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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.

State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar holds Kathina robe-offering ceremony for 2022

STATE Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held the Kathina robe-offering ceremony for 2022 at Sasana Maha Beikman of Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, attended by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla who donated Kathina robes and offerings.

The Senior General paid homage and offered alms in the alms bowl, flowers, water, oil lights and fruits to the Buddha image in Sasana Beikman.

The Senior General and congregation viewed round the



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and the congregation observe the Five Precepts from the Sanghas led by Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Kumara Bhivamsa at the SAC's 2022 Kathina robe-offering event in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 November 2022.

display of Kathina robes, offertories and Padethabin structures to be donated to Masoeyein Taikthit monastery in Thabyaygon Ward of Zabuthiri Township.

The congregation took the Five Precepts from State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Presiding Nayaka of Bhamo Monastery in Mandalay Abhidhamma Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Kumara Bhivamsa.

The Senior General and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla donated Kathina robes and alms to the Bhamo Sayadaw and Kathina robes and

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

MoC Union Minister receives delegation led by CITIC Vice-Chair

PAGE-4

CURRENT AFFAIRS

232 million gallons of drinking water supply in Yangon daily

PAGE-5

NATIONAL

Feasibility study to be conducted for Maei-Kyaukpyu road section

PAGE-6

LOCAL BUSINESS

Avocado from southern Shan State enters market at K3,000-K5,000 per kg

PAGE-7



Law Amending the National Education Law

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

18. Section 58 of the National Education Law shall be substituted as follows:-
 “58. Duties and functions of the ministry shall be as follows:-
 (a) seeking approval of the government by drawing the education policy
 (b) assigning the National Curriculum Committee, the National Education Standard and Qualification Guarantee Assessment Committee, other necessary committees, the council and the board in order to implement the national education vision and education policy
 (c) seeking approval of the government and assisting with undertakings to adopt action plans and education development projects for implementation of the policies and strategies for improvement of education qualification and development
 (d) drawing policies of respective sectors, strategies and action plans for implementation, education development projects and the law, rules and other procedures related to the education
 (e) providing assistance for experts, technologies, financial and school establishment of education promotion undertaken by regional administration bodies and contributing to equalization of education qualification standards
 (f) effectively cooperating with government departments, government organizations and other related internal and international organizations in the development of education
 (g) spending the budget for the education sector in accordance with the financial rules and regulations
 (h) arranging cooperation with internal and external organizations and local and foreign experts in education measures
 (i) setting appropriate plans for the students who halted learning education for any reason before completion of learning to have any suitable learning opportunity
 (j) setting the qualification guarantee standards
 (k) supervising and directing the spending of internal and international monetary assistance in the education sector
 (l) supervising and instructing opening of schools, suspension of the right of opening and closing”
19. The expression “shall implement” mentioned in Section 59 of the National Education Law shall be substituted with the word “shall continuously implement”.
20. Section 65 of the National Education Law shall be substituted as follows:-
 “65. The Ministry –
 (a) shall spend its fund on the expenses related to the commission.
 (b) shall spend its fund on the expenses of the committee, the council and the boards formed under this law.
 (c) shall set rewards and allowances for non-government servants involved in the committee, the council and the boards formed under this law in accord with the permission of the government.
21. In Section 69 of the National Education Law –
 (a) Sub-Section (b) shall be substituted as follows:-
 “(b) the ministry, the relevant ministries and their related departments shall have to release notifications, orders, directives and procedures.”
 (b) Sub-Section (c) shall be added behind Sub-Section (b) as follows:-
 “(c) the committee, the council and the boards formed by the ministry and the relevant ministries shall have to release notifications and directives.”

I hereby signed this law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

Organization Registration Law

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

- [d] the name of the person in charge of the organization within the nation
 - [e] the location and the address of the organization in the country where the organization is based
 - [f] country where the organization is based
 - [g] the documental evidence proving the recognition of the organization in the country where it is based
 - [h] the article of association of the country where the organization is based
 - [i] the Memorandum of Understanding [draft]
 - [j] the name of the person in charge of the office within the country
 - [k] the number of the executive committee
 - [1] Myanmar national
 - [2] expatriate
 - [l] the number of the member of the organization
 - [m] the contact address of the branch office of the organization within the country
 - [n] the type of social activity to be carried out within the country and the financial source.
 - [o] the recommendation by the government department which is related to the objective and the programme of the organization.
 - [p] the recommendations by the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations as well as by the Ministry of Immigration and Population.
 - [q] the letter seeking the opinion of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
 - [r] the permission of the administration board in the area where the INGO will carry out its activities.
 - [s] the names of the persons in charge of the branch offices of the organization opened within the country.
 - [t] the number of branch offices opened within the country and their contact addresses.
 - [u] the date of application submission.
 - [v] the personal undertaking to abide by the provisions enshrined in the existing law.
18. The Union Registration Board shall
- [a] issue the temporary registration certificate within 21 days excluding the gazetted holidays from the date of submission of the application to the INGO which has tendered the application under Section 17;
 - [b] scrutinize the application as prescribed after issuance of the temporary registration certificate;
 - [c] grant the registration of the INGO as long as there is no reason to adversely affect the perpetuity of sovereignty of the State, the rule of law, security and national unity; and
 - [d] issue the registration certificate within 30 days from the date of the decision to grant the registration.
19. [a] The international non-governmental organizations which have the chance to register shall
- (1) pay K500,000 of the registration fee set by the Union Registration Board to the relevant Myanmar Economic Banks within the designated period and take out the registration certificates by showing the evidence for completion of the paid fee.
 - (2) hand over the temporary registration certificate when taking out the registration certificates.
- [b] They shall face nullification of the issued temporary registration certificate and the allowed registration certificate for their expiry if they do not hand over the temporary registration certificate or if they do not take out the registration certificate or if they cannot show off the evidence to pay the registration fee.
20. If the Union Registration Board decides not to allow registration of the international non-governmental organization, it shall mention the firm reasons and send the letter of reply to the applicant international non-governmental organization within 30 days starting from the date of the decision.
21. [a] The international non-governmental organization which accepted the letter of reply not to allow the registration from the Union Registration Board shall apply for registration again within 30 days starting from the date of accepting the letter by amending and supplementing the necessary measures and clarifications related to the reasons of not allowing the application.

TO BE CONTINUED

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

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

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

State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union ...

FROM PAGE-1

offerings to Masoeyein Taikthit Monastery Agga Maha Gandhavasaka Pandita Bhaddanta Agga Dhamma respectively.

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe donated Kathina robes and alms to Secretary of SSMNC Presiding Nayaka of Thanlyin Minkyaung Pahtampyan Buddhist Learning Centre Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa. The SAC Secretary and wife, the joint secretary and wife, council members and their wives and senior military officers presented Kathina robes and offertories to mem-



The Senior General and wife present Kathina robes and alms to the Bhamo Sayadaw.



The Senior General and wife present the Kathina robes and offering to the Masoeyein Taikthit Sayadaw.

bers of the Sangha.

by Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw and shared merits gained.

The Senior General and party took a sermon delivered

After the ceremony, the



The Senior General and the congregation view the display at the event yesterday.



The Vice-Senior General and wife offer Kathina robes and alms to the Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw.

Senior General, wife and congregation offered day meals to members of the Sangha led by Bhamo Sayadaw.

ing ceremony for 2022 donated 44 Padethabin structures and K73,643,250. So, the total value of donations amounted to K112,965,850. — MNA

This Kathina robe-offer-

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Education, Higher Education Department
Statement

1. For those who passed the 2022 matriculation examination, the lists of students who get admission to first-year (first semester) day classes will be published at respective universities, degree colleges and colleges and on <http://www.moe.gov.mm> of the Ministry of Education and <http://www.dhe.gov.mm> of the Higher Education Department on 3-11-2022.
2. First-year (first semester) classes will be opened on 21-11-2022 and the enrolment processes are available at respective universities, degree colleges and colleges from 10-11-2022 to 9-12-2022 (including Saturday and Sunday).

Higher Education Department

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.

News and Periodicals Enterprise



MoC Union Minister receives delegation led by CITIC Vice-Chair

UNION Minister U Aung Naing Oo of the Ministry of Commerce received the delegation led by Vice-Chair Mr Frank Ma Chuanfu of the CITIC Consortium Myanmar Port Investment Limited at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they dis-

cussed the implementation processes of the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone.

The permanent secretary of the MoC, the deputy director-general of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization and officials also attended the meeting. — MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Commerce Department of Trade Export and Import Newsletter

No 10/2022

1. Only the banking system will be allowed for imports at border trade to strengthen compliance with the report of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and be systematic bank payment in export and import processes of border trade.

2. In doing so, it will allow using the incomes from exporting to other countries and other incomes including the salary and remittances of Myanmar nationals from other countries. The importers shall have to make payments for imports via the respective banks using these incomes. Adopting the banking system in border trade, the pilot programme will be launched in the Myanmar-Thai border trade initially.

3. The import processes of the Myanmar-Thai border trade will be allowed as follows: -

- When applying for import licences, the company must submit the original Credit Advice and Bank Statement issued by the relevant banks to the Department of Trade.
- The Department of Trade will scrutinize the amount of export incomes or other incomes submitted by the companies and grant import licences not exceeding the balance amount of their bank accounts.
- For opening the Import Declaration-ID for imported products that do not need import licences, the original Credit Advice and Bank Statement issued by the relevant banks must be submitted to the Department of Customs.

4. For the import sector, the plan to allow imports based on export incomes or other incomes will be implemented on 1 November 2022. For that process, the import licence applicants who applied within 31 October 2022 are not included. The import processes with the import licences issued before that date must be carried out before 30 November 2022 and if it fails, the import licences will be terminated.

5. Regarding the export incomes and other incomes, it will allow only the incomes received after 1 April 2022.

6. The export companies running at Myanmar-Thai border trade can import by using the export incomes by themselves or by transferring them to other companies. While importing by using these export incomes, they can also use the incomes received from the Myanmar-Thai border trade camp at other border trade camps.

Department of Trade
31 October 2022

Food poisoning cases occur in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Thakayta Townships

ABOUT 60 children suffered from food poisoning in Ward 67 of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township and No 29 Basic Education Primary School in Thakayta Township on 2 November, according to the township social organizations.

The children from a school in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township arrived at a clinic

with the symptoms of abdominal pain and vomiting. Then they were delivered to Yankin Children's Hospital, Halpin Children's Hospital, North Okkalapa Hospital and Yangon General Hospital by ambulance at noon.

Similarly, the children from 29 Basic Education Primary School, Thakayta, suffered from

abdominal pain and vomiting, so they were delivered to hospitals and the others received medical checkups at the school. In these two cases of food poisoning, most of the victims were under twelve.

The number of children who were hospitalized after suffering from food poisoning was unknown yet. — TWA/GNLM

132 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 2 November, total figure rises to 631,929

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **631,929** after **132** new cases were reported on 2 November 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **606,022** have recovered from disease. Death toll registers **19,483** without more casualties.

Up to 1-11-2022, 30,712,320 people aged 18 and above and 6,693,294 people aged 18 and under were vaccinated. 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

Weekly market update of dry groceries

DURING the week ending 1 November, the prices of Chinese potato, Shan potato, Kyukok garlic, black gram and pigeon peas (red gram) fell.

Onion

Following the entry of 96,000 visses of onions to the Yangon market on 1 November, the prices of onions increased again.

The prices stood at K3,100-4,100 per viss of onions from the Seikphyu area and K3,600-4,400 from the Myingyan area.

Garlic

The wholesale prices of the Kyukok garlic variety were K3,750-3,800 per viss and then, the price declined to K3,550 per viss on 1 November. Meanwhile, the local garlic from Shan State (Aungban area) moved in the range between K2,900-4,000 per viss.

Potato

The price of Chinese potatoes decreased from over K2,000 to K1,900-2,950 per viss on 1 November. Shan potatoes were priced at K1,400-1,700 per viss depending on quality.

Chilli pepper

Chinese bell peppers entered the market at K2,450 per viss in the Yangon wholesale market on 1 November. The wholesale prices of chilli peppers were K18,000-18,500 per viss of Shan long chilli pepper and K16,000 for the Moehtaung variety. The bell pepper from Shan State fetched K20,500 per viss.

On 1 November, the wholesale prices of bell pepper were K21,500-30,000 per viss depending on varieties and chilli peppers were priced at K15,500-22,000 per viss.



The photo shows a grocery that retails a range of foodstuffs.

Palm oil

The wholesale reference price of palm oil in the Yangon Region this week was up by K50 per viss compared to the last week's price. The reference price for a week from 31 October to 6 November was set at K4,225 per viss.

Consequently, the wholesale price of palm oil barrels was K4,250 per viss in Yangon markets.

Rice

New Pawsan rice entered Yangon's wholesale market with K50,000 per bag on 1 November. The prices of high-grade Pawsan stood at K85,000-91,000 per bag from the Shwebo area, K60,000-65,000 from Pathein/Myaungmya area and K57,000-60,000 from the Pyapon area, while the prices of other rice varieties were K48,000 of Pawkywe, K46,000 of short-mature rice (90 days), K43,000 for rice grown under the intercropping system, K41,000 for monsoon low-grade rice and K38,000 for broken rice.

Pulses

On 1 November, the prices of various pulses stood at over K1,710,000 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K2,030,000 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC), K1,955,000 per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) RC and K4,150-4,300 per viss of chickpea in Yangon markets. — TWA/GNLM



An entertainment commercial shows the programme of the Lashio Tazaungdaing festival.

Tazaungdaing festival of Lashio, northern Shan State, starts on 4 Nov

THE Tazaungdaing festival of Lashio, northern Shan State, which was halted for three years, will be held for four consecutive days beginning 4 November, according to the organizing committee of the festival.

The fourth Lashio Tazaungdaing festival will commence within the 32-acre precinct of Yantaingaug Sutaungpyae MyoOo Pagoda which is located at the entrance to the city. The opening ceremony of the newly

built People's Park and music concerts will also be held at the same venue on 5 November. It is known that various types of hot-air balloons will be released on 6 and 7 November.

A member of the festival organizing committee said that the audience will be entertained with traditional dances of Bamar, Shan, Kachin, Lahu, Myongzi or Hmong, Palaung, Wa, Lisu, Mong Wong Bamar and Kokang, including donation

of refreshment (alms-giving and charity) by donors.

The festival was held for the first time in 2016 and could be held annually till 2018. A period of three years: 2019, 2020 and 2021 are the years of COVID-19 transmission in Myanmar. Thus, Thadingyut and Tazaungdaing festivals, including pagoda festivals which were halted for three years, were re-celebrated this year. — TWA/GNLM

232 million gallons of drinking water supply in Yangon daily

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) said it currently distributes 232 million gallons of drinking water each day.

In Yangon Region, it supplied a total of 205 million gallons of drinking water previously and it added water to 27 more million gallons reaching 232 million gallons per day starting the second week of October 2022, according to YCDC.

The projects to improve the water supply are being implemented and the Kokkowa Water Supply Project, Lagunpyin Water Supply Project and Twantay International Water Treatment Plant Projects are also being carried out as a way to reduce the loss of freshwater.

The water is distributed to Yangon residents from Hlawga, Gyophyu, and Ngamoeyek reservoirs, Barlar Creek, Nyaunghnapin Water Treatment Plant, and Aungdagun Water-Treatment



PAC Chemical Liquid Storage Tank at Ngamoeyek Water Treatment Plant (Nyaunghnapin).

Plant daily. The tube wells are also used in some townships of the Yangon Region such as Shwepyitha, Hlinethaya and Hmawby townships, the committee said.

The Department of Engineering (Water and Sanitation) treats the water with PAC, and after purifying the water through the stages of the sedimentation tank and the chlorine dosage is

added to the purified water and it also tests the colour, pH, electrical conductivity, total dissolved solids (TDS), salinity, turbidity, residual chlorine at the mini-laboratory of the plant daily.

Similarly, a total of 29 including these seven types are also tested at the laboratory of the Engineering Department weekly to distribute clean drinking water. — TWA/GNLM

Feasibility study to be conducted for Maei-Kyaukpyu road section

THE Ministry of Construction says a feasibility study will be conducted on the Maei-Kyaukpyu road section as part of the Nay Pyi Taw-Aunglan-Maei-Kyaukpyu road project.

The Maei-Kyaukpyu section is a part of the Nay Pyi Taw-Aunglan-Maei-Kyaukpyu road project and the feasibility study on Nay Pyi Taw-Maei section has been completed and so the study will be conducted on the remaining road section, Maei-Kyaukpyu.

The Nay Pyi Taw-Aunglan-Maei-Kyaukpyu road project is one of the Early Harvest Projects of the China-Myanmar

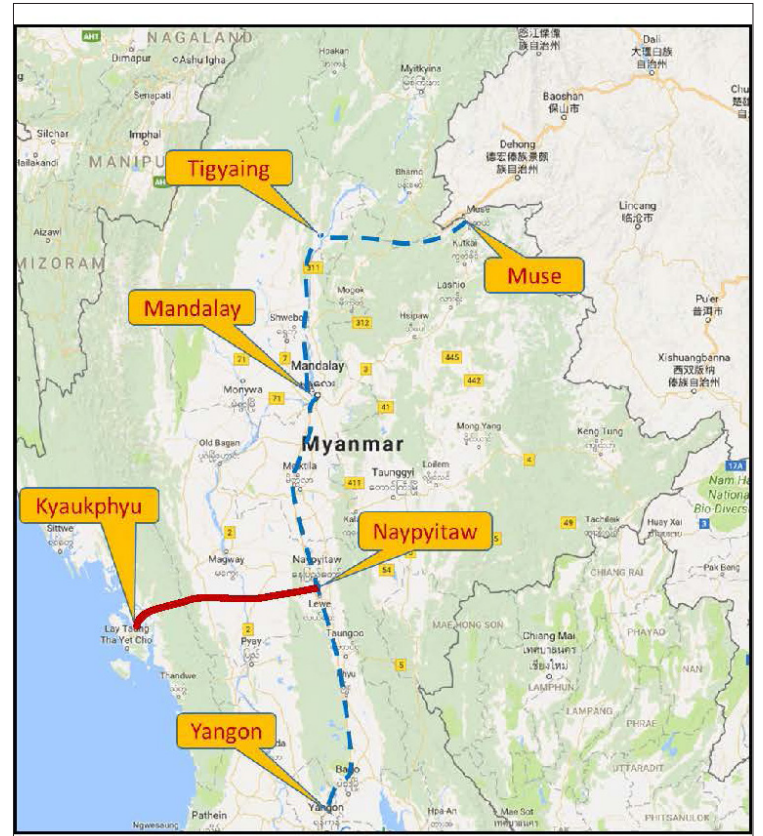
Economic Corridor.

“We completed the feasibility study on the Nay Pyi Taw-Aunglan-Maei road section. We arrange to sign MoU between Myanmar and China to continue the study on the Maei-Kyaukpyu section. That road project is bilateral trade. Then, the Maei-Kyaukpyu section is the project aiming for the number of vehicles used in the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone and Deep Seaport Project,” said an official of the Highways Department.

Myanmar and China signed an MoU on building the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor

in Beijing on 9 September 2018. According to the agreement, the Ministry of Construction signed an MoU with China Harbour Engineering Company Limited (CHEC) to launch the feasibility study for the Nay Pyi Taw-Aunglan-Maei-Kyaukpyu road project in 2018.

The project is crucial for China-Myanmar Economic Corridor and involved in the Priority Initial Rolling Pipeline Projects of Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (MPAC 2025), and is also listed in Myanmar National Project Bank. — Kay Kay/GNLM



Direction map of the Nay Pyi Taw-Aunglan-Maei-Kyaukpyu Road.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, cosmetics, boats and vehicles confiscated

ON 31 October, a combined team led by the Tatmadaw (Navy) under the supervision of the Taninthayi Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections in the Kyunsu township of Myeik district.

Officials captured a total of 10,2874 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K1,543,110 from a wooden-boat and related things at an estimated value of K1,350,000 at the south coast of Thankadaw-bayaw of Thechaung village and a total of 5,2028 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K780,420 from a wooden-boat and related things (approximately K1,050,000) at

the west off the coast of Tayapaing village. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, a combined team led by the Police Lt-Col of the Hlegu District Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force nabbed an unregistered Hijet (Daihatsu) car (estimated value of K3.5 million) near Dayelbo Tollgate on Yangon-Bago Road. The action was taken under the Law.

On 1 November, an on-duty team under the instructions of the Kayin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force made inspections at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint and

seized 10 rolls of textile worth K2.5 million without official documents from a vehicle heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Afterwards, a combined team led by the Customs Department confiscated K12,912,000 worth of cosmetics (made in Thailand) without official documents from a passenger bus heading from Tahley to Taunggyi at the Noungnon Combined Checkpoint of Kengtung township. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 2 November, a total of 9,6474 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K4,823,700 was captured in Nyaunglebin and Thayawady districts and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, seven arrests (approximately K28,459,230) were made on three consecutive days from 31 October to 2 November, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA



Seized illegal goods in Shan State.

Drugs seized in Taunggyi, Tachilek townships

DRUGS were seized in Taunggyi and Tachilek townships, Myanmar Police Force stated.

On 31 October, a combined inspection team consisting of members of the Shan State Police Force searched the farmhouse of Naing Lin Htet

in Phetnan village of Taunglaylone village-tract in Taunggyi township and found Phoe The, Aung Bo Hein, Zaw Htet Aung and Myo Ko Ko Htike together with 11,750 stimulant tablets and K56,000 but Naing Lin Htet was not found there.

Similarly, at 10:30 am on 1 November, the combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a house of Tee Toe (aka) Samkham in Wansouthkon village of Tachilek township and captured 1,200

Over K1.46 billion worth of stimulant tablets seized in Pyigyidagun Township



Three arrestees are pictured along with seized drugs.

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Police Force, a total of 975,000 stimulant tablets worth over K1.46 billion were seized in the Pyigyidagun township of Mandalay Region.

Acting on the information, a combined team consisting of members of the Mandalay Region Police Force searched a passenger bus driven by Myo Myint Maung (aka) Phoe Thar on Yangon-Mandalay Highway of Pyigyidagun township at 2 pm on 31 October and confiscated K1

million in addition to the stimulant tablets.

Myo Nyunt Aung (aka) A Nge Chay and Kyaw Kyaw Win (aka) U Kyaw who were involved in carrying the drugs were captured in Pyigyidagun Township.

They admitted that they carried the drugs from Mandalay Region to Rakhine State and they have been prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the Myanmar Police Force stated. — MNA

stimulant tablets and 0.03 kilogramme of Ice.

At 7:00 pm on the same day, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined a motorbike driven by Arsetyah on Bogyoke Aung San Road of

Tachilek and seized 5.4 kilogrammes of Happy Water.

They have been prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the Myanmar Police Force stated. — MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Avocado from southern Shan State enters market at K3,000-K5,000 per kg

AVOCADOS from the southern Shan State flowed into the markets with K3,000-K5,000 per kilogramme, according to the Kanbawza Trade Centre.

In addition to the avocado varieties that originated in the townships of southern Shan State, the local farmers cultivated Hass, Bacon, Fuerte, Lamb Hass, Reed and Zutano avocado varieties imported by California, the US through grafting.

There are approximately 10,000-15,000 acres of avocado plantations in the country and about 500 to 1,000 tonnes were produced this year.

At present, Hass avocado grown through grafting is harvested. Public companies, organizations and farm owners

tag brand labels and make good packaging. They send them to Yangon, Mandalay and other big cities after they connect with the customers through digital marketing. The avocado fetches K3,000-K5,000 per kilogramme depending on flaws and size.

Local avocados are regularly produced and exported to Thailand through Tachilek commodity centre. They are distributed to the domestic markets through Aungban depots and the trade centres in Taunggyi. The prices of avocados are K500-K1,000 per viss.

Growers from southern Shan State ramp up avocados production year over year. Additionally, Myanmar Avocado Producers and Exporters Association



Avocados from Shan State (South) are seen in the market.

led the partner institutions to earn the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certificate and Global GAP certificate to attract more foreign buyers.

Moreover, through the as-

sistance of the development partner institutions, Myanmar's avocado was showcased at the Thai FEX expo. Myanmar Avocado Producers and Exporters Association managed to show-

case Myanmar's avocado at the SIAL France to penetrate the European market. The public company in Shan State also displayed Myanmar's avocado at the third Myanmar Lashio-China Lincang Border Economic and Trade Fair held online with an aim to introduce Myanmar's avocado. The association is also making efforts to participate in Asia Fruit Logistics 2022 to explore markets, according to the Kanbawza Trade Centre.

Myanmar conveyed 2,383.740 tonnes of avocado worth US\$0.562 million to foreign trade partners by sea or through land borders in the 2020-2021 Financial Year, mostly to Thailand via the Tachilek border trade post, the trade data indicated. - NN/GNLM

Corn prices bounce back over K1,100 per viss



At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions.

THE price of corn has rebounded to over K1,100 per viss, according to the corn market.

The prevailing price of corn is K1,120 per viss on 1 November in the markets.

The increase in corn price is attributed to the Kyat depreciation against the US dollar and the strong demand by exporters.

Myanmar shipped corn to Viet Nam and the Philippines by sea, according to Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

A total of 112 companies have been given the go-ahead for maize export and some companies commence exporting, said U Aye Chan Aung, chair of the association.

Thailand gives green light to corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand.

The directive released on 30 June said that transactions for the exports of agricultural products including corn, rice, bean and oil crops are to be made in dollars instead of Yuan-Kyat/Baht-Kyat.

Therefore, the export earnings of the corn have to be exchanged for the US dollar according to the reference rate of

the Central Bank of Myanmar (K2,100), making the traders tough financially.

Nonetheless, there is a large gap between the regulated rate and the unofficial rate of the US dollar (over K3,000).

Myanmar exported 2.3 million tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the 2020-2021 financial year. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to China, India and Viet Nam.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. - NN/GNLM

Myanmar exports rose, chrysanthemum to Malaysia on trial run

ROSE and chrysanthemums produced from the southern Shan State have been exported to the Malaysian market on a trial run, according to the Kanbawza Trade Centre.

At present, Aungban flower depot sent one carton of 600 fragrant and two cartons of 500 white and yellow chrysanthemums and roses to Malaysia by air by connecting with a company based in Yangon on a trail run. If the flowers are in good condition in the markets and air cargo goes well, flowers will be further exported for the long term.

Beyond the domestic markets, exports of Myanmar's flowers will create more business opportunities for the growers.

Southern Shan State has favourable and suitable weather conditions for the flower plantation. The flowers are grown in Kalaw, Heho, Nyaungshwe and Aungban townships throughout the year, covering 800 to 1,000 acres.

The growers primarily cultivate roses, chrysanthemums, eugenia and lilies. They directly distribute them to the domestic markets or deliver them through the Aungban flower depot. The sales volume of various flowers is estimated to be over a million per month.

The prices stood at K2,000-K2,300 per 10 pieces of rose and K2,000-K2,200 per 10 Pieces of chrysanthemum, according to flower depots. - NN/GNLM



A plantation of chrysanthemum is seen in Shan State (South).

OPINION

Discard jealousy not to derail from the peace of mind

EVERYBODY needs culturing peace of mind for anticipating a better future in their lives. Only when they build themselves in peace will they have the keenness to build a peaceful society.

The nature of peace removes all kinds of inappropriate behaviours of living beings, especially from humans. In fact, culturing the nature of peace of mind cannot be easy forever. The persons who can set up the peace of mind have made utmost efforts for their activities to foster peace of mind.

Indeed, if they ease their tensions in competition in their life, jealousy will decline in their soul. If so, their souls will have to bear the peace of mind. It is a great point for human life. To have such a chance, everybody needs to accept the victory of opponents. Moreover, they have to satisfy with their positions and property.

jealous moves. So, they mostly talk about the topics in a negative sense. If so, they are gradually far from society or they are set aside from society. These are a reflection of their actual acts. A peaceful mind is never found in its features. So also, they cannot bear peace of mind in their souls and hearts. They have derailed the correct way of life.

Indeed, if they ease their tensions in competition in their life, jealousy will decline in their soul. If so, their souls will have to bear the peace of mind. It is a great point for human life. To have such a chance, everybody needs to accept the victory of opponents. Moreover, they have to satisfy with their positions and property.

Everybody should not change happiness and peace with jealousy. In life, jealousy can destroy the minds of everyone. But, it is necessary to take a long time for rebuilding peace of mind. So, everybody needs to control their soul not to be derailed from the peaceful mind.

Monkeypox still global health emergency: WHO

THE World Health Organization said Tuesday that its emergency committee had determined that monkeypox should continue to be classified as a global health emergency.

Following a meeting on 20 October about the virus that suddenly started spreading across the world in May, the experts "held the consensus view that the event continues to meet the ... criteria for a Public Health Emergency of International Concern," WHO said in a statement.

The UN health agency first declared the so-called PHEIC — its highest level of alarm — on 23 July, and the experts said that while some progress had been made in reining in the disease, it was too soon to declare the emergency over.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus had accepted and agreed with the experts' advice, the statement said.

Since monkeypox suddenly began spreading beyond the West African countries where it has

long been endemic six months ago, it has killed 36 people out of more than 77,000 cases across 109 countries, according to a WHO count.

The outbreak outside of West Africa has primarily affected young men who have sex with men.

But since peaking in July, the number of people infected with the disease that causes fever, muscular aches and large boil-like skin lesions, has consistently fallen, particularly in Europe and

North America, the hardest hit areas in the early stages of the global outbreak.

The number of new global cases fell by 41 per cent in the seven days up to Monday compared to the previous week, the WHO said.

But WHO's emergency committee stressed that there were a number of lingering causes for concern.

They listed ongoing transmission in some regions, continuing preparedness and response

inequity within and between countries, and the potential for greater health impacts if the virus begins spreading more among more vulnerable populations.

They also pointed to the continuing risk of stigma and discrimination, weak health systems in some developing countries leading to under-reporting and the lack of equitable access to diagnostics, antivirals and vaccines.

SOURCE: AFP



A woman receives a dose of monkeypox vaccine in New Orleans, the United States, 13 August 2022. PHOTO: LAN WEI/XINHUA

Detection of new COVID-19 sub-variants in India raises concern

NEW virulent sub-variants of Omicron spreading COVID-19 infection have been detected in India, raising concerns over infections spreading with the onset of winter.

Sub-variants XBB, XBB.1 and XBB.3 have been found in various parts of India.

XBB, a recombinant lineage between two Omicron sub-lineages, BJ.1 and BA.2.75 is a fast-spreading sub-variant of the COVID-19 virus.

Other sub-variants of Omicron — BA.2.3.20 and BQ.1 variant — have also been detected for the first time in India from the sample of a patient in Pune. The BQ.1 is a descendant of BA.5. Sub-variant BF.7 was detected by Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre in mid-October.

XBB VARIANT: A NEW CONCERN

Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) experts said XBB and XBB.1 are perhaps the most immune-evasive sub-variants to date and can evade the immune response of vaccines currently being used to fight COVID-19.

In wake of the detection of these new sub-variants, India's health officials have urged people to strictly follow COVID-19 appropriate behaviour to prevent themselves from getting infected



In wake of the detection of these new sub-variants, India's health officials have urged people to strictly follow COVID-19 appropriate behaviour to prevent themselves from getting infected and thereby contribute to lessening the spike in such cases. PHOTO: AFP

and thereby contribute to lessening the spike in such cases.

According to World Health Organization (WHO), Omicron remains a COVID-19 variant of concern, with early evidence pointing to XBB and XBB.1 posing a higher reinfection risk than other circulating Omicron sub-lineages.

Nine states in India have reported the presence of XBB sub-variant.

Local media reported that there were 380 confirmed cases of XBB in India.

INSACOG KEEPS VIGILANCE

Scientists at INSACOG are closely monitoring the emer-

missibility and immune evasion resulting in transmission advantage over other variants," Rajesh Gokhale, who heads INSACOG, was quoted by local media as having said.

"In India, the Omicron sub-lineages or sub-variants keep diversifying. It has a few new spike mutations," said Gokhale.

According to Gokhale, a modest increase in the spread of XBB in Singapore has been observed, however, in India, there have been no reports of an increase in the severity of the disease or in hospitalizations associated with these variants.

VACCINES, ONLY PROTECTION AVAILABLE

Last month India's vaccine maker Serum Institute of India (SII) said it had to dump 100 million expired doses of their COVID-19 vaccine.

According to Adar Poonawalla, CEO of SII, the vaccine maker stopped producing the Covishield vaccine in December last year due to low demand.

India has administered over two billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines and Covishield accounts for over 90 per cent of the doses given in the South Asian country.

According to federal health ministry data, more than 70 per

cent of the Indian population has taken at least two doses.

India began offering booster doses to healthcare and front-line workers, and those above 60 years with comorbidities in January this year. The coverage was extended to all adults from 10 April.

So far, India has administered 220 million booster doses, the health ministry said.

Dr Sanjay Pujari, infectious diseases expert and member of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), has said vaccines may work well in preventing severe illness associated with the new XBB sub-variant.

"XBB sub-variant is perhaps the most immune-evasive variant till date, especially for escaping neutralizing antibody responses induced by vaccinations or previous infections. This can lead to an increase in infections. However, there is no data about it being associated with more severe illness," said Pujari.

"Based on the Singapore experience, it seems vaccines may work well in preventing severe illness associated with this sub-variant," he said, urging the public to receive booster doses. "Hence taking boosters are important, especially for individuals with high risk for severe illness."

SOURCE: XINHUA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 2 November 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the South Andaman Sea, South Bay and Westcentral Bay of Bengal and a few cloud over the North Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at (17:30)hrs MST today, the Tropical Storm "Nalgae" over South China Sea moving North-Northwestwards slowly and forecast to reach Gaungdong Coast, China around (3.11.2022).

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 3 November, 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (3-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon, and Ayeyawady regions and Southern Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin, and Mon States

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 November 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 November, 2022: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 November 2022: Partly cloudy.

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ENVIRON WORLD

Nile is in mortal danger, from its source to the sea



A view of the church of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Saint George and its adjacent service building, overlooking the Nile river in the Egyptian capital Cairo's southern suburb of Kozzika, about 15 kilometres south of the city centre. **PHOTO: AMIR MAKAR/AFP/FILE**

THE pharaohs worshipped it as a god, the eternal bringer of life. But the clock is ticking on the Nile.

Climate change, pollution and exploitation by man are putting existential pressure on the world's second longest river, on which half a billion people depend for survival.

All along its 6,500-kilometre (4,000-mile) length, alarm bells are ringing.

From Egypt to Uganda, AFP teams have gone out on the ground to gauge the decline of a river that drains a tenth of the African continent.

At its mouth on the Mediterranean, Sayed Mohammed

is watching Egypt's fertile Nile Delta disappear. In Sudan, fellow farmer Mohammed Jomaa fears for his harvests, while at its threatened source in Uganda, there is less and less hydroelectric power for Christine Nalwadda Kalema to light her mud and wattle home.

"The Nile is the most important thing for us," said Jomaa, who at 17 is the latest generation of his family to work the river's rich banks at Alty in Gezira state.

"We certainly do not wish for anything to change," he said.

But the Nile is no longer the unperturbable river of myth. In half a century its flow has dropped from 3,000 cubic metres (10,600 cubic feet) per second to 2,830 cubic metres.

Yet it could get much, much worse. With multiple droughts in east Africa, its flow could fall by 70 per cent, according to the United Nations' most dire predictions.—AFP

New potentially hazardous asteroid discovered

AN international team of astronomers on Monday announced the discovery of a large asteroid whose orbit crosses that of Earth, creating a small chance far in the future of a catastrophic collision.

The 1.5 kilometre- (0.9 mile) wide asteroid, named 2022 AP7, was discovered in area notoriously difficult to spot objects due to the glare from the Sun.

It was found along with two other near-Earth asteroids using a high-tech instrument on the Victor M. Blanco telescope in Chile that was originally developed to study dark matter.

"2022 AP7 crosses Earth's orbit, which makes it a potentially hazardous asteroid, but it currently does not now or anytime in the future have a trajectory that will have it collide with the Earth," said lead author of the findings, astronomer Scott Sheppard of the Carnegie Institution for Science.

The potential threat comes

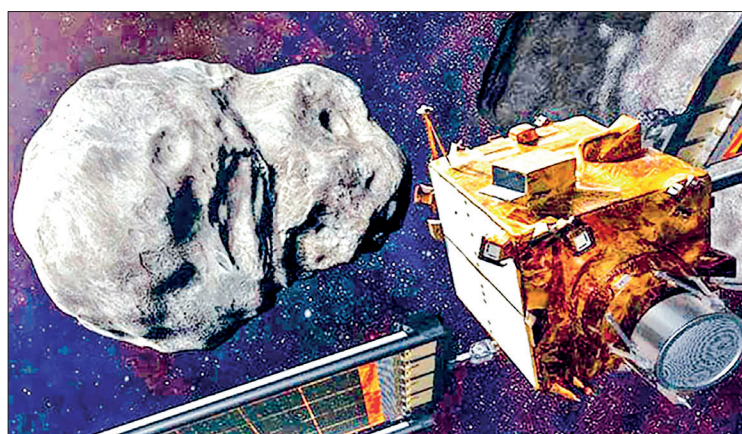
from the fact that like any orbiting object, its trajectory will be slowly modified due to myriad gravitational forces, notably by planets. Forecasts are therefore difficult on the very long term.

The newly-discovered asteroid is "the largest object that is potentially hazardous to Earth to be discovered in the last eight years," said NOIR-Lab, a US-funded research group that operates multiple

observatories.

2022 AP7 takes five years to circle the Sun under its current orbit, which at its closest point to Earth remain several million kilometres away.

The risk is therefore very small, but in case of a collision, an asteroid of that size "would have a devastating impact on life as we know it," said Sheppard.—AFP



Artwork: Only in the last 50 minutes or so before impact will Dart discern its target as a separate body. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE/NASA**

Despite conflict Russia sends France giant magnet for nuclear fusion project

RUSSIA on Tuesday dispatched one of six giant magnets needed for the ITER nuclear fusion programme in France, one of the last international scientific projects Moscow participates in despite the Ukraine conflict.

The ship carrying the Russian-made magnet — or "poloidal field coil" — departed Saint Petersburg on Tuesday under grey skies.

On board, the massive nine-metre-wide coil, which weighs 200 tonnes had been tightly wrapped to withstand a two-week trip to Marseille, southern France.

The ring-shaped magnet built under Russian atomic agency Rosatom's supervision will make up the top part of the world's largest "tokamak".

The tokamak is a magnetic fusion device built in France following the same principle

that powers our sun and stars.

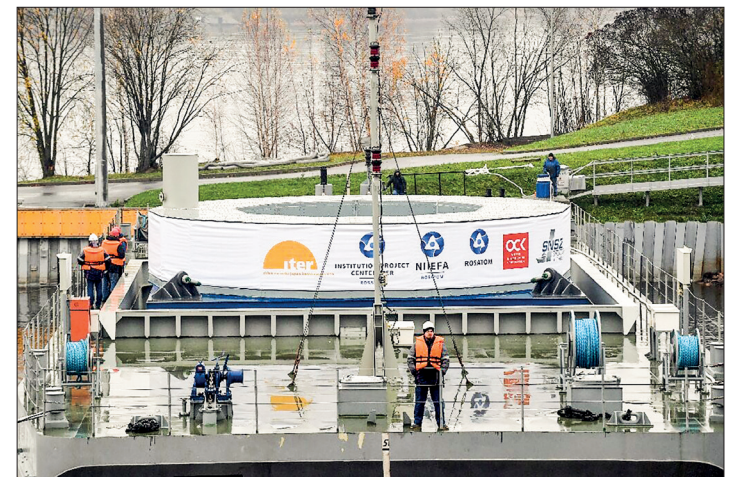
The Russian piece was meant to leave in May but sanctions forbidding Russian ships docking in Europe delayed the departure.

Still, the "current situation did not change the fact that we will fulfil our obligations", Rosatom representative for international projects Viacheslav Perchukov said.

Geopolitical tensions "practically did not affect the realization of this project", Perchukov said.

"Without (the Russian coil), the tokamak will not work," senior ITER centre scientist Leonid Khimchenko told AFP. He hailed a "unique" achievement, over eight years in the making.

In southern France, 35 nations are collaborating to build the largest nuclear fusion device in the world.—AFP



The magnet built under Russian atomic agency Rosatom's supervision will make up the top part of the world's largest "tokamak" — a fusion device built in France on the same principle that powers our sun. **PHOTO: AFP**

Blue whales eat 10 million pieces of microplastic a day: study

BLUE whales consume up to 10 million pieces of microplastic every day, research estimated Tuesday, suggesting that the omnipresent pollution poses a bigger danger to the world's largest animal than previously thought. The tiny fragments of plastic have been found everywhere from the deepest oceans to the highest mountains, and even inside human organs and blood.

Now a modelling study

published in the journal Nature Communications has estimated how much is being ingested by whales. A US-led research team put tags on 191 blue, fin and humpback whales that live off the coast of California to observe their movements. "It's basically like an Apple Watch, just on the back of a whale," said Shirel Kahane-Rappaport, a researcher at California State University, Fullerton and the study's first author.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

US faces more severe flu season, coinciding with RSV, pandemic threats

THE United States is facing a more severe flu season this year, coinciding with an increase in COVID-19 transmission and a surge in cases of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

The flu has arrived significantly earlier this year, causing more hospitalizations at this point in the season than in the past decade, according to the latest data from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The southeast and south-central areas of the country reported the highest levels of flu, according to the CDC.

The CDC estimates that, so far this season, there have been



A street performer waits for customers next to a mobile COVID-19 testing site on Times Square in New York, the United States, 20 Dec 2021.

PHOTO: XINHUA/WANG YING/FILE

at least 880,000 flu illnesses, 6,900 hospitalizations, and 360 deaths from flu nationwide. The first flu-related paediatric death of the season was reported in the week ending 22 Oct., according to the CDC.

The CDC recommends that everyone ages six months and older get a flu vaccine annually.

“Vaccination helps prevent infection and can also prevent serious outcomes in people who get vaccinated but still get sick with flu,” said the agency.

“It’s unusual, but we’re coming out of an unusual COVID pandemic that has really affected influenza and other respiratory viruses that are circulating,” Lynnette Brammer, epidemiologist and head of the CDC’s domestic influenza surveillance team, told The Washington Post.

Brammer added that this season’s flu vaccine is well matched against the circulating viruses, urging vaccinations as soon as possible.

Health experts warned a “triple-demic” of respiratory illness this winter caused by an earlier-than-normal flu season, a surge in RSV cases and increase in COVID transmission.

In particular, RSV infections among young children are filling some US hospitals to capacity. Surveillance data collected by the CDC clearly shows a rise in RSV cases nationwide in recent weeks, with cases detected by PCR tests more than tripling over the past two months.—Xinhua

Invasive malaria mosquito spreading in Africa, researchers warn



In the eastern Ethiopian city of Dire Dawa, a transport hub between the capital Addis Ababa and Djibouti, 205 malaria cases were reported in all of 2019. PHOTO: AMANUEL SILESHI/AFP

NEW evidence has emerged that an invasive species of malaria-carrying mosquito from Asia is spreading in Africa, where it could pose a “unique” threat to tens of millions of city-dwellers, researchers warned Tuesday.

In Africa, home to more than 95 per cent of the world’s 627,000 malaria deaths in 2020, the parasite is mostly spread

in rural areas preferred by the dominant *Anopheles gambiae* group of mosquitoes. However the *Anopheles stephensi* mosquito, which has long been a main malaria spreader in Indian and Iranian cities, can breed in urban water supplies, meaning it can thrive during the dry season. It is also resistant to commonly used insecticides.

Modelling research in 2020 found that if *Anopheles stephensi* spread widely in Africa it would put more than 126 million people in 44 cities at risk of malaria.

Djibouti became the first African nation to detect *Anopheles stephensi* in 2012. It had been close to eradicating malaria with just 27 reported cases that year.

However the number has skyrocketed since *Anopheles stephensi*’s arrival, hitting 73,000 cases in 2020, according to the World Health Organization.

On Tuesday, researchers revealed the first evidence that a malaria outbreak in neighbouring Ethiopia earlier this year was caused by *Anopheles stephensi*.

In the eastern Ethiopian city of Dire Dawa, a transport hub between the capital Addis Ababa and Djibouti, 205 malaria cases were reported in all of 2019.—AFP

S.Korea reports 54,766 new COVID-19 cases

SOUTH Korea reported 54,766 new COVID-19 cases as of midnight Tuesday compared to 24 hours ago, taking the total number of infections to 25,670,407, the health authorities said Wednesday. The daily caseload was down

from 58,379 in the previous day, but it was higher than 40,821 tallied a week earlier, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA).

For the past week, the daily average number of new cases

was 39,193. Among the newly reported infections, 78 were imported cases, lifting the total to 69,843. The number of infected people who were in critical condition stood at 303, up 15 from the previous day.—Xinhua

Pfizer lifts 2022 forecast for Covid-19 vaccine sales as profits rise

PFIZER reported higher quarterly profits Tuesday as it lifted its full-year forecast for coronavirus vaccine sales and predicted Covid-19 would yield billions more in revenues for the foreseeable future.

The big US drugmaker now expects 2022 sales of the Comirnaty Covid-19 vaccine of \$34 billion, up \$2 billion from the prior outlook. Pfizer maintained its projection of \$22 billion in annual sales for its Paxlovid therapeutic for Covid-19. More than two years into the pandemic, Chief Executive Albert Bourla predicted revenues for Covid-19 products

would persist even though they are likely to fall from their 2022 levels.

“We believe our Covid-19 franchises will remain multi-billion revenue generators for the foreseeable future, which should serve as a buffer for any unforeseen challenges with other products in our portfolio,” Bourla said in prepared remarks. The most recent quarter included an 83 per cent surge in Covid-19 vaccine revenues in the United States, driven by deliveries of the latest booster shot for the Omicron BA.4/BA.5-adapted bivalent vaccine.—AFP



Boxes containing the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid vaccine are prepared to be shipped at the Pfizer Global Supply Kalamazoo manufacturing plant on 13 December 2020 in Portage, Michigan. PHOTO: MORRY GASH/POOL/AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Bankrupt Sri Lanka's inflation dips to 66%

INFLATION in crisis-hit Sri Lanka dipped marginally for the first time in 12 months but prices were still an eye-watering 66 per cent higher than a year ago, official data showed Monday.

The island nation of 22 million people has suffered months of extreme economic hardship with severe shortages of essentials including food, fuel and medicines.

The Department of Census and Statistics data showed October inflation was nearly four percentage points lower than the record 69.8 per cent in September.

Food inflation which had also reached a record high for the 12th consecutive month in September at 94.9 per cent moderated to 85.6 per cent in October.

The department did not give reasons for the slowdown in inflation, but authorities had reduced fuel prices twice in October, cutting prices by 20 per cent.

However, the price of petrol is still double the amount before the start of the crisis late last



An army officer stands near the national emblem at the Galle Face in Colombo. **PHOTO: AFP**

year, while diesel — used commonly for public transport — is still three and a half times more.

Sharp price increases for both food and fuel has led to a drop in demand and queues for petrol and diesel and cooking gas have sharply reduced in recent weeks.

The World Bank has warned that the economy could shrink by 9.2 per cent this year, worse than the 8.7 per cent contraction the central bank of Sri Lanka had

forecasted.

An unprecedented downturn forced the government to default on its \$51 billion foreign debt in April and go to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a bailout.

Blackouts, chronic fuel shortages and high prices triggered months of political unrest, ultimately forcing the president Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee the country and resign in July. — AFP

Gas crisis fears recede for now as Europe stockpiles

WITH prices falling and ports clogged with liquefied natural gas tankers, fears of a winter heating crisis in Europe have eased but experts are warning against complacency.

For over a week now, there have been bottlenecks at Spanish ports of ships bringing in LNG, indicating Europe is at full capacity.

Spanish gas regulator Enagas says the backlog at ports is expected to last at least until this week.

The Dutch TTF, a leading European benchmark price, is now close to its lowest level since June, at under 100 euros per megawatt hour at the end of October.

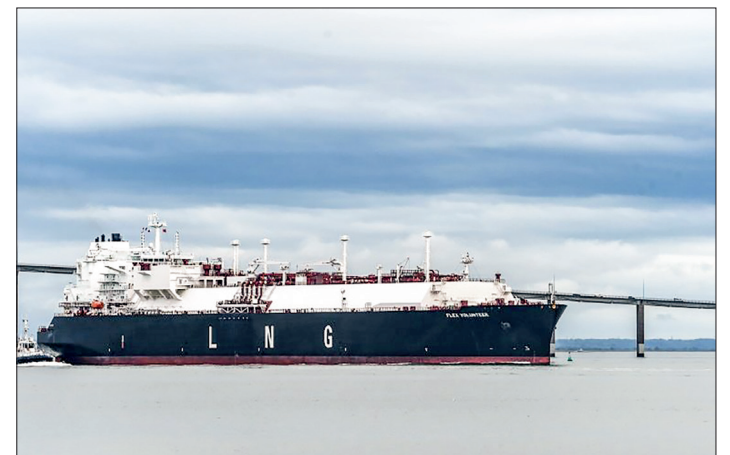
Its price has fallen more than 60 per cent since a massive surge in August when

Russia's disruptions to its supply via the Nord Stream pipelines alarmed markets.

TTF's short-term futures price even briefly went negative last week, for the first time since October 2019. In the United States, gas prices have also fallen sharply.

The days of stratospheric price rises of up to 350 euros per megawatt hour in Europe in March, a few days after Russia's invasion of Ukraine began, seem to be well and truly in the past.

Since then Europe has made efforts to fill its storage facilities to reduce dependence on Russian gas and sought alternative suppliers, holding crisis meetings and calling for a cut in domestic usage.— AFP



Europe has been stockpiling liquefied natural gas. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Food banks are a 'lifesaver' as UK feels cost of living crisis

"THIS absolutely has been a lifesaver to me," says Michael Cox. The 51-year-old hasn't eaten in two days and so finally resolved to visit one of Britain's growing number of food banks providing basic items to those in need.

"I had no money. So I'll give it a try," said Cox who before the current cost of living crisis had never before needed to ask for help feeding himself.

Hundreds of people on Monday queued in front of the food

bank in Hackney in east London armed with a coupon allowing them to collect a basket of three days' worth of food.

Each receives a mix of goods tailored to their needs and family size, with many of the items donated by members of the public.

Rising food and energy prices in Britain have seen inflation soar. The figure went over 10 per cent in September, the highest of any G7 country, putting yet more pressure on already stretched household budgets.

"Now with the cost of living crisis, people... can't pay their bills and buy food. They have to choose one. We are noticing more and more of that, unfortunately," said food bank supervisor Johan Ekelund. Sidoine Flore Feumba, a graduate nurse, who receives government benefit payments, says she could no longer afford to feed her three children and heat her home as well.—AFP



Food Bank Aid was set up in April 2020 to help North London food banks. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/FOOD BANK AID/AFP**

'Lot of progress' in India trade talks: UK foreign minister

BRITAIN'S foreign minister has insisted during a visit to India that "a lot of progress" has been made in talks on a post-Brexit free-trade deal despite negotiators missing a recent deadline.

"We have made a lot of progress in the negotiations, and we continue to work for an agreement that works for both countries," James Cleverly said in a Times of India interview published Sunday.

"We have been very, very

explicit that our partnership with India is one that matters to us and one we want to enhance and develop," he was quoted as telling the paper during the two-day visit.

India and its former colonial ruler have been negotiating for around 18 months on a trade deal that would be an important milestone for Britain as it seeks alternative markets following its exit from the European Union.—AFP

Saudi Aramco posts 39% jump in third-quarter profits: statement

SAUDI Aramco on Tuesday posted a 39-per cent jump in third-quarter profits year on year, the latest financial results boosted by higher oil prices resulting largely from Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The announcement came as the OPEC+ cartel of oil producers was set to implement production cuts that have drawn the ire of the United States,

which says the move — approved at a meeting last month — amounts to “aligning with Russia” in the conflict.

The energy giant's net income totalled \$42.4 billion — up from \$30.4 billion during the same period last year — and was “primarily driven by higher crude oil prices and volumes sold”, it said in a filing with the Saudi stock exchange. —AFP

Baghdad int'l trade fair reopens after three-year hiatus

IRAQ on Tuesday opened the 46th Baghdad International Fair in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad after a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Iraq's Minister of Trade Atheer Daoud al-Ghurairy inaugurated the exhibition, which was attended by more than 363 companies from 13 countries, his ministry said in a statement. “The participation of countries and companies confirms Iraq's ability to attract economic forums and interact with what is happening in



Vehicles are on display at the 46th Baghdad International Fair in Baghdad, Iraq, on 1 Nov 2022. Iraq on Tuesday opened the 46th Baghdad International Fair in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad after a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. PHOTO: XINHUA/KHALIL DAWOOD

the world of scientific and technological developments,” al-Ghurairy was quoted as saying at the

opening ceremony.

Zainab Nassir, head of the ministry's State Company for Iraqi Fairs, said in a separate statement that the exhibition would run for 10 days, stressing that it aims to present a true picture of the economic and security developments in Iraq. The exhibition also shows “Iraq's ability to succeed in major economic activities that give the country opportunities to attract Arab and international investments with major economic projects,” she said. —AFP

Stellantis China Jeep joint venture to file for bankruptcy

A Chinese joint venture producing Jeep SUVs for Stellantis will file for bankruptcy, the European carmaker said Monday, after its chief executive com-

plained earlier this month political tensions with the West were affecting the business environment.

Earlier this month Carlos Tavares had said

the auto giant would consider ending production in China, questioning whether the stability of relations between Beijing and the world could be guaranteed.

Shareholders have given their approval for the joint venture to file for bankruptcy “in a loss-making context”, Stellantis said.—AFP



The file photo shows a partial view of Saudi Aramco's Abqaiq oil processing plant. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

In Niagara Falls, bitcoin mining brings a new roar to town

IN the US border town of Niagara Falls, residents accustomed to the soothing roar of the famous waterfalls recently discovered a much less pleasant sound: the “haunting hum” of bitcoin mining farms. “I get four hours of sleep, maybe, because of that constant noise,” said Elizabeth Lundy, an 80-year-old retired hairdresser. “I can hear the noise even through the storm windows.” On a sunny October morning, a mechanical whirring could be heard clearly on Lundy's front porch. The noise turned to a deafening din as one walked two blocks toward Buffalo Avenue where the US bitcoin miners operate.

Bitcoin mining farms have multiplied in the United States since China halted this activity in 2021. The United States is now emerging as a global leader in the industry. Attracted by the cheap hydroelectric power available in Niagara Falls, Blockfusion took up residence at a former coal factory there in 2019, followed by US Bitcoin in 2020, which operates from a former sodium plant. US Bitcoin installed hundreds of noisy fans outside, needed to cool the thousands of computer graphics cards that heat up as they solve the complex equations required to earn them cryptocurrency.—AFP

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Distributor of the herbicide, **Prowl 330 EC** (Pendimethalin 330g/l EC) with its registration number F2020-516 is transferring from **Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co.,Ltd.**, to **Charoen Pokphand Produce Myanmar Company Limited**. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayintnaung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within 14 days.

BASF Myanmar Limited
Phone – 01 8650976

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC TOKYO VOY.NO. (2252S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC TOKYO VOY.NO. (2252S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-11-2022** 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

Yangon-Mandalay Expressway Announcement

1. All expressway users of passenger cars, trucks, and private cars should be aware and precautionary of the following traffic rules and regulations for traffic safety.

- (1) Speed Limit Warning: Private Cars: 100 Km/h, Passengers (Express cars): 90 Km/h, Truck Cars: 60 Km/h
- (2) Wear and fasten seat belt all the time when driving
- (3) Drive in the Right side (Lane) of road
- (4) Stop or Rest only at the designated Rest Camps
- (5) All motorcycles and tractors (trolley) are not allowed

2. If the expressway users violate to comply the above rules, penalty will be taken according to the expressway law, traffic law and other existing laws.

Yangon-Mandalay Expressway Maintenance Unit,
Department Of Highways, NPT

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

EU presidency says sanctions may next target Belarus



Belarus' President Alexander Lukashenko gives an exclusive interview to Agence France-Presse (AFP) at his residence, the Independence Palace, in the capital Minsk on 21 July, 2022. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE Czech prime minister, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency, said Tuesday the bloc may look at further sanctions on Belarus over its role in the war in Ukraine.

Minsk allows Russian troops to be stationed on Belarusian territory and stage attacks on Ukraine from there, although it insists it does not want to join the war directly.

"We are now looking at... the role of Belarus and the potential need to target it," Czech

Prime Minister Petr Fiala told reporters after returning from Kyiv where members of his cabinet joined him in talks with Ukrainian counterparts.

"Certain sanctions against Belarus are already in place, but we can't have Belarus joining Russia's policy or Russia avoiding the impact of sanctions through countries such as Belarus," he added.

"We must realize that the attacks on Ukraine are led out of the Belarusian airspace and

that Belarus supplies weapons to Russia," said Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky.

The EU has imposed sweeping sanctions against Russian industry and individuals since Moscow invaded Ukraine on 24 February, but Fiala called for Russia to be "increasingly isolated".

"We know the sanctions work, we can see that from lots of data, and we undoubtedly need to continue." —AFP

'Serious blow': Ukraine commander fears loss of Starlink

FEW took Elon Musk's tweeted threat to stop funding Starlink in Ukraine as seriously as the commander in charge of communications along much of the southern front.

The world's richest man last month took to his favourite social media platform — which he has since bought — to wonder why he should keep providing Ukraine with free satellite internet service.

The temperamental mega-billionaire appeared to change his mind a few days later.—AFP

Three new grain vessels leave Ukrainian ports: coordination centre

THREE grain-loaded cargo ships left Ukrainian ports on Tuesday, according to the centre overseeing the implementation of a deal brokered by Türkiye and the UN.

"The movement of these vessels has been agreed by the Ukrainian, Turkish and UN delegations ... The Russian delegation has been informed," the Istanbul-based International Coordination Centre told AFP.

The ships are the latest to sail from Ukraine after Russia pulled out of a July agreement that allowed vital grain exports



The ships are the latest to sail from Ukraine after Russia pulled out of a July agreement that allowed vital grain exports to leave Ukraine with the aim of alleviating global food shortages. **PHOTO: UN/FILE**

to leave Ukraine with the aim of alleviating global food shortages.

At least 10 ships sailed from Ukraine's ports on Monday.

Moscow said it was pulling out of the export deal after it blamed Ukraine for drone attacks on its fleet in the Black Sea.

The agreement — which established a safe corridor through which vessels could travel to Istanbul for inspections — had already allowed more than 9.5 million tonnes of Ukrainian grain to be exported. It was set to be renewed on 19 November. Russia on Monday said it cannot guarantee the safety of navigation, deeming the deal as "hardly feasible" without its participation. —AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Suspect in Pelosi attack was on 'suicide mission': court filings



Paul Pelosi was allegedly attacked by a man looking for his wife, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. **PHOTO: SAMUEL CORUM/AFP**

THE man accused of attacking the husband of US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi with a hammer told police he also planned to

target several other politicians as part of a "suicide mission", according to court documents filed Tuesday.

David DePape, 42, was arrested last week after he allegedly broke into the couple's mansion intending to tie up Pelosi and break her kneecaps, but found only her 82-year-old husband.

He was ordered to be held in custody after he pleaded not guilty to attempted murder and other charges during his arraignment Tuesday at a San Francisco court.

In new court filings, state prosecutors said DePape told police he was sick of "lies coming out of Washington" and had "named several targets, including a local professor, several prominent state and federal politicians" as well as their relatives.—AFP

New Swedish PM says open to nukes under NATO

SWEDEN'S new prime minister said Tuesday he was open to allowing nuclear weapons on Swedish soil once the country becomes a NATO member, a turnaround from the previous government's stance.

Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, who took over the reins in Sweden two weeks ago, was speaking in Helsinki at a press conference with his Finnish counterpart Sanna Marin, whose country is applying for membership in the Atlantic alliance together with Sweden. When asked if the two nations would accept nuclear weapons on their soil, Marin replied: "We shouldn't put any preconditions... We have decided that we don't want to close any doors for the future." Kristersson agreed.

"You will receive exactly the same answer from me as from the Finnish prime minister", he said.

"It's very natural for Sweden and Finland to act very jointly in these matters and have exactly the same formalization. So I have no other intention than going hand-in-hand also in this sense with Finland", Kristersson told reporters.—AFP

N. Korea fires at least 10 missiles, 1 into nearby S. Korean waters

NORTH Korea launched at least 10 missiles from its east and west coasts on Wednesday morning, the South Korean military said, with one falling on the south side of the de facto maritime border for the first time since the Korean Peninsula was divided.

An air raid alarm was sounded around 8:55 am on South Korea's Ulleung Island off the country's east coast, the military said, adding one missile had crossed

the Northern Limit Line, a border drawn by US-led UN forces after the Korean War. The missiles, including short-range ballistic missiles, were launched from around the Wonsan area and several other places, according to the military. The latest launches by Pyongyang came as a joint air exercise was being conducted by the United States and South Korea.

"It is the first time since the

division (of the Korean Peninsula) that a North Korean missile has fallen near South Korean territorial waters," South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said. The JCS described the missile launches as "unprecedented" and "totally intolerable." In response, the South Korean air force fired three air-to-ground missiles toward the north side of the maritime border between 11:10 a.m. and 12:21 p.m., the military said.—Kyodo



People watch a television screen showing a news broadcast with live footage of the island of Ulleungdo at a railway station in Seoul. PHOTO: AFP

Danish left clings to power with razor-thin election win

DENMARK'S left-wing bloc led by Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen reached out to the centre for broader collaboration on Wednesday after winning a one-seat majority in a nail-biter general election.

Frederiksen's five-party "red" bloc had looked set to lose its majority as vote counting wore on throughout Tuesday evening, but as the last votes were tallied, the bloc eked out the 87 seats it needed



The election carried the Denmark Democrats' Inger Stojberg back into politics after she was ousted from parliament. PHOTO: AFP

in mainland Denmark.

Together with another three seats from the autonomous overseas territories of the Faroe Islands and Greenland, the bloc holds a total of 90 of parliament's 179 seats.

Opinion polls had predicted a historically weak election for the Social Democrats, but they instead gained two seats compared to the 2019 election, winning 27.5 per cent of votes.

"Social democracy had its best election in over 20 years," Frederiksen said in a speech to campaign supporters early Wednesday.

"We are a party for all of Denmark," she added.

The right-wing "blue" bloc — an informal liberal and conservative alliance supported by three populist parties — won 72 seats in mainland Denmark and one in the Faroe Islands.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

South Korea to hold police accountable for crowd crush failures: PM

SOUTH Korea's prime minister said Wednesday that police must explain failures to respond to multiple emergency calls ahead of a deadly Halloween crowd surge, as investigators raided police stations.

At least 156 mostly young people were killed, and scores more injured, in a crush late Saturday at the first post-pandemic Halloween party in Seoul's popular Itaewon nightlife district.

Transcripts of emergency calls obtained by AFP, many made hours before disaster struck, document rising desperation over crowd density.—AFP

Costa Rica ends search for downed plane carrying German fitness billionaire

COSTA Rican authorities on Tuesday ended the search for the plane in which German billionaire Rainer Schaller and his family were travelling, nearly two weeks after it crashed in the Caribbean. The small plane — carrying six people — flew from Mexico on 21 October and disappeared from radar as it was trying to land at the airport in the eastern Costa Rican province of Limon. A source with the public security ministry had told AFP that "Schaller, adult male, 53 years old" and five others were listed as being on the aircraft.—AFP

Counter-terror police probe UK migrant centre attack

A British counter-terrorism unit has taken over an investigation into the firebombing of a migrant processing centre, police said on Tuesday.

Homemade incendiary devices were thrown at the Western Jet Foil Border Force centre in Dover on Sunday, leaving two staff with minor injuries.

The facility in the busy port town in southeast England processes migrants who have crossed the Channel from northern Europe in small boats.

Interior minister Suella Braverman on Monday said the attack, carried out by a 66-year-old man from High Wycombe, northwest of London, who was later found dead, was not being treated as terror-related.

But Kent Police on Tuesday said officers from Counter-Terrorism Policing South East (CTPSE) had assumed the lead

in the investigation.

Detective Chief Superintendent Olly Wright, head of CTPSE, said there was "nothing to suggest any ongoing wider threat" in Dover or elsewhere.

"What appears clear is that this despicable offence was targeted and likely to be driven by

some form of hate-filled grievance, though this may not necessarily meet the threshold of terrorism," he added.

"At this point, the incident itself has not been declared a terrorist incident, but this is being kept under review as the investigation progresses."—AFP



The attack in Dover targeted a centre for processing migrants intercepted while crossing the Channel in small boats. PHOTO: AFP

EU presidency says sanctions may next target Belarus
PAGE-14



SPORT



The Myanmar U-16 women's team players will compete in the Asian Cup U-17 qualifiers. PHOTO: MWL

Drawing lots ceremony for Asian Cup U-20, U-17 Women's Qualifiers to be held today

A drawing-lots ceremony for the 2024 Asian Cup U-20 and U-17 Women's Qualifiers will be held today in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The Asian Football Confederation will hold the qualifiers for both tournaments in two stages, with the drawing lots for the first-stage qualifying groups taking place today.

A total of 29 teams will compete in the first round of the Asian Cup U-17 Women's Qualifiers, which will be divided into eight groups.

North Korea, including the Japanese team that won the last 2019 tournament, China and the 2024 AFC Women's U-17 Cup final host Indonesia will be allowed to compete directly without having to compete in the qualifiers.

According to sedan criteria, Australia, South Korea, Bangladesh, Iran, Myanmar and the Philippines are placed into Pot-1 while China Taipei, India, Uzbekistan, Hong Kong, Lebanon, and Malaysia are falling in the Pot-2.

Meanwhile, Nepal, UAE, Palestine, and North Mariana

Island are in the Pot-3, and Bahrain, Bhutan, Iraq, Turkmenistan, and Cambodia are in the Pot-4.

Guam, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and Tajikistan are in the Host Pot.

The qualifiers will be divided into eight groups, and only the top team from each group will qualify for the second round of qualifiers. The first qualifying group matches will be held from 22 to 30 April 2023.

A total of 31 teams will compete in the first round of the Asian Cup U-20 Women's Qualifiers, which will be divided into eight groups.

North Korea, including the Japanese team that won the last 2019 tournament, South Korea and the 2024 AFC Women's-U20 Championship, the final host country of Uzbekistan, will be allowed to compete directly without qualifying.

In the Asian U-20 Women's Qualifiers, Australia, China, Myanmar, Iran, Nepal, and Lebanon are falling in the Pot-1 while China Taipei, India,

Malaysia, and UAE are placed in Pot-2.

Mongolia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Guam, Tajikistan, Pakistan and Bhutan are in Pot-3, and Indonesia, Iraq, Northern Mariana Island, the Philippines, and Turkmenistan are in the Pot-4.

In the host pot, ASEAN teams Bangladesh, Thailand, Viet Nam, Laos, and Cambodia are with Jordan, Palestine, and Kyrgyzstan.

The top eight teams from the eight groups in the first round of qualifiers will advance to the next stage. The first round of qualifiers will be held from 4 to 12 March 2023.

Among the Myanmar youth teams that will compete in the qualifiers, the Myanmar U-16 women's team is competing in the Myanmar Women's League under the name of Young Lionesses to gain competition experience, while the Myanmar U-19 women's players are playing in their respective clubs and will prepare for training only after the league competition is over. —Ko Nyi Lay/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.

Myanmar players to compete in 6th Eastern Asia Youth Chess Championship

It is known that Myanmar chess players will compete in the 6th Eastern Asia (ASEAN) Youth Chess Championship.

The competition will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from 4 to 13 November.

Sai Han Thiha, Kyaw Myat Aung, and Paing Zayar Ko will compete in the U-18 Championship, while Zaw Ye Htut will compete in the U-16 Championship.

Thiha Zaw Aye will compete in the U-14 Championship while

Hein Thant will compete in the U-10 Championship.

It is reported that more than 80 players from 10 ASEAN countries and Korea, China Taipei, Hong Kong, and Mongolia will compete in the 6th Eastern Asia Youth Chess Championship.

In the fourth Eastern Asia Youth Competition, Sai Han Thiha from Myanmar won the bronze medal under the age of 12. — Tin Soe/GNLM



Sai Han Thiha and the Indonesian player greet each other before the match of the Asian Youth Chess Tournament held in Bali, Indonesia from 13 to 22 October.