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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win enjoys performances of artistes in premiere of the play titled the Prestige Nobler than the life



Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win views the play "The Prestige Nobler than the Life" in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 September 2022.

AS part of efforts to preserve Myanmar traditional cultural heritages, service personnel of the Department of Fine Arts under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture together with artistes presented a premiere of the play titled "The Prestige Nobler than the life" in line with the instructions of maestros at the theatre of Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening for the second day, enjoyed by Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

Also present at the theatre were Union level officials and wives, Union ministers and wives, senior military officers

from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, officers, and other ranks and families from offices and departments of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and wives.

A total of 27 plays starting from the paying homage to the Lord Buddha, traditional dances of damsels and dual dances were presented with performances of artistes including plots of King Bayintnaung, birth of Dhatukalya, establishment of the State, conference of Minye Nandameik, recounting of Nat Shin Naung, meeting of Nat Shin Naung and Yaza Dhatukalya, martial arts practice of Nat Shin Naung, wedding of Nat Shin Naung and Yaza



Dhatukalya, marching of Minye Nandameik to Thanlyin, arresting Nga Zin Ka and Nat Shin Naung by Minye Nandameik, and conclusion.

After the entertainment, the Vice-Senior General presented the flower basket and cash awards to artistes from the performances, Union level officials,

Union ministers and Lieutenant Generals from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) also presented cash awards to them.—MNA

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

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

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

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

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

278 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 25 September, total figure rises to 621,402

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **621,402** after **278** new cases were reported on 25 September 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **596,947** have been recovered from disease. Death toll still stands at **19,455** without more casualties.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 24-9-2022, a total of **30,540,359** people above 18 and a total of **6,599,861** people under 18 have been vaccinated.

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

Myanmar chickpeas fetch good prices in Mandalay market



Merchants check quality of chickpeas and other pulses and beans in Mandalay market. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG**

DUE to domestic and international demand, Myanmar chickpeas are fetching good prices in the Mandalay market.

In the Mandalay market, V2, Taiwan chickpeas, V7, 929 and Myanmar chickpeas are marketable in Mandalay.

A bag of V2 bean was priced at K195,000 while Taiwan chickpeas was traded at K178,000 per bag. A bag of 929 chickpeas cost K183,000 and a bag of Myanmar chickpeas K185,000. A bag of foreign export V7 chickpeas costs 210,000 kyats at a good price, U Soe Win Myint, warehouse owner from Mandalay, was quoted as saying.

“Beans belonging to the chickpea group are getting good prices in the Mandalay market. During the peak of March, chickpea prices started from K115,000 to K120,000.

“Currently, chickpea prices reached the highest price

of K210,000 as a good price. Chickpea is the favorite of Myanmar people. Myanmar people eat a variety of chickpeas because they are nutritious and good delicacy. It is essential for special classes. Chickpeas are mostly grown for domestic consumption.

“Chickpeas are no longer in the hands of farmers. The chickpeas are now in the hands of the warehouse owners. V7 chickpeas are continuously exported to India. This year, the weather is fine and there is no pest damage, so the chickpea yield is good,” U Soe Win Myint explained.

Myanmar produced chickpeas in Mandalay Region. They are mainly grown in Sagaing Region and Magway Region. As a winter crop, chickpeas are mostly grown for domestic consumption only once a year.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)/GNLM

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Create chances for youth for pursuing higher education

REGARDING the pursuit of higher education, matriculates are needed to be encouraged to go more to technological universities and computer universities. Arrangements are being made to open more agricultural institutes, livestock breeding institutes and technical high schools to enable the production of human resources required for agriculture, livestock breeding and technical businesses.

(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)

Coordination meeting held for Diamond Jubilee Independence Day celebration

THE Diamond Jubilee Independence Day commemoration event coordination meeting was held yesterday morning at the Film Promotion Branch of the Department of Information and Public Relations in Bahan Township, Yangon Region.

First of all, Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint, Chairman of Working Committee for Diamond Jubilee Independence Day Variety Show Organizing, speaking at coordination meeting of the Committee in Yangon on 25 September, said that the variety show scheduling and entertainment

subcommittee earmarked the programmes. Only when the programmes have been approved, subcommittees will carry on their assignments. After that, he added that preparations and rehearsing works will be carried out, the meeting needed to discuss the schedules. Officials from respective strata needed to coordinate the schedules in unison.

Officials and those from relevant associations participated in the discussions to stage the variety show with the coordination of the deputy minister.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint, Chairman of Working Committee for Diamond Jubilee Independence Day Variety Show Organizing, speaking at coordination meeting of the Committee in Yangon on 25 September.

Leaders of Ethnic Armed Organizations arrive in Nay Pyi Taw to participate in peace talks



Leaders and parties of Ethnic Armed Organizations arrive in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 September to attend peace talks.

AS State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing called for peace talks with ethnic armed organizations-EAOs, peace delegations led by Vice-Chairman U San Pae of the Nation-

al Democratic Alliance Army-NDAA, Vice-Chairman-2 Sao Khun Sai of the Shan State Progress Party-SSPP and Vice-Chairman of the United Wa State Party (UWSP) U Lau Yaku arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

On the arriving of the

NDAA peace delegation at Nay Pyi Taw Airport yesterday afternoon, the SSPP and UWSP peace delegations at Horizon Lake View Resort in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon and evening, they were welcomed by members and officials of the National Solidarity and Peace-

making Negotiation Committee, officials from Nay Pyi Taw Council and ministries, ethnic people from the Department of Fine Arts of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and locals who wants peace holding miniature State flags and placards bearing, "Perpetual peace

is the real aspiration of the people", "Achieving peace is the true desire of all citizens", "Let's hold talks for peace in the Union", "Only the ethnic nationalities are in unity, stability, peace and tranquillity will be achieved" in Myanmar and ethnic languages.—MNA

Yangon mayor inspects Nyaunghnapin Agriculture and Livestock Special Zone



Mayor U Bo Htay and party view paving of asphalt concrete on Pyay Road between Hledan overpass and Parami road in Yangon on 25 September.

YANGON mayor U Bo Htay, in his capacity as chairman of Yangon City Development Committee, inspected the Nyaunghnapin Agriculture and Livestock Special Zone in Hlegu and Hmawby townships yesterday morning.

He gave instructions to neatly make patches of plants, dig the lake to provide water for plantations with storage of water and clear the pipe culvert at the drain.

The Yangon City Development Committee carries out land preparation for construction of a wholesale centre and patches of crops and digging the drains.

Later, the mayor viewed round the special zone-2 management committee office at the

junction of M 5 and C 14 roads at Nyaunghnapin agriculture and livestock special zone, the park near Daewoo bus-stop in Hlawga forest area in Mingaladon Township, sanitation tasks on both sides of the Pyay Road, paving of asphalt concrete (AC) between the Hledan overpass and Parami road, landscapes and lamp-posts in the viewing path from Yangon-Pyay Road to Shwedagon Pagoda.

Then, he inspected the planting of 4,763 coconut plants from the department of parks and playgrounds and land preparation for new nurseries.

Later, he gave instructions on timely completion of works meeting set standards. —MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal forest products, electronic accessories, consumer goods and vehicles seized

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

An on-duty team under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force of Taninthayi Region inspected at Pauktine bridge checkpoint in Dawei township on 21 September. Officials found 790 Nanakid carminative capsules untaxed worth K1,896,000 from a vehicle and 2,000 visses of charcoal bags without clearance worth K945,000. Moreover, the team found 148 fertilizer bags untaxed estimated at K11.84 million and a Nissan truck which was carrying the goods estimated at K22 million on 24 September. The total worth of seizures amounted to K36.681 million and the action was taken under the National Drug Laws, Customs Procedure and Forest Law.

Similarly, a mobile team from Investigation and Anti-Illicit Trade Division under the supervision of the Customs Department

performed inspection in the Myawady-Hpa-an-Yangon Road at the junction of No 2 Highway near Zayatkwinn village in Hlegu Township on 22 September. The team found toilet accessories and bed sheets that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) and were worth K3,008,181 and a Nissan tractor vehicle which was carrying the goods estimated at K45 million. Total worth of seizures amounted to K48,008,181 and the action was taken under the Customs Procedure.

Furthermore, an on-duty team under the supervision of



A truckloads of accessories and bed sheets seized near Zayatkwinn Village in Hlegu Township.



Fertilizer bags seized at Pauktine Bridge checkpoint in Dawei Township on 24 September.



Customs Department inspected at the airport cargo warehouse at the Yangon International Airport on 23 September. They found 59 kilograms of wires worth

K13,582,401 and consumer goods worth K11,117,400, which were not declared in the ID. The team also found 86,700 kilograms of Hock & Tag at an estimated value of K1,413,720, which were not declared in the ID in a container at the checkpoint of Myanmar Industrial Port. The total worth of seizures amounted to K26,113,521 and the action were taken under the Customs Procedure.

An on-duty team under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force of Kayin State inspected at the checkpoint of Kawkareik (Thadakyo) on 24 September. Officials found 26 water heaters (estimated at K1.56 mil-

lion), which were not declared in the ID from a vehicle and the action was taken under the Customs Procedure.

Next, an on-duty team under the supervision of Customs Department functioned inspections at Mayanchaung checkpoint of Mon State on 24 September. The team seized a Daihatsu Hijet S500J worth K8 million without licence and the action was taken under the Customs Procedure.

Therefore, 10 cases at an estimated value of K120,362,702 were taken action from 21 to 24 September, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. —MNA

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UNWTO
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WORLD TOURISM DAY 2022 | **RETHINKING TOURISM 27 SEPTEMBER**

“RETHINKING TOURISM”

“ခရီးသွားလုပ်ငန်းဖွံ့ဖြိုးဖို့ ပြန်လည်ကြံဆဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့”

About K656 million earned from tourist arrivals in Magway Region from January to August



Visitors throng Magway City's landmark named Myathalun Pagoda during the pagoda festival.

ACCORDING to the Magway Region's Tourism Committee, about K656 million was earned from the arrivals of domestic and foreign visitors to Magway Region from January to August.

Regional Tourism Committee is planning safe and secure travel and peaceful and happy stay for foreign tourists.

“Officials are planning for regional development in the first step of tourist entry of the Magway-Mingbu-Minhla-Thayet-Aunglan-Taungdwingyi trips.

“According to the regional tourism committee, we will also identify possible places for tourism promotion in the region that will attract the lo-

cal market, eco-tourism and Community-Based Tourism,” officials said.

The famous places of Magway Region include Myathalun Pagoda, Kankaw Tahtaung Pagoda, Mann Shwesettaw, Sale Yokesone Monastery, Ancient Beikthanoe City and Sun Hill (Chun Hill), the highest mountain in the Rakhine Yoma Mountain Range.

“During this period, there were few tourists due to the local conditions. There was an increase in domestic tourists. There were places that could be reached from Bagan in a row, so tourists came. There are guesthouses and hotels,

and the price is not too high,” Ko Htin Lin, a local visitor, told GNLM.

There are 43 hotels, motels and lodges in Magway Region.

“Hotel and lodge room fees to be reasonable, and to provide good service is important. As it is the rainy season, the hotel environment should be clean and beautiful, and the tourists should be informed about the destination in their region through various methods including the website.

For the systematic resurgence of tourism, the regional tourism committee has instructed the city businessmen to work together.—TWA/GNLM

Tour operators and travel agencies to compete in competitions of World Tourism Day Ceremony-2022

THE ceremony of the World Tourism Day specified by the United Nations World Tourism Organization-UNWTO is celebrated in Myanmar every year. The World Tourism Day Ceremony 2022 will be held at the Myanmar International Convention Center-II in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 September, and tour operators and travel agencies will participate in the competitions as a special feature this year.

“This year, there will be a competition to present business plans as a special programme. Those who will take a step in tourism will have to compete with business plans including tourism projects, thoughts and ideas. It's a special programme about how to get tourism back on track. There will be galleries on show at the World Tourism Day 2022 and our representatives will participate in the exhibition as well. We will combine the current popular beaches and destinations in Myanmar to show what new destinations can be visited,” said President U Naung Naung Han of the Union of Myanmar Travel Association.

It is known that the theme of this year's ceremony is “Rethinking Tourism” and the Myanmar Tourism Marketing Association-MTM including the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, related ministries, Myanmar Tourism Federation, Union of Myanmar Travel Association, Myanmar Hoteliers Association and Myanmar Restaurant Association will display the topics that can redevelop Myanmar's tourism industry in relevant galleries.

“There will be around 30 booths related to tourism industry in the exhibition according to the relevant states and regions. Photo exhibition and extempore talk contest were held by the MoHT to mark the World Tourism Day 2022 and the awards will be given to winners at the ceremony,” he explained further.

The World Tourism Organization under the United Nations is founded in 1946, and 27 September was set up as the World Tourism Day since 1980, it is learnt. — Pwint Thitsar/GNLM

China puts Wanding region under lockdown but trade is normal

DUE to the detection of COVID-19 in China's Wanding region, a 5-day lockdown has been imposed, but border trade is still moving normally, border traders said.

Wanding-Kyinsankyawt Road is the main route of China-Myanmar border trade, with around 100 trucks entering and leaving every day.

According to market reports, traders are worried that the border trade will be affected due to the imposition of lockdown and the worsening of the COVID-19 situation on the Wanding side.

They will start exporting watermelons from Myanmar in the near future, and they are monitoring the policy of China, according to market reports.

“Wanding lockdown and trading are normal. There is normal export and import trading,” a person based at the border wrote on social media.

China has eased the lockdown in its an area, but due to the detection of COVID-19 in Wanding, which trades mainly

with Myanmar, the Chinese government has imposed a five-day lockdown, according to border businesses.

Lockdown has been imposed only in the Wanding area, but the trade with Myanmar has not been stopped and trade is still going on, said the residents.

According to an official in the border region, China's Yunnan province is also not allowed to import as many goods as it wants from the Myanmar side, so the demand is increasing, and Chinese businessmen are worried about a trade ban like in 2021.

Businesses are worried that if the spread of COVID-19 at the border increases, the border trade will be tightened, and they say that they do not want to become a situation where the drivers are replaced and the trucks are stuck for China.

For the current China-Myanmar border trade, the Wanding-Kyinsankyawt Road is the main trade route, and the Myanmar side mainly exports agricultural produces.—TPT/GNLM

Daily newspapers available online

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

Peanut oil price slides tracking peanut price

THE prices of peanut and sesame seeds dip owing to the high supply and low demand in the markets. However, the palm oil price showed a slight increase despite oil tankers unloading the palm oil.

Although two oil tankers carrying 9,740 tonnes of palm oil docked terminals in Kyimyindine and Thilawa ports on 21 September 2022, the wholesale prices slightly increased in Yangon markets.

The prices stood at K8,200 per viss on 20 September, K7,900-K8,000 on 21 September, K7,200 on 22 September, K7,500 on 23 September and K7,600-K7,700 on 24 September.

The reference prices in Yangon were set at K4,730 per viss for a week from 12 to 18 September and K4,690 for a week ending 25 September.

During the harvest of peanut and sesame, the prices significantly dropped. The bulk supply from various regions drove the price down to K1,000 per viss of peanuts when both Chinese supply and purchase volume of the local millers were pretty low. As Yuan value against local currency slides a bit, the price of sesame was down by K20,000 per bag.

Approximately 40 ticals of peanut oil are produced if a viss of peanut is milled. A basket of sesame seeds can produce 6.5 viss of sesame oil on the average.

The peanut oil prices declined from K13,500-K14,500 per viss on 12 September to K11,000-K12,000 per viss on 25 September. The sesame oil consumption is low in the market so the price remains unchanged at K10,000-K11,000 per viss in the wholesale market.—TWA/GNLM



A picture shows peanut and oil made of peanut.

Over K18 billion loans to be disbursed for farmers to purchase farm machinery this FY

JAPAN International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will disburse over K18 billion for farmers under JICA Two Step Loan Scheme to purchase agricultural machinery and over K967 million of loans have been paid out for 18 farmers in eight townships as of September in the current financial year 2022-2023.

Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (MADB) and JICA disburse K70 million per farmer. A total of K18 billion are granted for disbursement in the current FY.

This JICA Two Step Loan scheme is aimed at agricultural and rural development. The project contributes to a total of 5,500 farmers in 187 townships in 14 regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw between 2017 and 2022.

The farmers from Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Bago regions and Kachin State received loans. The repayment from the early batch



A farmer is using a farming machine in Sagaing Region.

covered those farmers from the following batch. This way, the continuous distribution of loan reaches a greater number of farmers, according to the JICA Two Step Loan project.

This scheme commenced in 2017, with an estimated project fund of K200 billion. The

project term is 40 years until 2057. They can enjoy this long-term loan with a 40 year-repayment period with a 10-year grace period.

The farmers can expand the business with the help of a long-term loan from JICA. Each farmer is entitled to take out a

K50 million loan at a cheaper interest rate to invest in the farm machinery and facilities such as workshops, mills and warehouses. They can repay that loan at an interest rate of 5 per cent in the three-year short term and five-year long term.—TWA/GNLM

Prices of onion, Chinese potato extend drop



Picture shows Chinese potatoes found in the domestic wholesale market.

THE prices of onion and Chinese potato have declined from the last week of September 2022. Bayintnaung Wholesale Market saw an extended drop of Chinese potatoes, Ko Myint Thu, a seller told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The onions from the Seikphyu area were priced

at K2,800-K3,200 per viss on 21 September. On 23 September, the prices of onions from the Seikphyu area slid to K2,700-K3,100 on 23 September and K2,600-K3,000 per viss on 24 September respectively. The onions from the Myingyan area declined from K2,500-K2,900 per viss.

The maximum price of

onion from the Seikphyu area touched K3,100 per viss on 20 September and it fell to K2,700 per viss on 25 September. Similarly, onions from Pakokku area dropped from K3,100 to K2,800 on 25 September, market data in those areas showed.

On 2 September, onions from Monywa hit a record price of K3,850 and those from Seikphyu area touched the highest of K3,600 per viss in Yangon markets. Nevertheless, Chinese onions flooded the Yangon market at a cheaper rate on 13 September.

Between 17 and 20 September, supply to the Yangon market dropped by half, pushing up the price. However, lack of foreign demand in the Yangon market brought down the price, Ko Myo Win, a trader who delivers goods to regions outside Yangon, told the GNLM.

Traders from regions outside Yangon said that there is an onion demand to be exported to Vietnam through Thailand. Yet, a large supply to Yangon lowered the prices.

Likewise, the prices of Chinese potatoes fell again. The wholesale price of onions stood at K2,500 per viss on 15 September and then, it plummeted K1,950 per viss on 24 September. Moreover, local potatoes from Shan State also decreased from K1,500-K2,300 to K1,400-K2,150 per viss on 24 September.

In the corresponding period last year, the onions from the Seikphyu area were estimated at K 225-K475 per viss while Chinese potatoes fetched only K1,400 per viss and Shan potato were worth K850-K1,500 per viss. Thus, the prices are way higher than those of the year-ago period.—TWA/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

LBVD conducting advanced beekeeping courses, training courses to bolster honey export

THE Apiculture Division under the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) has been conducting beekeeping training course and advanced courses for those beekeepers working on a manageable scale and a commercial scale and those involved in mixed cropping-beekeeping businesses, with a view to boosting Myanmar's honey exports.

Myanmar's honey is being shipped to the US, Japan, China, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand. Myanmar's beekeeping business began in 1979 and honey export started in 1985. China is the most honey producing country in the world and Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand are the leading producing countries among ASEAN. Myanmar's Niger honey, sunflower honey and jujube honey have earned a good reputation in the international markets. Out of them, Myanmar's sunflower honey is highly demanded. As agriculture and livestock farms are the backbone of the country's economy, Myanmar is trying to meet the



Beehives are seen in a row under plum plants.

foreign demand on honey and improve honey production and quality.

"Advanced beekeeping courses aim to enhance rural economic development of the beekeepers. The Apiculture Division is providing courses on basic training, bee pest and disease management, queen bee raising and Good Apiculture Practices for the beekeepers. As the business is lucrative for those involved in mixed



Trainees observe nature of beehives. PHOTOS: KANU

cropping-beekeeping business and beekeepers, courses on enhancing honey quality are being offered," said U Kyi Thein, deputy director of the Apiculture Division under Yangon Region LBVD.

Myanmar's jujube honey produced from Kani, Budalin and Yinmabin townships in Sagaing Region, Yamethin and Pyawbwe townships in Mandalay Region, Magway and Natmouk cities in Magway Region,

Niger honey from Shan and Kachin states and Sagaing Region, rubber honey in Mon and Kayin states and Bago Region, sunflower honey in Sagaing and Mandalay regions, flower honey from Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Magway and Yangon regions, Shan, Kachin and Kaya states and Nay Pyi Taw are found in the markets.

The LBVD has been training the staff related to advanced beekeeping so that they can conduct refresher training courses for the beekeepers. It has opened 21 batches so far. Sagaing Region is the major producer of honey in Myanmar, accounting for 60 per cent of overall production. There were 835 private beekeepers in 2021.

Myanmar's honey was primarily purchased by Japan, China, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand. Myanmar's honey penetrated European Union countries in 2020. The LBVD is making efforts to adopt foreign queen bees to improve productivity and quality of honey in addition to local origins.—Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

Black gram price expected to remain elevated



MYANMAR'S black gram price is likely to stay high, according to Ayeya Trade Centre (ATC) under the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

Black gram price is fluctuating depending on domestic gold price and Kyat-dollar exchange rate in the local forex market. Tracking the hike in gold prices and soaring dollar, black gram price was on the high side. It hit K2 million per tonne in the domestic market on 24 September.

In late August, the dollar against Kyat peaked at K4,500 in the grey market. Following that, the black gram price reached a record high of K2.1 million per tonne. That being so, the prices of black gram in Myanmar is highly correlated with gold price and Kyat value against the hard currency US dollar.

Additionally, India, the main buyer of Myanmar black gram, plays a pivotal role in price conditions. India's weather condition

and pulses demand push up the price as well.

As the yield of the pulses produced in India declines, Myanmar's black gram market sees potential, according to Ayeya Trade Centre.

According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY.

As per Agri World Mumbai, India's pulses output dropped compared to that of previous years. The torrential rain in India this year affected the interests of the growers.

Indian media covered the stories regarding the yield drop of monsoon crops in India. Consequently, millers in the various states are also increasingly buy-

ing them. As a result of this, black gram prices will climb up in the Indian market, traders shared their opinions.

Myanmar's black gram will also go up to a certain extent accordingly, Ayeya Trade Centre stated.

On 22 September, the Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar's ambassador to India met with members of Indian Pulses and Grains Association in Mumbai city and discussed matters regarding promotion of bilateral trade.

Myanmar conveyed over 754,116 tonnes of various beans and pulses worth US\$590.149 million to foreign trade partners between 1 April and 16 September 2022 in the current financial year 2022-2023. The country shipped over 611,529 tonnes of pulses and beans valued \$493.56 million to foreign markets by sea, and over

142,587 tonnes valued at \$96.589 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land border.

Myanmar exported over 2 million tonnes of various pulses worth \$1.57 billion to foreign trade partners last financial year 2020-2021. The country shipped 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and beans valued at \$966.4 million to foreign markets through sea route, and 786,920 tonnes worth \$604.3 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land border.

Myanmar yearly produces approximately 400,000 tonnes of black gram and about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas. Myanmar is the top producer of the black gram that is primarily demanded by India, while pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are cultivated in Australia and African countries beside Myanmar.—NN/GNLM

OPINION

Don't forget the national duty to eradicate narcotic drugs

Problems of narcotic drugs which have been posing danger to all kinds of humanity throughout the world are much harmful to the health, peace and stability and development of global countries. As such, those countries are trying to escape from such a nightmare in various ways.

This being so, the global countries are facing newer and newer challenges in solving the problems of narcotic drugs. Although they are fighting the drug producers, abusers and traffickers, some drug lords are still manipulating the underground narcotic drug arena with uncountable worthy in possession, obtained from illicit trafficking.

Currently, as many kinds of high-quality manmade narcotic drugs are secretly penetrating the narcotic drug field with momentum, all global countries need to further cooperate with each other in drug control measures. Moreover, the advancement of technologies benefits people to have higher living standards. On the other hand, narcotic drug gangs, taking advantage of developing technologies, are committed to producing and trafficking narcotic drugs and precursor chemicals in various ways and means.

The black money and proceeds obtained from drug-producing and trafficking processes support the acceleration of terror attacks, arms struggles and transnational crimes, which are harmful to the peace and stability of border areas. As such, all global countries need to accept the concept that all have to closely cooperate with one another in tackling the drug problems in order to seek the best solution for all.

Myanmar has pledged to launch special operations for the eradication of narcotic drugs in cooperation with regional countries in its efforts for drug abuse control with strong response at home while emphasizing the narcotic drug suppression sector by joining hands with neighbouring and regional countries.

As precursor chemicals are essential for making narcotic drugs, priority must be given to systematic control and restriction of these chemical items so as not to have flowed into the drug-making procedures. Due to the fact that precursor chemicals flow into the drug production sites in various ways and means, booming the manmade narcotic drug production becomes the main challenge for all kinds of humanity.

Currently, Myanmar is placing an emphasis on the prevention of abusing precursor chemicals by restricting 39 kinds of precursor chemicals used in narcotic drug production in accordance with the International Drug Control Conventions and necessities of Myanmar. Everybody should not underestimate the danger of narcotic drugs and should not forget their national duty to eradicate narcotic drugs by sacrificing their lives for the sake of the nation and its nationals if necessary.

COVID-19, unequal recovery cost 3 years' worth of development progress: UN chief

THE COVID-19 pandemic and an unequal recovery have cost the world three years of development progress, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Friday at the 46th Annual Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China.

Guterres said that advancing the Sustainable Development Goals "has been his focus during high-level week" when world leaders converge in New York to discuss solutions to the pressing challenges facing the global community.

He stressed that the Ukraine crisis "has added further turmoil" to supply chains, and energy and food markets, "creating an unprecedented cost-of-living crisis" affecting up to 1.7 billion people around the world.

Rescuing the Sustainable Development Goals
"Rescuing the Sustainable

Development Goals requires governments to invest heavily in their people and the systems that support them: health, education, social protection, housing and decent work," Guterres said.

It also requires "major transitions" in renewable energy, food systems and digital connectivity, he added.

Noting that at every turn, developing countries are "blocked in their efforts to invest in recovery and development," Guterres said that as "a moral and practical imperative," this must change.

The secretary-general, therefore, called for "urgent action on debt to increase liquidity and ease the pressure on developing countries."

He underscored that "we need an increase in concessional funding from multilateral development banks and reform a morally bankrupt global financial system."

"We need to balance the

scales between developed and developing countries, and create a new global financial system that benefits all," said the UN chief.

He also called for "urgent action" on climate, noting that he "will never forget the devastation" he witnessed in Pakistan that he "could not imagine before."

The secretary-general urged developed countries to deliver on their promises and support developing countries "as they adapt to worsening climate impacts."

He went on to say that they must present credible roadmaps to meet their 100-billion-USD-per-year pledge, and double adaptation finance to 40 billion dollars annually as a first step "as the needs are estimated at 300-billion dollars per year for adaptation in the developing world."

Group of 77 and China at the United Nations is a coalition of 134 developing countries, designed to promote its members' collective economic interests and create an



The secretary-general urged developed countries to deliver on their promises and support developing countries "as they adapt to worsening climate impacts." Engineers check facilities at Sheyang lake, Baoying county of Jiangsu province, on 3 November. Solar and wind power generation takes up 84 per cent of the East China county's electricity consumption. PHOTO: LI BO / XINHUA

enhanced joint negotiating capacity in the United Nations. There were 77 founding members of the

organization headquartered in Geneva, but it has since expanded to 134 member countries. Paki-

stan currently holds the chairmanship.

SOURCE: XINHUA

Are COVID booster shots related to development of cardiac ailments? Experts reveal

THE devastating COVID-19 pandemic has been a nightmare for the whole world. In fact, India ranks third in terms of the number of total cases and death count.

Now, the pandemic is shifting towards endemic, it is true, however, COVID is not completely eradicated and therefore, we are way behind yet to take the precautionary methods for granted and therefore, not wearing a mask in public, or not taking the booster shot after the two doses of primary vaccine shots should not be the scenario.

Multiple misinformation

There is multiple misinformation surfacing around social media that people have been reporting cases of heart inflammation or heart attack after the COVID-booster shots. On the other hand, it is of utmost importance that we take booster shots to prevent ourselves from re-infection with COVID



World Heart Day, which falls on 29 September, is celebrated annually to spread awareness about the importance of keeping the heart fit as it's one of the most important organs that deliver oxygen and nutrients to cells and also removes waste products. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE / AFP

which can be fatal for anyone. World Heart Day, which falls on 29 September, is celebrated annually to spread awareness about the importance of keeping the heart fit as it's one of the most important organs

that deliver oxygen and nutrients to cells and also removes waste products. Any sign of heart trouble should be taken seriously as it is linked to one's longevity and survival. Keeping in mind the theme

of World Heart Day this year, 'USE HEART FOR EVERY BEAT' and spreading awareness expert highlight that there is no cause-effect relationship between cardiac ailments like myocarditis or inflammation of

the heart and COVID vaccine or booster shots furthermore, several studies done across the world has shown people who are vaccinated have a much lower risk of getting other serious complications caused by Covid-19.

Indians tend to suffer from heart ailments

Dr Ajay Madhukar Naik who is a renowned cardiologist at Marengo CIMS Hospital, Ahmedabad spoke on the subject and said, "As per the data provided by The Indian Heart Association, Indians tend to suffer from heart ailments at an earlier age than other demographics, often without warning. Contrary to the earlier belief that heart-related issues impact only the elderly population, it is found that 50 per cent of all heart attacks in Indian men occur under 50 years of age and 25 per cent of all heart attacks in Indian men occur in their 30s. Apart from hereditary reasons,

Significant rise of heart ailments

He added, "The significant rise of heart ailments and cardiac deaths in the COVID pandemic and post-pandemic era may

be related to the weakening of the heart muscles and other detrimental effects of a sedentary lifestyle owing to "work from home" during the lockdowns. Both psychological stress and relative physical inactivity contribute to adverse effects on the heart. The adverse impact of Covid induced damage on the heart may have long-term sequelae."

In addition, emotional and mental stress for a very long span and inadequate/improper sleep hours also take their own toll. These factors were very much prevailing during the COVID pandemic, they have added to the burden of cardiovascular ailments apart from the damage that COVID infection did to the heart."

Speaking about the association of the COVID vaccine or the booster shots with cardiovascular disorders, Dr. A.M. Deshmukh, President, Microbiologist Society, India said, "COVID has undoubtedly increased the risk for cardiovascular disorders. People with lifestyle diseases, like Diabetes, Cholesterol Hypertension, etc., if infected with COVID-19, are at an elevated risk for developing cardiac problems or experiencing a heart attack and even death; compared to those who don't have any co-morbid health conditions. Currently, all 4 boosters:



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 25 September 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 26 September 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in (Northern and Eastern) Shan State, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, and Taninthayi regions and Kachin and Southern Shan states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi regions and Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of thundery activities in central Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 September 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 September 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 September 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

SOURCE: ANI

ENVIRON WORLD

China's renewable energy capacity sees rapid expansion in Jan-Aug

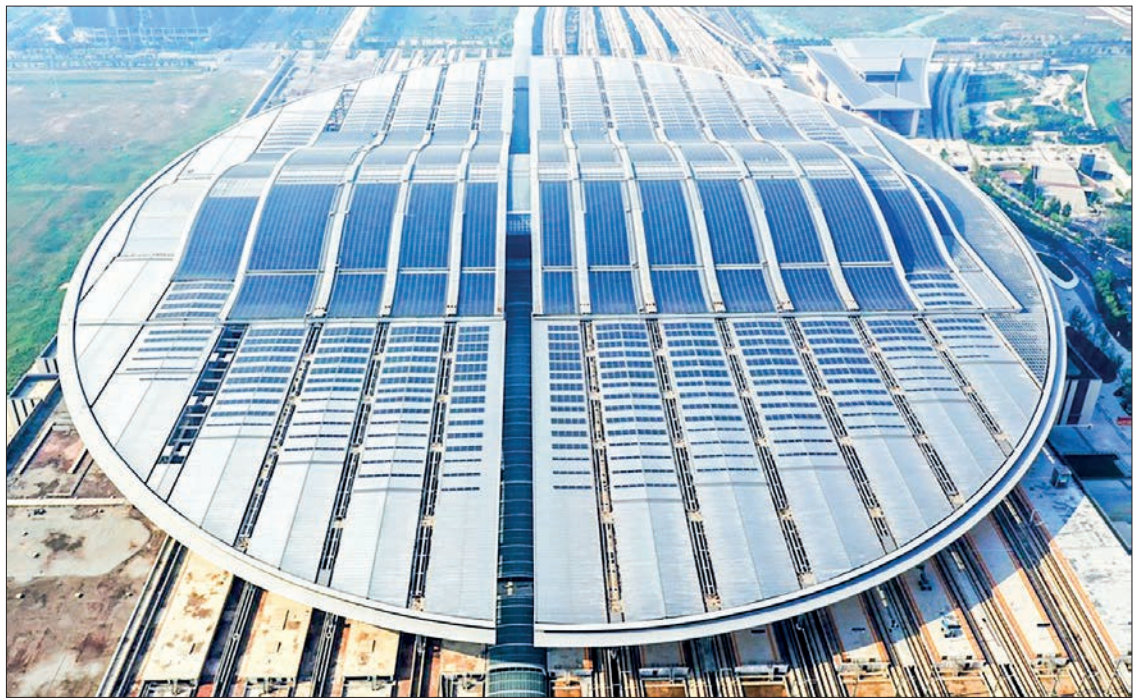
CHINA'S installed capacity of renewable energy notched up rapid growth in the first eight months of the year amid the country's pursuit of green development.

In the January-August period, the installed capacity of wind power increased 16.6 per cent year on year to around 340 million kilowatts, while the installed capacity of solar power generation came in at 350 million kilowatts, up 27.2 per cent, according to the National Energy Administration.

By the end of August, the country's total installed power generation capacity reached approximately 2.47 billion kilowatts, rising 8 per cent from a year ago, the data showed.

China has announced that it will peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

The country leads globally in installed capacities of wind, photovoltaic, hydro and biomass power, as it presses ahead with a green development path. —Xinhua



Aerial photo taken on 9 September 2022 shows a distributed photovoltaic (PV) power station on the rooftop of the Xiong'an Railway Station in Xiong'an New Area, north China's Hebei Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA/ZHU XUDONG**

Eastern Canada looks to clean up as storm Fiona calms

PARTS of eastern Canada were waking up to damage from powerful storm Fiona on Sunday, as meteorologists said the worst weather had passed.

The storm tore into Nova Scotia and Newfoundland on Saturday, cutting power to thousands and washing houses into the sea as it brought fierce winds and rains "like nothing we've ever seen," police said.

Two women were swept into the ocean in Newfoundland, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said. One was rescued, and investigators were looking into the second case.

Mayor Brian Button of Channel-Port aux Basques, on the southwestern tip of Newfoundland, said in a Facebook video Saturday night that at least 20 homes had been destroyed



Damage caused by Fiona on the Burnt Islands in the Newfoundland and Labrador Province of Canada. **PHOTO: MICHAEL KING/AFP**

and the community looked like a "total warzone." "We've got destruction everywhere."

A boil water order was in

effect, Button said, encouraging residents in need to take shelter at a local elementary school. —AFP

Fishermen lament plunge in Scottish wild salmon catch

IN the shimmering rapids of the River Spey that cuts through the Scottish Highlands, Ian Gordon casts his line with a languid swish and waits for a salmon to take the fly.

In the early 1970s, when Gordon first fished the Spey as a "wee nipper", it never took long to catch a bite. But things have changed.

"I would say there are now 20 per cent, maximum, of what there were in the mid-80s," Gordon told AFP on a stretch of the river near the town of Aberlour, where he runs a tourist fishing company.

Before the numbers started to fall in the 1980s and 90s, hundreds of thousands of young Atlantic salmon or smolts would

migrate to sea from Scotland's rivers. A quarter would return to their natal rivers to spawn. Today, only around four per cent return, according to the Spey Fishery Board. In Scotland, where anglers abide by a "catch and release" conservation code, the rod catch of 35,693 in 2021 was the lowest number since records began. —AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqi PM calls for int'l support for reconstruction, climate change

IRAQ still needs international support in reconstruction and to tackle the adverse effects of climate change, said Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi on Friday.

"Iraq looks forward to receiving further UN support in reconstructing the liberated areas affected by the occupation of Islamic State (IS) militants," al-Kadhimi told the general debate of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly, saying that would help these cities and their people to return to normal life again.

Talking about climate change, he said the country "is going through difficult climate conditions due to the scarcity of water resources.

This has recently led to the drying up of most of the Iraqi marshes areas and caused damage to the livelihoods of hundreds of families living there." "As we suffer from climate change, we will also suffer from all the measures taken to address this phenomenon, and the reduction in dependence on fossil fuels," said al-Kadhimi. —Xinhua

Fossil fuels make up 90% of Middle East air pollution: study

MORE than 90 per cent of harmful air pollution in the Middle East and parts of North Africa comes from fossil fuels, according to research Thursday that showed the region "permanently exceeded" dangerous air quality levels. The World Health Organization this year said the MENA region had some of the poorest air quality on Earth.

The long-standing assumption was that the smog choking most of the region's cities was primarily composed of desert sand, given their location on the world's "dust belt" where there are frequently more than 20 major sand storms each year.

In 2017, an international team of researchers set off on an epic voyage across the eastern Mediterranean, through the Suez Canal and around the Gulf, using specialised equipment to analyse air quality and particulate matter on shore. They found that the vast majority of small particles — which can penetrate deep into the lungs, resulting in greater health risk — were manmade, mainly from the production and use of fossil fuels. —AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

In Canada's Arctic, Inuit traditions help combat youth depression



Inuit hunter Pitseolak Alainga (L) explains how the Inuit traditionally hunt seal to Canada's Finance Minister Jim Flaherty outside the Nunavut Legislature in Iqaluit, Canada, 6 February 2010. **PHOTO: GEOFF ROBINS/AFP/FILE**

FILLETING a fish, lighting a fire or building an igloo: In Canada's Arctic, Inuit youth are being encouraged to connect with their culture in an attempt to prevent severe depression and save lives.

A dozen teenagers and young adults gather around instructor Alex Flaherty. They don't want to miss any of the traditional hunter's precise gestures as he carves a fish or lights a fire.

"Our culture has changed so much in the last 50 years when people used to live in igloos... the change is happening so fast, (and) we are losing our culture," he tells AFP.

Flaherty blames the societal shifts for a series of social ills such as violent crime, substance abuse and a high rate of suicide.

Hoping to help remedy these

problems, he's taken hundreds of teenagers hiking, camping and hunting in the vast tundra in the past three years.

In addition to keeping alive Inuit culture, his government-funded Polar Outfitting program also aims to bolster young people's mental health and teach them to adapt to a changing climate — in a region that is warming much faster than elsewhere.

Flaherty says he takes mostly youth aged 12 to 20 years old, "because that's when their lifestyle starts changing (and) when they need help."

In the summer, they hike across the rocky, windswept lands near the bay city of Iqaluit that is home to some 7,000 residents — and is accessible only by plane most months. —AFP

NEW IN BRIEF

US food watchdog admits slow response to infant formula shortage

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) admitted its delay in response to the country's baby formula shortage in a recent report, according to the Associated Press (AP).

The 10-page FDA report, released on Tuesday, reviewed several key problems at the watchdog, including outdated data-sharing systems, inadequate staffing and training among its food inspectors, and poor visibility into formula supply chains and manufacturing procedures, the AP said.

The FDA's evaluation has been questioned by Scott Faber of the Environmental Working Group as "doesn't go far enough to fix the problems." "This internal evaluation treats the symptoms of the disease rather than offering a cure," the consumer advocate was quoted by the AP as reporting, adding that "nothing in this evaluation addresses the fragmented leadership structure that led to critical communication failures." —Xinhua

Viet Nam reports 1,176 new COVID-19

VIET Nam recorded 1,176 new COVID-19 cases on Saturday, down by 1,369 from Friday, according to its ministry of health.

All the new cases were locally transmitted, said the ministry.

The newly reported infections brought the total tally to 11,471,340. The country reported no new deaths from the pandemic on Saturday, with the total fatalities staying at 43,146.

As of Saturday, there were 95 severe cases in need of assisted breathing in the Southeast Asian country, according to the ministry.

Nationwide, 10,586,196 COVID-19 patients, or over 92 per cent of the total infections, have recovered.

Approximately 259.9 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the country, including nearly 220.4 million shots on people aged 18 and above, said the ministry. —Xinhua

Scammers may have taken \$45.6B in US pandemic aid: agency



Chairs are stacked on tables in the empty dining room of Maria's Italian Kitchen now closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Santa Monica, California on 28 July 2020. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

A US government watchdog said fraudulent jobless benefits paid out during the pandemic could amount to as much as \$45.6 bil-

lion, far higher than previous estimates.

The Office of the Inspector General for the US Labor

Department said Thursday it has charged more than 1,000 individuals with fraud for claiming unemployment insurance (UI) they were not entitled to.

"This milestone of 1,000 individuals being charged with crimes involving UI fraud and the identification of \$45.6 billion in potentially fraudulent UI payments highlights the magnitude of this problem," Inspector General Larry D. Turner said in a statement.

Scammers may have taken the funds by filing for unemployment benefits in multiple states, with suspicious emails, or using the identity of deceased people or federal prisoners, the OIG said in its latest report. —AFP

Singapore reports 2,343 new COVID-19 cases

SINGAPORE reported 2,343 new cases of COVID-19 on Friday, bringing the total tally to 1,887,202.

Of the new cases, 238 cases were detected through PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests and 2,105 through ART (antigen rapid test) tests, according to

statistics released by the Ministry of Health.

Among the PCR cases, 217 were local transmissions and 21 were imported cases. Among the ART cases with mild symptoms and assessed to be of low risk, there were 1,957 local transmissions and 148 imported cases,

respectively.

A total of 194 cases are currently warded in hospitals, with seven cases in intensive care units. No deaths were reported from COVID-19 on Friday, making the total death toll stay unchanged at 1,609, the ministry said. —Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Low-carbon transition creates opportunities for Sino-German NEV cooperation

THE global carbon reduction ambition and the transformation of the automobile industry have created tremendous opportunities for China-Germany cooperation in the new-energy vehicle (NEV) sector, industry experts said at the Sino-German Forum on the Development of the NEV Industry.

As part of the 2022 World Manufacturing Convention held in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province, the forum was attended by experts and heads of NEV enterprises from the two countries.

"Both China and Germany are leading car-producing countries and have developed complementary advantages in



Visitors walk by a FAW-Volkswagen new energy vehicle during the 19th China (Changchun) International Automobile Expo in Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province, 18 July 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/ZHANG JIAN**

automobile technology and the market. Cooperation in the automobile industry between the two countries has been carried out in multiple fields and achieved remarkable results," said Xiong Meng, an official of the China Federation of Industrial Economics.

China has a booming NEV market, with both sales and production ranking first globally for seven consecutive years. The promising performance of the Chinese NEV market has injected confidence into cooperation work.

In August alone, China's NEV sales volume was 530,000 units, a year-on-year expansion of 111 per cent. This kind of sales

achievement showed that the future market has huge potential, said Erwin Gabardi, CEO of Volkswagen Anhui.

Many Sino-German cooperation projects covering both the upstream and the downstream of the NEV industrial chain are advancing at full speed.

In June, Chinese battery cell manufacturer Gotion High-Tech held an opening ceremony for Gotion Germany at its Gottingen base in Germany.

China's leading automaker FAW and German carmaker Audi launched a project in the same month to produce purely electric vehicles in Changchun, capital of northeastern Jilin Province. —Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Uzbekistan suspends Russia's Mir payment system

UZBEKISTAN suspended the Russian alternative payment system Mir on Friday amid US pressure on the few countries using the service to drop it.

Russia developed Mir in 2015 to circumvent Western sanctions following its annexation of Crimea, but it has come under US scrutiny since Moscow sent troops into Ukraine.

The Mir card service was suspended in Uzbekistan from 9:00 am (0400 GMT) due to 'technical procedures', said Uzcard, an inter-bank processing centre in the former Soviet republic.

Cards co-branded Uzcard and Mir, however, 'operate as usual' in Uzbekistan, Uzcard said.

The suspension comes a week after Russian president Vladimir Putin attended a regional summit in Uzbekistan, which Moscow considers part of its sphere of influence.

Turkey – a popular destination for Russians – is expected to decide on Friday on a potential suspension of the bank cards in the country. —AFP

Mongolia's forex reserves decline to 2.6 bln USD

MONGOLIA'S foreign exchange reserves have shrunk to 2.6 billion US dollars at the end of August, down around 1.9 billion dollars from the beginning of this year, the country's central bank said Friday.

The significant decrease in the forex reserves is largely related to a current account deficit of the payment balance, the Bank of Mongolia said in a statement.

Current account of the payment balance had a deficit of 2.2 billion dollars at the end of the second quarter, 2.1 times higher than the same period last year, Mongolia's National Statistics Office said. —Xinhua

France's TotalEnergies adds \$1.5 billion to Qatar's gas expansion

FRANCE'S TotalEnergies on Saturday signed a further \$1.5 billion investment in Qatar's natural gas production expansion, which comes as Europe scrambles to find new energy sources to replace Russian supplies.

The French energy giant will have 9.3 per cent stake in the North Field South gas project, the first foreign partner in that section of the vast field, Qatar Energy Minister Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi announced, at a news conference alongside TotalEnergies chief executive Patrick Pouyanne.

"Qatar Energy announces the selection of TotalEnergies as a partner for the development of the North Field South," Qatar's official news agency



Exports In 2020, Qatar exported \$18.2B in Natural gas, liquefied, making it the 2nd largest exporter of Natural gas, liquefied in the world. At the same year, Natural gas, liquefied was the 1st most exported product in Qatar. **PHOTO: KARIM JAAFAR/AFP**

QNA said. "New partners will be announced at a later stage."

Kaabi said TotalEnergies would also help to finance the

extraction of gas from North Field South, for which 25 per cent would be reserved for foreign energy firms. —AFP

Italy revises upwards GDP growth in 2021 to 6.7 pct

ITALY revised upwards its gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2021 to 6.7 per cent, according to the revised data issued by the country's National Statistics Institute (ISTAT) on Friday.

Italy's GDP in 2021 was re-

vised upwards to 1.782 trillion euros (1.729 trillion US dollars) after a review of an internal audit of national accounts, an increase of 6.61 billion euros from the previous estimates.

As a result, the GDP growth in 2021 was revised upwards

from the previous 6.6 percent to 6.7 per cent.

The GDP in 2020 was also raised by 3.66 billion euros, but the country's GDP still shrunk by 9 per cent in the year, when Italy was hit hardest by the coronavirus pandemic. —Xinhua

Made-in-China Mercedes-Benz trucks roll off production line in Beijing

DOMESTICALLY-PRODUCED heavy-duty trucks of German automaker Mercedes-Benz Trucks rolled off the production line on Friday in the Chinese capital Beijing, as foreign players ramp things up in the world's largest commercial vehicle market.

The made-in-China Mercedes-Benz trucks are produced in a factory owned by Beijing Foton Daimler Automotive Co., Ltd., a joint venture between global commercial vehicle giant Daimler Truck and Chinese manufacturer Foton Motor.

The company has teamed up with 150 Chinese suppliers to provide over 1,500 components for the trucks. The automobile plant is capable of producing 60,000 trucks each year. It is the right time to go to market as China's logistics and transporta-



Daimler Truck reaches major milestone in China by starting local production of Mercedes-Benz trucks for Chinese market. **PHOTO: DAIMLERTRUCK/XINHUA**

tion industry is developing in the direction of higher efficiency, higher standardization, lower carbon and intelligence-focused, said Holger Scherr, the joint venture's president and CEO, adding that cus-

tomers have an increasing demand for high-end logistics equipment to enable their business improvement.

China produced 238,000 units of commercial vehicles and sold

258,000 units in August, marking the first year-on-year growth in both production and sales since April 2021, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. —Xinhua

Chinese yuan assets becoming increasingly popular among overseas investors: report

THE opening up of China's financial market has made yuan-denominated assets more alluring for overseas investors, and promoted global use of the Chinese currency, said a latest report by the People's Bank of China.

By the end of 2021, overseas entities had held 10.83 trillion yuan (about 1.55 trillion US dollars) worth of yuan assets including equities, bonds, loans and deposits, up 20.5 per cent year on year, the report added.

Cross-border settle-

ments in yuan have also surged, with those used for current account and direct investment totaling 6 trillion yuan in the first half of this year, up 23 per cent over a year ago. Yuan settlements in cross-border e-commerce trade rose 20.7 per cent from the same period last year to 431.7 billion yuan, according to the report.

Over 80 overseas central banks or currency authorities had the yuan in their forex reserves, said the report. —Xinhua



This picture shows US dollar notes being counted next to stacks of 100 yuan (RMB) bank notes at a bank in Huaibei, in eastern China's Anhui province. **PHOTO: STR / AFP/FILE**

German bakeries fight for survival as costs spiral



Bakeries in Germany have been among the businesses hardest hit by the economic fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. **PHOTO: AFP**

FACED with exploding energy and ingredient costs, German baker Tobias Exner has installed new energy-efficient ovens, shortened his opening hours and even considered baking at lower temperatures. But "it just doesn't taste the same without a good crust", he said, add-

ing that in any case such efforts could do little to counter the existential crisis he and other bakers are facing.

"If the conditions don't change, then sooner or later a large share of bakeries in Germany will simply no longer exist," Exner told AFP. Bakeries

in Germany have been among the businesses hardest hit by the economic fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The war has sent energy prices spiralling across Europe, but especially in Germany, which was previously heavily dependent on Russian gas.

"Bakeries all have ovens. Seventy per cent of artisanal bakeries have gas ovens and gas prices are going through the roof," said Friedemann Berg, managing director of the German Bakers' Federation.

And two of the main ingredients used by bakers — flour and oil — are among those that have been affected by blockades at Ukrainian ports.

Exner's business is relatively large with 220 staff and 36 branches in Berlin and the surrounding area, leaving it better placed than many to survive the crisis — but even he is struggling.

Wheat is now 2.5 times more expensive than before the crisis, he said, while the cost of a litre of oil has risen from around 82 cents to more than three euros (\$2.91). —AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Apple Music to sponsor Super Bowl half-time show

APPLE Music is to replace Pepsi as the title sponsor of the Super Bowl's prestigious half-time show, the NFL announced on Friday.

Neither Apple nor the NFL disclosed terms of the sponsorship, described as a multi-year agreement.

US media reported the NFL has been seeking around \$50 million a year for sponsorship of the show, one of the traditional highlights of the biggest event on the US sporting calendar. —AFP

Mining companies pledge gold sales to augment Ghana's foreign reserves

MINING companies in Ghana have pledged to sell at least 125,000 ounces of gold to Ghana's central bank in the last quarter of this year to augment the country's foreign reserves, a statement said Saturday.

The statement issued by the Ghana Chamber of Mines said the gold sales would be under the Bank of Ghana's domestic gold purchase program against the backdrop of the country's weakening foreign exchange position. —Xinhua

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

China, India call for negotiated way out of Ukraine war

CHINA and India on Saturday called at the United Nations for a negotiated end to the Ukraine war, stopping short of robust support for traditional ally Russia.

After a week of pressure at the United Nations General Assembly, Russia's foreign minister took the General Assembly rostrum to deliver a fiery rebuke to Western nations for what he termed a "grotesque" campaign against Russians.

But no major nation has rallied behind Russia, including China, which just days before the February invasion of Ukraine had vowed an "unbreakable" bond with President Vladimir Putin.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called on both Russia



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called on both Russia and Ukraine to "keep the crisis from spilling over" and from affecting developing countries. **PHOTO: AFP**

and Ukraine to "keep the crisis from spilling over" and from affecting developing countries.

"China supports all efforts conducive to the peaceful resolution of the Ukraine crisis. The pressing priority is to facilitate

talks for peace," Wang said.

"The fundamental solution is to address the legitimate security concerns of all parties and build a balanced, effective and sustainable security architecture." —AFP

Ukraine attracts 11 bln USD from partners via World Bank since start of conflict

UKRAINIAN Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said on Friday that his country has attracted 11 billion US dollars from its partners via the World Bank (WB) since the start of the military conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

"Loans and grants, including from the US and Great Britain, totaling about 11 billion dollars have been raised through the Bank's instruments since 24 February," Shmyhal said on Facebook after the meeting in New York with WB Managing Director of Operations Axel van Trotsenburg and WB Vice President

Anna Bjerde.

The WB is actively working on the creation of new mechanisms for attracting grants and investments for Ukraine's post-conflict recovery, Shmyhal said.

Next year, Ukraine is also willing to launch cooperation with the WB in the energy sector, he added. According to a joint assessment released on 9 September, the government of Ukraine, the European Commission, and the World Bank estimated that Ukraine would need about 350 billion dollars for post-conflict reconstruction. —Xinhua



A forensic explosives expert examines a crater from a missile explosion at a freight railway station in Kharkiv on 21 September 2022. **PHOTO: SERGEY BOBOK/AFP**

Russian FM, at UN, slams West for 'grotesque' Russophobia

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov bitterly criticized Western nations Saturday over the Ukraine war, telling the United Nations that the United States and its allies are seeking to "destroy" his country.

"The official Russophobia in

the West is unprecedented. Now the scope is grotesque," Lavrov said in a fiery UN General Assembly speech.

"They are not shying away from declaring the intent to inflict not only military defeat on our country but also to destroy

and fracture Russia."

After days of Western leaders denouncing Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Lavrov used Russia's turn at the General Assembly rostrum to hit back at pressure on Moscow led by Washington. —AFP

WORLD: TOP STORIES

77 dead in migrant shipwreck off Syria after leaving Lebanon

AT least 77 migrants drowned when a boat they boarded in Lebanon sank off Syria's coast, Syria's health minister said Friday, in one of the deadliest such shipwrecks in the eastern Mediterranean.

Lebanon, which since 2019 has been mired in a financial crisis branded by the World Bank as one of the worst in modern times, has become a launchpad for illegal migration, with its own citizens joining Syrian and Palestinian refugees clamouring to leave their homeland.

Around 150 people, mostly Lebanese and Syrians, were on board the small boat that went down Thursday off the Syrian city of Tartus.

"Seventy-seven people have died," Syria's Health Minister Hassan al-Ghabash told state television from Al-Basel hospital in Tartus, where he said 20 survivors were being treated, including eight in critical condition.

Of those rescued, five were Lebanese, Lebanon's caretaker transport minister Ali Hamie told AFP. —AFP

North Korea fires ballistic missile, Seoul says



The US Navy's nuclear-powered USS Ronald Reagan (CVN-76) aircraft carrier arrives at ROK Fleet Command in Busan, 390 kilometers south of Seoul, on 23 September 2022. **PHOTO: YONHAP / AFP**

NORTH Korea fired a ballistic missile Sunday, Seoul's military said, just days after a US aircraft

carrier arrived for joint drills with the South in a show of force against Pyongyang. With talks

long-stalled, nuclear-armed North Korea has doubled down on its banned weapons programmes, even revamping its laws earlier this month to declare itself an "irreversible" nuclear power. The Sunday launch is the latest in a record-breaking blitz of weapons tests by Pyongyang so far this year, including firing an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile at full range for the first time since 2017. South of the border, hawkish new President Yoon Suk-yeol, who vowed on the campaign trail to get tough with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, has ramped up South Korea's joint drills with key security ally the US. —AFP

King Charles faces battle to win over UK black community

QUEEN Elizabeth II's death earlier this month prompted a flood of tributes — but not from everyone. In Britain's black community, many asked: what had she ever done for us?

The question gave her eldest son and successor, Charles III, an early taste of what he will have to confront as king, with feelings still running high about the toxic legacy of Britain's colonial past.

At her death, the queen was head of state of 14 countries outside Britain, includ-

ing nations in the Caribbean exploited by the slave trade.

Charles immediately succeeded his mother as their distant head of state but the question of for how long is increasingly being discussed as republican movements gather pace.

Kehinde Andrews, professor of black studies at the University of Birmingham, wrote the day after the queen's death on 8 September that he did not share the country's loss.

"For the children of the

British empire, those of us who were born here and those of us who were born in the 15 nations of the 'commonwealth', the Queen is the number one symbol of white supremacy.

"She may have been seen as an institution but for us, she was the manifestation of the institutional racism that we have to encounter on a daily basis," he wrote on the Politico website.

Royals accused

Many black Britons no longer want to stay silent about



King Charles III will have to confront the legacy of Britain's colonial past. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

the racism that they see as rooted at the heart of many British institutions.

The subject came to fore in

Black Lives Matter anti-racism protests, which saw calls for statues of historical figures linked to slavery to be torn down. —AFP

Excavation continues at Byzantine archaeological site in Gaza, hoping for more findings

A Gaza-based excavation team continues its search in the archaeological site located in the Bureij refugee camp in the middle of the Gaza Strip, where rare Byzantine-era mosaic floors were freshly discovered.

Six months ago, Suleiman al-Nabahin, a farmer in his 50s, had found rare mosaic floors and pottery items by chance while he was plowing in his 450-square-metre agricultural land to plant a tree.

He told Xinhua that he was surprised with the findings and had expanded research at his farm.

Several days later, the farmer found other three excavations in different areas, including mosaic panels, pottery, glass and clay pieces, and the remains of a granite column base.

"The mosaic panels are painted in several colors, includ-



A man cleans parts of a Byzantine-era mosaic at Bureij refugee camp in the middle of the Gaza Strip, 21 September 2022. A Gaza-based excavation team continues its search in the archaeological site located in the Bureij refugee camp in the middle of the Gaza Strip, where rare Byzantine-era mosaic floors were freshly discovered. PHOTO: RIZEK ABDELJAWAD/XINHUA

ing white, black, brown (brick) and green in addition to being inlaid with glass pieces," said al-Nabahin.

Three months later, the

farmer went to the Hamas-run Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities when he realized that he had discovered a "buried treasure of remains and mosaics." —Xinhua

24 al-Qaida members killed in anti-terror operations in southern Yemen

YEMEN'S pro-government forces on Saturday continued anti-terror military operations in the southern province of Abyan, a security official told Xinhua.

The troops raided the al-Qa-

ida terrorist group's strongholds in various areas of the province in recent days, killing 24 armed al-Qaida members, the local security source said on condition of anonymity.

"The troops launched on Saturday the fourth phase of the anti-terror campaign aimed at pushing their elements out of the whole province," the source added. —Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stone laid at Windsor to mark Queen's last resting place

AN inscribed stone slab marking the death of Queen Elizabeth II has been laid in the Windsor Castle chapel where her coffin was interred, Buckingham Palace said Saturday.

The new black marble stone laid into the floor simply records the birth and death dates of the monarch who ruled for 70 years and died at the age of 96: Elizabeth II 1926 - 2022.

The queen's coffin was laid to rest on 19 September in the King George VI Memorial Chapel at Windsor Castle's St George's Chapel.

Her coffin was interred in an intimate ceremony following her state funeral in Westminster Abbey.

The ledger stone also records the deaths of the Queen's parents, King George VI and Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and her husband Prince Philip, who died last year.

The stone is engraved with the star of the ancient chivalric Order of the Garter, to which the queen and the other royals belonged. The queen's sister Princess Margaret's ashes are interred in the same chapel. —AFP

Macron restarts reform drive as opponents prepare for battle

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron will get a taste of public resistance to his second-term reform agenda this week during the first nationwide strike called since his re-election in April.

The 44-year-old head of state has pledged to push ahead with raising the retirement age having backed away from the explosive issue during his first five years in power.

But having lost his parliamentary majority in June, the pro-business centrist faces severe difficulties passing legislation, while galloping inflation is souring the national mood.

Despite warnings from allies about the risk of failure, Macron has tasked his government with hiking the retirement age to 64 or 65 from 62 currently, with changes to start taking effect next year.

"I'm not pre-empting what the government and the parliament will do, but I'm convinced it's a necessity," Macron told the BFM news channel last Thursday. —AFP

King Charles faces battle to win over UK black community

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SPORT



Myanmar National footballers take their training before international matches. PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar national team to play friendly matches ahead of AFF Cup

THE Myanmar national team will play more international friendly matches before the AFF Cup at the end of this year.

Team Myanmar will start preparing for this tournament in mid-November and will compete in international friendly matches last week of November or early December, officials said.

The Myanmar national team will start preparing for this competition after the end of the 2022 season of Myanmar National League.

The Myanmar team will be constituted with those who played well in the friendly match against the Hong Kong team this month, in the remaining matches of the domestic league, and against foreign clubs.

The Myanmar national team played two friendly matches against the Hong Kong national team on 21 and 24 September during the international week in September, and the result showed a draw and a loss.

It was a beneficial warm-up

for the Myanmar national team, and head coach Antoine Hey did not select those who play in foreign clubs, but those who have demonstrated their ability in the domestic league.

Since the Myanmar national team has played two friendly matches against the Hong Kong team, training will be suspended and the footballers will also play for domestic club matches again.

The AFF Cup will take place from 20 December 2022 to 16 January 2023.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Mayweather scores KO in front of watching Pacquiao

FLOYD Mayweather knocked out mixed martial arts fighter Mikuru Asakura in the second round on Sunday in Japan in the latest of the boxing great's post-retirement exhibitions.

The 45-year-old Mayweather floored his opponent with a right hand as his former welterweight foe Manny Pacquiao watched ringside in Saitama. The American Mayweather, who retired in 2017 with an unbeaten 50-0 record, afterwards dismissed any prospect of a fight with the similarly retired Pacquiao.

Mayweather arrived at Saitama Super Arena, north of Tokyo, just an hour before the fight. He was shown on TV relaxing in a dressing room full of takeaway fast food, prior to making his ringwalk. On another easy payday for the self-styled "Money" Mayweather, the bell to end the second round sounded as Asakura hit the canvas, but it failed to save the Japanese fighter and he was unable to beat the count.—AFP



Floyd Mayweather (left) throws a punch at Japan's Mikuru Asakura during their exhibition fight in Saitama, Japan, on Sunday. PHOTO: AFP

Lozano lifts Mexico to 1-0 win over Peru in World Cup warm-up



Mexico forward Hirving Lozano vies for the ball with Peru midfielder André Carrillo in Mexico's 1-0 victory in a friendly international football match at the Rose Bowl. PHOTO: AFP

HIRVING Lozano's late strike lifted Mexico to a 1-0 victory over Peru at California's Rose Bowl on Saturday in a friendly international football match that is part of Mexico's World Cup build-up.

Napoli forward Lozano sent the pro-Mexico crowd of 62,729 at the 1994 World Cup final venue into a frenzy with his 85th-minute strike. From a corner kick taken by Andres Guardado, a high ball flew Lo-

zano's way and at full stretch he was able to loft it into the roof of the net.

The winner ended Mexico's goal drought that stretched through their past three friendlies, although coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino must still be concerned at the dearth of quality scoring chances in the contest.

It also dealt a defeat to coach Juan Reynoso in his debut at the helm of Peru. Longtime coach Ricardo Gareca was replaced after the side fell to Australia in a penalty shootout in a playoff for a Qatar World Cup berth in June.

Mexico, meanwhile, will open their World Cup campaign on November 22 against Poland in Group C, which also includes Argentina and Saudi Arabia.

They will continue their preparations on Tuesday when they play Colombia in Santa Clara, California, outside San Francisco.—AFP