

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 30 September 2022

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 Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Mandalay Industrial Zone 1



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views the production activities in the Mandalay Industrial Zone 1 on 29 September 2022.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union

Ministers U Tin Htut Oo, U Hla Moe and Dr Charlie Than, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Maung Ko, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye and Central

Command Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko Oo, went on an inspection tour of the Mandalay Industrial Zone 1 yesterday morning and viewed the production activities there.

First, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party visited the Bayin biscuit factory of Super Mandalay Co Ltd and U Myint Sein, the owner of the factory, and members welcomed

them. Then, the Prime Minister was conducted round the factory. After hearing the explanations about the availability of raw materials and production processes,

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar Announcement of Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

5th Waxing of Thadingyut 1384 ME
29 September 2022

AS it is necessary to continuously control the infection of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), it is hereby announced that public requests, orders, notifications and directives (except for easing the restrictions) released by the Union-level organizations and Union ministries up to 30 September 2022 have been extended until 31 October 2022 for prevention, control and treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Announcement of the truth about the information stated on Social Media

RELATED to the information about violations of the laws against workers on social media, the responsible inspectors from Factories and General Labour Laws Inspection Department visit the workplace and investigate whether the information is true or false for the employees to enjoy the legal rights.

Myanmar Labour News, one of the social media, stated on 2 September 2022 that the employees in Rong Da Garment situated in War Ta Yar Industrial Zone, Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region: -

- (a) had been working without having a rest day and working round about ten and half hours (from 8:00 am to 6:30 pm) per day from Monday to Friday;
- (b) had been working overtime from 7:00 pm to 24:00 pm) without the consent of employees and working the whole day and night until dawn on Saturdays and Sundays;
- (c) had been treated rudely by Senior workers such as Super, All Super and Leaders;
- (d) had not been granted leaves and holidays according to the Laws;

- (e) had been forced to get the unfairly prescribed quality and quantity and threatened to be dismissed from work if the employees denied working overtime;
- (f) had been affected on the health by sleeping in unsuitable places without being arranged to sleep in the factory at night;
- (g) had been experienced dismissal from work without following the Employment Contract by the employers.

Concerning the news on Myanmar Labour News, when the responsible persons from the Department of Labour and Factories and General Labour Laws Inspection Department visited the workplace and investigated the employers, employees and the members of the Workplace Coordinating Committee at 3:00 pm on 7 September 2022, the truth about the information is as follows: -

- (a) there are working hours from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and rest time from 12:00 am to 12:30 pm.
- (b) The employees have been working overtime with their consent from 16:30 am to 6:30 pm according

- to the permission of the department.
- (c) If the employees have to work on Sundays, they work with their consent according to the permission of the department.
- (d) There is no work on public holidays.
- (e) Leaves as legal rights are granted if the employees ask to get leaves.
- (f) There is no unfairly prescribed quality and quantity for the employees and no rude treatment.
- (g) Since there is no night shift to work, there is no need to arrange to sleep in the factory for employees.
- (h) The employer follows the Employment Contract, and there are no dismissal cases illegally.

The information about Rong Da Garment stated on Myanmar Labour News is intentionally persuasion to destroy the peace and stability of the workplace and so we announced that the information is just a piece of fake news.

*Ministry of Labour
29 September 2022*




379 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 29 September, total figure rises to 622,802

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **622,802** after **379** new cases were reported on 29 September 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **597,898** have been recovered from disease. Death toll still stands at **19,458** after one death.

Myanmar reported 145 COVID-19 deaths between 28-1-2022 and 26-9-2022. Of them, 102 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, 81.4 per cent have received no vaccination at all and have not been fully inoculated, 17.2 per cent have received full vaccination and 1.4 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		
81.4 per cent	17.2 per cent	1.4 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

The Tatmadaw will carry out these responsibilities as a guardian for the benefit of the nation and the ethnic people

IN our country, we must continue to strengthen the “genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system” which is the desire of the people. The Tatmadaw has firmly guaranteed a union based on a multiparty democratic system and a democratic federal system. According to Section 20 (f) of the basic principles of the constitution, Sections 6, 7, 8, which include three responsibilities, Tatmadaw has the main responsibility to protect the multiparty democratic system and the federal system. The Tatmadaw will carry out these responsibilities as a guardian for the benefit of the nation and the ethnic people.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting (2/2022) of the National Defence and Security Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 31 July 2022)

SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits ...

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the Prime Minister asked what he wanted to know.

Next, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to Aung Naing Thu lathe and iron casting industry of Paing Phy Myanmar company and U Aung San, the proprietor of the company, explained the availability of raw materials, production of various kinds of water pumps, spare parts for pumps and iron-work for construction. After hearing the explanations, the Prime Minister had a discussion and gave the necessary suggestions.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party continued the inspection tour to the Mawriya traditional medicine production industry, which was founded 160 years ago, and they

were welcomed by proprietor Dr Htay Htay Khaing and employees. Then, the Prime Minister and party were conducted round the factory to be able to view the production processes. Presentations about the production were put forward with video clips. After hearing the presentations, the Prime Minister suggested that traditional medicines should be free from chemicals, and that it was necessary to maintain the quality and tradition. Next, the Prime Minister signed the visitors' book of the Mawriya traditional medicine production industry.

The Mawriya traditional medicine production industry was established in 1862 and has been producing various kinds of traditional medicines since then. — MNA



The Senior General looks into the production at the Bayin biscuit factory of Super Mandalay Co Ltd yesterday.

MoD Union Minister meets departmental staff, residents in Mingin, Kalewa



STATE Administration Council Member Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo, accompanied by Commander of the North-West Command Brig-Gen Than Htike and officials, met township departmental officials, town elders and residents at the Min Yaza Hall of the township administration body office in Mingin yesterday morning.

Union Defence Minister General Mya Tun Oo meets departmental personnel, town elders and locals in Mingin township.

At the meeting, the chairman of the township administration body reported on the development of the township. Then, the Union minister gave the necessary instructions and provided foodstuffs.

Then, the Union minister and party proceeded to Kalewa and met township departmental officials, town elders and residents at the meeting hall of the township administration body. At the meeting, the Union minister heard the reports on the development of the township given by the chairman of the township administration body. Then, the Union minister gave the necessary instructions and provided foodstuffs. — MNA

As the strength of the nation lies within, encouraging local manufacturing is contributing to the booming of the local economy: Senior General

EFFORTS are being made to peacefully utilize nuclear energy in electricity, agriculture, education and health in the future, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in a meeting with MSME businessmen at Yadana-bon Hall in Mandalay Industrial Zone yesterday morning to talk about the development of MSME businesses.

Ensuring prosperity of the nation and food sufficiency as national aspirations

In his speech, the Senior General said the residents of the nation need to ensure the prosperity of the nation and food sufficiency, and they have to strive for creating job opportunities and a booming local economy. In this regard, these processes must have plentiful raw materials, the sufficiency of inputs, the availability of capital, and an adequate number of human resources.

Sufficiency supply of electricity which is important for the development

Industries need energy and power. The supply of electricity is based on hydropower. On his tour of Russia, he discussed the generation of hydropower and nuclear energy. Myanmar has plenty of water sources to generate hydropower. Despite heavy capital, hydropower is beneficial for the long-term plan. Hence,



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets MSME business persons in Mandalay Industrial Zone on 29 September 2022.

efforts are being made to peacefully utilize nuclear energy in electricity, agriculture, education and health in the future.

It is necessary to encourage the public transport sector. To electrify public transport, efforts must be made for generating electricity through hydropower, nuclear power and solar power. Arrangements are being made to supply electricity to Mandalay at full capacity with proper installation of cables and implemen-

tation of solar power projects.

Efforts made for the development of industries based on local agriculture and livestock products

Mandalay Region produces agricultural raw, livestock raw and industrial raw materials, and the government pledged to provide assistance for necessary sectors. The government is striving for the availability of quality cotton strains. If the per-acre

The government pledged to supply raw minerals and timbers for industrial raw materials. Manufacturing of quality products is based on modern machinery, technology, human resources and capital. Encouraging local manufacturing is contributing to the booming of the local economy in order to manufacture import-substitute products.



yield of cotton can be raised at home, it will contribute much to the clothing of the people. Mandalay Region needs to successfully engage in industries based on cotton.

If Mandalay Region systematically engages livestock farms, waste from these farms can be used as bio-fertilizer at the agricultural farms. High-quality livestock products can be exported to the foreign market, creating job opportunities for local people for improving their socioeconomic status.

Encouraging local manufacturing contributes to the booming of the local economy

The government pledged to supply raw minerals and timbers for industrial raw materials. Manufacturing of quality products is based on modern machinery, technology, human resources and capital. Encouraging local manufacturing is contributing to the booming of the local economy in order to manufacture import-substitute products.

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As the strength of the nation lies within, encouraging local ...

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It is necessary to encourage own operation and management of products instead of the efforts of foreigners.

Rocketing prices of goods are based on the imbalance of supply and demand. It is necessary to reduce production costs. All need to encourage businesses at home, domestic production and local investments. Only when job opportunities are larger at home will the number of migrant workers be down.

Reports on MSME development and industrial zone improvement

Before the speech delivered by the Senior General, Chairman of Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Htay and officials from committees and associations reported on the availability of market share for products, supply of technologies and capitals, disbursement of loans to cotton growers at the soft interest rate, improvement of weaving industries, sufficient electricity for the industries, requirements of finished product manufacturers, levying proper



The Senior General kowtows to the Buddha Image at the Maha Lawkamarazein Kuthodaw Pagoda in Mandalay on 29 September 2022.



tax over imported finished goods and mitigating tax for imported raw materials.

Responses to relevant sectors

Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo, U Hla Moe and Dr Charlie Than and Mandalay Region Prime Minister U Maung Ko responded to the discussions on the

issuance of capital by the State for the supply of necessary inputs, implementation of rural development and cooperative system, formation of cooperative societies of local farmers with facilities of the State, transfer of techniques and offer of the central working committee for ensuring smooth flow of trade and commodities in Mandalay Region.

The Senior General cordially greeted MSME businesspersons and then visited booths of food-stuffs, personal goods, industrial products, traditional medicine, and agricultural farming vehicles from Mandalay Industrial Zone. He asked about sharing of markets and officials of booths and replied to queries.

The Senior General also paid

homage to Maha Lawkamarazein Kuthodaw Pagoda and viewed round scale models of the pagoda and stone plaque chambers, terrace, stairways, the circular road to the tier-roofed building and placing of tiles and left instructions on systematic construction tasks, and made cash donations to the pagoda through the pagoda board of trustees. — MNA

3rd meeting between SPTT, and UWSP, NDAA and SSPP delegation held in Nay Pyi Taw



Peace talks go into the third day yesterday.

Alliance Army-NDAA and the vice-chairman-2 of the Shan State Progress Party-SSPP took place at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 September morning.

State Administration Council Member Union Minister at the Government Office Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee-NSPNC Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung and NSPNC members Lt-Gen Min Naing, Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein and Lt-Gen Aye Win, and UWSP Vice-Chairman

U Lau Yaku, Head of the UWSP Political Department U Aik Nap Ling, NDAA Vice-Chairman U San Pae, Secretary-General U Kyi Myint, SSPP Vice-Chairman-2 Sao Khun Seng and SSPP Secretary-2 Sao Seng Hsu participated in the meeting.

At the meeting, NSPNC member Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein explicated the implementation of agreements in the Union Accord I, II and III, which resulted from previous union peace conferences. The meeting was adjourned after attendees had had a discussion and exchanged their views. The fourth-day meeting will take place on 30 September, it is learnt. — MNA

THE third-day meeting between the State Peace Talks Team

and the delegation led by the vice-chairman of the United Wa

State Party-UWSP; the vice-chairman of the National Democratic

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MoIC Union Minister chairs meeting of Working Committee on Supervision of United Nations Agencies and International Non-Governmental Organizations 1/2022



Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing presides over the meeting of the Working Committee on Supervision of UN Agencies and INGOs 1/2022 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE meeting of the Working Committee on Supervision of United Nations Agencies and International Non-Governmental Organizations (1/2022) was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw on 29 September 2022.

Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing of the Ministry of International Cooperation in the capacity of the Chairman of the Working Committee on Supervision of United Nations Agencies and International Non-Governmental

Organizations presided over the meeting which was participated by members of the Working Committee and representatives from relevant departments and local governments.

The meeting discussed matters related to continued implementation of the tasks of the Working Committee facilitating the work of the United Nations Agencies and International Non-Governmental Organizations in a coordinated manner. – MNA

Variety Show to be held at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall's open-air theatre marking Diamond Jubilee Independence Day

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the open-air theatre of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall, where the variety show will be staged marking Diamond Jubilee Independence Day between 26 to 30 November, together with Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Tin Oo Lwin and other officials yesterday.

First, the Union minister and Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman met film directors and artistes at the meeting hall of the City Hall.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Soe, departmental heads, film directors and artistes.

Speaking at the event, the Union Minister said the variety show will be grandly organized marking the 75th anniversary of Independence Day in Nay Pyi Taw for five successive days. It is to be held not for one person or one organization but for all the people to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Independence Day. Therefore, it will be a successful variety show with the cooperation of departmental officials, artistes and people with mutual understanding and good intentions.

The artistes from film, music and theatrical fields and staff will perform in the variety show and it can take about four hours a day. It should be a show with



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn inspects the open-air theatre of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall yesterday.

unusual creations and is the first show of artistes who suspended their careers due to the outbreak of COVID-19. It should be an entertainment show for those who feel depressed or stressed

during the COVID-19 period.

Then, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Tin Oo Lwin expressed the needs and cooperation work to present the essence of independence and hold the

variety show successfully, and the attendees coordinated the discussion. The Union minister and party also inspected the stage setting, and dressing room. — MNA

Tea leaves prices gain over higher demand in Shan State

TRADERS in the tea industry in Shan state said that the price of dried tea leaves is rising as the price of tea leaves is on the increase and farmers are no longer making dried tea leaves.

Soon, the time for Thadingyut and Tazaungdaing festivals will arrive, and the tea market is doing well.

"Now local farmers don't dry it anymore. Tea leaves price is good and when they pick them out, they immediately sell them. So, the dried one is scarce, and the price is

high," said an owner of a tea leave industry.

Currently, the rainy season about to come and tea production is decreasing. The price of tea leaves is around K1,500 per viss, they no longer make dried tea leaves which takes a long time to do, local farmers say.

According to the Shan State Tea Market, the local price of pure dried tea leaves is around K8,000 per viss and the price of raw leaves is K3,500.

Due to the high consumption of tea leaves, local busi-

nesses are making preserved tea leaves, and prices are from around K6,000 to K8,500 per viss, according to the tea industry sources.

Local traders said that the months of September and October are the period when the tea stock is low, and the new tea leave will be harvested only in November and December.

Tea leaves are grown and produced in many places in Shan State, not only for domestic consumption but also for export. – TPT/GNLM

Corn prices fall in Shan State

ACCORDING to the local farmers in Shan State, the corn price is decreasing, and the price is around K700 per viss while the dried corn price is around K980.

"Prices are going down now," said a corn farmer.

Currently, September is the season when corn starts to be produced, and the price has reached below K700, which is unreasonable due to the rising agricultural inputs this year, farmers said.

At the beginning of 2022, the price of corn only reached the highest level of around K1,050.

The price of clean corn (corn that can be exported abroad) that must have a moisture content of (14.5 per

cent) is K1,100 in the Yangon market, K1,020 in the Mandalay Industrial Zone and K990 in the Nawnghkio market, according to market reports in Yangon and Mandalay.

In Shan State, the price of raw corn at the beginning of September was around K870, and at the end of the month, the price was around K700, and the dried corn price was around K980.

At present, there is a small amount of corn exported to China, and the Thai side has blocked the import of corn. As it can only be imported from February 2023, the market is in a state of monitoring, according to business people. – TPT/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

High price of dried chilli pepper persists at nearly K20,000 per viss

THE prices of dried chilli pepper stayed elevated at nearly K20,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), traders said.

During late July, the prices started to break above K10,000 per viss. The prevailing prices moved in the range between K15,000 and K19,500 per viss depending on different varieties (bell pepper, Shankyun, and Moehtaung chilli pepper varieties).

The strong demand by Thailand when Myanmar's output of fresh chilli pepper declined pushed up the price rise. The prices of dried chilli pepper, therefore, went up, said an official of the Seinyadana commodity depot in Mawlamyine city.

Additionally, the high cost of agricultural inputs and fuel price spike for farm machinery are contributing factors to the

soaring prices of chilli pepper, traders shared their opinions.

The prices of dried Shankyun and Moehtaung chilli varieties were K18,000 per viss and dried bell chilli pepper was priced at K19,500 per viss in recent days.

The prices dip for now owing to the suspension of trade by Thailand.

"The price of chilli pepper is correlated with Thailand's demand. There is no other cause. The price falls slightly when Thailand stops buying," said an official of the Seinyadana commodity depot in Mawlamyine city.

Myanmar's chilli pepper is primarily conveyed to Thailand and China via cross-border trade channels, while it is exported to Viet Nam by sea.

It is commonly grown in Ayeyawady, Mandalay and



The prices of dried chilli pepper stayed elevated at nearly K20,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes).

Magway regions and Shan State.

The export varieties of 777, 999, Demon, Sunshine and fresh chilli pepper are 692, Lucky One. - NN/GNLM

Black gram prices fluctuate slightly, yet they remain high



Myanmar is the top producer of the black gram which is primarily demanded by India, while pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are cultivated in Australia and African countries besides Myanmar.

THE prices of black grams are moving up and down a bit yet they remain elevated, according to the Ayeya Trade Centre (ATC) under the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

The prevailing price of black gram is approximately K1.9 million per tonne in the domestic market. The FOB prices of Myanmar's black gram to India are valued at

US\$790-810 for fair average quality and \$930-950 for special quality.

The black gram price is fluctuating depending on the domestic gold price and the Kyat-dollar exchange rate in the local forex market. Tracking the hike in gold prices and a strong dollar, the black gram price was on the high side.

"Newly harvested black

gram (urad) in India started to enter the market. Although it is of inferior quality, there is a steady supply in India's markets. The price is, therefore, not that high in India. The prices go up and down a bit in the domestic market following the dollar and gold market conditions. It happens for a while. Yet, we still cannot expect the price for the long term. We are not able to speculate on the price as we cannot look back at the events in the past seven years and the policies on pulses have changed. At present, it will be correlated with the gold price and exchange rate," said an official of the ATC.

In late August, the dollar against Kyat peaked at K4,500 on the black market. Following that, the black gram price reached a record high of K2.1 million per tonne. Additionally, the prices of black gram in Myanmar are highly related to India's import policy and

weather impacts on pulse input and demand, the ATC forecasted.

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 the 2021-2022 financial year to the 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 interest of the growers.

Myanmar conveyed over 754,116 tonnes of various beans and pulses worth \$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 at \$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 borders.

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

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 which is primarily demanded by India, while pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are cultivated in Australia and African countries besides Myanmar. - NN/GNLM

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OPINION

Promote education standards in order to uplift the socioeconomic status

SOCIO-ECONOMIC status representing people in individuals or in groups depends on education, income and employment. It is their social standing or social standard. Hence, the people of a country try hard to improve their social standing or social standard in order to upgrade their society.

The social standard is based on opportunity, authority and control. Socio-economic status is concerned with behaviours and social science arenas including research, practice, education and recommendation measures.

A downtrend in socioeconomic status, low grading of education, poverty and poor health can ultimately affect society. Currently, the globe sees a larger and larger gap between the rich and the poor, distribution of sources and inequality in life qualifications. Hence, the global people are striving for closing these greater gaps across the world in order to integrate the different parts of society.

Moreover, the education system without full facilities of relevant sources may be harmful to the mental situation of students. Practically, the students who are unable to overcome these challenges are sure to lose them en route to the target. As such, it is necessary to improve the socioeconomic status of society in order to correctly control the educational achievement of children.

order to correctly control the educational achievement of children.

That is why not only the authorities but participants of the society should make concerted efforts to improve the school education sector and early assist in the education promotion programme of the students with their contributions. As a result, their efforts will bring an increasing number of educated youths capable of developing the socioeconomic status of society.

As such, it is necessary to place an emphasis on systematically doing research about bilateral relations between socioeconomic status and education, with a great plan to give a helping hand to participants of the society so as to escape from the low grading of socioeconomic status which can reflect the lower standard of the education sector. If everybody knows the root cause, they will be able to correctly solve the problems. If so, they will have to grasp the good result soon.

WE ALL have ever heard the Myanmar usage “The countenance that obtains mushroom.” That is completely right because one cannot conceal his delight when he finds the mushroom he is searching for. The curry of mushroom is a kind of delicious dish. Almost every Myanmar citizen has already tried its taste in any way. Some of the naturally found mushrooms are not edible because they can be poisonous. However, many species found in Myanmar are edible.

Today, agricultural mushrooms can be obtained everywhere in Myanmar and they are not poisonous. To be safe consuming, people often cook mushrooms together with some sweet potato leaves which can nullify the poison if present. I think my esteemed readers will also enjoy having a mushroom curry. Nevertheless, it is a rare dish found on the dining tables of Myanmar families. Mushrooms cannot be got easily. Generally, they can sometimes be found naturally. Whenever they are found, those who find them will never let them escape and will surely pluck them. To be frank, I, myself, do not happen to have a mushroom curry even once a year. Although I like it a lot, I cannot buy it due to being afraid of poison. One day, I read an article about mushrooms which made my interest rise and I would like to share my knowledge with readers who also enjoy having mushrooms like me.

Yes, it is a smart article which you are going to read as an original one as follows:

Like most gardeners, Joe Perkins has typically been more excited by what goes on above ground than what goes on below it. The quality of the soil was always important, no question. But what was really going on down there? It felt mysterious and impenetrable.

As for fungi, they usually meant one thing in a garden: decay. And that was not good news.

“On a domestic level, our relationship and understanding of fungi in the past has very much been that it’s something about decay, it’s about the disease, and it’s something that we don’t particularly want in our gardens,” says Perkins, a 45-year-old landscape architect based in Sussex, who won three awards at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2019 with a garden he created for Facebook. “It’s fair to say that, as gardeners, we’ve not always fully understood – and I still don’t – the importance of these systems.”

The kingdom of the fungi

What changed everything for Perkins was reading research that was carried out by the American mycologist and fungi guru Dr Paul Stamet as well as a revelatory book by British biologist Merlin Sheldrake: *Entangled Life*, published in 2020.

This year, the tech giant now called Meta has commissioned Perkins to make another Chelsea Garden. He decided to build an immersive environment that celebrates the symbiotic exchange

between soil, fungi, and plants.

“Our relationship with fungi is changing, and I think it will be an irreversible change,” Perkins predicts. “You find yourself getting caught up in all the huge implications of it. It’s a totally separate kingdom from plants and animals, and it’s possibly the biggest kingdom about which we know very, very little.”

“If you imagine how the Victorian plant hunters felt when

they were discovering all these new plants back in the 18th and 19th century, it’s almost like that. It’s the new frontier, isn’t it?”

What are fungi?

At this point, a glossary might be handy. “Fungi” is the overarching name of a kingdom of spore-producing organisms that feed on organic matter. “Mushrooms” are the fruiting bodies of fungi, the place where spores are produced.



Do You Think Mushroom Is Magical?

By Yin Nwe Ko

Mushrooms are sometimes compared to icebergs, because most of the activity takes place under the surface of the earth, out of sight. Here, networks of “mycelium”, the vegetative part of the fungus, twist through the soil and make connections between plants. It is now understood that more than 90 per cent of plants depend on mycorrhizal fungi for improving their water and nutrient absorption, which has led to these networks being called the “Wood Wide Web”.

Jumping off from the theme of interconnectedness, Perkins’s upcoming Chelsea design will include a large wooden pavilion, based on hexagonal structures that represent mycelium pathways. His design will also feature two habitats: the woodland edge and a stylized meadow. If you choose to look for them, Perkins makes plenty of references to sustainability and the threats posed by climate change. But there will also be a vibrant colour scheme. “It has to be a beautiful garden as well because it’s Chelsea,” he says.

Leave the soil alone

Perkins’s new fascination with fungi and their mycorrhizal

relationships with plants is not just theoretical; it has made an impact on how he gardens on a practical level, too.

“The old advice was to get air into the soil and get rid of all the weeds and everything. And actually, the process of digging up through that surface layer just pulls apart all the mycelial connections. So, from my observations, I would say don’t do that. Leave the soil alone.”

Perkins has other radical, even hair-raising tips for gardeners. “Don’t be too tidy,” he says. “Some fungi are decomposers, and they will take the dead plant material back into the soil and recycle it and make it available to the other plants for nutrients. If you really don’t want to do that, at least leave some towards the back of the borders, so there are some opportunities for that to happen.”

The sky is the limit

Of course, fungi are not only the horticulturist’s friend. These organisms are now finding innovative applications in fashion, health, technology, art, and the construction industry.

One company that pioneers research into bio-based mate-

rials is Biohm, based in Bermondsey, south London. It was founded in 2016 by Ehab Sayed, who is from Egypt. The company looks to the natural world for inspiration, and its team of 20 is currently experimenting with more than 300 different strains of mycelium to “train” them to consume food waste and the waste of building processes, even plastic, that would otherwise end up in a landfill.

Biohm has also developed mycelium insulation, which can compete with traditional petrochemical and plastic-based construction materials in its thermal and acoustic properties but is safer and non-toxic.

Last year, Biohm received backing from Waitrose. The British supermarket chain created a £1m grant from the sale of carrier bags, to fund Biohm’s work on breaking down plastics using mycelium. Sayed suggests that the results – which will be “transformational” – are just two years away from being available at scale.

“The sky’s the limit,” he says. “We’re exploring projects in outer space at the moment, seeing how we can grow mycelium in a vacuum, and looking at how we can break down toxins that have been completely irremediable.”

What really excites both Sayed and Perkins, though, is how little we know about fungi and their by-products. It is believed that we have only documented six per cent of all fungal species: there could be anywhere from 2.2 million to 3.8 million species in the world, which is up to ten times more than the estimated number of plant species.

“What I love about mycelium is it’s the source of life, really,” says Sayed. “It’s what enables the cycles of nature to take place. There’s so much we have to learn from it, and we’ve barely scratched the surface.”

ARTICLE

Mushrooms are neither fruits nor vegetables, yet it is common knowledge that edible mushrooms exist. Mushrooms are classified as fungi, which makes some people avoid eating them. You can tell people about mushrooms’ nutritional value, having nearly zero fat, low calories, and low sodium, but that will not convince everyone to immediately add the fungus to their diet. As a fungus, you may associate mushrooms with the ground or dead tree roots from which they grow. This does not help make them more appetizing. So, what do mushrooms taste like? Do they all taste the same?

Mushrooms generally taste a bit earthy and depending on the variety somewhat spongy texture. The fungi’s slightly savoury flavour makes it a common meat substitute among vegans or vegetarians. There are different kinds of mushrooms, all of which may not offer the same earthy, savoury flavour. This article also discusses the flavours of common edible mushrooms you can find in your local supermarket.

Generally, mushrooms have an earthy, slightly savoury flavour. However, the answer is no because different types of edible mushrooms may offer different flavours that you might compare with chicken meat. Overall, mushrooms should taste like the dish you are adding the ingredient into. Mushrooms lend a unique texture that can pass for meat and absorb the spices of whatever dish you are cooking.

May all mushroom curry lovers have sweet pleasure and smiles by consuming its magical taste.

Reference:
-*Guardian News & Media 2022*
-*Spotlight 2022*

Global standard of care significantly reduced due to mental health of healthcare workers

INCREDIBLY high workloads and an increased level of workplace abuse since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic have taken a toll on the mental health of healthcare professionals, bringing down the standard of care delivery globally, an international study has shown.

59 per cent of the healthcare

professionals surveyed from the UK, US, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, India and Brazil, agreed that their mental health has suffered due to working throughout the COVID-19 outbreak. Nearly half (48 per cent) recognized that this has adversely impacted their ability to provide a high standard of patient care, with 56 percent saying

they were inclined to leave their jobs since the global health crisis began.

The impacts of the ongoing pandemic

The survey was conducted by YouGov on behalf of the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), the global health initia-

tive of Qatar Foundation.

The research examined the impacts of the ongoing pandemic on the lives of health and care workers to understand their experiences and feelings about their career and workplace, as well as explore how they see the future of healthcare as those serving on the frontline of

care delivery.

Highlighting a major risk factor to their mental health, almost half of the healthcare professionals revealed that they had

witnessed or experienced more physical and verbal abuse since the start of the pandemic.

SOURCE: ANI

59 per cent of the healthcare professionals surveyed from the UK, US, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, India and Brazil, agreed that their mental health has suffered due to working throughout the COVID-19 outbreak. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP**



Myanmar celebrates World Maritime Day 2022



World Maritime Day 2022 event is in progress in Yangon yesterday.

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San addressed the World Maritime Day 2022 ceremony held at Myanmar Port Authority (head office) in Kyauktada Township of Yangon Region yesterday.

Also present at the event were the Yangon Region chief minister, regional officials, heads of the affiliated departments, representatives of shipping companies, the Myanmar Seafarers Federation,

port services companies, maritime institutes and the local shipowners' association.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Union minister said the International Maritime Organization (IMO) holds the annual celebration in the member countries at the same time to ensure maritime safety, security and conservation activities. Myanmar also celebrates it today. The colourful light will be decorated at the marine and port facilities honouring that

day. This year's theme is New Technologies for Greener Shipping. The use of sustainable and green shipping creates new job opportunities and potential for all-round development. For such development, it needs the growth in technologies in addition to financial status and human resources. Therefore, international organizations and partner organizations should support in fundraising and capacity-building industry. There should be cooperation between

developing countries by sharing the proper technologies. They should keep staying in touch for the future of sustainable and green shipping.

Then, the video message of IMO Secretary-General Mr Kitack Lim was displayed.

At noon, the Union minister and party went to Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications (head office) in Botahtaung Township and departmental officials reported on their work procedures.

Then, the Union minister highlighted the need to maintain the proper level of MPT in the market, expand the Business to Business services by communicating with the SMEs, implement strategic projects and follow the policy for Sim Card registration, and he gave gifts to the staff.

The Union minister and party also inspected the work procedures of the Yangon Gen-

eral Post Office and gave presents to the employees.

On arrival at the Myanmar Maritime University, the Rector reported on the attendance of students during this academic year, school buildings, demonstration rooms, library and construction of sports stadiums.

The Union minister also talked about the cleanliness of school buildings, security and welfare of staff, arrangements for healthcare services, teaching aids assistance, lighting system in classroom and invitation of experts as part-time lecturers.

Then, the Union minister and party inspected the classrooms, university campus, Towing Test Tank practical session, library relocation, repair works on pavement and construction of the football stadium and basketball court. — MNA

243 labour disputes resolved in Yangon Region while compensations issued to 833 workers

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein said during a seminar on labour dispute settlement held on 26 September that 243 labour disputes have been resolved in Yangon Region and compensations have been issued to 833 workers.

Labour disputes are handled in factories in 44 townships except for Cocogyun Township by the Township Level Mediation Board under the Settlement of Labour Dispute Law. The arbitration panel and the arbitration council are working to settle the disputes step by step.

"If there is a dispute between the employer and the employee, it is to receive a

systematic resolution in accordance with the law, and as the relevant representatives involved in the dispute resolution mechanism, the employer and employee's rights need to be dealt impartially without bias.

"Decisions need to be made for the benefit of both employers and employees," Union Minister Dr Pwint San said at the Ministry of Labour.

The chief minister of Yangon Region said that mediation teams in 44 townships have resolved 243 disputes, and 833 workers have been paid their compensations of K1,027.19 million. — TWA/GNLM

Myanmar hosts 23rd ASEAN-Occupational Safety and Health Network Coordinating Board Meeting virtually



Union Minister Dr Pwint San addresses the 23rd ASEAN-OSHNET Coordinating Board Meeting online.

THE 23rd ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET) Coordinating Board Meeting was hosted by Myanmar in virtual yesterday morning under the COVID-19 prevention guidelines.

In his opening address, Union Minister for Labour Dr Pwint San said that Myanmar has enacted the Occupational Safety and Health Law and is working to promulgate the necessary regulations in order to improve the occupational safety and health measures for workers in various workplaces. The Union minister also said that Myanmar will cooperate with member nations to achieve the goals of

the ASEAN Workplace Safety and Health Network.

The Union minister emphasized that, although there are difficulties and challenges, Myanmar will continue working, together with member nations and international partnership organizations, towards achieving success.

The director general of the Factories and General Labour Laws Inspection Department served as a chairperson at the meeting and attendees discussed the issues related to occupational safety and health, and the Director General gave the closing remarks. The 23rd ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASE-

AN-OSHNET) Coordinating Board Meeting and related events will be held until 30 September.

Union Minister of Labour Dr Pwint San, Deputy Minister U Win Shein, the secretary-general of the ASEAN, representatives from the International Association of Labour Inspection, Ministry of Emergency Management of the People's Republic of China, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency and ASEAN member states and also officials from the international organizations attended the meeting. — MNA

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

Some private banks hike interest rate to 9% per annum

SOME private banks have increased the interest rate to 9 per cent per annum on fixed deposit accounts to attract new savers.

Kanbawza Bank (KBZ), which has the most branches across the country, increased the interest rate to nine per cent per annum for 90 days fixed deposit accounts and 9.25 per cent per annum for 180 days fixed deposit accounts. KBZ customers can enjoy the higher interest rate on their accounts. For that special interest rate benefit, the customers can easily open fixed deposit accounts through the nearest bank branches or KBZ mBanking between 26 September and 28 October.

Moreover, CB Bank also boosted the interest rate to 9.1 per cent per annum for 100 days of fixed deposit savings. That promotion period is by the end of November. The minimum amount of 100 Days Fixed Deposit account is K10 million, according to the statement of CB Bank.

As per AGD Bank's statement, AGD Bank introduced the savers with short-term saving benefits, with an annual interest rate of 9.25 per cent for one to three months fixed deposit account (below K5 million) and 9.35 per cent per annum for three months (above K5 million).

"I have to consider the banking option thoughtfully as we cannot withdraw our own

money as much as we want in the pandemic. The customers faced bitter experiences in finding ATM cash availability. So, I will not fall for the new interest rates for now. It is easy to turn gold and dollars into cash. At present, holding dollars is restricted. Yet, gold is considered the safe haven asset in difficult times. If we resell the gold for the maximum cash, we can make greater profits than the interest rate of banks. We can withdraw only K1 million per week at the bank and K300,000 through ATM. As far as digital wallets are concerned, we are charged a percentage for withdrawals as shadow money, we cannot enjoy any saving benefit, U Sein Tun from Thingangyun Township stressed.

The saving customers lost trust in the banks due to cash withdrawal restrictions and past problems.

Some economists speculated in the banking sector that the banks are competitively trying to attract new customers with higher interest rates when they make cash from the dollar, gold and real estate investments.

When the local currency is weakening against the safe-haven dollar in the forex market, people turn to safe assets like real estate and gold rather than banking, and most of the residents in the Yangon Region shared their opinions. — TWA/GNLM



An advert of the KBZPay.



Photos of pilgrims and visitors at the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda and stalls at the end of the year 2021.

Kyaiktiyo Pagoda to hold Buddha Pujaniya Festival for 7 months

THE Buddha Pujaniya Festival of the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda will be held for seven months from 9 October 2022 (Full Moon Day of Thadingyut) to 3 May 2023 (Full Moon Day of Kason), said the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda Trustees Board.

The pagoda's Buddha Pujaniya Festival could not be held in 2019 and 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the pagoda re-opened this year.

"There were pilgrims on the pagoda although there was no festival. A lot of preparations

are being made for this year's festival," said Ko Maung Htwe, a shopkeeper from Bago to the GNLM.

To prevent and control the COVID-19 disease, face masks will be handed out to pilgrims free of charge and visitors' body temperatures will be checked before they terrace the square of pagoda following the health rules issued by the Ministry of Health. The clinic on the pagoda platform will provide medical care if necessary.

The Kyaiktiyo Pagoda Trustees Board will provide the pilgrims free accommodation in the Pyaezone Community Hall and 9,000 Oil Lamp Community Hall. There will be restaurants and souvenir shops at the Pagoda's base station and on the pagoda's terrace.

According to the board of trustees of the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda, 7,480 pilgrims from home and 97 abroad visited the pagoda in June and July 2022. — TWA/GNLM

Bandula Transport Service to change bus fares from 1 October

THE fares of all the buses under the Bandula Transport Service will be changed on 1 October, according to the service.

Buses under Bandula Transport Service are YBS 12, YBS 13, YBS 14, YBS 25, YBS 30, YBS 38, YBS 55, YBS 117 and YBS 128.

The bus fares will be K200 for the trip from the corner of North Dagon to the South Okkalapa post office on the YBS 12 bus line, and K300 for the start-to-finish of the trip. A total of K200 will be deducted from the YPS card for the trip spanning 22 bus stops and the fare for the entire trip will be K280.

Similarly, the fares of the YBS 13 bus line will be K200 constant. If the fare is paid by using a YPS card, it will be K140 for 17 stops and K180 for more



A fleet of YBS buses under the Bandula Transport Service.

than 17 stops.

On the YBS 14 bus line, the fare will be K200 for half of the trip and if the fare is paid by using the card, it will be K140 for the stretch of 24 bus stops and K180 for the whole ride.

Also, for YBS 25, YBS 30, YBS 38, YBS 55, YBS 117, and YBS 128 bus lines, the fares for

the half trip and the whole trip will be changed, it is learnt.

In Yangon, more than 3,200 vehicles of 116 bus lines are commuting for 1.3 million people.

More than 50,000 passengers are using the YPS card system and the charges depend on the number of stops. — TWA/GNLM

ECONOMY

WORLD/AD

Booming fruit trade enhances China-ASEAN cooperation

IN a recollection from Chen Jiqing, a fruit trader in the border city of Dongxing in South China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, his first impression of ASEAN fruits was rambutan, mango and coconut brought by multinational traders near the border trade market when he was a child.

"There were only a few varieties and quanti-



A visitor checks out durian products at the Malaysia pavilion during the 19th China-ASEAN Expo held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, on 16 Sept. PHOTO: YU XIANGQUAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

ties of fruit from ASEAN member states at that time. Most of the fruit had to be sold that day or it wouldn't be fresh," Chen said.

At that time, due to backward logistics and a lack of cold chain technology, fruit from ASEAN member states was generally only sold in border areas.

Nowadays, cross-bor-

der fruit trade supported by express lines and cold chain logistics has already replaced small-scale fruit trade around border areas.

Chen's company is already one of the largest fruit trading enterprises in Dongxing. In the peak season of durian production, it can ship more than 40 containers of fresh durian to the inland provinces

of China in one month.

According to statistics, in 2004, China imported \$300 million in ASEAN fruits. In 2001, China imported \$15.22 billion of dried and fresh fruits and nuts, of which five ASEAN member states — Thailand, Viet Nam, the Philippines, Cambodia and Malaysia — accounted for more than 60 per cent.—Xinhua

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Distribution and registration processes of below pesticides manufactured by Agsin Pte Ltd. will have been transferred from Agsin Pte Ltd. (Rep Office) to Zagro Myanmar Ltd. So, if there is any protest, please protest to this address: Co-Secretary, Pesticides Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Gyogone (West), Insein Township within (14) days starting from this announcement.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Reg Type	Reg; No.
1	Dimorph 50 WP	Dimethomorph 50% WP	Full	F2019-1868
2	Attab 33 EC	Pendimethalin 33% EC	Full	F2019-1867
3	Compete 75% SP	Acephate 75% w/w	Full	F2014-642
4	Agrifop 100 EC	Cyhalofop-butyl 10% EC	Full	F2021-3189
5	Trounce 40% EC	Dimethoate 40% w/w	Full	F2014-308
6	Regency 5 SC	Fipronil 5% SC	Full	F2016-1095
7	Malamyang 57% EC	Malathion 57% w/v EC	Full	F2016-492

Agsin Pte Ltd. (Rep Office)

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No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Reg Type	Reg;No.
1	Sheriff 20 EC	Carbosulfan 20% EC	Full	F2017-1545

Agsin Pte Ltd. (Rep Office)

TEL : (95) 9 954443200

Myanmar Brand Network Company Limited

(Members' Voluntary Liquidation by the Myanmar Company Act and Myanmar Insolvency Law)

According to the Special General Meeting of the Members of Myanmar Brand Networks Company Limited (Company Registration 114600792) held the Board of Directors Meeting on 1st September, 2022 when the following "Special Resolutions" were passed;

1. The Shares holders approved to voluntarily liquidate the Company effective as of September 30, 2022, and
 2. The Shares holders approved to appoint Daw Swe Zin Win [BACT, CPA, PA -1290] NRC- 5/Ba Ta La (N) 064136] to act as the liquidator for winding-up the Company.
- All creditors of Myanmar Brand Networks Company Limited are, therefore, requested to submit details of their claims together with any documentary evidence to the liquidator at the address given, no later than (31-10-2022).

Mr. Jang Ju Hyouk
Managing Director

Daw Swe Zin Win [BACT, CPA, PA -1290]
Liquidator
No.805, Zanila (4) Street, (16/1) Quarter,
Thingangyan Township, Yangon

EU sees sabotage in gas pipe leaks, Norway hikes security

THE EU said Wednesday that leaks from two Russia-Germany undersea gas pipelines appeared to be "a deliberate act", as fossil fuel-rich Norway boosted security at its installations.

The three outflows from the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines have sent natural gas prices soar-

ing, exacerbating an energy crunch in Europe as it stands on the threshold to winter. Methane gas from the leaks are bubbling to the surface of the Baltic Sea close to Denmark and Sweden in discharges expected to last for a week, until depletion of the gas in the pipelines.—AFP



EU chiefs Ursula von der Leyen and Charles Michel have both blamed the Nord Stream leaks on sabotage. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ANI

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

AS the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 8 October 2022 to 10 October 2022 (Thadinkyut Public Holiday), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

MYANMA Port Authority "NOTICE of High Tide"

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.21 feet to 20.77 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of October 9th to October 13th, 2022. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

Large Wall Street firms fined \$1.8 bn in US over lax recordkeeping

LARGE Wall Street firms agreed to pay \$1.8 billion in fines over failures to keep electronic records such as text messages between employees on personal mobile phones, US authorities announced Tuesday.

Barclays, Bank of America, Deutsche Bank and Goldman Sachs were among the firms that agreed to fines over "longstanding failures" to maintain and preserve electronic communications that must be available to regulators in the course of oversight, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said in a statement.

The SEC announced a total of \$1.1 billion in fines on 16 institutions in all. The 16 firms listed included some companies such as Morgan Stanley with affiliated firms also covered by the agreement.

In a parallel action, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission announced it reached settlements totaling \$710 million from the same group of financial institutions over the same offences.—AFP

M'bishi Heavy, utilities to develop new nuclear reactor for 2030s use

MITSUBISHI Heavy Industries Ltd. said Thursday it will develop a next-generation nuclear reactor with Kansai Electric Power Co. and three other major Japanese utilities in what could be the first project in the government's recent policy shift to push nuclear energy.

The five companies will develop an advanced light-water reactor, a new type of pressurized water reactor, or PWR, deemed safer than existing models, and plan to put it into

use in the mid-2030s.

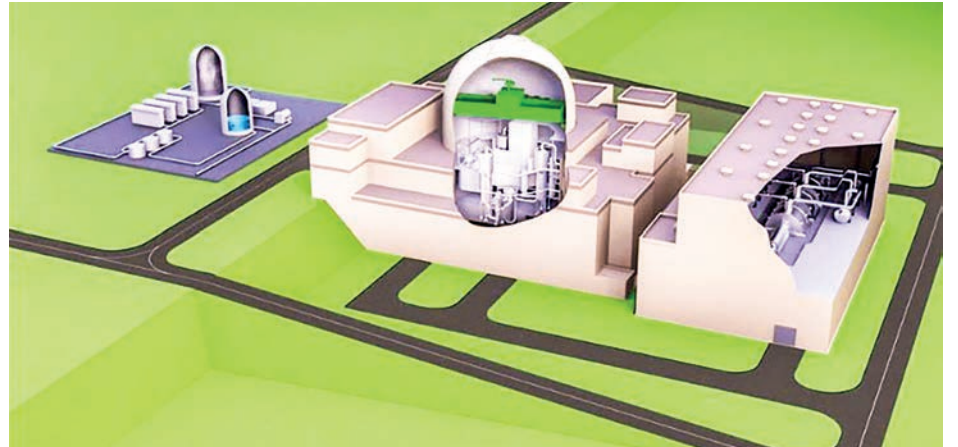
The other three utilities are Hokkaido Electric Power Co., Shikoku Electric Power Co. and Kyushu Electric Power Co. All four utilities operate Mitsubishi Heavy reactors at their nuclear plants.

The plan comes as the Japanese government announced in August that it would promote the construction of next-generation nuclear power plants to ensure a stable electricity supply without producing carbon dioxide

emissions, in a major policy reversal from its policy of no new nuclear energy.

Among a variety of next-generation nuclear reactor types, the government plans to prioritize developing advanced light-water reactors as it could utilize existing supply chains, given the technological similarities to PWRs.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno welcomed the news, saying at a press conference, "I hope relevant minis-



A rendering of a new type of nuclear reactor to be developed by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. with four major Japanese utilities. **PHOTO: Kyodo**

tries will consider (helping the development of)

next-generation reactors based on research and de-

velopment activities like this."—Kyodo

Made in Madrid: The Spanish tailors outfitting world cinema



The Spanish outfitter has recently started digitizing some of its catalogue. **PHOTO: AFP**

WITH a vast wardrobe catering to everything from "House of the Dragon" to

"The Crown", Spain's Peris Costumes has carved out a well-tailored niche for

itself, renting costumes to producers across the globe. "Here, you can find everything," says CEO Javier Toledo showing off a vast array of costumes and accessories — from suits of armour to frock coats, sailor suits and monastic robes. All around him mannequins dressed in 18th-century gowns stand next to posters of the many films his company has worked on in recent years.

"There are starting to be rather a lot," admits

the 63-year-old entrepreneur with white hair and a neatly trimmed goatee whose business is based in Algete, a small town just outside Madrid.

Since Toledo took over 10 years ago, the business has been transformed.

What began as a small family firm set up by tailors specializing in theatre costumes in the eastern coastal city of Valencia in 1856 has become a world leader in costume hire for the film industry.—AFP

VW, Umicore join forces in battery materials venture

VOLKSWAGEN and Belgian group Umicore will work together to produce battery materials, the German car group said on Monday, as the carmaker looks to speed its transition to electric vehicles. Volkswagen's battery subsidiary PowerCo and Umicore will be equal partners in the project, investing a total of €3 billion, the car giant said in a statement. With the joint venture, Volkswagen aimed to "produce battery materials for 2.2 million fully electric cars per year by the end of the decade", it said. In all, Volkswagen is ploughing tens of billions into an ambitious switch to electric vehicles, while opening a clutch of battery factories across Europe. By bringing more of the battery production supply chain in-house Volkswagen also hopes to reduce its reliance on Asian suppliers to equip its new-age models.

The founding of the joint venture was a "new step forward... to keep Europe more independent and more resistant, more resilient in (electric vehicle) supply chains", Thomas Schmall, the head of PowerCo's supervisory board, said at a press conference.—AFP

Apple App Store pulls Russian social network VKontakte

APPLE on Wednesday confirmed that it removed popular Russian social network VKontakte from its App Store globally due to sanctions imposed by Britain.

The British government on Monday sanctioned 92 Russian individuals and entities after President Vladimir Putin's regime held referendums in Moscow-controlled areas of Ukraine — denounced by Kyiv and its allies as a "sham" — and stepped up threats against the West.

"Sham referendums held at the barrel of a gun cannot be free or fair and we will never recognize their results," British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly said in a statement.

The sanctions target "those behind these sham votes, as well as the individuals that continue to prop up the Russian regime's war of aggression," he said. San Petersburg-based tech firm VK said in a blog post that some of its applications were no longer availa-

ble from the App Store, which serves as the lone gateway for content onto Apple mobile devices.

VK apps are used for messaging, digital payments and grocery shopping as well as social networking.

The VK apps removed from the App Store were being distributed by developers controlled or majority-owned by parties sanctioned by the UK government, and Apple is complying with the law, according to the Silicon Valley tech giant.—AFP

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No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Reg Type	Reg;No.
1	Zabamec	Abamectin 1.8% EC	Full	F2016-1453
2	Neocidin 600 EC	Diazinon 60% EC	Full	F2016-1455

Zagro (S) Pte Ltd.

TEL : (95) 9 954443200

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No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Reg Type	Reg;No.
1	Hopperkill 50% EC	BPMC 50% EC	Full	F2015-1227
2	Unicide 10 EC	Cypermethrin 10% EC	Full	F2016-1454

Agsin Pte Ltd. (Rep Office)

TEL : (95) 9 954443200

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

WORLD: TOP STORIES

Japan issues commemorative stamps marking 50th anniversary of normalization of Japan-China ties



An event to commemorate the 50th anniversary of ties between Japan and China is held at a shopping mall in Beijing on 24 September. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN released a set of commemorative stamps on Thursday to mark the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and

China, with pictures of giant pandas eating bamboo surrounded by crimson peonies and pale pink cherry blossoms.

Issued by Japan Post, the

two stamps share a similar design featuring the ink wash painting style. One stamp shows a picture of a pair of adult giant pandas and the other depicts an adult giant panda with a pair of adorable giant panda cubs.

Akira Tamaki, designer of this set of stamps and chief stamp designer at Japan Post Co. Ltd., introduced his design concept to Xinhua recently.

In September 1972, Japan and China normalized their diplomatic relations, and about a month later, two giant pandas Kang Kang and Lan Lan arrived at the Ueno Zoo in Tokyo, setting off an unprecedented “panda craze” in Japan, Tamaki said.—Xinhua

India bans Islamist group for alleged ‘terrorist’ links

INDIA has banned an Islamist group and its affiliates for five years over alleged terrorism links, after nationwide crackdowns that arrested hundreds in the organization.

The notice seen by AFP said the Popular Front of India (PFI) had ties with militant groups such as the Students Islamic Movement of India, Jamat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh and Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

Police arrested over 200 PFI members in a nationwide crackdown yesterday and last week a similar crackdown led to the detention of more than 100 people linked to PFI.

The group tweeted that

the arrests were a “witch-hunt” against its members and supporters.

The government notice said PFI and its associates have been “indulging in unlawful activities, which are prejudicial to the integrity, sovereignty and security of the country and have the potential of disturbing public peace and communal harmony of the country and supporting militancy in the country”.

It said that the group and its affiliates had been working secretly to “increase radicalization of one community by promoting a sense of insecurity”.—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

US, Russia battle to lead UN telecoms agency

RUSSIA and the United States are battling Thursday for control of the UN’s telecoms agency, which behind the scenes governs everything from radio frequencies to satellites and 5G.

The International Telecommunication Union elects its new secretary-general and the outcome will be a test of Russia’s standing in the United Nations as the war in Ukraine grinds on.

The ITU’s development chief Doreen Bogdan-Martin is up against Russia’s former deputy telecoms minister Rashid Ismailov in a two-way contest to head the organization, which



Russia and the United States are battling Thursday for control of the UN’s telecoms agency, which behind the scenes governs everything from radio frequencies to satellites and 5G. **PHOTO: AFP**

sets the global standards underlying mobile phones, television and the internet.

“This election is a top pri-

ority for the United States,” US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in his letter nominating Bogdan-Martin.—AFP

Moscow says occupied Ukraine regions made ‘free choice in favour of Russia’

MOSCOW’S foreign ministry said Wednesday that Russian-occupied regions in Ukraine made a “conscious and free choice” to join Russia after Kremlin proxies organized so-called referendums in the territories they control.

“The results of the plebiscites speak for themselves: the people of the Donbas, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions do not

want to go back to their old lives and have made a conscious and free choice in favour of Russia,” the ministry said in a statement.

The statement came after the Moscow-installed leaders in the three regions asked President Vladimir Putin to formally annex the territories. The statement said that an “overwhelming majority” had backed joining Rus-

sia, claiming almost one hundred per cent backing in the Donetsk region – “99.23 per cent.”

Moscow said the voting was “carried out in full accordance to the norms and principles of international law”, even though the territories were captured by force and the votes hastily organized in a race against Kyiv’s counter-offensive.—AFP

Ukraine unveils mechanism for post-conflict reconstruction

KYRYLO Tymoshenko, the deputy head of the Ukrainian president’s office, has unveiled a mechanism for Ukraine’s post-conflict reconstruction named the Fast Recovery Plan, the government-run Ukrinform news agency reported Wednesday.

Under the mechanism, Ukraine is planning to attract money from international donors to restore the infrastructure facilities which were destroyed or heavily damaged in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Tymoshenko said.

“We work with our inter-

national partners on this plan. I have conducted more than 30 meetings with ambassadors of foreign countries, we invite all of them to cooperate,” Tymoshenko noted. According to him, 75 per cent of the recovery foundation’s supervisory board members will be representatives of the donor countries.

In a joint assessment released earlier this month, the Ukrainian government, the European Commission, and the World Bank estimated that the current cost of Ukraine’s reconstruction amounts to 349 billion US dollars.—Xinhua



Pedestrians cross a destroyed bridge as they evacuate the city of Irpin, northwest of Kyiv, Ukraine, 6 March 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Danish queen strips four grandkids of royal titles



Queen Margrethe of Denmark reviews an honour guard as she arrives to the gala banquet at Christiansborg Palace in Copenhagen, Denmark on 11 September 2022. PHOTO: AFP

DENMARK'S Queen Margrethe, Europe's only reigning queen and the continent's longest serving monarch, on Wednesday stripped four of her eight grandchildren of their titles, the palace announced.

The official reason was to allow the four children of her youngest son, Prince Joachim, to live more normal lives, and follows similar moves by other royal families in Europe to slim down their monarchies, the pal-

ace said.

"As of 1 January 2023, the descendants of His Royal Highness Prince Joachim will only be able to use their titles of Count and Countess of Monpezat, their previous titles of Prince and Princess of Denmark ceasing to exist," the royal palace wrote in a statement.

Prince Joachim, 53, has four children from two marriages: Nikolai, Felix, Henrik, and Athena, ranging in age from 23 to 10.

"With her decision, Her Majesty the Queen wants to create a framework for the four grandchildren, to a much greater degree, to be able to shape their own existence without being limited by the special considerations and obligations that a formal affiliation with the Royal House as an institution implies," it said.

"The queen's decision is in line with similar changes that other royal houses have carried out in recent years in different ways," it added. The mother of Prince Joachim's two eldest sons told Danish media she was "shocked" by the decision.

"This came out of the blue. The children feel excluded. They can't understand why their identity is being taken from them," Countess Alexandra told daily B.T.. The queen's four other grandchildren, born to Crown Prince Frederik, 54, will retain their titles but when they come of age only the future king, Prince Christian, will receive an appanage, a decision taken in 2016.—AFP

Beer Party founder vies to be Austria's next president

WITH his long dark hair and torn jeans, punk rock singer Dominik Wlazny of Austria's Beer Party seems an unlikely candidate for the country's next president.

But that's exactly what the 35-year-old aims to be, as he seeks to shake up a presidential race dominated by politicians mostly backed by more established parties — several rocked by corruption scandals.

Running against six others, including incumbent Alexander Van der Bellen, Wlazny is the first-ever presidential candidate from the Beer Party, named for its advocacy of the popular beverage.

Wlazny describes his campaign for the 9 October vote as a "David vs Goliath fight", with Van der Bellen widely tipped to clinch a second mandate.

But he's hoping to win some



Punk rock singer Dominik Wlazny is running for president in Austria's October vote. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

voters over with his party's unconventional approach to politics.

The party's goals include having a fountain in the capital that dispenses beer, saying in a proposal to the city it could "raise the quality of life" for residents and draw tourists.

Wlazny's bare-bones presi-

dential campaign, dubbed "Let's talk about it", pushes for gender equality and animal welfare, among other issues.

His messaging is also unconventional, sending updates via online satirical clips, and Wlazny says his appeal is to anyone who "has a desire for change".—AFP

Bosnia goes to the polls as ethnic divisions grow

WITH ethnic divisions growing deeper, Bosnia will hold general elections on Sunday amid secession threats and fears of fresh political turmoil nearly three decades after war ravaged the Balkan nation.

The country is torn between secessionist Orthodox Serbs and Catholic Croats demanding greater autonomy, while Muslim Bosniaks calling for a more egalitarian state appear to be chasing little more than a pipedream.

For more than two decades, the impoverished Balkan state has been governed by a dysfunctional administrative system born out of the 1995 Dayton Agreement.

And while the accords may have succeeded in ending the war in the 1990s, the country has withered amid political paralysis ever since.

Analysts have warned that Bosnia is sinking ever deeper into troubled waters with divisions along ethnic lines appearing to grow even further on the eve of elections.

"Bosnia-Herzegovina is experiencing the most serious political crisis since the signing of the peace agreement," Ranko Mavrak, a Sarajevo-based political analyst, told AFP. "The ethnic divisions are so deep that they are now a real danger to Bosnia's survival and its integrity," he added.—AFP



Analysts have warned that Bosnia is sinking ever deeper into troubled waters. PHOTO: AFP

US VP Harris lands in S. Korea after North's missile tests

US Vice-President Kamala Harris was in South Korea Thursday to tour the heavily fortified border with the nuclear-armed North, on a trip aimed at strengthening the security alliance with Seoul.

Pyongyang conducted two banned ballistic missile launches in the days before Harris's arrival, part of a record-breaking streak of weapons tests this year.

Speaking ahead of her meeting with South Korea's President Yoon Suk-yeol, Harris said the countries' alliance was "a linchpin of security and prosperity on the Korean peninsula".

"I'm here to reinforce the strength of our alliance and strengthen our work together," she added.

Washington stations about 28,500 troops in South Korea to help protect it from the North, and the allies are conducting a large-scale joint naval exercise this week in a show of force against the North.

Harris' trip to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) is likely to infuriate Pyongyang, which branded United States House Speaker Nancy Pelosi the "worst destroyer of international peace" when she visited the border in August.—AFP



Neymar swept up in Brazil vote battle after video for Bolsonaro



Brazil's forward Neymar warms up before a friendly football match between Brazil and Tunisia at the Parc des Princes in Paris on 27 September 2022. PHOTO: AFP

FOOTBALL superstar Neymar was swept up in Brazil's presidential election campaign after posting a video on social media Wednesday thanking President Jair Bolsonaro for visiting the player's charitable children's foundation.

The Paris Saint-Germain and Brazil striker did not get into politics in the brief message to Bolsonaro, posted four days out from Sunday's voting.

But that did not stop Bolsonaro's camp from playing up

the video from one of the country's biggest stars as the far-right incumbent seeks a come-from-behind win against leftist ex-president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (2003-2010), who leads in the polls.

"Hello, President Bolsonaro... I wanted to thank you for your illustrious visit," Neymar, 30, said on Instagram.

"I would have loved to be there with you, but unfortunately I'm too far away... I hope you enjoyed your visit to the institute,

which is the greatest goal of my life." Communications Minister Fabio Faria and Bolsonaro's senator son Flavio promptly reposted the video on Twitter.

The message came after ex-army captain Bolsonaro visited the Neymar Jr. Institute, a charitable foundation the football star founded in 2014 that runs educational, cultural and sports programmes for 3,000 underprivileged children in the southeastern city of Praia Grande, where Neymar grew up.— 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.

MFF holds meeting to kick off Myanmar Women's League on 3 October

A coordination meeting for the successful holding of the 2022 Myanmar Women's League was held yesterday morning at the meeting hall of the Myanmar Football Federation.

Club owners, presidents, association chief executive officers and association officials attended the meeting.

During the meeting, they discussed conditions that have been prepared for the successful holding of the women's league, and efforts to be made to obtain competition sponsorship.

"Based on the current world ranking of Myanmar women's football, the situation will be able to rise further", officials said.

The football authorities also discussed pre-planned conditions for next year's women's league match to be held more widely than now.

The women's league will be held from 3 October to 27 November at the Bahan artificial turf field and Thuwanna bicycle training ground (1) with ISPE FC, Myawady FC, Thitsar Ahman FC, YREO FC, Sports & Education FC, Young Lionesses FC and Taninthayi FC participating.

The champion team will have the right to represent Myanmar in next year's AFC Women's Club Championship. — GNLM

Qatar says World Cup fans do not need COVID-19 vaccination

CORONAVIRUS vaccinations will not be mandatory for the million-plus fans going to the World Cup in Qatar this year, the Gulf state said Thursday.

But players and match officials may be forced into a secure "bio-bubble" if Covid-19 cases take off again, with the threat of expulsion from the tournament for those who breach the secure environment, the health ministry said.

The 29-day tournament will be the first major global sporting event with fans since the eruption in December 2019 of the Covid pandemic, which has since killed more than six million people.

Qatari organisers, who have predicted that more than one million people will pack Doha for the matches, and football's governing body, FIFA, have said they want the event to be a sign the world is getting over the dev-



Coronavirus vaccinations will not be mandatory for the million-plus fans going to the World Cup in Qatar this year, the Gulf state said Thursday. PHOTO: AFP

astating pandemic.

But Qatar's health ministry warned in its World Cup guidelines that special measures would be ordered "in the event of a worsening pandemic situation in the country", such as the emergence of a threatening new variant.

With Covid-19 currently con-

sidered under control, "there will be no vaccination requirement for participants and visiting spectators," the ministry said.

All visitors aged over six will have to produce negative Covid-19 tests before taking flights to Qatar for the tournament that starts 20 November. —AFP