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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.

Naypyitaw State Academy will be facilitated with modern teaching techniques, curricula and teaching aid, modern laboratory accessories and libraries on par with Yangon and Mandalay universities: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presses the electric button to inaugurate Naypyitaw State Academy in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 9 November 2022.

NAYPYITAW State Academy will be facilitated with modern teaching techniques, curricula and teaching aid, modern laboratory accessories and libraries on par with Yangon and Mandalay universities, said Chairman of

the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the inauguration of the academy yesterday morning.

The Senior General unveiled Naypyitaw State Academy and sprinkled scented water on the

plaque.

At the inauguration ceremony on the first floor, faculty members and students of the National University of Arts and Culture and artists presented a Naypyitaw State Academy song with dances.

Naypyitaw State Academy aims to shape Nay Pyi Taw as an education city and to admit the offspring of government staff and of local people from eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw to have learning international level modern subjects.

Efforts must be made for building the Leading University for Wisdom to turn out scholars who can bring about applied research and enhance the socio-economic development of the State. It is necessary to produce

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Myanmar Gazette

Duty Assignment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has assigned U Aung Aung, Director-General of the Office of the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, to the duties of Permanent Secretary/Director-General of the same organization concurrently.

Myanmar Gazette

Duty Assignment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has assigned Daw Khine Khine Aung, Director-General of the Staff Office of the Union Auditor-General Office, to the duties of Permanent Secretary/Director-General of the same organization concurrently.

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of U Thura Aung Bo, Director-General of the Department of Power Transition and System Control under the Ministry of Electric Power after the one-year probational period.

Myanmar, Russia discuss cooperation in financial matters



UNION Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein met with a delegation led by Mr Alexander Sergeevich Shatirov, Director of Fund RC-Investments from the Russian Federation at

the Ministry's meeting hall at 9:30 am yesterday.

The bilateral cooperation on financial-related matters was frankly discussed at the meeting.

Planning and Finance Deputy Ministers U Maung Maung Win and Daw Than Than Linn, Deputy Governor U Zaw Myint Naing of the Central Bank of Myanmar and heads of departments under the Ministry of Planning and Finance, the Ministry of Electric Power and the Central Bank of Myanmar were also present at the meeting. — MNA

Myanmar, Russia discuss cooperation in agricultural production development

MYANMAR-RUSSIA agricultural production development cooperation meeting was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Union Minister U Hla Moe of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development and Mr Alexander

Sergeevich Shatirov, Director of Fund RC-Investments from the Russian Federation, attended the meeting.

They discussed the matters relating to the investment of Russian entrepreneurs in Myanmar's agricultural production sector, trade opportunities between the two countries, agricultural input industries and manufacturing industries. — MNA

Myanmar, Russia to promote trade sector

UNION Minister for Commerce U Aung Naing Oo received a delegation led by Mr Alexander Sergeevich Shatirov, Director of Fund RC-Investments from the Russian Federation, at the Ministry of Commerce yesterday.

Both parties frankly discussed the possibility of exporting potential goods from Myanmar, standards, rules and

regulations regarding export, connections between entrepreneurs from both countries and matters regarding the promotion of bilateral trade between the two countries.

The deputy minister of the MoC, the permanent secretary, the directors-general and officials participated in the meeting. — MNA

MoNREC Union Minister meets Director of Fund RC-Investments from Russian Federation

UNION Minister U Khin Maung Yi of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation received the delegation led by Director of Fund RC-Investments from the Russian

Federation Mr Alexander Sergeevich Shatirov yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed providing technology and modern equipment for the develop-

ment of the mining sector, cooperation between geologists from the two countries, the development of the jewelry industry, the gemstones market and human resources.—MNA

Myanmar, Russia discuss cooperation in cultural, social, economic sectors

CHAIRMAN U Aung Thaw of the Myanmar-Russia friendship association received the delegation led by Mr Alexander Sergeevich Shatirov, Director of Fund RC-Investments from the Russian Federation, at Thanlwin Hall of Jasmine Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 November.

In the meeting, they dis-

cussed bilateral relations and cooperation in cultural, social, and economic sectors.

After the discussion, the Russian delegation viewed rice, gemstones, amber and medicines made of amber, coffee, Macadamia, sugar, fruit, rubber and rubber products, consumer goods and foodstuffs produced in Myanmar. — MNA



Necessary to preserve the languages and cultures of ethnic people as well as Myanmar literature, language and culture

THE Senior General urged relevant ministries to provide education, health, economic and transport facilities for ethnic people. Hence, relevant ministries need to cooperate with each other in work processes. It is necessary to preserve the languages and cultures of ethnic people as well as Myanmar literature, language and culture.

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

Naypyitaw State Academy will be facilitated with modern teaching techniques, curricula and teaching aid, modern ...

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physically and mentally well-versed educated persons.

Naypyitaw State Academy is aimed to meet the standards of Yangon and Mandalay universities with arts, science, law, economics, medical, social and sports faculties. The Senior General expressed his satisfaction with gathering highly qualified experts from relevant departments in Nay Pyi Taw to give lectures to the students.

In the 2022-2023 academic year, the university will admit students for third-year courses and then open more courses for respective years. In addition, it will conduct master's courses and doctoral courses so as to turn out highly qualified human resources for the improvement of the State.

Naypyitaw State Academy will be facilitated with modern teaching techniques, curricula and teaching aid, modern laboratory accessories and libraries on par with Yangon and Mandalay universities.

Naypyitaw State Academy



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for the documentary group photo together with dignitaries and attendees at the event yesterday.

must focus more on the qualification of students than quantity. In the future, it is necessary to turn out a large number of qualified scholars.

The Senior General stressed the need to open a doctoral course in at least one

university in regions and states and the government will facilitate these universities to be able to conduct the doctoral courses.

The Senior General urged all to improve Myanmar's education standard of universities and schools across the nation

Naypyitaw State Academy is aimed to meet the standards of Yangon and Mandalay universities with arts, science, law, economics, medical, social and sports faculties.



The Senior General views the scale model of Naypyitaw State Academy.

as part of opening Naypyitaw State Academy, students to learn higher education at Naypyitaw State Academy so as to serve the interests of their local community, regions and the State, continuously turn out the scholars at the academy for the emergence of future leaders and good citizens of the nation and upgrade the academy to meet the international standard.

The Senior General and those present visited practical rooms, lecture halls and the library and viewed the scale

model of the academy.

In accord with the guidance of the Senior General, the project of the academy was commenced in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area this April. To be able to ensure convenient learning, the academy was built with lecture halls, an assembly hall, academic and management offices, laboratories and a library. As such, the offspring of government staff in Nay Pyi Taw and those from local people will have the chance to pursue higher studies at the academy. — MNA

SPTT meets NMSP delegation in Nay Pyi Taw

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

The meeting was attended by State Administration Council Member Union Minister at the Government Office Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee-NSPNC Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and members — SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung — and NMSP

Vice-Chairman Nai Aung Min, Joint General Secretary of the NMSP Nai Win Hla and Central Executive Committee member Nai Banyar Lei.

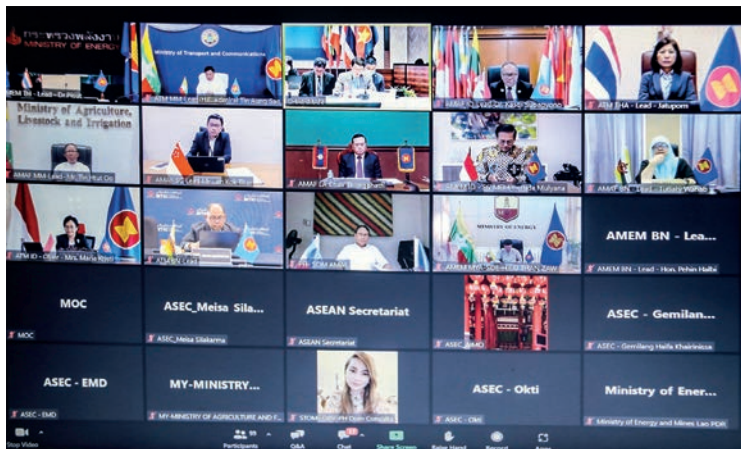
SPTT Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and NMSP Vice-Chairman Nai Aung Min gave their opening speeches at the meeting. Then, participants discussed the list of Union legislation – Table 1 and the list of the region or state legislation – Table 2 in the 2008 Constitution which remains to be discussed, and the findings on the agreements included in Parts I, II and III of the Union Accord whether they comply with the 2008 Constitution and the existing laws. The first-day



The first-day meeting between the State Peace Talks Team and the NMSP delegation is in progress yesterday.

The meeting was adjourned after attendees exchanged their views and opinions. The second-day meeting will be held on 10 November. — MNA

Plenary meeting of ASEAN Economic Community Council Ministers, ASEAN Energy Ministers, Ministers of Transport, Agriculture and Forestry held



The MoTC Union Minister joins the event online.

ACCORDING to the agenda of the 21st ASEAN Economic Community Council meeting, which Cambodia is hosting as a rotating host, a Plenary Meeting of ASEAN Economic Community Council Ministers and ASEAN Energy Ministers, Ministers of Transport, Agriculture and Forestry Ministers was held in virtual format yesterday.

Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San attended

the virtual event.

ASEAN Energy Ministers, Ministers of Transport, Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry and the Secretary General of ASEAN discussed plans to develop a strategy for ASEAN carbon reduction, sectoral cooperation, and assignment and work guidelines.

Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San said that Myanmar's transport sector development is being implemented in line with

the long-term National Transport Master Plan.

Establishing Myanmar's climate change policy and master strategy to meet the United Nations Millennium Development Goals was also discussed.

Following the strategies, a national implementation plan for environmental protection of the transport sector is developed and carbon reduction in transport methods is discussed.

The need for sectoral assignment and collaboration on strategic planning, Greenhouse Gas emissions data collection and evaluations recommend, and human resource development needs were also deliberated.

Economic ministers from ASEAN member countries, Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministers of Transport, Deputy Minister U Aung Kyaw Tun and officials attended the virtual meeting. — MNA

MoH Union Minister receives malaria expert

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win received the delegation led by international malaria expert, Dr Sean Hewitt, from the Malaria Programme Review Mission at the lounge of the ministry yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, the Union minister said Myanmar is systematically planning to achieve the goal of eliminating malaria by 2030. He also said the Ministry of Health and local and foreign malaria experts will review the recommendations on anti-malaria activities and continue to implement them.

Afterwards, the malaria expert reported his field trip to the townships of Yangon Region, Shan, Mon and Kachin states to explain the findings and recommendations from the review of anti-malaria activities, and the Union minister provided necessary instructions.

Deputy Minister Dr Aye Tun, directors-general, regional and the international malaria experts from Malaria Programme Review Mission, officials from WHO and Global Fund based in Geneva, Switzerland, also attended the meeting. — MNA



The Union Health Minister receives the malaria expert from the Malaria Programme Review Mission yesterday.

Mobile entertainment programmes for government staff

THE modern band of MRTV under the Ministry of Information conducts entertaining programmes at ministries in Nay Pyi Taw for government employees, who are serving duties from their respective responsibilities to streamline the mechanism of the government in a bid to motivate employees.

The mobile entertainment group performed at Maniradana Jade Hall of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation yesterday.

Firstly, Union Minister for MoNREC U Khin Maung Yi and officials welcomed Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and famous singers including Myanmarpyi Thein Tan.

Then, MRTV singers, the Inzali Anyeint troupe and famous singers presented performances, and the Union minister gave cash awards to artistes. Entertainment programmes will continue at ministries and organizations. — MNA



Union ministers and civil service personnel watch the mobile entertainment programme.

Myanmar delegation attends 43rd ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD) and its related meetings



The Myanmar delegation takes the group photo at the event.

THE 43rd ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters was held in Kuala Lumpur from 31 October to 3 November.

A seven-member Myanmar delegation led by Police Brig-Gen Win Naing, Joint Secretary of the Central Committee on Drug Abuse Control and Commander of the Drug Enforcement Division attended the meeting. The representatives of ASEAN member countries, the Australian Embassy to Malaysia, China, Japan, and Russia, UN Office on

Drugs and Crime also attended the meeting onsite or online.

Secretary general YBhg Dato' Sri Wan Ahmad Dahlan bin Haji Abdul Aziz of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Malaysia and Director General of the National Anti-Drug Agency (NADA) Mr Sutekno AhMad Belon opened the meeting and discussed the control, suppression, education, medical treatment, alternative development and research and future plans.

Afterwards, Police Brig-

Gen Win Naing, Joint Secretary of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and Commander of the Drug Enforcement Division co-chaired the 7th ASEAN-China Dialogue Meeting with China.

In addition, those present at the meeting discussed the preparations of Myanmar to host the 44th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters in 2023. The Myanmar delegation returned to Myanmar by flight on the afternoon of 4 November. — MNA

Statement on easing sentences of UEC ex-chairman U Hla Thein and member U Myint Naing who committed electoral fraud in 2020 general election

1. Having assumed State responsibilities, the State Administration Council is focusing on the peace, stability and tranquillity of the State continually. With the aim of participating in the future work programmes of the State, the government is especially lenient and relaxing as much as possible for those who are facing penalties and for those who are evading due to anxiety except for those who have committed crimes for various reasons.
2. In such doing, UEC ex-chairman U Hla Thein and commission member U Myint Naing, who were among those who received a three-year jail sentence under the Penal Code Section 130 (a) for committing electoral fraud and appointed for the 2020 multiparty general election by the winning party of the 2015 multiparty general election, were included. Although Tatmadaw had requested former president U Win Myint to resolve the voting fraud in the 2020 general election, he had a certain influence over the activities of UEC beyond his authority and refused to scrutinize the ballots again, and the people knew about it according to his expressions.
3. The offenders admitted their crimes and submitted a petition to the government to ease their remaining sentences for their age and health condition in serving their penalties.
4. Therefore, it is here announced that the government has remitted the remaining sentences of UEC former chairman U Hla Thein and commission member U Myint Naing on humanitarian grounds and goodwill of the government on 25 October 2022.

Information Team of State Administration Council

70 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 9 November, total figure rises to 632,461

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 632,461 after 70 new cases were reported on 9 November 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 606,724, including 103 new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at 19,486 on Wednesday with no new deaths reported from the pandemic.

The country has vaccinated 30,727,644 people aged 18 and above for COVID-19 vaccines and 6,707,250 people aged under 18 years old till 8 November 2022.

Status of COVID-19 vaccination (as of 8 November 2022)

People aged 18 and above who received vaccines	30,727,644
People under 18 years old who received vaccines	6,707,250

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's official website www.moh.gov.mm. — MNA

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Weekly market update of dry groceries

DURING the week ending 8 November, the price of onion hit a fresh new peak at the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market. The prices of black gram, Chinese potato, Shan potato and sugar increased. The sugar fetched K2,580 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes). Chinese potato was priced at K2,000 per viss.

Onion

On 8 November, 150,000 visses of onions entered in the post-Tazaungdaing holidays. However, the price continued to rise and reached a record high.

The prices peaked at K3,100-4,100 per viss of onions from the Seikphyu area and K3,800-4,500 from the Myingyan area.

Chinese onions flowed into the wholesale market with K2,000 per viss, which is half of the local onion's price.

Garlic

The wholesale prices of the Kyukok garlic variety were K3,500 per viss on 8 November while the local garlic from Shan State (Aungban area) moved in the range between K3,000-4,100 per viss.

Potato

The prices of Chinese potatoes were K2,100-2,150 per viss on 8 November. Shan potatoes were valued at K1,500-1,800 per viss depending on quality.

Chilli pepper

The wholesale prices of chilli pepper were K16,000-20,000 per viss (Shan long chilli, Moehtaung variety and chilli pepper) processed at cold storage. The bell pepper fetched K20,500-30,000 per viss.

Palm oil

The wholesale reference price of palm oil in the Yangon Region this week was up by K105 per viss week on week. The reference price for a week from 8 to 13 November was set at K4,330 per viss.

Consequently, the wholesale price of palm oil remained unchanged at K6,300 per viss in Yangon markets.

Rice

The price of sticky rice from Pyapon increased to K90,000 per bag, which soared from K84,000 per bag recorded in the previous week. The price of newly harvested low-grade paddy slightly rose.

The prices of high-grade Pawsan stood at K85,000-93,000 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 K49,000 of Pawkywe, K47,000 of short-mature rice (90 days), K44,000 for rice grown under the intercropping system, K43,000-43,500 for new low-grade rice and K39,000 for new broken rice on 8 November.

Pulses

On 8 November, the price of black gram rebounded to over K1.8 million per tonne. The various pulses stood at over K1,810,000 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K2,135,000 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC), K1,930,000 per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) RC and K4,100-4,200 per viss of chickpea in Yangon markets. —TWA/GNLM



An undated picture shows a grocery that retails a range of food products.



Myanmar Embassy in Thailand reminds citizens to take extra care

Myanmar visitors are seen at Don Mueang Airport on 3 November.

THE Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok released a statement for Myanmar citizens to take extra precautions and care due to stricter security measures of Thailand on 8 November.

Security Forces of Thailand announced that they will tighten the security of Bangkok at airports, jetties, and entry/exit as the 2022 Asia-Pacific Economic

Cooperation (APEC) Summit will be organized in Bangkok from 14 to 19 November.

Therefore, the Myanmar Embassy reminded its people to follow the set regulations and not make any wrongdoing during that period.

Similarly, the staff of the Embassy and the office of the Consul-General are providing

the passport renewal processes for Myanmar citizens on 4 October.

The embassy carried out necessary things as one Myanmar national was detained at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok for holding a suspected Myanmar passport. It was found out that the passport containing scratches was serviced by the broker and the owner did not do it in person, therefore the embassy announced to renew the passport in person. —TWA/GNLM

Beloved public figure—poet-cum-writer Akyi Taw passes away

“SOMEBODY told me, ‘You write and tell joyfulness and senses of humour only. Sometimes, please write and tell valuable ones.’ Despite surprising, I gazed at them with a smile. Nothing is more valuable than happiness in the world,” said humour novelist Akyi Taw (aka) Saw Kyi Phyu, 51, who created artistic works in literature for a large number of Myanmar readers. He passed away on the evening of 9 November.

His demise was sorrowful for Myanmar literary arena. Akyi Taw was a Myanmar writer emphasizing the humour genre. His original name is Saw Kyi Phyu. He was born to U Tun Naing and Daw Yu Nwe. He was the second eldest among seven siblings. He was older than academy Di Ra Mo and artist Ko Hsan.

He joined the Myanmar literary arena in 1988 with the pen name Ko Ko Gyi and started the creation of novels with the pen name Akyi Taw in 2003, occupying the applause of a lot of readers.

The writer suffered from stomach respiratory cancer. In the last week of September 2022, he received medical treatment for his disease in Bangkok of Thailand but



his heart beat and breathing suddenly stopped at night when he arrived back in Myanmar. So, he was sent to Pinlon Hospital for further treatment and he passed away at 8:23 pm on 9 November, according to his close friends.

He wrote 83 humour novels. Among them, the novels with the titles of Zawka-Kanaythi, Bilue, Shwe Moe Thei, Kyauk-Thin-Pone-Dwe-Moe-Htar-Te-Ein, Kyuntawt-Chitthu-Pyawthaw Thu-Chitthu-Akyang, Nat-Nay-Kaing, Chit-Loh-Satar-Nar-Tei, Kawayphyoye-Nidan and so on are famous. Many of his novels were converted into films earning a large sum of income and winning the hearts of audiences. Re-

cently, "the Poem-Music Album" which is his combined artistic works of poems and music was published.

As the news of the death of Akyi Taw spread on the evening of 24 October, his family and literary society informed the audiences and readers about the wrong information on social networks.

In addition to the creation of poems and humour novels, Novelist Akyi Taw talked about his life, characters in his life, his reviews and experiences at the literary talks across the nation together with prominent literati Ledwintha Saw Chit, Chit Oo Nyo, Maung Tha Cho, Juu and Cartoonist Aw Pi Kyeh. —TWA/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Ayeya paddy price expected to remain high

THE price of paddy produced in the Ayeyawady Region is likely to keep rising, according to Ayeya Trade Centre (ATC) under Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

At present, direct export of rice from the Ayeyawady Region to foreign markets has started and the traders who keep the stocks in hand pushed up the paddy price for now. The price of paddy is expected to remain on an upward trend, said a rice trader.

In early September, the Myanmar government and Bangladesh government signed a Memorandum of Understanding on rice trade. According to this MoU, 30,000-50,000 tonnes of rice are slated to be directly exported

to Bangladesh from Ayeyawady Region.

Therefore, Myanmar directly sent 2,650 tonnes of Emahta rice (5 per cent broken) to Bangladesh through Ayeyawady International Industrial Port-AIIP in Patheingyi Industrial City.

According to the MoU, Bangladesh has agreed to yearly buy 250,000 tonnes of white rice and 50,000 tonnes of parboiled rice from Myanmar between 2022 and 2027.

At present, the paddy prices stood at K1.3 million per 100-basket for low-grade paddy and K1.64 million for high-grade paddy, K1.4 million for the Shwethwe variety. The prices of rice are K43,000 per bag of low-grade rice (Sinthukha, Manawthukha

and hybrid variety), K53,000 for the new Pawsan rice variety and K65,000 for the old Pawsan rice variety. The prices may vary depending on the market conditions.

Dealers from Bago and Pyaw Bida cities came and purchased paddy in Ngathayingyoung and Hinthada townships in Ayeyawady Region. Rice is sent to Mandalay, Sagaing, Monywa, Pakokku and Yangon's Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre.

Since 7 September 2017, Myanmar and Bangladesh have engaged in rice trade under the government-to-government pact. That MoU stated that Bangladesh has agreed to yearly buy Myanmar's white rice (250,000 tonnes) and parboiled



Since 7 September 2017, Myanmar and Bangladesh have engaged in rice trade under the government-to-government pact...A combine harvester is pictured working on the paddy field.

rice (50,000) tonnes between 2017 and September 2022.

Bangladesh's Directorate General of Food and MRF signed the sales contracts as per the

MoU and Myanmar sent 100,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh each in 2017 for the first time and 2021 for the second time, as per the sales contract. – NN/GNLM

YGEA set reference gold price higher at over K2 million per tical on global gold price hike



Gold jewellery is pictured at the gold outlet in Yangon.

THE increase in global gold spot prices pushed the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association to hike up the reference price to over K2 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme).

On 8 November, the YGEA's price was K1,965,000 per tical when the global gold spot price was US\$1,668 per ounce.

On 9 November, the global gold price edged up to \$1,711 per ounce, and the reference price by the YGEA also climbed up to K2,015,000 per tical. The figures showed an

increase of \$40 per ounce and K50,000 per tical within one day.

However, the pure gold price hit K2.7 million per tical in the domestic market.

There is a price gap of about K700,000 per tical between the price set by the YGEA and the market price.

YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate of K2,100, with some addition. The dollar was exchanged at K3,000 in the black market.

Therefore, there is a large gap between the YGEA price and the market price based on the black-market dollar rate.

Meanwhile, YGEA called for the gold shops in Yangon Region to sell pure gold at K2,530,000 per tical, according to its notification released on 30 October 2022.

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. – NN/GNLM

Black gram price rebounds to over K1.8 mln per tonne

THE price of black gram has bounced back to over K1.8 million per tonne after the market holidays, as per the pulses market.

Before the Tazaungdaing holidays (6-7 Nov), the black gram fetched K1,788,000 per tonne on 5 November. On 8 November, the price rose to K1,810,000 per tonne again after the market holidays. The price was up by K22,000 per tonne within two days. Kyat depreciation against the US dollar is a main contributing factor to the price rise. The dollar was exchanged at around K3,000 in the black market.

In late August, the dollar against Kyat peaked at K4,500 in the black market. Following that, the black gram price reached a record high of K2.1 million per tonne.

Myanmar bagged over US\$700 million from nearly 900,000 tonnes of pulses exports in the past seven months in the current financial year, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Myanmar conveyed

over 899,541.734 tonnes of various beans and pulses worth \$707.799 million to foreign trade partners between 1 April and 28 October 2022 in the current financial year 2022-2023. The country shipped 752,623.804 tonnes of pulses and beans valued at \$607.942 million to foreign markets by sea, and over 146,917.930 tonnes valued at \$99.857 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders.

Myanmar exported over 2 million tonnes of various pulses worth \$1.57 billion to foreign trade partners last financial year 2020-2021. The country shipped 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and beans valued at \$966.4 million to foreign markets through sea routes, and 786,920 tonnes worth \$604.3 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders.

Myanmar primarily exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas. Of them, black gram and pigeon peas are mainly

sent to India while green grams are shipped to China and Europe.

India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black gram and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2022, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that annual quota. Myanmar yearly produces approximately 400,000 tonnes of black gram and about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas. Myanmar is the top producer of the black gram that is primarily demanded by India, while pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are cultivated in Australia and African countries besides Myanmar. – NN/GNLM

OPINION

Anticipate fruits of peace and development for prosperity

PEACE is the lifeblood of a country as well as development is of backbone for the improvement of a nation. It is because peace contributes to the development and prosperity of the nation. Likewise, development is a root cause for the restoration of peace in the country.

All the people aspire to enjoy the fruits of development in the restoration of peace in the country. Practically, peace encourages development measures in the country. Thanks to development measures, the peace of the nation will be long-term existence benefiting the entire people so as to enjoy the fruits of development.

Such a significant day aims to strengthen public awareness of the role of science in peaceful and sustainable societies, to promote national and international solidarity for shared science between countries, to renew national and international commitment to the use of science for the benefit of societies and to draw attention to the challenges faced by science in raising support for the scientific endeavour.

It can be seen that peace and development are interrelated. Celebrated every 10 November, the World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It also underlines the importance and relevance of science in the daily lives of the global people.

The World Science Day for Peace and Development set by the United Nations General Assembly indicates the important role of peace and development for global countries and their peoples. In this regard, the countries and the people suffering the bitter experiences of lack of peace and development can thoroughly understand the taste of peace and development.

The significant day helps create the opportunity to mobilize all actors around the topic of science for peace and development – from government officials to the media to school pupils. UNESCO strongly encourages all to join in celebrating World Science Day for Peace and Development by organizing their own event or activity on the day.

The applications of basic sciences are vital for advances in medicine, industry, agriculture, water resources, energy planning, environment, communications and culture, affirmed the United Nations General Assembly on 2 December 2021, when it endorsed the proposal for an International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development. Marking such a day is contributing to the Year 2022 by celebrating this theme.

Such a significant day aims to strengthen public awareness of the role of science in peaceful and sustainable societies, to promote national and international solidarity for shared science between countries, to renew national and international commitment to the use of science for the benefit of societies and to draw attention to the challenges faced by science in raising support for the scientific endeavour.

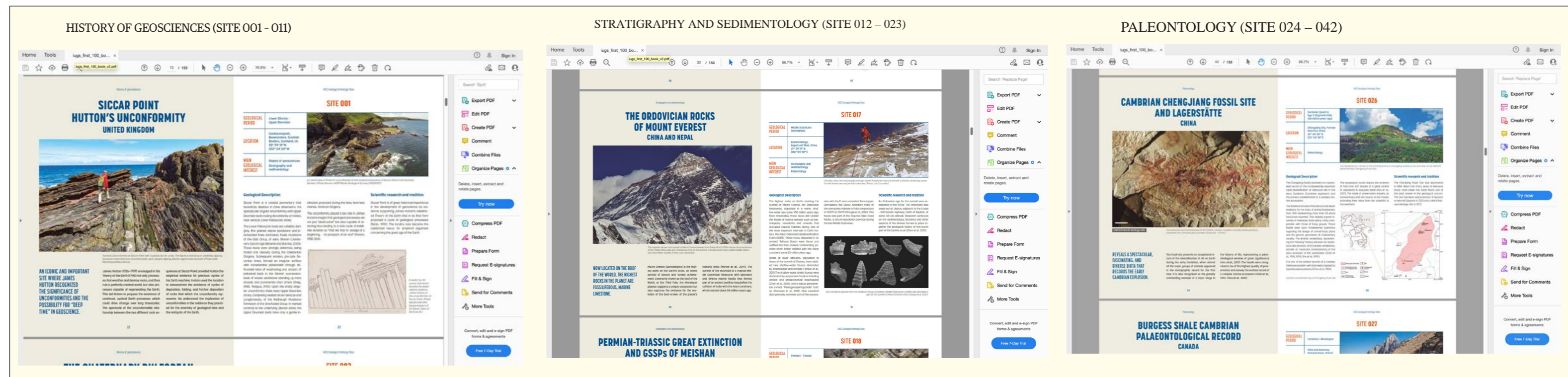
As such, all the global peoples have an entitlement to anticipate peace and development measures for shaping a brighter future for all. Let's share the future for posterity.

ARTICLE

The First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites

IUGS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

By THAN HTUN
(MYANMAR GEOSCIENCES SOCIETY)



IUGS THE International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), founded in 1961, with 121 national members, representing over a million geoscientists, is one of the World's largest scientific organizations. It encourages international cooperation and participation in the Earth sciences in relation to human welfare and is a member of the International Science Council (ISC). Membership is open to countries or defined regions. IUGS believes that it is of mutual benefit to establish close links with other organizations engaged in geoscience

activities, especially those organizations whose work relates to some of the major activities of IUGS.

The announcement on 28 October 2022 of the "First 100" Geological Heritage Sites recognized by the International Union of Geological Sciences follows a 60-year tradition of the IUGS establishing globally recognized geostandards through international collaborations. The chronostratigraphic units and GSSPs, the IUGS Classification of Igneous Rocks, and the Global Geochemical Reference

Network represent good examples of these global standards.

IUGS-ratified geostandards have authority. They are of the highest importance to the practice of geology and, thus, receive international recognition. Their legitimacy derives from the well-established, transparent, deliberative process by which decisions are made and proposals are approved often by consensus or unanimously by the voting members of a sub-commission, who are experts and internationally diverse. The proposals must then

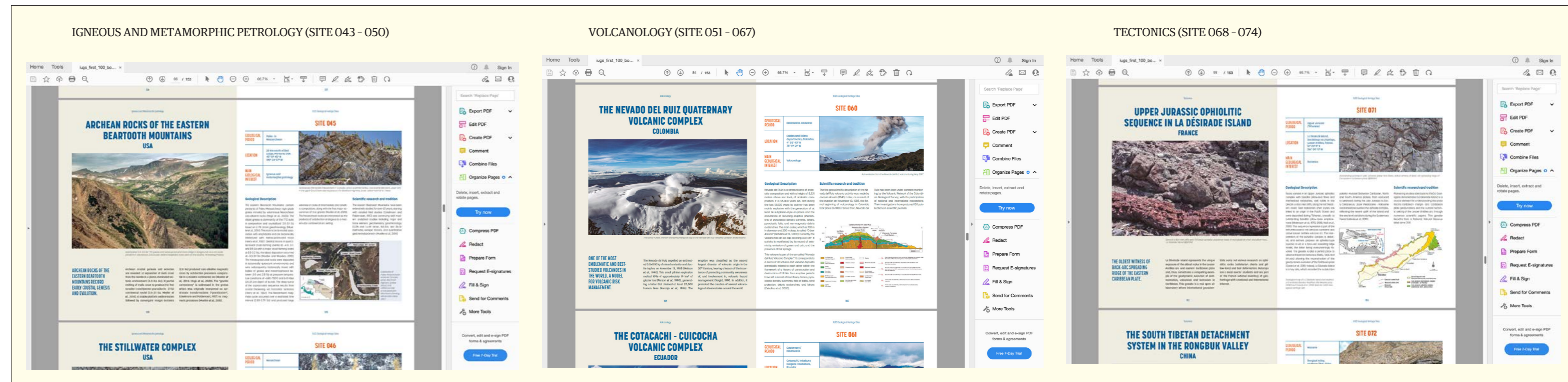
be analyzed and approved at the Commission level, and finally, the IUGS EC must vote to approve the proposal. It is then ratified as an international geostandard.

The Commission on Geoheritage was reorganized recently with the immediate objectives of recognizing Geological Heritage Sites, strengthening the recognition of Global Heritage Stone Resources, and establishing a group to recognize Geocollections. For IUGS Geological Heritage Sites, the first group of 20 international experts on geoheritage from 13

different countries developed high standards for recognition. An open process of identification was opened among more than 40 participants of the IGCP 731 project. 181 candidates from 56 countries were proposed and evaluated by 33 international experts. The result of this international collaboration between IUGS and more than 10 commissions and affiliated organizations is the selection of the "First 100" presented in this book. The First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites is a great milestone that will inspire the work of this ambitious

program. There will be more IUGS Geological Sites recognized in the coming years (Stanley Finney & Asier Hilario).

The IUGS categorized nine geoheritage types with a total of 100 geoheritage sites. Only a single geoheritage site of each category can be shown due to limited space. Myanmar Geosciences Society is one of the members of IUGS and we look forward to presenting internationally significant Geological Heritage Sites and Geoparks of Myanmar in near future.



SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

NASA Moon rocket launch delayed again, this time by storm



A launch attempt, which had been scheduled for 14 November will now take place on 16 November Jim Free, a senior official at the US space agency, said on Twitter. **PHOTO: NASA**

NASA again rescheduled its long-delayed uncrewed mission to the Moon on Tuesday as Tropical Storm Nicole churned toward the east coast of Florida, officials said.

A launch attempt, which had been scheduled for 14 November, will now take place on 16 November, Jim Free, a senior official at the US space agency, said on Twitter.

It is the third delay of the highly-anticipated launch in as many months.

“Our people are the most important aspect of our mis-

sion,” wrote Free, who is NASA’s Associate Administrator for Exploration Systems Development. “Adjusting our target launch date for Artemis I prioritizes employee safety and allows our team to tend to the needs of their families and homes.” The Atlantic Ocean storm was expected to develop into a hurricane Wednesday near the Bahamas, before making landfall in Florida either later that evening or early Thursday, the National Hurricane Centre said. A hurricane warning has been issued near the Kennedy Space Centre, where the rocket

— NASA’s most powerful ever — is to blast off. With Nicole gaining strength, “NASA... has decided to re-target a launch for the Artemis I mission for Wednesday, 16 Nov, pending safe conditions for employees to return to work, as well as inspections after the storm has passed,” the agency said in a statement Tuesday evening.

NASA added that a launch occurring during a two-hour window that opens at 1:04 am EST (0604 GMT) on 16 November would result in a splashdown on Friday, 11 Dec.—AFP

Please don’t lick psychedelic toads, warn US park officials

US park officials have asked visitors to stop licking psychedelic toads, warning that anyone seeking a hallucinogenic high from the wart-covered amphibians is more likely to end up seriously ill. The National Park Service posted cautionary messages on social media last week against licking Sonoran Desert toads, a practice long depicted on popular animated television shows including “The Simpsons” and “Family Guy”.

“As we say with most things you come across in a national park, whether it be a banana slug, unfamiliar mushroom, or a large toad with glowing eyes in the dead of night, please refrain from licking,” said park officials.

The toads — among the largest in North America, at nearly seven inches (18 centimetres) long — secrete a potent toxin from their glands which “can

make you sick if you handle the frog or get the poison in your mouth,” they wrote.

The messages did not indicate how many people have been seeking recreational highs by licking the slimy green creatures, also called Colorado River toads, which live in the southwestern United States and northwest Mexico.

To defend themselves from predators, the toads secrete a milky substance containing various toxins, among which is 5-MeO-DMT — a psychoactive compound that triggers hallucinogenic effects.

Smoking extracted 5-MeO-DMT induces a powerful, short psychedelic experience, and has become popular in recent years, including at expensive underground “toad ceremonies” in the US, where it is a controlled substance, and in Mexico.—AFP



Sonoran desert toads, also called Colorado River toads, which live in the southwestern United States and northwest Mexico. **PHOTO: AFP**

Six killed in Nepal earthquake

SIX people were killed in a 5.6-magnitude earthquake that struck western Nepal in the early hours Wednesday, causing tremors as far away as New Delhi, authorities said.

The epicentre was near the Nepalese municipality of Dipayal, 340 kilometres (210 miles) west of Kathmandu at a depth of 15 km at around 2:00 am (2030 GMT), according to the US Geological Survey.

Six people died in the western district of Doti, including three members of the same family, local police chief Rajendra Dhamala said.

Five others were injured and were undergoing treatment at a local hospital.

Some houses were damaged and local authorities said they were still assessing damages and casualties.

Tremors were felt in north-



At least six people were killed and five others injured as an earthquake shook Nepal early Wednesday. Tremors were also felt in parts of northern India, including the capital city of Delhi. **PHOTO: NEPAL ARMY/AFP**

ern India but there were no reports of deaths or damage there.

Residents of Indian capital New Delhi posted videos on social media including swaying light fixtures and shaking fences.

The Indian National Centre for Seismology reported the quake as magnitude 6.3.

Western Nepal was also jolted Wednesday at around 9:00 pm (1530 GMT) by a magnitude 4.8 earthquake at a depth of 10 km.

Nearly 9,000 people died when a 7.8-magnitude quake struck Nepal in April 2015, destroying more than half a million homes.—AFP

Heatwaves could kill 90,000 Europeans per year by 2100: EEA

IF nothing is done, heatwaves could lead to the deaths of 90,000 Europeans each year by the end of the century, the European Environment Agency said.

“Without adaptation measures, and under a scenario of three degrees Celsius global warming by 2100, 90,000 Europeans could die from extreme heat annually,” it said.

“With 1.5 degrees C global warming, this is reduced to 30,000 deaths annually.”

Countries have pledged to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels — a goal the world is set to miss on current emission trends. Some 129,000 Europeans died from excessive heat in the period between 1980 and 2020, the agency said, citing insurance data.

But more frequent heatwaves linked to climate change, an ageing population and increased urbanization have made

this figure likely to increase in coming years, especially in the south of the continent, it said.

The World Health Organization on Monday said at least 15,000 people had died so far this year in Europe because of hot weather. The three months from June-August were the hottest in Europe since records began, and the exceptionally high temperatures led to the worst drought the continent has witnessed since the Middle Ages.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

WHO chief Tedros walking tightrope on Tigray

TEDROS Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the World Health Organization's leader, is in the rare position of heading a UN agency's response to a humanitarian crisis in which his own family's survival is at stake.

Tedros, 57, hails from Tigray, the besieged northern region of Ethiopia gripped by fighting and misery for two years.

Last week's ceasefire deal between Ethiopia's government and Tigrayan rebels raised hopes that the brutal conflict in Africa's second most populous

country could be nearing its end.

"The most courageous choose peace," Tedros tweeted on Saturday. "Give peace a chance!" Globally recognizable as the face of the international Covid-19 response, Tedros frequently uses his platform to speak out on his homeland.

"Yes, this affects me personally," the WHO chief, who was once a top figure in the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), told reporters on 19 October.

"Most of my relatives are in

the most affected areas, more than 90 per cent of them.

"But my job is to draw the world's attention to crises that threaten the health of people wherever they are."

Since the Tigray conflict erupted two years ago, the region's six million people have been virtually cut off from the outside world. With little aid trickling in, they face dire shortages of fuel, food and medicines, and lack basic services, including communications and electricity.—AFP



Last week's ceasefire deal between Ethiopia's government and Tigrayan rebels raised hopes that the brutal conflict in Africa's second most populous country could be nearing its end. Soldiers of Tigray Defence Force (TDF) in Mekele, Tigray region, Ethiopia. **PHOTO: YASUYOSHI CHIBA/AFP/FILE**

Norway princess gives up royal duties for alternative medicine



A 16 June file photo shows Princess Martha Louise of Norway and her fiancé, self-proclaimed shaman Durek Verrett, in Oslo, the Norwegian capital. **PHOTO: AFP**

NORWAY'S Princess Martha Louise has relinquished her royal duties in order to focus on her alternative medicine business with her fiancé, a self-proclaimed shaman, the palace said on Tuesday.

The 51-year-old princess' re-

lationship with Durek Verrett, a popular Hollywood spiritual guru, caused waves in Norway after the African-American "sixth-generation shaman" suggested in his book "Spirit Hacking" that cancer was a choice. He also sells a

medallion on his website dubbed a "Spirit Optimizer", which he claims helped him overcome Covid-19. A poll in September found 17 per cent of Norwegians now have a lower opinion of the generally popular royal family, nearly all citing the princess and the shaman as the reason. "The princess ... is relinquishing the role as royal patron ... and will not be representing the royal house at the present time," the palace said in a statement. However, "in accordance with the king's wishes, the princess will keep her title".

The palace said that once the princess and Verrett were wed, he would become a member of the royal family but would not have a title or represent the monarchy. Martha Louise, who claims to be able to speak with angels, lost her honorific "Her Royal Highness" title in 2002 when she chose to work as a clairvoyant.—AFP

Hackers leak Australian health records on dark web

HACKERS on Wednesday began leaking sensitive medical records stolen from a major Australian health insurer that had earlier refused to pay the group's ransom demand.

Medibank told investors and customers that a "sample" of data from some 9.7 million clients had been posted on a "dark web forum".

Names, birth dates, addresses, passport numbers and information on medical claims were among the sensitive personal data posted anonymously early Wednesday.

Medibank said more leaks were likely.

"The files appear to be a sample of the data that we earlier determined was accessed by

the criminal," the company said in a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange.

"We expect the criminal to continue to release files on the dark web." Medibank previously refused to pay ransom to stop the hackers from leaking the data, saying it could fuel further crime and would not guarantee the information was safe.—AFP



Names, birth dates, addresses, passport numbers and information on medical claims were among the sensitive personal data posted anonymously early Wednesday. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

US social issues to cause more deaths from COVID-19: Health Affairs

LONG existing social problems in the United States may lead to more deaths from the COVID-19 pandemic, American journal Health Affairs has reported.

Americans have for decades experienced poorer health outcomes than people in peer countries "because of deficiencies in the healthcare system, adverse socioeconomic conditions, unhealthy physical and social environments, systemic racism, and policies that jeopardize health," said the report in the November issue of the journal. Due to problems like delays in accessing care and increasing socioeconomic precarity, which have been exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, "more deaths will occur, and a larger number of Americans will experience disease complications," it said.—Xinhua

Singapore reports 3,568 new COVID-19 cases

SINGAPORE reported 3,568 new cases of COVID-19 on Tuesday, bringing the total tally to 2,128,572.

A total of 338 cases are currently warded in hospitals, with 14 of them in intensive care units, according to statistics released by the country's Ministry of Health.

One new death from COVID-19 was reported on Tuesday, taking the total death toll to 1,691.—Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Sri Lanka should take steps to gain RCEP membership: president



Participants attend the 3rd Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Summit in Bangkok, Thailand, 4 Nov 2019. **PHOTO: XINHUA/ZHU WEI/FILE**

SRI Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe emphasized the need to gradually liberalize the country's service sector to attract foreign direct investment (FDI), the President's Media Division (PMD) said in a statement on Sunday.

The president also said steps should be taken to gain membership in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the world's largest free trade agree-

ment to date.

Wickremesinghe made these remarks during a meeting with the officials of the National Trade Negotiations Committee at the Presidential Secretariat.

The president talked to them about free trade negotiations, the future outlook of international trade, and the importance of aligning policy priorities. He further said that in parallel with the expansion of international trade

activities, the government will implement a trade adjustment programme to support local industries to adjust to the competition. Access to regional and global supply chains and re-engagement with the global economy to enhance export and export-oriented foreign direct investment is an element of the government's economic reform programme to revitalize the domestic economy, he said.—Xinhua

Resolution of N.Ireland trade row possible before year-end: Dublin



Stormont, the seat of the Northern Ireland Assembly. Someone, possibly both sides, has to give way for talks to succeed. **PHOTO: AFP**

DEAL between the EU and the UK on post-Brexit trading arrangements in Northern Ireland is possible before the end of the year, Ireland's foreign minister said on Tuesday.

Simon Coveney's optimism

comes as the governments in Dublin and London prepare for talks at a British-Irish summit later this week.

Europe's pointman on talks to resolve the row, Maros Sefcovic, on Monday said agreement

could come within weeks with the right "political will".

Ireland's prime minister Micheal Martin will meet his UK counterpart Rishi Sunak at the summit in Blackpool, northwest England, on Thursday, Coveney added.

"We need to get this issue behind us in terms of the protocol in a way that respects an international treaty that's been signed," he said.

"I think it's doable by the end of the year," he told reporters in Dublin, stopping short of a definitive timeline for talks.

Relations between EU member Ireland and the UK, which left the bloc in 2021, have been damaged by disagreements over the implementation of trade arrangements in UK-run Northern Ireland.—AFP

China's forex reserves rise in October

CHINA'S foreign exchange reserves rose to 3.0524 trillion US dollars at the end of October, up 23.5 billion US dollars from a month earlier, official data showed on Monday.

The volume went up 0.77 per cent from the end of September, according to the State Administration of Foreign Exchange. The foreign exchange regulator attributed the increase in foreign exchange reserves in October to the combined impact of currency translation and changes in asset

prices.

Affected by monetary policy expectations and macroeconomic data of major countries, the US dollar index fell slightly and the prices of global financial assets were mixed last month, the regulator said. It added that China's foreign exchange reserves are expected to stay generally stable with the support of the strong resilience, great potential, considerable wiggle room and sound long-term fundamentals of the Chinese economy.—Xinhua



A view of the Lujiazui Financial Area in Shanghai, China. **PHOTO: CFP/XINHUA**

NEWS IN BRIEF

China's ultra-rich squeezed by slowing economy: Hurun ranking

THE wealth of China's billionaires this year dropped by the largest amount in more than two decades, according to an annual ranking, as zero-Covid curbs and a property market crisis stall the world's second-largest economy.

The Hurun China Rich List, released Tuesday, said the total wealth of all individuals with a minimum net worth of 5 billion yuan (\$691 million) dropped by 18 per cent to \$3.5 trillion.

Only 1,305 people made it onto the list – an 11 per cent net decrease compared with last year, and the biggest drop in 24 years.

The fortunes of China's ultra-rich have been battered by Beijing's harsh zero-Covid policy, which has heavily disrupted production and supply chains. They have also taken a hit from stock market routs during a two-year crackdown on the tech industry, and suffered from geopolitical volatility caused by events such as the war in Ukraine.—AFP

US small business optimism drops in October: survey

CONFIDENCE among US small businesses ticked downward in October as surging inflation impacted sentiment, according to a survey released Tuesday. The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) said its Small Business Optimism Index dropped 0.8 points to 91.3 in October, marking the lowest level since July. The slump occurred after two consecutive months of gains, which followed a downturn in business sentiment in the first half of 2022.—Xinhua

Honda lifts profit outlook to 725 bln yen on windfall from weaker yen



Honda also lifted its sales outlook for the current fiscal year to a record 17.4 trillion yen from its earlier forecast of 16.8 trillion yen. **PHOTO: KYODO**

HONDA Motor Co. on Wednesday raised its full-year net profit outlook to 725 billion yen (\$4.9 billion) from the previously projected 710 billion yen, as a greater impact of a weaker yen will offset the impact of its lower sales volume outlook.

The latest net profit project for the year to March 2023 represents a 2.5 per cent rise from the

previous year when the automaker was also helped by the depreciation of its home currency.

Honda also lifted its sales outlook for the current fiscal year to a record 17.4 trillion yen from its earlier forecast of 16.8 trillion yen.

“We are not boastful (of the record sales forecast) as our global vehicle sales are not record-break-

ing,” Honda Operating Executive Eiji Fujimura said at a press conference. He conceded the upward revisions are due largely to the effect of the yen’s slide against the US dollar.

The carmaker revised its assumption for the dollar to 135 yen from 125 yen for this fiscal year. A weaker yen boosts profits earned overseas when repatriated and bolsters

the price competitiveness of Japan-made products abroad.

The yen has remained on a downtrend since March, hitting a 32-year low in October on expectations that the interest rate gap between the two countries will widen due to differences in monetary policy between the Federal Reserve and the Bank of Japan.—Kyodo

Elon Musk sells nearly \$4bn in Tesla stock: SEC filing

TESLA chief Elon Musk sold nearly \$4 billion worth of shares in the electric car company, SEC filings showed Tuesday, more than a week after he closed his \$44 billion acquisition of Twitter.

Musk has been pushing for ways to pay for the massive deal, for which he took on billions of dollars in debt and earlier sold \$15.5 billion worth of shares in Tesla.

On Tuesday, documents filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) indicated that he had disposed of more than another 19 million shares, worth in excess of \$3.9 billion.—AFP

Crypto platform Binance to buy troubled rival FTX

BINANCE, the world’s biggest cryptocurrency platform, has agreed to buy its financially-troubled rival FTX.com, according to an announcement Tuesday on Twitter.

In a tweet, Binance chief executive Changpeng Zhao said the group had signed a non-binding letter of intent “to fully acquire FTX.com”, which is suffering from “a significant liquidity crunch”.

No financial terms were disclosed for the proposed deal, whose announcement came as bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies initially slumped Tuesday on fallout from FTX’s woes.—AFP

French unions call Paris metro strike as inflation bites

LABOUR unions have called a major one-day strike which threatens to paralyze Paris public transport Thursday, the latest industrial action to demand relief from the French government over soaring prices.

The RATP transport operator for the capital has warned of particularly severe disruptions for metro and suburban rail lines, with bus and tram services also impacted by the protest for higher wages. Seven metro lines will be fully closed and another seven will only operate at peak hours, RATP announced.

Only lines 1 and 14 — which are fully automated with no drivers — would operate normally but risk



The RATP transport operator for the capital has warned of particularly severe disruptions for metro and suburban rail lines, with bus and tram services also impacted by the protest for higher wages. **PHOTO: AFP/BERTRAND GUAY**

becoming overcrowded, the RATP said. There would also only be a partial service on suburban lines RER A and RER B which connect central Paris with Disneyland Paris and Charles de Gaulle air-

port respectively. Unions have staged strikes across several sectors in recent weeks seeking pay hikes or increased hiring as spiraling energy costs feed into widespread inflation.

Union leaders are also

hoping to step up pressure on President Emmanuel Macron as he prepares to revive a controversial pensions overhaul that would push back the official retirement age from 62 to 64 or 65.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V FILOTIMO VOY.NO. (214W/217E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V FILOTIMO VOY.NO. (214W/217E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-11-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR SOLO VOY.NO. (977N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR SOLO VOY.NO. (977N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-11-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

TUG; NAUTILLUS, BG;SINGA BESAR 2801

Consignees of cargo carried on **TUG; NAUTILLUS, BG;SINGA BESAR 2801 VOY.NO. (V.22/11-01MM)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-11-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT2** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Japan to downsize 2 planned Aegis destroyers to increase mobility



This 19 March 2020 photo taken from a Mainichi Shimbun helicopter shows the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force's Aegis-equipped destroyer, Maya, in Yokohama. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN is considering downsizing two destroyers to be built with the Aegis ballistic missile interceptor system from their original design in a bid to increase their mobility, government sources said Tuesday.

While the destroyers were principally designed to protect

against ballistic missiles, the government also plans to make them multipurpose vessels capable of carrying the US-developed Tomahawk cruise missile, which it is considering introducing, according to the sources.

The government originally planned to build destroyers

with a standard displacement of about 20,000 tonnes, almost the same as the Maritime Self-Defence Force's largest ship, the carrier Izumo. But now they will be scaled down to nearly on par with the 8,200-tonne Maya, the nation's biggest Aegis-equipped vessel, the sources said.—Kyodo

French nuclear plant reports ruptured pipe during safety test

A nuclear power plant in central France has failed a safety check after a pipe linked to the reactor cooling system ruptured during testing, state electricity firm EDF said on Tuesday.

The incident at the Civaux plant, which is offline for maintenance and tests, risks delaying its return to service at a time that France is worried about its ability to produce enough electricity over the winter.

The plant, the most modern in the French network, was shut in August 2021 after corrosion

problems were detected in the welds used in its emergency cooling system.

The incident in Civaux on 2 November "was absolutely not a weld that gave way", Regis Clement, deputy head of EDF's nuclear production unit, told reporters. A pipe linked to the primary cooling system of one of the reactors ruptured, leading high-pressure steam to escape as well as a radioactive "metal object" that had to be retrieved via a robot, Clement added.—AFP



The Civaux nuclear power plant. **PHOTO: GUILLAUME SOUVANT / AFP**

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Ukraine says dialogue with Moscow possible only after Russia's withdrawal



Members of the Ukrainian Territorial Defence Forces examine new armaments including NLAW anti-tank systems and other portable anti-tank grenade launchers, in Kyiv on 9 March. **PHOTO: GENYA SAVILOV / AFP**

UKRAINIAN Presidential Advisor Mykhailo Podolyak said

that Kyiv could resume dialogue with Moscow only after the with-

drawal of Russian troops from Ukraine, the presidential press service reported Tuesday.

In an interview with the Italian newspaper La Repubblica, Podolyak said that a potential ceasefire deal at the current stage of the conflict would provide Russia with time to strengthen its positions.

"The ceasefire for Russia is a tactical pause for reinforcement," Podolyak said.

While commenting on the reports that the representatives of the US Pentagon and the Russian Defence Ministry are involved in talks, Podolyak said that "there are no negotiations between Russia and Western countries regarding Ukraine."—Xinhua

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Germany to lose 110 bln euros by 2023 due to high energy prices

THE current spike in energy prices will cost Germany nearly 110 billion euros (110 billion US dollars) in real income by 2023, with the funds flowing to sellers abroad, according to a study published Tuesday by the ifo Institute for economic research. The losses will equate to three per cent of Germany's annual economic output, according to the institute. The total amount includes 35 billion euros from last year, 64 billion from this year, and another 9 billion euros of losses predicted for 2023. This is the highest real income loss since the second oil crisis in the late 1970s.—Xinhua

Türkiye coordinates efforts for Russian grain, fertilizer exports: minister

TÜRKIYE said on Tuesday it has been coordinating efforts to remove obstacles to the export of Russian grain and fertilizer.

The deal that paved the way for the resumption of Ukrainian grain to world markets also envisaged shipment of Russian grain and fertilizer, the semi-official Anadolu Agency quoted Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu as saying.

"Export of Russian fertilizer is part of the agreement. Russians have some concerns that these demands are not met.—Xinhua

Republican 'red wave' hopes fizzle in US midterm vote



Voters cast their ballots at the Lake County Board of Elections headquarters in Painesville, Ohio, on 6 November during early voting for the 2022 midterm elections. **PHOTO: DUSTIN FRANZ/ AFP**

REPUBLICAN hopes for a sweeping rebuke of President Joe Biden in congressional elections failed to materialize with both parties picking up seats following a campaign fought against a backdrop of stubbornly high inflation and fears for US democracy.

Republicans needed one seat to wrest control of the evenly-divided Senate but by early Wednesday the only one to change party hands went to the Democrats, with John Fetterman, a burly champion of progressive economic policies, triumphing in Pennsylvania. In the House of Representatives, early results suggested Republicans were on track to wrest control from Democrats – but only by a handful of seats, a far cry from

their predictions. Top Republican Kevin McCarthy – who hopes to be the lower chamber's next speaker – struck an upbeat note as he addressed supporters in the early hours, telling them: "It is clear that we are going to take the House back." But Senator Lindsey Graham, a top Trump ally, bluntly conceded to NBC that the election is "definitely not a Republican wave, that's for darn sure." With Biden's favourability ratings hovering in the low 40s and Republicans pounding him over inflation and crime, many pundits had predicted a drubbing that would have raised new questions on whether America's oldest-ever president, who turns 80 this month, should run again.—AFP

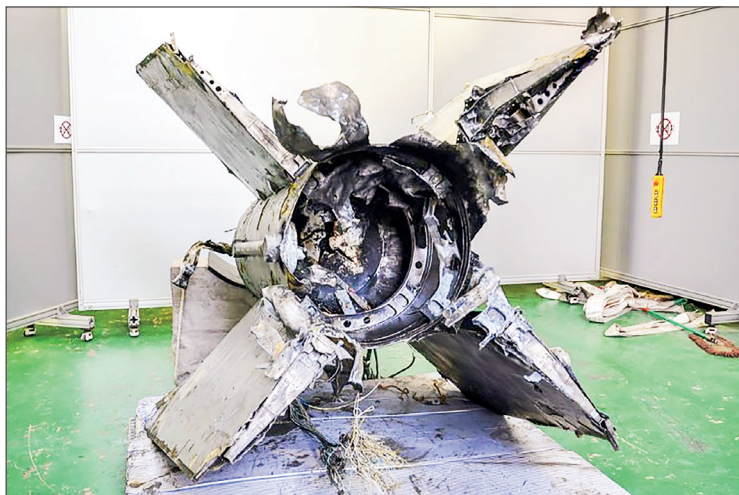
Seoul's military says it salvaged North Korean missile debris

SOUTH Korea's military said Wednesday it had retrieved and analyzed debris from a missile the North fired across the two countries' de facto maritime border during a recent blitz of launches.

North Korea fired more than 20 missiles on 2 November including one short-range ballistic missile that crossed the Northern Limit Line, prompting a rare warning for residents of South Korea's Ulleungdo island to seek shelter in bunkers.

Seoul's military said at the time it was the "first time since the peninsula was divided" at the 1953 end of Korean War hostilities that a North Korean missile had landed so near the South's territorial waters.

Shortly after, South Korea dispatched a salvaging vessel to search for the missile, which



Seoul's military identified debris from a missile recently fired across its maritime border as a North Korean SA-5. **PHOTO: SOUTH KOREAN DEFENCE MINISTRY/AFP**

landed in waters some 5,000 to 6,500 feet deep (1,500 to 2,000 metres), Seoul-based specialist site NK News reported.

On Wednesday, the defence ministry said in a statement that it had successfully retrieved a

three-metre-long, two-metre-wide piece of debris, which it identified as a North Korean SA-5 missile.

"The SA-5 is a missile that can also be used as a ground-to-ground missile," it said.—AFP

Brazil transition takes shape, Bolsonaro keeps low profile

THE head of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's transition on Tuesday picked a team to smooth the leftist's ascent to Brazil's presidency, while outgoing President Jair Bolsonaro remained uncharacteristically silent after his election loss.

Lula's vice-president-elect Geraldo Alckmin named a political council and a team of economists, among others, who will lay the groundwork for the changeover of government on 1 January.

"We are working, the future has already begun," Lula wrote

on Twitter. On Wednesday, Lula will meet with the leaders of both chambers of Congress in Brasilia to discuss budget issues as he looks to implement his campaign promises of increased social spending, while grappling with a struggling economy.—AFP

Migrants come ashore at Sicily port as France points finger at Italy

HUNDREDS of migrants waiting aboard rescue ships after Italy denied them entry finally came ashore Tuesday, even as a diplomatic row broke out between Paris and Rome over another vessel seeking safe harbour.

Nearly 500 migrants have been in limbo after being rescued by three different charity ships last month during their perilous crossing from North Africa to Italy's shores.

But on Tuesday night, the Geo Barents and the Humanity 1 finally disembarked the nearly 250 migrants they carried after Italian health authorities gave them the green

light at Sicily's eastern port of Catania.

"My life is back!" shouted one of the migrants, according to Doctors Without Borders (MSF), which operates the Geo Barents.

Both the Geo Barents and Humanity 1, run by non-governmental group SOS Humanity, docked at the weekend in Catania, disembarking about 500 of the most vulnerable migrants.

But Italian authorities denied entry to approximately 250 others and ordered the ships to return to sea with them on board, a directive both groups rejected.—AFP



Two Syrians on Monday jumped from the charity ship Geo Barents into the water. **PHOTO: AFP**



Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

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

3. Social affairs

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

Rakhine United ties with Ayeyawady United in MNL Week 12



Ayeyawady United played their best to get a goal in line with being a big team in the top five.

Both teams used their main players including not only local stars but also skilful expatriate footballers in yesterday's match.

With tremendous support from midfielders, Ayeyawady United made repeated efforts to score goals from the beginning of the match.

But the attempts of Ayeyawady's strikers were for naught, as Rakhine defenders and midfielders were too strong, making it difficult to pass the ball more than midfield.

In the second half, both teams changed tactics in an effort to get on the scoreboard.

Ayeyawady United's attackers had misunderstandings and could not convert all the opportunities into goals.

At the final whistle, both teams were unable to score a single goal, so they shared one point and ended the match. —GNLM

Rakhine United's Aung Ko Ko Lwin (No 36) tries to clear the ball against the opponent during the Week 12 match of the Myanmar National League 2022 at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 9 November 2022. PHOTO: MNL

IN the Week 12 match of the Myanmar National League 2022, Rakhine United played a scoreless draw with Ayeyawady

United at Thuwunna stadium in Yangon yesterday.

The 0-0 result gives each team one point in the standings.

World Cup ambassador calls homosexuality 'damage in the mind'

A Qatari World Cup ambassador called homosexuality a "damage in the mind" in a German TV interview, sparking criticism in Europe and the United States Tuesday just 12 days before the tournament kicks off.

Qatar will accept gay visitors but "they have to accept our rules", former international footballer Khalid Salman said in the interview with the ZDF broadcaster that aired Tuesday evening.

Salman also said homosexuality was "haram" — forbidden in Islam — during the interview, which was abruptly broken off

after his comments.

Qatar has come under sustained fire over its human rights record ahead of the World Cup, including its treatment of foreign workers and its stance on women's and LGBTQ rights.

German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser on Tuesday called Salman's comments "awful".

"That is also the reason why we are working to hopefully improve things in Qatar in the future," said Faeser, who is also Germany's minister for sports.

The anti-LGBTQ remarks also raised eyebrows in Washington. —AFP



World Cup 2022 takes place in Qatar from 20 November to 18 December. PHOTO: AFP

Napoli extend Serie A lead to eight points after Milan held at Cremonese

NAPOLI extended their lead at the top of Serie A to eight points on Tuesday after beating Empoli 2-0 to claim their 10th straight league win, before nearest challengers AC Milan drew 0-0 with struggling Cremonese.

Hirving Lozano's 69th-minute spot-kick and a neat late finish from Piotr Zielinski ensured hosts Napoli made their way past a resilient Empoli side and moved further ahead of Milan, whose title defence is fal-

tering.

Napoli now have an ominous lead on the rest of the league heading into the final matches of 2022 this weekend, as they hunt their first league title in over three decades.—AFP