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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.

Sri Ksetra World Heritage Site, which started civilization in Southeast Asia must be a world-class cultural zone to firmly show off Myanmar history: Senior General

THE cultural area must be internationally standardized to attract international tourists to observe the history of the region, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in inspecting Sri Ksetra ancient city identified as the World Her-

itage Site, five miles southeast of Pyay in Bago Region yesterday morning.

At the hall of the Field School of Archaeology, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko and officials reported on the history of Sri Ksetra city and Pyu people, excavation of ancient cities, designation of Han-

lin, Beikthanoe and Sri Ksetra ancient cities as World Heritage Sites, improvement of culture in relevant eras, lecturing at the field school, maintenance of ancient objects, functions of Sri Ksetra museum, and restrictions for illegal residences in Sri Ksetra culture zone.

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State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing kowtows to the Bawbawgyi Pagoda in Sri Ksetra ancient city on 5 October 2022.

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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*



U Lwin Oo presents Credentials to President of Belarus

U Lwin Oo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the

Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Belarus, presented his Credentials to Mr Alexander Grigoryevich Lukashenko, President of Belarus on 30 September 2022. —MNA

The Myanmar ambassador greets the Belarusian president.

465 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 5 October, total figure rises to 625,147

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **625,147** after **465** new cases were reported on 5 October 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **599,248** have been recovered from disease. Death toll still stands at **19,463** 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 4-10-2022, a total of **30,599,459** people above 18 and a total of **6,645,451** people under 18 have been vaccinated.

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

Pure gold bullion and ingot to be sold through tender

PURE gold bullion weighing three visses and pure gold ingot weighing three visses will be sold through a tender system at the Myanmar Gems Museum on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and the Star Mart at the corner of 26th and 66th streets in Mandalay from 1 pm to 3 pm on 6 October, it is reported.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation will

sell pure gold bullion and pure gold ingot through the tender system and detailed information is available at the Myanmar Gems Enterprise Head Office (Nay Pyi Taw), the Myanmar Gems Museum in Yangon and the Myanmar Gems Enterprise (Mandalay).

Gold coins will go on sale as usual, according to the report. — MNA

Bank Holiday

ALL Banks will be closed on 24 (Monday) October 2022 "Deepavali Day" being a public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

If the ethnic armed organizations come to the peace talks, the future politics of the nation will be assured

THE 4th of January 2023 will be the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day of Myanmar. We will continue to prioritize the cessation of armed conflicts. As 2022 has been set as the year of peace, it is necessary to implement the peace process in a pragmatic way. Thus, I myself invited the leaders of ethnic armed organizations-EAOs to join the peace talks. These talks brought good results for the regions and the nation, so, if the ethnic armed organizations come to the peace talks, the future politics of the nation will be assured.

(The excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on the Occasion of the Eighteen Months of the Assumption of State Duties by the State Administration Council on 1 August 2022.)

Sri Ksetra World Heritage Site, which started civilization ...



SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views the exhibits at the Sri Ksetra museum.

FROM PAGE-1

In his response to the reports, the Senior General said as visits of local and foreign

travellers to observe the culture, systematic preservation of ancient objects contributes to the development of the Pyay

region. Excavated items must be put on record and books for new generations. Documentary photos must be quality and put

on record in computerization.

Archaeologists need to do research on the cultural works of Visakhapatnam city of India which are similar to that of ancient Pyu cities Hanlin, Beikthano and Sri Ksetra. Moreover, it is necessary to conduct research on relations between Mon, Pyu and Bamar ethnics and Pyu culture.

The cultural area must be internationally standardized to attract international tourists to observe the history of the region. As ancient culture zones are important for the tourism industry, preparations must be made for transport facilities and local shops in systematic arrangements for a possibly growing number of visitors. The government pledged to give assistance to Field School of Archaeology for teaching historical subjects.

The Senior General, wife and party viewed insignia and equipment displayed at the Sri

Ksetra museum, literature and faiths, ancient objects, literary evidence, Pyu era bricks, architectural works, and Pyu equipment booths and instructed officials to systematically maintain historical evidence, keeping captions for all objects, translation for stone inscriptions in Pyu language to Myanmar for public observation. It is necessary to show ancient coins and ornaments on an LED screen and upgrade the museum to the digital one.

The Senior General inspected maintenance of the palace site in the culture zone and instructed officials to re-dredge the moat of the palace site.

Sri Ksetra city was established under the reign of King Duttabaung. It is a current residence of the people. The Department of Archaeology and National Museum has been conducting excavation and field research in the city since 1907. — MNA

MoD Union Minister provides fertilizers, seeds and inputs to farmers in Sagaing

MEMBER of the State Administration Council Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo, accompanied by the Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw, North-West Command Commander Brig-Gen Than Htike attended the ceremony of the natural fertilizer plant construction and livestock work presentation at the Pyikyawaunghtay Natural Fertilizer Plant yesterday morning.

At the meeting, U Kyaw Htay who is an official of the Pyikyawaunghtay Natural Fertilizer Plant reported on the construction of the natural fertilizer plant and livestock activities.

Then, the Union minister gave the necessary instructions and provided natural fertilizer bags to farmers.

Afterwards, the Union minister and party proceeded to the Sagaing district agricultural and livestock products exhibition and supported sunflower seeds, wheat seeds and long-staple cotton seeds. — MNA

Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo observes the agricultural inputs.



Dutifully serving duties in individuals correctly is to build the capable, powerful armed forces: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets officers, other ranks and family members from Pyay and Padaung stations yesterday.

If servicemen individually obey military disciplines and dutifully serve assigned duties, the Tatmadaw will be a powerful, capable Tatmadaw, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday afternoon at a meeting with Tatmadaw members and families of Pyay and Padaung stations at Nawaday Hall of Pyay Station.

First, the Senior General explained the declaration of the state of emergency by the Tatmadaw on the political ground and the need to take State responsibilities.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said at present, Myanmar gains economic development with peace and stability. Currently, as PDF terrorists take the people as a shield in their attacks, the Tatmadaw members and the people are to join hands

to counterattack the terror acts.

In his tenure as the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the Senior General recounted that military building tasks have been gaining momentum with the success of agriculture and livestock farming. The Tatmadaw and the people could join hands to raise the relations. In the 2011-2020 democratic government period, some local and foreign unscrupulous persons instigated the Tatmadaw

and the people not to cement the relations. As such, instability happened during the political changes in 2021.

The Senior General noted that the Tatmadaw members need to constantly take training on defence subjects as well as health exercises for health and fitness. They have to follow the disciplines under the supervision of officials at different levels.

They all have living styles in accord with the health and weath-

er. Not only Tatmadaw members but also their families need to follow the health protocols of Covid-19. They have to read and encourage the education promotion of family members. Not only military units but also Tatmadaw members in individuals are to carry out agriculture and livestock farming tasks as much as they can.

Since its discharging duties, the Tatmadaw has been facing attacks in all dimensions to cause monetary problems for the State. The government is striving for decrease in the price of fuel, edible oil and commodity prices. Servicemen individually obey military disciplines and dutifully serve assigned duties, the Tatmadaw will be a powerful, capable Tatmadaw.

The Senior General presented foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and families to the Pyay Station commander; the wife of the Senior General, cash assistance for station maternal and child welfare association to the wife of the Pyay station commander and Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, fiction and non-fiction books for Tatmadaw members and families to Padaung Station commander. — MNA



The Senior General presents foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and families.



The wife of the Senior General provides cash assistance for station maternal and child welfare association.

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SAC Vice-Chair Dy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends 3rd coordination meeting of National Land Utilization Council



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the third coordination meeting of the National Land Utilization Council in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 October 2022.

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, in his capacity as the Chairman of the National Land Utilization Council, addressed its third coordination meeting held in the Ingyin Hall of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in Nay Pyi Taw at 2 pm yesterday.

In his speech, the Deputy Prime Minister said that

the purpose of the coordination meeting is to discuss the resolutions of the second meeting, the progress of work programmes implemented by the council and future work programmes.

He said that Myanmar covers 261,228 square miles and is the second-largest country in Southeast Asia, that it is rich in aquatic and terrestrial resources and endowed with climatic conditions suitable for

farming.

He also pointed out that terrestrial resources are the most fundamental natural resources and they contribute to ecosystem services including food, clean drinking water and biodiversity, at the same time, they are the sources of greenhouse gases that cause global warming.

He continued to say that, according to the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on

Climate Change – IPCC, 23 per cent of total greenhouse gas emissions during the period from 2007 to 2016 was due to agriculture, forests and change in the use of land caused and, therefore, it is necessary for the country to systematically manage terrestrial resources compatible with the move to alleviate climate change. He added that one of the goals of the UN development project (Agenda 2030) is concerned

with the protection and long-term use of global ecosystems and forests, prevention of desertification and depletion of soil and biodiversity.

He went on to say that the national land utilization policy required for continuous management of the country's earthbound resources was published in January 2016, that the policy was drafted with the help of experts from home and abroad and it is necessary to put the policy into action.

He finally urged all those concerned to do their utmost in their respective sectors to be able to successfully implement the tasks of the National Land Utilization Council and only then do sound systems of land management will emerge.

The meeting was attended by members of the National Land Utilization Council members: Union Ministers Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Dr Thida Oo, Admiral Tin Aung San, U Khin Maung Yi, U Thaug Han, U Myo Myint Oo and U Shwe Lay. Chief ministers of the regions and states also attended the meeting via videoconferencing. — MNA

UEC holds coordination meeting on accuracy of voter lists, polling stations in regions/states

ARRANGEMENTS should be made for the upcoming election to be a systematic, free, fair and trustworthy one, said Union Election Commission Chairman U Thein Soe during the coordination meeting with UEC members, officials and UEC personnel yesterday.

He also said the UEC has carried out the actions that should be done in line with the law including the first point-scrutiny of voter lists mentioned in the five-point road map of the State Administration Council. According to the fifth point, preparations are being made to hold the free and fair multiparty democratic elections in line with the 2008

Constitution upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency.

The relevant region/state election sub-commissions should cooperate with the departments concerned to be an accurate population for basic voter lists and update monthly. Moreover, it should make efforts for polling stations, election supplies and other necessary things. All need to be ready in respective regions and states.

Then, officials reported on the activities for voter lists, location of polling stations and purchasing of election supplies and the UEC Chairman left proper instructions. — MNA



The coordination meeting of the Union Election Commission is in progress yesterday.

World Teachers' Day 2022 held in Nay Pyi Taw



The celebration of World Teacher's Day 2022 is in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE ceremony to mark World Teachers' Day 2022 was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Firstly, teachers from No 22 Basic Education High School Nay Pyi Taw sang the song titled "The Noble Teacher".

Then, Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe read the message from SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sent to the World Teachers' Day celebration. Dr Kyi Shwin, Secretary-General of the Myanmar National Commission

for UNESCO read the messages from the leaders of five organizations under the United Nations.

The Union minister presented prizes to the honourable persons. Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Myint gave excellence awards to teachers and Deputy Minister U Zaw Win gave presents to higher education teachers who won in the article competition of the World Teachers' Day 2022.

The Union minister and attendees then observed the commemorative gallery of World Teachers' Day 2022. — MNA

CBM revises percentage of Central Bank Deposit Account (CAB) and cash held by banks

THE Central Bank of Myanmar announced on 3 October 2022 that it has revised the percentage of the Central Bank's Deposit Account (CAB) and cash held by banks to reduce inflation.

Like the rest of the world, Myanmar also faces rising inflation due to rising fuel prices and rising foreign exchange rates due to the Russia-Ukraine war, through rising food and other commodity prices, it said.

To reduce the current rate of inflation, the central bank said that the minimum reserve requirement ratio (MRR) is to be raised in two ways, but considering the profitability of the banking sector, the current minimum reserve ratio - three per cent in Myanmar Kyat is unchanged.

In the minimum reserve requirement ratio, the ratio of the central bank's deposit account (CAB) and cash held by banks (Cash) has been increased from 2.25 per cent to 2.5 per cent, and the ratio to be kept with cash has been reduced from 0.75 per

cent to 0.5 per cent.

The CBM said that due to such excess, the cash in the possession of the banks will enter the deposit account at the Central Bank, which will reduce the circulating consumption currency (CIC) and control inflation.

If the banks are unable to expand their credit due to the increase in the cash held by the banks, interest will be paid on the average excess CAB, which is more than the minimum reserve requirement in Myanmar kyats.

The CBM stated that they are also preparing to issue and sell the Central Bank Securities Certificate (CBM bill) to control inflation.

To stabilize the exchange rate, the CBM has taken measures to temporarily lend US dollars to importers of fuel, allow export earnings to return, sell mandatory imports in US dollars, and pay for imports in US dollars as well as other currencies (RMB, Thai currency). — TPT/GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, consumer goods, industrial materials, boat and vehicles confiscated

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

An inspection team of the vessel-116 under the supervision of the Taninthayi Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force made inspections.

Officials captured a total of 5.225 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K783,750 from a motorboat and related things (estimated value of K850,000) off the coast of west of Sabahlaing island in Kyunsu township of Myeik district. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 2 October, an inspection team conducted inspections under the Ayeyawady Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force and seized a total of 0.6162 tonne of illegal hardwood worth K123,240 in Kyangin township of Hinthada district. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Afterwards, on 4 October, an on-duty team confiscated K10,500,000 worth of marine equipment - high configuration computer machine - without an import licence from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal Container Checkpoint, K20,580,630 worth of sports equipment that did not match with the Import Declaration (ID) at the Asia World Container Terminal Checkpoint and K10,517,850 worth of 150 kilogrammes of toothpaste



Officials check the seized illegal timbers.

packing material - flex overprint varnish E-50 - that did not match with import licence regulations at the Yangon International Airport Warehouse. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, a combined on-duty inspection team under the Kayin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force captured 8,250 pairs of foam slipper worth K3,162,600 from a vehicle at the Myawady (OSS) Trade Zone on 4 October, K1,400,000 worth of duty-free baby clothes from a vehicle and K12 million worth of an illegal bulldozer crawler from a Nissan diesel car (estimated value of K35 million) at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint on 5 October.

The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, on 5 October, a combined team led by Myanmar Police Fore confiscated an unregistered light truck (approximately K1.5 million) at the checkpoint in Zigon township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

A total of 4.7012 tonnes of illegal teak, sawn hardwood and other timbers worth 1,071,924 was nabbed in Toungoo and Thayawady districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 13 arrests estimated at K97,489,994 were made on 1, 2, 4 and 5 October, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Kyat-dollar exchange rate rebounds to above K3,000

A Kyat-dollar exchange rate edged up to above K3,000 again in the unauthorized market.

The exchange rate slid to around K2,500 in the past few days.

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) set the reference exchange rate at K2,100 so there is a gap of around K1,000 between the black market's rate and the official rate.

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

Therefore, financial institutions including banks and informal money exchanges set a dollar value at K2,100 for buying and K2,106 for selling.

Despite the trading band, the dollar transaction was made with the buying price of K3,030 and the selling price of K3,130 in the grey market.

The gold price climbed up tracking the mild rebound of the dollar in the domestic markets.

Additionally, the hard currency US dollar hit a high of over K4,500 in the forex market in August-end. The pure gold price, therefore, reached a record high of K3.7 million per tical in history.

On 28 September 2021, a

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

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

The objectives of the committee are inspecting and prosecuting market manipulation, checking if there is compliance with payment rules in the domestic market, and proceeding against those unscrupulous traders who intend to interfere



The office of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

with the free and fair operation of the market under the existing laws, by-laws and regulations in line with the official directives, illegal foreign currency holding, illegal trade and taking legal actions against price manipulators. — NN/GNLM

Rubber fetches about K1,400 per pound during tapping season



Raw rubber sheets are loaded onto the lorry.

THE price of rubber stands at around K1,400 per pound during the tapping season, rubber traders said.

The sun-dried rubber sheet (Local 3) is priced at K1,470 per pound while Ribbed Smoked Sheet (Local 3) is worth K1,390 per pound, according to Mawlamyine Commodity Centre.

Last year, the price of rubber was only K1,000 when the tapping season commenced. This year, the prices of rubber

were K1,400-1,500 per pound.

Starting from the third week of September, rubber sap collection businesses have begun. Yet, rubber farm owners are facing shortages of skilled workers and low yield during the beginning of the season, the farm owners said.

Global demand for rubber, rubber production of the Southeast Asian nations and their market supply are contributing factors to the rubber price

condition of Myanmar.

The rubber price in Mon State, a major rubber producing state in Myanmar, is positively related to those facts as well, the traders elaborated.

Rubber is commonly produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber season data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres. About 300,000 tonnes of rubber are produced annually across the country.

Seventy per cent of rubber produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries.

Myanmar bagged more than US\$449 million in revenue in rubber exports in the previous financial year 2020-2021. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar food manufacturers need to seek mandatory GACC registration

MYANMAR food exporters are required to be registered with the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), according to the Ministry of Commerce.

According to GACC Decrees 248 and 249, GACC registration is mandatory for food exporters starting from 1 January.

That being so, Myanmar's food products in 18 food groups such as meat products, fishery products, dairy products and edible bird's nests, honey and honey products, eggs and egg products, edible oil, frozen food products, edible seeds and nuts, malted barley, fresh vegetable, dried beans, spices, hard nuts and seeds, dried fruits, coffee beans and cocoa beans, special nutritious food and supplements are required to be registered with GACC.

For GACC registration,

the relevant authorities are the Agriculture Department, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD), the Fisheries Department and Food and Drugs Administration.

Between 1 December 2021 and 30 September 2022, 1,850 applications of 1,022 companies and factories have been submitted to GACC.

Among them, 1,711 applications by 883 companies were forwarded through the Agriculture Department, while 118 through the Fisheries Department, 12 through the LBVD and nine through the FDA.

Exporters can directly access China International Trade Single Window through <https://cifer.singlewindow.cn> by creating accounts for those food groups which are not listed on those 18 groups. — NN/GNLM

Daily newspapers
available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

OPINION

Try to develop a blue economy for the State

THE government is striving for the emergence of Integrated Coastal Management-ICM for the country with the formation of the Myanmar Coast Guard, finalizing the sea pollution control law, designating non-fishery areas for high marine ecosystem value and plentiful biodiversity, expansion of mangrove forests, forest reserves and protected public forests in regions and states, and establishment of mangrove forests in 60 coastal townships including Cocokyun Township as well as the prevalence of law and order at sea.

As coastal resources are long-term development prospects for Myanmar, it is necessary to systematic manage utilizing of these resources for new generations in cooperation with global and regional partner countries.

The United Nations is implementing the 17 sustainable development goals till 2030 with the ideology of the blue economy the regional partner countries are implementing. The blue economy is

purposed to mitigate climate change and to harmonize the utilization and conservation of marine resources so as to improve socioeconomic development and wealth of the people.

The basic ideology of the blue economy is to protect and reestablish the natural resources and systematically utilize the sustainable developed businesses and opportunities at the sea, ocean and coasts.

Myanmar possesses more than 2,800 kilometres long coast and one-fifth of the Bay of Bengal ecosystem. Myanmar's coast is endowed with sandy beaches, mangrove ecosystems, coral reef ecosystems, sea lawn ecosystems and other coastal and marine ecosystems.

On the other hand, Myanmar has to face challenges of damage and loss of marine biodiversity, coral reefs, mangrove forests, sea lawns and marine products. Consequently, these impacts reflect a lessening of food security, mitigation of vocational jobs, climate change, natural disasters, spreading and stock-piling of plastic waste, e-waste and agricultural waste at the sea. Only when Myanmar can overcome these challenges will it be able to effectively restrict these impacts.

Myanmar is playing a crucial role in the country list in the 21st Century Belt and Road Initiative of China, standing in a geographical strategic and economic position. Among six silk belts, Myanmar participates in the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar economic corridor, as a focal point between South Asia and Southeast Asia.

As such, Myanmar needs to analyze itself to choose the best way for the future how to carry on its functions in joining the international arena by firmly accepting its stance on developing the blue economy and how to defy and respond to the impacts of natural disasters for utilization and conservation of marine resources for the State.

■

INTERNATIONAL GEODIVERSITY DAY

6 OCTOBER 2022

By **THAN HTUN (MYANMAR GEOSCIENCES SOCIETY)**

Geodiversity

THE concept of geodiversity was first introduced in 1993 (Sharples, 1993; Wiedenbein, 1933) shortly after the convention on biological diversity that was held at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 (Gray, 2018). This concept has emerged as a counterpart of biodiversity among geoscientists around the world that put attention to the heterogeneity of abiotic nature. Since the time of inception, the term geodiversity has been used in different contexts and defined in various ways but the most accepted definition was outlined by (Gray, 2013) that "Geodiversity stands for the natural range (diversity) of geological (rocks, minerals, fossils), geomorphological (landforms, topography, physical processes), soil and hydrological features. It includes their assemblages, relationships, properties, interpretations, and systems."

There are some scholars like (Kozlowski, 2004), and (Serrano and Ruiz-Flano, 2007) that have included anthropogenic features of landscape within the range of geodiversity. However, the majority of scholars have not incorporated anthropogenic features in the definition of geodiversity because their inclusion dilutes geodiversity to a wide range of concepts having no or very little practical application for the resolution of common problems (Pereira et al., 2013). Geodiversity underpins biological diversity as well as a range of geosystem services. Therefore, the concept of geodiversity is now well recognised worldwide even by international institutions like UNESCO, international associations such as the European Geoparks Network (EGN), the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN), and governmental scientific agencies (Krishanu Datta, 2022).

Our planet is such a special place enlivened by an incredible ecological richness of fauna and flora but the accelerating loss of natural habitat and species means that biodiversity is on everyone's lips and yet under-

pinning biodiversity is its hidden silent partner, geodiversity. Geodiversity is the basis of every ecosystem non-living elements of nature, rocks, minerals, soils, landforms, topography, mountains, gorges, rivers, and lakes. This geodiversity has its own intrinsic value worthy of protection and it has an essential role on the human planet. It provides the building stones for our towns and cities. And it provides material for our energy resources including renewable energy. So as well as underpinning biodiversity geodiversity underpins human diversity. It is the bedrock of our national and cultural identity the foundation of mother earth which is our common home (Dr Franziska Schrodt et al., 2021). The term 'geodiversity' also spans the processes that create and modify these features. Exceptional examples of geodiversity are preserved in UNESCO Global Geoparks around the world.

Why is geodiversity important?

Humanity's history is intrinsically linked to geodiversity through the exploration and exploitation of Earth materials. These enabled us to move from the Stone Age to the Bronze and Iron Ages and later was the driving force behind the various technological revolutions that radically improved our quality of life, such as the invention of the steam engine, electricity, and more recently, the microchip which enabled us to miniaturize computers.

Geodiversity is present in every aspect of our daily lives in the objects and services we use. It is the source of the raw materials that make up all objects, including those to build towns and cities but also to manufacture solar panels and wind turbines. Geodiversity is the support of all agricultural systems by providing soil and water but also an energy source

such as geothermal energy. Its diverse landscapes, colours, and forms inspire artists and fascinate tourists.

Rocks and geological processes also play fundamental roles in regulating the environment. For example, river flow is regulated by the input of geologically hosted groundwater which enables rivers to keep flowing even in times of drought. Rocks and sediments play a crucial role in filtering polluted surface water before it reaches an aquifer. Scientific knowledge about how geological and geomorphological processes occur in nature is crucial to reduce the risks associated with earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, flooding, landslides, and so on. This knowledge also supports the development of smart solutions with regard to land use planning and land management.

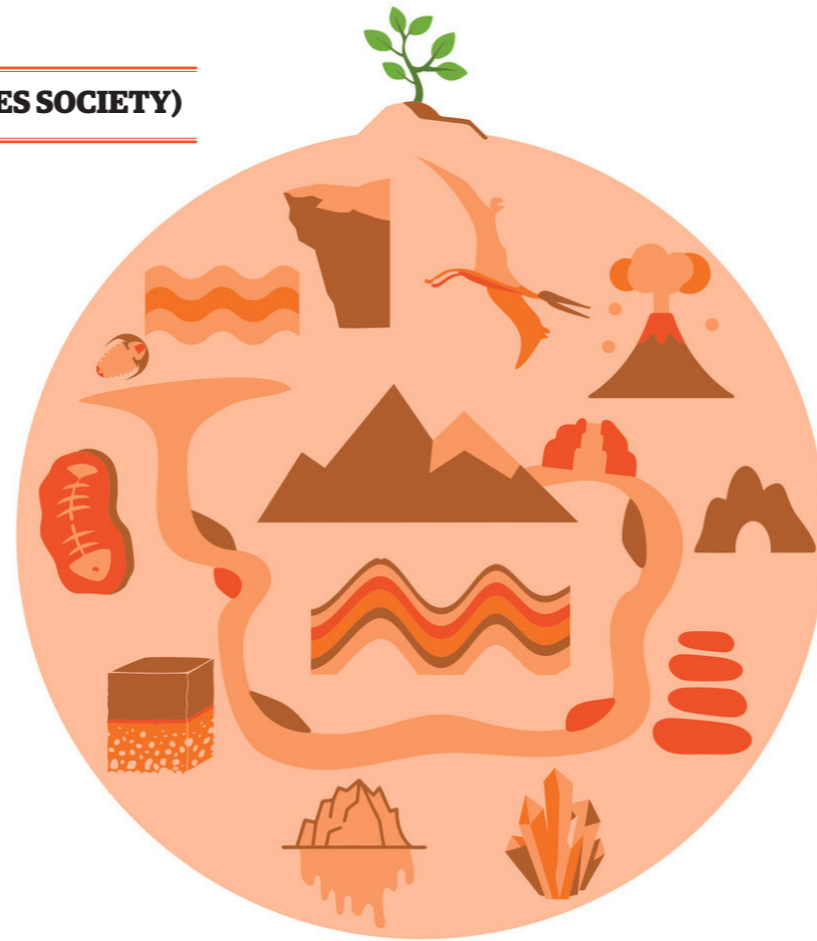
At a time when humanity faces the greatest challenge of the modern age – human-in-

duced climate change – geodiversity helps us to understand past changes to the climate. This knowledge will be vital to predict future changes in the climate and help us adapt more effectively.

Geodiversity is the foundation of all biodiversity. It creates the conditions in which life can develop and thrive, and underpins all the environments and ecosystems on earth. As such, conserving geodiversity is an essential condition to protect biodiversity.

Why an International Geodiversity Day?

Despite the multitude of services that geodiversity provides, most people are not aware of how dependent on it we are as a society. This is why we need to promote a better understanding of the Earth's dynamic processes so that citizens can make informed policy choices that will foster a more suitable society.



6TH OCTOBER
**INTERNATIONAL
GEODIVERSITY
DAY**
THE DIVERSITY
SUSTAINS THE LIFE

"Men will be taught that beneath & behind all the outward beauty of our lowlands, our uplands and our highlands there lies an inner history which when revealed will give beauty a fuller significance and an added charm"

Archibald Geikie "Landscape & Literature"1905

Recognizing the importance of geoscience in solving major challenges that humanity is facing today, UNESCO's General Conference proclaimed 6 October as International Geodiversity Day.

In that sense, the proclamation of the International Geodiversity Day provides an annual reminder of geodiversity's role in presenting humanity with an incredible wealth of goods and services that bring benefits to society and of the importance of sustainably managing georesources and geoheritage. The day is also an opportunity to raise awareness of the critical link between geodiversity and all of life, and to evidence how geoscience education provides humanity with sustainable solutions to the challenges of resource extraction, disaster risk reduction, mitigation of climate change, and biodiversity loss.

International Geodiversity Day emphasizes the essential role that geoscientific knowledge

will play in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals to 2030 that member states of the United Nations adopted in 2015 (Agenda 2030). Geoscientific knowledge will play a vital role in other international development agendas, such as in reaching the 20 Goals and Priority Areas Agenda 2063 defined by the African Union and the Samoa Pathway to which the Small Developing States committed in 2014.

It is hoped that the International Geodiversity Day will also serve to enhance international scientific cooperation and attract the young to the wider spectrum of professional careers in the geosciences, particularly women in developing countries.

How did International Geodiversity Day come about?

International Geodiversity Day was approved on 22 November 2021 by the 193 Member States attending UNESCO's General Conference (draft decision 41 C/38).

International days are annual observances instigated by the United Nations to generate awareness and action on issues of concern or to celebrate human achievement. The adoption of International Geodiversity Day follows a proposal from the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and 108 other scientific organisations.

International Geoscience and Geopark Programme (IGGP) is responsible for administering International Geodiversity Day.

UNESCO is the only United Nations body with a mandate to support research and capacity-building in geology and geophysics. UNESCO will use International Geodiversity Day to promote the goals of The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the creation of new UNESCO Global Geoparks in Africa, the Arab region, and Latin America, in particular.

More than 100 international and national organizations supported IUGS' proposal to instigate International Geodiversity Day. This group includes 84 national organisations from

41 countries, and 17 international organizations such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the International Union of Speleology, the African Association of Women in Geosciences, the Geological Society of Africa, and the European Geoscience Union. Over the coming years, these partners will engage with decision-makers, students, teachers, and the general public to broaden awareness of the richness of geodiversity.

On 6 October, there will be events all around the world: online talks that inspire a new generation of geoscientists; exciting field trips that promote the conservation of geoheritage; museum tours that explore the important resources geodiversity provides; and visits to schools to bring to life students' local earth history. It's an opportunity to promote better policy – seek change from policymakers, and for organizations to communicate the significance of geodiversity. But we need people in communities all around the world, organizing events and promote geodiversity so that everyone has an opportunity to engage with this increasingly important topic. For too long, the importance of the non-living elements of nature, from rocks and soils to fossils and landscapes has been overlooked. With your help, we can start to change that.

Mount Popa National Geopark Committee warmly congratulates UNESCO Global Geoparks Network, International Organizations, and Global UNESCO Geoparks on their celebrations of International Geodiversity Day this year.

Source :

1. UNESCO Published: November 26, 2021
2. Jack Matthews. 2022: Encouragement on International Geodiversity Day, 6 October 2022.
3. Krishanu Datta. 2022: Does geodiversity correlate with land use/land cover diversity? A case study of Birbhum district, West Bengal, India

■

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Over 2 mln gallons of fuel oil unloaded at terminals of Thilawa Port



MT Intan Premium loaded with fuel oil is seen approaching a terminal.

MT Intan Premier ship carrying over 8 million gallons of fuel oil docked at Thilawa Port and fuel oil unloading process is being undertaken from 1 October, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The ship unloaded over 2.09 million gallons of Octane 92 and 0.17 million gallons of Octane 95 at the terminals of Thilawa Port.

The price of Octane 92 plunged below K1,900 per litre in the market. The market price is K1,880 per litre of Octane 92. On 28 September, MT Synergy ship unloaded a total of 8.6

million gallons of fuel oil; 2.45 million gallons of Octane 92 and 6.14 million gallons of premium diesel, while MT Yu Yi ship, 4.03 million gallons of diesel and MT Harmony One oil tanker, 2.13 million gallons of Octane 92.

Only Octane prices dipped in the fuel market of Yangon. The prices of fuel oil stood at K1,880 per litre of Octane 92, K1,950 for Octane 95, K2,480 for diesel and K2,565 for premium diesel, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil. — TWA/GNLM

Peanut oil price dips below K9,500

THE prices of peanut and sesame seeds slid to K9,000-9,500 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), according to the Monywa commodity centre's price data on 4 October.

The price of peanuts moved in the range of K4,800 and K5,100 per viss. The prices of sesame stood at K70,000 per 15-viss of brown sesame and K75,000-85,000 per 15-viss of white and black sesame seeds. The price of a peanut cake meal is K2,650 per viss and a sesame cake meal is worth K2,000 per viss.

About 38-44 ticals of peanut oil and 55 ticals of peanut cake meal are produced if a viss of peanut is processed at a mill. A 15-viss of sesame seeds can produce 6.5 visses of sesame oil and seven visses of sesame cake meal on average, Ko Htay, who is involved in the sesame oil milling business in Myingyan town, explained.

The original prices were K8,800 per viss of sesame oil and K8,900 per viss of peanut oil, including production cost. As the prices were down by K1,500 per viss of peanut and K20,000 per basket of sesame seeds, the original price has fallen accordingly.

Although the wholesale prices of peanut and sesame oil are K9,000-9,500 per viss, the sales of edible oil at K10,000-14,000 per viss are seen on digital platforms. The retail prices of peanut oil at shopping centres were K16,000-20,000 per viss on 4 October, Ma Ni Ni, a shopper at one shopping centre, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The volume of edible oil production per acre is 114 viss for peanuts, 56 for sesame oil, 67 for sunflower oil and 140 for hybrid sunflower respectively.

The wholesale price of palm oil was K6,700 per viss on 5 October. The peanut oil price is K3,000 per viss higher than the palm oil market price. — TWA/GNLM

Over 4,200 tonnes of cement worth US\$0.338 million imported via border trade

THAILAND exported US\$0.338 million worth of cement weighing over 4,200 tonnes to Myanmar in the second and third week of September via border trade.

In maritime trade, over 130 tonnes of cement worth \$0.024 million were imported from Malaysia.

A total of 2,800 tonnes of cement worth \$0.272 million was imported in August - 2,600 tonnes of cement were purchased from

Thailand, over 120 tonnes from the People's Republic of China, over two tonnes from France, and around 130 tonnes from Malaysia.

The cement market is at its normal state with stable prices. The market price stands at K9,600 per bag for Two Rhinoceros (red), K14,500 per bag for Elephant (Thailand) and K9,300 per bag for Rhino (blue). — TWA/GNLM



Freight lorries are pictured on the Thailand-Myanmar border.

Six-wheeler overturns leaving 7 dead, 21 injured

A six-wheeler truck carrying the accessories of the "Pwint Nay-chi" drama group overturned, leaving seven people dead and 21 injured. The accident took place downhill in Kungyangon on the Myawady-Kawkareik Road on 5 October.

Thingan Nyinaung rescue team and other rescue teams rushed to the scene. It is known that the truck was unable to control its speed and slipped through the road.

"Eight of the 21 injured people are in critical condition. The car's brakes failed while it was on downhill and crashed into roadside barrier and overturned.

The car was fully loaded with items required for the the-

atrical troupe and the people were on top of them.

Therefore, when the accident happened, the people on the top were badly hurt," said a member of the rescue team.

"Five males including a two-year-old boy died at the scene. Fourteen men and seven women were badly injured and sent to the Myawady District People's Hospital," said a member of the rescue team.

"This is the worst of all accidents theatrical troupes have ever experienced in history," said theatrical actress Daungmalay, daughter of theatrical artiste U Shwe Daung Nyo and sister of famous writer Saya Chit Oo Nyo. — TWA/GNLM



The rescue process is in progress at the site. The overturned vehicle in the aftermath of accident.

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Two Americans and a Dane win chemistry Nobel

THE Nobel Chemistry Prize was on Wednesday awarded to a trio of chemists from the US and Denmark who laid the foundation for a more functional form of chemistry.

Americans Carolyn Bertozzi and Barry Sharpless, together with Denmark's Morten Meldal, were honoured "for the development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry," the jury said.

The award marks the second Nobel for 81-year-old Sharpless, who won the chemistry Nobel in 2001.

Only four other individuals have achieved the feat, including Polish-born Frenchwoman Marie Curie.

Click chemistry "is an elegant and efficient chemical

reaction that is now in widespread use," the jury said in a statement.

"Among many other uses, it is utilized in the development of pharmaceuticals, for mapping DNA and creating materials that are more fit for purpose," it added.

"This year's Prize in Chemistry deals with not overcomplicating matters, instead working with what is easy and simple," Johan Aqvist, Chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, said in the statement.

The trio will share the Nobel award sum of 10 million Swedish kronor (\$917,500), will receive the prize from King Carl XVI Gustaf at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on 10 December the anniversary of the 1896 death



A display shows the winners of the 2022 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, US's Carolyn Bertozzi (L) and Barry Sharpless (R), together with Denmark's Morten Meldal (C) during a press conference at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, on 5 October 2022. PHOTO: AFP

of scientist Alfred Nobel who created the prizes in his last will and testament.

Click chemistry

Sharpless, a professor at

Scripps Research in California, "started the ball rolling" and "coined the concept of click chemistry" around 2000, the jury said.

"Shortly afterwards, Morten

Meldal and Barry Sharpless — independently of each other — presented what is now the crown jewel of click chemistry: the copper catalyzed azide-alkyne cycloaddition," the jury said.

Meldal, 68, is a professor of chemistry at the University of Copenhagen.

Bertozzi, who is a professor at Stanford in the United States, then took it to "a new level."

"She developed click reactions that work inside living organisms. Her bioorthogonal reactions take place without disrupting the normal chemistry of the cell," the jury said.

"I'm absolutely stunned, I'm sitting here and I can hardly breathe," Bertozzi told reporters via telephone, minutes after the announcement.—AFP

COVID-19 pandemic costs Denmark US\$ 15.8 bln

THE COVID-19 pandemic cost the Danish government a staggering 119.8 billion Danish kroner (DKK) (15.8 billion US dollars), with the majority of the funds used for financial compensation, said an analysis released by Statistics Denmark

on Monday.

The analysis of the state's public spending during the pandemic, covering a period from the beginning of the first quarter of 2020 to the end of the first quarter of 2022, revealed that 68 per cent of the funds, or 81.5 billion

DKK (10.7 billion dollars), were spent on financial compensation provided through general or industry-specific compensation schemes.

In addition, a total of 4.6 billion DKK (604.9 million dollars) was spent on a variety of targeted initiatives aimed at specific industries as well as the social sector. In contrast, direct expenses related to the health emergency, such as the "use of protective equipment, testing and vaccination efforts and treatment," totalled a sizable but smaller 33.7 billion DKK (4.4 billion dollars), according to Statistics Denmark.

Specifically, a total of 17.8 billion DKK (2.3 billion dollars) was spent on "testing effort" while the treatment of COVID-19 patients costs 1.7 billion DKK (223.6 million dollars).—Xinhua



People queue for rapid COVID-19 test in the centre of Aalborg, Denmark, to the test site at Budolfi Church on 23 Dec 2021. PHOTO: HENNING BAGGER/RITZAU SCANPIX/AFP

Moderna asks Japan health ministry to approve BA.5-tailored vaccine

THE Japan unit of Moderna Inc. said Wednesday it has asked the country's health ministry to approve its updated coronavirus vaccine tailored to the now-prevalent BA.5 subvariant.

The US pharmaceutical giant's application for the bi-

valent vaccine, which works against the Omicron subvariants BA.4 and BA.5 and earlier strains, follows US rival Pfizer Inc.'s request for the ministry to green-light similar vaccines last month.

In an effort to stem the

ongoing seventh wave of COVID-19 infections powered mostly by the BA.5 subvariant, Japan started giving Omicron booster shots made by Moderna and Pfizer in September, but they are tailored to the BA.1 subvariant.—Kyodo

US to require extra hour of rest for flight attendants



The Association of Flight Attendants, which had long fought for the longer rest times, praised the FAA announcement, which takes effect in 30 days and gives airlines 90 days to be implemented. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE

US authorities will require flight attendants be given an additional hour to rest between trips, according to new rule announced Tuesday.

The Federal Aviation Administration will lift the minimum rest time to 10 consecutive hours from nine, implementing a rule change as required by a 2018 law. "Flight attendants, like all essential transportation workers, work hard every day to keep the traveling public safe, and we owe them our full support," US Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said.

"This new rule will make it easier for flight attendants to do their jobs, which in turn will keep all of us safe in the air." The Association of Flight Attend-

ants, which had long fought for the longer rest times, praised the FAA announcement, which takes effect in 30 days and gives airlines 90 days to be implemented. "As aviation's first responders and last line of defence, it is critical that we are well rested and ready to perform our duties," said AFA President Sara Nelson "Covid has only exacerbated the safety gap with long duty days, short nights, and combative conditions on planes."

Nelson praised President Joe Biden for enacting the measure, adding that while the 2018 congressional mandate "could not have been more clear," officials in Donald Trump's administration "put our rest on a regulatory road to kill it".—AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Spain summer tourism arrivals still below pre-pandemic level

THE number of foreign tourists visiting Spain rose sharply this summer as COVID-19 travel restrictions were lifted but arrivals remained below the level seen before the pandemic, official figures showed Tuesday.

Spain, the world's second most visited country before the pandemic, welcomed 9.1 million foreigners in July, and 8.8 million in August, national statistics institute INE said.

That represents a 106.2 per cent increase in arrivals in July from the same month last year, and a 69.7 per cent jump in August from the same year-ago period, it added.

But the total number of arrivals during the two months

—17.9 million — remained lower than the record 20 million seen in 2019 before the pandemic-related travel restrictions ravaged the global tourism industry.

Tourism Minister Maria Reyes Maroto called the arrival figures for the two peak holiday months “extraordinary”.

“We are facing an autumn without inflation and the uncertainty caused by the war” in Ukraine hurting the sector's recovery “for now,” she added in a statement.

During the first eight months of the year Spain welcomed 48 million foreign tourists, equivalent to 83 per cent of its pre-pandemic level.— AFP



Tourists enjoy a ride on a bike taxi at Plaza de la Catedral in Barcelona, on 11 May 2022. PHOTO: AFP

UK's embattled govt stares at new U-turn on economy

BRITAIN'S Prime Minister Liz Truss defended her contentious plan to kick-start economic growth through tax cuts, despite expectations Tuesday of a second damaging U-turn.

Fresh from a humiliating climbdown on cutting income tax for the richest, Truss and Chancellor of the Exchequer Kwasi Kwarteng were set to hurriedly bring forward a major debt-reducing budget plan announcement, the Financial Times and others reported.

Its unveiling will come later this month rather than on 23 November, and will be accompanied by independent forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) in a bid to calm febrile financial

markets, the reports said.

There was no immediate comment from the government, as Truss and Kwarteng prepared for another difficult day at the ruling Conservatives' annual conference in the city of Birmingham. But Mel Stride, the Tory chairman of the powerful Treasury committee in the House of Commons, said: “I have pressed the chancellor very hard on this and to his credit he has listened.”

Acting in advance of the Bank of England's next rate-setting meeting on 3 November could “reduce the upward pressure on interest rates to the benefit of millions of people up and down the country”, he added.—AFP

US Supreme Court to hear cases challenging tech firm immunity

THE US Supreme Court, in a decision with potentially far-reaching ramifications, agreed on Monday to hear two cases challenging the legal immunity of internet companies from liability for content posted by their users.

One of the cases accepted by the court was filed by the family of Nohemi Gonzalez, a 23-year-old American who was one of the 130 people killed in the November 2015 Islamic State attacks in Paris.

The complaint alleges that Google violated the US Anti-Terrorism Act by recommending IS videos that incited violence on Google-owned YouTube.

“Google's services have played a uniquely essential role in the development of IS's image, its success in recruiting members from around the world, and its ability to carry out attacks,”



One case alleges that Google's YouTube aided ISIS by recommending the terrorist group's videos to users. PHOTO: AFP

according to the complaint.

Under Section 230 of the 1996 Communications Decency Act, social media companies such as Google, Facebook and Twitter are not considered to be publishers and are not legally liable for content posted by their

users.

A lower court ruled in the Gonzalez case that Google enjoyed legal protection under Section 230, which its backers claim is essential to protecting freedom of expression on the internet.— AFP

Lebanon mulls response to US-mediated maritime border proposal



A production storage and offloading ship from Energean, which Israel has issued a licence to for the Karish gas field, seen here in Egypt's Suez Canal in June. PHOTO: SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY/AFP/FILE

LEBANON leaders are holding a meeting Monday to discuss a US proposal to demarcate the maritime border with Israel — a step that could allow both countries to explore offshore resources.

Lebanon said it had received Saturday a written “offer” from US envoy Amos Hochstein, who is mediating talks between the two enemy states, containing a proposal to demarcate the maritime border with Israel.

The offer was not make

public, but it raised hopes that a deal would soon emerge after years of negotiations, as cash-strapped Lebanon eyes potential gas resources in the maritime border area.

The US ambassador to Lebanon handed the offer to President Michel Aoun, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri and caretaker prime minister Najib Mikati, who represent Lebanon's three major sects.

Lebanon and Israel are officially at war and their land border is patrolled by the United

Nations.

Aoun will meet Berri and Mikati at 3 pm local time (1200 GMT) to discuss Lebanon's “official response to the offer”, according to the National News Agency.

A technical team that includes army representatives will meet at 1 pm (1000 GMT) at the presidential palace.

Al-Akhbar, a newspaper close to Lebanon's powerful Hezbollah movement, said Monday that the meeting will tackle Lebanon's position on the proposal, and that Beirut will send an official response to the United States within 48 hours.

The most recent proposal was greeted by both Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah group, which considers Israel its arch-enemy.

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah had repeatedly threatened Israel with attacks if it proceeds with extraction in disputed areas before a deal is reached, but welcomed Saturday's developments as “a very important step”.— AFP

US auto sales remain slow in third quarter

AUTOMAKERS saw lack-luster US sales in the third quarter, as manufacturers continued to grapple with supply constraints, according to reports from the companies Monday.

The auto sector has been battling a shortage

of components with supply problems that initially affected mainly semiconductors later spreading to other parts.

Japan's Toyota suffered a seven per cent drop in sales in the latest three months, to more

than 526,000 units, while FCA — part of the Stellantis group which includes the Fiat and Chrysler brands — saw its sales drop by six per cent compared to the same period of 2021.

Jeff Kommer, FCA's US head of sales, said "we continue to deal with challenging industry supply constraints".

US automaker Ford, which is expected to announce its sales figures on Tuesday, had previously warned that the company would likely end the quarter with up to 45,000 vehicles stockpiled due to the lack of parts amid the persistent problems in its supply chains.—AFP



The Acura NSX is built at Honda's Marysville, Ohio facility. Acura is the luxury and performance division of Japanese automaker Honda, based primarily in North America. PHOTO: ACURA

Concerns over Credit Suisse viability surge as shares dive

CREDIT Suisse shares plunged to new lows Monday, spurring swelling fears and even suggestions the bank could face a "Lehman Brothers moment", despite expert assurances it is too big to fail.

Switzerland's second-largest bank saw its share price sink 11.5 per cent to a historic low of 3.518 Swiss francs (\$3.563) a pop, after a new salvo of rumours surrounding the scandal-plagued bank.

The Bank of England is in touch with Swiss authorities to monitor Credit Suisse, British newspaper The Sunday Telegraph reported.

And the Financial Times daily said that senior executives have sought



A Swiss flag flies over a sign of Credit Suisse in Bern, Switzerland. PHOTO: FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP

to reassure big clients and investors in recent days about the bank's liquidity and capital position due to concerns raised about its financial strength.

Credit Suisse chief executive Ulrich Koerner, who only took the reins and the mammoth task

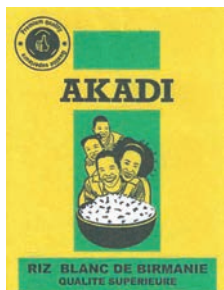
of revitalizing the bank in August, meanwhile sent an internal message to staff on Friday to ease their concerns.

In it, he warned there were "many factually inaccurate statements being made" about the bank.—AFP

TRADEMARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT MY CLIENT, OLAM GLOBAL AGRI PTE.LTD. (MYANMAR REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE), incorporated under the laws of The Union of Myanmar with Company Registratoin No.131786530 and having its registered office at Suite 5003, PYAY GARDEN OFFICE TOWEWR, No.346/354, Pyay Road, Sanchaung Township, Yangon Region, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, is the exclusive user and, owner and sole proprietor of the following Trademark and logo, duly registered at the Yangon Registrar of Deeds Officer under Registration No.4891/2022 dated the 28th of June 2022.

That the said Trade Mark is used in respect of the following operations of the Company, that is to say to be used producing, distributing & exporting rice, broken rice, parboiled rice and brown rice and to be used on behalf of the Company in Myanmar hereafter.



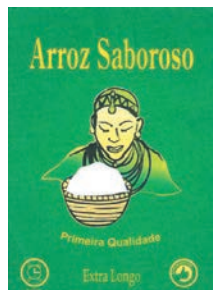
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U Min Sein, B.Sc.,R.A.,C.P.A., R.L.
Advocate of the Supreme Court (Sr No.1699)
for Olam Global Agri Pte.Ltd.
(Myanmar Representative Office)
#07, Pansodan Office Tower,
No.189-195, Pansodan, Yangon.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V B TRADER VOY.NO. (238W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V B TRADER VOY.NO. (238W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-10-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BOSHI 58 VOY.NO. (212)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BOSHI 58 VOY.NO. (212)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-10-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Over 200,000 mobilized into Russian army in two weeks: minister

MORE than 200,000 people have been conscripted into the Russian army since President Vladimir Putin announced a mobilization drive on 21 September, Moscow's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said on Wednesday.

"As of today more than 200,000 people have entered the

army," Shoigu during a televised meeting.

Russia's mobilization is aimed at propping up Moscow's forces in Ukraine. It was announced after a series of military setbacks.

The Kremlin has called the mobilization "partial" and said

it aims to recruit 300,000 men.

Shoigu said those mobilized are being trained at "80 training grounds and six training centres". The Kremlin's mobilization has led to some protests and an exodus of men of military age – with tens of thousands fleeing the draft, mainly to ex-Soviet neighbours.

Kazakhstan said today that more than 200,000 Russians had crossed into it in two weeks.

Putin stepped in last week to calm fears and urged authorities to "correct all mistakes" with the mobilization.

Shoigu today demanded that military and navy commanders help "quickly adapt the recruits to combat". He called on them to "conduct additional training with (the mobilized) under the guidance of officers with combat experience".—AFP



Russia Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu says that more than 200,000 people have been conscripted into the Russian army since President Vladimir Putin announced a mobilisation drive on 21 September.

PHOTO: AFP

Japan reopens embassy in Kyiv after 7-month closure amid Russia war

JAPAN reopened its embassy in Kyiv on Wednesday following a seven-month closure due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Foreign Ministry said, as the security situation has improved.

Staff at the embassy had been transferred to a tempo-

rary liaison office set up in the western city of Lviv in March. But as Russia's invasion intensified, they left Ukraine later that month.

Through reopening the embassy, Japan aims to enhance coordination with other Group

of Seven nations in areas such as reconstruction assistance for Ukraine. The six other G-7 members — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and the United States — re-established their embassies before the summer.— Kyodo

Ukraine economy to contract 35% this year: World Bank



The public square outside Kharkiv's City Hall was damaged by heavy Russian shelling. PHOTO: AFP

THE economy of war-torn Ukraine is expected to shrink 35 per cent this year, the World Bank said Tuesday, with Russia's invasion of the country displacing millions.

Following Moscow's invasion, Ukraine's economy has been "scarred by the destruction of productive capacity, damage to agricultural land, and reduced labor supply", the World Bank said in an economic update for Europe and Central Asia.

The global development lender estimates more than 14 million people have been displaced by the war.

Recovery and reconstruction will require at least \$349 billion, or more than 1.5 times the size of Ukraine's pre-war economy, the report said.

The US Congress last

week approved another \$12.3 billion in aid to help Ukraine battle the invasion as fighting raged on.

Global food and energy prices have surged amid large reductions in Russian supply, and the World Bank said the ongoing war dampens prospects of a post-pandemic recovery for emerging and developing economies in region as well.

"The overlapping crises of the war in Ukraine, the ongoing pandemic and the surge in food and fuel prices are painful reminders that governments need to be prepared to manage massive, unexpected shocks that unravel very quickly," Anna Bjerde, the World Bank's vice-president for Europe and Central Asia, said in a statement.—AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Moroccans protest 'racist' French, EU visa policies

DOZENS of Moroccans demonstrated outside the European Union's office in Rabat on Tuesday in protest at "racist" and "humiliating" treatment over visa applications, particularly by former colonial ruler France.

"We're here to express our anger at the humiliation, arrogance and racism endured by many of our compatriots whose visa requests have been rejected by EU states," said Aziz Ghali, one of the organisers and head of the AMDH rights group.

Ghali accused EU states of limiting the number of visas



Members of a Moroccan human rights association demonstrate in front of the European Union offices in Rabat against the restriction of visa. PHOTO: AFP

issued and rejecting applicants despite the fact they met the criteria.

"Depriving visas is discriminatory and racist," one placard read.— AFP

'Inevitable': Views on US bases shift in Japan's Okinawa

FOR decades, residents of Japan's Okinawa have strongly opposed the US military bases that dot the region but a subtle shift is under way, driven by Chinese sabre-rattling and economic challenges.

The bases are often seen as a disproportionate burden for Japan's sub-tropical southernmost region.

Okinawa comprises 0.6 per cent of the Japanese archipelago's territory but contains 70 per cent of the land used for US bases, and over half the 50,000-strong troop presence.

Base-related crime, accidents and pollution are potent irritants for Okinawa's 1.5 million residents.

But with Okinawa now a front line in the burgeoning confrontation between China and regional US allies, the bases are increasingly important for American and Japanese defence strategies.

"Okinawa has been given an excessive burden," said 39-year-old Ryo Matayoshi, a municipal councillor in the Okinawan city of Ginowan.— AFP

Palestinian PM criticizes Britain's intention to move embassy to Jerusalem

PALESTINIAN Prime Minister Mohammed Ishtaye said on Monday that Britain's intention to move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem "is a violation of international law".

Moving the British embassy to Jerusalem "will harm bilateral relations with Palestine and the Arab and Islamic states, and remove Britain from any future international endeavours to reach a solution that ends the conflict in Palestine," Ishtaye said at a weekly meeting of the cabinet.

"The Palestinian government follows with great concern the statements of the new Brit-

ish Prime Minister Liz Truss and her promise to conduct a review of the site of the British embassy for the purpose of moving it from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem," he said.

"Any change in the status quo in Jerusalem would undermine the two-state solution," Ishtaye said.

The Palestinians want to establish an independent state alongside Israel on the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel in 1967, including the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with East Jerusalem as its capital, while Israel insists on having a unified Jerusalem as its eternal capital. —AFP



Jerusalem is a city in Western Asia. Situated on a plateau in the Judean Mountains between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea, it is one of the oldest cities in the world and is considered to be a holy city for the three major Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. **PHOTO: THOMAS COEX/AFP**

Saudi prince's lawyers say PM title ensures legal immunity



Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who previously served as deputy prime minister and defence minister, was named prime minister by royal decree last week, sparking concern from human rights activists and government critics that he was looking to skirt exposure in cases filed in foreign courts. **PHOTO: AFP**

LAWYERS for Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman have argued that his appointment as prime minister qualifies

him for immunity from lawsuits in US courts, including one related to the 2018 killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Prince Mohammed, who previously served as deputy prime minister and defence minister, was named prime minister by royal decree last week, sparking concern from human rights activists and government critics that he was looking to skirt exposure in cases filed in foreign courts.

His lawyers had previously argued that he "sits at the apex of Saudi Arabia's government" and thus qualifies for the kind of immunity US courts afford foreign heads of state and other high-ranking officials.

Last week's royal decree "leaves no doubt that the Crown Prince is entitled to status-based immunity", his lawyers said in a filing Monday in a case brought in 2020 by Khashoggi's fiancée, Hatice Cengiz. — AFP

Failed S. Korea ballistic missile drops on military base in northeast

A South Korean ballistic missile, launched early Wednesday as part of a US-South Korean response to a North Korean ballistic missile test the previous day, flew abnormally and dropped on a base in the country's northeast, a military official said.

South Korean media reported that the Hyunmoo-2 missile

fell within the perimeter of a base in Gangneung, a city on the country's northeastern coast, prompting residents surprised by the sound of an explosion to report the incident.

Meanwhile, the military said South Korea and the United States fired four tactical surface-to-surface missiles toward

the Sea of Japan during a joint drill Wednesday, in response to the North Korean launch of a ballistic missile that flew over Japan. The launch of the first North Korean ballistic missile to fly over the Japanese archipelago in five years drew swift condemnation from Japan, South Korea and the United States. — Kyodo

Spain opens trial into 2013 train crash that killed 80

NINE years after a high-speed train crash that killed 80 and injured over 140, a major trial opens Wednesday to determine responsibility in Spain's worst rail disaster in nearly eight decades.

The accident happened on the evening of 24 July 2013, when a train travelling from Madrid veered off the tracks as it hurtled round a sharp bend on the outskirts of Santiago de Compostela, a city in the northwestern region of Galicia.

It was Spain's deadliest train tragedy since 1944, when hundreds were killed in a collision which also happened on the Madrid-Galicia line.

The trial, which is due to

run until February 2023 and will hear from 669 witnesses, will take place at a cultural centre in Santiago.

The centre has been transformed into a courtroom to accommodate the large numbers of lawyers and civil parties involved in the hearing.

Two people have been charged with responsibility for the accident — the driver, Francisco Garzon, and the former safety director at state rail operator ADIF, Andres Cortabitarte.

Both are facing charges of "homicide due to gross professional negligence".

Prosecutors are calling for each to face four years behind bars. — AFP



The Alvia high-speed train, which derailed and crashed into a concrete wall, 4km before Santiago de Compostela, has killed 80 people and injured 144 in 2013. **PHOTO: AFP**

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SPORT



Hanthawady United's Win Moe Kyaw (red) intercepts the ball amidst opponents during the Week 14 match of the Myanmar National League against ISPE FC at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 5 October 2022. PHOTO: MNL

Hanthawady crash ISPE 3-1 in MNL Week 14

BAGO-BASED Hanthawady United celebrated a 3-1 victory over ISPE FC in their Week 14 Myanmar National League match played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Both teams used their best skills from the kick-off.

Hanthawady's coach selected his favourite line-up including star players while ISPE showed their youngsters' power.

Hanthawady United found an icebreaker at 22 minutes and

the goal was beautifully scored by star player Nyi Nyi Aung.

Nyi Nyi Aung scored the second goal again for his team at 43 minutes as ISPE's defenders made some big mistakes near the penalty area.

The first half ended with Hanthawady's double goals.

In the second half, ISPE played more offensively with more understanding.

Along with ISPE's attack, the Hanthawady team prioritized counter-attack.

With the counterplay, Hanthawady found their third or winning goal at 79 minutes and the goal was touched into the net by Win Moe Kyaw.

After conceding three goals, the ISPE team pressed for an equalizer and Kyi Soe scored the lone goal for ISPE at 81 minutes.

The score was 3-1 at the final whistle and Hanthawady players celebrated their sweet victory after the match. —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.

Golf, coastal rowing, BMX to debut at 2026 Commonwealth Games

GOLF, coastal rowing and BMX racing will make their debut at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Australia, officials said Wednesday, but wrestling and judo were dumped. The Australian state of Victoria will host the event, with all competition taking place outside the capital Melbourne and scattered across several towns.

There will be 20 sports and 26 disciplines, including nine fully integrated Para sports, with coastal rowing, golf, and BMX among the newcomers while shooting makes a comeback.

"We are thrilled to confirm the sport programme for the 2026 Commonwealth Games, with the additional sports proposed by Victoria 2026 completing an exciting and diverse line-up," said Commonwealth Games Federation president Louise Martin.

"The program is rooted in the CGF's 2026-30 Strategic Roadmap, which provides hosts with greater flexibility to propose new sports, especially ones with specific local relevance that will enhance cultural showcasing and increase community engagement."

Golf made its reappearance at the 2016 Olympic Games after a gap of more than 100 years and was also part of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. But it has not been part of a Commonwealth Games before. "This is a great win for golf," said Golf Australia chief James Sutherland.

"This announcement validates golf's increasing popularity and the enormous growth that the sport has enjoyed over the last three years." The 2026 Games will be held in four regional hubs across Victoria in the towns

of Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and Gippsland, each with its own athletes' village.

The Games typically attract more than 4,000 athletes from the 54 nations of the Com-

monwealth, almost all of whom are former territories of the British Empire.—AFP



Australia will host the 2026 Commonwealth Games. PHOTO: AFP