

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Over 600 local companies eye registering with GACC to export Agri products



Lorries loaded with export cargoes are pictured at the Muse trade post on the Myanmar-China border.

MORE than 600 companies including rice, broken rice, corn and banana exporting firms are making efforts to register with the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China to export over 1,600 items.

At present, 62 rice and broken rice companies, 112 corn exporting companies and 32 banana exporters have already registered with GACC. Other companies are making efforts to register for pineapple, avocado, pomelo and soybeans.

The competent authorities of the Plant Protection Division under the Department of Agriculture are helping the exporting companies, organizations and individuals to register with GACC for agricultural products such as rice, broken rice, corn and banana.

The agricultural products that have a government-to-government agreement grasp a strong market share.

The relevant authorities for the registration with GACC are the Agriculture Department, the Livestock Breeding

and Veterinary Department, the Fisheries Department and the Food and Drug Administration.

Only the goods from the registered businesses will be allowed for export to China starting from 1 Jan 2022, according to Notifications 248 and 249 of the GACC.

As of 30 September, 1,022 companies and factories submitted 1,850 applications to the GACC, according to the GACC's statement.

The individuals executing edible oil, oilseeds, stuffed pas-

try products, edible bird's nest and related products, edible grains, grains milling industrial products and malt, fresh and dehydrated vegetables, dried beans, plant species, nuts and seeds, dried fruits, unroasted coffee and cocoa bean, special dietary food excluding milk-based formula, functional foods, bee products, aquatic products including farm products, animal products and animal feed and livestock animals businesses need to apply for GACC licences to place their goods in China's market. — TWA/GNLM

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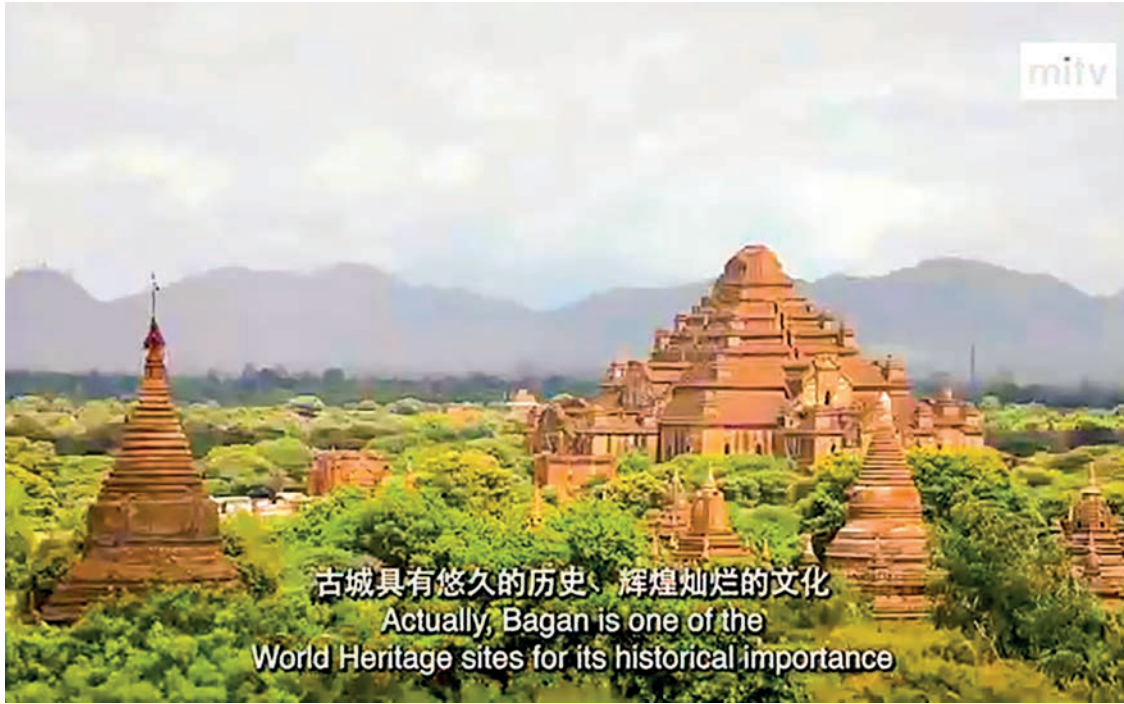


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MITV's short video chosen for Gold Medal in 3rd ASEAN-China Friendship and Cooperation Short Video Contest



One of the scenes in the MITV's short video.

MITV of the Ministry of Information entered the competition under the title "Millennia Pauk-Phaw Friendship" in the third ASEAN-China Friendship and Cooperation Short Video Contest held by the People's Republic of China. It has been nominated for the Gold Medal (first prize) and award-winning videos have been posted on the competition organization's website from 4 to 9 November for the public to view and criticize them.

The third ASEAN-China Friendship and Cooperation Short Video Contest was held jointly with China's Mission to ASEAN, the Permanent Mission of Myanmar to ASEAN, the ASEAN Secretariat, the Wuxi municipal government, and other

government departments and organizations.

Contesting videos were judged by a 10-member panel from the People's Republic of China and ASEAN countries. Myanmar has been selected for the Gold Medal. For the silver award, China and Laos-China cooperation videos were selected. For the bronze award, Malaysia, Singapore-China and Cambodia-China videos were awarded respectively. In addition, 15 excellent awards were chosen and awarded. The award ceremony of the competition will be held on 16 November online at 3 pm Beijing standard time.

MITV participated in the competition last year and won the Excellent Award. — MNA

Wahnet Elephant Camp crowded with visitors during Tazaungdaing holidays

THE Wahnet Elephant Camp, which provides good shade and services with elephants in Mandalay Region was crowded with vacationers during the three holidays of Tazaungdaing when the offices were closed.

"The camp officials have planted trees for shade at the Wahnet elephant camp, which was opened next to the Yeywa dam road between Mandalay and PynOoLwin township. Visitors come to relax by feeding the elephants," said U Toe Aung, assistant manager in charge of the elephant camp.

"Those who came to the nearby waterfalls came to our elephant camp on their way back, and there were also those who visited the camp

only.

"On the day of the full moon, there were many charity events, as well as making Myanmar snacks at night, cooking chicken, and having picnics. On the day of the full moon, we expected about 100 people to come to the elephant camp, but more than 90. It was crowded with nearly 250 people coming over the three days," he elaborated.

Around 150 people came to the elephant camp two days before the full moon and around 100 people came to relax on the day of the full moon.

A total of eight elephants including three male and five female elephants between the ages of 9 and 17 give service on long days off, and four ele-

phants are provided on regular days.

People enjoy watching the elephants and they love the shade of the forest and mountains. They came to relax in the cool shade while feeding the elephants.

On Saturday and Sunday, there were charity workers who fed the elephants at the buffet, so there was no elephant food left.

Visitors can feed bananas, pumpkin, watermelon, and sugarcane as elephant food, and sugarcane is the main food for them.

At the Wahnet Elephant Camp, visitors can ride the elephants and see the forest scenery and it is providing services such as showing the



Visitors enjoy elephant rides at the camp.

tricks of elephants.

The visitors feed the elephants and take pictures with the elephants. The entrance fee to the elephant camp is set at K1,000 per person.

For the elephant riding service, a short trip costs K3,000 and a long trip costs K5,000. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

73 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 8 November, total figure rises to 632,391

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **632,391** after **73** new cases were reported on 8 November 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **606,621** have recovered from disease. Death toll registers **19,486** after one death.

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

Need to export value-added products to external markets

IT is more beneficial to manufacture and export value-added commodities to external markets in spite of rather shipping raw materials both from aboveground and underground resources ...

(Excerpt from the address delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the SAC meeting 7/2022 held on 16 August 2022)

MoFA Union Minister receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received Mr Vinay Kumar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at 10:30 am on 8 November 2022 at the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the call, they cordially discussed and exchanged views on enhancing the existing ties of friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries and expansion of collaboration in both regional and multilateral arenas. — MNA



MoFA Deputy Minister attends Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Eminent Persons Conference



DEPUTY Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Myo Htut attended the first Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Eminent Persons Forum organized by the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs

via videoconferencing yesterday. It was held under the topic of "Emphasis on the development and promotion of idea exchanges for a new era of peace and prosperity."

The deputy minister delivered an opening speech together with Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Mr Wu Jianghao and former Foreign Minister Mr Li Zhaoxing.

During the meeting, the deputy minister pointed out the achievements of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation, current challenges and cooperation to face the regional and international challenges.

Then, he discussed the outcomes of the seventh Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting hosted by Myanmar in Bagan on 4 July and expressed thanks to China for providing other funds including LMC Special Fund.

He also highlighted the sup-

portive opinions and discussions for ensuring peace, prosperity and sustainable development of the Mekong-Lancang regions stated in LMC procedures. The leaders set the priority sectors for assistance in the recovery of the regional economy, regional transport to streamline the flows of goods and services, promotion of cooperation in customs authorities to reduce delays in the trading sector, regional energy procurement and improvement of the agriculture sector. —MNA

Myanmar Delegation attends 5th Meeting of High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision

THE 5th Meeting of the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (5th HLTF-ACV) was held in Hyatt Regency Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 6 to 7 November 2022.

The meeting was co-chaired by Cambodia and Malaysia and also attended by eminent persons, high-level representatives and delegates from ASEAN member states and the deputy secretary-general for the ASEAN political and security community. Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung

of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and the eminent person of Myanmar to HLTF-ACV, attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed matters pertaining to the core elements of ASEAN, Community's Post-2025 Vision, draft recommendations on the strengthening of ASEAN's capacity and institutional effectiveness which will be submitted to the 31st ASEAN Coordinating Meeting for onward transmission to the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits as mandated by ASEAN Foreign Ministers,

the modalities for stakeholders' consultation and progress report to be submitted to the Joint Consultative Meeting and ASEAN Coordination Council Meeting.

The establishment of the High-Level Task Force (HLTF) was agreed upon at the 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits which were held on 16 October 2022 with the aim of developing the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision. The High-Level Task Force is composed of eminent persons and high-level representatives from ASEAN member states. — MNA



MIFER Union Minister receives delegation of Fund RC-Investments from Russian Federation



UNION Minister Dr Kan Zaw of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations received the delegation led by Mr Alexander Sergeevich Shatirov, Director of Fund RC-Investments from the Russian Federation on the morning of 8 November 2022 at Office No 1 in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the promotion of bilateral trade and investment, and cooperation in the various sectors such as tourism, agriculture, mining, industry, electricity, en-

ergy, culture and education for mutual benefits were cordially discussed.

Then, the Memorandum of Understanding on Promoting Trade and Investment Cooperation between the Foreign Economic Relations Department, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, and the Fund RC-Investments was signed.

In the evening, the Union minister hosted a welcome dinner for the delegation of Fund RC-Investments. —MNA

The signing ceremony of the MoU on promoting trade and investment cooperation is in progress.

Myanmar delegation attends International Negotiators Working Group – Annual Conference 2022

MYANMAR representatives led by Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Lin of the Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs attended the International Negotiators Working Group – Annual Conference 2022 which was held at the Hellenic Police Headquarters in Athens, Greece, between 31 October and 4 November. Nineteen European Union member countries, the United States, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, Canada, Nigeria, Australia and Macedonia, representatives from four countries in the Middle East and representatives from Myanmar, Japan, China, the Philippines and Singapore participated in the event.

At the conference, experi-

ences of negotiation regarding arrests as hostages and kidnappings and the latest developments and strategies were discussed by experts, psychologists and negotiating forces from police forces from several countries, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Centre for Security Studies/Kentro Meleton Asfaleias – KEMEA from Greece, the Foundation for Defence of Democracies and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy/Tufts University from the United States, London Metropolitan Police, National Crime Agency – NCA, Global Interagency Security Forum – GISF and the College of Policing from the United Kingdom and European Network of Advisory Teams – EuNAT.



The International Negotiators Working Group-Annual Conference 2022 is held in Athens, Greece.

Afterwards, a Myanmar representative clarified that taking and killing hostages is strictly prohibited by international conventions including the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages and that member countries should draft and enforce their

domestic laws. Myanmar has already enacted Counter Terrorism Law to supervise and act to prevent the occurrence of hostage-taking and terrorist crimes. A counter-terrorism law has been drafted to implement this provision and Myanmar will continue to act under

the law, he added.

It is reported that an annual conference of the International Negotiators Working Group 2023 will be held and invitations will be sent by the host country. — MNA

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

MNA YGN-BKK-YGN flight tickets available at US\$135

MYANMAR National Airlines stated that tickets for a roundtrip of Yangon-Bangkok-Yangon can be purchased for US\$135.

In addition, passengers will be able to purchase the tickets at a 15-per-cent discount at King Power stores in Thailand by showing their Myanmar National Airlines Boarding Pass. A 15-per-cent discount is offered for the first purchase of selected items in King Power outlets in Thailand for passengers with an MNA international boarding pass. It is known that the promotion period will last from 1 September to 31 December 2022.

King Power stores offering 15 per cent discount are King Power Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, Chiang Mai, Phuket, U-Tapa Airports King Power Rangnam, Srivaree, Pattaya and Phuket stores. On the domestic flights of the state-owned Myanmar National Airlines (MNA), it will be possible to make an

online check-in through a mobile application and obtain an E-boarding pass. Online check-in is only for domestic flights and it can be done within 75 minutes to 24 hours before takeoff.

An E-boarding pass obtained from online check-in must be printed out and brought together with the passenger.

The mobile application can be downloaded from the App store and Google Play Store and provided travel services such as searching for travel schedules, purchasing a flight ticket, paying, checking the flight information, making online check-in and obtaining an E-boarding pass.

The MNA started its first flight (Yangon- Bodh Gaya-Yangon) for the pilgrimage season of Bodh Gaya on 4 November and will be continued on a weekly basis depending on the availability of passengers, it is learnt. — TWA/GNLNM



One of the MNA aircraft for the Yangon-Bangkok -Yangon flight.

Nearly seven million gallons of oil to be unloaded at Thilawa Port

MORE than four million gallons of oil are being unloaded from tankers at Thilawa port, Yangon and nearly seven million gallons will continue to be unloaded, according to the Fuel Import, Storage and Distribution Supervisory Committee.

These days, MT Yu Dong carrying 1.603 million gallons of 92 Ron gasoline, 0.88 million gallons of 95 Ron gasoline and 1.622 million gallons of regular diesel oil is conducting oiling operations at the terminals in Thilawa Port.

MT Intan Premier carrying 2.67 million gallons of premium diesel and MT Yu Yi carrying 1.922 million gallons of regular diesel and 2.136 million gallons of premium diesel have arrived in Yangon.

Thus, the Fuel Import, Storage and Distribution Supervisory Committee have announced that there is sufficient motor fuel according to the remaining conditions of motor fuel shops and distribution.

In terms of fuel prices this



MT Yu Yi is seen during fuel unloading operations.

week, it has been observed that the price of petrol has increased slightly and the price of diesel has decreased slightly.

The supervisory committee issues daily fuel reference prices by calculating the fixed exchange rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar based on the MOPS price published daily by Singapore, discount rate, profit percentage, and transport charges.

As the supervision commit-

tee, in cooperation with the Myanmar Fuel Import, Sales and Distribution Association, distribution is being done depending on the fuel needs.

As for domestic fuel prices on 6 November 2022, diesel was set at K2,675 per litre, while premium diesel is sold at K2,720 per litre and Octane 92 at K2,115 per litre. It is known that Octane 95 was sold at K2,230 per litre. — TWA/GNLNM

6 killed in 19 car accidents on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in October

ALTOGETHER 19 traffic accidents occurred on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in October, leaving six people dead and 48 others injured, according to the Nay Pyi Taw Expressway Traffic Police Force.

There were 51 deaths and 232 injuries in 142 traffic accidents from January to October 2022, according to the data from the police.

Losses due to the accidents were K11.5 million in nine accidents in January, K32.98 million in 20 accidents in February, K18.5 million in 15

accidents in March, K86.58 million in 13 accidents in April, K28,779,000 in 15 accidents in May, K14.86 million in 12 accidents in June, K22.75 million in 15 accidents in July, K21,165,000 in 13 accidents in August, K11,215,000 in 11 accidents in September and K35,005,000 in 19 accidents in October, respectively.

The highway police force stated that the causes behind highway traffic accidents were mostly due to the negligence of drivers. — TWA/GNLNM

DICA points out compliance failure for companies, members under Myanmar Companies Law

THE Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) released a statement that some companies and their shareholders fail to comply with the provisions of the Myanmar Companies Law.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018 after Myanmar Com-

panies Law 2017 came into force. The companies that apply for registration are scrutinized and approved in line with the rules and regulations of the companies. The registered companies are also being monitored under the Myanmar Companies Law.

Although the online registry system MyCO was established to meet the international standard,

companies, directors and shareholders are found to fall short of compliance with the provisions of the Myanmar Companies Law.

The compliance failures are increasing the number of suspended companies due to a lack of Annual Returns (AR). Many companies were struck off the register after failing to file AR, filling in the incorrect address

of the company, failing to keep and compile the necessary documents whether it is in negligence or not, using a personal account for the business instead of special account (business account) by some companies and institutions, failing to seek a separate licence and permit from the respective departments after the companies have been registered, and

the directors and shareholders of the companies failing to abide by duties according to the Myanmar Companies Law.

The companies can easily register online through the MyCO system. The registrar will digitally monitor and notify the company of the absence, automated notice and take actions via MyCO as well. —TWA/GNLNM

CRIME NEWS

Illegal teak, vehicles and consumer goods confiscated

SUPERVISED by the Yangon Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, a combined team under the leadership of the Hmawby Township Forest Department conducted inspections on 6 November.

Officials nabbed a total

of 0.8058 tonne of illegal teak doors and teak window frames worth K531,828 from an Isuzu car (estimated value of K15 million) at the wood and forest product checkpoint at 30/1 Milepost on Yangon-Pyay Road. The action was taken

under the Forest Law.

In addition, a combined on-duty team at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint captured K3.2 million worth of clothes and sandals without official documents from two vehicles heading from Myawady to Yangon on 6 and 7 November. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, a combined team made inspections on 7 and 8 November and seized a total of 42.7876 tonnes of illegal teak worth K15,831,186 in the Toungoo district.

Therefore, five arrests (at an estimated value of K34,563,014) were made on three consecutive days from 6 to 8 November, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA



Officials check confiscated illegal teak log (top photo). Seized illegal goods (above).

Over K280 mln worth of heroin seized in Tachilek

HEROIN blocks worth over K280 million were confiscated in Tachilek Township in Shan State (East), according to the Myanmar Police Force.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a motorcycle driven by Sai Sot (aka) Sai Kyaw accompanied by Sai Sai (aka) Aik Kyang (aka) Sia Phon near Wantone village, Tachilek Township in eastern Shan

State. A total of 54 blocks of heroin weighing 18.9 kilograms and estimated to be worth K283.5 million were found in the paper box on the motorcycle.

According to interrogation results, heroin blocks are transported from Tachilek Township to the Myanmar-Laos border. Legal action is taken against two of them, and the police force is trying to expose those connected with the two. — MNA

Drugs impounded in some townships



Five arrestees are pictured along with seized drugs and saloons.

A combined team consisting of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a motorcycle driven by Aung Win accompanied by Ei Ei Nyein at the Malwetaung checkpoint near Ahlsakhan village, Logthine village-tract in Yeyu Township on 6 November. The inspection team found 5,265 stimulant tablets from them.

Similarly, officials searched a Hyundai Grand Starex vehicle driven by Khant Htet Aung (aka) Moe Ko at the Mayanchaung checkpoint, Mayanchaung village-tract in

Kyaikto Township on 5 November. A total of 30,000 stimulant tablets were found in his possession.

Moreover, officials searched suspicious persons U Oo Than and Kyaw Thein Tun on Tawwin street, ward 4 in Mayangon Township on 6 November. They found 110,000 stimulant tablets in them.

Officials searched two vehicles at Kaunghmutone ward in Muse Township on 5 November. They found one kilogramme of ketamine, a 9 mm Glock pistol with its magazine

and nine rounds, two M22 type-81 assault rifles, including six magazines and 120 rounds, and two grenades from a Toyota Alphard car.

Then, officials searched a motorcycle driven by Sai Aik Lu on the Hsipaw-Mandalay highway near Pannu village, Panmate village-tract in Hsipaw Township on 6 November. They found 5,000 stimulant tablets in him.

They were prosecuted under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Law. — MNA



Two offenders are seen together with confiscated heroin and a motorbike.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Companies registered on MyCO exceed 9,800 in past ten months: DICA

THE number of companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, reached 9,892 in the past ten months (January-October) this year, the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) indicated.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018 under the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

The figures of registered companies stood at 8,011 in 2021, 15,080 in 2020, 17,380 in 2019 and 8,506 in 2018, as per statistics of the DICA.

The previously registered companies had to re-register on

the MyCO and a total of 46,377 companies were re-registered on the MyCO between 1 August 2018 and 31 January 2019.

In addition, all registered companies need to file annual returns (AR) on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of Myanmar Companies Law 2017. According to Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously.

All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the pre-

scribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, over 400 companies are suspended every month for failing to submit AR forms within the due date.

As a result of this, newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns. The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as sus-



The office of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration in Yangon.

pended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of

documents. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/GNLM

Palm oil wholesale reference price moving onwards



The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year.

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market continued to rise at K4,330 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilograms) this week, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transportation cost, tariff and banking service, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

The reference prices of palm oil in the Yangon market were set at K4,330 per viss for this week from 8 to 13 November, and K4,225 per viss for the previous week ending 7 November. The figure was up by over K150 per viss this week.

Despite the reference price, the current market price is rocketing.

If those retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Special Goods Tax Law, MoC released

a statement.

The Ministry of Commerce is striving for consumers not to worry over the supply of edible oil. The ministry is also trying to secure edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer reasonable prices to consumers and maintain price stability.

At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July in order to offer palm oil at a subsidized rate.

They sell palm oil at K4,550 per viss to consumers directly. However, there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell palm oil at a reference rate depending on the volume quota.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/GNLM

US dollar exchange rate stable at K3,000 in market

THE US dollar exchange rate does not fluctuate these days and Kyat depreciates against the hard currency US dollar at approximately K3,000 on the over-the-counter market, according to local forex traders.

The current exchange rate is K2,990 for buying and K3,050 for selling in the grey market. However, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) set the reference exchange rate at K2,100.

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

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

In August, a dollar value hit an all-time high of over K4,500 in the grey market and consequently, pure gold reached a record high of K3.7 million per tical in history.

Consequently, the CBM

sold dollars at its auction market for the sectors in need, to control the soaring dollar.

A total of \$443.8 million were sold at an auction rate in 2021 as well. In September 2021, a dollar value hit a peak of over K3,000 in the black market, pushing pure gold up to K2.22 million per tical.

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

The objectives of the committee are inspecting and prosecuting market manipulation, checking if there is compliance with payment rules in the domestic market, and proceeding against those unscrupulous traders who intend to interfere with the free and fair operation of the market under the existing laws, by-laws and regulations in line with the official directives, illegal foreign currency holding, illegal trade and taking legal actions against price manipulators. — NN/GNLM



OPINION

Produce purified safe cooking oils for public consumption

CURRENTLY, relevant ministries and private organizations are joining hands in the implementation of the projects to extend the cultivation of oil crops, oil sufficiency and upgrade of oil mills across the nation.

Myanmar cultivates groundnut, sesame, sunflower, oil palm, niger, canola and horse gram but produces groundnut oil and sesame oil for domestic consumption. Local people are also in touch with using these two kinds of oil for consumption.

Actually, the production of cooking oils is not sufficient in the nation. So, the government imports some 800,000 tonnes of cooking oils per year by spending a large sum of foreign exchange.

As such, efforts are being made to increase the sown acreage of oil crops, ensure oil sufficiency and upgrade the oil mills.

At present, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation manages the measures to ensure cooking oil sufficiency and produce purified cooking oils whereas the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development emphasizes the construction of small-scale oil mills and cultivation of oil crops through the united strength of groups of farmers and cooperative societies, availability of raw materials for the oil mills and improvement of small-scale oil mills.

At the same time, the Ministry of Commerce is fulfilling the requirements for operating the local oil mills at full capacity, implementing the policies for seeking the refinery techniques for cooking oils and subjective-wise measures for oil production.

Moreover, the Ministry of Science and Technology arranges the measures to set the standards and norms for the production of cooking oils, laboratory services for testing the cooking oil and sharing of techniques. If so, the production of cooking oils will meet the set standard for people to have safe consumption of cooking oils.

The Ministry of Industry is ready to provide necessary assistance to oil millers and consumers for the production of cooking oils at modern oil mills with the use of advanced techniques. In purifying the crude oils of groundnut and sesame, the Ministry of Industry will give expert and expertise to small and medium-scale enterprises.

With regard to the production of safe cooking oil, government departments and organizations as well as different non-governmental associations are focusing on their discussions on the plans to seek the technologies to refine crude oils, arrangements to disburse loans to be spent on development tasks, setting standards and norms for products, FDA measures and occupying of market shares. Thanks to their efforts, people will have the chance to consume safe cooking oils sufficiently.

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ALMOST everyone possesses some kind of memory. Memory refers to the psychological processes of acquiring, storing, retaining, and later retrieving information. Three major processes are involved in memory: encoding, storage, and retrieval. Human memory involves the ability to both preserve and recover information. However, this is not a flawless process. Sometimes people forget or misremember things. Other times, information is not properly encoded in memory in the first place. Memory problems are often relatively minor annoyances, like forgetting birthdays.

However, they can also be a sign of serious conditions such as Alzheimer's disease and other kinds of dementia. These conditions affect the quality of life and the ability to function. This article discusses how memories are formed and why they are sometimes forgotten. It also covers the different types of memory and steps you can take to both improve and protect your memory. In this aesthetic essay, I will discuss the memory that I have experienced and will never forget until my last breath.

Why One Has To Spread Love And Kindness

I never knew how much the curly-haired, brown-eyed girl would have affected my life. Then again, we don't know what we have until we lose it. I wish I could tell you about the first time we met, however, we never had a set date. I was born a year before her to the day, and we always shared birthday parties. We would laugh and play and be the stupid little kids that we were. Was it a simpler time? Yes. Did it last for long? No.

As time went on, we started to grow apart. No more shared birthday parties and no more stupid little girls. We each had a path and we were following them. I saw her at family reunions and Christmas Eve at our grandparents' house, but other than that, our paths stopped intertwining. If only I had known that she was trying to cut her way back to my path. She was swimming against the tide of life that never stopped flowing, and she was doing it all alone.

Middle school was tough for both of us - for completely different reasons. I was struggling with my self-confidence and recovering from abuse; she was struggling with her gender identity. I couldn't tell you when she made the switch. Maybe it was when she stopped wearing feminine clothes, or maybe it



Love and kindness are never wasted. PHOTO: FREEPIK

was when she cut off all of her curly brown hair. Regardless of this, she seemed more confident and happy with herself. Cutting was something that had been in both of our paths. I cut to make myself feel some-

thing. She cut because she didn't like how she felt. I got help and recovered; she still stayed with the harming. Yet every time I saw her, she never failed to have that big smile on her face. I'm only now realizing that the smile

was only covering up the tears. High school finally rolled around and I was thriving, constantly surrounded by friends and a supportive family. Yet that curly-haired, brown-eyed girl was sinking lower than ever. My confidence went up and hers was nonexistent.

I learned from my other cousin that the little curly, brown-haired girl was no longer a girl. They had made the full switch and I was so happy for them. If only I hadn't been the only one. My family can be brutal at times, and I've always known that. But I never would have expected the reaction my family had to my favourite cousin coming out as a trans man. It was like they wanted nothing to do with him. They believed that casting him off to the side was the best course of action. It made me sick. Yet as time went on, my family became more open to the idea of being transgender, and things

By Yin Nwe Ko

got much better for my oldest friend.

The 2020 family reunion rolled around and I was ecstatic. It had been such a long time since I had seen everyone, and I was especially excited to see a certain curly-haired boy. Only due to some drama, our time was cut short. Everyone left and I didn't even get to say "good-bye". If only I had known what was to come.

About a year later I was sweeping the house when my dad got a phone call. He answered and ran into another room calling my stepmother in behind him. I knew something was wrong, but I never could have imagined it. An hour later my parents called me into their room to tell me some of the worst news I had ever received in my life.

My curly-haired, brown-eyed boy was gone. And it was by his hand.

I laughed at first because I

thought they were teasing me, and then it sank in; I didn't stop crying for two days straight. I never knew how much I would truly miss that curly-haired boy. I never knew how much I would miss his laugh, smile, or even having to share a party with him.

I've learned two very important lessons from that curly-haired, brown-eyed boy. Number one, being kind can go a long way. I wonder if people had been kind to him, would he still be here? Or, if someone had been there for him to talk to, would it have fixed anything? Number two, people are suffering every day. Whether it be from a sickness or a loss of some kind, or even something as simple as the stresses of school. You never know what is truly going on with a person, so don't miss an opportunity to save someone from making the biggest mistake of their life.

I know everyone has their curly-haired, brown-eyed boy, whether you know it or not. Oh, my esteemed reader, there are so many things in the world that people could never have known. So spread love and kindness, because you never know how much of an impact it could have.

I laughed at first because I

UK researchers cure man who had Covid for 411 days

BBRITISH researchers announced Friday they have cured a man who was continually infected with Covid for 411 days by analyzing the genetic code of his particular virus to find the right treatment.

Persistent Covid infection — which is different to long Covid or repeated bouts of the disease — occurs in a small number of patients with already weakened immune systems.

These patients can test positive for months or even years with the infection "rumbling along the whole time", said Luke Snell, a physician specializing in infectious diseases at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.

The infections can pose a serious threat because around half of patients also have persistent symptoms such as lung inflammation, Snell told AFP,

adding that much remains unknown about the condition.

In a new study published in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, a team of researchers at Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and King's College London describe how a 59-year-old man finally overcame his infection after more than 13 months.

The man, who has a weakened immune system due to a kidney transplant, caught Covid in December 2020 and continued to test positive until January this year.

To discover whether he had contracted Covid numerous times or if it was one persistent infection, the researchers used a rapid genetic analysis with nanopore sequencing technology.

The test, which can deliver results in as little as 24 hours, showed the man had an early

B.1 variant which was dominant in late 2020 but has since been replaced by newer strains.

Because he had this early variant, the researchers gave him a combination of the casirivimab and imdevimab monoclonal antibodies from Regeneron.

Like most other antibody treatments, the treatment is no longer widely used because it is ineffective against newer variants such as Omicron.

But it successfully cured the man because he was battling a variant from an earlier phase of the pandemic.

Resistant to treatment

"The very new variants that are increasing in prevalence now are resistant to all the antibodies available in the UK, the EU and now even the US," Snell said.

The researchers used several such treatments to try to

save a seriously ill 60-year-old man in August this year who had been infected since April.

However none worked.

"We really thought he was going to die," Snell said.

So the team crushed up two antiviral treatments not previously used together — Paxlovid and remdesivir — and administered them to the unconscious patient via a nasal tube, according to a non-peer-reviewed preprint study on the website ResearchSquare.

"Miraculously he cleared and perhaps this is now the av-

enue for how we treat these very difficult persistent infections," Snell said, emphasizing that this treatment may not translate for normal Covid cases.

At the ECCMID conference in April, the team announced the longest-known persistent infection in a man who tested positive for 505 days before his death.

That "very sad case" came earlier in the pandemic, Snell said, adding that he was grateful there were now so many more treatment options available.

SOURCE: AFP

Researchers at Guy's & St Thomas' Hospitals helped a 59-year-old man finally overcome his Covid infection after more than 13 months. PHOTO: JUSTIN TALLIS/AFP/FILE



ENVIRON WORLD

UAE, Egypt ink major wind energy deal on COP27 sidelines



UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan, on the left, and Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi shake hands after a ceremony to sign a memorandum of understanding to build a 10-gigawatt onshore wind project in Egypt. **PHOTO: UAE'S MINISTRY OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS/AFP**

THE United Arab Emirates and Egypt agreed Tuesday to develop one of the world's largest wind farms in a deal struck on the sidelines of the UN's COP27 climate summit in Sharm el-Sheikh.

The 10-gigawatt (GW) onshore wind project in Egypt will produce 47,790 GWh of clean

energy annually once it is completed, the UAE's state news agency WAM said in a statement, without specifying an exact timeframe.

It will offset 23.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions – equivalent to around nine per cent of Egypt's current CO2 output, according to WAM.

The wind farm will also save Egypt an estimated \$5 billion in annual natural gas costs and help create as many as 100,000 jobs, it said.

Emirati President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan joined his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah al-Sisi at the signing of the agreement between the UAE's Masdar renewable energy firm and Egypt's Infinity Power and Hassan Allam Utilities.

In a statement on Twitter, Sheikh Mohamed said the deal was "consistent with our commitment to advance renewable energy solutions that support sustainable development".

The UN's COP27 climate summit kicked off Sunday in Egypt with warnings against backsliding on efforts to cut emissions and calls for rich nations to compensate poor countries after a year of extreme weather disasters.

"We will endeavour to take forward the gains made here at COP27, as the UAE prepares to host COP28 next year," WAM quoted Emirati industry minister Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber as saying.—AFP

Viet Nam struggles to break one of world's biggest coal addictions

DESPITE Viet Nam's solar boom and ambitious climate targets, the fast-growing economy is struggling to quit dirty energy -- leaving one of the world's biggest coal power programmes largely intact.

During the COP26 climate summit last year, the government boldly promised to end the construction of new coal plants and phase out the dirtiest of those already running, even as energy demands soar in the manufacturing powerhouse. "But this is not actually what Viet Nam is doing at a national level," Nandini Das, an energy research and policy analyst at Climate Analytics, told

AFP Viet Nam pledged to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, but with coal and gas still a major part of its energy mix one year later, that commitment is on shaky ground, she said.

Solar boom

After China and India, Viet Nam has the world's third-largest pipeline of new coal power projects. But at COP27 this week, G7 countries could announce billions of dollars in funding to help steer Viet Nam away from fossil fuels and the country could attract billions more in clean energy investment as part of the Just Energy Transition Partnership.— AFP



Despite Viet Nam's solar boom and ambitious climate targets, the fast-growing economy is struggling to quit dirty energy. **PHOTO: AFP**

Whale dies after washing ashore in northern France

A 7.6-metre (25-foot) whale died on a beach in northern France on Monday, hours after being discovered washed up and alive but wounded, authorities said.

Experts had hoped the rising tide would come in time to help the cetacean back on its way, but the animal died as it struggled to reach the water.

"It probably drowned" during its efforts, said Jacky Karpouzopoulos, head of CMNE, an association for the protection of wild mammals in northern France. The appearance of this type of beaked whale, a northern bottlenose, this far south is rare.

"These animals usually swim deep in Arctic waters," said Thierry Jauniaux, a sea mammal expert at Liege university in Belgium.

The female cetacean, weighing 3.5 tonnes, probably ended up on the beach "because it was disorientated", Karpouzopoulos told AFP. "I've never seen anything like it in my 40 years on

the job," he said.

Experts had ruled out lifting the animal back into the water, hoping that the tide would allow the animal to refloat and swim away, he said.—AFP



Northern beaked whales are rarely seen this far south of the Arctic. **PHOTO: AFP**

Cities under strain: India's predicted urban boom

INDIA is projected to see an explosion in its urban population in the coming decades, but its cities already cannot cope and climate change will make living conditions harsher still.

The metropolis of Mumbai, one of India's biggest, grew by some eight million people in the past 30 years -- the rough equivalent of the whole of New York City -- to a population of 20 million, and is forecast to add another seven million by 2035.

Like other Indian megacities, Mumbai's housing, transport, water and waste management infrastructure has not kept pace, with around 40 per cent of people living in slums.

These crowded collections of ramshackle buildings, side by side with some of India's richest neighbourhoods, often have no regular water, power supply or proper sanitation.

As the world's population approaches eight billion, most of them in the developing world, it is a situation replicated globally.

Those living on the outskirts of Mumbai commute for hours to work, with many hanging out of doors on packed trains, and others travelling by car or motorbike on clogged, pothole-filled roads that flood during the monsoon.

In the biggest slum, Dharavi of "Slumdog Millionaire" fame, where a million people live, Mohammed Sartaj Khan arrived from rural Uttar Pradesh as a teenager and works in a tannery.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

China's Xiamen unveils regulations protecting medical workers from occupational exposure

CHINA'S coastal city of Xiamen has legislated to protect health-care workers from occupational exposure, marking a pioneering effort in China to better safeguard the group against hazards during work.

Occupational exposure refers to being actually or potentially exposed to contact with a virus or disease-related risks during medical job tasks.

The regulations, which will take effect on 1 Dec 2022, were adopted by the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Xiamen. They highlighted medical personnel's key role in combating the COVID-19 pandemic as more contagious variants of the virus posed

increased exposure risks to their safety. According to the regulations, the municipal and district-level governments shall allocate more funds to step up protection for medical practitioners. Medical institutions shall strengthen risk management and professional training and guarantee the group necessary protective equipment.

The regulations, with 19 articles, have, for the first time, defined the concept of occupational exposure of medical and health personnel from the legislative level. They will provide a legal guarantee for safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of medical workers.—Xinhua



Medical workers of an air-inflated testing lab prepare to receive nucleic acid samples in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province, 5 Sept 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/LIU QIONG

Red Cross eyes digital emblem for cyberspace protection

WHEN Red Cross staff work in conflict zones, their recognizable red-on-white emblems signal they and those they are helping should not be targeted.

Now, as warfare and attacks increasingly move into cyberspace, the organization wants to create a digital emblem that would alert would-be attackers that they have entered computer systems of the Red Cross or medical facilities.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

called Thursday on countries to support the idea, arguing that such a digital emblem would help protect humanitarian infrastructure against erroneous targeting. "As societies digitalize, cyber operations are becoming a reality of armed conflict," ICRC's director-general Robert Mardini said in a statement. "The 'digital emblem' is a concrete step to protect essential medical infrastructure and the ICRC in the digital realm."—AFP

WHO expert calls for faster response to climate change



Extreme temperatures caused heat stress, which had become the leading weather-related cause of death in Europe. People bathe in the Trocadero Fountain near the Eiffel Tower in France on 28 June 2019. PHOTO: AFP/ZAKARIA ABDELKAFI/FILE

HANS Kluge, regional director for Europe at the World Health Organization (WHO), called the current response to climate change "dangerously inconsistent and far too slow" in a statement on Monday.

"Climate change and the crises it has triggered have long been clear health emergencies. WHO and (its) partners have long sounded the alarm," Kluge said, urging participants of the current

United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt to act faster and more coherently.

To avoid increasing exposure and vulnerability to heatwaves and other extreme weather events, Kluge called for drastic adaptation and mitigation measures that could tackle climate change and improve individual, societal and planetary health.

According to Kluge, the devastating wildfires that hit Europe

last summer had caused the highest carbon emissions since 2007, "polluting our air, killing many people".

He warned that extreme temperatures caused heat stress, which had become the leading weather-related cause of death in Europe.

Based on country data, the WHO puts the number of heat-related deaths to 15,000 in 2022, Kluge said.

Last year, high-impact weather and climate events like floods and storms directly affected over half a million people, he said.

Kluge cited a report from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), saying that Europe was the fastest-warming region in the world, where extreme temperatures had accounted for over 148,000 lives lost in the last 50 years.

According to Kluge, his organization intends to "use the collective power of WHO member states to (...) integrate health into any climate change plan". —Xinhua

Apple says iPhone production hit by China Covid lockdown

APPLE warned customers would face longer wait times for iPhones with the holiday season approaching, after Covid restrictions in central China "temporarily impacted" production at the world's largest factory producing the smartphone.

Foxconn, Apple's principal subcontractor, locked down its massive factory in Zhengzhou last month after a spike in infections — in line with China's dynamic zero-Covid policy.

In a separate statement Monday, the Taiwanese firm said its fourth quarter earnings this year would take a hit from the coronavirus lockdowns.

Panicking workers last week had fled the site on foot in the wake of allegations of poor conditions at the facility, which employs hundreds of thousands of workers.

"Covid-19 restrictions have

temporarily impacted the primary iPhone 14 Pro and iPhone 14 Pro Max assembly facility located in Zhengzhou, China," California-based Apple said in a statement late Sunday.

"The facility is currently operating at significantly reduced capacity." Despite strong demand for Apple's products ahead of the holiday season, "we now expect

lower iPhone 14 Pro and iPhone 14 Pro Max shipments than we previously anticipated", it said.

"Customers will experience longer wait times to receive their new products." Foxconn is China's biggest private sector employer, with more than a million people working across the country in about 30 factories and research institutes.—AFP



Apple CEO Tim Cook unveils the new iPhone 13 during a special event at Apple Park on 14 September 2021. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan Cabinet approves 29.1 tril. yen extra budget for econ package

JAPAN'S Cabinet approved Tuesday an extra budget for the current fiscal year to spend 29.09 trillion yen (\$199 billion) on an economic package designed to mitigate the pain on households and businesses of rising prices, exacerbated by a weaker yen.

To secure the necessary funding, the government will issue bonds worth 22.85 trillion yen, putting fiscal restoration on the backburner further despite its debt already being more than twice the size of its economy.

The key feature of the economic package is reducing utility bills for Japanese households. The average household would

save around 45,000 yen between January and September when the package, intended to lower electricity and city gas prices on top of gasoline and kerosene, is implemented.

The government is expected to submit the extra budget plan to parliament in mid-November to have it approved before the current session ends in early December. Work to compile a separate draft budget for the next fiscal year from April is set to accelerate toward year-end. The total size of the economic package will be 71.6 trillion yen, which includes 39.0 trillion yen in fiscal spending by the government and local



The government's new economic package is designed to mitigate the pain on households and businesses of rising prices. **PHOTO: AFP**

municipalities.

Faced with a downtrend in

public support ratings, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is un-

derscoring his administration's efforts to cushion the blow to households from rising consumer prices, which jumped three percent in September, a three-decade high.

"We should not hesitate to spend as needed in times of emergency to protect the livelihoods of people in Japan," Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki said after the budget plan was approved by the Cabinet.

"It's also true that our nation's fiscal situation is becoming all the more severe," Suzuki said, adding that crisis-mode "massive" spending cannot last long, with Japan's fiscal health in dire straits.—Kyodo

China shows off newly approved passenger jet at major airshow



Gulor at the end of September, with the first aircraft expected to be delivered by the end of 2022, according to Xinhua News Agency. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINA on Tuesday showed off its first domestically produced large passenger jet after the aircraft was approved by regulators, unveiling the C919 at a major airshow. The sleek, narrow-body

aircraft took to the runway at the China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, circling through cloudy skies over the southern city of Zhuhai before touching down in front of hun-

dreds of onlookers.

Chinese authorities hope the C919 — built by the state-owned Commercial Aircraft Corp of China (COMAC) — will challenge foreign models like the Boeing 737 MAX and the Airbus A320.

Beijing also hopes its first homegrown jetliner with mass commercial potential will cut the country's reliance on foreign technology as ties with Western countries deteriorate — though most of the plane's parts are sourced from overseas.

Chinese regulators approved the C919 in September, with President Xi Jinping hailing the project's "gratifying achievements" and calling it "an effort freighted with the will of the country".—AFP

Rich nations greenlight S.Africa coal transition plan

WEALTHY nations endorsed South Africa's plan to transition away from coal on Monday, paving the way for an \$8.5 billion deal that could serve as a template for other developing countries.

The announcement was made at the UN's COP27 climate summit in Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh, where developed countries are under pressure to step up their efforts to aid developing countries green their economies. Britain, France, Germany, the United States and the European Union will provide the funds in the form of grants and loans to help South Africa decarbonize its economy, they

said in a joint statement.

The Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) was first announced last year at the COP26 in Glasgow. Negotiations were tricky, with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa saying Friday that the country needed more money to green its economy. Africa's biggest economy relies on coal for 80 per cent of its electricity generation.

The nations providing the \$8.5 billion, known collectively as the International Partners Group, said the funding will go towards decommissioning coal power plants and investments to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy.—AFP



Africa's biggest economy relies on coal for 80 per cent of its electricity generation. A general view of absorbers at the Kusile Power Station, a coal-fired power plant located on the Hartbeesfontein Farm in Malahleni. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sweden's GDP forecast adjusted down for next year

NORDEA, one of the largest banks in the Nordics, has sharply lowered its 2023 forecast for Sweden's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to minus 1.8 per cent from minus 0.5 per cent it made two months ago in Economic Outlook. A weaker domes-

tic development, dramatically tightened financial conditions with higher interest rates, and inflation that eats up purchasing power are reasons behind the adjustment, the bank said. "Our downward revision is mainly based on a weaker domestic

economy. Financial conditions have tightened dramatically this year," the bank said in the forecast, adding that the effects of the rise in interest rates and high inflation will even continue in 2024 and "contribute to the weakness of the recovery".—Xinhua

Court summons Kenya pilots' union over strike

A Nairobi court on Monday summoned officials from the Kenyan pilots' union behind an ongoing strike that has left thousands of Kenya Airways passengers stranded, as the airline cancelled most of its flights.

The Kenya Airline Pilots Association (KALPA) launched the strike at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on Saturday, defying a court order issued last week against the industrial action.

The walkout has exacerbated the woes facing the troubled national carrier, which has been running losses for years, despite the government pumping in millions of dollars to keep it afloat.

"Due to the ongoing unlawful industrial action by Kenya Airline Pilots Association (KALPA),

most of our flights have been cancelled," Kenya Airways said in a statement.

The airline known as KQ also upped the ante in the dispute by announcing it was ending its recognition of the union and withdrawing from their collective bargaining deal because of KALPA's "wilful and malicious acts".

"Due to this unlawful action by KALPA, the customers of KQ both locally and globally have suffered and continue to suffer immeasurable inconvenience and losses," Kenya Airways said in a statement.

This is "exposing the airline to irreparable damage in respect of its financial position and reputation thus resulting in the wider Kenyan economy taking massive hits", it said.—AFP

Microsoft co-founder's art may reap \$1 bln at auction

AN art collection is tipped to break the \$1 billion barrier at auction for the first time when Christie's sells works belonging to late Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen this week.

The two-day sale in New York comes as experts say the super wealthy are viewing art as a safe investment this year amid a tumultuous global economy and Russia's war in Ukraine.

Allen made his fortune with the establishment of the PC operating system with his better-known Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates in 1975.

He amassed a huge art collection which he used to lend to museums before his death in 2018 at



Christie's will sell David Hockney's "The Conversation" from the late Paul Allen's art collection. PHOTO: AFP

the age of 65.

The 150 works, to be sold Wednesday and Thursday at Christie's Manhattan headquarters, trace more than 500 years of art history, from Botticelli and Canaletto to Georgia O'Keeffe and Louise Bourgeois, via Claude Monet, Francis Bacon and

Edward Hopper.

The collection is also unique for its value: several masterpieces are estimated to fetch more than \$100 million. They include French painter Paul Cezanne's "Montagne Sainte-Victoire" (1888-1890), which heralded cubism, and Georges Seurat's

1888 work "Les Poseuses, Ensemble (small version)", a renowned work of pointillism.

Also going under the gavel is Vincent Van Gogh's "Orchard with Cypresses" and a painting from Paul Gauguin's Tahitian period, "Maternity II" (1899), which controversially depicts his teenage mistress, Pahura.

Allen left Microsoft in 1983, due to health problems and a deteriorating relationship with Gates, who remained in charge of the company until 2000.

Despite their strained friendship, Allen signed Gates's "Giving Pledge" campaign and all proceeds from the auction are to be donated to charity.—AFP

Australian insurer warns of 'distressing' data threat

A major Australian health insurer warned Tuesday of a "distressing" threat by a purported hacker to release data within 24 hours from a hack affecting 10 million people.

Medibank Private, one of Australia's largest insurers, told customers to be "vigilant" after the reported threat, issued a day after it had ruled out paying any ransom demand.

The warning came a

day after a hack originally thought to have breached the data of 3.9 million customers had in fact given access to the names, birth dates, addresses, phone numbers and emails of about 9.7 million former and existing clients.

On Tuesday, an anonymous poster on a hacking blog — widely cited by Australian media — said "data will be publish in 24 hours".

It was not possible to confirm whether the poster was connected to the hack or had access to people's stolen information.

"We knew the publication of data online by the criminal could be a possibility, but the criminal's threat is still a distressing development for our customers," Medibank chief executive David Koczkar said, calling for customers to be "vigilant".

"We unreservedly apologize to our customers," he added, describing the "weaponization" of their data as malicious.

The hacker could also attempt to contact customers directly, the company warned.

The data breach of Medibank — one of Australia's largest insurers — included 1.8 million international customers.—AFP



A picture taken through a window shows Kenya Airways planes parked at the parking bay at the Jomo Kenyatta international airport in Nairobi on 1 August 2020.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (155N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (155N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-11-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KHDY0325N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KHDY0325N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-11-2022** 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 PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HORIZON 9 EAL 9

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HORIZON 9 EAL 9** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-11-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-1** 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: **2301191/2301178**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERETT ASIA LINE PTE LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Japan to remodel surface-to-air missiles to intercept hypersonic arms



File photo shows a Type-03 intermediate-range surface-to-air missile.

PHOTO: GROUND SELF-DEFENSE FORCE /KYODO

JAPAN is planning to remodel its existing surface-to-air guided missiles so that they can intercept hypersonic glide weapons, which are believed to be under development by countries such as China and Russia, a source familiar with the matter told Kyodo News on Monday.

The government aims to begin mass production of the remodeled Type-03 intermediate-range guided missiles deployed by the Ground Self-Defence Force by fiscal 2029 starting in April that year, after updating their launch software by fiscal 2026, according to the source.

As part of efforts to boost “comprehensive air and missile defence” capability, the government will mention remodelling the missile interceptors in the National Security Strategy, a long-term policy guideline that is expected to be revised by the end of this year, the source said.

It is difficult for Japan with its current missile defence capability to intercept hypersonic glide weapons, which are designed to travel at more than five times the speed of sound on irregular trajectories, according to a senior official of the Self-Defence Forces.

Currently, Maritime Self-Defence Force Aegis destroyers equipped with Standard Missile-3 interceptors are tasked with hitting incoming missiles in the outer atmosphere. If they fail to intercept them, the Air Self-Defence Force’s ground-based Patriot Advanced Capability-3 interceptors will counter the attack in the lower tier.—Kyodo

Five inmates killed in prison clashes in Ecuador capital

FIVE inmates died Monday when rival gangs clashed in a prison in Ecuador’s capital Quito, which has so far avoided many of the violent jail clashes which have left hundreds dead.

Quito police commander General Victor Herrera told journalists that the five murdered prisoners had suffered “knife wounds”, while another five were injured and in an “unstable condition”.

Police managed to resume control of the prison, Pichincha

No 1, after the late afternoon “dispute between gangs”, said Herrera. The jail is home to 1,300 male inmates.

Quito had until now escaped the violent gang battles — a spillover from a drug war in the country — which have left around 400 inmates dead since February 2021. Many have been beheaded or burned in the clashes in overcrowded prisons, where corruption allows inmates to get their hands on guns and explosives.—AFP



The jail is home to 1,300 male inmates. **PHOTO:AFP/FILE**

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Kakhovka dam in Moscow-occupied Ukraine ‘damaged’ by Kyiv strike: Russian agencies

EMERGENCY services in Moscow-occupied Ukraine said Sunday the key Kakhovka dam in the Russian-controlled region of Kherson was “damaged” by a Ukrainian strike, Russian news agencies reported.

“Today at 10:00 (0800 GMT) there was a hit of six HIMARS rockets. Air defence units shot down five missiles, one hit a lock of the Kakhovka dam, which was damaged,” Russian agencies quoted local emergency services as saying. Ukraine has in recent weeks warned that Moscow forces intended to blow up the strategic facility to cause flooding. The RIA Novosti news agency then quoted a local Moscow-backed official saying the damage was not “critical”.

“Everything is under control. The main air defence strikes were repelled, one missile hit (the dam), but did not cause critical damage,” Ruslan Agayev, a representative of the Moscow-installed administration of nearby



In this file photo taken on 20 May 2022 Russian servicemen patrol at the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant, Kherson Oblast, amid the ongoing Russian military action in Ukraine. **PHOTO: AFP**

city Novaya Kakhovka told the agency.

The Kakhovka hydroelectric dam in southern Ukraine was captured by Moscow’s forces at the start of their offensive. It supplies Russian-annexed Crimea with water. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has accused Russian troops of planning to blow it up to trigger

a devastating flood.

Upstream from the dam is the Kakhovka reservoir on the Dnieper.

The reservoir can hold 18 cubic kilometres of water. Kyiv has said that the dam bursting would cause a “catastrophe on a grand scale” and has called for an international mission to be deployed at the dam.—AFP

Hungarian Workers’ Party calls for peace between Russia, Ukraine

THE Hungarian Workers’ Party has called for peace between Russia and Ukraine, and blamed the US for fuelling the conflict between the two countries.

“Today we are against war, we want peace. But let’s not be naive! The Americans are the ones who don’t want peace today, and they don’t

want it because war makes them rich,” said the Party’s president Gyula Thurmer before the demonstration.

Thurmer was speaking in the centre of Budapest under a banner reading: “NATO pushes Hungary into war, the EU into misery, we want an independent Hungary!”—Xinhua

Ukrainian soldiers keep watch at recaptured border

THE Ukrainian commander points ahead. There’s a bridge over the Donets River, then forest. Beyond it lies the Russian city of Belgorod.

“That green hill over there is Russia,” says commander Roman Gryshchenko.

In September, he helped push Moscow’s forces back

across the border near Kharkiv.

The retreat marked one of the high points of the Ukrainian counteroffensive in the north-east.

Now, Kyiv’s troops in the village of Starytsya stand so close to Russia that some phones mistakenly get texts to say they’ve arrived in the country.—AFP

Former Spanish king appeals against UK harassment lawsuit



King Juan Carlos with his son, Felipe, and Felipe's wife Letizia in 2012. Juan Carlos abdicated in 2014 and has been living in Abu Dhabi since 2020. **PHOTO: DOMINIQUE FAGET/AFP**

SPAIN'S former king Juan Carlos I on Tuesday resumes a UK court battle over harassment claims by his former lover, seeking confirmation of his legal immunity as a royal.

Corinna zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Sayn, 58, is seeking personal injury damages from the 84-year-old former monarch, who ruled Spain from 1975 until his abdication in 2014.

The British resident has accused Juan Carlos, who now lives in the United Arab Emirates, of spying on and harassing her after their relationship soured in 2012.

She filed a harassment suit in London in 2020, alleging he pressured her to return gifts worth 65 million euros (\$65 million), including works of art and jewellery.

Juan Carlos, listed in court under his full name Juan Carlos Alfonso Victor Maria De Borbon y Borbon, has not appeared at hearings so far and strenuously denies any wrongdoing.

In March, the High Court in London rejected Juan Carlos's claim that English courts had no jurisdiction to hear the case because he has state immunity as

a royal. Judge Matthew Nicklin said that "whatever special status the defendant retained under the law and constitution of Spain, he was no longer a 'sovereign' or 'head of state' so as to entitle him to personal immunity".

The former king's lawyers appealed and won permission for a legal challenge concerning the period when Juan Carlos was on the throne. This will be examined by three judges at the Court of Appeal from 1030 GMT on Tuesday, with a ruling expected in a few weeks, after which the harassment lawsuit will continue.—AFP

Greek PM slams wire-tapping claims as 'incredible lie'

GREECE'S prime minister on Monday said reports he wire-tapped his own ministers were "an incredible lie" as the main opposition party threatened to mount a no-confidence motion over the snowballing scandal.

Kyriakos Mitsotakis's conservative government came under increased pressure after a bombshell media report at the weekend alleged that more than 30 politicians, journalists and business executives had been targeted by state surveillance.

The Supreme Court has ordered an investigation, while Syriza, the far-left party of former prime minister Alexis Tsipras, demanded the government to shed light on the affair before the next election due in 2023.

Mitsotakis hit back on Monday, calling the report by

left-wing weekly newspaper Documento, which is close to Syriza, "shameful".

"We have a publication revealing a series of people allegedly under surveillance without the faintest proof that that was actually happening," he told private channel Antena1.

"I have never claimed there wasn't any surveillance. It's another thing to accuse the prime minister of orchestrating this action," he added, calling the accusations "shameful" and "unacceptable".

Documento reported on Saturday that the mobile phones of 33 high profile public figures had been targeted illegally by spyware known as Predator and technology employed by state intelligence agency EYP.—AFP

8-year-old girl locked away by family for seven years



The child was found in Attendorn in the German Sauerland region. **PHOTO: MARKUS KLÜMPER/DPA/AFP**

IN Attendorn, in the Sauerland region in Germany, an eight-year-old girl is said to have been locked away by her mother and grandparents for most of her entire life.

According to "Sauerlandkurier", the girl (who was released at the end of September) has said that she had never seen a forest, had never been in a meadow or

ridden in a car.

The girl, who has meanwhile been placed in a foster family, said during her examination that up until now she had mainly lived in a room with the door locked. Sauerlandkurier.de quoted the senior public prosecutor of Siegen, Patrick Baron von Grotthuss, saying that the girl had not been allowed

to leave the house since she had been at least one and a half years old. "Therefore, the child cannot have consciously been aware of much of the outside world." There were no findings of abuse or malnutrition, and the girl was able to articulate and walk, although she was "barely able to climb stairs or negotiate uneven ground on her own". According to the report, the mother and the grandparents have so far not given any comment. They are being investigated for deprivation of liberty. The mother is said to have told the father, who had been separated from her since before the birth, that she wanted to move to Italy with their daughter.

In September 2015, the father had told the Youth Welfare Office that he had seen the mother several times in Attendorn - but when asked, the grandparents had stated that their daughter lived with their granddaughter in Italy.—AFP

New Zealand mosque shooter files appeal against life sentence

A white supremacist who murdered 51 Muslim worshippers at two mosques in New Zealand's worst mass shooting has filed an appeal against his conviction and life sentence, a court official said Tuesday.

The appeal was filed Thursday by Brenton Tarrant, who was sentenced in 2020 to life in jail

without parole, according to the spokesperson for New Zealand's Court of Appeal. No hearing date has been set for the appeal at this stage.

The 32-year-old had pleaded guilty to all 51 counts of murder, 40 counts of attempted murder and a terrorism charge, before the life sentence with no chance

of early release was handed down in the country for the first time.—Kyodo

The attack on the two Christchurch mosques was the worst mass shooting in New Zealand history. **PHOTO: MARTY MELVILLE/AFP**





Thitsa Arman's July Kyaw (No 10) gets the ball between the opponents during the Myanmar Women's League match played at Thuwunna Training Ground in Yangon on 8 November 2022. PHOTO: MWL



Thitsa Arman trounces Young Lionesses 5-0 in Women's League

THE Thitsa Arman team, made up of the majority of Myanmar national team players, celebrated a big win over the Young Lionesses by a score of 5-0 in yesterday's Myanmar Women's League thriller at Thuwunna Training Ground.

Thitsa Arman, being a big team, put pressure on the Young Lionesses throughout the game.

Myanmar Women's football star Khin Moe Wai scored the

first goal for Thitsa Arman at 36 minutes.

Next, a second or leading goal was scored by another star player Win Theingi Tun at 45 minutes.

Thitsa Arman led the first half with double goals.

In the second half, the Thitsa Arman team didn't drop the tempo and tried hard to score with the fast passing.

Young player Wai Phoo Eain

scored the third goal for Thitsa Arman at 51 minutes and the fourth goal was scored by Nge Nge Htwe at 65 minutes.

Football star Win Theingi Tun again scored the final or fifth goal for her team at 88 minutes.

At the final whistle, the Thitsa Arman team celebrated with cheerful smiles as they earned a big score on the board to sit at the top position. — 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.

Garcia downs Sabalenka to seal WTA Finals victory

FRANCE'S Caroline Garcia scored the biggest victory of her career with a straight-sets defeat of Aryna Sabalenka to win the season-ending WTA Finals on Monday.

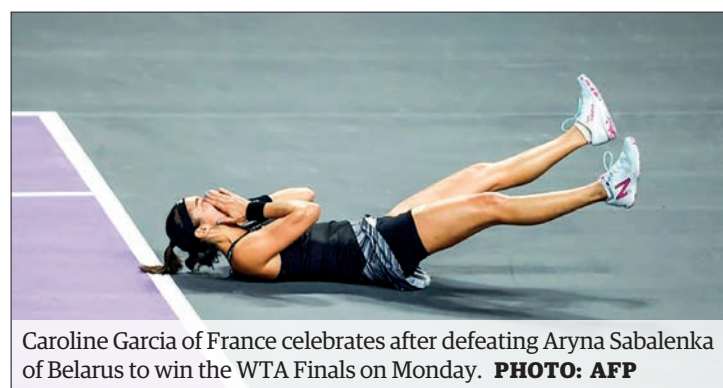
Garcia relied on a superb service game to overpower her Belarusian opponent 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 at Fort Worth, Texas.

The 29-year-old from Lyon is only the second French player to win the WTA title after Amelie Mauresmo in 2005.

"It's definitely a lot of giant happiness," Garcia said after

a win that will see her pocket \$1.57 million in prize money and 1,375 rankings points.

"A crazy final, a lot of intensity on every point. Just really proud of the work we did throughout the year. It was a great match — I really went for it. I'm really happy to win my biggest title." With both sixth-seeded Garcia and seventh-seeded Sabalenka serving beautifully throughout, Monday's final was settled by the finest of margins. —AFP



Caroline Garcia of France celebrates after defeating Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus to win the WTA Finals on Monday. PHOTO: AFP

Eriksen named in preliminary Denmark squad for World Cup

MANCHESTER United midfielder Christian Eriksen, who suffered a cardiac arrest during Euro 2020, was one of 21 players named by Kasper Hjulmand on Monday in Denmark's World Cup squad, with the coach set to name the remaining five players in the coming days.

The full list must be presented by next Monday at the latest, the day before the team leaves for Qatar.

"There are 10 to 12 players competing for the last places," said Hjulmand.

"A lot can happen. It's uncertain, but it's the right way to go. There are two games left for many players, and things could change."

Eriksen spent eight months out of the game after collapsing in Denmark's opening game of the European Championships against Finland in Copenhagen on 12 June last year.



Manchester United Christian Eriksen is in Denmark's initial 21-man squad with five more players still to be named. PHOTO: AFP

He had to be resuscitated on the pitch, lying unconscious for several minutes as the stunned crowd and millions of television viewers around the world watched on in horror.

Eriksen spent several days in hospital and had an implantable cardioverter defibrillator fitted to regulate his heartbeat.

Eriksen terminated his contract with Inter Milan by mutual consent last December as Italian league rules bar players with pacemakers.

He moved to Brentford earlier this year as the Premier League has no such rules regarding pacemakers. —AFP