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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.

Pagodas in Yangon bustling with pilgrims in Thadingyut Festival



Pilgrims from various regions visiting Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon on full moon day of Thadingyut. PHOTO: KO KO ZAW

PAGODAS in Yangon, including the Shwedagon Pagoda, Maha Wizaya Pagoda, Botahtaung Pagoda, Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda, Sule Pagoda, Shwephonewint Pagoda, Kyaikwaing Pagoda, Ngahtetgyi Pagoda,

Chaukhtetgyi Pagoda, Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda, and Meilamu Pagoda, are alive with pilgrims in Thadingyut festival. Buddhists offered alms, water, flowers, oil lamps to the Buddha images and stupas. Members of the Pagoda

Board of Trustees, religious associations and staff recited the Abhidhamma and held praying ceremonies at pagodas yesterday. In the evening, members of the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees and staff lit 11,000 oil lamps donat-

ed by the people around the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Similarly, on the full moon of Thadingyut Abhidhamma Day, people pay homage to the pagodas with flowers and offerings, shared merits on the streets in various townships,

paid homage to elders, parents and grandparents, observed Five Precepts, and lit candles, lanterns and colourful electric lights. —Zaw Min Latt (MNA)/Kyaw Soe Win/GNLM

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
Famous pagodas in Mandalay packed with pilgrims on Abhidhamma Day
PAGE-2

NATIONAL
Yangon Water Bus starts running to Twantay
PAGE-5



CURRENT AFFAIRS
Pilgrims flock at famous pagodas in Yangon Region on Thadingyut Festival
PAGE-6

LOCAL BUSINESS
Corn prices tumbling due to lack of foreign demand
PAGE-7



Pagodas in Yangon bustling with pilgrims in Thadingyut Festival

NEW ON PAGE-1



Pilgrims visit Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda in Yangon on 9 October.



Buddha Pujaniya festival is in progress at Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image on Mindhamma Hill in Yangon on 9 October.



Member of the Sangha and people visiting famous religious edifices in Yangon on Abhidhamma Day of Full Moon Day of Thadingyut on 9 October.



Famous pagodas in Mandalay packed with pilgrims on Abhidhamma Day

THE residents in each township of Mandalay Region celebrated the full moon day of Thadingyut (Abhidhamma Day), offering flowers, water and oil lights dedicating to the Lord Buddha and sharing merits gained.

The devotees presented flowers, water, oil lights and gold foils to Maha Muni Buddha Image on the early morning of full moon day, in line with the health guidelines issued by the Pagoda Trustees Board.

Furthermore, pilgrims visited Shwekyemyin Pagoda, Kyauktawgyi Pagoda, Sandamuni Pagoda, Aungtaamu Pagoda, and Phayani Pagoda, made merits and prayed for wellbeing. They were seen reciting sermons.

Additionally, according to



People visiting eminent religious buildings in Mandalay on 9 October. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG



the Buddhism, the devotees offered alms and recited sermons, Paritta, Pathana Pali verses and Dhammacakka Sutta. They also

paid respects to the patients and the elder people and prayed for peace, health and prosperity. The locals also marked the

auspicious day with oil lights dedicating to the Lord Buddha in the evening. Public residences were also decorated with

paper lanterns and candles. —Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

To turn out human resources required for agriculture and livestock farming sectors

ARRANGEMENTS are being made to be able to affiliate technical high schools and agriculture and livestock farming high schools with basic education high schools in 50 districts with a view to turning out human resources required for agriculture and livestock farming sectors.

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

SAC member attends rice offering ceremony in Sittway

MEMBER of the State Administration Council Daw Aye Nu Sein accompanied by Rakhine State Chief Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Min, state ministers and departmental officials, attended the whole city rice offering ceremony at Atulamarazein Pylonchantha Pagoda in Sittway, Rakhine State, yesterday morning.

Firstly, the SAC member and party paid homage to Atulamarazein Pylonchantha Pagoda and offered water, flowers and oil lights to the Buddha image.

Then, the SAC member and party, charity teams and donors offered rice, soft drinks and alms to members of the Sangha

and nuns. A total of 500 members of the Sangha and over 100 nuns from various monasteries and nunneries in Sittway attended to the ceremony.

This ceremony is celebrated full moon day of Thadingyut every year under the leadership of the Atulamarazein Pagoda Board of Trustees. —MNA

SAC member Daw Aye Nu Sein attends rice offering ceremony in Sittway of Rakhine State on 9 October.



Local authorities and people donate rice and alms to members of the Sangha and nuns in Sittway on 9 October.

Contestants to Performing Arts Competition arrive in Nay Pyi Taw



Contestants from Kayah State arrive in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 October. PHOTO: HEIN AUNG

CONTESTANTS from regions and states bound for the 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2022 arrived at the Nay Pyi Taw Tran-

sit Centre yesterday morning. Health staff of the Public Health Department performed medical checkup on the contestants under the Covid-19

protocols. Those contestants were accommodated at relevant hostels and officials arranges measures for convenience of the contestants.

A total of 103 contestants came from Kachin State, 93 from Kayah State, 110 from Kayin State, 77 from Chin State, 108 from Mon State, 100 from Rakhine State, 113 from Shan State, 139 from Sagaing Region, 187 from Bago Region, 170 from Magway Region, 222 from Mandalay Region, 252 from Yangon Region and 203 from Ayeyawady Region. More contestants from Taninthayi Region will arrive there on 10 October.

The Ministry of Information opens a library at the administrative hall for contestants to read books. The Ministry of Health

opens western and traditional medicine clinics to provide healthcare to the contestants.— Myo Hset Thit/GNLM



Contestants to Performing Arts Competition arrive in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 October.

140th Maha Pathana recitation ceremony completes successfully

THE closing ceremony of 140th Maha Pathana recitation was held at Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Ovadacariya of pagoda Presiding Sayadaw of Pauk Myaing Monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Janinda, members of the Sanga, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Aye Tun and wife, Deputy Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Soe Oo and members

of the Uppatasanti Pagoda Board of Trustees attended the ceremony.

The deputy minister and party firstly took Nine Precepts from Pauk Myaing Sayadaw Bhaddanta Janinda and then members of the Sangha recited Parittas. The deputy minister and party also donated the offerings to the Sayadaws.

Then, the deputy minister and officials donated 'Day meals' to the Sayadaws. —MNA



Completion ceremony of 140th Maha Pathana recitation ceremony is in progress at Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 October.

196 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 9 October, total figure rises to 626,458

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **626,458** after **196** new cases were reported on 9 October 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **600,266** have recovered from disease. Death toll still stands at **19,467** 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 8-10-2022, a total of **30,624,219** people above 18 and a total of **6,657,209** 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

Objectives of 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2022

- (a) To uplift national prestige and integrity and to preserve the cultural heritage and national characteristics
- (b) To discover, preserve and uplift the traditional cultural heritage of performing arts of ethnic nationals and national cultural characteristics
- (c) To preserve traditional cultural performing arts in order to further revitalize adoration of the State and hand it down to new generation youths
- (d) To contribute much to the restoration of perpetual peace

Opening ceremony of 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2022 to be broadcast live on MRTV

THE 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2022 will be held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II, National Library, National Museum, and Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture's Culture Yadana Hall and Training Theater in Nay Pyi Taw starting from 11 to 18 October.

The opening ceremony will be broadcast live on MRTV-HD, MRTV News, MWD, MWD Variety, MITV, MOI Website, MOI Youtube, and MRTV Website and aired live on Radio Myanmar, Thazin FM, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM and Shwe FM, Padamyar FM, FM Bagan, Cherry FM and Star FM starting from 8:50 am on 11 October.—MNA

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increasing of death rate based on the disease.

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*

Religious edifices crowded with merit-makers in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Abhidhamma Day

THE Abhidhamma Day which falls on the full moon day of Thadingyut is one of the significant days in Buddhism.

Buddhist people residing in all parts of the nation took Sabbath, recited Pathana Desana and Parittas, pay homage to older persons and parents and performed meritorious deeds.

Significant religious edifices such as Uppatasanti Pagoda, Budh Gaya (Nay Pyi Taw), Maha Thakyananthe Standing Buddha image, Yanaungmyin

Shwelethla Pagoda, Dhatucaya Pagoda, Perpetual Peace Pagoda, Hlaykhwintaung Pagoda, Koekhangyi Pagoda and Kawlayanhnein Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area were thronged with religious associations, local people, service personnel and pilgrims from four corners of the nation today.

"We pay homage to Uppatasanti Pagoda on full moon day of Thadingyut. We prayed for all the people of Myanmar to overcome difficulties and may



Pilgrims pay homage to Buddha image of Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw on Abhidhamma Day, 9 October.



Visitors view round pictures of Budh Gaya at Budh Gaya in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 October. PHOTO: KOGYIHTEIN

be physical and mental well-being," said Ma Honey Soe, a pilgrim to Uppatasanti Pagoda.

Pilgrims visited the Yadana white elephant shed in the precinct of the pagoda and religious utensil and souvenir shops.

The parks and public centres such as Ocean Super Center, Junction Center, Nay

Pyi Taw Wholesale, the National Landmarks Garden, Safari Park, Ngalaik elephant camp and Mingala Lake were packed with pilgrims and picnickers.

In the evening, residences and religious offices were lit with oil lamps and colourful lightings. Oil lamps were displayed on the terrace of

Uppatasanti Pagoda where fireworks were launched in Tabaung ground.

Famous vocalists and the Voice Myanmar performed song entertainments to the audiences. Security personnel took security measures for the people on the full moon day of Thadingyut.—Myo Hset Thit/GNLM

Yangon Water Bus starts running to Twantay

AFTER the two-year pause of the Yangon-Twantay Route, Yangon Water Bus docked on 8 October at the Twantay Jetty as the water bus is operating normally.

The water bus helps travellers visit Twantay, Twantay District, Yangon Region including an ancient historical Shwesandaw Pagoda, where six

pieces of sacred relic hair of the Lord Buddha were enshrined, more than 100 years old Twantay Cannel, Baungdawchoke Pagoda, Pottery and Weaving Industries and some famous landmarks in the township.

It is a day trip to the famous places including historic Shwesantaw Pagoda, Baungdawchoke Pagoda, Snake Pagoda,

Kyaikphu-Kyaikpa Pagoda, and Shanlay Village where the traditional handicraft were seen.

Yangon Water Bus service postponed for more than two years resumed running in the Yangon River on 6 October.

On the beginning of the journey, water bus fare is collected at K18,000 per person.

It is a day trip for the lo-



cal visitors to gain knowledge during the weekends and public holidays.—Twantay Thar/GNLM

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Pilgrims flock at famous pagodas in Yangon Region on Thadingyut Festival



Shwedagon Pagoda is crowded with pilgrims during the celebration of the festival of lightening.

FAMOUS pagodas including Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon were crowded with pilgrims who keep Sabbath, doing good deeds by donating fragrances to the pagodas, practising Dhamma and donating food to the visitors.

Under the supervision of Shwedagon Pagoda board of trustees, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein attended the merit-sharing for Buddha

Pujaniya Festival at the ancient Buddha image prayers hall.

In addition to this, Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda, Botahtaung Pagoda, Sule Pagoda, Ngahtetgyi Pagoda, Chaukhtetgyi Pagoda, sacred tooth relic pagoda, Kyauktawgyi Buddha image in Yangon Region were crowded with pilgrims.

The pagodas also carry the

guidelines for the prevention of COVID-19 disease issued by the Ministry of Health for the public to worship.

In addition, Yangon's Thadingyut Market and Lantern Festival was held at People's Square in Dagon Township from 8 October, the eve of the Thadingyut Full Moon day, one day over the Thadingyut Full Moon Day. It is being celebrated for three days until 10 October.

At the weekend market, anyone can buy consumer goods on a first-come, first-served basis. cosmetics and food, and fruits at 170 stalls around 10 feet in width.

The weekend market is from 7 am to 10 pm and Stage show music performances will be held from 5 pm to 10 pm and fireworks were set off in the public square at 7:00 pm.—TWA/GNLM



People who came on the second day of the People's Square market festival and people pose for photos of the fireworks at night on social media.



A tour guide is explaining history of Myatheindan Pagoda in Mingun area.

Myanmar receives tourists from 79 countries

THE arrival data showed tourists from 79 countries visited Myanmar, said Union Minister Dr Htay Aung for the Hotels and Tourism during a meeting with the officials of the hotels with foreign direct investments.

"The international passenger flights have been allowed to enter the country from 17 April. Myanmar resumed its electronic visa service for tourism and business purpose. So far, international visitors from 79 countries have arrived Myanmar. The Union Minister encouraged the businesspersons to make the tax and lease payments regularly. Myanmar has granted visa exemption for citizens of eight regional countries and Russia. When the tourism industry has recovered in the high season, tourism reliant businesses such as hotels, guesthouses and other businesses are expected to thrive. That being so, the foreign owned hotels also need to cooperate with this request," the Union Minister highlighted.

The government allocated K21.4 billion loans (3-4 per cent

of budget) to hotels and lodges to effectuate the development in tourism sector. That loan covered 244 tour companies and 339 hotels and lodges. The government offers six-month grace period for the tenants (foreign hotels). Furthermore, the lease payment is also reduced by 50 per cent between April 2020 and December 2021. The licence fees of hotel, lodges, tour businesses and tour guides are also eased for one year in order to support the tourism industry.

According to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) barometer, more than 250 million international arrivals were recorded in the first five months of 2022. The international tourism saw only 77 million in the corresponding period last year. The figures showed an increase of 173 million (25 per cent).

Online e-Visa service resumed from 20 May 2022. In his speech, the Prime Minister addressed that high number of tourist arrivals and homegrown visitors are expected in the coming tourism season.—TWA/GNLM

Buddha Pujaniya festival commences at Kyaiktiyo Pagoda

ON the full moon day of Thadingyut, the pilgrimage season to Kyaiktiyo Pagoda was launched at Sasana Beikman in Kyaikto yesterday.

During the Buddha Pujaniya festival, restaurants, hotels and shops are open for pilgrims, according to the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda Board of Trustees.

"Pagoda festival kicked off on the Full moon day of Thad-

ingyut. Homegrown pilgrims are coming. Mountain commuters are also full of people," Ko Arkar who is a pilgrim to Kyaiktiyo Pagoda told GNLM.

There were 6,120 local and foreign tourists coming to Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in September, and 2,879 homegrown pilgrims and 74 foreigners, totalling 2,953 visitors in August. The Buddha Pujaniya festival of Kyaiktiyo Pagoda

started from the Full moon day of Thadingyut to the Full moon day of Kason. About three million travellers paid visit to the pagoda every year as usual.—TWA/GNLM

Officials seek advice from Kyaiktiyo Pagoda Ovacadariya Sayadaws.



LOCAL BUSINESS

Corn prices tumbling due to lack of foreign demand

THE corn market is slow-moving and the prices are falling owing to the lack of foreign demand, according to the Mandalay Commodity Centre.

The prices of corn are on a gradual decline and corn fetched K1,000 per viss on 8 September.

Additionally, the market sees supply of newly harvested corn from Nawngkhio in northern Shan State, Yaksawk, Banbway, Madaya and Singu areas. Animal feed pellet factories are buying the corn at present.

Thailand gives green light to corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposed the maximum

tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand. The tax exemption period of corn has expired.

Out of the companies that have submitted the Express of Interests, 86 have been forwarded to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) to seek permits for legitimate corn exports to China. Those companies are left to receive registration code at the final stage, said U Aye Chan Aung, chair of Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Myanmar exported 2.3 mil-



Systematic storage of corns seen at a residence not to lose quality of fruits.

lion tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the 2020-2021

financial year. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and

the remaining went to China, India and Viet Nam.—NN/GNLM

Black gram price remains downtrend



Pulses and beans including black gram are checked by merchants at wholesales centre.

THE price of black gram stayed in bear market, according to Ayeya Trade Centre (ATC) under the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

The prevailing price of black gram is approximately K1.79 million per tonne in the domestic market at present. A dollar is exchanged at K2,800 in the unofficial market.

In late August, the dollar against Kyat peaked at K4,500 in the black market. Follow-

ing that, the black gram price reached a record high of K2.1 million per tonne.

Myanmar sold out over 811,812 tonnes of various beans and pulses worth \$637.14 million to foreign trade partners between 1 April and 30 September 2022. The country shipped over 668,092 tonnes of pulses and beans valued \$539.626 million to foreign markets by sea, and over 143,720 tonnes valued \$97.514 million were sent to the neighbouring

countries through land border.

Myanmar exported over 2 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 valued at \$966.4 million to foreign markets through sea route, and 786,920 tonnes worth \$604.3 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land border.—NN/GNLM

Myanmar foreign trade soars to over \$17 bln in H1

MYANMAR'S external trade in the first half of the 2022-2023 Financial Year tremendously edged up to US\$17.08 billion, reflecting a sharp increase of \$3 billion as against the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The figures surged from \$14.078 billion in the corresponding period last year.

Myanmar's export was worth over \$8.56 billion whereas the country's import was valued at \$8.52 billion over the past two months.

The border trade dropped

owing to China's strict virus rules and security in transport amid the political changes, with a decrease of \$89.8 million in cross-border trade as against the year-ago period. However, the maritime trade registered a significant rise of \$2.257 billion in nearly four months.

The external trade stood at \$15.5 billion in the past mini-budget 2021-2022 (October-March) period and \$29.58 billion in the 2020-2021 FY, as per the Commerce Ministry's statistics.—KK/GNLM



Daily newspapers available online

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OPINION

Firmly grasp opportunities to boom blue economy

The government is striving for building sound foundations for implementing the policies related to the blue economy for the purpose of sustainable development of Myanmar's coastal-based economy.

Relevant committees have been formed to effectively coordinate the coastal resources management measures between users and founders. It is necessary to adopt and implement Integrated Coastal Management-ICM in order to develop the blue economy.

ICM aims to value Myanmar's coastal areas and marine resources as natural resources of the State, harmonize sustainability and development purposes with the participation of all stakeholders, raise responsible capacity to the possible impacts triggered by nature and humans, and efficiently utilize sustainable development of current and future generations with the participation of all.

Myanmar ICM is based on six strategic procedures on uplifting the capacity of organizations, protecting and reestablishing coastal areas, research and supervision, all-inclusive management and sharing profits, and contacting the private sector with responsible businesses.

Myanmar ICM will be strategic guidelines for implementing the coastal and marine natural resources management and sector-wise development of the blue economy.

Existing laws, rules, directives and procedures have been schemed for Myanmar's ICM project. Necessary laws and new policies are being drawn.

Relevant organizations in cooperation with the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) in ensuring the prevalence of law and order at the sea and coastal regions, the Myanmar Coast Guard was formed to beef up the prevalence of law and order in order to contribute to the blue economic development as strategic sound foundations are being built.

As Myanmar is endowed with long natural resource coasts, it possesses marine resources which are of importance for food sufficiency of the State and long-term development measures.

Only when emphasis can be placed on agriculture and livestock tasks based in rural areas where some 70 per cent of the population resides, will their socio-economic status develop and the development of the nation be speedier. Hence, it is necessary to prioritize the agriculture and livestock stocks of the rural people residing along coastal areas and socio-economic development.

As such, it is necessary to make efforts for ensuring harmonious development of the State and environmental conservation under the systematic process to be able to march towards sustainable development goals.

In fact, Myanmar needs to efficiently utilize aboveground and underground natural resources without loss and waste. If so, all development undertakings will be sweet fruits for all citizens as a stage to enjoy higher living standards to shape the blue economy for new generations.

COVID-19 mRNA vaccines increase risk of cardiac-related death, says Florida Surgeon General

Florida Surgeon General Dr Joseph A Ladapo on Saturday (local time) recommended against receiving mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, especially to males aged 18 to 39 as it increases the risk of cardiac-related death.

"Today, we released an analysis on COVID-19 mRNA vaccines the public needs to be aware of. This analysis showed an increased risk of cardiac-related death among men 18-39. FL will not be silent on the truth," tweeted Ladapo.

The Florida Department of Health (Department) conducted an analysis through a self-controlled case series, which is a technique originally developed to evaluate vaccine safety. This studied mortality risk following mRNA COVID-19 vaccination.

Cardiac-related death

This analysis found an 84 per cent increase in the relative incidence of cardiac-related death among males 18-39 years old within 28 days following mRNA vaccination, read an advisory of Florida Health, signed by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and Ladapo.

It further advised individuals with pre-existing cardiac conditions, such as myocarditis and per-



As the Covid-19 pandemic spread, an mRNA vaccine candidate was the first to enter human trials globally. The first two vaccines that were made available for use in the US were based on mRNA technology. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/AFP

icarditis, to take particular caution when considering vaccination and discuss it with their healthcare provider. With a high level of global immunity to COVID-19, the benefit of vaccination is likely outweighed by this abnormally high risk of cardiac-related death among men in this age group. Non-mRNA vaccines were not found to have these

increased risks, read the Florida Department of Health Bulletin.

"Studying the safety and efficacy of any medications, including vaccines, is an important component of public health," said Surgeon General Dr Joseph Ladapo.

"Far less attention has been paid to safety and the concerns of many individuals have been

The company has conducted phase 2 and phase 3 data trials on 4000 participants to evaluate vaccine safety, immunogenicity and tolerability. The vaccine — GEMCOVAC-19 — is the country's first homegrown mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

According to officials at Genova, the trial data showed that the vaccine was safe and well-tolerated. Immunogenicity measured at 2 weeks post-dose showed that GEMCOVAC-19 is non-inferior to Covishield.

The two-dose vaccine will have to be administered intramuscularly, 28 days apart.

mRNA vaccine candidate

As the Covid-19 pandemic spread, an mRNA vaccine candidate was the first to enter human trials globally. The first two vaccines that were made available for use in the US were based on mRNA technology.

Unlike vaccines that put a weakened or inactivated virus in your body to activate an immune response, these two Covid-19 vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) used messenger RNA or mRNA to deliver a message to your immune system.

SOURCE: ANI

Rise in infant BMI observed during pandemic: Study

A study that examined body mass index (BMI) in mainly Medicaid younger patients in Norfolk, Virginia, two years before and one year after the pandemic began and discovered a significant increase in BMI during that time.

When these differences were analyzed by gender, the increase was only significant for the female cohort, according to the study, "Examining the Effects of COVID-19 Lifestyle on Pediatric BMI." There was an 11% mean increase in the BMI of girls, the study found.

A significant correlation

The authors also observed there was a significant correlation between screen time and

family time increases during the pandemic and rising pediatric BMIs, as families spent more time at home because of the lockdowns.

Data was collected from 238 patients (51% female-identifying, 49% male-identifying, and the majority were African-American/Black) with an average age of 9.47 for females and 9.57 for males. Pediatric patients and their parents/guardians were given a questionnaire that examined six potential sources for lifestyle changes that could affect BMI, including fast food intake, time spent with electronic devices, and children's activity levels.

Dr. John Harrington, one of the senior authors of this

study and the division director of General Academic Pediatrics at Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters in Norfolk, Virginia, said the study shows how difficult the lockdowns were on families as parents worried about their children being outside and around others, children missed out on physical education classes and team sports at school, and more time was spent scrolling social media and playing video games.

"This study reinforces that the health of all communities was negatively impacted by the pandemic, especially lower income and predominantly African-American communities," he said.

SOURCE: ANI



The authors observed there was a significant correlation between screen time and family time increases during the pandemic and rising pediatric BMIs, as families spent more time at home because of the lockdowns. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ FREDFORESE VIA AFP

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Re: International cooperation is needed to combat organized human trafficking

On 10 September, your newspaper published "Seven Myanmar trafficked victims return home". Such a piece of great news is encouraging.

International cooperation between Myanmar and the United Arab Emirates police forces and Interpol are commendable. Police officials are entrusted with the heavy responsibility of maintaining law and order. Their top priority is to protect people's lives and property. Given that crime has taken on increasingly diverse forms, today's police are facing even greater challenges.

Anticipating that the number of job seekers would increase due to involuntary unemployment driven by the pandemic, criminal organizations set up call centres in various parts of the world and recruited people on a large scale through online advertising. The scammers used attractive slogans like "easy job" and "fast financial freedom" and promised stable and legal employment in other countries. Victims only discovered after arriving that the jobs were not what they ex-

pected or even involved fraud. Some even had their passports confiscated, were deprived of their freedom, and were beaten or sold to other unlicensed businesses if they refused to comply. If they asked to quit, they were forced to pay exorbitant fines to compensate the gangs.

Human trafficking is a serious issue that needs to be addressed by the global community. In August this year, many Southeast Asian countries received reports of their citizens being held against their will and forced to engage in fraudulent activities in Cambodia, the Philippines, Thailand and other countries by illegal organizations. Later on, media reports revealed that hundreds of Malaysians, Filipinos, Indonesians, Hong Kongers and Taiwanese have been lured to Sihanoukville and that the Cambodian government was cracking down on human traffickers and that Interpol on 15 August has arrested the Chinese who were heavily involved in the online gambling and other illegal activities around the Southeast Asian countries — he was also the investor of the controversial

Yatai New City project near the Myanmar-Thai border.

Transnational organized crime is posing a challenge to the sovereignty of nations and undermines livelihoods, economies, and law and order. Transnational crime often involves multiple countries and areas, which can hinder investigations. In the post-pandemic world, criminal tactics will continue to evolve and new methods will emerge. In investigating new forms of criminal activity, experience is invaluable. International cooperation is thus urgently needed. It is important to exchange intelligence with partners, share experiences in solving crimes, and assist each other in staving off threats from overseas and combating organized crime within our respective borders.

Interpol will convene its 90th General Assembly on 18 October 2022 in New Delhi, India. Inclusiveness is critical. All stakeholders should be invited.

Charles C. Li
Representative
Taipei Economic and Cultural
Office in Myanmar

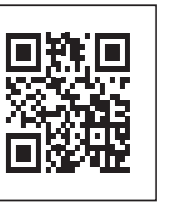
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ENVIRON WORLD

World Bank spent almost \$15 bn on fossil fuel projects since Paris deal: report

THE World Bank has pumped \$14.8 billion into fossil fuel projects globally in the period following the landmark Paris climate accord, a report said Thursday.

Though the multilateral lender pledged in 2018 to end financing for upstream oil and gas, and direct funding had declined, the move failed to include indirect financing, according to the report compiled by an NGO coalition called The Big Shift Global.

It comes amid growing pressure on US President Joe Biden to fire World Bank chief David Malpass, a Trump appointee who has dodged questions about the reality of human-driven climate change.

“Each time the World Bank invests in another fossil fuel project, it fuels more climate disaster,” said Sophie Richmond of Big Shift.

“There is no justification for using taxpayers’ money to exacerbate the climate crisis.”

One of the main ways the



On 4 November 2021, more than 20 countries pledged to redirect investments from fossil fuels to clean energy. Above, signage inside the COP26 United Nations climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland. **PHOTO: PAUL ELLIS/AFP**

Bank continued to fund fossil fuels was by exploiting a “major loophole” by lending to intermediaries such as banks or financial institutions and by acting as a guarantor in case a country did not meet its obligations, the report said.

Under the 2015 Paris deal, world leaders committed to limiting long-term warming to 1.5 Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahr-

enheit) to avert devastating outcomes for the planet’s future habitability.

The biggest project listed in the report, called “Investing in Climate Disaster: World Bank Finance for Fossil Fuels,” was the Trans-Anatolian Pipeline in Azerbaijan, funded in 2018 to the tune of \$1.1 billion, with the Bank acting as a guarantor. —AFP

Why more Americans are flocking to Florida, even as hurricanes intensify



A man walks past debris scattered on Pine Island Road in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian in Matlacha, Florida. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THERE’S nothing in the world that would convince Cape Coral resident Kenneth Lowe to leave — not even having to empty his home of flood water a week after Hurricane Ian pummeled the city.

“Southwest Florida is my heaven on earth and hurri-

canes come with South Florida. So you just have to take it,” the 28-year-old tells AFP, standing in a street strewn with debris.

“It’s my favorite place, it’s worth it.”

Experts warn the frequency of supercharged hurricanes

and floods in this climate-prone region is only expected to increase over time — but the population of the southeastern United States continues to rise.

The paradox is especially striking in Cape Coral.

Between 2010 and 2021, its population grew by 33 per cent to 204,000 people, according to census data. Founded in 1958, it embodies the Florida dream that many come looking for.

Navigable canals crisscross the region, connecting to the Caloosahatchee River, which gives way to the Gulf of Mexico. This affords many people the chance to enjoy a house on the water, and even space for a small boat.

But developing Cape Coral meant first draining the swamp it was built on — and destroying the mangroves and coral reefs that acted as natural defenses against waves and storm surges. —AFP

‘Exceptional’ year for Champagne despite record heat: producers

CHAMPAGNES from 2022 are expected to be “exceptional” despite record heat and drought in France over the summer, according to producers of the prestigious sparkling wine.

Grape harvesting took place in August — earlier than usual.

Both the quality and quantity this year are comparable to vintage years 2002 and 1982, the head of the champagne producers’ union SGV told a

press conference.

The Champagne region suffered from water shortages like the rest of France but rain “arrived at the right moment during the cycle”, Laurent Panigai told reporters.

This summer was France’s second hottest on record, with average temperatures 2.3 degrees Celsius above the norm.

This, coupled with water shortages, caused major problems for livestock farmers. —AFP



Winegrowers load a traditional wine press with Chardonnay grapes during the harvest, in Montgueux, central France, on 23 August 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

French bird hunting plans risk ruffling feathers in Brussels

FRANCE on Friday authorised several traditional methods for hunting larks using cages or nets in the country’s southwest, outraging nature conservationists who said the move would fall foul of European Union law.

Decrees published in the government’s official journal allow for the capture of almost 57,000 larks in four southwestern departments in October and November.

Capturing larks using spring-loaded nets is a method for “judicious use of birds in small numbers,” one of the decrees read. —AFP

Damage from fire to Easter Island’s Moai statues in Chile irreparable, says mayor

THE damage caused by forest fires this week to the Moai, monolithic statues on Chile’s Easter Island in Polynesia, is irreparable, said the island’s mayor Pedro Edmunds Paoa on Thursday.

“The damage is incalculable because there is no recovery for the cracking of an original and emblematic stone, no matter how many millions of euros or dollars they put into it,” Edmunds Paoa told local Radio Bio Bio.

The official explained that a group of archaeologists from Easter Island, or Rapa Nui, is leading the research. On Monday, local authorities declared a red alert on the island due to a forest fire close to inhabited areas. —Xinhua

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Japanese parents urged to set boundaries on kids' internet usage



Parents should think about placing appropriate parameters on their children's internet and gadget use. **PHOTO: KYODO**

WITH children spending more and more time on the internet, a health sciences professor is asking parents to consider trying an American mother's hands-on approach which sets firm rules and allows kids to have a healthier online life.

Zentaro Yamagata, professor of social medicine at the University of Yamanashi, and others who conducted research on children from Koshu, Yamanashi Prefecture, and their internet use found that junior high school students who exhibit the telltale signs of online addiction spend prolonged

periods browsing the web — meaning they devote less time to studying, physical activity and sleep.

Too much screen time was also linked to depression, said Yamagata, who has been studying children for more than 30 years.

A nationwide study conducted by the education ministry and other bodies in fiscal 2014 revealed children who spend the most time on smartphones and other devices perform worse in Japanese language, arithmetic, mathematics and other tests.

Hence, he argues, parents

should think about placing appropriate parameters on their children's internet and gadget use, taking a page from Janell Burley Hofmann, a mother from Massachusetts whose "iPhone contract" blog to her then 13-year-old son went viral a decade ago.

"This attempt by an American mother drew global attention and can be used as a reference today (in Japan)," said Yamagata, referring to Hofmann's 18-point contract she had her son agree to before giving him his first iPhone for Christmas. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

India's daily COVID-19 caseload increases to 2,797

INDIA'S daily COVID-19 caseload on Saturday increased to 2,797, officials said.

According to federal health ministry data released on Saturday morning, 2,797 new cases of COVID-19 were reported during the past 24 hours, taking the total tally to 44,609,257 in the country.

The cases reported on Saturday mark an increase in comparison to the 1,997 cases on Friday.

With the reporting of fresh cases, India's active caseload currently stands at 29,251.

The country also logged 24 related deaths during the past 24 hours, pushing the overall death toll to 528,778 since the beginning of the pandemic, the ministry said.

With the increase in cases, the daily positivity rate stands at 1.05 per cent and the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 1.30 per cent, the ministry data showed.

The ministry said so far 44,051,228 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals, of whom 3,884 were discharged during the past 24 hours. —Xinhua

Bird flu detected in French duck farm: media

THE highly pathogenic bird flu avian influenza has been detected in a duck farm in France's southwestern department of Gironde, French daily newspaper Le Figaro reported on Saturday. According to Le Figaro, the owner had bought, without knowing, infected animals in a barnyard in the Seine-et-Marne department located in eastern Paris.

Regulated protection and surveillance zones have been set up around the outbreak by the local authorities.

It is the second case of avian influenza in the department, according to Le Figaro.

The bird flu has caused the culling of 21 million animals in France since last winter. —Xinhua

Egypt textile expo reopens after COVID-19 outbreak, raising hope for improved business



People visit the Cairo International Fashion and Textile Expo in Cairo, Egypt, on 6 October 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/AHMED**

AT a spacious hall in an exhibition center in Cairo, businesses from eight countries display in

adjacent partitions, booths and pavilions a variety of products that include yarns, textiles, fab-

rics and fashion-related accessories.

The businesses are the participants of the 71st edition of Cairo International Fashion and Textile Expo (Cairo Fashion and Tex), which runs from 6 to 8 October at the Cairo International Convention Center.

According to Mohamed Sherif, chairman of Pyramids International Group, the expo's organizing company, besides Egyptian businesses, about 250 companies from China, India, Türkiye, Pakistan, South Africa, Jordan and Bangladesh attended this year's event. —Xinhua

Iran says US sanctions hurt Iranians' health

IRANIAN Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on Saturday Iranian officials and individuals had been indiscriminately targeted by Washington's unprecedented sanctions, which affected their livelihoods, jobs, and health.

In an Instagram post, Kanaani wrote that "every day, a new list of sanctions against Iran is issued under an excuse.

This time, the Iranian interior minister, the minister of communications and five other Iranian officials were sanctioned by the US govern-



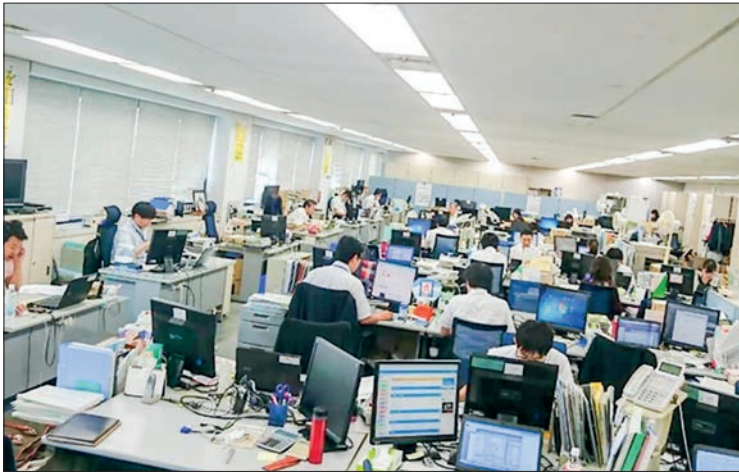
Many Iranians blame acute medicine shortages on punishing US sanctions. **PHOTO: AFP**

ment."

Even the children suffering from epidermolysis bullosa

(EB) were not exempted from the "unilateral, illegal, tyrannical sanctions," he noted. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD



The survey analyzes 54 factors focusing on knowledge, technology and future readiness to ascertain a country's digital competitiveness. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Japan ranks record low 29th for global digital competitiveness

JAPAN ranked a record low for global digital competitiveness among 63 economies across the world in 2022, falling one place from a year earlier to 29th as the country struggles from a shortage of skilled digital workers, according to a Swiss institute.

Denmark was ranked top for the first time after climbing three spots from the previous year, followed by the United States and

Sweden, according to an annual report by the International Institute for Management Development.

The survey, which the institute launched in 2017, analyzes 54 factors focusing on knowledge, technology and future readiness to ascertain a country's digital competitiveness.

Japan lagged behind its Asian counterparts, with Singa-

pore in fourth place, up from fifth the previous year, while South Korea climbed four spots to place eighth. Hong Kong ranked ninth, followed by Taiwan in 11th and China in 17th, according to the survey.

Japan ranked worst, placing 63rd, in four criteria such as international experience and business agility, but was in first place for student to teacher ratio. —Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sri Lanka to introduce new excise duty laws: official

SRI Lanka will introduce new excise duty laws, State Minister of Finance Ranjith Siyambalapatiya said on Friday at a function in Colombo.

The official said that most of Sri Lanka's existing excise duty laws are over 50 years old, which were mainly aimed at curbing moonshine liquor.

"Some of them also hinder the promotion of the leisure industry while providing ample loopholes for racketeers

to exploit. There is no point in amending the existing excise laws. We are bringing in new laws," he said.

In recent years those who produce and sell illegal alcohol have started using modern technology to evade excise officers, the state minister said.

Therefore, excise officers need to be retrained to meet the challenges, in parallel with the introduction of new laws, he said. —Xinhua

Nigeria's oil production seriously threatened by oil theft: senate president

AHMAD Lawan, president of the Nigerian Senate, on Friday bemoaned the large-scale stealing of the nation's oil, as this drastically reduces the revenues available to the government.

In his welcome address at the 2023 budget presentation by President Muhammadu Buhari in Abuja, Lawan said the Nigerian economy was seriously challenged by oil theft amid the dearth of revenues.

"Projections have put our losses from this malaise at between 700,000 to 900,000 barrels of crude oil per day, leading to about 29 to 35 per cent loss in oil revenue in the

first quarter of 2022," he said.

According to the official, it was high time the government took stricter measures to stop the vice as efforts to provide critical infrastructure and diversify the economy will be continually thwarted by the criminal act.

"I consider the oil thieves the worst enemies of our country. The thieves have declared war on our country and our people," he said, adding the idea of deploying revenues from oil and gas to support diversification into real sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, and mining, among others, was now under serious threat. —Xinhua

UK train commuters hit by further strikes over pay

TRAIN passengers in Britain faced severe disruption on Saturday, with only one in five services running as railway workers staged another walkout over wages.

People were urged to "only travel by train if absolutely necessary on Saturday" as 40,000 members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union at Network Rail and 15 train operating companies took action demanding higher pay and better working conditions.

Those affected include thousands of football fans travelling to support their teams.

Railway workers are demanding wage increases to keep pace with decades-high inflation



An Avanti West Coast train is parked at Euston Station in London on 5 October. **PHOTO: AFP**

amid a cost-of-living crisis.

The sector has spearheaded a wave of industrial action in recent months.

Tens of thousands of staff in

various industries — from the postal and legal systems to ports and telecommunications — have also gone on strike across Britain since the summer. —AFP

Chinese new-energy vehicle companies bring innovation to Germany: car expert



A WEY iNest car by Chinese car maker Great Wall Motors (GWM) is pictured during a press preview at the International Motor Show (IAA), on 6 September 2021 in Munich, southern Germany. **PHOTO: TOBIAS SCHWARZ/AFP**

CHINESE new-energy vehicle companies, including battery and car makers, are entering

Germany with innovations, a German car expert said on Friday.

Ferdinand Dudenhoeffer, director of CAR Center Automotive Research Duisburg, said that key battery manufacturers in China are now building battery cell factories with large investments in Germany, thus bringing technology to the country.

"China is thus helping Germany to implement climate-friendly strategies more quickly," Dudenhoeffer told Xinhua.

Germany's government is aiming to have 15 million pure electric cars on the road by 2030.

In the meanwhile, carmakers like NIO or BYD brought their products and services to Europe, he said. —Xinhua

Alcohol hikes add to bars' woes as they adapt to reopening Japan

FOR Kazuo Tachibana, a liquor store owner in Yokohama, the recent widespread price hike on alcohol looks like delivering another blow to a business already taking knocks.

"Customer spending has fallen from earlier this year, and many people seem much more hesitant to shop," the 81-year-old said before thousands of alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages became dearer by an average of 4 to 13 per cent, including the first canned beer price rises in 14 years, on 1 October.

Japan's four major brewers — Asahi Breweries Ltd., Kirin Holdings Co., Suntory Holdings Ltd., and Sapporo Breweries Ltd. — and many other smaller outfits have upped asking prices on beverages over increasing input costs as inflation rises in Japan.

Besides familiar factors like rising wheat costs caused by the war in Ukraine, a major exporter of the grain, the jump has been triggered by price hikes on materials like aluminum for cans and higher transportation costs, brewers said.

For consumers, that means almost all alcoholic options are more expensive than they were.

According to a Teikoku Databank survey the same day, 105 major food producers slapped an average 16 percent increase on 6,699 products, with 2,991 of them — 40 per cent — drinks of the hard and soft varieties.

The price hikes so far in 2022 would cost the average household an extra 70,000 yen (\$483) annually if they made the same purchases, a separate Teikoku Databank estimate suggests.—Koydo



A sign notifying customers of prices rises on alcoholic drinks from October is seen at the alcohol section of a BicCamera in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward on 22 September 2022. PHOTO: KYODO

Brazil's vehicle output climbs 19.3% in September



Workers check cars in an assembly line at Nissan's industrial complex in Resende, Brazil. PHOTO: YASUYOSHI CHIBA/AFP/FILE

BRAZIL'S vehicle production rose 19.3 per cent in September compared to the same month last year, the National Association of Automotive Vehicle Manufacturers (Anfavea) said Friday.

Car, truck and bus

makers produced 207,762 units in the Latin America's leading economy and consumer market during the month compared to 174,087 units in September 2021, according to the report. From January through September of this

year, the South American country manufactured 1.75 million units, 6.3 per cent more than that in the first nine months of 2021, though production in September was down 12.7 per cent compared to August.—Xinhua

South African berries exports, steel industry impacted by transport employees' strike

AN organization representing berries farmers, BerriesZA, on Friday warned that a strike by Transnet employees is affecting their exports, while the South African Iron and Steel Institute (SAISI) cautioned that the strike, compounded by the ongoing energy crisis,

is likely to have devastating consequences for all sectors of the country's economy.

BerriesZA said the strike is happening during the peak of the berry export season and would negatively affect more than 30,000 livelihoods in the entire

value chain.

Transnet employees went on strike Wednesday after failing to agree on the salary increment with their employer. The Transnet utility then declared force majeure that it is not able to fulfill its contractual obligations Thursday.—Xinhua

Bid Announcement

KMIC Development Co., Ltd. intends to invite eligible Bidders for "Consultancy Services for Master Plan for Waste Water Treatment Plant of KMIC".

1. Bid Title: Consultancy Services for Master Plan and Bidding Guide for Waste Water Treatment Plant of KMIC

* Location of KMIC: Nyaung Hnit-Pin, Yangon Region

2. Facility capacity: About 5,100 m³/day (Needed total facility capacity of KMIC)

※ The area of Wastewater treatment Plant: 19,474 m²

※ The Project area is divided into 2 phases, and the wastewater treatment plant will be installed step by step or more in consideration of the initial factory operation.

- 1st phase (Zone A): 314.69 acres (1,273,514 m²)

- 2nd phase (Zone B): 241.12 acres (975,774 m²)

3. Duration of the Contract: twelve (12) months from the contract commencement date

4. Bidding Method: International Competitive Bidding

(Lump Sum & Unit Price Contract: the Employer shall provide unpriced BOQ and the Bidders shall submit priced BOQ)

* Selection Method : QCBS (Quality and Cost Based Selection)

5. Estimated price (exclusive of taxes): US\$ 135,840

* The Bid Price shall be equal or less than the Estimated Price.

6. Work Scope

Condition and Status about wastewater treatment plant, Research relevant planning and standard, Master Plan for KMIC wastewater treatment plant, Project cost estimate, Plan for operation management, Design drawing, Make the invitation to bid etc.

7. Eligibility for bidding

- **Legal Requirement:** Officially registered consulting service provider in Korea or Myanmar as civil engineering design service consultant in accordance with related laws or regulation of its country.

- **Experience:** A bidder shall have a(an) accumulative completed similar Master plan or basic/detailed design for wastewater treatment plant experience.

8. Joint Venture (JV)

- In the case of a Joint venture or association:

• The number of associating companies is not allowed more than three (3), which means maximum three (3) members are allowed, and each member of a JV shall take at least ten (10) percent share.

• The JV shall have at least one Korean Company (a company established in the Republic of Korea), and a Korean Company of the JV shall be a leading/representative member who has the largest share.

- In the case of a single bidder, a company established only in the Republic of Korea is allowed to be a bidder.

9. Time Schedule

- Bid announcement [10th Oct. 2022]

- Pre-registration and Submission of Bidding Guarantee [21st Oct. 2022]

- Official questioning [24th ~ 31st Oct. 2022] and Clarification [7th Nov. 2022]

- Bid submission deadline [Announcement Date ~ 31st Nov. 2022]

- Opening and Evaluation of proposals [1st ~2nd Dec. 2022]

- Negotiation and Signing of the Contract [5th ~ 9th Dec. 2022]

※ The above schedule can be changed depending on the situation.

10. Contact Information

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Pyay Garden Office Tower, 346-354, Pyay Road, Sanchaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar

- E-mail: naraes88@lh.or.kr, tacho11094@gmail.com

- Attention: Shim, NaRae, General Manager

Tin Aung Cho, Senior Engineer

- Website: www.mykmic.com

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russian army leadership changed, Crimea bridge resumes traffic after blast



Smoke and flames rise from the oil tankers on the collapsed bridge. **PHOTO: AFP**

TRAFFIC resumed yesterday over a key bridge linking Russia with Crimea – seen as a symbol of the Kremlin’s annexation of the peninsula – after it was partially destroyed by an explosion Moscow blamed on a truck bomb.

The Kremlin announced on the same day the appointment of a new general to lead its Ukraine offensive following a series of battlefield setbacks that triggered unprecedented criticism of its army at home. The 19-km (12-mile) bridge was hit by a blast around dawn yesterday, killing

three people, setting several oil tankers ablaze and collapsing two car lanes, Russian investigators said. The explosion drew celebrations from Ukrainians and others on social media, but Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made no direct mention of it in his nightly address and officials made no claim of responsibility.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Marat Khusnullin told reporters “traffic has been fully restored” on the bridge’s railway, according to state news agency Ria Novosti, without specifying

when operations resumed.

Khusnullin had confirmed the resumption is for “both freight and passenger traffic” in an earlier post on Telegram, and said one of the destroyed lanes would be restored “in the near future”.

Local officials had said earlier in the day that the bridge had been reopened to motor traffic with vehicles subject to stringent screening, while rail operator Grand Service Express said the first trains had left the peninsula for Moscow and St Petersburg. —AFP

Russia-backed forces claim gains near Bakhmut in east Ukraine

RUSSIAN forces said Friday they had captured ground in Donetsk in east Ukraine, their first claim of new gains since a Kyiv counter-offensive rattled Moscow’s war effort.

The announcement came as Russia’s Orthodox leader said President Vladimir Putin’s rule had been mandated by God, congratulating him on his 70th birthday, and as the Nobel Committee awarded the Peace Prize to rights defenders in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

Separatist forces in the war-battered Donetsk region said they had retaken a series of villages near the

Ukraine-controlled industrial town of Bakhmut, which has been under Russian shelling for weeks.

AFP journalists in the centre of Bakhmut heard the sound of heavy artillery and multiple rocket launch systems near the remains of a smashed bridge over the Bakhmutka river.

“On the territory of the Donetsk People’s Republic, a grouping of troops of the Donetsk and Lugansk republics, with fire support from Russian forces, liberated Otradovka, Veselaya Dolina and Zaitsevo,” separatist forces said on social media. —AFP

Zelensky outlines key challenges for Ukraine

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky on Friday outlined the key challenges for Ukraine amid its conflict with Russia, the presidential press service reported.

Speaking via video link at the informal meeting of the European Council, Zelensky said that the main challenge for Ukraine is the physical protection of its energy facilities from Russian strikes.

Ukraine needs enough air defense systems to prevent possible attacks on its energy infrastructure, he noted.

Another challenge for Kiev is a demilitarization of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine and the restoration of its functioning, Zelensky said.



Members of the Ukrainian Territorial Defence Forces attend tactical, combat and first aid training course during Russia’s military invasion launched on Ukraine. **PHOTO: AFP**

Post-conflict reconstruction is the third important task for the government, the Ukrainian leader noted, voicing his appre-

ciation for those countries that have already started working under Ukraine’s Fast Recovery Plan. —Xinhua

WORLD: TOP HEADLINE

Thousands in US join abortion rights protests ahead of elections



THOUSANDS marched in cities across the United States on Saturday to protest the Supreme Court’s overturning of the federal right to abortion

Protesters during a rally for women’s rights in New York, US, 8 October, 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

and to urge voters to turn out in a Democratic “blue wave” in next month’s key midterm elections.

In Washington, a crowd of mostly women chanted “We won’t go back” as they marched.

They carried posters calling for a “feminist tsunami” and urging people to “vote to

save women’s rights.” “I don’t want to have to go back to a different time,” Emily Bobal, an 18-year-old student, told AFP. “It’s kind of ridiculous that we still have to do this in 2022,” she said, adding that she is concerned that the conservative-dominated high court might next target same-sex marriage. —AFP

Austrians vote in presidential election with incumbent set to win

AUSTRIANS started voting Sunday in a presidential election expected to return incumbent Alexander Van der Bellen, seen as a beacon of stability as the Alpine EU member struggles with an energy crisis and inflation.

Campaigning on a slogan of “clarity”, Van der Bellen is widely tipped to clinch a second

mandate, with his six challengers — all men — lagging far behind.

“The biggest competitor on Sunday will be the sofa,” the 78-year-old economics professor said Friday at his last campaign rally, appealing to people to vote.

Polls put the pro-European liberal as securing more than 50

per cent of the vote, thus avoiding a run-off.

Some 6.4 million people are eligible to cast their ballots from the country’s total population of nine million. Polling stations in Vienna and much of the rest of the country opened at 7:00 am local time (0500 GMT) with a few opening as early as 6:00 am. —AFP



Austrians started voting Sunday in a presidential election expected to return incumbent Alexander Van der Bellen, seen as a beacon of stability as the Alpine EU member struggles with an energy crisis and inflation. PHOTO: AFP

N. Korea fires 2 ballistic missiles into Sea of Japan



A woman walks past a television screen showing a news broadcast with file footage of a North Korean missile test, at a railway station in Seoul. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

NORTH Korea test-fired two ballistic missiles early Sunday, the Japanese and South Korean governments said, a day after

denouncing a military exercise near the Korean Peninsula involving a US aircraft carrier for raising regional tensions.

Both missiles, which North Korea fired into waters to its east at around 1:47 am and 1:53 am, fell outside Japan’s exclusive economic zone after traveling an estimated 350 kilometres at a maximum altitude of 100 km, according to Japanese officials.

Since late September, North Korea has conducted missile tests at a pace never before seen.

Before the recent cluster, there had been a test hiatus of almost four months. —Kyodo

New York City declares state of emergency amid rising influx of asylum seekers

NEW York City Mayor Eric Adams declared a state of emergency on Friday in response to a record-breaking influx of asylum seekers into the city, mostly from the southern border of the United States.

An executive order was issued on Friday to formally direct all relevant agencies in the city to coordinate their efforts to respond to the asylum seeker humanitarian crisis and construct humanitarian relief centers on a transitory basis.

The state of emergency shall remain in effect for 30 days and may be extended, according to the executive order.

Adams also called for emergency federal and state



New York City Mayor Eric Adams says more than 17,000 asylum seekers, mostly from South America, have been bused directly to New York City from the southern border since April, which is far more than the system was designed to handle and is unsustainable. PHOTO: PIXABAY

aid to handle the continued influx of asylum seekers, including legislation allowing asylum seekers to work, a decompression strategy at the

border, a coordinated effort to move asylum seekers to other cities, emergency financial relief and immigration reform. —Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

‘Not afraid anymore’: Clashes as Iran protests enter fourth week

SCHOOLGIRLS chanted slogans, workers went on strike and street clashes erupted across Iran on Saturday, as protests over the death of Mahsa Amini entered a fourth week in defiance of a bloody crackdown.

Anger flared after the 22-year-old Iranian Kurd’s death on 16 September, three days after she was arrested in Tehran by the notorious morality police for an alleged breach of the Islamic republic’s strict dress code for women.

Iran said Friday an investigation found Amini had died of a longstanding illness rather than “blows” to the head,

despite her family reportedly saying she had previously been healthy. But the protests continued Saturday even as ultra-conservative President Ebrahim Raisi posed for a group photograph with female students at Tehran’s Al-Zahra University to mark the start of the academic year.

In Amini’s hometown Saez, in the western province of Kurdistan, schoolgirls were heard chanting “Woman, life, freedom” and seen marching down a street swinging headscarves over their heads, in videos the Hengaw rights group said were recorded on Saturday. —AFP

UK PM sacks minister after ‘serious misconduct’ claim

BRITAIN’S new Prime Minister Liz Truss on Friday sacked a former assistant to her predecessor Boris Johnson after a complaint of “serious misconduct”.

Downing Street said in a statement that Truss had asked minister for trade policy Conor Burns “to leave the government with immediate effect”.

“The prime minister took direct action on being informed of this allegation and is clear that all ministers should maintain the high standards of behaviour — as the public rightly expects,” it added.

Burns, who was a parliamentary private secretary or unpaid assistant to Johnson when he was foreign minister, has also been temporarily suspended from the parliamentary Conservative party.

The whips’ office, which is responsible for party discipline, said that followed “allegations of inappropriate behaviour earlier this week”.

“We take all such allegations extremely seriously. The prime minister has been clear that the highest standards in public life must be upheld,” it added. —AFP

Austrians vote in presidential election with incumbent set to win
PAGE-15



SPORT

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Men's, women's U-25/U-18 basketball tourney held in Yangon

THE men's and women's U-25, and U-18 basketball tournament organized by the Myanmar Basketball Federation was held at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Yangon yesterday morning.

On the first day of the tournament, a total of 66 events took place including U-25 Men's Tournament, U-18 Men's Tournament, and U-25, and U-18 Women's Round Robin Tournament.

"We focus on U-18 women's event. In order to turn out the new generation players, we have to hold a 3x3 tournament as 3x3 can't stand at an advantage. After attacking, we can defend, and after defending, we can attack. We have to perform well," said Daw Ohnma Aung, Joint-Secretary of the Myanmar Basketball Federation.

About 200 athletes from teams from Yangon, Toungoo, Pyay, DAIKU, Kayin, Taunggyi and Mon state participated in the tourney which will last until 11 October, and anyone can watch for free.

In addition, the 2022 Myanmar Basketball Federation's National Championship will take place from 11 to 18 October.—Bala Soe/GNLM



The basketball competition is being held until 11 October 2022 at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Yangon. **PHOTO: BALA SOE**

ISPE FC beat Rakhine United in MNL Week-15

ISPE FC made a 4-1 victory over Rakhine United in the Week-15 match of the Myanmar National League held at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon yesterday.

ISPE was able to end the losing streak and beat Rakhine team in both rounds. Rakhine United has not won or scored any points this season and is at the bottom of the table and is close to the relegation zone.

Both teams tried for the best from the kick-off, but ISPE won because of second half goals.

In the 5th minute of the match, Min Myat Soe scored the first goal for the ISPE, but in the 43rd minute, Thein Than Win equalized for the Rakhine United team, and the first half was tied at one goal apiece.

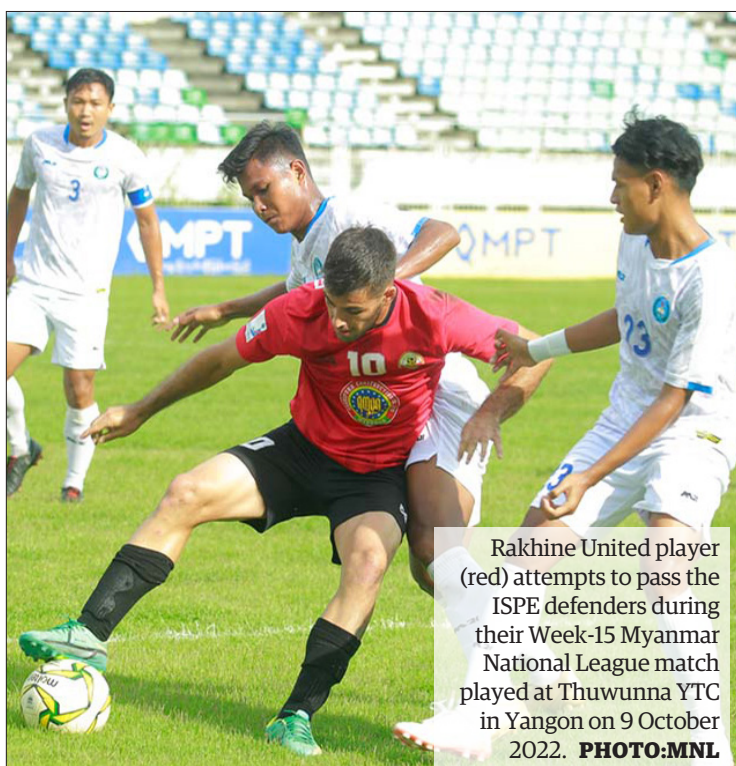
In the second half, ISPE was able to take advantage of the opportunity as Thein Zaw Thiha scored two consecutive goals in the 51st and 55th minute. After conceding two goals, the

Rakhine team tried to equalize, but the defense of the ISPE was able to erase it without making any mistakes.

After this match, ISPE has 20 points in 13 games, while Rakhine United has played 13

games and has not scored any points.

The third day of the MNL Week-15 match will continue today and the Ayeyawady team will play against Hanthawady United.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



Rakhine United player (red) attempts to pass the ISPE defenders during their Week-15 Myanmar National League match played at Thuwunna YTC in Yangon on 9 October 2022. **PHOTO: MNL**

Mancini 'knew' Italy would draw England in Euro 2024 qualifying



Roberto Mancini felt he knew that his Italy team would draw England in Euro 2024 qualifying. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ROBERTO Mancini was not surprised that his Italy team were drawn with England in Euro 2024 qualifying on Sunday in yet another rematch of last year's European Championship final won by the Azzurri.

Italy were crowned kings of Europe by beating England on penalties at Wembley in July last year and again got the better of Gareth Southgate's team in this year's Nations League.

Italy made it through to the final four of the Nations League and sent England down to League B, which led to the two teams being drawn in Group C alongside Ukraine, North Macedonia and Malta. England's relegation put them in Pot 2 for Sunday's draw in Frankfurt while Italy were among the top seeds for qualifying for the tournament in Germany.—AFP