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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.

SEZ contributes a great deal to the State economy as well as affects the GDP of the State: Vice-Senior General



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win views round the Kubota Myanmar Co Ltd in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone on 27 October 2022.

AS Thilawa SEZ is a successful one, efforts must be made for achieving more success, said Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win in a meeting with officials of Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee at the Chairman Office of the Zone yesterday afternoon.

First, management committee chairman U Ye Naing Tun reported on the progress

of the zone and work undertakings. Then, the video clip of the zone was presented. Chairman of the Work Committee for Myanmar Special Economic Zones Union Minister for Commerce U Aung Naing Oo reported on current undertakings in the zone, solving difficulties by the State and future plans. Those present explained the operating of the businesses with investments in the special economic zone.

After replying to the necessary facts and responding to the reports, the Vice-Senior General

delivered a speech. He said: Thilawa SEZ is partially implementing the objective of remedying the economy damaged by the COVID-19 pandemic. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19 which is one of the five-point roadmap of the State Administration Council. It is necessary to complete the implementation of Kyaukpadaung and Dawei Special Economic Zones as quickly as possible to increase products and export goods for the State

economy in accordance with the guidance of the Prime Minister. Moreover, it is necessary to build trust between investor countries and companies. As the Central Bank of Myanmar has officially made clarifications over the statement of the Financial Action Task Force-FATF, officials from CBM will be ordered to clarify the regular monetary circulation and the regular operation of the State economy if necessary. Moreover, brochures must be distributed using languages in Russia, Chi-

na and other regional countries in order to increase the inflow of FDI to the country. The Yangon Region government needs to help take possession of the land plots under the laws. The Yangon City Development Committee has arranged to supply an adequate volume of water to the zone.

In producing value-added products based on fruits, region-wise groups and cooperative societies should be set up depending on the different

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Practical course on trade and investment for commerce attaches held

PAGE-2

NATIONAL

Myanmar joins 10th AMCA and its associated meetings online

PAGE-4

NATIONAL

The Lab launched to empower Myanmar MSMEs

PAGE-5



CURRENT AFFAIRS

Over 63,000-tonne rice exported to external markets including European countries via sea route

PAGE-6



Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification No 1/2022

4th Waxing of Tazaungmone 1384 ME
27 October 2022

Removal from the list of registered political parties and dissolving

1. The Union Election Commission allowed the Union Betterment Party (UBP) to register as a political party with registration No 112 under notification No 58/2019 on 25-4-2019.
2. Regarding the report on dissolving the political party of the Union Betterment Party (UBP) on 11-10-2022, the UEC approved to dissolve and removal from the list of registered political parties in line with the Political Party Registration Law Section 19 (a) according to the decision made at the Union Election Commission Management Committee meeting 12/2022 held on 25-10-2022.
3. Therefore, the Union Betterment Party (UBP) has been removed from the list of registered political parties and dissolved starting 27 October 2022.

Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Practical course on trade and investment for commerce attaches held

DEPUTY Minister U Nyunt Aung of the Ministry of Commerce addressed the opening ceremony of a practical course on trade and investment for commerce attaches yesterday morning.

The deputy minister said that it is necessary for trade attaches to understand not only the economic situation of the country where they are assigned but also the global economic situation, and potential markets for their country's main exports. He also urged

them to have a wide knowledge of facts and figures on new export items and explore new markets and constantly study the relaxations of tax and regulations about investment and invite foreign investments.

He also called on the trainees to be loyal to the nation and abide by the rules for public servants wherever they are assigned.

Altogether sixteen commerce attaches to be sent to 12 foreign countries are attending the training course. — MNA



3rd Myanmar (Lashio)-China (Lancang) Border Trade Fair launched virtually

THE opening ceremony of the third Myanmar (Lashio)-China (Lancang) border trade fair from 27 to 30 October was organized virtually under the supervision of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization of the Ministry of Commerce at 9 am yesterday.

Shan State Economic Affairs Minister U Khun Thein Maung, Director-General Daw Naw Muta Kapaw of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, the Secretary of Party Committee of Lancang, Yunnan Province, the Mayor of Lancang and officials, members of Merchant Associations and representatives from 43 companies attended the cere-

mony. The director-general of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization and the secretary of the Lancang Party Committee delivered speeches. Then, the Shan State economic affairs minister declared the Myanmar (Lashio)-China (Lancang) border trade fair open.

A total of 43 Myanmar and Chinese companies will participate in the exhibition and display local products, foodstuffs, furniture, and clothes through the Myanmar Online Expo Park Platform for four days.

The visitors and buyers who want to attend the border fair can register at <http://www.myanmarexpopark.com>. — MNA



176 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 27 October, total figure rises to 631,235

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 631,235 after 176 new cases were reported on 27 October 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 605,151 have recovered from disease. Death toll stands at 19,480 without more casualties.

According to the study of people who had COVID-19 and people who died of COVID-19 from 28-1-2022 to 15-10-2022, it has been found that 90.4 per cent of Covid patients and 80.9 per cent of Covid deaths are not vaccinated at all or fully vaccinated, respectively.

Status of COVID-19 injection	COVID-19 Patient	Death with COVID-19
People have no vaccination and have not been fully inoculated.	90.4%	80.9%

According to the international study, it is found that people who have been vaccinated do not suffer severely from the disease, need not to be hospitalized and are unlikely to die. If they have received booster shots, the death rates can be reduced more. Therefore, it is a must for people aged five and above to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

The Ministry of Health is giving free vaccinations to all people aged five and above. Booster shots of vaccine are being given to students between the ages of 12 and 18 and people aged 18 and over.

Therefore, people should contact local health centres and village/ward administration offices to receive vaccinations. The information about COVID-19 disease can be seen on the Ministry of Health official website www.moh.gov.mm. —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.

Panglong Spirit

OUR country gained independence through the Panglong Agreement with Union spirit. The essence of the Panglong Agreement is the Panglong Spirit, which is also called the Union Spirit. The Union Spirit is based on building a future Union rooted in democracy and federalism. Therefore, holding meetings with ethnic armed organizations must be based on the Union Spirit to be able to discuss the actual requirements of the regions and the country.

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

SEZ contributes a great deal to the State economy as well as affects the GDP of the State: Vice-Senior General

FROM PAGE-1

periods of harvesting fruits in respective areas of the State. And, the awareness for growers must be raised on standard usage of pesticides on crops. SEZ contributes a great deal to the State economy as well as affects the GDP of the State. As Thilawa SEZ is a successful one, efforts must be made for achieving more success. And, efforts must be made for attracting more companies to enter the zone. As now is the time of striving for the all-round development of the nation, job creation will contribute to the development of

the State economy. As such, coordination must be done to sell the remaining land pots.

Then, the Vice-Senior General and party viewed the products manufactured by Thilawa SEZ and gave necessary instructions to officials at the hall of the zone.

The Vice-Senior General also viewed the functions of the factory of Kubota Myanmar Co Ltd in the zone, asked what he wanted to know and coordinated necessary measures.

A total of 114 companies from 21 countries operate their businesses at Thilawa SEZ with investments. —MNA



Press Release: Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting

THE Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Special AMM) was held on 27 October 2022 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Myanmar received the invitation from the Chair of ASEAN to assign a non-political representative to the meeting. It contradicts Article 5 of the ASEAN Charter on "Rights and Obligations". Since Myanmar fully adhered to the principle of non-interference in internal affairs and the principle of equal rights and obligations, Myanmar did not accept the invitation, which discriminates the level of representation among the Member States.

The meeting was held with only nine ASEAN Member States without Myanmar, which is not in line with the principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter. Therefore, Myanmar will not be bound by the outcomes of the meeting.

Since it assumed the state's responsibilities in line with the 2008 State Constitution, the State Administration Council has been implementing the Five-Point Roadmap to restore the multiparty democratic system. At the same time, as a responsible member state, Myanmar has been constructively cooperating with the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair in implementing the ASEAN five-point consensus.

To restore peace and stability in every corner of the country, the Government is holding several rounds of dialogues with Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs), political parties, and peace negotiation groups. The Government is also implementing the Five-Point Roadmap and achieving tangible progress. In addition, the Provision of Humanitarian Assistance through the AHA Centre is another notable progress made under ASEAN five-point consensus. While giving special consideration to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, the Govern-

ment continues facilitating the delivery of broader humanitarian assistance to the population without any discrimination. It will also continue to facilitate the Joint Need Assessment to start the Phase II process of the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance.

Although the Government is prioritizing building the Union based on democracy and federalism as desired by the people of Myanmar, the so-called NUG and PDF terrorist groups have been committing violent activities to disturb its efforts. Despite the challenges and undue pressure from inside and outside the country, Myanmar Government is cooperating with other fellow members to materialize the five-point consensus as a responsible member state. Since implementing the five-point consensus is a process, inserting additional pressure by setting a timeframe will create more negative implications than positive ones.

It is crucial to maintain ASEAN unity and centrality towards a sustainable regional organization, especially at this time of rising global rivalries and major power competitions. While respecting each other's sovereignty and integrity, ASEAN, a rule-based organization, must follow the provisions and fundamental principles of the ASEAN Charter, especially non-interference in the internal affairs of the member states. By so doing, ASEAN can maintain its unity and centrality.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Nay Pyi Taw

Date, 27 October 2022

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets Tatmadaw members and families in Mingaladon Station



SAC Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services C-in-C (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets officers, other ranks and family members of the Mingaladon Station in Yangon Region on 27 October 2022.

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win met with Tatmadaw members and families from Mingaladon Station at the station hall yesterday morning.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General explained recognizing the Tatmadaw (Air) for its efforts not to halt the aviation transport during the state of emergency, the attempts of instigating the endeavours of the Tatmadaw in its national duty and the institutional firmness of the Tatmadaw, efforts of the Tatmadaw in taking State responsibilities in accord with the Constitution, undertakings for systematic and accurate citizenship scrutiny cards and household registration so as to hold the free and fair election, formation of NUG, CRPH and

PDF to commit terror acts, legal efforts of the Tatmadaw to protect the life and property of the innocent people, nuns and monks and health and education staff who suffered brutal killing by NUG, CRPH and PDF terrorists, encroachments of some big countries which do not wish assumption of the State responsibilities of the Tatmadaw on administration mechanism of the State Administration Council, implementation of the five-point road map and nine objectives of the SAC, root causes of implementing the two national aspirations: prosperity of the State and food sufficiency, and two political processes: strengthening the genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and building the Union based on democracy and federalism, encouragement of the Prime Minister for agriculture, livestock and MSME sectors



The Vice-Senior General warmly greets the attendees at the meeting event.

to develop the State economy, efforts for restoring the perpetual peace, the policies adopted by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services since his assumption on military-owned and manageable scale agriculture and livestock farms for ensuring food sufficiency and

selling surplus ones to the local people at fair prices, physical and mental health and fitness of soldiers, and implementation of four military building tasks and convenience of the Tatmadaw members in their service terms, and attended to the needs of Tatmadaw mem-

bers and families.

The Vice-Senior General presented foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and families to officials.

After the meeting, the Vice-Senior General cordially greeted Tatmadaw members and families.—MNA

Myanmar joins 10th AMCA and its associated meetings online

LAOS hosted the 10th ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA) Meeting and its associated meetings via videoconferencing yesterday.

A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for ASEAN Culture and Arts Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko joined the meetings.

Speaking at the 10th AMCA Meeting, Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism Madam Sunanesavanh Vignaket of Laos said the sociocultural sector plays a key role in implementing the socio-economic development project in the post-COVID-19



Union Minister U Ko Ko attends the tenth ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts Meeting and related meetings virtually.

period and pledged to strengthen the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 including the ASCC Strategic Plan 2016-2025, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

Blueprint 2025 and declarations of AMCA and ASEAN statements to promote the socio-cultural cooperation with ASEAN Plus three countries—China, Japan

and Korea.

Then, Union Minister U Ko Ko said the culture and arts are crucial in the rehabilitation processes of COVID-hit social and economic sectors. It also appreciated the new generations who are participating in conserving the different cultures and customs of ASEAN and ASEAN heritages, promoting cooperation in innovative activities for culture and improving human resources during the outbreak of the pandemic. He also welcomed the implementation of the Siem Reap Declaration on culture. Myanmar also welcomed the motions of Cambodia

proposed at the International Conference on Cultural Property Protection: The Prevention of the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Properties: An ASEAN Perspective held in Cambodia in September 2022 and the AMCA statement.

The 18th Senior Officials' Meeting of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community and its associated meetings, held on 25 October, was joined by a delegation led by SOMAC Leader Director-General U Aung Myint of the Department of Historical Research and National Library of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture via videoconferencing.—MNA

MoI Union Minister inspects MRTV (Nay Pyi Taw), enjoys lunch with staff

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the MRTV in Tatkon Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

On arrival at the MRTV, the Union minister cordially greeted the staff and had lunch together with them at the dining hall.

Then, MRTV Director-General U Ye Naing explained the appointment of 14 newscasters for MRTV-HD, MRTV-News, MRTV Farmers and MRTV Sports and played the news reading video clips of these newcomers.

The Union minister said the newscasters should be proud of their work as they are serving duties for the channels of state-owned MRTV. Among the broadcasting services, it has to serve duty in person and should have confidence and learn continu-



Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn takes lunch together with MRTV staff in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

ously not to make any mistakes. The officials also should check the pronunciation, outfits and appearances of newscasters. The Union minister then provided cash to the staff.

He went to the News Studio construction site for MRTV-News Channel developed using the budget of this FY and gave officials to complete the necessary instructions in time after

the officials of tender-winning companies Elevate Broadcast Myanmar Co Ltd and Arrthit Man Technology Co Ltd presented the operations.

State Administration Coun-

cil Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the launching ceremony of MRTV News Channel marking the first anniversary of SAC on 1 February 2022. The innovative news presentation with High Definition (HD) is now done in a reserved news studio. If the new studio completes, the operations will be carried out there.

Then, the Union minister and party arrived at the Auditorium and enjoyed the dress rehearsal of the modern band of MRTV staff who will perform at the ministries in Nay Pyi Taw and awarded the band.

He then watched the player selection of the "MoI Football Team" to compete in Inter-Ministry Men's Football Tournament for Prime Minister's Cup and provided energy drinks and eggs to the players.—MNA

The Lab launched to empower Myanmar MSMEs



The launching event of the Lab is in progress on 26 October.

THE Lab is a subsidiary of Yever in Yangon, which is a consultancy offering custom-made solutions to corporate leaders, comprised of business consultants who provide pro-bono and low-bono

personalized business consulting services to help small businesses in Myanmar thrive.

It decided to provide free services to a small business by taking a draw lot. Such a consultant service's commit-

ment to its mission is to serve those who are left behind so that even the smallest businesses can get the help they need.

In the coming year, the Lab will share helpful insights and advice for MSMEs via the new Facebook page and will also hold a series of networking sessions across Myanmar to better understand and support the needs of Myanmar MSMEs.

The Lab helps small businesses identify their challenges and overcome them, offering a suite of services including business strategy and planning, HR, management, administration and operations and internal and external communications. — GNLM

Myanmar to export 10,000 tonnes of coffee

ARRANGEMENTS are underway to export 10,000 tonnes of coffee this coffee season, according to Patron of the Myanmar Coffee Association U Ye Myint.

Currently, high-quality coffee is being produced in coffee-growing regions and it is exported to foreign countries. Coffee starts to yield and will be abundant from November to February. It is arranged to export 10,000 tonnes of coffee to America, the Netherlands, Australia, Japan, Korea,

France, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Thailand and China, starting from April to May.

"We expect the coffee market to be good this year. This year, the yield is low because of insects and bad weather conditions. We expect to export it as much as we can. The domestic demand for coffee is also on the rise and people are growing more and more coffee plants," said U Ye Myint.

"All coffee field has been destroyed by insects of climate change, so the yield has de-

creased. With 10,000 tonnes of coffee produced in Myanmar, it is estimated to export. The domestic demand also increased and the price can be compared with imports as domestic products. Coffee plantation areas have also increased," he clarified.

During the coffee season last year, 5,000 tonnes of coffee were produced and almost all the produce was exported. One tonne of coffee fetched US\$5,500-US\$8,300, it is learnt. — Maung Aye Chan/GNLM

Myanmar to exhibit avocados at Thailand International Trade Fair in Bangkok

MYANMAR avocados will be introduced at the International Trade Fair to be held in Thailand, said to Vice-Chairman U Myo Nyunt of the Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association.

The exhibition which will be hosted in Bangkok in November will present Hass and Pinkerton avocado varieties from Myanmar. It is known that Myanmar-produced avocados will be displayed because of the interest they received, and it will be able to connect with the international market by participating in the fair.

"Preparations are being made for Myanmar avocados to be shown at the trade fair in Bangkok. Myanmar has widened the cultivation of foreign varieties in avocado

growing areas and the yield has increased. There will be high yields in 2023 and 2024. We need to find the market at that time.

Thus, we are making market research at trade fairs and connecting with international markets. We have introduced our avocados in France this month. Many European countries seem to like our Hass avocado variety at that exhibition," he added.

Avocados are grown in Shan State, Chin State, Mandalay Region and upper Sagaing Region in Myanmar. There are 23 avocado varieties, around 20,000 acres of avocado plantations and over 6,000 avocado farmers in Myanmar. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)/GNLM



Samples of Myanmar avocados to be exhibited.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Over 63,000-tonne rice exported to external markets including European countries via sea route

MYANMAR sent 63,930 tonnes of rice and broken rice to the international markets including European Union countries in the second week of October by sea, with an estimated value of US\$24.422 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Between 8 and 14 October, Myanmar exported over 26,090 tonnes of rice to European countries and over 9,410 tonnes to Asian countries.

The country delivered over 11,730 tonnes to Spain, 10,500 to Italy, 2,500 to Belgium, nearly 579 to Poland, over 380 to Slovenia, 250 to the UK and over 150 to Croatia in Europe. And it sent over 4,920 tonnes to the Philippines, 3,840 to China, 400 to Bangladesh and 250 to Malaysia in Asia.

More than 730 tonnes of rice worth \$0.275 million were exported to China through cross-border trade routes.

Rice exports through the seaborne trade and border trade earned \$14.889 million with 36,230 tonnes.

During that week ending 14 October, Myanmar's broken rice export generated \$8.411 million from 24,580 tonnes, with 2,860 tonnes to China, 26 to Singapore, 21,450 to Belgium and 250 to Poland.

Meanwhile, Myanmar sent over 3,110 tonnes of broken rice worth \$1.122



The photo shows bags of export rice being loaded onto the vessel.

million via Sino-Myanmar border posts. The volume of broken rice exported via normal trade and the border channel is estimated at 27,700 tonnes worth \$9.533 million.

The rice and broken rice export that week bagged \$24.422 million from 63,930 tonnes.

In the second week of October, the export volume was up by 25,000 tonnes and the figure showed an increase of \$9.67 million compared to the first week of October.

In September, Myanmar also shipped over 66,000 tonnes of rice and

broken rice to foreign countries including over 15,490 tonnes to European countries, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

The earnings from rice export were estimated at \$96.2 million in January 2021, \$45 million in February, \$42.4 million in March, \$47.5 million in April, \$72.8 million in May, \$74.7 million in June, \$18 million in July, \$18.8 million in August, \$38.2 million in September, \$56.2 million in October, \$72.2 million in November and \$105.1 million in December, totalling \$687.2 million. — TWA/GNLM

Myanmar logs \$177 mln from mineral exports in 7 months this FY

MYANMAR generated US\$177 million from mineral exports between 1 April and 14 October in the current financial year (2022-2023), according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The state-run business exported minerals worth over \$9 million to the external market, while the private sector recorded \$168 million from mineral exports, the Trade Department's statistics indicated. They are gems and jewellery, gold, jade, pearl, diamond, lead, tin, tungsten, silver, copper, zinc, charcoal and other minerals.

The Trade Department is endeavouring to boost exports and fulfil the needs of the raw materials for the manufacturing sector. It is focusing on ramping up the production of the necessary raw minerals to set up large enterprises for the economic development of the State in the long term and exploration of the important minerals.

Myanmar's mineral export was down by \$28.2 million in the State sector and \$163.6 million in the private sector compared to the figures recorded in the corresponding period of the 2021-2022 mini-budget period. The exploration and production of minerals are commonly found in Kayah State, Taninthayi, Mandalay and Sagaing regions. — TWA/GNLM

Sino-Myanmar border trade amounted to \$1.226 bln in H1

THE value of border trade between Myanmar and China through five border posts topped US\$1.226 billion between 1 April and 30 September in the current financial year 2022-2023, according to the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar has been conducting cross-border trade with the neighbouring countries (China, Thailand, Bangladesh and India) through 18 border posts.

In H1, Myanmar's trade through Muse and Lweje posts was valued at \$1.101 billion. The values of trade were registered at \$77.03 million in Chinshwehaw and \$42.76 million in Kampaiti posts. Kengtung border post witnessed trade worth \$4.9 million. Thailand is the major trade partner with Myanmar on the border, followed by China in second place. In the 2020-2021FY (October to September), Myanmar conveyed goods worth \$4.905 billion to China.

Following the ease of COVID-19 restrictions, Myanmar's border posts (Chinshwehaw, Kyinsankyawt and Kampaiti) were back to business. Additionally, Yuan-Kyat direct payment in the border trade was also allowed. Afterwards, the authorities are prioritizing the Sino-Myanmar border to return to normalcy, export promotion to China and increasing the income of the Myanmar citizens. — TWA/GNLM



A truck is being inspected at a border post between Myanmar and China.

75 township internal revenue offices expanded for online payment of taxes

THE Internal Revenue Department (IRD) announced that a total of 75 township internal revenue offices were expanded for the purpose of paying taxes online using a mobile payment method.

It is reported that the expansion was conducted for individual taxpayers at 111 revenue offices of Nay Pyi Taw, regions and states including the 75 additional revenue offices, to make tax payments through the IRD's website online payment using an MPU Debit Card.

A statement of the IRD mentioned that a notification for successful tax submission will be sent via email in the tax payment using MPU Debit Card. Likewise, a taxpayer will be notified electronically with proof of tax payment by the respective tax office after the accounts of the office received the tax.

In addition, the IRD notified that they have arranged CBM-NET — the payment network



The Internal Revenue Department in Mandalay Region.

system of the Central Bank of Myanmar and MPU Debit Card — the mobile payment so that company taxpayer offices and medium taxpayer offices can use them to facilitate tax payment.

The Internal Revenue Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance requested by June 2021 to cooperate in the use of electronic payment systems, which are much safer and

faster than other payment methods, for income tax payments on salaries of all taxpayers at the large taxpayer offices and medium taxpayer offices in Yangon, including that of company employees whose company pay taxes at those offices starting on 1 July in the financial year 2020-2021. Those who have accounts at State-owned banks are exceptions. — TWA/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar eyes foreign income with construction of international fish market

AS Myanmar is strategically located with its strategic coastlines and rich marine resources, the construction of an international fish market will bring about earning foreign income and a new basic infrastructure for economic growth.

Myanmar's fisheries products are caught in Rakhine State, Yangon Region, Mon State and Taninthayi coastal region and then delivered to cold storage facilities and processing factories. Yangon is the main distribution hub for external markets as it is the principal port of Myanmar with ocean-going ships docking. Furthermore, the international airport is located in the city. It has basic facilities for cold chain transport so there are good prospects to construct the fish market meeting international standards in Yangon city.

"There should be an international fish market in one country. Myanmar exports fish and shrimp to foreign markets and domestic markets. Its fish market is pretty big yet it does not meet the international standard.

There are Kyimyindine Central Sanpya Fish Market and Shwepadauk Fish Market in Yangon Region but they do not meet the standards of the global market. Yangon is suitable for developing an international fish market due to being the city of Port and a major export hub of seafood. As far as I'm concerned, Yangon regional government has come to the resolution to develop a project for the international fish market. As Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) has a good experience in fish markets, the Department of Fisheries, Yangon City Development Committee, MFF will implement this including natural environmental conservation activities. If this fish market emerge, it will generate foreign income and contribute to the economic growth as it is a country with rich natural resources in the region," said MFF Vice-Chair Dr Toe Nanda Tin.

To construct the international fish market, a vast plot of land is required on the banks of the Yangon, Hlaing and Pan-

hlaing rivers. The place to accommodate the vessels, the place where the ships dock, logistic warehouses for fisheries, distribution places for domestic markets and foreign markets, cold storage facilities, bus terminals and roads, sewage lines, 24-hour service shops, housings, banks and restaurants are requisite. Upon the emergence of the international fish market, Myanmar's fisheries export and consumer sector will improve and value-added production will create economic opportunities for the State and the fish farmers.

At present, Myanmar is stepping up to produce value-added fisheries products. The raw fish is mostly sent to Thailand and China. It is also shipped to other foreign markets through Viet Nam and Bangladesh. As value-added products can increase export income, the country aims for direct export of value-added products. It can support the country's agriculture and livestock sectors. The market will attract more foreign



Myanmar is strategically located with its strategic coastlines and rich marine resources and the construction of an international fish market will bring about earning foreign income and one new basic infrastructure for economic growth. **PHOTO: KANU**

buyers of Myanmar's freshwater/saltwater fisheries products for sure.

As agriculture and livestock are the backbones of Myanmar's economy, the international fish market is required when the country is making efforts for adopting advanced fishing methods shifting from traditional farming to ramp up production than the neighbouring countries, sustainable fishing and freshwater fish farming in

a momentum, conservation of livestock breeds for sustainable development, innovative, developing a profitable livestock business ideas, setting up a master plan, the sufficiency of agricultural by-products for livestock feedstuffs, increasing foreign income from the agriculture and livestock sectors and Myanmar's livestock production surpassing the regional countries. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

Fuel oil prices stable for two weeks



Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also poses only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate.

THE price of Octane 92 has been stable at below K2,000 per litre for two weeks, according to the fuel oil market.

The prices of fuel oil have gradually decreased since the fourth week of September. On 26 October, the prices stood at K1,965 per litre for Octane 92,

K2,055 for Octane 95, K2,600 for diesel and K2,680 for premium diesel.

In late August, the prices touched a high of K2,605 per litre for Octane 92, K2,670 for Octane 95, K3,245 for diesel and K3,330 for premium diesel.

The domestic fuel prices

are following the decline in the price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in southeast Asia, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

The committee is steering the oil sector effectively not to have a shortage of oil in the domestic market and ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The committee is scrutinizing and importing fuel oil to have an adequate supply in the domestic markets. From 12 October, 2.88 million gallons of premium diesel by MT Aulac Vision ship and 2.18 million gallons of diesel and 1.86 million gallons of premium diesel by MT Yu Yi ship were unloaded at the terminals of Thilawa Port. Furthermore, the MT Harmony One ship carrying 1.6 million gallons of diesel and 4.53 million gallons of premium diesel docked

again and the unloading of fuel oil is being undertaken. That being so, there is an adequate stock of fuel oil in the market.

Last month, fuel importers were allowed to import 233,594.60 tonnes of fuel oil (80,499 tonnes of gasoline and 153,095.60 tonnes of diesel).

The committee is issuing the daily reference rate for oil to offer a reasonable price to energy consumers. The reference rate is set on the MOPS' price assessment, shipping cost, profit margin, premium insurance and other general costs.

The rates for regions and states other than Yangon are evaluated after adding the transportation cost and the retail reference rates daily cover on the state-run newspapers and are posted on the media and official website and Facebook page of the department on a daily basis starting from 4 May.

According to the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. The domestic fuel price is highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss between the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than that of Myanmar. Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also poses only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. — NN/GNLM

OPINION

Don't neglect well-learning life of students

TODAY is the best time for students to start expediting the momentum of learning and studying their lessons taught in classrooms and accumulating general knowledge through reading to be applied to real life.

As the life of students at basic education schools, students have taken the first test of the academic year for enabling the teachers to be able to assess the education standards. The first test helps the teachers to decide how to teach their pupils who are

weak in learning and how to encourage the students who are outstanding in all subjects with a great prospect to have higher education standards.

These are anticipations of both the teacher and student sides. As a nature of humans, everybody prefers to accept a life of a higher standard in all aspects. So also, even the students who are weak in learning prefer to have higher education standards without effort in learning. Taking his significant point, teachers need to approach their students to shape better life of their students.

This being so, students also try hard in learning and study the lessons taught inside the classrooms. In today's knowledge age, the learning arena of students is not narrow but wider and wider on a daily basis. The education taught in the classroom is just for uplifting their physical standard whereas the knowledge accumulated in the current social arena is paving the path for

them to march onward to the goal of life.

As such, teachers are responsible for lecturing their students on how to encounter challenges in their life and how to manage themselves to be qualified. It should not be placed as an on-paper scheme. Both teachers and students are to follow the goal of the education arena.

Teachers and students from the education sector are responsible for building a modern nation through education. Such a kind of education can be analyzed with contents of school education, reading various subjects of books and accumulating general knowledge based on daily life relationships of the people. These are the best way for improving the qualification of students.

That is why students of Myanmar must be capable of shoulder to shoulder with those from international countries. The qualifications of Myanmar students at different levels must have initiative skills. Only when they apply such initiative skills will they have a chance to turn out well-versed citizens of the nation. If so, their relentless efforts will help life to have greater improvement without fail. Let's students start their hard-working in well learning to build a modern nation through education.

The Essay That Makes My Interest Stimulate

By Yin Nwe Ko

EVERY fortnight, I have to correct the essays of my intermediate-level students, which are submitted as a project. They have to do their projects in spite of having less time in their studies in various subjects. I have also to concentrate on their submitted work. First, I have to take great care sentence by sentence. Then, I contemplate whether their essays are going well with their titles and how many grades I will have to give them. Among many essays, some were very interesting and fantastic but realistic. However, most of them seemed to be common and general. One day, an essay made my interest rise and I read it three times from the beginning to the end. It was entitled "The Pressure of High Expectations". I guessed it seemed her personal experiences in her surroundings of education. The following is her original writing...

Just a week ago, I had what I considered bad grades. I had "B"s in English and math, and that made me feel like I was not meeting my parents' high expectations, as well as those of my siblings. In my family, the only acceptable grades are "A"s – anything lower, and my parents

will be disappointed. It bothered me, but I still did not feel overwhelmed by it. I knew that they were just quarter grades and if I brought them up by the end of the semester, everything would be fine. However, many students struggle with high expectations, whether it's academic or in sports because these expectations come with the pressure that some students cannot handle. The biggest problem with high expectations is that once students feel they can't handle the pressure, their schools are unable to provide resources to help.

High expectations can put students under intense pressure. In an article, once I read about how students in high-achieving schools have been designated as an "at-risk" group, the author wrote, "The unrelenting pressure on students in high-achieving schools comes from every direction, from overly invested parents who want. As coaches who want wins for their own personal reputations and school administrators who feel pressured to get high standardized scores in their school." It is hard to get things right when you have expectations dragging you down, especially when it's coming from the people you know or love. Sometimes



One of the problems with the pressure of expectations is that many teachers and schools don't have effective mental health strategies. **ILLUSTRATION CREDIT: KINDPNG**

these expectations can push students to their limits. I fear disappointing my parents and grandparents; the moment that I fear most is my parents realizing I did not meet their expectations. They expect good grades and good behaviour, which for me means straight "A"s and having good classroom behaviour. If I

cannot meet these expectations, not only will I be met with disappointment from my parents, but also consequences – less internet access, taking away my devices, and even more tutoring.

One of the problems with the pressure of expectations is that many teachers and schools don't have effective mental health

strategies. A teacher wrote on a website, "In my day-to-day work life, I see two common – and mostly inadequate – mental health strategies deployed to help high schoolers who look like they might be struggling: First, take some time, and second, get caught up. Even if the advice is phrased differently, it's usually

a variation on the same theme. Students are advised to take the adolescent equivalent of a personal day, and then complete their work accordingly."

This approach does not address the root of the problems that the students have, only the symptoms. It just tells the students to take a break, but that will not help them. Even after the "personal day", the student will still have to meet the same expectations they were trying to take a break from, and they will feel pressured all over again. The article I mentioned above reported that "adolescents in high-achieving schools can suffer significantly higher rates of anxiety, depression, substance abuse, and delinquent behaviours, at least two to three times the national average". The better the school, the higher the expectations for the students, and when schools do not have adequate mental health strategies, these students can suffer serious consequences. Schools should care more about how their students are doing emotionally, rather than how they're doing academically.

When I saw that I had a couple of "B"s, I was not over-

whelmed. I knew I had plenty of time to fix those grades. However, some people can feel overwhelmed by pressure coming from the high expectations created by the people in their lives. These students can't turn to their schools for help if the schools are not equipped with adequate mental health resources. Without help from schools, the students facing the pressure can suffer from consequences that can impact them physically and mentally. Schools need to focus more of their resources on their students' mental health, as well as put their students in a position where they can do well academically without the negative effects of stress and pressure. In order to do these things, the district and community need to make sure the schools have what they need.

That is the end of her essay. Moreover, we need to consider more about the pressures as an important requirement of OFSTED (The office for the standard of education) inspections – teacher expectations, particularly of disadvantaged students, must be high. However, a new study asks whether this policy has any unintended consequences for our

students. A good school must have high expectations for all students and urge them to achieve the most they can, whatever their starting point. No one would argue with this statement.

However, at the same time, there has been little research into the impact, or not, that high expectations might have. With increasing concern about mental health in our classrooms, could the climate of high expectations be partly to blame? Conclusions from a new study suggest that perhaps we should look more closely at the effect that applying "pressure of expectations" has on children's learning experiences. The research finds that teachers' pressure expectations might lead to pupils working harder but that there are other implications too.

The researchers, Lars-Erik Malmberg from the University of Oxford and Andrew J Martin from the University of New South Wales found that students reported enjoying lessons with higher pressure expectations less and that they also felt less confident in these subjects. This is not a criticism of the expectations agenda. The authors acknowledge the importance of pushing students and encouraging them to do well. But they do issue a word of warning that pushing too much may leave students feeling demotivated, exhausted, and with less confidence.

Reference: Teen Ink

Study confirms AstraZeneca jab's higher risk of very rare clot

ASTRAZENECA'S Covid vaccine has been linked to a 30-per-cent higher risk of getting a very rare blood clotting condition compared to the Pfizer jab, a large international study said Thursday.

Several countries have already altered their advice after previous research indicated that – in a tiny number of cases – thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) can be a possible side effect of Covid vaccines that use an adenovirus vector, or "engineered" Thrombocytopenia produces

potentially life-threatening blood clots with low levels of blood platelets – the small cell fragments in our blood that prevent bleeding.

The new study, published in the journal BMJ, was the first to compare thrombocytopenia rates between adenovirus and mRNA vaccines – such as Pfizer – across multiple countries.

The international research team analyzed health data from more than 10 million adults in France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States who received at least one vaccine dose between December 2020 and mid-

2021. In Germany and the UK, they matched the data of 1.3 million people who had a first dose of AstraZeneca to 2.1 million who took Pfizer.

There were a total of 862 "thrombocytopenia events" recorded in the 28 days after a first dose of AstraZeneca, compared to 520 for Pfizer, the study said.

That meant AstraZeneca's vaccine had a 30-per-cent higher risk of thrombocytopenia than Pfizer.

However when it came to a second dose, there was no additional risk between any of the vaccines.

The study was observational, meaning it could not show cause and effect. But the researchers said that additional analysis found the results to be consistent.

While very rare, these risks "should be considered when planning further immunization campaigns and future vaccine development", the study said.

'Safe and effective'

Sarah Pitt, a microbiologist at the UK's Brighton University who was not involved in the research, said the "well-designed" study "adds to the data showing that all vaccines are safe and effective".

The "extremely rare" cases of thrombocytopenia occurred after just 0.04 per cent of vaccine doses in Germany and the UK, she told AFP. Most countries had already been avoiding using adenovirus Covid vaccines for the older and young age groups who are more at risk, she added.

European countries have largely pivoted towards mRNA vaccines. AstraZeneca's jab was never authorized in the US, which limited the use of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 jab to certain individuals earlier this year.

SOURCE: AFP



Vials of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine and a syringe. **PHOTO: JOEL SAGET/AFP**

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*

13 children with congenital heart disease successfully treated at 550-bed Children's Hospital (Yangon)

PAEDIATRIC Cardiologist Dr Do Nguyen Tin from Viet Nam Ho Chi Minh City Children's Hospital 1, together with paediatric cardiologists led by Professor Dr Khin Maung Oo treated children with congenital heart disease using the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory without the need for surgery.

A total of 13 children with congenital heart disease were successfully treated on 22 and 23 September 2022 at the Heart Treatment Centre of 550-bed Children's Hospital, Yangon under the Ministry of Health.

Children's heart disease treatments are performed by paediatric cardiologists at the 550-bed Children's Hospital - Yangon. By inviting expert paediatric cardiologists from

abroad, a total of 1,390 children with heart disease have been successfully treated from August 2015 to date.

Paediatric Cardiologist Dr Do Nguyen Tin from Viet Nam Ho Chi Minh City Children's Hospital frequently collaborates with paediatric cardiologists at the 550-bed Children's Hospital - Yangon to successfully treat children with heart disease.

At the 550-bed Children's Hospital - Yangon, 26,370 children were treated as outpatients, and treatments were given to 1,452 child patients with echocardiogram treatment and 67 paediatric patients who underwent Cardiac Catheterization Procedures from 1 January 2022 to 12 October 2022. — MNA



CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, industrial materials and vehicles confiscated



Officials measure confiscated illegal timbers.

SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, an on-duty team captured an unregistered Super Custom car (estimated value of K6 million) at Kyweye Combined Checkpoint on 26 October. The action was filed under the Export and Import Law.

An inspection team led by Forest Department nabbed a total of 11.4352 tonnes of illegal sawn teaks worth K7,547,232 in Sagaing township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, officials con-

fiscated 2400 kilogrammes of Bopp Film worth K2,016,000 that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a Mitsubishi Canter car (approximately K25 million) heading from Myawady to Yangon at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 26 and 27 October, an on-duty team seized K3,110,000 worth of foodstuffs and construction materials that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from two vehicles heading from

Myawady to Yangon at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 27 October, a total of 9.6238 tonnes of illegal teaks worth K5,033,028 was captured in the Khabaung forest reserve of Toungoo district. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, seven arrests (estimated at K48,706,260) were made on 26 and 27 October, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD



Elderly women attend a paper-cutting workshop organized by a local community in Fengtai District of Beijing, capital of China, 8 March 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA/LI XIN/FILE

Nearly 1.03 bln people covered by basic old-age insurance in China: report

BY the end of 2021, the number of people covered by basic old-age insurance in China had reached nearly 1.03 billion, an increase of 30.07 million over the previous year, according to a report on the country's old-age programmes. The report, jointly released by the National Health Commission and the Office of the National Working Commission on Aging, noted that China had 267.36 million elderly people aged 60 and above by the end of last

year, accounting for 18.9 per cent of the total population.

By the end of 2021, the country had about 200.56 million elderly people aged 65 and above, of whom over 119.41 million had received health services in urban and rural communities, the report stated. By the end of last year, there were 358,000 elderly care institutions and facilities across the country, providing about 8.16 million beds, the report added.—Xinhua

Germany agrees plan to legalize recreational cannabis

GERMANY on Wednesday paved the way to legalizing the purchase and possession of small amounts of marijuana for recreational use, a step which would leave it with one of the most liberal cannabis policies in Europe.

The emblematic project will still need to gain approval from the European Union and the German parliament before entering the statute book, expected in 2024.

But the move marks a watershed moment in the drug debate in the EU's biggest economy, and amounts to a compromise between advocates of across-the-board legalization and critics who raise public health concerns.

Under the draft plans, production and supply of cannabis would be "permitted in a licenced and state-controlled framework", Health Minister Karl Lauterbach said at a news conference. Consumers would be allowed to purchase a maximum of between "20 and 30 grammes" of dried cannabis leaf for their private consumption, with supplies distributed through a net-



The Global Marijuana March (GMM), also referred to as the Million Marijuana March (MMM), is an annual rally held at different locations around the world on the first Saturday in May. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

work of authorized stores and pharmacies, according to the draft approved by cabinet ministers.

The major reform to Germany's drugs policy was intended to deliver "better youth and health protection", Lauterbach said.

The current legal framework had fallen short, he said, leading to a "flourishing black market" and encouraging criminality.

'Societal impact'

"A repressive drugs policy

has failed," Justice Minister Marco Buschmann said.

Legalisation would mean "better quality products and therefore better health protection, as well as relief for our law enforcement, so that they can concentrate on more important things", Buschmann wrote on Twitter.

The unregulated trade in cannabis would be "displaced" by the introduction of a framework for legal distribution, Lauterbach said.—AFP

Hong Kong finance chief contracts Covid ahead of banking summit

HONG Kong's finance chief could have to miss an upcoming global banking summit in the city, after his office revealed Thursday he had tested positive for the coronavirus.

City authorities are eager for the international finance get-together to show Hong Kong is open for business, having been previously isolated by China's zero-Covid policy.

Financial Secretary Paul Chan was scheduled to deliver speeches next Wednesday and Thursday at the conference, which is set to draw about 200 participants and the heads of 30 major financial institutions.

But it is now unclear if Chan will be able to attend.

He had been visiting Bahrain and Saudi Arabia to build trade ties and was scheduled to return Thursday. But he tested positive



Children are escorted from school in Hong Kong on 11 Jan 2022, as the city announced the suspension of face-to-face learning at all kindergarten and primary schools until after the Lunar New Year.

PHOTO: PETER PARKS/AFP

under a rapid antigen test in Riyadh, his office said.

"(Chan) has cancelled the remaining parts of the visit and will stay in Riyadh for a short while, and seek to comply with

relevant health requirements and return to Hong Kong as soon as possible," it said in a statement. The office did not immediately respond to AFP questions about his updated itinerary.—AFP

US reports over 28,000 monkeypox cases

MORE than 28,000 monkeypox cases had been confirmed in the United States as of Tuesday, according to the latest data of the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

California had the most confirmed cases among US states, with 5,372 cases, followed by New York with 4,082 and Florida with 2,697, according to the CDC data.

At least six people in the United States who tested positive for monkeypox had died, including two in Chicago, two in New York, one in Nevada and one in Maryland, local health departments confirmed.

Monkeypox infections are rarely fatal, with most cases resolving within two to four weeks. According to the World Health Organization, the disease has a fatality rate of around 3 to 6 per cent.—Xinhua

S.Korea reports 34,987 new COVID-19 cases

SOUTH Korea reported 34,987 new COVID-19 cases as of midnight Wednesday compared to 24 hours ago, raising the total number of infections to 25,431,105, the health authorities said Thursday.

The daily caseload was down from 40,842 the previous day, but it was higher than 25,376 tallied a week earlier, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA).

Among the new cases, 55 were imported, lifting the total to 69,482.

For the past week, the daily average number of domestic cases was 30,187. The number of infected people who were in serious condition stood at 242, unchanged from the previous day.

Twenty-six more deaths were confirmed, leaving the death toll at 29,069. The total fatality rate was 0.11 per cent.—Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

EU chief calls for closer ties to Central Asia in Kazakhstan visit



Michel is visiting two weeks after Astana hosted summits involving Russia. **PHOTO: KAZAKHSTAN PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE/AFP**

EU chief Charles Michel called on Thursday for closer ties with Central Asia on his first official visit to Kazakhstan, the main economic powerhouse in a region where Russia's influence has come under question.

"Central Asia and Europe are coming closer together and becoming more and more connected," Michel said at a press conference with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in the capital Astana.

The head of the EU Council said Kazakhstan was a "crucial partner" and the EU hoped to

"develop our cooperation".

Michel's visit comes eight months into Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has made Moscow's former Soviet neighbours nervous and intensified the Kremlin's clash with the West.

"My visit takes place at a difficult time for Europe and the wider region," Michel said, condemning Moscow's "war of aggression".

He is due to meet the leaders of all five Central Asian countries -- Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan -- at 4:00 pm

(1000 GMT).

This is the first EU-Central Asia summit, a gathering Michel described as "much more than just a policy dialogue between two regions".

"It's a powerful symbol of our reinforced cooperation," he said.

He singled out Kazakhstan as a major trading partner for the EU and called for investment in transport infrastructure in the country, which has looked to reduce its dependence on Moscow since the latter sent troops to Ukraine.—AFP

South Africa to swallow part of Eskom's debt to keep it afloat

SOUTH Africa's treasury vowed Wednesday to take over more than half of Eskom's multi-billion-dollar debt to ensure the embattled energy utility's viability and curb the energy crisis that has put a break on growth.

In a mini budget statement, Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana said government has decided to give Eskom 225 billion rand (\$12.4 billion) towards debt for the period 2019 to 2026. "The programme will allow Eskom to focus on plant performance and capital investment," the minister said before parliament, adding the debt takeover will ensure the company no longer relies on government bailouts.

Eskom, which he labelled the biggest risk to the economy, is bucking under a 400-billion-rand debt.

"The debt takeover, once finalized, together with other reforms will ensure that Eskom is financially sustainable," he said. The government has for more than a decade poured billions of rands into Eskom, "with limited improvements in the reliability of the electricity supply or the financial health of the company," he said. Sweeping power outages, caused by failures at ageing and poorly maintained infrastructure at Eskom — which provides almost all of South Africa's electricity — have worsened in recent months.—AFP



The South African government has for more than a decade poured billions of rands into Eskom, which provides almost all of South Africa's electricity. **PHOTO: HECTOR RETAMAL/ AFP**

ECB poised for bumper rate hike despite recession gloom

THE European Central Bank is expected to roll out another super-size rate hike Thursday to combat runaway inflation, despite concerns higher borrowing costs could deepen the pain of a looming recession.

The ECB's 25-member governing council is likely to lift key interest rates by 75 basis points for the second consecutive time, economists say.

The Frankfurt institution is under pressure to rein in record-high inflation, driven by surging food and especially energy prices in the wake of Russia's war in Ukraine. Eurozone inflation stood at just under 10 per cent in September, nearly five times the ECB's two-per-cent target. ECB president Christine Lagarde warned recently that inflation was "far too high" and more action was required to prevent price shocks from becoming "entrenched".

Like other central banks, the



Analysts see an interest rate hike of 0.75 percentage points as a done deal. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ECB is fighting back with a series of rate hikes intended to dampen demand by making credit more expensive for households and businesses -- at the risk of triggering an economic downturn.

"The 75 basis point rate hike looks like a done deal," said ING economist Carsten Brzeski, adding that the ECB "has turned a

blind eye on recession risks".

Political pushback

The outlook for the eurozone economy has darkened in recent weeks as the 19-nation region grapples with the fallout from the Ukraine war, soaring tensions with Moscow and pandemic-induced global supply chain woes.—AFP

BOJ likely reaffirm commitment to ultralow rates, weaker yen in focus

THE Bank of Japan is widely expected to maintain ultralow rates at the end of its two-day policy meeting from Thursday, even as its yen-weakening effect and surging import costs have come under greater scrutiny.

The Japanese central bank

has been going against the policy-tightening trend in major economies. It maintains that the recent bout of inflation, driven by higher commodity prices, will not last, and its 2 per cent inflation target can only be achieved stably with more robust wage growth.

The BOJ will likely make no change to its yield curve control program, under which it sets short-term interest rates at minus 0.1 per cent while guiding 10-year Japanese government bond yields around zero per cent.—Kyodo

Unicredit reports bumper third quarter

ITALY'S second-biggest bank, Unicredit, on Wednesday announced a net profit of 1.7 billion euros in the third quarter, up almost 62 per cent in a context of rising interest rates.

The result, which includes Unicredit's exposure to Russia, was well above the consensus of analysts provided by the bank, which had predicted a net profit of one billion euros.

It represents the "seventh consecutive quarter of record growth and the best first nine months and third quarter

in at least a decade", the bank said in a statement.

UniCredit now expects a net profit of more than 4.8 billion euros in 2022, compared to four billion euros previously, although this scenario excludes Russia.

Unicredit is among the European banks most exposed to Russia, which is currently subject to Western sanctions over the war in Ukraine. The group's turnover increased by 9.1 per cent to 4.8 billion euros, again exceeding the expectations of analysts who forecast 4.5 billion euros. —AFP

China unveils regulation on boosting development of self-employed businesses

CHINESE Premier Li Ke-qiang has signed a State Council decree unveiling a regulation on advancing the development of self-employed businesses.

The regulation, which will take effect on 1 Nov 2022, has set out specific preferential policies in areas including optimizing the business environment and protecting the lawful rights and interests of self-employed businesses.

The regulation clarifies the role of self-employed businesses in the socialist market economy

and the basic principles for promoting their development, and promises to simplify administrative procedures and improve the business environment to create favorable conditions for the healthy development of such businesses.

Meanwhile, the working mechanism for promoting the development of the businesses is set up in the regulation.

Support for these businesses in areas including registration of market entities, annual reporting services, supply of business premises as



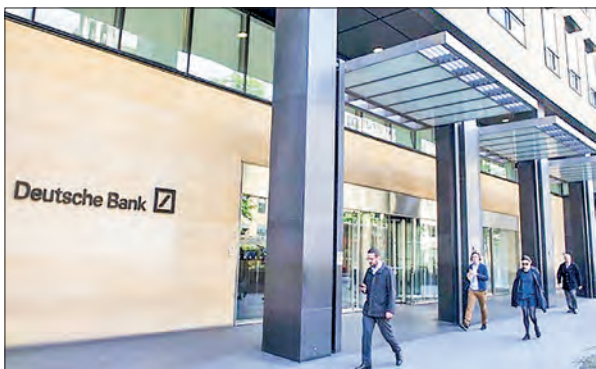
A saleswoman promotes socks during a livestream session in November, 2021 in Datang, a town in Zhuji, Zhejiang province. PHOTO: XINHUA

well as capital, taxation, finance, social security, entrepreneurship and employment will be provided by the government and its relevant departments.

The country will also strengthen protection of the legitimate rights and interests of self-employed businesses, according to the regulation.— Xinhua

Deutsche Bank net profit soars five-fold in Q3

GERMANY'S biggest lender Deutsche Bank on Wednesday said its third-quarter net profit had risen more than five-fold year-on-year, far better than expected, as a restructuring programme bears fruit. The group's net profit between July and September reached 1.1 billion euros (\$1.1 billion), compared with 194 million euros in the same period last year, it said in a statement. It was higher than forecasts by analysts



People walking past the Deutsche Bank entrance. PHOTO: AFP

from Factset, who predicted a net profit of 809 million euros. Profits before tax hit

1.6 billion euros — the best third-quarter result since 2006, according to the bank. —AFP

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (32/2022-2023)

- Open tenders are invited for supply of the following item in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(1)	DMP/L-117(22-23)	Gasoline Engine Oil and Gas Compressor Oil (Third Retender)	(2) Items Ks
(2)	DMP/L-180(22-23)	Fuel Filter, Oil Filter and Air Cleaner Element	(8) Groups Ks
- The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **28 October 2022** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
- The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications and Commercial Quotation with Original Bid Bond in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 12:00 pm on 11, November 2022.
- Tender Closing Date & Time – **11-11-2022, 12:00 pm**
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

သတင်းစာ ဖုန်းနံပါတ် အကဲသွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB242A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB242A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-10-2022** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V RESOLUTION VOY.NO. (2230S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RESOLUTION VOY.NO. (2230S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-10-2022** 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

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Putin oversees training of nuclear deterrence forces: Kremlin



Russian Yars intercontinental ballistic missile launchers parade through Red Square during the Victory Day military parade in central Moscow on 9 May. **PHOTO: ALEXANDER NEMENOV/AFP**

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday oversaw the training of Moscow's strategic deterrence forces, troops responsible for responding to threats of nuclear war, the Kremlin said. "Under the leadership of... Vladimir Putin, a training session was held with ground, sea and air strategic deterrence

forces, during which practical launches of ballistic and cruise missiles took place," the Kremlin said in a statement.

State television showed Putin overseeing the drills from a control room.

The drills included launching test missiles from the Kamchatka peninsula in the Russian

Far East and from the waters of the Barents Sea in the Arctic. The exercises also involved Tu-95 long-range aircrafts, the statement said. "The tasks envisaged during the training of the strategic deterrence forces were completed in full, all missiles reached their targets," the Kremlin said. —AFP

Russian media figure flees to Lithuania

KSENIA Sobchak, a Russian media figure and the daughter of Vladimir Putin's mentor, has fled her country for Lithuania, border officials in Vilnius said Wednesday, after Russian news agencies reported that she had become a suspect in an extortion

case.

Sobchak dismissed the case as the Russian government's attempt to put pressure on her media group, Attention Media.

"It is clear that it's an attack on my editorial team, the last remaining free editorial team

in Russia which had to be pressured," the 40-year-old said on Telegram.

An official at Lithuania's state border service speaking on condition of anonymity told AFP that Sobchak had arrived on an Israeli passport. —AFP

EU announces 500 million euro energy support package for Western Balkans

THE European Union has pledged 500 million euros (\$504 million) to improve energy infrastructure in the Western Balkans, commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said Wednesday in North Macedonia on the first stop of a tour of the region.

The announcement comes as rising energy prices triggered by Russia's war in Ukraine and the onset of winter send shockwaves through European economies already battling rising inflation.

According to von der Leyen the help starts with 80 million euros in immediate budget support for North Macedonia to "help address the impact of the high energy prices".

"But of course more will come. For example there are 500 million in grants for the

whole region to invest in energy connections, energy efficiency and of course renewable energy", von der Leyen said, highlighting the importance of being independent from Russian fossil fuels. Part of the support is through the joint purchase of gas on the global market. "Energy and economic crisis caused by the war in Ukraine have united Europe. Only united we can handle with the lack of energy and food", North Macedonia's Prime Minister Dimitar Kovacevski said.

The news will likely come as welcome relief to many countries across the Western Balkans, including North Macedonia where domestic production of electricity meets only two thirds of the country's annual needs. —AFP



The EU Commission chief is set to visit Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia in the coming days. Albania is working to diversify its energy sources, including by introducing gas and wind power.

PHOTO: AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Israel's far-right leader Ben-Gvir wins adoring young fans

ISRAEL'S far-right leader Itamar Ben-Gvir may have faced dozens of charges of hate speech against Arabs, but many young voters adore him as the voice of truth.

"The youth follow true messages," argued the Jewish Power party leader ahead of 1 November elections, at a time of flaring violence in the occupied West Bank.

"I don't say one thing and think something else," added the 46-year-old. "I offer my truth and my truth is that we must save the country."



Extremist Israeli Knesset member Itamar Ben-Gvir in Jerusalem on 13 February 2022. **PHOTO: AHMAD GHARABLI/AFP**

Ben-Gvir, who is often surrounded by throngs of devout boys and young men, said that "young people know that I will defend them when they are in the army. "They know I will protect the country" against "the jihadists," added Ben-Gvir, an incendiary figure in Israeli politics for years. As a teenage opponent of the Oslo Peace Accords with the Palestinians, he famously vandalised Yitzhak Rabin's car shortly before the then prime minister was assassinated in 1995. —AFP

High-profile Australian rape case abruptly ends in mistrial

A high-profile rape case that ignited nationwide protests across Australia abruptly ended Thursday in a mistrial, the latest twist in a courtroom saga involving some of the country's most senior politicians.

Brittany Higgins, 27, alleged that former conservative staffer Bruce Lehmann, 27, raped her on a couch inside the parliamentary office of a government minister following a night of heavy drinking in March 2019. —AFP

Battle for religious vote turns Brazil election into holy war

WHETHER piously bowing in prayer, wooing Evangelical pastors or fending off memes linking them to Satanism, Jair Bolsonaro and Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva have turned Brazil's polarizing presidential race into a holy war.

Religion plays an increasingly big role in politics in Brazil, where 59 per cent of people say it is an important factor in how they vote, according to polling firm Datafolha.

The South American giant of 215 million people is the

world's largest Catholic country — more than half its population — and also has a booming, politically powerful Evangelical community, estimated at nearly one-third the electorate.

Bolsonaro, a conservative Catholic, has cultivated close ties with Evangelicals and made religion a central part of his reelection campaign, running on the slogan of "God, country, family and freedom".

Lula -- also Catholic, but usually quieter about his faith -- has meanwhile grown increas-

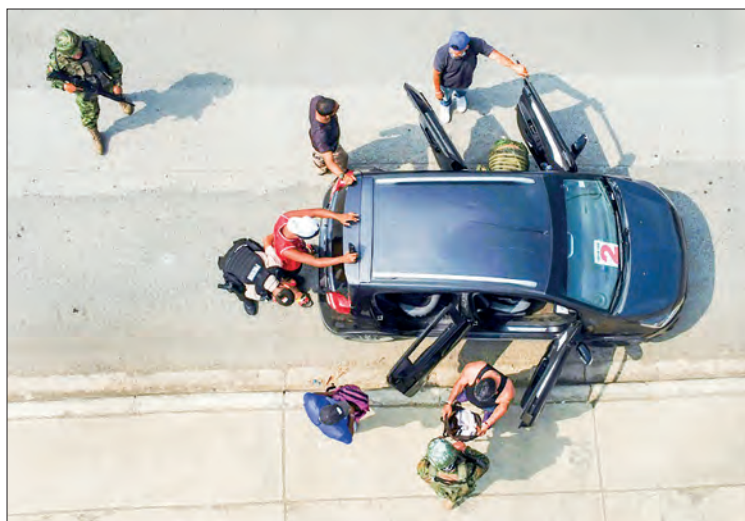
ingly vocal on religion, fending off a disinformation campaign accusing him of a plot to close churches and seeking to soothe Evangelicals' fears on the divisive issues of abortion and "gender ideology".

"Bringing religion into the debate makes the candidates' jobs easier. It's a way to increase voters' rejection of the adversary using issues with strong emotional appeal," says political scientist Leandro Consentino, of Inesper university.— AFP



President Jair Bolsonaro has cultivated close ties with Brazil's powerful Evangelical community. **PHOTO: AFP**

'Guayakill': Ecuadoran port city torn apart by gangs



So far this year, Guayaquil — the commercial heart of Ecuador — has seen 1,200 murders, a 60-per cent rise from 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

ENTIRE neighborhoods run by gangs, prison bloodbaths and police overwhelmed by criminal firepower: Drug trafficking has transformed the Ecuadoran city of Guayaquil into a den of violence.

The port city of 2.8 million people, which on Saturday hosts the final of the Copa Libertadores competition, has witnessed scenes of incredible barbarity in recent years.

Hundreds of inmates have

been killed -- many beheaded or incinerated -- in numerous prison battles, and civilians have increasingly gotten caught up in the gang war rocking the city rebaptized "Guayakill" by inhabitants.

So far this year, the commercial heart of Ecuador has seen 1,200 murders -- 60 per cent more than in 2021 according to official data.

Since last year, almost 400 inmates have died in several cities, most of them in Guayaquil, which has also been hit by a spate of car bombs and shocking scenes of bodies dangling from bridges.

And despite the government declaring states of emergency to allow for troop deployment and boosting police numbers in Guayaquil by over 1,000 to nearly 10,000, some fear it is a losing battle.—AFP

Transgender Thai media mogul buys Miss Universe pageant

A Thai media mogul and transgender rights campaigner has bought the firm that runs Miss Universe pageants for \$20 million, according to a company announcement.

Anne Jakapong Jakrajutatip, who also hosts the local edition of "Project Runway", becomes the first woman to own the beauty pageant organization outright, according to an announcement Wednesday by the JKN Global Group, of which she is chief ex-

ecutive. For much of its 70-year history, the pageant -- previously owned by former US president Donald Trump -- has been criticized as buttressing outmoded ideas of femininity. Jakapong said in a statement that the acquisition was an opportunity to "evolve the brand", while telling reporters she hoped it would boost Thailand's image abroad. "I hope that this will serve as soft power for Thailand, and bring more tourists to our country," she said

in Bangkok. She characterized the purchase from Endeavor's IMG as a "strong, strategic addition" to her company's portfolio. In a Facebook post, Jakapong thanked fans of the pageant for their love and support.

"We seek not only to continue its legacy of providing a platform to passionate individuals from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and traditions, but also to evolve the brand for the next generation," she said in a statement.—AFP



The 70-year-old Miss Universe pageant was previously owned by former US president Donald Trump. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

100 years on, nostalgia for Fascism persists in Italy

ON 28 October, 1922, Benito Mussolini's Fascist blackshirts entered Rome, marking the start of a dictatorship still viewed today with some indulgence in Italy. The centenary of the so-called March on Rome on Friday comes days after far-right leader Giorgia Meloni was named Italy's new prime minister, renewing debate on the legacy of Fascism. Although Meloni's Brothers of Italy party has neo-fascist roots, in her first speech to parliament this week she insisted she had "never felt sympathy or closeness to undemocratic regimes... including Fascism".—AFP

Türkiye doctors' union chair held after chemical weapons comment

TURKISH police on Wednesday detained the head of Türkiye's doctors' union on "terror propaganda" charges after she urged a probe into the army's alleged use of chemical weapons against Kurdish militants, the prosecutor's office said.

Türkiye has firmly rejected the allegations that appeared in media outlets close to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) that its army was using chemical weapons in its counter-terror operations in northern Iraq.—AFP

Putin oversees training of nuclear deterrence forces: Kremlin
PAGE-14



SPORT



Shan United's Ye Min Thu (No 3) runs for a celebration as he scores an opening goal for his team during the Week 17 match of Myanmar National League against Rakhine United at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 27 October 2022. **PHOTO: MNL**

Shan United beat Rakhine United to lead MNL table

DEFENDING Champion Shan United defeated Rakhine United FC in their Week 17 match of the Myanmar National League at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

The win ensures Shan United sits atop the Myanmar National League table with no loss record.

The whole match was dominated by the Shan team with a

speedy pass and counter-attack.

Shan United got an ice-breaker at 28 minutes and the goal was beautifully scored by Ye Min Thu at 28 minutes.

After garnering the goal, Shan players were eager to grab more chances.

Shan United star player Sithu Aung scored the winning goal or second goal at 44 minute-mark.

Shan led the first half 2-0.

The second half saw a better performance of Rakhine United but they could not convert their creations into goals.

Shan United defenders and goalkeepers were wise enough to block all the opponent's attacks till the final whistle and two goals were enough for Shan United to celebrate their victory at Thuwunna Stadium. — GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Liverpool 'feel great' again after reaching Champions League last 16

LIVERPOOL manager Jurgen Klopp said on Wednesday he is hoping the 3-0 win over Ajax to progress to the last 16 of the Champions League can help lift his side's sluggish Premier League form. The Reds have now won as many Champions League games this season as they have in 11 Premier League matches after a fourth consecutive European win in Amsterdam. Mohamed Salah, Darwin Nunez and Harvey Elliott were on target as they reached the knockout stage for a sixth consecutive season. "We are through to the knockouts and I will never take that for granted," said Klopp. "Really helpful for the club, of course it gives the lift. Tonight we all feel great and we have a few days to prepare for Leeds." Klopp's men still have a mountain to climb next week when Napoli visit Anfield if they are to finish top of Group A.—AFP

Barca crash out of Champions League again despite spending spree



Barcelona's players face their supporters after they were eliminated at the Champions League group stage for the second consecutive year. **PHOTO: AFP**

BARCELONA exited the Champions League at the group phase for the second season running on Wednesday, a 3-0 home defeat by Bayern Munich rubbing salt in the

wound after their fate was sealed 700 kilometres away. Inter Milan beat Viktoria Plzen at San Siro before kick-off at Camp Nou, ensuring Barcelona would drop into

the Europa League again despite their lavish summer expenditure on Robert Lewandowski, Jules Kounde, Raphinha and other players. With the club 1.3 billion

euros (\$1.31 billion) in debt at the end of 2021, Barcelona president Joan Laporta pulled "palancas" – levers – all summer long, like a Las Vegas slot machine, until he had cashed out the 865 million euro jackpot he was looking for. In came those star names, plus a raft of other signings including Franck Kessie, Andreas Christensen and Marcos Alonso, as coach Xavi Hernandez and the board revamped their squad, hunting for instant success.

The cost of their deals was 49 per cent of their production arm Barca Studios sold to Socios and Orpheus Media, raising 200 million euros, and 25 per cent of their La Liga television rights for the next 25 years sold to US investment firm Sixth Street across two deals, for around 665 million euros.—AFP

Trump, \$50 million and Snoop Dogg as LIV Golf ends first season

A \$50 million prize money purse is up for grabs at the Trump National this week but while the Saudi-backed LIV Golf Series is pulling out all the stops, even their most recognized player accepts it is missing something. American Phil Mickelson, whose switch from the PGA Tour to LIV Golf caused

a storm of criticism, has become the most prominent advocate for the breakaway circuit which he insists is "not going away".

But while talking up the new format and approach to the game, the six-times major winner accepted that the team championship, lucrative as it may be, can hardly be

compared to established team golf competitions such as the Ryder Cup or Presidents Cup. Asked Wednesday if the experience of those tournaments would prove an asset when action begins on the Blue Monster course on Friday, Mickelson was surprisingly candid.—AFP