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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.

Message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark the 102nd National Victory Day

17 November 2022

THE 10th Waning of Tazaungmone 1384 Myanmar Era, 17 November 2022, is the 102nd National Victory Day which is very significant for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. It was a special day for the entire Myanmar national people under colonial rule in unitedly opposing the colonial education of the British colonialists with a

united patriotic spirit. On the occasion of the historic national victory day of Myanmar, I'd like to extend greetings to all ethnic national brethren to be physical and mental well-being.

In Myanmar where ethnic nationals have been amicably residing, the word Myanmar was initially

found in the stone inscription of Taunggyi Pagoda in the Bagan era in 452 ME. It can be said that the word is very meaningful with prominent characteristics. The word Myanmar represents all ethnic nationals such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Bamar, Rakhine and Shan, not a single ethnic. **SEE PAGE-2**

Myanmar Traditional Medicine Council needs to supervise acts of those practitioners in abiding by relevant ethics through conferences of traditional medicine society: Vice-Senior General



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the coordination meeting of the Leading Committee on Organizing the 21st Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference and the Seminar on Myanmar traditional medicine science, in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 November 2022.

MYANMAR traditional medicine production industries included in the MSME businesses of the nation contribute to the increase

of the GDP of the State, said Patron of the Leading Committee on Organizing the 21st Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference and the Seminar

on Myanmar traditional medicine science Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win

at the coordination meeting of the leading committee and the working committee yesterday afternoon.

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In Great Honour of 102nd Anniversary of National Victory Day

Eighth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee holds 12th Plenary Meeting

THE first-day session of the 12th plenary meeting of the 8th 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee was organized in the Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

The meeting was attended by members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee led by Chairman Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko, the Directors-General of Department of Religious Affairs and Department for the Promotion and Propagation of Sasana and other officials of departments concerned.

Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa presided over the meeting and Joint Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha



MoRAC Union Minister U Ko Ko supplicates religious matters at the first-day session of the 12th plenary meeting of the Eighth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee yesterday.

Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Pannyadhaja acted as the master of ceremonies.

The State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw recited Saraniya Ovada Gatha to start the meeting and then Union Minister present-

ed matters related to religious affairs.

Afterwards, Joint Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Gandhavasaka Pandita Bhaddanta Eainda Cariya reported on the activities of the eighth Sangha Nayaka Committee (first sub-

committee) conducted during the fourth term.

Sayadaws also discussed Vinicchaya and religious affairs and concluded the first session.

During the second session, the Sayadaws discussed religious affairs and concluded the

event after making decisions.

Daw Pyone Wai Thi (Saddhamma Jotikadhaja) and her family donated the first meal to Sayadaws and Senior General Than Shwe (Retd) and his wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offered the day meal. — MNA

Message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister ...

FROM PAGE-1

Although Myanmar people have been residing in the country under its monarchical reigns, the whole country fell into colonial rule as of 1885 due to the colonial wars of the British. The colonialists suppressed culture, language, faith and education through various ways and means to ensure the long-term suffering of Myanmar under colonial rule. Myanmar ethnic people fought against the colonialists with a patriotic spirit and unity for escaping from colonial rule till their endeavours went down in history. The history proved resistance of the entire Myanmar people from all walks of life in anti-colonialist activities.

The British government approved the Yangon University Act on 24 October 1920 and constituted the Yangon University combined with the Yangon College and the Judson College on 1 December 1920. Such an act restricted the majority of Myanmar people not to pursue a university education. As such, students from Yangon University and Judson College opposed the act with the participation of people across the nation.

The GCBA Special Conference held at the Jubilee Hall in Yangon on 17 and 18 June 1922 designated the 10th Waning of Tazaungmone, 1282 ME, when the students opposed the Yangon University Act in 1920 as the National Day. It was the day, identified as “National Victory Day” celebrating the victory over the British colonialist government. All ethnic national people adore National Day and celebrate the commemoration of National Victory Day throughout the nation, aimed at ensuring a sharp and dynamic national spirit.

Currently, the State is striving to ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit which is the genuine national spirit, to respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics, and to enhance the health, fitness and education quality

of the entire nation. The entire national people are organized to participate in strengthening the national solidarity based on the national spirit and in building the Union based on democracy and federalism through the united strength of the ethnic national people. It is necessary to build a peaceful, tranquil, all-round developed nation through the united strength of all ethnic national people of the Union based on the essence of unity.

Taking lessons from historical events, the State is paving the way for peace based on the Constitution (2008) and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA. The government invited and held talks with relevant representatives from regions, states and various areas in order to cease the armed conflicts and restore genuine peace and frankly exchange views on both sides’ attitudes focusing on the interests of the Union and ethnic people. It is firmly believed that just and fair dialogues will solve the current problems and if so, their collaborative efforts will contribute to ensuring a peaceful, tranquil and developed nation.

As education is the foundation for the development of the State, the cooperation of the people and teachers is crucial in staging the free education campaign for enabling all school-age youths to have the learning opportunity and to complete at least KG+9 education. Efforts must be made for the emergence of well-versed educated citizens with high capability. It is necessary to preserve languages, works of literature, cultures, fine arts, traditions and historical heritage of all ethnic people nurtured with education as a national duty.

If so, the efforts of all ethnic national people can be portrayed as a poem composed by veteran poet Saya Zaw Gyi, saying that “confidence in own strength, taking pride in the prestige of nationals”. Hence, it is necessary to strive for the development of the nation in accordance with further stanzas of the poem “despite

different opinions, no one shall not uphold selfishness”. All ethnic national people must expedite their efforts for uplifting the prestige and integrity of the nation with the correct patriotic spirit and for modernizing the nation through fraternal relations and goodwill.

All citizens have to further strive for the implementation of the objectives of the 102nd Anniversary of National Victory Day 2022 with firm spirit, relentless perseverance and a wider scope of knowledge as follows: -

To build the Union based on democracy and federalism

To perpetually strengthen good and correct patriotic spirit and national spirit

To emerge the citizens with high capability in uplifting the national education quality

To enhance the socioeconomy of Myanmar through modern technological power

On the occasion of the National Victory Day with significance and full essence, in accord with the motto of the 102nd National Victory Day “Let’s unite all ethnic nationals for all-round development of the nation”, I’d like to deeply urge all: —

to protect the national interests of the Union as the inheritance of forefathers through the national spirit to value and preserve languages, works of literature, culture, fine arts, traditions and historical heritage of all ethnic national people

to strive for nurturing human resources with the correct attitude and good morale

to make all-out efforts for the emergence of the education system which can help the country develop in accord with the demands of the era and system.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing
Prime Minister
Chairman, State Administration Council

Government ready to disburse loans to MSME industries

A plan is underway to loan the MSME businesses and development of livestock sector through the remaining fund from the State economic promotion fund. The government is ready to disburse loans to MSMEs under the scheming rules and regulations.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of the MSME Development Central Committee Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 1/2022 of the central committee on 23 September 2022.)

Myanmar Traditional Medicine Council needs to supervise acts of ...

FROM PAGE-1

At the meeting held at the Ministry of Health in Nay Pyi Taw, the Vice-Senior General delivered a speech, saying that the traditional medicine practitioners' conference aims to improve the standard of Myanmar's traditional medicine in all aspects and further enhance the qualification of Myanmar traditional medicine science, develop Myanmar traditional medicine science and medicine production techniques, and to cooperate internal and external professionals and organizations.

Likewise, the seminar on Myanmar traditional medicine society aims to train the trainees to have greater capability to provide effective health care services to the people with the therapies of Myanmar

traditional medicines, extend the research works for the development of safe and high-quality potent traditional medicines, and cooperate with local traditional medicine practitioners in serving preliminary healthcare to the people with the traditional medicines and raise health awareness on a wider scale.

Currently, global countries are still using traditional medicines for public healthcare services. Efforts are being made to cure the Covid-19 pandemic with traditional medicines while Myanmar is conducting research on 'Withama' medicine to cure Covid-19 and other seasonal flu.

Now, it is reported that the final stage of research has been completed successfully. In fact, Myanmar's traditional

Efforts are being made to cure the Covid-19 pandemic with traditional medicines while Myanmar is conducting research on 'Withama' medicine to cure Covid-19 and other seasonal flu.

medicine practitioners have been providing healthcare to the people in successive eras.

The Myanmar Traditional Medicine Council needs to supervise the acts of those practitioners in abiding by relevant ethics through the conferences of the traditional medicine society.

Myanmar's traditional medicine production industries

included in the MSME businesses of the nation contribute to the increase of the GDP of the State. The government also assists in the production of Myanmar's traditional medicines as much as it can.

Chairman of the Leading Committee Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win reported on the purpose of holding the conference and semi-

nar and plans to successfully hold the seminar.

Chairman of the working committee Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun and officials reported on preparations for holding the conference and seminar and detailed functions.

Officials from the working committee and subcommittees participated in discussions on the successful holding of the conference and seminar. The Vice-Senior General coordinated the reports.

Later, the Vice-Senior General urged all to make concerted efforts for holding the conference and seminar on a grander scale as now is time to prepare for the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day ceremony. — MNA

MoPF Union Minister meets commercial attachés who will serve in foreign countries

UNION Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein met commercial attachés who will serve in foreign countries at the ministry's meeting hall yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said that the commercial attachés need to make special efforts to promote the country's economy, to attract foreign investments into the country, and to speed up economic cooperation with foreign countries.

He also said that commercial attachés are being sent to foreign countries to help promote Myanmar's economic development, trade and investment. The Prime Minister has given the guidance that the development of the country can only be achieved if the country can create good economic conditions.



Union Minister U Win Shein meets commercial attachés yesterday.

In addition, the attachés would have to coordinate and facilitate the remittances of Myanmar workers who are working abroad through official bank channels. And the minister urged them to make efforts to increase trade cooperation with other countries

of the world.

Finally, Deputy Ministers U Maung Maung Win and Daw Than Than Lin gave speeches on cooperation with relevant countries in matters related to banking cooperation, increasing trade and investment. —MNA

Hooded Treepie Postage Stamp to be launched



MYANMAR Post under the Ministry of Transport and Communications will sell a new postage stamp worth K200 at 9:30 am on 23 November. A bird called Hooded Treepie (Crypsirina cucullata) is depicted on the stamp. The bird is endemic to Myanmar, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

The new postage stamp

will be sold at the Central Post Office in Nay Pyi Taw, the General Post offices in Yangon and Mandalay and other post offices in regions and states.

As a special programme, postage stamps purchased at the Central Post Office in Nay Pyi Taw and General Post offices in Yangon and Mandalay on 23 November, will have the date sealed on them. — MNA

Myanmar delegation on study tour of university and nuclear power plant in Moscow

ACCOMPANIED by Myanmar ambassador to Russia U Lwin Oo and officials, the Myanmar delegation led by the Union Minister for Electric Power U Thaug Han and the Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, currently in the Russian Federation, studied Obninsk University, Rosatom Technical Academy and Obninsk Nuclear Power Plant, the world's first, in Moscow on 15 November.

On arrival at Obninsk University, the Myanmar delegation led by the Union Ministers was greeted by the officials of Obninsk University. Then, the Rector Alexey Panov Tatiana Osipova and officials explained the theoretical and practical

teaching to scholarship students from 68 countries and the formation of each department in the university. The Union Ministers asked what they want to know.

Next, the Myanmar delegation was conducted round the university. After that, they exchanged gifts and posed for the group photo.

The delegation members also observed Rosatom Technical Academy and the Rector Yuri Seleznev explained the theoretical and practical teaching to the students. Then, they exchanged gifts.

Finally, the Myanmar delegation observed the Obninsk Nuclear Power Plant which is the world's first nuclear power plant in Kaluga. — MNA



The Myanmar delegation view round the Obninsk University in Moscow.

Mechanical training courses opened to ensure efficiency and productivity



MECHANICAL Training Centre (Yangon) of Mechanical Division-1 under the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management is offering irrigation and mechanical technology development courses to keep maintaining the industrial machinery

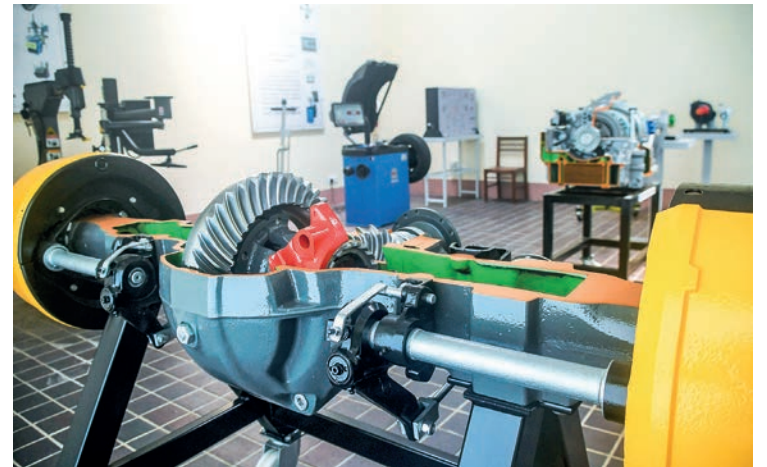
that is the main component of building government infrastructure, improve the efficiency, productivity and functionality to operate them at full capacity in line with the standards.

The training centre is offering engineering courses, special refresher courses, workshops, disseminating foreign technologies and experiences and multiplier courses.

U Win Htut, director of the centre said, "Seventy per cent of Myanmar's population are rural people who are engaged in agriculture. That being so, efforts are being made to ensure water supply for rural communities. The dam and reservoir are crucial for agriculture. Producing me-

chanics and driving machinery force is required for efficiency in utilizing the machinery to construct dams. This way, it will run at full capacity to meet the need. We are also providing courses to improve the capacity of the staff including internal staff and related department officials to keep abreast with the developments of the age".

Six-week courses are being offered with 40-60 trainees in one batch. It primarily conducts mechanical great 4 & 3 courses for mechanics and machinery driving great 4 & 3 courses for operators. Additionally, there are theoretical and practical approaches in electric welding great 4& 3 courses, mechanic



and machinery operator management courses, supervisor training courses, and capacity development training programs for the staff. The centre has been open since the 1974-1975 financial year, producing 12,213 trainees

from 253 batches.

Moreover, the assessment centres for excavator driving levels 1 & 2 were opened by linking with the National Skills Standards Authority and produced 271 skilled operators. Also, 41 skilled workers were produced by the assessment centre for metal casting great 1 and 2.

The centre is offering courses with a view to producing skilled mechanics and machinery drivers, developing the capacity of the staff with continuous training, keeping up with advanced technology and identifying promotable employees with skill tests. Last but not least, the courses are aimed at maintaining the machinery used in the construction of dams and improving efficiency as per the standards and norms.

— Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM



Industrial machinery is seen at the Mechanical Training Centre (Yangon) (top right and above photos). PHOTOS: KANU



Myanmar migrant workers are seen working at the construction site in Japan.

Myanmar receives 224 labour demand letters from Japan

THE Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo made a notification on 15 November that Japanese companies have offered 224 demand letters for Myanmar migrant workers.

The information about the 224 letters was sent back to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo had examined the letters between 1 and 15 November. Those demand letters were sent to the Ministry of Labour through the MoFA.

The verification process was exe-

cuted by checking whether the labour supervision company in Japan and the recruitment factories/companies are officially established in Japan, and by sending back the findings on the documentary evidence and opinions to the MoL via the MoFA.

It is reported that the licenced overseas recruitment agencies will send Myanmar workers with 224 job offer letters.

On 6 May, the Union Minister for Labour received Mr Watanabe Hideo, chairman of the Japan Myanmar As-

sociation (JMA) and discussed matters concerning the status of sending Myanmar workers to Japan with a G-to-G system under the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) signed by Myanmar's Ministry of Labour and Japan's Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

Japan was one of the top foreign investors in Myanmar in the past decade. A total of 126 Japanese enterprises benefited Myanmar US\$1.853 billion as of March 2022. —TWA/GNLM

YCDC proceeds with its final disposal site project in Yangon



The land for the final disposal site (FDS) project is pictured at the Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township.

A final disposal site (FDS) project in Yangon is being implemented by the Yangon City Development Committee.

The Urban Environmental Conservation & Sanitation Department under YCDC is constructing the new dumpsite project with the technology

used in Fukuoka town, Japan, on 187.3 acres of land near Thayetpinchaung village in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Yangon Region.

The Fukuoka method is a semi-aerobic landfill design which speeds up the decomposition of waste materials, improves the quality of wa-

ter drained from the site and reduces methane gas with pipelines. Currently, paving works for the entrance and exit roads of the final disposal site project in Thayetpinchaung are underway.

YCDC collected about 1,000 tonnes of waste from townships in the East and South District of Yangon Region and moved them to Dawei Chaung dumpsite daily and approximately 1,500 tonnes of garbage from West and North townships, around 50 tonnes of dump from the Dala township in South District, and about eight tonnes of trashes from the Seikkyi/Khanaungto township are transported to Htein Bin dumpsite, Dala disposal site and the Seikkyi/Khanaungto landfill respectively.

The Hteinbin landfill is the largest with an area of 242 acres among other landfills in Yangon. —TWA/GNLM

New onions from Myittha area fetch good price

ON 15 November, 150,000 visses of old onions from various regions and new onions from the Myittha area entered the Yangon market and the price of new onions from the Myittha area touched a high of K3,500 per viss, Ko Swe, a buyer at Bayint Naung Wholesale Market, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The prices of old summer onions stood at K3,600-4,500 from the Myingyan area and K3,400-4,300 from the Seikphyu area, whereas new monsoon onions from the Myittha area fetched K2,000-3,500 per viss.

Similarly, an entry of Chinese onions is witnessed in the Yangon market. The size of Chinese onions is the same as that of the Myittha area.

There are three varieties of Chinese onions found in the Yangon market: red, big and yellow onions which are the same as Myittha's onion. The prices ranged between K2,800 and K3,200 per viss. It is K1,000 cheaper than the old summer onions. The price is relatively lower than the price of new onions from the Myittha area.

It is the first time that monsoon onions entered the Yangon market in mid-November. The growers will get a high price tracking the increase in onion price in the second half of 2022.

The outputs produced by onion-growing countries are expected to decrease. As a result of this, the prices will rise in most of the countries including Myanmar's neighbouring states, the local entrepreneurs' forecast.

Myanmar delivered onions to Bangladesh in 2019 through cross-border posts, causing the price to reach a record high of K3,500 per viss.

In 2022, the onion prices hit a fresh new peak of K4,600 per viss on the low yield and the strong demand by southeastern border markets. However, there is a lack of orders from the western border market as the onions are priced at only K2,000 per viss in Bangladesh.

Although the traders are speculating about the high price in the international markets, they are wondering whether those traders who keep the summer onion stocks in hand receive higher profits or not. About 4,000-6,000 visses of onions are produced per acre. The cultivation cost is approximately K2.5 million so the original price is K600 per viss.

That price is higher this year compared to that of the previous years. The net profit of onion traders who keep the stocks in hand is around K2,000 per viss of onions this year.

The onion growers are expecting high prices like the paddy price as they cannot afford to hoard the stocks. —TWA/GNLM



Monsoon onions are seen being harvested on the farm.

60 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 16 November, total figure rises to 632,865

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **632,865** after **60** new cases were reported on 16 November 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **607,206**, including **64** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,486** on 16-11-2022 with no new deaths reported from the pandemic.

The country has vaccinated **30,746,246** people aged 18 and above for COVID-19 vaccines and **6,721,534** people aged under 18 till 15 November 2022.

Status of COVID-19 vaccination (as of 15 November 2022)

People aged 18 and above who received vaccines	30,746,246
People under 18 years old who received vaccines	6,721,534

According to the research, it is found that people who have been vaccinated do

not suffer severely from the disease, need not to be hospitalized and unlikely to die. If they have received booster shot, the death rates can be reduced more.

As such, the people need to follow the new normal way in living with Covid. Hence, all the people above five have to fully receive Covid-19 vaccination inoculated by the Ministry of Health free of charge. Six months after the vaccination, they have to take booster jabs at relevant health centres and ward/village administration offices without fail.

Moreover, they have to wear masks while in closed chambers and public places. They need to often wash hands with soap and water or the hand gel containing alcohol (at least 60 per cent) for 20 seconds.

People need to follow the social distancing rule and avoid the crowds as much as possible. While not wearing masks, if they cough and sneeze, they need to cover mouth and noses with elbows in line with the personal hygienic ways.

Covid-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health.—MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, raw jade, foodstuffs, construction materials, motorbike parts and vehicles confiscated



Top: Confiscated illegal unregistered motorbikes.
Above: Seized illegal goods.

SUPERVISED by Taninthayi Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, a combined team led by Myanmar Police Force conducted inspections on 14 November.

Officials captured eight motorbikes worth K33,040,000 from a vehicle heading from Yephyu to Dawei near Thapaychaung village bus station in Dawei township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Similarly, on 15 November, an on-duty team at the 16-Mile

Kyaukchaw Combined Checkpoint nabbed motorbike parts (worth K37,915,570) that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a Mitsubishi Fuso Tractor Head with a trailer (estimated value of K50 million). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

An inspection team led Forest Department under the management of the Yangon Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force seized a total of 0.7340 tonne of illegal teak furniture parts worth K484,440 from a Toyota Probox car (estimated value of K18 million) near a traffic light on the corner of Khayaybin road and No 3 road in Mingaladon township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 16 November, a total of 77.72 tonnes of illegal raw jade worth K77,720,000 was captured in Kanbalu and Indaw townships and the action was taken under the Myanmar Gemstone Law.

In addition, a total of 9.8188 tonnes of illegal sawn teak was seized in Pandaung township of Pyay district and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

A combined team under the supervision of the Kayin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted unexpected inspections.

Officials confiscated 7,700 litres of palm oil worth K25,800,000 and 1,600 cartons of beer worth K38,050,000 without official documents in warehouses of Hpa-an township and 150 cartons of tiles worth K1.2 million without official documents from a vehicle heading from Myawady to Yangon at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint.

Therefore, 16 arrests (at an estimated value of K288,690,418) were made on three consecutive days from 14 and 16 November, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Drugs seized in some townships across Myanmar

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a Hilux Surf car at a combined checkpoint of Lonetong village in Mohnyin township at 11:30 am on 15 November. A total of 0.21 kilogramme of heroin and 6,480 stimulant tablets were found on the car.

At 1:15 pm on the same day, Police Force searched a passenger bus at the Mahlwaltaung Combined Checkpoint in Yephyu township and arrested a passenger Min Lwin together with 11,895 stimulant tablets and K 600,000.

At 5:15 pm on 13 November, Police Force examined a Mark II car driven by Zaw Zaw Aung at a combined checkpoint of Watwon village in PyinOoLwin township and captured a total of 3.2 kilogrammes of Happy Water and 0.9 kilogramme of ketamine.

According to the investigation, a trafficker Thet Naing

(aka) Arkar, was arrested at a bus station in Muse township at 7:30 pm on 15 November.

In addition, at 1 pm on 15 November, a combined team including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined a man named Bo San Lin (aka) San Lin in Yamethin township and seized 4,000 stimulant tablets from him.

At 7 am on the same day, Police Force stopped and searched a three-wheel motorbike driven by Maung Hla Htun at the gate of Kanyintan Ward in Maungdaw township and captured 195,000 stimulant tablets.

At 4 pm on the same day, Police Force searched the house of Aye Thein (aka) Pyone Cho in Dawbon township and found a total of 175,000 stimulant tablets.

The suspects are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the Myanmar Police Force stated. — MNA



Two offenders are pictured along with seized drugs and a saloon.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Prices of agricultural products going upward spiral

By TWA

Rice

RICE is a staple food in Myanmar and farmers primarily grow paddy through irrigation and river water pumping. There are 15 million acres of monsoon paddy and two million acres of summer paddy on average across the country annually.

The low-grade paddy was priced at only K500,000 per 100 baskets as of 2020. Therefore, the authorities set the floor price for 2020 monsoon paddy at K500,000 per 100 baskets (a basket equals 46 pounds).

The floor prices for summer and monsoon paddies were around K300,000. In 2021, the floor price of monsoon paddy was hiked to over K600,000 per 100 baskets (with a basket weighing 50 pounds). Thereafter, monsoon paddy prices surged to over K1 million in the middle of the year.

This year, some low-grade paddies were valued at K1.3 million when the floor price was set above K1 million per 100 baskets during the 2022 monsoon paddy season. The supply of paddy is low at the farm when the price is pretty high. Pawsan paddy prices jumped from K1.4 to 1.5 million in the delta regions.

Monsoon paddy cultivation does not need fuel to pump the water as rainwater is utilized. Although the fertilizer price is expensive, it is less consumed in monsoon paddy cultivation.

Nowadays, harvesters and dryers are used amid the shortage of human resources. Drying paddies under the sun along the roads are still witnessed.

This year, the monsoon paddy cultivation is not affected by



There are 15 million acres of monsoon paddy and two million acres of summer paddy on average across the country annually.

the flood impacts. Regardless of the heavy rain, it does not cause extreme losses.

The monsoon paddy was grown with a broadcasting method and approximately 70 baskets of monsoon paddy were produced per acre. The farmers of monsoon paddy this year earn a handsome profit according to the high price of new paddy.

Those farmers working with many farms on a large scale keep the stocks in hand to sell them in mid-year in hope of a price increase. High profitability might prompt the farmers to execute paddy cultivation.

After the harvest of 2022 monsoon paddy, summer paddy, bean and chilli pepper are grown in the delta regions under the mixed cropping system, according to the water access and land condition.

Prior to the growing season,

the prices of three summer crops grown under a multi-cropping system doubled this year compared to those registered in late 2021.

The prices are expected to inch higher in early 2023.

The probability of price increases has become a driving force in the agriculture sector. The outputs of paddy, bean and chilli peppers are expected to increase in the upcoming harvest season.

Onion

The price of 2022 summer onions produced mainly by central Myanmar regions (Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing) hit the highest K4,600 per viss (large size) in history in November. Prior to 2022, the large size of onions fetched K3,700 in maximum in late 2015.

The figures indicated an increase of K900 from the previous

record price.

When newly harvested summer onions enter, the prices are usually under K1,000 per viss. The highest price is only K600.

The cultivation cost was only K600 per viss in early 2022. The price went on an upward spiral in mid-2022. It rallied to K3,800 per viss in September and K4,600 in November.

Those traders who kept the stocks in hand and some growers earned a great profit this year. Among summer onion growers, those who sold the onions in summer gain low profit. Yet, the high price pushed them to grow the onions earlier than usual and managed to avoid the heavy rain's impact. Monsoon onion growers are likely to receive a high price at the end of 2022.

Potato

Following the increase in agricultural input cost, cultivation

cost significantly jumped from K2.5 to K7 million per acre with a production capacity of 4,000 visses of potatoes.

As a result of this, potato prices increased from K600-K700 to K1,500-K1,600 per viss. The price inflated to K2,500 per viss in Yangon markets. This month (Nov), the prices moved in the range between K1,500 and K2,000 per viss. The price has not fallen below K1,000 per viss as before.

Garlic

The price of garlic from Shan State edged up to K3,000-K4,000 per viss depending on the size at the harvest time. The prices stood at K2,000 per viss in the previous years.

Chilli pepper

Among kitchen groceries, the price of new chilli pepper produced from mid-2022 is three times higher than that of the year-ago period. The wholesale price was K4,000-K5,000 per viss in the previous years. This year, it rocketed to K15,000-K30,000 per viss.

Pulses

The prices of edible oil crops (peanut, sesame and sunflower) edged up in mid-2022, with K7,000 per viss of peanut, K90,000 per basket of sesame seeds and K150,000 per basket (27 visses) of sunflower. The prices of black gram and pigeon peas also went up to K2.1 million per tonne.

In early November 2022, the price of black gram stood at K1.8 million per tonne while pigeon peas fetched K1.9 million per tonne. The chickpea price is approximately K4,000 per viss in the wholesale market.

Translated

Traders sign petition to allow Yuan payment in Muse border

MORE than 60 traders signed a petition on 14 November to call for Yuan transactions in exports through the Muse border between Myanmar and China.

Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee notified the traders of the dollar payment for agricultural exports such as rice, corn, oil crops, beans and pulses, according to a directive dated 30 June. Yet, rice and broken rice exports are proceeding

with Yuan at present. Rice and broken rice exports are given green light to proceed with Yuan as before.

However, transactions of rice and broken rice exports are found to be made only in US dollars in cross-border posts like the seaborne trade these days.

That is why traders including rice and broken rice dealers signed a petition to request the authority to give the go-ahead

for the Yuan payment in Muse border post.

"At present, the official letter has not been released yet. The traders request them not to confirm the dollar payment for rice and broken rice in the border trade channel. Those exporters involved in banking, fishery and agricultural sectors joined this petition last Monday (14 Nov)," said a rice trader.

"Rice trade has not been

good for two years at the Muse border with China. It has returned to the business at the present moment. If dollars are confirmed as cross-border payments, Muse trade is possibly to come to a halt. Consequently, the cons are expected to outweigh the pros. The traders are therefore begging for opposition to dollar payment," said a rice trader.

On 14 December 2021, the

Central Bank of Myanmar released a notification that the use of Yuan or Kyat in the bilateral transaction was officially allowed in the border areas between Myanmar and China to boost bilateral cross-border trade, facilitate trading and bilateral transaction, increase the use of domestic currency in line with the objectives of the ASEAN Financial Integration. - NN/GNLM

OPINION

Preserve characters of National Victory Day for posterity

THE 102nd National Victory Day which falls on the 10th Waning of Tazaungmone 1384 Myanmar era is very significant for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as the entire Myanmar national people under the colonial rule unitedly opposing the colonial education of the British colonialists with the united patriotic spirit. The colonialists suppressed culture, language, faith and education through various ways and means so as to ensure the long-term suffering of Myanmar under colonial rule. It was triggered by the enactment of the Yangon University Act which restricted the majority of Myanmar people not to pursue a university education.

Only when the scope of the people can be widened will they have greater rationality to be able to analyze the right and wrong things in national-building endeavours. If so, they will have the high capacity to uplift the education standard of the people. That is why all citizens have to follow the motto of the 102nd National Victory Day "Let's unite all ethnic nationals for multiple developments of the nation" so as to preserve characters of the National Day for posterity.

a peaceful, tranquil, multiple-developed nation through the united strength of all ethnic national people of the Union based on the essence of unity.

Education and knowledge are crucial for the State and the people. As education is the foundation for the development of the State, the cooperation of the people and teachers plays a key role in staging the free education campaign for enabling all school-age youths to have the learning opportunity and to complete at least KG+9 education.

Only when the scope of the people can be widened will they have greater rationality to be able to analyze the right and wrong things in national-building endeavours. If so, they will have the high capacity to uplift the education standard of the people. That is why all citizens have to follow the motto of the 102nd National Victory Day "Let's unite all ethnic nationals for multiple developments of the nation" so as to preserve characters of the National Day for posterity.

THE International Diabetes Federation (IDF) with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO) celebrates World Diabetes Day every 14 November since 1991, to respond to growing threats to the health and economic sectors due to diabetes. This day was official in 2006 at United Nations. The theme for 2022 is 'Education to protect Tomorrow': a global survey to explore the levels of access that healthcare professionals and people living with diabetes have to diabetes education.

Diabetes is a chronic metabolic disease characterized by elevated levels of blood glucose (or blood sugar), which leads over time to serious damage to the heart, blood vessels, eyes, kidneys and nerves. About 422 million people worldwide have diabetes, the majority living in low- and middle-income countries, and 1.5 million deaths are directly attributed to diabetes each year. Both the number of cases and the prevalence of diabetes have been steadily increasing over the past few decades. The WHO Global report on diabetes provides an overview of the diabetes burden, interventions available to prevent and manage diabetes, and recommendations for governments, individuals, civil society and the private sector.

Globally, in 2014, 8.5 per cent of adults aged 18 years and older had diabetes. In 2019, diabetes was the direct cause of 1.5 million deaths and 48 per cent of all deaths due to diabetes occurred before the age of 70 years. Another 460 000 kidney disease deaths were caused by diabetes, and raised blood glucose causes around 20 per cent of cardiovascular deaths. Between 2000 and 2019, there was a three-per cent increase in age-standardized mortality rates from diabetes. In lower-middle-income countries, the mortality rate due to diabetes increased by 13 per cent. According to the STEPS survey (2014) which investigated the prevalence of Non-Communicable Diseases in the 25 to 64 years old population in Myanmar, 26.4 per cent had hypertension, 10.5 per cent had diabetes mellitus, and 22.4 per cent had been categorized as overweight.

The entire national people are organized to participate in strengthening the national solidarity based on the national spirit and in building the Union based on democracy and federalism through the united strength of the ethnic national people. It is necessary to build a peaceful, tranquil, multiple-developed nation through the united strength of all ethnic national people of the Union based on the essence of unity.

Types:
Type 1 diabetes, once known as juvenile diabetes or insulin-dependent diabetes, is a chronic condition in which the pancreas produces little or no insulin by itself. In 2017 there were nine million people with type 1 diabetes; the majority

of them live in high-income countries. Symptoms include excessive excretion of urine (polyuria), thirst (polydipsia), constant hunger, weight loss, vision changes, and fatigue. These symptoms may occur suddenly.

Type 2 diabetes (formerly called non-insulin-dependent or adult-onset) is the most common type which occurs when the body becomes resistant to insulin or

World Diabetes Day

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

Diagnosis and treatment

Early diagnosis can be accomplished through relatively inexpensive testing of blood glucose. Treatment of diabetes involves diet and physical activity along with lowering blood glucose and the levels of other known risk factors that damage blood vessels. Tobacco

use cessation is also important to avoid complications.

Interventions that are both cost-saving and feasible in low- and middle-income countries include blood glucose control, particularly people with type 1 diabetes require insulin and people with type 2 diabetes can be treated with oral medication, but may also require insulin; blood pressure control, and foot care (patient self-care by maintaining foot hygiene; wearing appropriate footwear; seeking professional care for ulcer management; and regular examination of feet by health professionals). Other costs saving interventions are screening and treatment for retinopathy (which causes blindness), blood lipid control (to

regulate cholesterol levels), and screening for early signs of diabetes-related kidney disease and treatment.

In April 2021 WHO launched the Global Diabetes Compact, a global initiative aiming for sustained improvements in diabetes prevention and care, with a particular focus on supporting low- and middle-income countries. The Compact is bringing together all stakeholders to work on a shared vision of reducing the risk of diabetes and ensuring that all people who are diagnosed with diabetes have access to equitable, comprehensive, affordable and quality treatment and care.

In May 2021, the World Health Assembly agreed to a Resolution on strengthening the prevention and control of diabetes. It recommends action in areas including increasing access to insulin; promoting convergence and harmonization of regulatory requirements for insulin and other medicines and health products for the treatment of diabetes. In May 2022 the World Health Assembly endorsed five global diabetes coverage and treatment targets to be achieved by 2030. The five WHO diabetes coverage targets are 80 per cent of people living with diabetes are diagnosed, 80 per cent of people with diagnosed diabetes have good control of glycaemia, 80 per cent of people with diagnosed diabetes have good control of blood pressure, 60 per cent of people with diabetes of 40 years or older receive statins and 100 per cent of people with type 1 diabetes have access to affordable insulin and blood glucose self-monitoring.

In conclusion, we need to reduce the risk of diabetes and move towards a world where all people who are diagnosed with diabetes have access to equitable, comprehensive, affordable and quality treatment and care.

Ref;

-WHO Fact Sheets

-First-ever global coverage targets for diabetes adopted at the 75th World Health Assembly



About 422 million people worldwide have diabetes, the majority living in low- and middle-income countries, and 1.5 million deaths are directly attributed to diabetes each year. ILLUSTRATION CREDIT: FREEPIK

doesn't make enough insulin. More than 95 per cent of people with diabetes have type 2 diabetes. This type of diabetes is largely the result of excess body weight and physical inactivity. Symptoms may be similar to those of type 1 diabetes but are often less marked. As a result, the disease may be diagnosed several years after onset, after complications have already arisen. In the past three decades, the prevalence of type 2 diabetes has raised dramatically in countries of all income levels.

For people living with diabetes, access to affordable treatment, including insulin, is critical to their survival. There is a globally agreed target to halt the rise in diabetes and obesity by 2025.

through prenatal screening, rather than through reported symptoms.

Impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) and impaired fasting glycaemia (IFG) are intermediate conditions in the transition between normality and diabetes. People with IGT or IFG are at high risk of progressing to type 2 diabetes, although this is not inevitable.

Health impact

Over time, diabetes can damage the heart, blood vessels, eyes, kidneys, and nerves. Adults with diabetes have a two- to three-fold increased risk of heart attacks and strokes. Combined with reduced blood flow, neuropathy (nerve damage) in the feet increases the chance

of foot ulcers, infection and the eventual need for limb amputation. Diabetic retinopathy is an important cause of blindness and occurs as a result of long-term accumulated damage to the small blood vessels in the retina. Close to one million people are blind due to diabetes. Diabetes is among the leading causes of kidney failure. People with diabetes are more likely to have poor

Prevention

Lifestyle measures have been shown to be effective in preventing or delaying the onset of type 2 diabetes. To help prevent type 2 diabetes and its complications, people should achieve and maintain a healthy body weight, and be physically active, i.e., doing at least 30 minutes of regular, moderate-intensity activity on most days. More activity is required for weight control, eating a healthy diet avoiding sugar and saturated fats, and avoiding tobacco use, i.e., smoking increases the risk of diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

ARTICLE

Racism drives health disparities in US:report



Medical workers carry a patient to a hospital in New York, the United States, 13 Dec 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA/WANG YING

THROUGHOUT American history, Black people have been labelled as inferior and not needing or worthy of appropriate care, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) reported Sunday, citing journalist and author Linda Villarosa.

Such ideas "have seeped into today's health systems, contributing to persistent biases that label Black people as lazy and aggressive and make them less likely to receive appropriate healthcare," Villarosa was quoted as saying.

"It's the long-standing idea that it was something about the Black body or something about Black culture that was causing

poor health outcomes and racial disparities, that it was genetics – in other words, that we were inferior in some ways to White people, whether it was a lack of education or high levels of poverty, with less interrogation of societal and institutional barriers," the former editor for Essence, a lifestyle magazine for Black women, told AAMC.

Villarosa has written about healthy habits and strove to live a healthy life herself, while encouraging other Black women to change their diets and exercise regimens to help combat health disparities, according to the report.

SOURCE: XINHUA

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SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

NASA successfully launches mega Moon rocket

NASA launched the most powerful rocket ever built on a journey to the Moon on Wednesday, in a spectacular blaze of light and sound that marked the start of the space agency's new flagship programme, Artemis.

The 32-storey tall Space Launch System (SLS) blasted off from the storied Kennedy Space Centre in Florida at 01:47 am (0647 GMT).

"We are going," tweeted the space agency.

Fixed to its top was the uncrewed Orion spaceship that will later separate and complete an orbit-and-a-half of Earth's nearest neighbour, in a test run for later flights that should see the first woman and first person of

colour touch down on lunar soil by the mid-2020s.

America last sent astronauts to the Moon during the Apollo era, from 1969-1972.

This time it hopes to build a sustained presence – including a lunar space station – to help prepare for an eventual mission to Mars.

The launch came despite technical issues that ate into the two-hour launch window that opened at 1:04 am.

Engineers were forced to pause the flow of liquid hydrogen into the core stage Tuesday night because of a valve leak, though a team sent to the launch pad resolved the problem after an hour.—AFP



NASA launched the most powerful rocket ever built on a journey to the Moon on Wednesday.
PHOTO: NASA/AFP

G20 breathes new life into UN climate talks

A pledge by G20 leaders, whose countries account for most global CO2 emissions, to pursue the most ambitious target against global warming breathed new life into fraught UN climate talks in Egypt on Wednesday.

Analysts and campaigners welcomed the final communique from the G20 meeting in Bali, Indonesia, which comes as negotiators in Egypt are struggling to agree on key issues before COP27 is supposed to end on Friday. "The positive signals from the G20 summit should put wind in the sails of the climate talks in Egypt, which are entering their final days," said Ani Dasgupta, CEO of the World Resources Institute.



Electrical workers check solar panels at a photovoltaic power station built in a fishpond in Haian in China's eastern Jiangsu province. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP**

The Group of 20 text promises to "pursue efforts" to curb global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, a safer limit according to

scientists. "The outcome from Bali has been surprisingly positive," said Fiona Smyth, head of global policy and advocacy at Christian Aid.—AFP

Indonesia proposes nickel producer bloc at Canada G20 talks

INDONESIA has proposed the establishment of a bloc of the world's top nickel producers similar to the oil cartel OPEC in talks with Canada, its investment minister said.

The Southeast Asian nation is the world's top nickel producer, while Canada is also a major producer of the mineral, according to United States Geological Survey data.

"Through such collaboration, we hope all nickel-producing countries will be able

to profit through a fair added value creation," Bahlil Lahadalia said, according to a ministry statement.

The proposal was raised when Lahadalia met Canada's trade minister Mary Ng on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Bali.

He said an organization similar to OPEC, a group of 13 oil-producing countries, could help organize and streamline policies on nickel, a key mineral used to make batteries – includ-

ing for electric vehicles, stainless steel and mobile phones.

Lahadalia previously floated the idea of such a grouping in an interview with the Financial Times in October, saying at the time that Indonesia was still formulating the group's structure.

Ng said in the statement that the two countries could explore the collaboration proposal, adding that Indonesia and Canada shared a similar vision for optimizing their resources in a sustainable way.—AFP

Flash floods sweep away houses, cars in Australian town

ENTIRE buildings have been ripped from their foundations after flash floods swamped a small Australian town, with disaster management officials on Wednesday describing the deluge as a destructive "wall of water".

The town of Eugowra — about 350 kilometres (220 miles) west of Sydney — was inundated on Monday but it has been impossible to assess the extent of damage under the mud-brown waters.

Australia's east coast has been repeatedly swept by heavy rainfall in the past two years, driven by back-to-back La Nina cycles.

New South Wales State Emergency Service spokesman Steve Hall said a dire picture was

emerging as response teams returned to the town of some 800 people.

"Everything they hold dear has been swept away in a wall of water," he said.

"All their possessions are covered in water and mud, they've got to come back and start all over, working through all the processes of grief, and loss and anger."

Stranded residents huddled on roofs as floodwaters peaked on Monday evening, before they were winched to safety by rescue helicopters.

Local MP Andrew Gee said Eugowra was "strewn" with cars swept up in the floods and that some buildings had been "picked up from their foundations and washed down streets".—AFP



This handout photograph taken on 16 November 2022 and released by New South Wales Rural Fire Services shows floodwaters overflowing from Wyangala Dam's spillways near the Australian town of Cowra. **PHOTO: NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICES/AFP**

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Billion youth risk hearing loss from headphones, venues: study

AROUND one billion young people worldwide could be at risk of hearing loss from listening to headphones or attending loud music venues, a large review of the available research estimated on Wednesday.

The World Health Organization-led study called on young people to be more careful about their listening habits, and urged governments and manufacturers to do more to protect future hearing.

The analysis published in the journal *BMJ Global Health* looked at data from 33 studies

published in English, Spanish, French and Russian over the last two decades covering more than 19,000 participants aged between 12-34.

It found that 24 per cent of the young people had unsafe listening practices while using headphones with devices such as smartphones.

And 48 per cent were found to have been exposed to unsafe noise levels at entertainment venues such as concerts or nightclubs. Combining these findings, the study estimated that between 670,000 to 1.35 bil-

lion young people could be at risk of hearing loss.

The wide range is partly because some young people are probably at risk from both factors, said Lauren Dillard, an audiologist at the Medical University of South Carolina and the study's first author.

Dillard told AFP the best way for people to lessen their risk of hearing loss from headphones is to turn down the volume and listen for shorter periods.

"Unfortunately, people do really like very loud music," she admitted.—AFP



And 48 per cent were found to have been exposed to unsafe noise levels at entertainment venues such as concerts or nightclubs. PHOTO: AFP

Skin-to-skin contact key for premature baby survival, WHO says in shift



The WHO describes prematurity as an "urgent public health issue," with an estimated 15 million babies born preterm each year — accounting for one in 10 births. PHOTO: AFP

SKIN-TO-SKIN contact is key to improving survival of premature and small babies, the WHO said on Tuesday in a major overhaul of policy that previously called for the use of incubators.

The new guidelines mark a major turnaround in the way the UN health agency recommends neonatal intensive care be pro-

vided to tiny babies.

Allowing mothers or other caregivers and preterm babies to remain close from the start, without separation, boosts the chances of survival, Karen Edmond, a World Health Organization medical officer and paediatrician, told reporters in Geneva.

"The first embrace with a

parent is not only emotionally important, but also absolutely critical for improving chances of survival and health outcomes for small and premature babies," she said.

The new guidelines for how to treat babies born before 37 weeks of pregnancy or under 2.5 kilogrammes (5.5 pounds) applies in all settings, WHO said.

Immediate skin-to-skin contact should be provided "even for babies who are unwell with breathing difficulties," it said, insisting: "they too need the close contact with their mother from birth."

Previously, the WHO had said that "unstable" newborns weighing less than two kilos at birth should be placed in incubators. The WHO describes prematurity as an "urgent public health issue," with an estimated 15 million babies born preterm each year — accounting for one in 10 births.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Red Cross says first aid convoy arrives in Tigray capital

A medical aid convoy arrived in the capital of Ethiopia's war-torn Tigray region on Tuesday, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said, the first since a peace deal between the federal government and Tigrayan rebels nearly two weeks ago.

The resumption of aid deliveries to Tigray was a key part of the breakthrough deal signed on 2 November to silence the guns in the two-year conflict that has claimed countless lives and triggered a humanitarian crisis in northern Ethiopia.—AFP

Sperm count is declining at accelerating rate worldwide: study

SPERM count among men worldwide is falling at an accelerated rate after halving over the last 40 years, a large new study said on Tuesday, calling for action to stop the decline. The study, led by Israeli epidemiologist Hagai Levine, updates 2017 research which had come under scrutiny for only including North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. The new study includes data from more than 57,000 men collected over 223 studies across 53 countries, making it the largest meta-analysis ever conducted on the subject. With the additional new countries, it confirmed the 2017 finding that sperm counts have halved over the last four decades.—AFP

Zimbabwe to ramp up vaccination amid slight increase in COVID-19 cases

ZIMBABWE will include the COVID-19 vaccination in the second round of its polio vaccination campaign set for early next month, a cabinet minister said Tuesday.

Addressing a post-cabinet media briefing, Sekai Nzenza, acting minister of information,

publicity and broadcasting services, said the COVID-19 vaccination would tackle the recent increase in new cases of 295 last week from 179 the week before.

She said that hospital admissions had also increased to 26 last week from 13 reported

the previous week.

The minister said provinces continue to prioritize COVID-19 vaccinations in all schools, focusing on the secondary schools that have not yet reached the second dose coverage target of 70 per cent.—Xinhua



Locals queue to register details for COVID-19 vaccination exercise at Wilkins Hospital in Harare, capital of Zimbabwe, 24 March 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA/SHAUN JUSA

ECONOMY WORLD

British PM raises oil with Saudis as Biden shuns crown prince

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak called Tuesday for efforts to stabilize oil markets in talks with Saudi Arabia's crown prince, who was shunned by US President Joe Biden over an output cut.

The new British prime minister met separately with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the oil-rich kingdom's effective ruler, as they gathered for the Group of 20 summit on the Indonesian resort island of Bali.

"In light of the global increase in energy prices sparked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the prime minister said he hoped the UK and Saudi Arabia could continue to work together to stabilize energy markets," a Downing Street spokesperson said.

The engagement contrasts with the cold shoulder by Biden, with US officials saying they were not planning any meeting with the prince, known by his initials MBS, even on a lower level.



Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman rides a buggy during the G20 leaders' summit in Bali. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE**

Biden was outraged after the Saudi-led OPEC+ oil cartel decided to cut production by two million barrels a day from November, adding pressure to global prices and potentially boosting revenue for energy exporter Russia, counteracting the US-led campaign to isolate Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine.

Biden warned Saudi Arabia of consequences over the move,

which some of his aides saw as an effort to boost the rival Republican Party days ahead of US congressional elections in which inflation was a top issue.

Saudi Arabia insisted it was only considering economic factors but the move infuriated Biden as he had taken political risks in June by visiting the kingdom on a mission to ensure the flow of oil.—AFP

Western thirst for African gas raises alarm at COP27

WEALTHY Western nations facing an energy crunch are eyeing natural gas in Africa at the expense of supporting green transition in poorer countries, climate activists at COP27 charge.

European countries have been scrambling for alternative sources of gas after the continent's former top supplier, Russia, slashed exports in apparent retaliation for Western sanc-

tions over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February.

Gas-rich Norway has since overtaken Russia as a leading supplier, but Europe sees great potential in African fossil fuel reserves, including promising oil and gas discoveries in Senegal and Democratic Republic of Congo.

Europe wants "to turn Africa into its gas station", Mo-

hamed Adow, director of the Power Shift Africa think tank, said at the UN climate summit in Egypt.

"We don't have to follow the footsteps of the rich world that actually caused climate change in the first place."

Exporting natural gas may bring short-term profits but exacerbate the climate crisis and leave African nations worse off in the long run, activists, researchers and advocacy groups said.

Research group Climate Action Tracker called the global dash for gas a "serious threat" to the Paris Agreement goals — of keeping global warming well below two degrees Celsius, and preferably at 1.5 degrees compared to pre-industrial levels.

Some African leaders argued the potential benefits for people on the world's poorest continent outweighed the harm from the production and export of fossil fuels.—AFP



Natural gas processing plant in Amenas, Algeria. **PHOTO: RYAD KRAMDI / AFP / FILE**

China unveils sweeping measures to rescue property sector

CHINESE authorities have unveiled sweeping measures to rescue struggling property sector, as regulators seek to offset years of harsh pandemic curbs and a real estate crackdown that have stalled the world's number-two economy.

The banking regulator and central bank on Friday issued a 16-point set of internal directives to promote the "stable and healthy development" of the industry, which were verified by Chinese media on Monday.

The measures include credit support for debt-laden housing developers, financial

support to ensure completion and handover of projects to homeowners, and assistance for deferred-payment loans for homebuyers. That came on the same day the National Health Commission issued 20 rules for "optimising" Beijing's dynamic zero-Covid policy, where certain restrictions were relaxed to limit the policy's social and economic impact.

"We view this as the most crucial pivot since Beijing significantly tightened financing of the property sector," wrote Ting Lu, chief China economist at Nomura, in a note.—AFP



The measures include credit support for debt-laden housing developers, financial support to ensure completion and handover of projects to homeowners, and assistance for deferred-payment loans for homebuyers. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

G20 rues economic impact of Ukraine, 'most' condemn war

THE Group of 20, including Russia, will deplore the economic impact of the Ukraine conflict, according to a draft communique Tuesday, with most members also condemning the war.

The draft statement, seen by AFP during a summit in Bali, Indonesia, will also call for the extension of a deal with Russia expiring on Saturday that allows the export of Ukrainian grain.

"This year, we have also witnessed the war in Ukraine further adversely impact the global economy," the draft reads.

Countries "reiterated our national positions" and "most

members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine", it adds.

"It is causing immense human suffering and exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy."

The draft notes there were "other views" and that the "G20 is not the forum to resolve security issues", but members acknowledged that security issues could "have significant consequences for the global economy".

Russia's eight-month-old invasion of Ukraine has caused a disastrous spike in global food and energy prices, tipping millions more into poverty and raising the spectre of famine for some.—AFP

Toyota unveils new Prius in bid to push hybrids amid rise of EVs

TOYOTA Motor Corp on Wednesday unveiled the latest iteration of its flagship Prius hybrid car with improved acceleration performance, emphasizing its stance that hybrid cars are still a viable option in achieving carbon neutrality amid the rising popularity of electric vehicles.



Photo taken in Tokyo on 16 Nov 2022, shows the latest model of Toyota Motor Corp.'s Prius hybrid car. PHOTO: KYODO

The latest model, its fifth generation, marks the first full-model change of the car in about seven years. The Japanese carmaker said it has made the vehicle's exterior design sportier while adopting the latest hybrid system to re-

alize high fuel efficiency.

In Japan, the new Prius will go on sale this winter while its plug-in hybrid model is expected

to hit the domestic market next spring, Toyota said. It will also sell the latest model in other areas including North America

and Europe. Toyota has said hybrid cars are a more realistic approach towards achieving carbon neutrality than EVs, given the high cost of owning all-electric cars and the current energy mix that relies heavily on fossil fuels.

"Battery electric vehicles are an important solution but not always the best option for everyone," Simon Humphries, senior general manager at Toyota's Vehicle Development Centre, said in an online presentation. "In a diversified world, we need a variety of options."—Kyodo

Musk to testify at trial over his \$50 bln Tesla compensation

TESLA tycoon Elon Musk will take the stand on Wednesday as part of a trial over his \$50 billion pay package as CEO of the electric car giant.

Musk will testify in the same Delaware court where he faced a lawsuit by Twitter to make sure he went through with his buyout of the social platform.

The \$44 billion purchase of Twitter has put Musk under a deluge of scrutiny after he conducted massive layoffs, scared advertisers and opened the platform to fake accounts. The unrelated Tesla case is based on a complaint by shareholder Richard Tornetta, who accused Musk and the company's board of directors of failing in their duties when they authorized the pay plan.—AFP

Estee Lauder agrees to buy Tom Ford brand for \$2.3 bln

LUXURY beauty brand Estee Lauder said in a statement Tuesday it had agreed to buy designer Tom Ford's company for \$2.3 billion. The deal, which values Ford's business at \$2.8 billion, will see the US fashion superstar remain in his position as creative director until the end of next year, the statement said.

Bringing the brand under the "stewardship" of Estee Lauder Companies (ELC) "will allow for continuity and the further evolution of the Tom Ford brand as one of the preeminent global luxury brands of the twenty-first century," New York-based ELC said in its statement.—AFP



Estee Lauder holds major brands such as MAC cosmetics, Clinique and La Mer facial products, and Aveda. PHOTO: AFP

US wholesale price inflation slows in October



US wholesale gasoline prices continued to rise, but producer prices gains eased, which President Joe Biden said is good news for the economy. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

US wholesale prices continued to rise in October but at a slower pace than in the prior month, accord-

ing to official data Tuesday which will add to rising hopes that inflation has peaked.

President Joe Biden cheered the news, which came on top of last week's report showing a slowdown in consumer prices, adding traction to growing expectations the Federal Reserve will be able to dial back its aggressive increases in borrowing costs in the battle against inflation that hit a 40-year high.

The producer price index rose just 0.2 per cent compared to September, the Labor Department reported, which was half the pace economists had

expected. And annual PPI slowed to 8.0 per cent in October, the data showed, down from 8.5 percent in the prior month.

"There's more good news for our economy this morning, and more indications that we are starting to see inflation moderate," Biden said in a statement.

He noted that "food inflation slowed -- a welcome sign for families' grocery bills as we head into the holidays," and credited his administration's policies.—AFP

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (268N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-11-2022** 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 LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BRILLIANT PROFT V.2210

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BRILLIANT PROFT VOY.NO. (2210)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-11-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** 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 BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Xi's proposals on global cooperation, development gain worldwide support

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Tuesday called for collective actions and close cooperation to make global development more inclusive, beneficial to all, and more resilient, and stressed the importance of joint efforts to unclog industrial and supply chains and stabilize market prices to tackle food and energy crises.

He made the appeal when delivering a speech at the first session of the 17th Group of 20

(G20) summit here, and also when meeting with world leaders.

Xi's remarks came at a critical moment when the world economy is facing a bunch of mixed and acute challenges including the increasing risk of deep recession, growing attempts to form bloc politics and stoke confrontation, wider gap between the rich and the poor, as well as the worsening food and security crises.

As experts and observers said, as global development is threatened by those formidable challenges, Xi's speech, which has elaborated on China's answer to those problems and showed its commitment to a better future, will help build up stronger global consensus, advance global cooperation, bolster world economic growth and achieve common prosperity.—Xinhua



Xi said that we should make global development beneficial to all.
PHOTO: XINHUA

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

G-7, NATO affirm cooperation as missile hits Poland amid Russia war



Head of the Office of National Security, Jacek Siewiera (L), and Spokesperson of the Polish government, Piotr Muller, make a statement after a crisis meeting of the Office of National Security, in Warsaw, on 15 November 2022. **PHOTO: JANEK SKARZYNSKI/AFP**

LEADERS of the Group of Seven industrialized nations and members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on Wednesday affirmed their close cooperation following a deadly missile strike in NATO member Poland's territory amid Russia's ongoing war in

Ukraine. After a hastily convened meeting on the Indonesian resort island of Bali on the sidelines of a G-20 summit, US President Joe Biden appeared to try to tamp down tensions, telling reporters it is "unlikely" that the missile that landed in Poland was fired from

Russia. According to Poland's Foreign Ministry, a Russian-made missile hit Przewodow, a village in eastern Poland near the border with Ukraine, on Tuesday, killing two citizens. Massive shelling was taking place across Ukraine, with key infrastructure being targeted by the Russian military at the time, it said.

The Associated Press reported that initial findings suggested Ukrainian forces fired the missile at an incoming Russian missile.

It was the first time since Russia's invasion began in February that Russian weapons came down on a NATO country, which Biden has vowed to defend. Russia's Defence Ministry has denied its military was performing strikes targeting the Ukrainian-Polish border zone, according to the country's Tass news agency.—Kyodo

Missile strikes pound Ukraine cities

MISSILE strikes hit cities across Ukraine on Tuesday, plunging seven million homes into darkness just days after a humiliating Russian retreat, prompting a defiant response from President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Seven million homes were without power following the latest attacks, the presidency said, dampening jubilation over the recapture of Kherson city as world leaders gather at a G20 summit expected to tackle the violence engulfing Ukraine.

Lviv in the west and Kharkiv in the east were also attacked on Tuesday, authorities said, with Lviv's mayor reporting 80 per cent of the city was without power. Zelensky said in a video statement that Russia had fired 85 missiles at energy facilities across the country. "We are working, we will restore everything," he said as areas across Ukraine reported interruptions to power supplies including the western Ternopil region that said 90 per cent of users were cut off.—AFP

Fresh air raid alerts in Ukraine day after Russia's biggest aerial assault

FRESH air raid alerts were sounding across war-scarred Ukraine on Wednesday, according to officials and warning notifications, a day after a massive wave of Russia strikes targeted the country's energy infrastructure.

The warnings were sounding in all regions of the country after some ten million Ukrainians were left without electricity when dozens of Russian missiles hit power stations in the biggest aerial attack since the Russian invasion began in February.—AFP



FIFA appeals for World Cup ceasefire in Ukraine

THE president of the world football body called Tuesday for a one-month ceasefire in Ukraine to mark the World Cup, saying sport

FIFA president Gianni Infantino is calling for a ceasefire in Ukraine for the duration of the World Cup. **PHOTO: WILLIAM WEST/AFP**

could bring people together. FIFA president Gianni Infantino, addressing leaders of the Group of 20 major economies gathered in Bali, said the World Cup opening Sunday in Qatar could serve as a "positive trigger" in the nearly nine-month Russian invasion of Ukraine. "My plea to all of you is to think of a temporary ceasefire for one month for the duration of the World Cup," he told a G20

lunch for the leaders.

If not a full ceasefire, there can be "the implementation of some humanitarian corridors or anything that could lead to the resumption of dialogue," he said.

Describing football as a unifier, he pointed out that Russia had hosted the 2018 World Cup and that Ukraine is submitting a joint bid with Spain and Portugal for 2030.—AFP

Thousands of Brazilians demand army support to block Lula taking power

THOUSANDS of Brazilians gathered outside Army barracks in Rio de Janeiro, Brasilia and other cities on Tuesday demanding the military intervene to prevent leftist president-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva taking power next year.

“We want a better Brazil. We don’t want Lula to take charge on 1 January, we don’t want a communist country,” bank employee Lais Nunes, 30, told AFP in Rio.

Protesters draped in green and gold waved Brazilian flags and sung the national anthem on what was a bank holiday.

“There is various information that there was electoral fraud ... we can’t accept that,” added police officer Leandro de Oliveira, 38, who claimed the



Supporters of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro take part in a demonstration against the results of the runoff election, in front of the Army headquarters in Brasilia 15 November 2022. PHOTO: AFP

national electoral tribunal was responsible for the supposed

fraud. Supporters of outgoing far-right President Jair Bol-

sonaro have alleged fraud surrounding the electronic voting

system that has been used since 1996. Bolsonaro himself did likewise repeatedly, without providing any supporting evidence.

Brazil’s defence ministry has, however, produced a report dismissing alleged inconsistencies in the electronic results, while international observers also validated the election result.

Lula, who was also president from 2003-10 and left with sky-high approval ratings, won the 30 October run-off with just under 51 per cent of the vote compared to Bolsonaro’s 49 per cent. In the capital Brasilia, thousands more gathered at the army’s headquarters with some holding up banners such as “S.O.S Armed Forces” and “Audit at the polls”.—AFP

French MPs mull banning bullfighting

FRENCH MPs are set to begin debating a ban on bullfighting on Wednesday, with a vote due later this month that has enraged lovers of the blood sport in the south of the country. The issue has split the ruling coalition of President Emmanuel Macron and the biggest opposition party, the far-right National Rally, which is led by animal-lover Marine Le Pen. Despite having widespread public support, most observers expect the bid to fail as a majority of MPs fear a backlash in rural areas and bullfighting heartlands where the practice is a cherished cultural tradition. “I think the majority of French people share the view that bullfights are immoral, a

spectacle that no longer has its place in the 21st century,” the left-wing opposition MP behind the attempt to ban it, Aymeric Caron, told AFP earlier this year. A poll by the Ifop survey group earlier this year backs Caron’s claim, with 77 per cent of respondents approving of a ban, up from 50 per cent in 2007.

MPs will begin discussing draft legislation during a hearing of the parliament’s law commission on Wednesday.

A full vote is scheduled for 24 November, which would be the first time the national assembly has pondered outlawing a tradition that was idolized by artists from Ernest Hemingway to Pablo Picasso.—AFP



Bullfighting is defended as a local tradition in many towns in southern France. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Chilean workers call strike at world’s largest copper mine



The Escondida mine in Chile is the world’s biggest copper producer. PHOTO: AFP/MARTIN BERNETTI

WORKERS at the world’s biggest copper mine, in northern Chile, announced on Tuesday

a three-day strike next week to protest against “serious security incidents” at the Escondida mine.

More than 2,400 miners will go on strike from Monday to Wednesday, the Escondida Mining union said in a statement.

The decision is due to “serious safety incidents, such as three fires, in which we could confirm that the company had not adopted the prevention and safety measures that are required of it,” said the statement. Chile is the world’s largest copper producer with annual production of 5.6 million tons, close to a third of the entire global output.

Escondida is owned by Anglo-Australian giant BHP. When workers at the mine went on a record 44-day strike in 2017 — the longest in Chile’s mining history — BHP lost \$740 million, contributing to a 1.3 per cent decline in the country’s GDP.—AFP

Chagall painting stolen by Nazis sells for \$7.4 mln at US auction

A painting by Marc Chagall, which was among 15 works stolen by Nazis and eventually returned by France to the heirs of the affected families, sold for \$7.4 million at auction in New York Tuesday. The sale at the Phillips

auction house was part of the fall auction season, which sees major industry players sell hundreds of works of art for several billion dollars in a few days in the upscale neighbourhoods of Manhattan.

On Tuesday, Phillips sold 46

works for nearly \$139 million. The most expensive, a monumental painting by Cy Twombly, “Untitled” (2005), which once belonged to the French businessman Francois Pinault, went for \$41.6 million.—AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Thousands of Brazilians demand army support to block Lula taking power
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17 NOVEMBER 2022
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

SPORT



Technical director of the Myanmar Football Federation U Tin Myint Aung and technical directors from the Asian region pose for a group photo to mark the FIFA-certified seminar. **PHOTO: MFF**

Myanmar attends Technical Leadership Development Seminar for MA Technical Directors

TECHNICAL director of the Myanmar Football Federation U Tin Myint Aung attended the Technical Leadership Development Seminar for MA Technical Directors held in the Philippines from 7 to 9 November; the MFF stated yesterday.

The seminar organized by

the World Football Federation was attended by 18 technical directors from countries in the Asian region.

The participants discussed the pressures and worries together and found solutions for the football world.

Technical directors from the

participating countries also presented their presentations and discussed them together.

These discussions are being organized by FIFA according to the relevant region, and experts on FIFA's methodology attended and shared their opinion.

— GNLM

Ex-Norway international footballer Carew jailed for tax evasion



Former Premier League and Norway international footballer John Carew has been sentenced to 14 months in prison for tax evasion and ordered to pay a fine by Oslo's district court. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

FORMER Premier League and Norway striker John Carew was Wednesday sentenced to 14 months in prison for tax evasion and ordered to pay a fine by

Oslo's district court.

The 43-year-old was found guilty of failing to report taxable income of 12.8 million kroner (\$1.29 million) and assets of 307

million kroner (\$31 million) during 2014-2019.

In addition to the jail sentence, he was ordered to pay a fine of 540,000 kroner (\$54,370).

Carew, who played for Aston Villa, Valencia and Lyon among other European clubs, had pleaded guilty to the charges.

He had told Norwegian tax authorities that he was living in Britain during the period in question and was therefore not required to pay tax in the Scandinavian country.

But during the trial prosecutors provided evidence, including credit card slips, that showed he was in Norway more than 183 days a year during that period, which technically made him a resident of Norway and therefore subject to pay tax. —AFP

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Spanish star Rahm blasts golf rankings system

SPANISH star Jon Rahm blasted the restructured point system of the Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR), calling it "laughable" adding he was in favour of awarding world ranking points to LIV Golf tournaments.

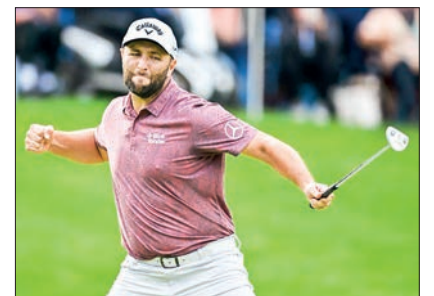
The new OWGR system, which came into effect on 9 August this year, has divided opinions among players and fans.

While it is based on a more scientific base, with detailed calculations like the strength of field and shots gained taken into consideration before every tournament, it is skewed heavily towards the PGA Tour.

"I'm going to be as blunt as I can. I think the OWGR right now is laughable," said Rahm, the 2021 US Open champion.

Rahm was speaking on the eve of the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai which is the flagship, season-ending tournament of the DP World Tour.

The top-50 players in the Race to Dubai have qualified for the \$10 million tournament, and the field includes world number one Rory McIlroy and six other players in the top-25 of the world rankings. The tournament on the PGA Tour — The RSM Classic — does not have even one top-25 player in its 156-man field. —AFP



Spanish golf star Jon Rahm says the revised world rankings system is laughable and the authorities have made a mistake. **PHOTO: AFP**