

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 218, 13th Waning of Tazaungmone 1384 ME

www.gnfm.com.mm

Sunday, 20 November 2022

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.

Myanmar secures over US\$1 billion FDI in 7 months of 2022-2023FY

MYANMAR received over US\$1.451 billion worth of foreign investment during seven months of the financial year 2022-2023, and Singapore is the top source so far, according to data from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration-DICA.

Singapore made the most investment in Myanmar starting in 2012. Its investment was \$2.4 billion in the 2018-2019FY while \$2.16 billion in the 2017-2018FY, \$3.8 billion in the 2016-2017FY, \$4.25 billion in the 2015-2016FY and \$4.29 billion in the 2014-2015FY.

Between April and the end of October of this financial year, the investment flows into Myanmar were \$1,154.286 million by Singapore, \$1.5 million by Belize, \$1 million by Bangladesh, \$90.028 million including an investment promotion by China, \$3 million including an investment promotion by Chinese Taipei, \$163.019 million including an investment promotion by Hong Kong and \$1.545 million including an investment promotion by India.

Moreover, Japan made a



The photo shows the entrance of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone which is mainly developed and operated by Myanmar-Japan Thilawa Development Limited-MJTD.

\$21.4 million investment while \$4.8 million by the Republic of Korea, \$6 million by Thailand, \$4.677 million by Switzerland, \$0.300 million by the UK, and \$0.338 million by Seychelles, figures of the department showed.

The annual foreign investment flows into the country are \$40,693.687 million between the

1988-1989FY and 2011-2012FY, \$1,419.467 million in the 2012-2013FY, \$4,103.957 million in the 2013-2014FY, \$8,010.533 million in the 2014-2015FY and \$9,486.123 million in the 2015-2016FY.

In the 2016-2017FY, it was \$6,649.812 million while \$5,713.086 million in the 2017-2018FY and \$1,764.701 million

in the six-month mini-budget period between April and September 2018.

It was also \$4,158.474 million in the 2018-2019FY, \$4,880.973 million in the 2019-2020FY, \$3,791.398 million in the 2020-2021FY and only \$647.127 million in the six-month mini-budget period between October and March of

the 2021-2022FY.

The government permits foreign investments in 12 sectors such as agriculture, livestock and fisheries, mining, manufacturing, power, oil and gas, construction, transport and communications, hotels and tourism, real estate, industrial zones and the services sector.—TWA/GNLM

PYIN OO LWIN

Pwe Gauk

(BE.FALLS)

Waterfalls Resort

- Jumping cloud
- Children play ground
- Jungle foopath,
- Suspension bridge
- Souvenir shop, Food court
- 5D-LED Modern digital glass bridge

Special arrangements are made for Package Tours and group Pilgrimages.

U Aung Kyaw Zan presents Credentials to Vice-President of Federative Republic of Brazil

U Aung Kyaw Zan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Federative Republic of Brazil, presented his Credentials to Mr Antonio Hamilton Martins Mourao, Vice-President of the Federative Republic of Brazil on 16 November 2022 in the President Office. – MNA



Ambassador U Aung Kyaw Zan presents his Credentials to the Vice-President of Federative Republic of Brazil on 16 November 2022.

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions



Health staff administer Covid vaccines to locals in Kangyidaunt Township.

VACCINATION is being carried out in full swing in various regions and states as the vaccination programmes are one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 disease. Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, and relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 3,992 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 1,264 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

Similarly, on that day healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 240 students from seven districts in Mandalay Region.

In addition, to assist in the

control and prevention of the COVID-19 disease, military officials from various military commands in collaboration with district and township administrative officials, departmental personnel and members of civil society organizations (CSOs) conducted



Local authorities distribute masks to local people in Yangon.

educational campaigns such as prevention of COVID-19, wearing of masks in public places and distribution of masks to the locals at schools, markets, streets, city entry points and crowded areas in 44 townships in Yangon Region yesterday. — MNA

30 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 19 November, total figure rises to 632,987

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **632,987** after **30** new cases were reported on 19 November 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **607,308** including **43** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,487** on Saturday with no new deaths reported from the pandemic.

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

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The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increasing of death rate based on the disease.

Taking State responsibilities under the 2008 Constitution

- The State Administration Council government is controlling the country in accord with the 2008 constitution.
- Protests and violence were handled in accord with the law.
- Meetings were held with the government officials concerned to solve the election problems. But they failed and attempted to grab State power by calling a parliament. Therefore, we had to take over State duties unavoidably.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with entrepreneurs from MSMEs in Pyay District on 4 October 2022)

MoTC Union Minister arrives back from Russian Federation

AT the invitation of Russian Federation Minister of Transport Mr Vitaly Saveliev, a delegation led by Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San attended the 16th International Forum and Transport Week 2022 exhibition held in Moscow from 15 to 18 November and returned to Yangon yesterday evening.

On 16 November, the Union minister and party attended the Railway Locomotive Assembly and accessories production quality control workshop, Conference on using drones in urban transport, and agreement signing ceremony between civil aviation authorities of Myanmar and the Russian Federation for Yangon-Vladivostok, Yangon-Novosibirsk, and Yangon-Krasnoyarsk bilateral flights.

The Union minister also held talks with Deputy Minister Mr Igor Petrovich Chalik of the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation.

The Union minister and party attended the "International Transport Cooperation in 2022" held on 17 November and visit-



An agreement signing ceremony between Myanmar and the Russian Federation in progress.

ed the exhibits displayed during Transport Week.

The Russian Federation underscored that they have many experienced professionals and private companies in the fields of construction of railway transport, repair, maintenance and logistics and they can provide the necessary assistance for the development of Myanmar's transport

sector. Myanmar and the Russian Federation also exchanged views on bilateral cooperation to develop Myanmar's railway sector.

An agreement was signed between the civil aviation authorities of the two countries for the flights between Yangon and three cities in the Russian Federation. Myanmar Airways International (MAI) also plans

to start flights between the two countries in 2023.

In the Plenary Session on International Transport Cooperation, the Union minister expressed that Myanmar is geographically located at the focal point of the region so many business areas can allow foreign investment opportunities. The railway link between China, In-

dia and Thailand under the international railway network is underway, he added.

Asian Highway, ASEAN Highway and India-Myanmar-Thai trilateral road are also under implementation. At the same time, ASEAN BIMSTEC and GMS member countries are coordinating for cross-border transport of goods and passengers, uniformity of procedural specifications between the two countries, and implementation of multi-modal transport promotion is underway, the Union minister stated.

He further discussed that it is necessary to develop the North-South Transport Corridor to connect ASEAN with Russia. A competent logistics chain can enhance economic development and friendly relations among the countries in the region, he stressed.

A total of 1,400 representatives including 160 representatives from 36 countries, Russian officials, experts, technicians, business organizations and observers attended the meeting. — MNA

Myanmar delegation pays observation tours in Saint Petersburg



The Myanmar delegation views round the Nuclear Technology Information Centre in Saint Petersburg.

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw currently arriving in the Russian Federation visited the Nuclear Technology Information Centre in Saint Petersburg on 18 November.

First, Russia's state-run Nuclear Corporation Rosatom and the ministry signed an agreement to establish the Nuclear Technology Information Centre in Yangon. On arrival at the Nuclear Technology Information Centre, the centre's director-general welcomed the Myanmar delegation and explained public awareness programmes.

Then, Myanmar delegates observed model scales, presentation with virtual reality digital, effective energy production, and benefits of nuclear technology to human beings and the environment

displayed in the Nuclear Technology Information Centre.

Next, the Myanmar delegation visited Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University and was welcomed by the rector of the university. At the meeting hall, they discussed the short-term training course to develop the human resources of Myanmar, handover courses, postgraduate courses and arrangements for student exchange and faculty exchange.

The international university was established over 120 years ago and produced Nobel-prize winners and mentoring skilful experts in science, technology and engineering.

Myanmar delegates also studied historical heritage and records in Hermitage Museum. — MNA

MoBA Union Minister inspects development activities in Putao, Kachin State



Union Border Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung views the scenery along the road to the snow-capped mountain in Putao for nature-based tourism development.

ACCOMPANIED by Border Affairs Minister of the Kachin State Colonel Aung Kyi Lin and officials, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung

inspects the construction site of the Zion-Lantaung-Naung Khine inter-village road, which is carried out with the border area development fund of the

2022-2023 financial year on 17 November.

The Union minister met and provided foodstuffs to 76 displaced families from Machanbaw and

Khaunglanphu townships at Zidan 2 village where they were resettled.

In the afternoon, the Union minister and party inspected the construction of bridges along the

25-mile-long Putao plain circular road, which is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Border Affairs, the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development and the Kachin State government. He exhorted officials to coordinate the requirements for the completion of construction in the financial year 2023-2024.

The Union minister met and coordinated with officials on paddy double-cropping in all seasons in order to ensure food security in the region and sufficient cultivation water through a solar power pumping system at the paddy seed plantation of the Putao Township Agriculture Department.

The Union minister and party met staff and students of the Women Vocational School in Putao and provided school uniforms, stationeries and sports accessories.— MNA

MoRAC Union Minister inspects Myanansankyaw Golden Palace in Mandalay Region

UNION Minister U Ko Ko of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture visited the Myanansankyaw Golden Palace and inspected the kings' chambers, queens' chambers, stone inscription chambers 1 and 2, the cannon museum, which is displaying various ancient cannons and tombstones of King Mindon and the queen, yesterday morning.

The Union minister pointed out that the palace is the last entity of the Konbaung dynasty and a true legacy of Myanmar's ancient culture and history. Thus, all Myanmar nationals in addition to the staff of the Department of Archaeology and

National Museum should treasure and preserve the palace, he stressed.

Afterwards, the Union Minister, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Maung Ko, Mandalay government members and MoRAC officials watched the play "Athet Htet Myat Thaw Gon Thate Kha" (Dignity higher than life) which was scheduled to perform by the Department of Fine Arts to the public at the National Theatre (Mandalay). — MNA

MoRAC Union Minister U Ko Ko looks round the Myanansankyaw Golden Palace in Mandalay yesterday.



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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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Opening ceremony of 104th Cetiayangana Pariyatti Examination of Shwedagon Pagoda held

THE opening ceremony of the 104th Cetiayangana Examination was held at the Chanthagyi rest house in the Rahu corner of Shwedagon Pagoda by the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees yesterday.

Ovadacariya Sayadaws of the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees, Cetiayangana Ovadacariya Sayadaws, the examiners and the candidate monks from regions and states, the board of trustees and donors attended the ceremony.

Firstly, the attendees took the Five Precepts from Nyaungdon Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Gand-

havasaka Pandita Bhaddanta Pavara Bhivamsa. Then, the chair of the Cetiayangana Pariyatti Examination Committee U Boe Thin supplicated an opening speech.

Cetiayangana Pariyatti examinations were successfully held at Shwedagon Pagoda from the 67th to the 103rd. In the 103rd examination, five monks passed. There were 219 monks registered for the 104th examination. — Ko Ko Zaw (MNA)/GNLM

The 104th Cetiayangana Pariyatti Examination in progress. **PHOTO: KO KO ZAW**



Illegal timbers, forest products, foodstuffs, consumer goods, motorboat and vehicles confiscated



Officials check and seized the illegal goods in Taninthayi Region.

COASTAL Vessel-114 under the supervision of the Taninthayi Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections on 17 November.

Officials captured a total of 5.107 tonnes of illegal timbers from a motorboat and related things (approximately K750,000) 1.9 miles from the North of Kaya Island in Kyunsu township of Myeik district. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

A combined on-duty team seized 45 bags of coal worth K67,500 and foodstuffs (made in Thailand) worth K800,000 without official documents from a Mitsubishi Fuso bus (approximately K30 million) at the

Pauktaing Bridge Checkpoint in Dawei township. The action was taken under the Forest Law and Customs Procedures.

Similarly, an on-duty team confiscated 2,000 kilogrammes of linoleum worth K6.3 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Asia World Port Terminal Container Checkpoint and the action was taken under Customs Procedures.

On 18 November, an on-duty team confiscated K70,594,000 worth of roller bearings (different models and sizes) that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Myan-

mar Industrial Port Container Checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

On 19 November, a total of 6.5036 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K1,689,520 was captured in Toungoo district and an unregistered Daihatsu Hijet car (approximately K1.5 million) was seized in Waw township. The action was taken under the Forest Law and Export and Import Law.

Therefore, nine arrests (at an estimated value of K112,467,070) were made on three consecutive days from 17 to 19 November, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee.— MNA

Pigeon pea prices on the rise, black gram declines

THE pigeon pea prices declined in the Yangon market and rose again on 19 November, according to the market.

In the Yangon bean market, the pigeon pea price reached below K1.9 million per tonne starting on 11 November. However, it reached over K1.9 million on the seventh day of the opening of the wholesale centre.

In November, black gram FAQ/RC was priced over K1.8 million per tonne only on 8 November and below K1.8 million until 19 November.

On 19 November, the black gram FAQ/RC was K1,765,000 per tonne while K2,085,000 per

tonne of SQ/RC and K1.9 million per tonne of pigeon pea. The FOB bean prices were between \$750-770 per tonne of FAQ black gram, \$890-910 per tonne of SQ and \$790-810 per tonne of pigeon pea FAQ.

The new pigeon pea starts entering the market. The pigeon pea prices were K2,175,000 on 19 September and the black gram

reached its highest at K2.1 million on 31 August. The highest prices dropped by K275,000 per tonne of pigeon pea within two months and by over K300,000 per tonne of black gram within over two months and a half. — TWA/GNLM



Bean samples were seen in the Yangon bean market in 2019.

TOURISM



Welcome to the Virgin Island of Manaung, a Place of Tourist Attraction

By Thitsa (MNA)



MYANMAR abounds in places of scenic beauty. In the far north, there are snow-capped mountains. Visitors—both local travellers and tourists—can come to enjoy the beautiful landscapes and wonderful sea sides in all three seasons—the hot season, the rainy season and the cold season. In the south and southwest, there are long coastal areas, which can attract tourists from around the world. The eastern and northern borders of Myanmar are lined with mountains and forests, which serve as natural barricades. As Myanmar is rich in natural resources and as it possesses cultural heritage, tourists are interested in visiting Myanmar.

The Rakhine coastal areas and Taninthayi coastal areas have beautiful and clean beaches. What makes the tourists fascinated with Myanmar's coasts is that the islands are not created floating islands — they are natural islands with scenic beauty. The tourists coming to the Taninthayi archipelagoes can not only enjoy the beauty and freshness of the islands and beaches but also observe the lifestyle of the Salon ethnic people, who are the greatest divers; they can stay under the water for almost an hour without the aid of the oxygen cylinders.



The Rakhine traditional wrestling entertains travellers.

In Rakhine State, visitors can come to the beach known as Ngapali, which is said to have been named after Napoli in Italy. Nonetheless, Ngapali Beach has been visited by both

local travellers and tourists for much more than half a century, and thus, the quality of the beach cannot be comparable to the virgin island in Manaung. Rakhine State is contacted with

the Ayeyawady Region, which is again linked to the City of Yangon. This strategic geographical location of Rakhine makes it accessible by motor road. As known to all, most travellers

and tourists are using the motorway to reach Rakhine State.

Manaung Island in Rakhine State has an area of 202.05 square miles whereas the town Manaung has an area of 0.75 square miles only with Rakhines, Bamars and Chins numbering more than 68,000 in toto being spread over five wards and 36 village-tracts constituted with 136 villages. When compared to the big city of Yangon, Manaung is a very small island town; nevertheless, Manaung is clean, fresh and beautiful in addition to having an abundant supply of paddy and seafood. The moun-

SEE PAGE-7



FROM PAGE-6

tains and forests in Manaung have wild animals and birds, surrounding the island besides the beach, coral reefs and palm trees. There are also plantations where seasonal crops are cultivated. In the morning, visitors will be greeted by the sun rising above the blue sea, and in the evening, they can watch the sun sinking to the western horizon. Guests will be relaxed by the scenic beauty of the sea, having escaped from the congested cities. Rest and recreation in a clean, fresh environment will create peace of mind. Therefore, the readers are recommended to visit the virgin island of Manaung to enjoy the vacation.

There are guesthouses and hotels on the island, which are overlooking the woods, the hillocks, the golden paddy fields, the coral reefs and the neighbouring islands in the sea. The Water Festival held in 2021 attracted travellers and tourists, and this has created job opportunities for the local people and enabled the local businesses to earn a good income. To arrive at the Island of Manaung, one can use two routes. The first route is taking a flight from Yangon to Kyaukphyu, from which one can proceed to Layhtaung Port via the coach arranged by the hotel he will be staying at. From there, he can proceed to the



An aerial view of Manaung—a beauty collection of the sea, beach, hotels and paddy fields attracts both national and international tourists.

island, riding in a speed boat. The second route is taking a bus or riding in one's own car from Yangon to Taungup. Then, staying overnight at the port of Taungup, one can proceed the next morning to Manaung Island, riding in a speed boat. November is included in the open season when people go round for recreation and relaxation. To facilitate the visitors, hotels and guesthouses on the island are offering one-stop services. The guests wishing to travel to Manaung can use the online booking services to buy the package tour tickets.

The guests can circumambulate the island to enjoy

the scenic beauty of the island. Most travellers would visit the coral reefs at the shore of Pyinkauk village, watching fish and prawns under the sea. They would also drop in at Letphet Island Lighthouse as well as pay a visit to Thaik island and Ye island near Manaung Island.

The writer of this article has interviewed General Manager U Tun Lin Auk of Manaung Kan Chay Hotel. When asked about the general situation of the island and the travellers, he said, "True to its name, the virgin island started to receive guests only last year. This is the second season. The guests are seen happy, enjoying the

scenic beauty of the sea from sunrise to sunset. They also have a good chance to observe the cultural mores and the lifestyle of the local Rakhine people. Last year's Water Festival was thronged with guests and local people, who threw the water onto one another at the pandals and on the beach. The fresh seafood was cooked by the seasoned chefs, and local cuisines were prepared by the Rakhine chefs, who served the guests themselves. In the days under the rule of the British colonialists, there were foreigners who came to rest and recreate. Mount Taungni and Mount Nagabwet were both famous for

having special characteristics. A double room costs K60,000 with a complimentary breakfast. Those who dare not swim at the seaside can swim in the swimming pool at the hotel. There is a bar, too. Tourists and travellers can breathe in the fresh air."

The current government is encouraging the tourism industry for the latter to flourish. Taking this golden opportunity, hoteliers are promoting their businesses, creating more attractive tour packages for new destinations, and the newest one is the tour of the virgin island in Rakhine State.

Translated

Ngapali Beach to hold 3rd autumn festival on 21 Nov

NGAPALI Beach's third autumn festival will be held at the beach in Thandwe Township, Rakhine State on 21 November. The festival is held as a tourist attraction according to the organizing committee of the festival.

Beach sports like beach

volleyball, tug of war and pole climbing competitions are included in the festival. A sand art exhibition and a cycling event will also be held at the beach.

An opening ceremony and entertainment programmes will take place at the Ngapali Paradise Hotel, stated the festi-

val organizing committee. Officials conducted inspections for the festival venue and beach sports location.

Ngapali Beach started to convene the autumn festival in 2019, and it was held for the second time from 14 to 18 November 2021. — TWA/GNLM



The second autumn festival was held at Ngapali Beach in 2021.



OPINION

ARTICLE BOOKRACK

Stay away from traffic accidents for the safety of life

LIFE of people and road users is accidentally kept in the hand of reckless drivers and uncontrollable vehicles. Everybody wishes not to be a victim of a traffic accident but they fall into traffic accidents due to their careless activities in the use of roads, reckless drivers and accidental situations of vehicles and road conditions.

Not to hug the regrets, every government and every citizen need to change their mindsets in using roads and vehicles. The government is responsible for improving the roads in small and large sizes without fail whereas people are responsible for avoiding careless moves on the roads and facing uncontrollable vehicles. These are basic factors to be able to avoid traffic accidents. If so, people can stay away from the life of traffic victims.

Whenever someone faces a traffic accident, it is sure that they would be injured or dead or lose property in cases of traffic accidents even if they did the correct moves in the incident. Unfortunately, those victims will face trials in court or investigations by police officers. If so, they will face frets and plights in cases with which they waste time.

That is why everybody needs to take care of moves in cases related to traffic measures. If they can do so, they can stay away from problems and plights. They can stay away from regrets. In practice, most global people cannot avoid careless moves related to traffic measures. So, they are still facing the loss of life and injuries in these cases.

More than half of all road traffic deaths are among vulnerable road users: pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists. Pedestrians, cyclists, and riders of motorized two- and three-wheelers and their passengers are collectively known as "vulnerable road users" and account for half of all road traffic deaths around the world. A higher proportion of vulnerable road users die in low-income countries than in high-income countries.

Since the adoption of the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims pursuant to UN General Assembly resolution 60/5, the observance has spread to a growing number of countries on every continent. Such a commemorative day becomes an important tool to mitigate road casualties.

This year's theme of the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims: Remember, Support, Act, which falls on 20 November 2022 is noticeable for all to avoid undesirable road accident events. Everybody needs to notice that a traffic accident is uneasy to erase the incident for life and it can bring only loss to the life.

Researchers discover new biomarker for severe Covid 19

PATIENTS with acute COVID-19 infection have higher amounts of the cytokine IL-26 in their blood, according to researchers at Sweden's Karolinska Institute. Furthermore, high IL-26 levels are associated with an increased inflammatory response, which indicates severe cases of the disease. The findings, published in *Frontiers in Immunology*, suggest that IL-26 may be a biomarker for severe COVID-19.

Vaccines for SARS-CoV-2 have proved effective at reducing the number of cases of severe COVID-19. However, the emergence of new viral variants, limited distribution of the vaccine and declining immunity are problems that drive scientists to find more efficacious treatments for the disease.

Immunological mechanisms
"We need to understand more

about underlying immunological mechanisms in order to find better treatments. There is also a need for improved diagnostics in COVID-19 patients," says Eduardo Cardenas, postdoc researcher at the Institute of Environmental Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, and principal author of the new pilot study. The researchers have tried, for the first time, to ascertain whether immune signalling via the cytokine interleukin-26 (IL-26) is involved in severe COVID-19.

"We already know that IL-26 is engaged in mobilizing immune cells that combat bacterial infections in the lungs and also in chronic respiratory disease in humans," says the study's last author Anders Linden, consultant and professor at the Institute of Environmental Medicine, Karolinska Institutet. "What's more, IL-26 has antiviral



Patients with acute COVID-19 infection have higher amounts of the cytokine IL-26 in their blood, according to researchers at Sweden's Karolinska Institute. PHOTO: KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET

and antibacterial effects." To study how the molecule is involved in COVID-19, the scientists recruited 49 patients who had been hospitalized with SARS-CoV-2 infection, 44 of whom had severe symptoms and needed oxygen therapy. The patients were recruited at a hospital in Stockholm from June 2020 to January 2021.

A control group of 27 healthy individuals was also recruited during the same period. The researchers then measured levels of IL-26 protein and other inflammatory compounds in the blood.

Blood levels of the cytokine IL-26

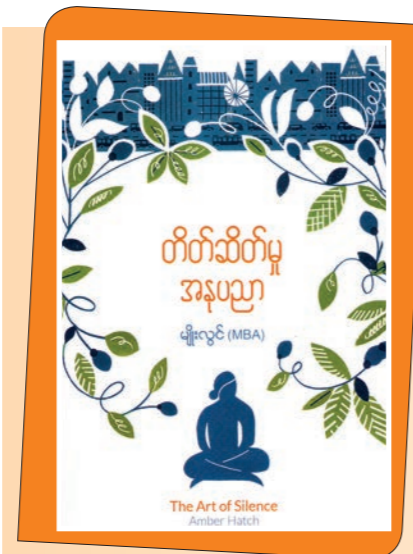
"We can show for the first time that blood levels of the cytokine IL-26 are much higher in patients with COVID-19 than in healthy controls," says Dr Cardenas.

The researchers could also see that the increase was associated with the so-called cytokine storm - an excessive and dangerous inflammatory response that signifies severe cases of COVID-19. "Our discovery gives us a potential biomarker for severe COVID-19, but given the antiviral effects of IL-26, we may also have identified a new therapeutic target," says Professor Linden.

According to Dr Cardenas, the results are promising but are preliminary and warrant further study with a larger patient cohort.

"Such a study is on the way and can give more information on the clinical value of measuring IL-26 in COVID-19 patients, such as whether the levels reflect the severity of the disease.

SOURCE: ANI



Book Title	-	The Art of Silence by Amber Hatch
Translator	-	Myo Lwin (MBA)
Publishing House	-	Thar Nge
Publication Date	-	October 2022 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K4,500

The Art of Silence by Amber Hatch

SILENCE is a poem. Silence is a revolution. For a poet, quiet surroundings are a perfect tool to create a poem.

Passionate action led by the general staff named "Atta" (ego) can be beaten by an arm called "silence" of the commander named "Anatta" (non-self that is non-changing essence in any phenomenon).

One of the religious houses of Saya Goenka (a teacher of Vipassana meditation) located on Ngahtetgyi Pagoda Road in Bahan Township, Yangon, shows a sign of "Noble Silence" at the office "Dhamma Zawti". Indeed, silence is golden and pure. The art of Silence is a subject to learn for those people exploring success in life out of the ordinary.

People are getting used to sound and

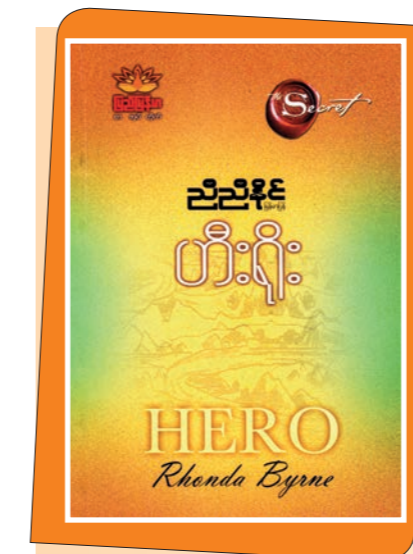
visual stimulation. We are addicted to that stimulation; by listening to the radio while driving, listening to music while exercising and surfing the internet while queuing at a supermarket. The author Amber Hatch considered that it's a quiet environment when we're not bombarded by the sound that we're used to. Most of the readers might not crave silence. Yet, they might discover a quiet environment which is free from relentless and unwanted noise to live in a chaotic world.

The translator of this book added in the preamble that silence is unexpectedly terrifying yet lovely and pleasing. It can give not only haunting and hysterical feelings but also peaceful and stable essences. As silence brings aesthetics, different vibes and many

benefits, it is entitled as the art of silence.

The chapters in this book are Make your surrounding quieter, The art of silence, Do activities to boost your mental health, Discover a space to enjoy alone, Cultivate peaceful relation, Methods of speaking kindly to others, Listening to the voice, Engaging in silence through active listening, Nurturing inner peace, Asking for silence, Make inner voice quiet for stability and mindfulness and The last thoughts.

It can be considered as one step to creating a breakthrough in your life when reading this book encourages one to differentiate the power of silence and the voices in normal living styles.



Book Title	-	Hero by Rhonda Byrne
Translator	-	Nyi Nyi Naing
Publishing House	-	Pyi Myanmar
Publication Date	-	October 2022 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K7,000

Hero by Rhonda Byrne

THE book starts with "the most brilliant, rich, fulfilling, and dazzling life you could ever dream of. You are holding in your hands such a map. This is the map for your life".

Among USA Today's top 20 bestselling books in the past 15 years, Rhonda Byrne's *The Secret* was also included. The *Secret* documentary film also swept the world with success. The book was translated into 50 languages, accumulating 25 million copies. Afterwards, Rhonda kept publishing *The Magic* and *The Power* which became best-sellers in the New York Times. *The Hero* is the fourth masterpiece of the author: *The Hero* in this book is not about martyrs, warriors and heroes in battles. It portrays

the life stories of successful people in their respective industries. Twelve successful people share their stories and how they lived their dreams and how they overcame the struggles they faced.

Every person came here to make their dreams come true whatever circumstances one was born into and they will reap fruitful results and visualize their dreams from their continuous and genuine efforts. The biographies of those people with documentary photos, how they set goals and achieve them, how they challenge the risks with their positive mindsets and knowing their self-esteem, the life quotes are also featured in it in order

For instance, when you slip and fall,

are you going to stay in that position? Of course, you must go on your journey. Life is not giving up. Even if you fall, you cannot be dug as a tree. You can deal with it and survive the worst. I am lucky enough to be a human being. You must shape your life step by step to live the dream with man's greatest power and intelligence.

Never make Plan B when you set the goal. Will Smith said you had to pass this stage if you had Plan B. Accomplish your goals with just Plan A. Make your greatest efforts in relationships, business, religion and other decisions.

The book contains four parts, *Dream*, *The Hero*, *The Quest* and *Victory*.

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

US to help Thailand develop small nuclear reactors



The White House said it would offer technical assistance to the Southeast Asian country to deploy the developing technology of small modular reactors, which are factory-built and portable. **PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/WIKI**

THE United States will help Thailand develop nuclear power through a new class of small reactors, part of a programme aimed at fighting climate change, Vice-President Kamala Harris announced on a visit Saturday.

The White House said the assistance was part of its Net Zero World Initiative, a project

launched at last year's Glasgow climate summit in which the US partners with the private sector and philanthropists to promote clean energy.

Thailand does not have nuclear power, with the public mood on the issue souring after the 2011 Fukushima disaster in Japan.

The White House said it would offer technical assistance to the Southeast Asian country to deploy the developing technology of small modular reactors, which are factory-built and portable. Such reactors are generally considered safer as they do not need human intervention to shut down in emergencies.—AFP

Iran protesters set fire to Khomeini's ancestral home: images

PROTESTERS in Iran have set on fire the ancestral home of the Islamic republic's founder Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as two months of anti-regime demonstrations show no letup, images showed on Friday.

The house in the city of Khomein in the western Markazi province was shown ablaze late Thursday with crowds of jubilant protesters marching past, according to images posted on social me-

dia, verified by AFP.

Khomeini is said to have been born at the house in the town of Khomein – from where his surname derives – at the turn of the century.—AFP

Colombia, ELN guerrillas to start new peace talks Monday in Caracas

COLOMBIA'S government and the leftist National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrilla group will resume peace talks on Monday after a nearly four-year hiatus, the parties announced.

The resumption of negotiations "will be next Monday, 21 November, in the afternoon in the city of Caracas," read a statement posted to Twitter Friday and signed by the Colombian High Commissioner for Peace, Danilo Rueda, and ELN peace delegation member Pablo Beltran.

Colombia has suffered more than half a century of

armed conflict between the state and various groups of left-wing guerrillas, right-wing paramilitaries and drug traffickers.

The ELN is the last recognized rebel group operating in Colombia, although FARC dissidents who refused to sign the 2016 peace deal remain active.

Negotiations with ELN, started in 2016, were interrupted three years later by conservative president Ivan Duque following a car bomb attack on a police academy in Bogota that left 22 people dead.—AFP



The National Liberation Army is a Marxist-Leninist guerrilla group involved in the continuing Colombian conflict, which has existed in Colombia since 1964. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP**

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

More to be done to reintegrate Russian, Ukrainian food and fertilizers into global market: UN

MORE remains to be done for the reintegration of Russian and Ukrainian food and fertilizers into the global markets, particularly in light of the fertilizer crunch caused by insufficient volumes and high costs, a senior United Nations (UN) official said here on Friday.

Rebeca Grynspan, secretary-general of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), told a press briefing here that while food and fertilizers produced in Russia are exempt from the sanctions, the knock-on effects of the sanctions and their differing interpretations tend to cause bottlenecks



The first shipment of over 26,000 tonnes of Ukrainian food under a Black Sea export deal has been cleared to proceed towards its final destination in Lebanon. **PHOTO: UNOCHA/LEVENT KULU**

in the trade and export of such products.

According to the UN official,

currently some 300,000 tonnes of Russian fertilizer are stranded in European ports.

She said that it had been clarified that the services associated with the export of food and fertilizers from Russia, such as insurance, are also exempt from sanctions. A platform will be set up so that insurance companies will no longer have to conduct their due diligence on a case-by-case basis, she added.

On 22 July, Russia and Ukraine separately signed the Black Sea Grain Initiative in Istanbul with Türkiye and the UN on grain and fertilizer exports from Ukraine and Russia to ensure supplies to global markets amid the Russia-Ukraine armed conflict.—Xinhua

Ukraine to reduce planting areas under winter grains by 20-30%

UKRAINE will reduce the planting areas under the winter grains by 20 per cent to 30 per cent this year due to the challenges caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the Ukrinform news agency reported Friday, citing Agrarian Policy and Food Minister Mykola Solsky. Among the main challenges for the Ukrainian farmers during the autumn sowing campaign, Solsky listed limited access to loans, high fuel prices, logistics issues and problems with finding buyers. The continuation of the conflict threatens to reduce grain production in Ukraine, Solsky emphasized.—Xinhua

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

NEWS IN BRIEF

New COVID-19 subvariants replace BA.5 as dominant strains in US

NEW Omicron subvariants BQ.1 and BQ.1.1 accounted for half of new COVID-19 cases in the United States in the latest week, overtaking BA.5 to be the dominant strains in the country, according to estimates published Friday by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

BQ.1.1 made up about 24.2 per cent of circulating variants in the week ending 19 November, and BQ.1 was estimated to make up 25.5 per cent, according to CDC data.

The two new variants have been growing especially fast since October. At the beginning of October, each one accounted for about 1 per cent of new infections in the United States, but they have been roughly doubling in prevalence each week.—Xinhua

Tanzania sees 32% reduction in TB infections

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) infections in Tanzania have gone down from 306 patients out of 100,000 people in 2015 to 208 patients out of 100,000 people in 2021, a senior official said on Friday. “The reduction of infections of TB is about 32 per cent,” said Catherine Joachim, Head of the Health Sector Resource Secretariat in the Ministry of Health.—Xinhua

US paediatric emergency rooms overwhelmed by RSV surges: media

PAEDIATRIC emergency rooms across the United States are battling surges in respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), US media reported.

“This year’s surge has hit infants under age two especially hard,” Yale Daily News reported Thursday, citing Yale-New Haven Children’s Hospital as an example, which has been forced to adapt to record case numbers, opening up additional beds and recruiting voluntary staff.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

issued a health advisory on 4 November in response to “early, elevated respiratory disease incidence,” that continues to strain healthcare systems across the country.

“This year’s RSV season has seen larger volumes of patients requiring hospitalization and an earlier start to the surge,” said the report.

RSV is the number one cause of bronchiolitis and pneumonia in infants under 1 year of age across the United States, according to the report.—Xinhua



A child is carried into a COVID-19 vaccination site on Times Square, New York, the United States, on 22 June 2022. PHOTO: MICHAEL NAGLE/XINHUA

Tokyo raises COVID-19 alert to second-highest level amid fears of entering new wave



In an average year, the foliage season in Tokyo lasts from 15 October to 15 December, with a peak around 15 November. The Tokyo Metropolitan government on Thursday raised its COVID-19 alert to the second-highest level on its four-tier scale. PHOTO: AFP

THE Tokyo Metropolitan government on Thursday raised its COVID-19 alert to the second-highest level on its four-tier scale.

The alert was set at the second-highest level for the first time since 6 October.

At the coronavirus monitoring meeting of the metropolitan

government on Thursday, an expert warned that the capital “can be considered to be entering the eighth wave of infections”. As of Thursday, the capital’s seven-day rolling average of new COVID-19 cases stands at 8,276, up 24.7 per cent from a week before, with daily cases exceeding the 10,000 threshold

the two previous days, the highest level in two months.

Based on an estimate presented at the meeting, the seven-day average would reach around 12,300 by the end of this month if new infections increase at the current pace.

The resurgence of the virus came after the Japanese government lifted its restrictions on individual passengers, spontaneous trips, and daily entry caps last month.

It also launched the National Travel Discount programme, which provided subsidies of up to 11,000 yen (about 79 US dollars) per person for a maximum of seven nights.

As COVID-19 and influenza spread simultaneously, the metropolitan government pledged at the meeting to promote the capital’s medical capacity to be able to treat up to 127,000 outpatients with fever each day—Xinhua

UNICEF calls for protection of children in Mideast, North Africa ahead of World Children’s Day

THE UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) on Friday called for the protection of children and their rights in the Middle East and North Africa as violence, conflict and unrest have robbed nearly 580 children of their lives in the region so far this year.

UNICEF made the plea ahead of the World Children’s Day, which falls on 20 November.

As this date approaches, children across the Middle East and North Africa are facing yet another rise in violence, said UNICEF in a press release.

Since the beginning of this year, nearly 580 children have been killed in conflict or violence across several countries in the region, an average of more than 10 children every week. Many more have been injured. This is an unacceptable reality, it said.

Children in the region continue to suffer the devastating impact of protracted conflicts, communal violence, explosive ordnance and remnants of war,



The violence may have ceased between Israel and militants in Gaza, but the war in children’s minds has only just begun. PHOTO: UNICEF/UN0464417/EL BABA

and political and social unrest that permeate several countries, including Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Syria, Yemen, and in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, it said.

“UNICEF is alarmed that children continue to pay a heavy price for violence and conflict. States party to the Convention of the Rights of the Child have the obligation to protect children in

situations of conflict and violence and to guarantee their right to life and to freedom of expression,” said UNICEF.

“The right of children to be protected from violence should be upheld at all times and by all parties to conflicts. Violence is never a solution, and violence against children is never defensible,” said the fund.—Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

India's Modi says digital currencies being used to fund terror

DIGITAL currencies need more regulation to stamp out funding for terror operations, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Friday at a major international forum to combat financing of extremist groups.

India has laboured to rein in cryptocurrency transactions after years of phenomenal growth, backed by burgeoning local trading platforms and glitzy celebrity endorsements.

Modi last year said that bitcoin presented a risk to younger generations and could "spoil our youth" if it ended up "in the wrong hands".

On Friday, he went further



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said digital currencies need more regulation to stamp out funding for terror operations. **PHOTO: PIB/AFP**

and told delegates at the Conference on Countering Financing of Terrorism that "private currencies" posed a grave security risk.

"New kinds of technology are being used for terror funding and recruitment. Challenges from the dark net, private currencies and more are emerging," Modi said.

"There is a need for a uniform understanding for new finance technologies," he added.

"From a uniform understanding, a unified system of checks and balances and regulation can emerge."

Delegates from dozens of countries are in the capital New Delhi for the two-day conference, which follows a special session of the UN's Counter Terrorism Committee held in India last month. Cryptocurrencies have

been under the scrutiny of Indian regulators since first entering the local market nearly a decade ago, with a surge in fraudulent transactions leading to a central bank ban in 2018.

India's Supreme Court lifted the restrictions two years later and the market surged, growing by nearly 650 per cent in the year to June 2021 — second only to Viet Nam, according to research by Chainalysis.

The government also proposed banning "all private cryptocurrencies", but ultimately held back and later taxed profits from "private currencies" at 30 per cent.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Colombian Congress approves tax hike on wealthiest

COLOMBIA'S Congress on Thursday approved a reform aimed at hiking taxes on the country's wealthiest as well as its oil sector, part of new leftist President Gustavo Petro's signature campaign promises.

The bill, negotiated between the Senate and Chamber of Representatives, was approved by the two houses on Wednesday and Thursday, Interior Minister Alfonso Prada said.

Petro campaigned on a platform of raising taxes on the rich, stopping oil exploration and distributing fertile land among landless farmers.—AFP

US new home construction plummets on surging mortgage rates

HOMEBUILDING in the United States dropped in October, with the building of single-family units falling to its lowest level in over two years, as sharply rising mortgage rates have made it more difficult to purchase homes. Housing starts fell 4.2 per cent in October, according to data published by the Commerce Department on Thursday. Single-family home construction, which encompasses the largest chunk of the homebuilding sector, dropped a dramatic 6.1 per cent — the lowest level since May 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic was in full swing.—Xinhua

UK's remote Pitcairn islanders see no Brexit bounty

THE Pitcairn Islands, a volcanic outcrop halfway between South America and New Zealand, is the UK's only overseas territory in the Pacific Ocean and home to only 46 people.

One of the most remote places on Earth, all its inhabitants live in the capital Adamstown.

But even here, islanders have not escaped the drama that has dominated British politics since 2016 — Brexit.

Pitcairn has its own well-equipped medical facility and a resident doctor. For emergencies and longer-term conditions, however, the nearest hospitals are in French Polynesia, some 1,350 miles (2,170 kilometres) to the northwest, and New Zealand, 3,300 miles southwest.

With no access to the islands by air, that can mean at least



Anti-Brexit and anti-Conservative government protests demonstrate outside the Houses of Parliament during Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs), opposite the Houses of Parliament in London on 13 July 2022. **PHOTO: CARLOS JASSO / AFP**

two days' sailing, depending on weather conditions. Pitcairn's mayor Charlene Warren fears vulnerable islanders could fall foul of restrictions usually as-

sociated with the length of time UK holidaymakers and those with second homes can stay in European Union member states.—AFP



Algeria said Thursday it would restart energy supplies to Cuba. **PHOTO: AFP / FILE**

Algeria to help Cuba as energy shortages bite

ALGERIA said Thursday it would restart energy supplies to Cuba and donate a solar plant to help the island tackle chronic power cuts. The announcement was made as Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel visited Africa's biggest gas exporter, the first stop on a tour that will also include Russia, Türkiye and Chi-

na. Algeria will "grant Cuba a solar power plant and resume the supply of fuel to allow Cuba to restart power plants and stop the power cuts," Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune told reporters. He also vowed to cancel interest payments on Cuban debt, without specifying figures.

Diaz-Canel said this was an

"important" demonstration of support. Since May, Cuba has been facing both frequent power cuts and fuel shortages. Algeria and Cuba have had friendly relations for decades, with the first Cuban doctors dispatched to the North African country in 1963, just a year after its independence from France.—AFP

German retailers forecast record Black Friday, Cyber Monday sales

RETAIL companies in Germany expect record-breaking sales between Black Friday (25 November) and Cyber Monday (28 November) this year, rising by 22 per cent year-on-year to 5.7 billion euros (5.9 billion US dollars), the German Retail Federation (HDE) said on Friday.

"The growth story of Black Friday and Cyber Monday continues even under the current difficult conditions and despite the poor consumer sentiment," HDE Deputy General Manager Stephan Tromp said in a statement.

Inflation in Europe's largest economy climbed to 10.4 per cent in October, the highest level since the German reunification, according to the Federal Statistical

Office (Destatis).

"Many customers are now more than ever on the hunt for bargains and want to take advantage of the offers on these two days," Tromp said.

According to a survey published by research institute YouGov on Thursday, 27 per cent of Germans had "very specific plans" to go shopping on Black Friday.

Although German retailers expect a weaker overall Christmas season this year, demand for consumer electronics, information technology (IT) products and small household appliances is bound to remain high, particularly due to the large discounts, market research institute GfK said on Thursday. —Xinhua



27 per cent of Germans had "very specific plans" to go shopping on Black Friday. PHOTO: S. MITROLIDIS / AFP

Boeing forecasts air cargo traffic to increase twofold in next 20 years

BOEING on Friday released its 2022 World Air Cargo Forecast (WACF), predicting strong demand for air cargo services through 2041, with traffic doubling and the world's freighter fleet expanding by more than 60 per cent.

The 2022 WACF, a biennial detailed analysis of evolving industry dynamics, projects that the world's cargo fleet will require nearly 2,800 production and converted freighters for growth and replacement through 2041.

A third of deliveries will consist of new production freighters, while the remaining two-thirds will be freighter conversions, according to the Boeing



The Asia-Pacific region will take delivery of nearly 40 per cent of all freighters. PHOTO: BOEING

forecast.

The global freighter fleet will grow by more than 1,300 airplanes to more than 3,600 jets over the next two decades. The Asia-Pacific region will take delivery of nearly 40 per cent of all freighters,

including new and converted freighters, the 2022 WACF suggested.

While dedicated freighters are eight per cent of the total commercial airplane fleet, they continue to carry more than half of all air cargo,

with passenger airplanes carrying the remainder as belly cargo, Boeing said.

"While the air cargo market is returning to a more normal pace after historic demand in the last two years, structural factors including express network growth, evolving supply chain strategies and new cargo-market entrants are driving sustained freighter demand," said Darren Hulst, Boeing vice president of Commercial Marketing. "In the global transportation network, air freighters will continue to be a critical enabler to move high-value goods, in increased volume across expanding markets." —Xinhua

Volkswagen mulls factory plans amid software issues: reports

GERMAN auto giant was considering pulling plans for a new factory at its Wolfsburg HQ as software issues threatened to delay new models, according to local media reports Thursday. As recently as March, Volkswagen announced plans to invest two billion euros (\$2.1 billion) into the plant to house "Trinity" vehicles, the centre point of its new all-electric fleet. But problems with

software development for the new model could push back the delivery by "two to three years" from the 2026 target, according to German financial daily Handelsblatt. A delay could make a purpose-built factory in Wolfsburg redundant, giving time for the current factory to be retooled, the paper reported. "We are currently taking the opportunity to look at all projects and investments and

checking their viability," CEO Oliver Blume wrote in a letter to Volkswagen employees after the media reports and seen by AFP.

"First, we will come to decisions together on software," followed by the "product strategy" and the organization of its production facilities, Blume wrote in the letter with VW brand boss Thomas Schaefer.

It was however "too soon to make any concrete

statements" about the conclusions of the review, the pair said. The reassessment of Volkswagen's electric strategy follows Blume's arrival as CEO in September and marks a break with former boss Herbert Diess. After his arrival in 2018, Diess pushed the legacy automaker into embracing electric vehicles to turn the page on the "dieselgate" emissions-cheating scandal.—AFP

Lithium batteries theft a headache for Botswana's mobile firm

BOTSWANA'S biggest mobile operator said Thursday its telecoms towers were being plundered for lithium batteries, whose value has surged as the world switches to alternative energy. "This issue is a crisis that is seriously challenging our quality of service ambitions," Tebogo Lebotse-Sebego, a spokeswoman for tele-

coms operator Mascom Wireless, told AFP.

Thefts of batteries and fuel have cost the company more than three million pula (\$232,000) so far this year, she said. Demand for rechargeable batteries is soaring worldwide as countries look for solutions to store and transport greener energy.

On Tuesday, the Botswanan police said they had arrested four men from Zimbabwe who were found in possession of 40 lithium-ion batteries worth more than \$77,000.

"The items are suspected to have been stolen from different telecommunications towers belonging to Mascom," the police said in a statement.—AFP

Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development
Department of Rural Development
Myanmar: Mekong – Lancang Cooperation Project

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SOLAR MINI-GRID ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND WATER SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION PROJECTS

The Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development is inviting interested companies to submit mini-grid proposals for the following projects at Kan Maw Gyi village and Yae Ngan Gyi Village, Boke Pyin Township in Tanintharyi Region,

- (i) Kan Maw Gyi Solar Mini-grid Electricity Supply and Water Supply Distribution Project (Solar-176KW)
- (ii) Yae Ngan Gyi Solar Mini-grid Electricity Supply and Water Supply Distribution Project (Solar-176KW)

Submission Deadline: Proposals must be delivered to the address below at 10:00 AM Local Time on 2nd Dec 2022

Interested companies should visit the DRD Website (<https://drdmyanmar.org/>) or directly contact the following address for further information:

Dr. Soe Soe Ohn, Director
Office No.36, Department of Rural Development, Naypyitaw,
Tel./Fax+ 95 673 418635, 418636
Email: drdnepmg@gmail.com; ksaung@gmail.com; dr.soesoeohn@gmail.com

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Asian political parties pledge to boost cooperation against global challenges

POLITICAL parties of the Asian region pledged on Friday to enhance collaboration and dialogue to better cope with the growing global challenges during a conference held in Türkiye's largest city Istanbul.

The 11th General Assembly of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), which runs from Thursday to Sunday, is convened under the theme of "The Role of Political Parties in Strengthening Dialogue for Global Peace, Prosperity, and Cooperation".

Chung Eui-yong, the co-chair of the ICAPP from the Republic of Korea, said the growing crises in recent years, such as global warming, global conflicts and high inflation, could not be re-

solved from a single centre.

"We can develop a common vision and strategy for eliminating differences. I believe the time has come for the ICAPP to lead the Asian community to peace, stability and harmony," he said at the assembly's opening. For his part, Turkish Vice-President Fuat Oktay said Asian countries would be the most powerful nations in the world in the next five years. "Undoubtedly, the decisive role of the Asian continent in the world of the future will be much higher," Oktay said. "About two-thirds of global growth in the next 10 years is expected to occur in Asia. By 2030, the continent will become the hub, accounting for more than half of global economic output."—Xinhua



Political parties of the Asian region pledged on Friday to enhance collaboration and dialogue to better cope with the growing global challenges during the conference held in Istanbul. **PHOTO: XINHUA/SHADATI**

NEWS IN BRIEF

US congressman announces bid to lead Democrats in House

US Congressman Hakeem Jeffries announced his bid on Friday to lead Democrats in the House of Representatives.

Jeffries made the announcement in a letter to fellow Democrats while outlining his agenda as the caucus heads into the next Congress as the minority party, one day after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's decision to step down as the top House Democrat.

Jeffries, 52, who has represented New York's 8th congressional district since 2013, would be the first African American lawmaker to lead a party in the US Congress.

As chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, Jeffries is currently the fifth highest-ranking Democrat in the lower chamber on Capitol Hill.

Democrats lost their House majority status to Republicans in the 2022 US midterm elections earlier this month. House Republicans have nominated now-Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy to be the chamber's speaker next term.—Xinhua

Malaysians vote in tightly contested election

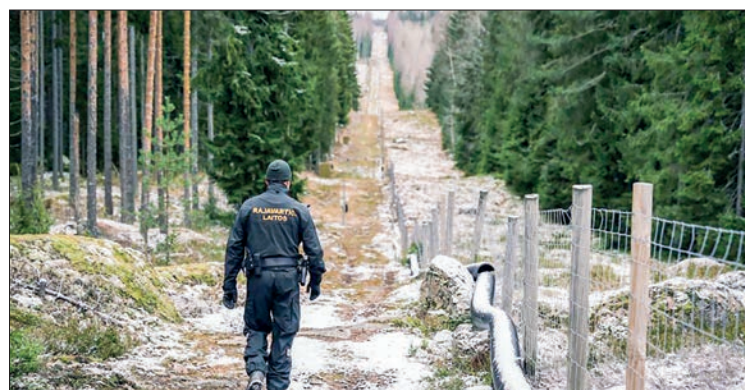
MALAYSIANS headed to the polls on Saturday with jailed ex-leader Najib Razak's graft-tainted party seeking to cement its grip on power in a race analysts say is too close to call.

About 21 million registered voters are expected to troop to polling centres throughout the day amid fears heavy monsoon rains could disrupt the polls in certain areas.

Najib's United Malays National Organization (UMNO) usually dominates politics in the Southeast Asian country, but suffered a major defeat in the 2018 general election after a massive corruption scandal at state fund 1MDB. The two governments that succeeded UMNO, however, were plagued by infighting, allowing the party to creep back into power last year. Now, UMNO will be seeking a stronger mandate in an election called ten months ahead of schedule. Among the challengers is perennial opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, 75, who leads the ethnically-diverse Pakatan Harapan (Alliance of Hope) coalition. He is campaigning on an anti-corruption platform.—AFP



A woman casts her ballot at a polling station during the 15th general election in Bera, Malaysia's Pahang state on 19 Nov 2022. **PHOTO: MOHD RASFAN /AFP**



Senior border guard officer Juho Pellinen walks along a fence marking the boundary area between Finland and Russia near the border crossing of Pelkola, in Imatra, Finland on 18 November 2022. **PHOTO: ALESSANDRO RAMPAZZO/AFP**

Finnish gov't allocates 139 mln euros for building security fence

THE Finnish government has proposed 139 million euros (452 million US dollars) in funding for the first phase of building a fence on Finland's eastern border, the Finnish Border Guard announced on Friday. The Finnish Border Guard said that the first section of the fence will be approximately 70 kilometres long, and construction will take place in

2023-2024. At the end of October, the Finnish government agreed on funding of six million euros for a pilot section of the fence. The pilot will test the implementation of the project by building a barrier fence of approximately three kilometers on both sides of the Pelkola border crossing point in Imatra, in Eastern Finland, said the head of the Technical Divi-

sion of the Border Guard Headquarters Brigadier-General Jari Tolppanen. The construction of the test fence will start in March 2023, and to be completed in the summer. At a press conference on Friday, Tolppanen revealed that the entire fence will measure 200 km, most of which will be in Southeast Finland. The total cost will be 380 million euros.—Xinhua

GROUP (A)



Qatar vs Ecuador November 20 / Al Bayt Stadium / (19:30 MST)
Senegal vs Netherlands November 21 / Al Thumama Stadium / (22:30 MST)
Qatar vs Senegal November 25 / Al Thumama Stadium / (19:30 MST)
Netherlands vs Ecuador November 25 / Khalifa International Stadium / (22:30 MST)
Ecuador vs Senegal November 29 / Khalifa International Stadium / (21:30 MST)
Netherlands vs Qatar November 29 / Al Bayt Stadium / (21:30 MST)

GROUP (B)



England vs Iran November 21 / Khalifa International Stadium / (19:30 MST)
USA vs Wales November 22 / Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium / (01:30 MST)
Wales vs Iran November 25 / Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium / (16:30 MST)
England vs USA November 26 / Al Bayt Stadium / (01:30 MST)
Iran vs USA November 30 / Al Thumama Stadium / (01:30 MST)
Wales vs England November 30 / Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium / (01:30 MST)

GROUP (C)



Argentina vs Saudi Arabia November 22 / Lussail Iconic Stadium / (16:30 MST)
Mexico vs Poland November 22 / Stadium 974 / (22:30 MST)
Poland vs Saudi Arabia November 26 / Education City Stadium / (19:30 MST)
Argentina vs Mexico November 27 / Lussail Iconic Stadium / (01:30 MST)
Poland vs Argentina December 1 / Stadium 974 / (01:30 MST)
Saudi Arabia vs Mexico December 1 / Lussail Iconic Stadium / (01:30 MST)

GROUP (D)



Denmark vs Tunisia November 22 / Education City Stadium / (19:30 MST)
France vs Australia November 23 / Al Janoub Stadium / (01:30 MST)
Tunisia vs Australia November 26 / Al Janoub Stadium / (16:30 MST)
France vs Denmark November 26 / Stadium 974 / (22:30 MST)
Australia vs Denmark November 30 / Al Janoub Stadium / (21:30 MST)
Tunisia vs France November 30 / Education City Stadium / (21:30 MST)

2022 FIFA WORLD CUP SCHEDULE

Match-49
1A vs. 2B
3/12/22
21:30MST,
Khalifa International Stadium

Match-57
W49 vs. W50
10/12/22
01:30MST,
Lussail Iconic Stadium

Match-61
W57 vs. W58
14/12/22
01:30MST,
Lussail Iconic Stadium

Match-58
W53 vs. W54
9/12/22
21:30MST,
Education City Stadium

Match-54
1G vs. 2H
6/12/22
01:30MST,
Stadium 974

Match-50
1C vs. 2D
4/12/22
01:30MST,
Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium

Match-53
1E vs. 2F
5/12/22
21:30MST,
Al Janoub Stadium

Final
W61 vs W62
18/12/22
21:30MST,
Lussail Iconic Stadium

3rd place
RU 61 vs. RU62
17/12/22
21:30MST,
Khalifa International Stadium

Match-59
W51 vs. W52
11/12/22
01:30MST,
Al Bayt Stadium

Match-62
W59 vs. W60
15/12/22
01:30MST,
Al Bayt Stadium

Match-60
W55 vs. W56
10/12/22
21:30MST,
Al Thumama Stadium

Match-51
1B vs. 2A
5/12/22
01:30MST,
Al Bayt Stadium

Match-52
1D vs. 2C
4/12/22
21:30MST,
Al Thumama Stadium

Match-55
1F vs. 2E
6/12/22
21:30MST,
Education City Stadium

Match-56
1H vs. 2G
7/12/22
01:30MST,
Lussail Iconic Stadium

GROUP (E)



Germany vs Japan November 23 / Khalifa International Stadium / (19:30 MST)
Spain vs Costa Rica November 23 / Al Thumama Stadium / (22:30 MST)
Japan vs Costa Rica November 27 / Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium / (16:30 MST)
Spain vs Germany November 28 / Al Bayt Stadium / (01:30 MST)
Japan vs Spain December 2 / Khalifa International Stadium / (01:30 MST)
Costa Rica vs Germany December 2 / Al Bayt Stadium / (01:30 MST)

GROUP (F)



Morocco vs Croatia November 23 / Al Bayt Stadium / (16:30 MST)
Belgium vs Canada November 24 / Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium / (01:30 MST)
Belgium vs Morocco November 27 / Al Thumama Stadium / (19:30 MST)
Croatia vs Canada November 27 / Khalifa International Stadium / (22:30 MST)
Canada vs Morocco December 1 / Al Thumama Stadium / (21:30 MST)
Croatia vs Belgium December 1 / Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium / (21:30 MST)

GROUP (G)



Switzerland vs Cameroon November 24 / Al Janoub Stadium / (16:30 MST)
Brazil vs Serbia November 25 / Lussail Iconic Stadium / (01:30 MST)
Cameroon vs Serbia November 28 / Al Janoub Stadium / (16:30 MST)
Brazil vs Switzerland November 28 / Stadium 974 / (22:30 MST)
Serbia vs Switzerland December 3 / Stadium 974 / (01:30 MST)
Cameroon vs Brazil December 3 / Lussail Iconic Stadium / (01:30 MST)

GROUP (H)



Korea Republic vs Uruguay November 24 / Education City Stadium / (19:30 MST)
Portugal vs Ghana November 24 / Stadium 974 / (22:30 MST)
Korea Republic vs Ghana November 28 / Education City Stadium / (19:30 MST)
Portugal vs Uruguay November 29 / Lussail Iconic Stadium / (01:30 MST)
Korea Republic vs Portugal December 2 / Education City Stadium / (21:30 MST)
Ghana vs Uruguay December 2 / Al Janoub Stadium / (21:30 MST)



India's Modi says digital currencies being used to fund terror

PAGE-12



SPORT

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.



Aung La N Sang cordially greets Yushin Okami after his win in the ONE 163 Event held at Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore on 19 November 2022. PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

Aung La N Sang beat Yushin Okami with first-round TKO

FORMER ONE Championship two-division Champion Aung La N Sang smashed through the Japanese MMA star Yushin Okami with a first-round technical knockout (TKO) in their middleweight class fight at the ONE 163 Event held at the Singapore Indoor Stadium yesterday night.

Even at the start of the fight, Okami tried to pin Aung La down but failed.

The second time, he failed in the same attempt, and while defending himself in a prone position on the floor, Okami was

beaten by Aung La's knees as well as continuous punches.

Finally, Myanmar's fighter Aung La won by referee stoppage at 1:42 of the opening stanza.

It was a massive victory for Aung La N Sang, who previously lost three of his last four bouts.

The victory was more than enough to put a smile on the face of Myanmar's MMA star.

Following his impressive first-round victory over Yushin 'Thunder' Okami at ONE 163, Aung La N Sang expressed his

heartfelt thanks.

"Thankful for my team Kill Cliff FC. Thank you for all my support from Myanmar and thank you Singapore. I'm thankful for ONE Championship for giving us this platform."

In the past two years, Aung La N Sang has handed over his two ONE Championship titles to Dutch fighter Reinier de Ridder.

Japanese national Okami is also a fighter who has reached the championship level in previous UFC events. — GNLM

Qatar ready for 'historic moment' in World Cup opener, says coach

QATAR coach Felix Sanchez said the hosts were excitedly looking forward to a "historic moment" when his team open the 2022 World Cup against Ecuador on Sunday. The Qataris, playing in their first World Cup, take on the South Americans at Al Bayt Stadium in the tournament curtainraiser, before further Group A matches with Senegal and 2010 finalists Netherlands. "It's a very important day for us, it's a historic moment, it's a very happy day for us, for the players and the staff," Sanchez told a pre-match press conference on Saturday. "It's an extraordinary day... We have made a huge investment in this country. I hope we can enjoy football, our sport, and do our talking on the pitch. I hope all the countries in the world can come together to enjoy this."—AFP

ISPE, Young Lionesses make big wins in Myanmar Women's League



A Young Lionesses player (yellow) vies for the ball against Taninthayi team players (white) during their Myanmar Women League match at the artificial turf in Bahan, Yangon on 19 November 2022. PHOTO: MWL

THE first day of the 2022 Myanmar Women's League tournament 12 continued on 19 November, and ISPE and Young Lionesses made big wins.

The ISPE team beat the Sports and Physical Education team by six goals in the match held at Thuwunna Training Ground 1. ISPE, the current champion, is focused on playing the remaining games to defend the title and make big wins.

The winning goals for ISPE were scored by Khin Malar Tun in the 4th and 40th minutes, Hayman Soe in the 27th minute, Yin Loon Eain in the 44th minute, Shwe Yee Tun in the 81st minute, and Hnin Pwint Aye in the 86th minute.

Defending champion ISPE has 28 points from 10 matches while the Sports and Physical Education team has 12 points from 10 matches.

The Young Lionesses defeated the Taninthayi team by four goals in the match held on the artificial turf in Bahan. The Young Lionesses scored their third win of the season after scoring a single goal in the first half and three consecutive goals in the second half to claim a big win.

The Young Lionesses scored the winning goals in the 20th and 60th minutes, Aku Muyan in the 66th minute and Chan Myae Tun in the 87th minute. The Young Lionesses team has scored nine points in 10 games, while the Taninthayi team has yet to collect points with 11 losses in 11 games.

As the last day of the match (12), the Thitsa Arman team will play against Myawady Team today. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM