grey market.

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

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

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

On 28 September 2021, a dollar value hit a peak of over K3,000 in the black market, pushing the pure gold up to K2.22 million per tical.

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

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



The office of the Central Bank of Myanmar-CBM.

ing against those unscrupulous traders who intend to interfere with the free and fair operation of the market under the existing laws, by-laws and regulations in

line with the official directives, illegal foreign currency holding, illegal trade and taking legal actions against price manipulators. – NN/GNLM

Chinese potato, onion prices decline in Yangon market

THE onions imported from China entered the Yangon market at a cheaper rate of K1,600 per viss on 22 September, said Ko Aung, a wholesaler from Bayintnaung told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Yangon markets saw a downtick in potato and onion prices, along with a fall in Kyaukok garlic prices, Ko Thet, a trader who sends commodities to regions outside Yangon, told the GNLM.

On 14 September, the wholesale price of Chinese potatoes rose to K2,500 per viss. The price slid to K2,050 per viss on 22 September. Similarly, the price of Chinese onions decreased from K2,750 per viss on 13 September to K1,800 per viss on 17 September.

As Chinese potatoes cannot be used in potato chip businesses, it is relying on the consumers only in Yangon markets. Large Chinese potatoes were commonly seen in the market. Chinese potatoes which are the same size as Shan potatoes are not separately imported for now.

The wholesale price of medium and small potatoes (A1/OK/S1) from the Aungban area, Shan State stood

at K1,400-1,600 per viss on 22 September. The supply of Shan potato (S2) variety to Yangon markets is pretty low so the price stayed elevated at K2,150 per viss, the GNLM quoted Ko Thein Myint, a potato seller, as saying.

Potatoes are easy to spoil. It has flaws and sprouts sometimes. So, the consumers always carefully choose potatoes in the market.

As potato rot disease can spread easily, infected potatoes are removed from the warehouses. Chinese potatoes are still flooding the market.

When onion prices touched a high of K3,850 per viss in the wholesale market on 2 September, Chinese onions started entering the Yangon market on 13 September at K2,750 per viss, Ko Kyaw Han, an onion buyer on Nguwah Street, told the GNLM.

After that, local onions from the Seikphyu area declined to K3,000 per viss. However, the price slightly increased again on low stocks.

The prices of local onions from the Seikphyu area were K2,800-3,200 in recent days. — TWA/GNLM



Bags of onions and potatoes were pictured being piled up at warehouses in the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market.

Peanut prices slump again due to supply of newly harvested peanut

THE supply of newly harvested peanuts to Mandalay markets caused prices to dip again to around K6,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), according to the Mandalay commodity wholesale centre.

On 1 September, the peanut prices moved in the range between K6,800 and K7,200 per viss depending on varieties, whereas the prices declined to K5,600-6,000 per viss on 22 September. The figures reflected a sharp decrease of K1,000-1,200 per viss within three weeks.

From the third week of August, a new supply of peanuts from Kyaukpadaung, Tatkon, Yamethin, Magway and Aunglan areas has been entering the markets in Mandalay city.

The peanut among edible oil crops has both domestic and foreign demands. Domestic oil millers are increasingly

purchasing them in the competitive market at present.

Meanwhile, peanut oil is priced at K12,000 per viss in the Mandalay market.

In April, the world's top palm oil exporter Indonesia, which is one of the main oil suppliers to Myanmar, declared an export ban on cooking oil export to reduce the domestic shortage. Consequently, Myanmar's Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce temporarily suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) from 9 May to have oil self-sufficiency.

Exports of Myanmar's edible oil crops resumed as the world's top palm oil exporters returned to normalcy, according to a notification dated 5 July 2022 released by the Trade Department. – NN/GNLM

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OPINION

Collectively participate in combatting fake news and false information

MEDIA is of great importance in Myanmar's endeavours of building a democratic nation in a discipline-flourishing multiparty democratic system. The role of the media is the fourth estate to ensure executive, judicial and legislative powers are straightening and righteous through a check and balance system.

Everybody and every organization need to abide by disciplines so as to strengthen the disciplined flourishing multiparty democratic nation. Only if they do, will they achieve success. First, they have to avoid the acts of derailing the activities against democracy from the democratic route. Any person or organization needs to follow the provisions stipulated in the Constitution.

As a fourth estate, the Myanmar Press Council has been constituted in order to manage the media issues in checking and balancing the national causes. All media persons need to keep the national interests fore. Although the Myanmar Press Council expresses true news of the country in a correct manner.

Everybody can see the least true information streamlining across the nation. Especially, powerful big countries abuse fake news and false information using sensitive news to be able to exploit and manipulate small countries. Media can be used easily to discredit or tarnish the image of a country. As such, not only media persons but the entire people need to combat and rebut fake news and false information, through a nationalistic spirit.

Responsible persons from the MPC who attended the World Press Freedom Day together with 23 countries in Nairobi of Kenya from 2 to 8 May 2022 and the Dili Dialogue Forum held in Timor-Leste on 25 and 26 August together with delegates from Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Myanmar in addition to UNESCO. At the meetings, Myanmar delegates explained the streaming of misinformation in the international community and true news about Myanmar.

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■

But, media encouraging terror attacks with instigation wedged by foreign countries are steadfastly mentioning the wrong information which may cause destruction to the country. It is because those who committed the destructionist acts do not wish to firmly emerge Myanmar as a disciplined flourishing multiparty democratic nation.

The Myanmar Press Council conducts training courses, holds talks with media persons in various regions and discusses the disadvantages of fake and fabricated news at universities, colleges and basic education schools across the nation to enhance the capacity of media persons and develop media measures. Moreover, the council often holds discussions and exchanges information with media countries from the ASEAN region and other global countries.

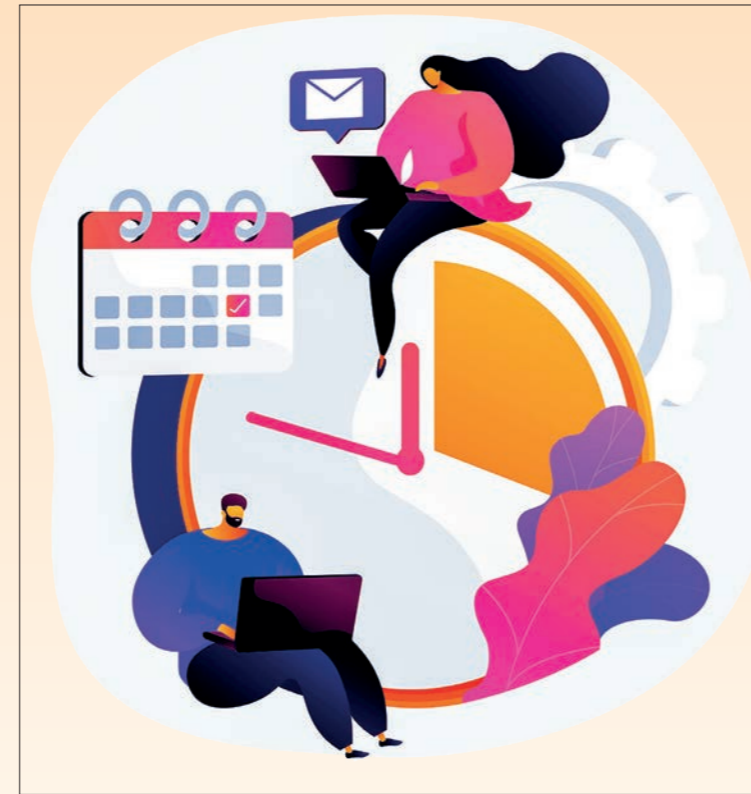
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How to Solve Study Routine Abnormality

IN the modern world, it can be possibly said that study and exams often go hand in hand to test whether a student has got an achievement in any subject that he studied, is studying, or will study. Some students are able to pass exams with their eyes shut, but others cannot do well in their exams even though they should not fail the exams. Most students who are like a bull in a China shop as to exams may neither be slow learners nor have short-term memories, actually. Perhaps the main reason why they tend to fail exams is that they surely have abnormal study routines such as not paying good attention to teachers' instruction, not having regular study hours, not making periodic study habits, not knowing self-learning styles, and not meeting objectives for study. Before the study, I think that every student needs to see the word 'study' in depth at first.

As far as I am aware, the term 'study' does have a more advanced meaning than just learning which is the educational process of being taught to be said better, an activity called study mainly consists of the five steps: reading or learning, memorizing, prac-



Some students would rather do their studies on their own, so they do not like to pay very long attention to their teachers' lectures quite often. **IMAGE: ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF FREEPIK**

tising, revising, and repeating any subject matter. In other words, a study on anything will probably contain the six levels in order: knowing, comprehending, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating in light of Bloom's Taxonomy Classification. The three tasks - scanning, skimming and cram-

ming - might only be parts of a student's private study. More importantly, a usual case of forgetting should be considered in the procedure of pursuing studies even if a student has a long-term memory. In addition to these points, it usually takes time, energy, resources, and materials like money to conduct

the very study.

Some students would rather do their studies on their own, so they do not like to pay very long attention to their teachers' lectures quite often. Of course, some studies do not absolutely need teaching, but others do - for example tutorials and practicals. Whatever those studies are, if a student gives great attention to teachers' tuition, maybe he will already have finished 50 per cent or even 100 per cent of a study before home-based learning, especially languages. The more attention students have in listening lessons of a language, the more acquisition they will get for that language. However, attention seems like one of the keys to studying success among students these days. After study must come attention. Young students are meant to pay 15-minute attention only during instruction time and pause for it at any time. Besides having this attention, students frequently show no interest in the subjects that they dislike studying. Any student has to catch his attention himself to all subjects, particularly for basic education, whether he likes them or not.

It is commonly found that

average students do not keep regular study hours. Some study in the morning, but do not in the evening or vice versa. Moreover, most of them have not fixed an exact time for study at all. They extemporize studying only when they want to, or even when the exams are drawing near. In fact, every student must have put a regular time for study; the higher their grades or levels become, the more study time of their own they have got to set aside with regularity. Regular study hours will make students arouse their motivation for study without fail - that is, they will autonomously be keen as mustard to go and sit back at their study table or place only if they spend study time as always. Furthermore, students can not only acquire continuous learning in life but also get used to length-of-time studying via regular study. They should have set at least 30-minute time to study per subject every day. Also, they had better give more time study to the subjects in which they have a problem studying at all times. A highly motivated student, who is an outstanding one as well, finds it essential to have owned study hours of regularity to be.

How several students do studying has not yet turned into a good habit, which means that this does not happen periodically. Some students would like to study just in the early morning and this period of time, as they say, helps their heads to be clear and fresh. Thus, they do not study for the rest of a day, but nevertheless, they sometimes do nothing except for sleeping out of sheer boredom, for instance, feeling too cold and getting up so early in the morning. In reality, whatever kind of nice study duration must be quiet or in students' attention without any emotional disturbance. What is more, students ought to be ready to study during this time, anyway. Some students will not study for anything if they have no homework for a day or their teachers never check their homework, as sure as eggs are eggs. This is nothing but that students entirely rely on teachers' extrinsic motivation, not their intrinsic motivation. The study is everywhere. As soon as the known is getting larger, the unknown will lessen. On no account should each student have broken their periodic study habits of getting knowledge, skill, and attitude.

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

It is really important that a student himself needs to know his self-learning style very well before his studies. Unless he sees his own learning style even a little bit, he will have trouble carrying out a study for certain, ineffectively and inefficiently. As regards learning styles, students should normally take notice of what kind of intelligence they possess, i.e., linguistic intelligence, mathematical intelligence, spatial intelligence, musical intelligence, kinesthetic intelligence, interpersonal intelligence, intrapersonal intelligence, or naturalistic intelligence to Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences, at first. Secondly, they need to be careful of which type of memory they have got, short-term memory, or long-term memory. Thirdly, they can think that they forget studies in a moment because of proactive inhibition or retroactive inhibition. Only if students perceive these three things of intelligence, memory, and forgetting will they be able to find out their private learning styles, and then grasp studies naturally

and logically. A number of students will not have set any aim and objective for studies, generally or specifically. Certainly, that should not be so. Should they continue their studies, they must have had at least one general objective for it. Otherwise, their future studies could be plunged into chaos with no directional control. With some objective, preparation, continuity, and love can be put into studies in order that students can feel happy and satisfied with the field of those studies at any time. There are an unlimited number of studies arising in the world; be that as it may, each human being's abilities and competencies are possible to be limited. We humans might, therefore, hardly bring about overall study apart from enough study. In order to attain enough study, good attention, regular study hours, periodic study habits, self-learning styles, and study objectives will have to be done by all students while they get rid of their abnormal study routines bit by bit.

■

Aviation chiefs warn of prolonged ticket price pain

International Air Transport Association director-general Willie Walsh said that airlines' recovery would be delayed if China maintains its coronavirus travel clampdown into 2023.

AVIATION industry leaders warned Wednesday that travellers must brace for even higher ticket prices as the sector battles fallout from the Covid pandemic, high oil prices and conflict fears.

International Air Transport Association director-general Willie Walsh also said that airlines' recovery would be delayed if China maintains its coronavirus travel clampdown into 2023.

The IATA head and Qatar Airways chief executive Akbar Al Baker said travellers around

the world could expect more price pain in coming months because of higher fuel prices added to crippling losses from the past two years.

There was "little optimism" in the industry, Walsh told a news conference on the sidelines of an IATA meeting.

Walsh said that "the bottom line" is that if jet fuel prices keep going up "the only choice for companies is to have that reflected in ticket prices".

"The price is so volatile," he

added. The IATA head and Qatar Airways chief said the ticket pressures would extend into 2023 and beyond.

IATA says airlines posted losses of \$180 billion in 2020 and 2021 and expects another \$9.7 billion in losses this year.

Baker, whose company this year recorded \$1.5 billion in profit, slammed governments for "misleading" the public about the environmental damage of flying.

He said restrictions on airlines such as moves in many Eu-

ropean countries to end flights of less than 500 kilometres (310 miles), was also adding to costs.

Baker said that if the cost of newer environmentally friendly fuels was higher than that would also be added to ticket pressures.

Both said any reopening of China's frontiers would play a key role in the aviation industry's recovery.

China had a "very important place" in international travel figures, said Walsh.

"If in 2023 China remains

closed then it clearly will have an impact on the strength of the overall recovery," he said.

He said Hong Kong's aviation sector had been "devastated" by Covid restrictions, the city was no longer a global aviation hub and that Cathay Pacific was a "shadow" of its former importance.

Baker said many Chinese football fans may not be able to go this year's World Cup in Qatar because of restrictions caused by China's zero-coronavirus policy.

SOURCE: AFP



China had a "very important place" in international travel figures. Passengers get off the first flight of China Southern Airlines' Guangzhou-Urumqi-Vienna route at Vienna International Airport, Vienna, Austria, 18 June 2019. **PHOTO: XINHUA/GUO CHEN/FILE**

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

NASA says delayed Moon rocket passed fuelling test

NASA said Wednesday it had successfully trialled the fuelling process for its new rocket, after technical issues a few weeks ago halted two attempts to get the behemoth off the ground and headed towards the Moon.

“All of the objectives that we set out to do we were able to accomplish today,” said Charlie Blackwell-Thompson, launch director of the programme called Artemis 1.

The unmanned mission hopes to test the new 30-storey SLS rocket as well as the unmanned Orion capsule that sits atop it, in preparation for future Moon-bound journeys with humans aboard.

The last attempt in early September to launch NASA’s most powerful rocket yet had to be aborted because of a leak while its cryogenic fuels – liquid



The unmanned mission hopes to test the new 30-storey SLS rocket as well as the unmanned Orion capsule that sits atop it, in preparation for future Moon-bound journeys with humans aboard. **PHOTO: AFP**

hydrogen and oxygen — were being pumped into the rocket’s tanks.

Repairs were carried out and Wednesday’s test involved filling those tanks again.

Though a small hydrogen

leak was detected during the test, NASA engineers were able to get it under control.

Last week NASA said it is now aiming for 27 September as the next date for liftoff. 2 October was set as a backup date.—AFP

How many ants are on Earth? 20 quadrillion, study says



Two European red wood ants (*Formica polyctena*) are pictured in a forest near Birkenwerder, northeastern Germany. **PHOTO: PATRICK PLEUL/DPA/AFP/FILE**

THERE are at least 20 quadrillion ants on Earth, according to a new study that says even that staggering figure likely underestimates the total population of the insects, which are an essential part of ecosystems around the world.

Determining the global population of ants is important for measuring the consequences of changes to their habitat — in-

cluding those caused by climate change.

Ants play a significant role, dispersing seeds, hosting organisms and serving as either predators or prey.

Some studies have already attempted to estimate the global ant population, but they resulted in a far smaller number than 20 quadrillion, which is 20 million billion.

For this new attempt — published Monday in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS) — researchers analyzed 465 studies that measured the number of ants locally in the field.

The hundreds of studies used two standardized techniques: setting traps that captured ants passing by during a certain period of time, or analyzing the number of ants on a given patch of leaves on the ground.

While surveys have been carried out on all continents, some major regions had little or no data, including central Africa and Asia.

This is why “the true abundance of ants globally is likely to be considerably higher” than estimated, the study says. “It is of utmost importance that we fill these remaining gaps to achieve a comprehensive picture of insect diversity.” There are more than 15,700 named species and subspecies of ants that are found all over the planet, and probably an equal number that have yet to be described.—AFP

Batteries, community spirit help California fight heat wave

DIRE predictions of blackouts in California during a fearsome heat wave this month never came to pass, with technology — and a dose of community spirit — helping the creaking grid through its most testing period ever.

The mercury topped 110 Fahrenheit (43 Celsius) on consecutive days, as a thrumming heat dome parked itself over the western United States.

But the grid never failed, thanks in part to the state’s quietly acquired battery fleet.

“Batteries stepped in and... played a critical role” in rebalancing electricity demand, said Weikko Wirta, director of operations at AES Southland, a 400 megawatt installation at Long Beach near Los Angeles.

The huge electricity storage facility, which resembles an enormous server farm, is one of the largest in the state.

Sunny California has abundant solar energy at its disposal, and harnesses a growing amount of the rays that land on its rooftops.—AFP



California has abundant solar energy, harnessing a growing amount of the rays that land on its rooftops, but when the sun sets, there can be a shortfall. **PHOTO: AFP**

Pressure grows after World Bank chief dodges climate questions

CLIMATE groups called Wednesday for the World Bank’s president to be removed after he refused multiple times to say if he believed man-made emissions contributed to global warming.

Activists have previously called for David Malpass to resign or be removed for what they say is an inadequate approach to the climate crisis.

The head of the World Bank is traditionally an American while the other big international lender in Washington, the IMF, tends to be European. Malpass is a veteran of Republican administrations in the United States and was appointed in 2019 while Donald Trump, who famously and repeatedly denied the science behind climate change, was president.

The chorus against Malpass grew louder after his appearance Tuesday at a New York Times conference on climate finance.

Asked by a journalist to respond to former US vice-president Al Gore’s claim that he was a climate denier, Malpass said that some of his critics “may not know what the World Bank is doing.” He boasted that its climate funding is “by far the biggest” among international financial institutions.

After another attempt failed to get a straight answer, the journalist, David Gelles, said: “Let me just be as clear as I can: Do you accept the scientific consensus that the man made burning of fossil fuels is rapidly and dangerously warming the planet?”—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Japan asks foreign guests to wear face masks at Abe's state funeral



Prime Minister Eisaku Sato (center) during a state funeral for the former Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida in October 1967 in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

JAPAN will ask foreign guests attending the state funeral for former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe next week to wear protective face masks to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus, the top government spokesman said Thursday.

"We will call for foreign dignitaries and other attendees to wear face masks and take infec-

tion prevention measures, such as preparing disinfectant, on the day of the state funeral," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said at a press conference.

The request marks a sharp contrast with Monday's state funeral for Queen Elizabeth II in London, at which attendees, including Japanese Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako,

took part without wearing face masks.

While the number of new COVID-19 cases has been declining in Japan, the government has still urged the public to wear face masks inside buildings and other facilities. The government, meanwhile, said Thursday around 4,300 people are expected to attend the service to be held Tuesday in a hall in Tokyo. Of them, roughly 700 people are likely to travel to Japan from 218 countries, regions and international organizations. The figure includes 49 incumbent and former leaders from overseas.

Of the 218, 117 will dispatch attendees from abroad, while the remaining 101 will be represented by individuals in Japan such as embassy officials, according to the government.

US Vice-President Kamala Harris, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck Soo and Vietnamese President Nguyen Xuan Phuc are among those on the list released by the government.— Kyodo

US leads new pledges to fight child malnutrition

THE United States on Wednesday led pledges for \$280 million to fight childhood malnutrition through the supply of ready-to-eat packets in nations suffering from acute food shortages.

At an event on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, the US Agency for International Development promised \$200 million of the total \$280 million as part of an event with UNICEF to stop childhood wasting, the low weight-for-height caused by poor nutrition.

"The truth is, wasting is treatable," USAID chief Samantha Power said.

"Complex cases require more specialized medical attention, but for straightforward cases caught early, treatment is cost-effective and can be done at home," she said.

"Yet only a third of children suffering from wasting today



A child suffering from malnutrition is weighed at a treatment centre in a hospital. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

receive the treatment they need. And with more funding, better delivery systems and improved access to health care, we can empower communities to save their children's lives."

So-called ready-to-use therapeutic foods are pastes of high nutritional value that are given to children who suffer severe wasting.

Invented by French researcher Andre Briend, they can be consumed directly and have long shelf lives.

Power said that a full course of the therapeutic packets takes several weeks and requires monitoring by a health worker, with the treatment costing a little more than \$100 per child.— AFP

Some hospitals in Yemen to shut down due to lack of funding

HOSPITALS and medical centres in parts of Yemen are on the brink of closure due to a lack of funding, a government official told Xinhua on Wednesday.

"A number of public hospitals in southern regions and the beleaguered northern province of Marib may stop offering healthcare services during the upcoming days as they are facing complicated financial problems," the local government source said on condition of anonymity.

He indicated that other

public hospitals in the country's northern provinces controlled by the Houthi militia are facing the same obstacles.

On Tuesday, the state-run Saba news agency said that the only public hospital offering care to mothers and children in Marib has warned it may shut down at the end of September due to lack of a budget, after the withdrawal of international organizations that used to provide salaries for 65 staff including doctors, technicians and nurses.

— Xinhua



Hospitals and medical centres in parts of Yemen are on the brink of closure due to a lack of funding. **PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/ WHO EMRO/FILE**

'Drink it anyway': Syria water woes peak in cholera outbreak

IN a Syria hospital crowded with women and wailing children, Ahmad al-Mohammad writhed in pain beside his wife after they contracted cholera, which is resurging for the first time in years.

During his six days in treatment, Mohammad has watched patients stream into the Al-Kasrah hospital in the eastern province of Deir Ezzor, where the highly-polluted Euphrates River is a major source of contaminated water used for both drinking and irrigation.

"We have suffered from diarrhoea, vomiting and pain... because we drink directly from the Euphrates River," the 45-year-old told AFP from the hospital, barely able to speak.

"The waters of the Euphrates are polluted but we

have no other choice."

Cholera is generally contracted from contaminated food or water and spreads in residential areas that lack proper sewerage networks or main drinking water.

The disease is making its first major comeback since 2009 in Syria, where nearly two-thirds of water treatment plants, half of pumping stations and one-third of water towers have been damaged by more than a decade of war, according to the United Nations. The Syrian government has announced 23 deaths and more than 250 cholera cases across six of the country's 14 provinces since the start of the outbreak in September, with most cases concentrated in the northern province of Aleppo.— AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Asian economies rank toward bottom on digital environment for entrepreneurs, ADB's global index shows

FOUR-FIFTHS of developing Asian economies place toward the bottom in a global ranking of digital environments and support systems for entrepreneurs, according to a new index developed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) released on Wednesday.

According to the Global Index of Digital Entrepreneur-

ship Systems, released as part of the Asian Development Outlook 2022 Update, Singapore has the world's best digital environment and support system for entrepreneurs,

The index measures the quality of the environment for digital entrepreneurs by looking at the level of digitalization in eight areas: culture, insti-

tutions, market conditions, infrastructure, human capital, knowledge, finance, and networking.

The United States ranks second, while Sweden ranks third among 113 economies on the list. But 17 of the 21 developing Asian economies included are ranked toward the bottom, underscoring the need for these economies to nurture digital entrepreneurship.

"Digital entrepreneurship helped economies stay afloat during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it can become a major engine of growth and innovation in the post-pandemic world," ADB Chief Economist Albert Park said.

"For this to happen, there needs to be a supportive environment enabled by conducive policies and incentives," he added. —Xinhua



Digitalization offers big growth opportunities for businesses in Asia and the Pacific. PHOTO: ADB

Tanzania launches 15-year fisheries master plan to boost economic growth



A vendor swims to shore from a fishing boat after purchasing a catch of sardines in Stone Town, Zanzibar, a Tanzanian archipelago off the coast of East Africa. PHOTO: AFP

TANZANIAN Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa on Tuesday launched a 15-year fisheries master plan aimed at boosting the sector's contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) from the current 1.8 per cent to 10 per cent by 2037.

Launching the master plan in the commercial capital of Dar es Salaam, Majaliwa said the plan scheduled to be imple-

mented from 2021/2022 through 2036/2037 will contribute to the growth of the fisheries sector and the blue economy.

"The fisheries master plan ensures that every citizen benefits from the sector," said the premier, stressing that the government will continue accommodating views from members of the public aimed at improving the fisheries sector.—Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Norway, Swiss central banks hike rates to tame inflation

THE Swiss and Norwegian central banks announced hefty interest rate hikes on Thursday as global monetary policymakers ramp up the battle against runaway inflation.

The moves follow big rate rises in Sweden and the United States this week and come ahead of another increase expected to be announced by the Bank of England on Thursday.

Norway's central bank raised its rate to its highest level since 2011 while the Swiss National Bank ended its negative-rate era. The Swiss central bank raised its policy rate by 0.75 percentage points to 0.5 per cent. The SNB, which first pushed its rates down into negative territory in January 2015, said the move was needed to counter "the renewed rise in inflationary pressure and the spread of inflation to goods and services that have so far been less affected".—AFP

UK's new PM veers away from Biden's economic script at UN

BRITAIN'S new Prime Minister Liz Truss was Wednesday to outline an economic rescue programme focussed on tax cuts — even as US President Joe Biden rejected that approach as the two prepared to meet at the UN.

"I am sick and tired of trickle-down economics. It has never worked," Biden tweeted ahead of his first meeting with Boris Johnson's successor in New York. "We're building an economy from the bottom up and middle out," the president said, contrasting his approach to Republican opponents whose philosophy is more akin to the UK's new Conservative leader.—AFP

Rising obesity projected to hamper developing economies – report



A woman sits on the shore looking out at sea in Noumea, Capital of New Caledonia on 1 December 2014. PHOTO: AFP /THEO ROUBY /FILE

RISING levels of obesity are set to cost the world economy 3.3 per cent of GDP by 2060, slowing development in lower-income countries and making it hard for people to lead healthy lives, according to a new study published Wednesday.

The peer-reviewed paper, published in BMJ Global Health, provides the first coun-

try-by-country estimate of the economic impacts of obesity, a major driver of other non-communicable diseases such as cancer, diabetes and heart conditions.

It also included projections for the numbers of people in each country who are overweight or obese — defined as a body mass index in adults

greater or equal to 25 and 30, respectively.

"Globally, nearly two in three adults are now living with overweight and obesity. And we project that will be three in four adults by 2060," lead author Rachel Nugent told reporters at a briefing on the margins of the UN General Assembly.

The conditions currently cost 2.2 per cent of global GDP, and the biggest increases are expected to be seen in lower-resourced countries.

China, the United States and India are projected to experience the highest impact in absolute terms — costing the countries \$10 trillion, \$2.5 trillion and \$850 billion, respectively.

As a proportion of the economy, the worst impacted countries are set to include the United Arab Emirates, where obesity would account for 11 per cent of GDP, and Trinidad and Tobago at 10.2 per cent.—AFP

Cheap mealboxes a taste of Hong Kong's economic woes

HONG Konger Kitty Chan pivoted to takeout to help her restaurant survive the pandemic, but she has since opened a second shop as demand for cheap mealboxes surges in a city enduring economic woes.

Small shops selling inexpensive two-dish mealboxes have mushroomed across one of the world's least affordable cities, cropping up in working-class and white-collar areas alike as people tighten their belts.

"The Covid restrictions were a catalyst," she told AFP at her res-



Small shops selling inexpensive two-dish mealboxes have mushroomed across Hong Kong. PHOTO: AFP

taurant in Kowloon, one of the world's most densely populated city districts, as a queue of hungry patrons snaked down the street.

"There are multiple factors in this city that make us many people's kitchen."

Hong Kong took an

economic hit in 2019 when months of democracy protests kept visitors away and helped tip the city into a prolonged recession.

More than 2.5 years of strict Covid controls have again pushed the Asian finance hub into negative growth.

Hong Kong finance chief Paul Chan warned Thursday there is a "very high chance" the city will end the year in a full-blown recession while the fiscal deficit is expected to balloon to HK\$100 billion (\$12.7 billion), twice initial estimates.—AFP

Swiss mull banning factory farms

THE Swiss will vote Sunday on whether to ban intensive livestock farming in the largely rural country, which already has some of the world's strictest animal welfare laws.

The animal rights and welfare organizations behind the initiative want to make protecting the dignity of farm animals like cattle, chickens or pigs a constitutional requirement.

Their proposal, which received more than the

100,000 signatures needed to put any issue to a popular vote under Switzerland's famous direct democracy system, would essentially eradicate all factory farming.

"We believe animal agriculture is one of the defining problems of our time," animal welfare group Sentience, which presented the initiative, says on its website. It points to the "immense suffering experienced by animals on factory farms,"



No to the useless livestock initiative, the placards read, ahead of a vote Swiss vote on a proposed ban on factory farming. PHOTO: AFP

but also to scientific studies showing that "industrial animal husbandry is

disastrous for the environment and detrimental to our health".—AFP

US jury orders Meta to pay \$174.5 mln for violating patents

A US jury on Wednesday ordered Meta to pay \$174.5 million for violating live-streaming patents developed by a US Army veteran seeking to fix shortcomings in battlefield communications.

A trial in Texas federal court ended with jurors deciding that "live" features at Facebook and Instagram used technology patented by Voxer, a company co-founded by Tom Katis, legal documents showed.

"We believe the ev-

idence at trial demonstrated that Meta did not infringe Voxer's patents," a company spokesperson said in response to an AFP inquiry.

"We intend to seek further relief, including filing an appeal."

Katis had reenlisted in the army after the 11 September 2001 attacks in the United States and served as a Special Forces communications sergeant in Afghanistan, court filings said.—AFP

Greek tourism revenue nears pre-pandemic record

GREECE'S tourism revenue fell just short of pre-pandemic levels in the first seven months of the year, official data showed Wednesday.

Travel receipts in January-July totalled nearly 8.85 billion euros (\$8.75 billion), the Greek central bank said in a statement.

This was 2.9 per cent below a record Greek year in 2019 prior to the coronavirus pandemic. Arrivals so far are 12.1 per cent lower at 13.26 million compared to 2019.

Against last year, receipts until July were up by 154.2 per cent, and arrivals increased by 191.4 per cent, the bank said.

Most of the visitors came from Germany, the UK, France and the US.

The Greek government had peeled back coronavirus restrictions early this year to boost visitor numbers. Mandatory screening tests for travellers who hold a European vaccination certificate were scrapped in February.—AFP

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA RAJIN VOY.NO. (KRJN0264N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA RAJIN VOY.NO. (KRJN0264N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-9-2022 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
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (243N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (243N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-9-2022 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
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINES

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

N Korea denies exporting weapons to Russia



Moscow-ally Pyongyang hit out at the United States in the statement, saying Washington and “other hostile forces” were “spreading a ‘rumour of arms dealings’ between the DPRK and Russia,” using the official acronym for North Korea. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

NORTH Korea on Wednesday denied it was providing arms to Russia, state media said, weeks after the United States said Moscow was turning to Pyongyang to replenish its stocks depleted by invading Ukraine.

“We have never exported weapons or ammunition to Russia before and we will not plan to export them,” an official at the defence ministry’s General Bureau of Equipment said in a

statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

The statement comes after the White House said earlier in September that Russia was buying artillery shells and rockets from communist North Korea to support its war in Ukraine.

National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said the United States believed purchases “could include literally

millions of rounds, rockets and artillery shells”.

However, citing declassified US intelligence, he stressed at the time that the purchases were not yet completed and that there was no indication the weapons were being used in Ukraine.

Moscow-ally Pyongyang hit out at the United States in the statement, saying Washington and “other hostile forces” were “spreading a ‘rumour of arms dealings’ between the DPRK and Russia,” using the official acronym for North Korea.

“We warn the US to stop making reckless remarks,” it said, while emphasizing North Korea maintains the right to export military equipment.

The White House indicated that the purchase of artillery ammunition from the isolated North Korean government, as well as a deal to buy military drones from Iran, showed Russia was in dire straits after months of Western economic and technological sanctions aimed at crippling its war machine.—AFP

Pressure on Putin as reservists called up for war

PRESSURE ratcheted up on President Vladimir Putin as his decision to send reservists to Ukraine triggered spreading protests and hundreds of arrests at home, and Western leaders tore into the Russian leader at the United Nations.

Training his fire on Putin as he addressed the General Assembly, US President Joe Biden accused him of “shamelessly” violating the UN Charter with a war aimed at “extinguishing Ukraine’s right to exist as a state”.

Speaking in unison with

fellow NATO leaders, Biden on Wednesday denounced Putin for making “overt nuclear threats against Europe” as part of his latest escalation, and warned that “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.”

Addressing the assembly later via video — the sole leader allowed to do so — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky urged the UN to punish Russia for the invasion, calling for a special tribunal and compensation fund and for Moscow to be stripped of its veto.—AFP



Protesters hold up a white-blue-white anti-war flag, said to be a symbol of opposition to the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, as they demonstrate in front of the Russian Embassy in Oslo, Norway on 21 September 2022, after Russian President Putin ordered a partial military mobilisation of Russian reservists. **PHOTO: HEIKO JUNGE / NTB / AFP**

WORLD: TOP STORIES

Trump, children sued for ‘incredible’ fraud in New York

DONALD Trump and family members lied to tax collectors, lenders and insurers for years in a scheme that routinely misstated the value of his properties to enrich themselves, according to a suit filed by New York’s attorney-general on Wednesday.

Top state prosecutor Letitia James said that with the help of his children and others at the Trump Organization, the former president provided fraudulent statements of his net worth and false asset valuations “to obtain and satisfy loans, get insurance benefits, and pay lower taxes”.

“In short, he lied to gain massive financial benefits for himself.” The sweeping investigation is one of many criminal,



US President Donald Trump (R), First Lady Melania Trump and their son Barron depart the White House in Washington, DC, on 20 November 2018. The Trumps are travelling to Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida, for the Thanksgiving Holiday. **PHOTO: JIM WATSON / AFP / FILE**

civil and congressional probes into Trump, who is eyeing an-

other run for the White House in 2024.—AFP

US embassy in Cuba to resume ‘full visa processing’ in 2023

THE US embassy in Cuba said Wednesday it would resume “full immigrant visa processing” next year for the first time since 2017, when the mission was closed over alleged sonic attacks on diplomatic staff.

The announcement came as Cuba is experiencing an unprecedented exodus of undocumented migrants amid the communist country’s worst economic crisis in 30 years due to ramped-up US sanctions and the coronavirus pandemic.

“This change will... eliminate the need for Cubans applying for immigrant visas in family preference categories to travel outside of Cuba to Georgetown, Guyana for their

interviews,” the embassy said in a statement.

The United States evacuated its diplomatic staff and their families in 2017 after at least two dozen people suffered brain injuries that resembled concussion, but with no exterior signs of trauma.

US officials accused Cuba of carrying out “health attacks” using some sort of acoustic or microwave device, a charge Havana angrily rejected.

A US government report in 2020 said the illnesses suffered by staff and their families were most likely caused by “directed, pulsed radio frequency (RF) energy.”—AFP

Japan PM Kishida reiterates support for 2015 Iran nuclear deal

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Wednesday reiterated Japan's support for the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement in his meeting with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, as talks continue to salvage the accord reached between the Middle Eastern country and major powers, the Japanese government said.

Meeting Raisi in New York on the fringes of the UN General Assembly's annual session, they had a "candid" exchange of opinions with Kishida saying Japan has "consistently supported" the nuclear deal and hopes that Tehran returns to the agreement that restricts Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

They agreed to maintain close communication on the issue, the ministry added.

Negotiations on the pact, struck between Iran and Britain, China, France, Germany, Rus-



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (L) and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi hold talks on 21 Sept 2022, in New York. PHOTO: KYODO

sia and the United States, have been stalled since Washington withdrew from the pact in 2018 as then President Donald Trump criticized the deal as flawed and reimposed sanctions on Tehran.

In return, Iran violated some of the restrictions under the agreement.

Japan has shown its support

for the agreement in the hope of bringing stability to the Middle East on which it relies for oil imports.

During the talks, Kishida and Raisi pledged to work together toward further strengthening the "long-standing friendship" between the two countries, the ministry said.—Kyodo

UN-backed tribunal upholds life sentence for ex-Khmer Rouge leader



Khieu Samphan, pictured in 23 June 2017, was given a life sentence in 2018 for genocide against ethnic-minority Vietnamese by the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). PHOTO: TANG CHHIN SOTHY /AFP

A UN-backed tribunal in Cambodia trying former Khmer Rouge leaders over the 1970s genocide in the country upheld on Thursday a lower-court sentence of life imprisonment against Khieu Samphan, the radical communist regime's former head of state.

Thursday's decision was the

final judgment of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, which has adopted a two-tier trial system. With no one else being tried, it marks the end of the judicial process launched in 2006 to bring to justice perpetrators of the 1975-1979 reign of terror that is believed to have

claimed nearly two million lives.

Khieu Samphan, 91, is among five Khmer Rouge figures indicted for trial at the tribunal. The court, comprised of Cambodian and international judges, convicted only three of them, including Khieu Samphan. Four of the five are already dead, three of them passing away before proceedings at the court in their cases were completed.

The initial hearing of Khieu Samphan's trial began in 2011. He was sentenced to life in prison in 2014 for crimes against humanity, mainly over the forced relocation of Phnom Penh residents that led to their deaths from starvation. The sentence was finalized in November 2016.

In a separate trial, Khieu Samphan was sentenced to life imprisonment in November 2018 for genocide against Cambodia's ethnic Vietnamese minority and other crimes. The defendant appealed the ruling, pleading not guilty.—Kyodo

South Korean leader's hot mic US criticism goes viral

ALREADY battling record-low approval ratings, South Korea's President Yoon Suk-yeol has landed in trouble again after his disparaging remarks about key ally the United States were caught on a hot mic.

Yoon, a political novice who took office in May, is in New York for the United Nations General Assembly, and chatted on Wednesday with Joe Biden during a photo op at the Global Fund where the US President had just pledged \$6 billion.

"How could Biden not lose

damn face if these fuckers do not pass it in Congress?" Yoon was caught saying to his aides afterwards in footage that went viral in South Korea.

A YouTube video of Yoon's comments racked up over two million views just hours after it was posted, and "fuckers" became the number one trending topic on Twitter in South Korea on Thursday.

"The president's words and actions are the national dignity of the country," one YouTube commenter wrote.—AFP



South Korea's President-Elect Yoon Suk-yeol speaks during a news conference at his transition team office in Seoul, South Korea on 20 March 2022. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kazakhstan to hold presidential vote on 20 November

KAZAKHSTAN will hold snap presidential elections meant to "radically reset" the ex-Soviet country's political system on 20 November, according to a decree published Wednesday on the presidential website. The announcement comes after the Central Asian nation's recently-installed leader passed legislation limiting presidential mandates to a single, seven-year term and reverted the capital's name away from that of its previous strongman leader.

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev told lawmakers earlier this month that the vote was part of reforms to institute "completely new standards" for political life, with "fair and open rules".—AFP

Protests mark Australia's 'day of mourning' for queen

HUNDREDS of activists rallied in Australia on Thursday to decry colonial Britain's destructive impact on Indigenous peoples, as the country held a public holiday to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth II. "Abolish the Monarchy" demonstrators gathered in cities including Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra, protesting the persecution of Indigenous people since the British landed in Australia more than two centuries ago.

In Sydney, scores of people came together near a statue of Queen Victoria in the city centre before marching through the streets. "I think the monarchy needs to be aware that there's unfinished business happening here in Australia," said Gwenda Stanley, a 49-year-old activist of the Indigenous Gomerioi people.—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.

Mayweather expects 'easy payday, easy opponent' in Japan fight

FLOYD Mayweather says that Sunday's exhibition boxing match against Japanese mixed martial artist Mikuru Asakura will be an "easy payday, easy cheque, easy opponent".

The 45-year-old boxing great, who is reportedly close to agreeing a rematch with UFC superstar Conor McGregor, beat Japanese kickboxer Tenshin Nasukawa after just two minutes when they fought in an exhibition in Japan in 2018.

The fight was widely seen as a farce but the American vowed to give the crowd this weekend at Saitama Super Arena, just north of Tokyo, their money's worth in his latest lucrative post-retirement performance.



Japan's Mikuru Asakura will meet Floyd Mayweather this weekend. PHOTO: AFP

"I think the last time I came here, it was so quick nobody got a chance to enjoy it," Mayweather, whose nicknames include "Money", said Thursday after a practice session which was delayed by an hour because

he "overslept".

"I'll make it quick, but there's not many bouts on the card so I'll make sure to go to three (rounds), unless you all want me to make it quick."

Mayweather was reported this week as saying that he will fight McGregor for a second time next year. The two met in a much-hyped boxing match in 2017, with Mayweather winning by a 10th-round technical knockout to retire with a perfect 50-0 record. His previous exhibition match was against "Dangerous" Don Moore in Abu Dhabi in May. Mayweather was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in June.—AFP

Raducanu feels the love to surge into Korea Open quarter-finals



Emma Raducanu returns the ball against Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium. PHOTO: AFP

EMMA Raducanu enjoyed support from the Korea Open crowd on the way to a straight-sets win over 396th-ranked Yanina Wickmayer and a place in the quarter-finals on Thursday.

Raducanu, who crashed out of the US Open in the first round last month as her title defence fell flat, overcame some late resistance to beat the experienced Belgian 6-3, 7-5 in Seoul.

The 19-year-old Briton said that her serving, including nine aces, formed the backbone of victory and she next faces third seed Magda Linette of Poland.

"I think that serving big and serving well and a lot of aces, especially in the second set, helped me get off to a pretty good lead, 4-1 up, which gave me bit of a cushion because Yanina started fighting back and it was a competitive second set," said the sixth seed.—AFP

Noble returns to West Ham as sporting director

FORMER West Ham captain Mark Noble is to return to the club as its sporting director, the Premier League strugglers announced Thursday.

The 35-year-old Noble called time on a an 18-year career with his boyhood club at the end

of last season. He will begin his newly-created role in January.

West Ham said in a statement that the former midfielder would "work closely in support of Hammers manager David Moyes and the current board".

The London club are in the relegation zone after winning just one of their seven Premier League games.

"I'm really happy to be coming back and can't wait to get started," Noble said.

"I've spent the last 24 years as a player here, first in the academy and then in the first team, and obviously have a deep knowledge and understanding of the club."

He added: "I see it as a position that I can grow and develop in both personally and professionally.

"There are always difficult decisions to be made in football but along with my colleagues at the club, I will continue to put the best interests of West Ham United first." — AFP



Former captain Mark Noble will rejoin West Ham as the club's sporting director. PHOTO: AFP/FILE