

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends choice of arms for 25th Intake of DSTA



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing continues attending the choice of arms for the 25th Intake cadets of the Defence Services Technological Academy in PyinOoLwin yesterday.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning attended the choice of arms for cadets of the 25th Intake of Defence Services Technological

Academy at the DSTA in PyinOoLwin.

Also present at the choice of arms together with the Senior General were Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy)

Admiral Moe Aung, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko Oo, the commandant of DSTA and officials. They scruti-

nized and chose the appropriate corps of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) for the cadets depending on their outstanding performances in technological studies and military training as well as disciplinary acts, their natural bent, and enthusiasm.

In the afternoon, the Senior General had lunch together with cadets at Pyinnya Tazaung cadet mess hall and cordially greeted the cadets. The choice of arms for cadets continued in the afternoon. — MNA

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Statements issued condemning brutal attack of KNLA Brigade 1, PDF terrorists, subordinates of NUG and CRPH at Kinmunchaung bus terminal near Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State

THE KNLA Brigade 1 and PDF terrorists, subordinates of NUG and CRPH brutally attacked the Kinmunchaung bus terminal near the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State using heavy weapons and small arms without any reason on 12 October, and it was reported three pilgrims were killed and 19 others wounded. The Yangon, Mandalay, and Taninthayi regions and Shan State Interfaith Friendship Organizations, Buddhist National Force, All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ), Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance and YMBA in regions and states issued statements strongly condemning such attacks. – MNA

Statement of Young Men's Buddhist Association (Ayeyawady Region)

1. We hear that the PDF terrorists attacked the Kinmunchaung bus terminal near Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State using 60 MM, 40 MM, grenades and small arms on the morning of 12 October 2022.
2. We are also saddened to hear that 19 pilgrims including innocent people, monks, women and children were injured and three women were killed in the reasonless attack of PDF terrorists.
3. Young Men's Buddhist Association (Ayeyawady Region) expressed the strong condemnation of this disgusting and inhumane act of terrorism targeting innocent pilgrims.

*Young Men's Buddhist Association
(Ayeyawady Region)*

Statement of Young Men's Buddhist Association (Chin State)

1. We hear that the PDF terrorists attacked the Kinmunchaung bus terminal near Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State using 60 MM, 40 MM, grenades and small arms on the morning of 12 October 2022.
2. We are also unpleasant to hear that 19 pilgrims including innocent people, monks, women and children were injured and three women were killed in the reasonless attack of PDF terrorists.
3. Young Men's Buddhist Association (Chin State) members expressed strong condemnation of this disgusting and inhumane act of terrorism targeting innocent pilgrims.

*Young Men's Buddhist Association
(Chin State)*

Statement of Young Men's Buddhist Association (Yangon Region)

1. We hear that the PDF terrorists attacked the Kinmunchaung bus terminal near Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State using 60 MM, 40 MM, grenades and small arms on the morning of 12 October 2022.
2. We are also sorrowful to hear that 19 pilgrims including innocent people, monks, women and children were injured and three women were killed in the reasonless attack of PDF terrorists.
3. Young Men's Buddhist Association (Yangon Region) expressed strong condemnation of this disgusting and inhumane act of terrorism targeting innocent pilgrims.

*Young Men's Buddhist Association
(Yangon Region)*

Statement of Young Men's Buddhist Association (Sagaing Region)

1. We hear that the PDF terrorists attacked the Kinmunchaung bus terminal near Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State using 60 MM, 40 MM, grenades and small arms on the morning of 12 October 2022.
2. We are also displeased to hear that 19 pilgrims including innocent people, monks, women and children were injured and three women were killed in the reasonless attack of PDF terrorists.
3. Young Men's Buddhist Association (Sagaing Region) members expressed strong condemnation of this disgusting and inhumane act of terrorism targeting innocent pilgrims.

*Young Men's Buddhist Association
(Sagaing Region)*

Statement of Young Men's Buddhist Association (Rakhine State)

1. We hear that the PDF terrorists attacked the Kinmunchaung bus terminal near Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State using 60 MM, 40 MM, grenades and small arms on the morning of 12 October 2022.
2. We are also regretful to hear that 19 pilgrims including innocent people, monks, women and children were injured and three women were killed in the reasonless attack of PDF terrorists.
3. Young Men's Buddhist Association (Rakhine State) members expressed strong condemnation of this disgusting and inhumane act of terrorism targeting innocent pilgrims.

*Young Men's Buddhist Association
(Rakhine State)*

Statement of Young Men's Buddhist Association (Mandalay Region)

1. We hear that the PDF terrorists attacked the Kinmunchaung bus terminal near Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State using 60 MM, 40 MM, grenades and small arms on the morning of 12 October 2022.
2. We are also unpleasant to hear that 19 pilgrims including innocent people, monks, women and children were injured and three women were killed in the reasonless attack of PDF terrorists.
3. Young Men's Buddhist Association (Mandalay Region) expressed strong condemnation of this disgusting and inhumane act of terrorism targeting innocent pilgrims.

*Young Men's Buddhist Association
(Mandalay Region)*

Statement of Young Men's Buddhist Association (Bago Region)

1. We hear that the PDF terrorists attacked the Kinmunchaung bus terminal near Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State using 60 MM, 40 MM, grenades and small arms on the morning of 12 October 2022.
2. We are also sorrowful to hear that 19 pilgrims including innocent people, monks, women and children were injured and three women were killed in the reasonless attack of PDF terrorists.
3. Young Men's Buddhist Association (Bago Region) expressed strong condemnation of this disgusting and inhumane act of terrorism targeting innocent pilgrims.

Young Men's Buddhist Association (Bago Region)

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Local people participation needed for disaster preparedness measures

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

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the third-day coordination meeting held on 10 August 2022 in regard to matters relating to the activities being carried out by the Union Government)

SPTT, NMSP delegation conclude third-day meeting

THE third-day meeting between the State Peace Talks Team and the delegation led by the Vice-Chairman of the New Mon State Party (NMSP) was held at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

State Administration Council Member Union Minister at the Government Office Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee-NSPNC Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung and Vice-Chairman of New Mon State Party (NMSP) Nai Aung Min, Joint Secretary Nai Win Hla and Central Executive Committee member Nai

Banyar Lei attended the meeting.

During the third-day meeting, they friendly discussed the accomplishment of the agreements from the first meeting, further fulfilment of the requirements and regional development issues and then both sides signed the agreements on three-day negotiations.

Afterwards, NSPNC Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and NMSP Vice-Chairman Nai Aung Min gave concluding remarks.

The record book on national endeavours of the State Administration Council, publications, an MRTV DTH receiver, a two-foot satellite dish and gifts were presented to the NMSP peace delegation. —MNA



The third-day peace talks between the State Peace Talks Team and the New Mon State Party delegation in progress.

SAC members attend marionette, modern song contests



SAC members watch the performing arts competition in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



STATE Administration Council Member U Moug Har enjoyed the competition of contestants in the marionette play event which was held at the Plenary Hall of the Myanmar International Convention Centre-MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In the marionette play amateur-level men's/women's (second class) event, contestants delivered the artistic performance portraying the Myanmar traditional choreography, various postures and gestures, by controlling prince,

princess and Zawgyi statues string puppets skillfully.

On the same afternoon, SAC Member U Sai Lone Seng watched the modern songs contest which took place at the Signing Room of the Myanmar International Convention Centre-MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw.

It is learnt that contestants participated in the basic education-level men's (aged 15 to 20) event and higher education-level women's modern song event. — MNA

Myanmar delegation arrives back from 28th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council (ASCC) Ministers Meeting

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko arrived back yesterday evening in Yangon by flight from the 28th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council

(ASCC) Ministers Meeting in Phnom Penh of Cambodia from 12 to 14 October.

While in Cambodia, Union Minister U Ko Ko with the Ministers for ASEAN Socio-Cultural

Community Council called on Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and visited the Cambodian National Museum.

Before departure for Myanmar,

the Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister U Ko Ko accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia U Thit Linn Ohn paid homage to the Supreme Patriarch of Cambodia Samdech

Tep Vong who was conferred the religious title of Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika by the State Administration Council, offered offertories and reported on religious matters. — MNA

MIFER Union Minister receives Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar



UNION Minister Dr Kan Zaw of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations received the delegation led by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the Chinese ambassador said that the Chinese government is contributing to socioeconomic development of Myanmar, investment and manufacturing activities.

Then, the Union minister

expressed thanks for Chinese Grants to Myanmar socioeconomic development and cordially discussed matters related to the socioeconomic cooperation programmes and enhancement on investment and foreign economic relations.

The meeting was attended by the deputy minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, the director-general of the Department of Foreign Economic Relations Department and senior officers of the related departments of the ministry. —MNA

MIFER Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw meets Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai and delegation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Commerce Minister receives Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister U Aung Naing Oo of the Ministry of Commerce received a delegation led by Mr Chen Hai, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the parlour of the ministry yesterday morning.

They cordially discussed the promotion of the bilateral trade. The permanent secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, the director-general of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization and officials attended the meeting. —MNA

MoC Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo receives the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.



Capacity-building programme helps ease technological difficulties in trading and cut costs without delaying process and market trust



THE National Quality Infrastructure of Myanmar comprises standardization, accreditation, metrology, testing and certification, and it needs to focus on sustainable development with guidance and recommendation of members of the National Skill Standards Council, said Chairman of the Council Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw at the ceremony to mark the World Standards Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. Myanmar has joined the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation and the Asia Pacific Metrology Programme as a member to carry out the work process for

firm standing. A capacity-building programme will help ease technological difficulties in trading and cut costs without delaying process and market trust.

Then, the message of Secretary General Mr Sergio Mujica of the International Organization for Standardization and a video clip of ISO for World Standards Day (2022) were presented.

Then, winners in the logo competition for using the logo for the national quality recommendation board were awarded.

The Union minister and guests viewed the posters related to the national quality infrastructure. —MNA

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

MoI Union Minister inspects reconstruction of MITV News studio, construction site, strength of channel towers at MRTV in Yangon

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the reconstruction of MITV News Studio, construction and strength of channel towers at MRTV in Yangon yesterday.

First, the Union minister observed the temporary Studio at Studio-2 during the reconstruction process of MITV News Studio, the news reading session, the construction site of the temporary recording studio at MITV News Studio and the processes of the newsroom, and cordially met the staff.

The temporary News Studio is established at Studio-2 to facilitate the information processes as it will take about one month for the new design of MITV News Studio, which has been used since 2013.

Then, the Union minister

and party went to the nine-metre earth station and inspected the TV channel distribution processes via the satellite and fibre optic cables.

The nine-metre earth station was constructed in 1997 and it transmits the programmes of MRTV (Yangon) and content providers such as Channel K, YTV, Fortune TV and private FMs to MRTV in Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw via fibre optic cables and satellite.

On arrival at the 200-metre tower, they inspected the strength of the tower, analogue and DVB-T2 transmitter, FM transmitter, MRTV DAB+ and radio transmitters.

The 200-metre tower was jointly established by MRTV and Shwe Than Lwin Company in 2012 and became operational in



Union Information Minister views the reconstruction of MITV News Studio at MRTV in Yangon yesterday.

2015. It broadcasts MRTV Analogue, DVB-T2 channels, MRTV FM, MRTV DAB+, channels of ever Group Co Ltd and private Shwe Than Lwin Co Ltd and For- FMs. — MNA

Action to be taken against media on fake information to misunderstand incident of attack on Kinmunchaung bus terminal to Kyaiktiyo Pagoda

BRUTAL attacks for no reason of KNLA Brigade 1 and so-called PDF terrorists under NUG and CRPH left three pilgrims dead and 19 wounded at Kinmunchaung bus terminal to Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State on 12 October.

Some media mention fabricated information which may misunderstand the death and injuries triggered by attacks of terrorists based on un-exacted facts and talks.

Witnesses, CCTVs, the route of terrorists and sites where civilians were dead and injured were scrutinized for knowing the reality of the incidents. The detailed scrutiny was found as follows:-

(a) Some 15 terrorists from KNLA Brigade 1 and PDFs under NUG and

CRPH arrived at the scene by Vego vehicle passing the Kadat Creek Bridge from Saungnaingyi Village and took a position at shops west and southwest of the Kinmunchaung bus terminal.

(b) When pilgrims got on the pilgrimage vehicle 3K/6534 at the terminal, they launched the fire of small arms in series. So, a woman from the stage to the vehicle, another woman from the vehicle and another one from the first step of the ladder fell to death due to gun fires, totalling three and 18 other pilgrims were injured. The CCTV showed a woman who fell at the start of the shot. The majority of the injured reached aboard and around the vehicle.

(c) Rude terrorists without religious faith opened fires at the bus terminal

with the intention to disturb the happiness and pleasure of the citizens on the auspicious occasion of Thadingyut. At a time when pilgrims were dead and injured, security forces responded to the terrorists with counter-attacks so as to protect the life of people. Terrorists launched 40 mm launchers and small arms attacks, leaving one security member injured.

(d) After firing, terrorists retreated from the scene by car. On their way, they fired Aung Htoo San bus terminal with small arms from the vehicle.

(e) According to the investigation, some parts of the vehicle were damaged by bullet-shots in a series of attacks of terrorists and pilgrims were dead and injured.

CCTVs around the scene caught

the images of brutal acts of terrorists. This evidence showed the death and injuries of pilgrims triggered by attacks of KNLA Brigade 1 and PDF terrorists.

Although the government released official information based on talks of Buddhists and Myanmar citizens on social media opposing terrorism and exact evidence of ground situations, pessimistic Irrawaddy and BBC news agencies turned a blind eye to the correct information mentioned security forces opened fire at pilgrims. Such an act broke the media ethics shamefully and action will be taken against these new agencies under the communications law, news media law and under the existing laws for the accusation of security forces. — MNA

China says payments via border to Myanmar amount to more than 190 billion Yuan

THE Chinese Embassy in Myanmar announced on 12 October that the amount of payments to Myanmar through the Chinese border in Yuan has reached more than 190 billion yuan.

Yunnan Province's cross-border payments in Yuan

to neighbouring countries exceeded 700 billion yuan.

As of August 2022, the Chinese Embassy stated that the number of payments calculated in Yuan across the border with Myanmar amounted to Yuan 190.293 billion.

Myanmar started the di-

rect exchange of Kyat and Yuan through the border at the end of 2021.

As of the end of August 2022, China's Yunnan Province has conducted cross-border transactions in Yuan with 106 countries and regions. — TPT/ GNLM

World Food Day
ကမ္ဘာ့စားနပ်ရိက္ခာနေ့
၂၀၂၂ အောက်တိုဘာ ၁၆ ရက်
ထွက်ကုန်ဖြင့်တင် တိုးထုတ်လျှင်
ကောင်းမွန်ပြည့်ဝ အာဟာရ၊ ဝန်းကျင်လှပ တိုးတက်
လူတိုင်းစေ့င ခရိကြ

Award presentation ceremony of Short Videos Contest of “Right Information Saves and Empowers ASEAN” (RISE ASEAN) held at MRTV in Yangon

THE award presentation ceremony of the Short Videos Contest of “Right Information Saves and Empowers ASEAN” (RISE ASEAN), which aims to respond to health, economy, social, tourism and education development through accurate and true information in member countries, took place at the Myanma Radio and Television in Yangon yesterday.

During the ceremony, MRTV Director-General U Ye Naing said there were lots of crises in each sector, especially in the economic sector, due to the COVID-19 pandemic around the world. Similarly, all are facing the risk of false news and misinformation on social media. Therefore, it should make educating programmes for the people by responding to such

news with true news.

Among ASEAN countries, the Philippines served as Project Coordinating Country for the “Short Video Contest”, and MITV was the Focal Person of Myanmar.

The winners were presented with K1.5 million for the first prize, K1 million for the second prize and K800,000 for the third prize.

The Short Videos Contest “Right Information Saves and Empowers ASEAN” (RISE ASEAN) intends to respond to false news and misinformation in the ASEAN community via various platforms including social media, support the regional health, economy, social, tourism and education sectors, and improve the local interests with the participation of youths,



and the young people aged between 18 and 25 are invited to the contest.

The winning short videos

of respective countries must be sent to ASEAN Secretariat via the Philippines and will be broadcasted through the State-

owned Television Channels of the ASEAN Member States as well as the websites and social media. — MNA

Performing Arts Competition continues its fourth day



THE 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition (Central Level) continued at designated venues in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday.

Contestants from regions and states participated in the Maha Gita (classic songs) men's amateur level (second class) event which took place at the Banquet Hall of Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw.

The modern song contest was held at the Signing Room of MICC-II, participated by contests in the men's amateur (second class) event and the basic education level men's (aged 15-20) event and the higher education level women's event.

At the Plenary Hall of MICC-II, contestants joined the higher education level women's dancing contest and the basic education level boys' (aged 10-15) dancing contest.

The marionette play event was held at the Plenary Hall of MICC-II. Contestants from regions and states participated in the amateur level (second class) men's event and the amateur level (second class) women's event.

The marionette troupe contest was held at Yinkyayhmu Yadana Hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

Mann Theinga marionette troupe representing Mandalay Region took part in the amateur level (first class) event. Contestants participated in the amateur level (first class) Ramayana drama event at the training theatre of the ministry.

Contestants also joined the amateur level (second class) song composing contest at Yinkyayhmu Yadana Hall of the ministry.

Contestants from regions and states competed in the amateur-level (first class) Dobat (Myanmar tradition drums) contest, students of basic education level (aged 15-20) event, amateur-level (second class) event and higher education level event.

At Mini Theatre of National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw, contestants competed in the amateur-level (second class) men's xylophone event, amateur-level (second class) women's event,

basic education level men's and women's (aged 15-20) events and basic education level girls' (aged 10-15) event.

Likewise, contestants participated in the amateur-level (first class) men's violin contest, basic education-level men's and women's (aged 15-20) event, basic education-level girls' (aged 10-15) events, amateur-level men's (second class) event, amateur-level women's and men's (second class), higher education-level men's and women's events.

Contestants also took part in the amateur-level men's (first class) mandolin contest, amateur-level women's (first class), and basic education level boys' and girls' (aged 10-15) events.

These events were watched by Union-level persons, deputy ministers and ethnic affairs ministers of regions and states and officials. — MNA



Myanmar Harp, violin, dancing, Myanmar traditional drums competitions. (top photos clockwise)
Myanmar Pattala (xylophone) competition. (above)

LOCAL BUSINESS

YGEA sells pure gold at K2.5 mln per tical

WITH an aim at reducing gold price, Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) sold approximately 1,277 ticals of gold bullion supplied by the executive members and the members of the YGEA on 12 October.

This action aims to stabilize the gold price. Each individual except for YGEA members is entitled to buy the gold from one to ten ticals. They can buy the gold bullion at the YGEA's office by presenting copies of their citizenship scrutiny card and household registration.

On 7 October, Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association also sold seven visses of gold to each individual in a bid to reduce the gold price. A gold bar weighs 10 ticals.

The price of pure gold was K2,540,000 per tical then. Moreover, MGEA continues selling

depending on the supply of gold bars by gold refineries, traders, shops and members.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation sold three visses of gold ingots each in Yangon and Mandalay under the auction system on 6 October. A viss of gold fetched approximately K2.5 million.

Additionally, the ministry has been selling gold coins in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw.

Tracking the rebound in the kyat-dollar exchange rate, pure gold is priced at K2.6 million per tical in the domestic markets.

The soaring dollar exchanging at over K4,500 pushed up the pure gold price to a record-high of K3.7 million per tical in late August.

The ministry is, therefore, selling gold bars and coins in



With an aim at reducing gold price, Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) sold approximately 1,277 ticals of gold bullion supplied by the executive members and the members of the YGEA on 12 October.

order for the gold price to ease.

Furthermore, the governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) and officials of the Monitoring and Steering Committee on the Gold and Currency Market discussed matters regarding the stability of the

gold and currency market and supporting plans of the banks for gold bar transactions to be made with banking system on 14 September in Nay Pyi Taw.

Then, on 30 September, the seven private banks opened special counters at the des-

ignated 48 branches to offer banking services for gold transactions.

According to CBM's directive (43/2021) dated 3 November 2021, lump sum payments worth more than K20 million for buying or selling assets have to be processed with the banking system.

The seven private banks are providing banking services by opening special counters at their 48 branches in Yangon and Mandalay regions and Mon State (Mawlamyine) to facilitate gold transactions with the banking payment system.

Those banks are Kanbawza Bank (KBZ Bank), Co-operative Bank (CB Bank) PCL, Ayeyawady (AYA) Bank, Myanmar Apex Bank (MAB), UAB Bank, Yoma Bank and Ayeyawady Farmers Development Bank (A Bank). — NN/GNLM

Myanmar ships 319 tonnes of coconut to Bangladesh via Maungtaw trade post in H1



Additionally, Myanmar has been exporting coconuts to Thailand through a legitimate trade channel since 2015.

MYANMAR delivered 319 tonnes of coconuts to Bangladesh through the Maungtaw border trade post in the first half of the current financial year 2022-2023, with an estimated value of US\$0.128 million.

It is commonly used in religious events beyond health benefits. That being so, there is a steady demand from Bangladesh for Myanmar's coconut. Coconut is one of the export items to Bangladesh through Bangladesh.

There are three types of coconuts cultivated in the southern Rakhine State, delta and coastal

regions of Myanmar; tall, dwarf and orange coconut. They can be grown at least 27 °C and under rainfall ranging from 30 to 70 inches. It yields between seven and ten years for tall coconuts, while coconuts can be harvested within three to five years for dwarf coconut trees and orange coconuts produce fruits within five to seven years. A tree can produce about 100 coconuts on average.

Coconut's health benefits are quick digestion, good cholesterol level, anti-ageing, rich in copper and iron, killing bacteria and viruses, hormone balancing,

nutritional facts, better memory, bone health and metabolism. The coconut water content is around 200-1,000 ml in one coconut. Coconut water boosts the immune system and has other benefits. It is widely used in making traditional snacks. The coconuts produced from Yangon Region and Manaung, Kyaukpyu and Thandwe in Rakhine State are sent to Bangladesh through the Maungtaw border trade post.

Additionally, Myanmar has been exporting coconuts to Thailand through a legitimate trade channel since 2015. — KK/GNLM

MIC nods 39 foreign projects worth \$1.24 bln in H1

MYANMAR Investment Commission gave green light to 39 foreign projects from six countries in the first half (April-September) of the current financial year 2022-2023. The country attracted capital of US\$1.24 billion this FY, including the expansion of capital by the existing enterprises, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Those enterprises are engaged in agriculture, manufacturing, power, real estate and service sectors respectively.

Singapore is the top source of FDI this FY, with 13 Singapore-listed enterprises pumping FDI of US\$1.095 billion into Myanmar. Hong Kong SAR stands as the second largest investor this FY with an estimated capital of over \$70.239 million drawn from seven projects. China is ranked third in the investment line-up with more than \$60 million from 16 projects.

One enterprise each from Belize, Japan and China Taipei also made investments in the past five months respectively. The existing enterprises from China Taipei, China, Hong Kong SAR, the Republic of Korea, India, Thailand and Samoa also increased investments.

Myanmar drew an FDI of \$647 million in the 2021-2022 mini-budget period (October to March), DICA's statistics indicated. The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations has been inviting responsible businesses to benefit the country.

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) ensures the approval of responsible businesses by assessing environmental and social impacts. The commission is working together with the relevant departments to screen the projects as well.

From 1 February 2021, Thilawa SEZ has recorded capital expansions of \$100 million from one new enterprise and the existing enterprises so far. The majority of them put investments into cement and pharmaceutical manufacturing. — KK/GNLM

OPINION

Save consumption, minimize spending on foreign exchange

EVERY country has to uplift political, economic and defence driving forces to keep abreast of other countries in the economic sector. These three driving forces are related to one another. Only when the economic driving force is good, will it support the two remaining driving forces to progress. The incidents of global countries showed if the economic driving force is not powerful, the relevant country will have to face various kinds of plights.

Myanmar faced difficulties during the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and political crises. Some attempts to degrade the economic trend of the State economy. Unscrupulous persons committed destructive acts to halt factories and industries, posing coercion to the employees of workplaces to cause frightening situations. Moreover,

they hampered money circulation with attempts to collapse the banking system in various ways and means. Currently, the country has already escaped from such nightmares.

The government has been managing the local money circulation while disbursing necessary loans to local businesses. The surging economy of the country depends on a lesser volume of imports as well as an increased volume of exports. Utmost efforts must be made to strive for exporting quality export products to foreign markets whereas it is necessary to reduce import volume as much as possible.

Practically, people face bitterly high prices in the domestic market whenever the prices of importable goods are rocketing in the foreign market. As such, the government restricted the import of cooking oil and fuel oil as of 2021. Cooking oil consumption and the decline of oil crop cultivation cause high demand for cooking oil in the domestic market.

As the country is endowed with farmlands, water facilities and human resources, people need to actually work. If they

strive for meeting the target per-acre yield of oil crops, domestic oil production will increase. If oil palm cultivation and palm oil production exceed the targets, the country can stand on its own with the production of sufficient cooking oil for the people.

On the other hand, the import of a larger volume of fuel needs to spend a large sum of foreign exchange on a yearly basis. Hence, preparations are being made to implement electric cars for public transport in order to reduce fuel consumption. Moreover, generating electricity based on various sources of renewable energy as well as nuclear energy can save the consumption of fuel in many sectors. That is why all people need to save their consumption of cooking oil and fuel oil in order to minimize spending on foreign exchange which can be allotted to various sectors of the budget.

THE taxis are part and parcel of urban development. The City of Yangon has been witnessing taxis running to and fro on the roads and streets throughout four different eras. There are two types of vehicles in Myanmar's transportation sector: motored vehicles and vehicles run by human operators. There are various types of motored vehicles of different transportation modes in millions throughout the country. In addition to motor cars, there are also motor vessels and motorbikes. The City of Yangon inhabited by seven million people or so has about 60,000 taxis according to the data of the Road Transport Administration Department.

In our country, privately owned cars have black colour number plates whereas taxis bear red colour number plates. Before 1962, there were not many Japan-made cars. Most were made in America or Europe. This period will be referred to as the first period of the taxis. In those days, Jeep cars were popular, and travellers used them when going a long distance. There was a Jeep stand in Latha Township where the travellers could hire the Jeeps with black colour number plates.

Most of the privately owned jeeps were put in the garage in the yard or kept on the ground



A man-pulled rickshaw

floor of the two-storey house. For the short distance travel, people in Yangon used jinrikisha (old-styled rickshaws) pulled by the Indian man and handcarts for carrying the goods.

Around 1964, almost all the Indians working within Myanmar were called back to India by their government, and so, they returned home via sea. Since then, man-pulled carts were not seen any longer.

In the years following 1962, people rode in three-wheel cars and Japan-made four-wheel cars. The most popular cars were Mazda Familia. As for public transport, there were Hino buses, which charged the passengers only one or two dimes. And the bus conduc-



Mazda B600.

tors were both men and women, who collected the bus fares and gave back the coupons in return.

Nonetheless, in the years that ensued in 1988, the transport scene had changed with new vehicles having replaced the old ones. The number plates and the numbering system had changed. And the cars are still being seen these days.

Around the year 2000, not only private businessmen but also government ministries, particularly the economic enterprises under certain ministries got involved in the taxi and rental car business. They rented the taxis to the drivers and made the latter become the taxi owners in five years. Nonetheless, with the change of guard, the successor stopped the taxi business.

After 2010, the taxi numbers changed again from the red-letter number plate to two English-lettered number plates like AA, BB etc. And the red-lettered taxis were permitted to change into the black-lettered privately owned cars. Over 20-year-old cars were deregistered only to be replaced with cars imported from abroad.

Again, the number plates were placed in two categories: one category is called Yangon licensed cars whereas the other cars had to register with states and regions other than Yangon City. Although it is declared that taxis not holding the Yangon license are not allowed to run on the roads of Yangon, we are always seeing cars registered with the Road Transport Administration Department Branch Office in the states and regions other

than the City of Yangon. The taxi owners are required to also register with Yangon City Development Committee.

Concerning the use of fuel oil, the taxis had previously used petrol and diesel only. Later, they turned to natural gas also to drive their cars to save energy and expenses. Back in 1962, most of the taxis were the three-wheelers and the Mazda B 360 and Mazda B 600 pickups. The three-wheelers were also made by Mazda Company. And the Mazda three-wheelers were painted orange colour, and they were so popular that even the orange colour was called a three-wheeler colour. The orange cars could accommodate five passengers. With the new cars entering the taxi market, the three-wheelers were deregistered and sent to the towns in other districts. Therefore, Mazda Familia raised its heads in the taxi market as it could accommodate



A three-wheeler.

six passengers excluding the passenger sitting beside the driver. The Familia taxis were nicknamed Bo Bo Aung.

The then taxis carried meters, and the minimum charge was 50 dimes regardless of the distance travelled. This was a fixed fare the passenger must pay plus the fare the meter showed. In 1977, the taxi did not carry meters, asking the fixed fares; K3 for short-distance downtown travel and K7 for travel to the outskirts e.g., Kyimyindine. And the taxi owners charged the drivers K60 for the day shift and K50 for the night shift while the

drivers had to pay a deposit of K3,000 or so.

Around 1993, a Mazda B 600 was worth about K200,000. In 1996, the Mazda taxi drivers had to pay K100 a day to their owners. However, those who were driving the taxis with AA number plates had to pay K700 to their owners while the deposits cost them K9,000.

The year 2016 witnessed a different scene in the taxi world in which drivers and travellers had come to use mobile applications. The service is provided online, facilitating both the passengers and the taxi drivers. The applications are US-based Uber, Singapore-based Grab and the local-based Oway and Hello Cab.

Uber withdrew from the market in April 2018, having sold out certain portions of the shares to Grab which is Singapore based. Oway and Hello Cab, the two local companies, could not compete with Uber and Grab, the interna-



City taxis are seen on the road in Yangon.

arrive in less than five minutes. The price is fixed, so, the passenger need not bargain the price. Additionally, the passenger is quite safe and sound as the particulars of the drivers are made known. Besides personal safety, the goods and/or personal belongings are also safe because, in the event of leaving things on board the taxi, he will not lose them.

Around 2010, the taxi drivers had to give a deposit of K0.5 million, K15,000 per day for the day shift and K12,000 per day for the night shift. If the taxi was a Toyota Corolla with a curved rear trunk, the drivers had to pay more deposits and daily chargers. This period was the golden age for taxi drivers.

When the new, latest model cars entered the taxi market, the deposit was K0.3 million for the day shift and K0.2 million for the night shift, and the daily chargers remained the same. As the cars were new ones, the repair and maintenance charges were record-low. The business was thus good for both the taxi owners and the drivers. This period is called the silver age.

However, after 2012, the problem of deregistration of the old

cars had arisen, and the discrimination against the old model cars posed problems to both the owners and the drivers. Those cars that have registered with the state/regional road transport administration department branches are not allowed to run in the City of Yangon. Nevertheless, there are those who do not abide by this rule, and so, they are suffering less. As for those who adhere to this rule, they can earn less income.

Those taxi owners who are holding the Yangon licence also suffer because of the non-law-abiding owners from the district. However, taxi drivers have the chance to choose between the Yangon licence holders and the district licence owners. Naturally, the district licence-holding taxi owners can reduce the deposit and the daily charges. And there is no differentiation between the day shift and night shift anymore. The daily charges are all the same, and if the driver can pay a deposit of K300,000, he can take the car home. And the daily charges are from K15,000 to K17,000 for the gas cars whereas the daily charges for the petrol/diesel cars are only K12,000. This period is called the bronze age.

Commencing from May of this year, the prices of petrol and diesel are sky high, aggravating the situation. And the gas car drivers are also faced with great difficulty because they have to spend a long time at the gas stations because of the electric power breakdown.

The taxi drivers are expecting the fuel and gas prices to go down, lifting of the curfew and restoration of law and order, it is learnt.

Translated.

The Taxi Service in Four Different Periods

By Linn Oo

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

5.3 billion cell phones to become waste in 2022: report



More than five billion of the estimated 16 billion mobile phones possessed worldwide will likely be discarded or stashed away in 2022. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

MORE than five billion of the estimated 16 billion mobile phones possessed worldwide will likely be discarded or stashed away in 2022, experts said Thursday, calling for more recycling of the often hazardous materials they contain.

Stacked flat on top of each other, that many disused phones would rise 50,000 kilometres (30,000 miles), more than a hundred times higher than the

International Space Station, the WEEE research consortium found.

Despite containing valuable gold, copper, silver, palladium and other recyclable components, almost all these unwanted devices will be hoarded, dumped or incinerated, causing significant health and environmental harm.

“Smartphones are one of the electronic products of high-

est concern for us,” said Pascal Leroy, Director-General of the WEEE Forum, a not-for-profit association representing forty-six producer responsibility organizations.

“If we don’t recycle the rare materials they contain, we’ll have to mine them in countries like China or Congo,” Leroy told AFP.

Defunct cell phones are just the tip of the 44.48-million-tonne iceberg of global electronic waste generated annually that isn’t recycled, according to the 2020 global e-waste monitor.

Many of the five billion phones withdrawn from circulation will be hoarded rather than dumped in the trash, according to a survey in six European countries from June to September 2022. This happens when households and businesses forget cell phones in drawers, closets, cupboards or garages rather than bringing them in for repair or recycling.— AFP

Half the world unprepared for disasters: UN

EVEN as extreme weather and climate disasters are multiplying, half of countries lack the advanced early warning systems needed to save lives, the United Nations warned Thursday.

In a fresh report, the UN agencies for weather and for disaster risk reduction found countries with poor early warning systems on average see eight times greater mortality from disasters than countries with strong measures. Proper early warning systems for floods, droughts, heatwaves, storms or other disasters allow for planning to minimize adverse impacts.

“Extreme weather events will happen. But they do not need to become deadly disasters,” UN chief Antonio Guterres said.

As the impacts of climate change are increasingly felt, the world is seeing more disasters that have “compounding and cascading impacts”, Thursday’s report said.

Countries should therefore be equipped with multi-hazard



A family stays next to a flooded street in Lawrence, some 70 kms from the New South Wales town of Lismore, on 1 March 2022. **PHOTO: SAEED KHAN / AFP**

early warning systems, but only half of the world’s nations currently have such mechanisms in place, the report found.

Poorer regions, often the most vulnerable to climate shocks and natural disasters, are the worst equipped with countries increasingly facing situations with multiple impacts.

‘Significant gaps’

Fewer than half of the

world’s least developed countries and only one-third of small island developing states have multi-hazard early warning systems, it said. Mami Mizutori, head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, voiced alarm at the “significant gaps in protection”.

“This is a situation that needs to urgently change to save lives, livelihoods, and assets.” —AFP

Wildlife populations plunge 69% since 1970: WWF

WILD populations of monitored animal species have plummeted nearly 70 per cent in the last 50 years, according to a landmark assessment released Thursday that highlights “devastating” losses to nature due to human activity.

Featuring data from 32,000 populations of more than 5,000 species of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish, the WWF Living Planet Index shows accelerating falls across the globe.

In biodiversity-rich regions such as Latin America and the

Caribbean, the figure for animal population loss is as high as 94 per cent.

Globally, the report found that monitored animal populations had fallen 69 per cent since 1970. Marco Lambertini, director-general of WWF International, said his organization was “extremely worried” by the new data.

“(It shows) a devastating fall in wildlife populations, in particular in tropical regions that are home to some of the most biodiverse landscapes in the world,” he said.— AFP



An employee (C) of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Wildlife Department rescues and shifts an injured leopard at Neelum Valley. **PHOTO: AFP**

SCI: TOP STORIES

NASA targets 14 November for Moon rocket launch

NASA said Wednesday it would try again to launch its mega Moon rocket on 14 November with backup dates later in the week.

The uncrewed Artemis 1 mission has previously been delayed due to technical issues, including gas leaks, and later by Hurricane Ian which hammered Florida. “Inspections and analyses over the previous week have confirmed minimal work is required to prepare the rocket and spacecraft to roll out to Launch Pad 39B at Kennedy Space Centre,” the space agency wrote in a blog post.

A 69-minute launch window will open at 12:07 am Eastern Time (0407 GMT), with backup dates on 16 November at 1:04 am and 19 November at 1:45 am.—AFP

Chinese astronauts give lecture from space station lab module

THE third live class from China’s space station was held Wednesday afternoon, delivered by Shenzhou-14 crew members Chen Dong, Liu Yang and Cai Xuzhe to students on Earth.

The main classroom is located at Technology and Engineering Centre for Space Utilization, Chinese Academy of Sciences. The class is also being attended by students from other three classrooms across China. It is the first science lecture from the Wentian lab module. The previous two lectures of the “Tiangong Class” series were delivered by the Shenzhou-13 crew from the station’s core module Tianhe.— Xinhua

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Spanish baby gets groundbreaking intestinal transplant

A 13-month old baby girl received the world's first intestinal transplant, Spanish health authorities have announced.

The baby "has already been discharged and is in perfect condition at home with her parents", said the statement from Madrid's La Paz hospital, issued Tuesday.

The baby received the organ via asystolic donation — from a donor at the end of their life.

This method of donation means "the organ to be transplanted does not deteriorate",

said the statement.

The technique had not previously been used for the intestine because it was not thought to be possible for this organ "despite the fact that 30 per cent of the candidates die on the waiting list", said the hospital.

"The intestine is a lymphoid organ closely linked to the person's immune system which, under normal conditions, is colonized by multiple germs," the statement added.

This means that the risk of "rejection and the possibility of

infection" is higher than in other transplants.

Three years of research and trials by several teams at the hospital were required to establish that such an operation was feasible, it added.

Spain is a world leader in organ transplants, according to figures from the Global Observatory on Donation and Transplantation. It also accounted for five per cent of organ donations in the world in 2021, when it has only 0.6 per cent of the world's population.—AFP



Doctors attend a surgery procedure to perform the first ever multi-visceral intestinal transplant from a controlled pediatric donor in asystole to a 13-month baby girl, in Madrid, Spain in this undated handout image obtained by Reuters on 11 October 2022. **PHOTO: LA PAZ HOSPITAL/AFP**

Brain cells in dish learn to play video game



Scientists are investigating the learning capacities of neurons in a dish. **PHOTO: ENVATO ELEMENTS/AFP**

NEUROSCIENTISTS have shown that lab-grown brain cells can learn to play the classic video game Pong, and could be capable of "intelligent and sentient behaviour."

Brett Kagan, who led a study published in the journal *Neuron* Wednesday, told AFP his findings open the door to a new type of

research into biological information processors, complementing normal digital computers.

"What machines can't do is learn things very quickly — if you need a machine learning algorithm to learn something, it requires thousands of data samples," he explained.

"But if you ask a human, or

train a dog, a dog can learn a trick in two or three tries."

Kagan, chief scientific officer at Melbourne-based Cortical Labs, set out to answer whether there is a way to harness the inherent intelligence of neurons.

Kagan and colleagues took mice cells from embryonic brains, and derived human neurons from adult stem cells.

They then grew them on top of microelectrode arrays that could read their activity and stimulate them. The experiments involved a cluster of around 800,000 neurons, roughly the size of a bumblebee brain.

In the game, a signal was sent from the left or right of the array to indicate where the ball was located, and "DishBrain," as the researchers called it, fired back signals to move the paddle, in a simplified, opponent-free version of Pong.—AFP

Human brain cells implanted in rats offer research gold mine

SCIENTISTS have successfully implanted and integrated human brain cells into newborn rats, creating a new way to study complex psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia and autism, and perhaps eventually test treatments.

Studying how these conditions develop is incredibly difficult — animals do not experience them like people, and humans cannot simply be opened up for research.

Scientists can assemble small sections of human brain tissue made from stem cells in petri dishes, and have already done so with more than a dozen brain regions. But in dishes, "neurons don't grow to the size which a human neuron in an actual human brain would grow," said Sergiu Pasca, the study's lead author and professor of psychiatry and behavioural sciences at Stanford University.

And isolated from a body,

they cannot tell us what symptoms a defect will cause.

To overcome those limitations, researchers implanted the groupings of human brain cells, called organoids, into the brains of young rats.

The rats' age was important: human neurons have been implanted into adult rats before, but an animal's brain stops developing at a certain age, limiting how well implanted cells can integrate.—AFP

War-torn Yemen battered by mental health crisis

DEPRESSION, post-traumatic stress disorder, psychosis: Yemen's seven years of brutal civil war have caused an explosion of mental illness overwhelming the basic health care services.

"We try to provide treatment, but we cannot treat everyone", said Adel Melhi, director of a psychiatric hospital in the rebel-blockaded city of Ta'izz, one of the places hardest

hit by the conflict.

Iran-backed Huthi rebels have fought a Saudi-led pro-government coalition since 2015 in a grinding war that has killed hundreds of thousands and pushed the impoverished nation to the brink of famine.

Aid groups have raised alarm with more than 23 million people — more than two-thirds of Yemen's population — dependent on aid.—AFP



Yemenis displaced by the conflict, receive food aid and supplies on 29 March 2022. **PHOTO: KHALED ZIAD/AFP**

Ecuador reports 43 new monkeypox cases

ECUADOR reported 43 new confirmed cases of monkeypox on Wednesday, bringing the country's total confirmed cases to 185.

Of the 185 patients, 67 have been discharged from hospital, while the epidemiological fence for 308 contacts is maintained, the Ministry of Public Health said in a statement.

Sixteen Ecuadorian provinces have been affected by monkeypox, with Pichincha, Guayas and Azuay ranking top with 63, 61 and 19 cases respectively.

The health ministry has maintained surveillance throughout the South American country and taken prevention and control actions, calling on Ecuadorians to use masks in certain places and go to the nearest health centers in case of showing symptoms.—Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

EU ministers discuss joint gas purchases, electricity market reform

EUROPEAN Union (EU) energy ministers held an informal meeting here on Wednesday to discuss solutions for high gas prices, preparing for the energy situation this winter, and a possible revision of the electricity market.

Discussions aimed to define the European Commission's legislative proposals on joint gas purchases and possible price capping, according to a statement issued by the Czech Presidency of the EU after the meeting.

"In the first part of the meeting, we focused on the issue of high gas prices and the search for a quick (...) effective solution. The discussion on this topic is not easy, each country has different conditions, different rules, different interests, but is crucial because we must mitigate the economic impacts," Czech Minister of Industry and Trade Jozef Sikela said.

"I expect the European Commission will take this dis-



Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala, European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen (from L to R, Rear) attend a press conference after an informal summit of the European Union (EU) in Prague, the Czech Republic, on 7 Oct 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/LIAN YI**

ussion into account during the preparation of the legislative proposal on this issue. It should be published by the Commission next week, and I believe that we will be able to discuss it at the formal Energy Council on 25 Oct in Luxembourg," he said.

"Afterwards, we will most likely call another extraordinary

meeting of energy ministers to seek approval," he added.

The main elements of the proposal should include a functional platform for joint gas purchases, increasing the transparency of the Title Transfer Facility (TTF) price index, and strengthening its resilience to speculative behaviour.—Xinhua

France begins direct gas shipments to Germany: operator



A natural gas storage facility in Bierwang, Germany. **PHOTO: LENNART PREISS/AFP**

FRANCE has started sending natural gas to Germany as part of its pledge to ensure EU energy solidarity as Russia reduces exports after its invasion of Ukraine, the French network operator said Thursday.

GRTgaz began modifying its pipeline networks months ago to be able to send gas to Germany, whose economy relies heavily on Russian exports

that Moscow has slashed in response to Western sanctions.

For decades, the French network was designed only to receive gas from eastern Europe.

"It's historic, the first time France is going to deliver gas directly to Germany — up to now we were sending it to our neighbour via Belgium," GRTgaz's managing director Thier-

ry Trouve told AFP.

Volumes of gas equivalent to around 31 gigawatt-hours per day began flowing early Thursday.

The connection has a maximum capacity of 100 GWh/day, which would be the equivalent output of four nuclear reactors, or 10 per cent of the total liquid natural gas France imports each day.

French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz agreed in September to an energy cooperation deal that would see France send gas to its neighbour if the Ukraine crisis dragged on.

The supply would allow Germany to produce more electricity that in turn could be sent back to the French grid during peak hours, since around half of France's 56 nuclear reactors remain offline for maintenance or safety checks.—AFP

Copyright or copycat?: Supreme Court hears Andy Warhol art case

THE nine justices of the US Supreme Court took on the role of art critics on Wednesday as they grappled with whether a photographer should be compensated for a picture she took of Prince used in a work by Andy Warhol.

In a lighter vein than in most cases before the court, arguments were sprinkled with eclectic pop culture references ranging from hit TV show "Mork & Mindy" to hip hop group 2 Live Crew to Stanley Kubrick's horror film "The Shining."

Justice Clarence Thomas volunteered at one point that he was a fan of Prince in the 1980s while Chief Justice John

Roberts displayed a familiarity with Dutch abstract artist Piet Mondrian. The case, Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts v. Goldsmith, could have far-reaching implications for US copyright law and the art world.

"The stakes for artistic expression in this case are high," said Roman Martinez, a lawyer for the Foundation, which was set up after Warhol's death in 1987. "It would make it illegal for artists, museums, galleries and collectors to display, sell profit from, maybe even possess, a significant quantity of works," Martinez said. "It would also chill the creation of new art."—AFP



Andy Warhol's 'Shot Sage Blue Marilyn' sold under the hammer for a record \$195 million. **PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/ ANGELA WEISS/AFP**

Microsoft avoids paying tax in many countries: study

TECH giant Microsoft has avoided billions in taxes in Britain, Australia and New Zealand, all countries where it has lucrative public sector contracts, because of its complex corporate structure, a study published Thursday claimed.

The company, which insists it respects local laws and regulations everywhere it operates, was starving the public purse of much-needed revenue while receiving taxpayer cash, the Centre for Corporate Tax Accountability and Research (Cictar) said.

"In many cases, Microsoft has paid zero tax in recent years by moving profits to companies tax-domiciled in Bermuda and other well-known tax havens,"

Cictar said in a statement.

According to the study, Microsoft Global Finance — an Irish subsidiary that has tax resident status in Bermuda — consolidated more than \$100 billion in investments and, despite an operating profit of \$2.4 billion, paid no tax in 2020.

In another example, Microsoft Singapore Holdings posted profits from dividends of \$22.4 billion in 2020 but announced a tax liability of just \$15.

"Microsoft boasts of profit margins of over 30 per cent to its shareholders. Yet, in the UK, Australia and New Zealand, filings show returns of three to four percent," said Jason Ward, an analyst with the organization. —AFP

Japan marks its railways' 150th anniversary with series of events



A commemorative train leaves JR Shimbashi Station in Tokyo on 14 Oct 2022, marking the 150th anniversary of the launch of Japan's first railway. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN celebrated the 150th anniversary of its railways on Friday with a series of events, observances and merchandising tie-ins in Tokyo and elsewhere.

At Shimbashi, one of the terminuses of Japan's first railway line opened

in 1872, the E655 Nagomi train used by the emperor and other imperial family members set off from what is now an East Japan Railway Co. station to add colour to the commemoration.

Also at a ceremony in the station square, which

has been home to a classic steam locomotive since the railways' 100th anniversary, visitors shopped at a special market selling railway-themed merchandise, regional products and other items.

Among the special products and tickets

made for the anniversary are solid-gold steam train models retailing at 15 million yen (\$102,000) each. According to JR East, there has been good uptake for the expensive items, and the company will continue to take orders until the end of November.

A special commemorative pass allowing unrestricted train travel for three days from 23 Oct on express and standard services on JR lines nationwide has also been well received.

Hisatsugu Miyata, a JR East executive, meanwhile laid flowers at the grave of Edmund Morel, a British engineer who contributed to establishing railways in Japan, at the Yokohama Foreign General Cemetery.—Kyodo

UK's Royal Mail says seeking to axe up to 10,000 jobs

BRITAIN'S Royal Mail postal operator is seeking to axe up to 10,000 jobs, its parent company said Friday, blaming industrial action for huge financial losses.

"Our operational full-time employee workforce

will need to reduce by an estimated 10,000 by the end of August 2023," parent group International Distribution Service said in a statement. The statement added that up to 6,000 compulsory redundancies may be required.

The firm said its position had "deteriorated due to a combination of the impact of the industrial dispute, an inability to deliver the joint productivity improvements" agreed with unions and "deteriorating parcel volumes".

Thousands of postal workers, who deliver parcels and letters across the nation in distinctive red vans with a crown logo, went on strike in August after being given a pay raise that fell far short of inflation.—AFP

Danone plans to withdraw from most of its business in Russia

FRENCH agribusiness Danone said Friday it planned to transfer control of its essential dairy and plant-based business in Russia, retaining only its infant nutrition branch.

One of the few multinationals to have remained in Russia since the Ukraine war, Danone said the move to "transfer the effective control" of the dairy business could result in a write off of up to one billion euros (\$980 million). The arm represented



Danone is one of the few multinationals to have remained in Russia — where it employs 8,000 people — since the

five per cent of Danone's net sales in 2022 so far.

"Danone considers

that this is the best option to ensure long-term local business continuity, for its

employees, consumers and partners," the group said in a statement.

The transaction will be subject to the approval of authorities, the group added. Danone will however retain the activities of its "specialized nutrition" arm, which includes infant milk. "Danone's priority remains to act responsibly and respectfully to its local employees, consumers, and partners throughout the process," the statement said Friday.—AFP

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

Central Committee for Holding Myanmar Gems Emporium
The Information on Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2022

1. The significant Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2022, under the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, will be held on October 19 to 25, 2022 at Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Genuine Myanmar pearl, gems and rough jade lots will be sold at the Emporium.

2. In accordance with the Myanmar Gem Law, local gems entrepreneurs who got permit to make gems extraction and local gems merchants who got licence to operate the finished gemstone making and dealings will be allowed to attend and purchase the Lots at Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2022 according to the terms and conditions.

3. For further information in detail about granted admission to purchase Lots at Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2022, can inquire and keep contact with Emporium Central Committee, Myanmar Gems Enterprise (Head Office), Myanmar Pearl Enterprise (Head Office) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Emporium Central Committee

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK NORBERG VOY.NO. (238W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK NORBERG VOY.NO. (238W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-10-2022 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 VENUS C VOY.NO. (2226S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V VENUS C VOY. NO. (2226S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-10-2022 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နှိုင်းတကာဝံ့ချိန်၌ ပုံနှိပ်လေ့ရှိက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

US and Saudi Arabia clash in public over oil cut, Russia

THE United States and Saudi Arabia traded bitter barbs Thursday over last week's OPEC+ oil output cut, with Washington accusing Riyadh of knowingly boosting Russian interests.

The Saudi-led OPEC+ cartel — which includes Russia — angered Washington by cutting production by two million barrels a day from November, adding further pressure on soaring crude prices.

Saudi Arabia issued a rare press release on Thursday expressing “total rejection” of ac-

cusations it was “taking sides” as President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine rages on.

But White House spokesman John Kirby quickly fired back, saying that Riyadh knew the cut “would increase Russian revenues and blunt the effectiveness of sanctions”.

The United States has vowed to re-evaluate ties with the oil-rich kingdom since the cut, which was seen as a diplomatic slap in the face for President Joe Biden.

Despite vowing to make the

kingdom an international “pariah” following the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, Biden travelled to Saudi Arabia in July and met with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman — with the two greeting each other with a high-profile fist bump.

The OPEC supply cut decision was “moral and military support because it allows (Putin) to continue to fund his war-making machine”, Kirby said, in unusually strong remarks.

It “certainly gave... Mr Putin a sense of comfort.”—AFP



Washington has accused Saudi Arabia of coercing other Opec+ members into 2m-barrel-a-day reduction. President Biden was pictured fist-bumping the Saudi crown prince before their talks on 15 July 2022. **PHOTO: ROYAL COURT OF SAUDI ARABIA/AFP**

Putin says ‘ball in EU court’ on restarting Nord Stream deliveries



After the Nord Stream pipelines connecting Russia to Europe were damaged by explosions, Putin said “the ball was in the EU's court” to resume deliveries. **PHOTO: AFP**

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday said his country was a reliable energy

supplier and blamed the West for disruptions on the market at an energy forum in Moscow.

After the Nord Stream pipelines connecting Russia to Europe were damaged by explosions, Putin said “the ball was in the EU's court” to resume deliveries.

“If they want to, then the taps can be turned on and that's it,” Putin said.

Moscow is “ready to start deliveries” through parts of the pipeline not affected by the leaks, he added. The Russian leader also said the leaks were the result of “international terrorism” that would benefit the United States, Poland and Ukraine. —AFP

Pro-Russian forces say captured villages near Bakhmut in Donetsk region

RUSSIAN-BACKED separatist forces in the eastern Donetsk region of Ukraine said Thursday they had captured two villages near the industrial city of Bakhmut, posting small gains against Kyiv's counter-offensive.

“A group of DNR and LNR troops — with fire support from the Russian Armed Forces — liberated Opytine and Ivangrad,” a statement released by separatist authorities said on Telegram, using acronyms for the so-called Donetsk and Lugansk people's republics.

The villages are located just south of Bakhmut, a wine-making and salt-mining city that used to be populated by some 70,000 people and which Russian forces have been pummeling for weeks to capture.

The reported gains come after weeks in which Ukrainian troops have been clawing back large swathes of territory in the south and east of Ukraine — including Donetsk — controlled by Russian forces for months.—AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Native Americans fear loss of Indigenous languages in US

As Native Americans this week celebrated Indigenous Peoples Day — the holiday increasingly recognized in the United States in lieu of “Columbus Day” — members of the continent's hundreds of tribes shared a common concern: the ongoing extinction of their ancestral languages.

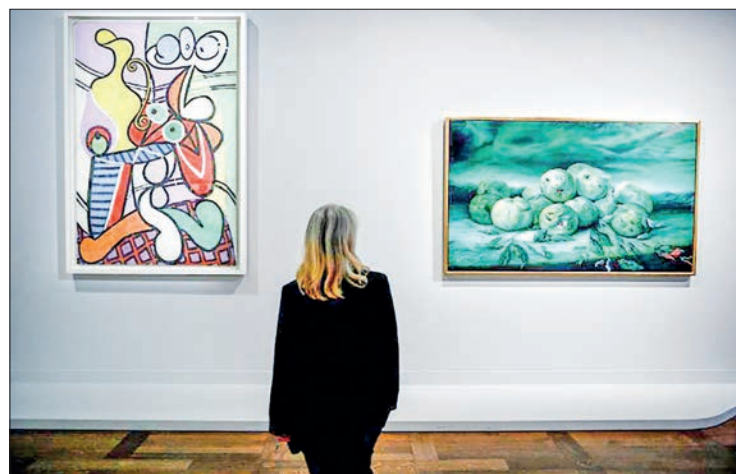
The United States is currently home to 6.8 million Native Americans, or two per cent of the population. —AFP

Picasso's first lover more than a victim in Paris expo

FIFTY years on from Pablo Picasso's death — and five years after the #MeToo movement started highlighting celebrities' abuse of women — a new exhibition in Paris focuses on one of the early partners of the controversial artist.

If Picasso's reputation has taken a battering in the post-MeToo world, it is in part due to his treatment of Fernande Olivier, his first serious partner.

But for Cecile Debray, director of the Picasso Museum in Paris, we cannot just view the artist few the prism of modern-day sensibilities.



A visitor looks at artworks titled ‘Grande Nature morte au gueridon’ (Great Still life on pedestal) (L) by artist Pablo Picasso and ‘Burlesque’ (R) by artist Glenn Brown as part of the ‘Les choses - Une histoire de la nature morte’ (Things - A History of Still Life) exhibition at the Louvre museum in Paris. **PHOTO: AFP**

Possessive and jealous, Picasso would lock Olivier in their ramshackle Paris apartment when he went out and made sure she doted on him while he worked long into the night.

This should not however overshadow the story of their time together, say the organizers of a new exhibition at the Montmartre Museum, in the north of Paris.

The new show puts pages from her memoirs alongside dozens of paintings and sculptures by Picasso and others from that famous artists' circle.—AFP

US Capitol riot probe votes to subpoena Trump to testify

LAWMAKERS probing the 2021 attack on the US Capitol voted Thursday to subpoena former president Donald Trump to testify on his role in the violence, in a major escalation of the sprawling inquiry weeks before it is due to wind up.

During what was expected to be its final hearing before the midterm elections, the House panel of seven Democrats and two Republicans agreed unanimously to compel Trump's appearance before investigators.

"We need to be fair and thorough and gain a full context for the evidence we've obtained. But

the need for this committee to hear from Donald Trump goes beyond our fact-finding," said Bennie Thompson, the chairman of the committee.

"This is a question about accountability to the American people. He must be accountable. He is required to answer for his actions."

Subpoenas from the panel have proved difficult to enforce, with former White House aide Steve Bannon the only target yet convicted of contempt of Congress for refusing to comply.

Trump is notorious for his ability to run down the clock on

congressional investigations and legal action, and it remains highly unlikely that he would agree to give evidence.

"Why didn't the Unselect Committee ask me to testify months ago? Why did they wait until the very end, the final moments of their last meeting?" thundered Trump, who has had a standing invitation to appear before the committee.

Reacting on his right-wing Truth Social platform, Trump said the committee was a "total 'BUST' that has only served to further divide our Country." — AFP



Majority Leader Charles E Schumer and Pelosi are seen on the screen making calls from a secure location as the House select committee investigating the 6 Jan attack on the US Capitol holds a hearing in the Cannon House Office Building on 13 Oct 2022 in Washington, DC. PHOTO: AFP

N. Korea launches another ballistic missile towards Sea of Japan



North Korea says it took "strong military countermeasures" after South Korean artillery fire. PHOTO: AFP

NORTH Korea launched early Friday a short-range ballistic missile towards the Sea of Japan, the Japanese government and South Korean military said, as it conducted the latest in a series

of missile tests that have heightened tensions.

The missile, launched at around 1:47 am, apparently travelled some 650 kilometres at a maximum altitude of 50 km and

splashed down outside Japan's exclusive economic zone, some 370 km from its coast, Japanese Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada told reporters.

Friday's launch was the eighth occasion North Korea has test-fired ballistic missiles since late September and came after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was reported by the country's official media to have overseen the test-firing Wednesday of two long-range strategic cruise missiles. Since the start of the year, North Korea has carried out 27 rounds of missile tests, including cruise missiles. But the tests since 25 Sept have been at an unprecedented pace and include one fired earlier this month over the Japanese archipelago for the first time in five years. — Kyodo

Türkiye introduces jail terms for 'fake news'

TÜRKIYE'S parliament on Thursday approved a tough pre-election law that could see reporters and social media users jailed for up to three years for spreading "fake news".

The new rules cement the government's already-firm grip on the media eight months before a general election that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan enters trailing in the polls.

The Council of Europe said the measure's vague definition of "disinformation" and accompanying threat of jail could have a "chilling effect and increased self-censorship, not least in view of the upcoming elections in June 2023".

The legislation — comprised of 40 amendments that each required a separate vote

— was proposed by Erdogan's Islamic-rooted AKP party and furiously opposed by Türkiye's main opposition groups.

One lawmaker from the secular CHP party smashed his mobile phone with a hammer in parliament to demonstrate how freedom of expression was being destroyed — particularly for the young.

"I would like to address my brothers who are 15, 16, 17 years old and who will be deciding the fate of Türkiye in 2023," CHP lawmaker Burak Erbay said before taking out his hammer.

"You have only one freedom left — the phone in your pocket. There's Instagram, YouTube, Facebook. You communicate there," he said ahead of the vote. — AFP

Asia's top film festival roots for regional talent

FROM a Singaporean widow on a K-drama voyage of self-discovery to teenagers seeking revenge on a bully, the movies vying for the key prize at the Busan International Film Festival showcase a diverse array of Asian experiences.

Ten films are in the running for the high-profile New Currents award at the festival — Asia's largest — which will hand out two prizes of \$30,000

to first- or second-time Asian directors on Friday.

Host South Korea — now a cultural powerhouse thanks to the explosive success of the Oscar-winning film "Parasite" and the Netflix series "Squid Game" — has two films in competition, including the highly talked-about "Hail to Hell" by Lim Oh-jeong.

The entertaining, at times genre-defying flick follows two

teenage girls as they travel to Seoul to confront their bully.

Critics have hailed its fresh approach to tackling popular tropes of South Korean cinema, including suicide and cults.

Lim, 40, has been coming to Busan as an audience member to watch films for two decades and said it was both "a huge honour and nerve-wracking" for local filmmakers like her to have their work in competition. — AFP



Peoples' Democratic Party's Zuleyha Gulum holds a banner "Truths cannot be obscured" as she stands with a covered mouth at the Turkish Grand National Assembly in Ankara on 13 Oct 2022. PHOTO: AFP



Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

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

Adidas, Morocco resolve row over Algeria football jerseys

GERMAN sportswear giant Adidas said Friday a row with Morocco over a design on a football top for arch-rivals Algeria had been resolved, and that it regretted the controversy.

Last month, Rabat asked Adidas to axe the new tops, accusing it of appropriating “Moroccan cultural heritage” due to the use of a pattern known as “zellige”, common in Moroccan ceramic mosaics. A lawyer acting for the culture ministry demanded the withdrawal within two weeks of the jerseys which he claimed was “inspired” by

the colourful Moroccan designs.

Adidas reported Friday a “positive resolution” to the dispute following talks with the ministry, and the tops, worn by the Algerian team for pre-match warm-ups, will not be withdrawn. “The design was inspired indeed by the zellige mosaics pattern, and was at no time intended to offend anyone,” said the company in a statement. “We would like to express our deep respect to the people and craftsmen of Morocco and regret the controversy surrounding this case.”—AFP



Algerian players wearing the tops that have upset Morocco before a friendly match against Guinea in September. Adidas says it has resolved the row. PHOTO: AFP

FIFA Rank: Myanmar women’s football team stands third in ASEAN



Myanmar Women’s National Football Team. PHOTO: MFF

MYANMAR women’s national football team is currently standing third in the ASEAN region with 48th in the FIFA ranking and 1,517 points earned, according to yesterday’s statement with the ASEAN Football Federation.

Viet Nam is still on top of ASEAN, while Indonesia leaps up 4 places.

Myanmar has taken 45th position in the world ranking last

year, and the team’s ranking is lower than before.

Viet Nam Women’s Team is still leading the ASEAN Zone with 34th in FIFA ranking and 1,643 points garnered and Thailand is in second place with 41st in FIFA rank and 1555 points collected. The Philippines team is in fourth place in ASEAN with 53rd FIFA rank plus 1,480 points earned.

Next, Laos is fifth with 85th of FIFA rank and team Malaysia is sixth with 88th ranking in FIFA.

Indonesia team is in seventh with 97th in the FIFA ranks.

The Myanmar women’s national football team has been known or nicknamed the “Asian Lionesses” and the team is made up of many ASEAN star players. —GNLM

Newcastle can be global giants like Man Utd, says Howe

EDDIE Howe says Newcastle can in future match Manchester United as a global force in football as they continue their dramatic rebuild under their wealthy Saudi-backed owners. The Magpies, sixth in the Premier League table, one point behind United, take on the Old Trafford giants on Sunday,

12 months after Mike Ashley’s troubled reign came to an end. Newcastle manager Howe said at his pre-match press conference on Friday that there was no limit to what could be achieved at the success-starved club, who have not won a major trophy since 1969. Asked if Newcastle

could ever be as big as 20-time English champions United, he replied: “I don’t like to put ceilings on individual players and I don’t like to put ceilings on clubs either.”

“Looking at my own history, Bournemouth were associated as a League One, League Two team, primarily League One,

but we have seen them grow into a Premier League club, so why not?”

“The aim of this club with the ambition behind the scenes – which is huge now – I have always said we have to now try and deliver those huge ambitions. But there is no ceiling here.”—AFP