

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 313, 5th Waxing of Tabaung 1384 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Thursday, 23 February 2023

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council: Five-Point Road Map

1. Priority will be given to fully realizing peace, stability and rule of law throughout the Union to safeguard the socioeconomic life of the people.
2. People-centred development work that enhances socioeconomic well-being will be undertaken to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.
3. Processes will further continue to consolidate a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and build a Union based on democracy and federalism.
4. Priority will be accorded to work aligned with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, in order to achieve enduring peace for the entire nation.
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.

SAC Vice-Chair DPM Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends final match and awarding for men's football tournament of Inter-Education Degree Colleges for 2022-2023 Academic Year

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win watched the final match of the men's football tournament of the Inter-Education Degree Colleges for the 2022-2023 Academic Year and awarded prizes to relevant teams at the prize-giving ceremony at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

First, the Vice-Senior General and party watched the final match between the Meiktila Education Degree College team and Hpa-an Education Degree College team in the men's football tournament.

As it was the final match, both teams posed pressure on each other starting from the match. The player (No 7) of the Hpa-an Education Degree College team netted an opening goal by showing off his brilliant skills to his team and the Meiktila Education Degree College team equalized the result in the 45th minute.



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win presents the championship trophy and cash awards to the Hpa-an Education Degree College team in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 February 2023.

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Application for registration, political party establishment rights ongoing

THE State Administration Council released the Political Parties Registration Law 2023 as the State Administration Council Law No 15/2023 on 26 January for the formation of political parties in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Union Election Commission released the rules for the registration of political parties through Notification No

10/2023 while Announcements No 2/2023 and 3/2023 regarding the right to establish and continue the establishment and registration of political parties were issued on 31 January 2023.

Under Section 3 of the Political Parties Registration Law, the Democratic Forces Labour Party, which is desirous of organizing a political party, and under Section 25 of the

Political Parties Registration Law, New Democracy Party (Kachin)-NDP (Kachin), and Public Contribute Students Party which are desirous of organizing political parties, yesterday applied for permission to establish political parties under the law and rules, and the Union Election Commission is processing further verification. — MNA/KZL

Public Notice

THE application for passports can be made through the new online booking system at www.passport.gov.mm website effective 24 February 2023.

The online booking system will be adopted only at the Myanmar Passport Issuing Office (Yangon) and operations will go as usual at regions/states offices.

There will be no time limit for online booking and the applicants can apply for it easily and will have to pay the fixed charges at the same time.

Those who face difficulties in making online bookings can apply at respective township police stations.

Arrangements are underway for everyone to apply easily and it should not be done by paying service charges to brokers.

Famous throughout the ages: Canals from Mann Chaung plains

IT is known that canals from the Mann Chaung plains of Minbu (Sagu) District, Magway Region have been well-known from the Bagan Era to this day.

Among those prominent canals, the ancient canals are Shwe Canal, Paunglaung Canal,

Pwaykyit Canal, Lulinthal Canal, Myaungnet Canal, Kyatkhaung Canal, Saka Canal, Nabu Canal, Paytay Canal, Yomayot Canal and Malkan Canals.

The current main canals and sub-canals are Mann Main Canal/Shwe Main Canal, Kalahaung

Canal, Mashat Canal, Mahtee Canal, Saku Latkwal Canal, Padaw Canal, Paunglaung/ Theingathu Canal, Sakala Canal, Malthilayoe Canal, Pwaykyit Canal, Nalinthi Canal, Myaungnet Canal, Shapin Canal, Kanthit Canal, Mingalar Canal, Htanyone Canal, Yaypuy-



The picture shows a general view of the Mann Chaung plains.



oe Canal, Sakayoe Canal, Phalan-taw Canal and Tawhtwin Canal, and are very beneficial to tens of thousands of acres of farmland.

These canals are mentioned in the Pothugyi Thattra stone inscription (Myanmar era 606), the Khinmami stone inscription (Myanmar era 614), the stone inscription donated by the step-mother of King Kyaswa, and Parabaiks written in the Year 1233. The Paunglaung canal length is 3.9

miles with a water flow rate of 3.8 cubic feet/second and the irrigated area is 1816 acres. The starting point of the canal is (20° 13' 07" N, 94° 41' 48.1" E). The Pwaykyit Canal is 1.5 miles long and the water flow rate is 15.5 cubic feet/second with an irrigated area of 644 acres. The beginning point of the canal is (20° 13' 38" N, 94° 43' 57" E), according to Sagu Historian U Zaw Myo Oo. — Zeyar Htet (Minbu)/CT

2 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 22 February, total figure rises to 633,903

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,903** after **two** new cases were reported on 22 February 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,374**, including **four** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country recorded **19,490** on 22-2-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic.

The country has vaccinated **30,939,338** people aged 18 and above for COVID-19 vaccines and **6,823,711** people aged under 18 till 21 February 2023.

Status of COVID-19 vaccination (as of 21 February 2023)

People aged 18 and above who received vaccines	30,939,338
People under 18 years old who received vaccines	6,823,711

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

MSME industries can lift manufacturing, substitute imports and hike exportation

MSMEs aim to enhance manufacturing and import-substituting and increase the volume of export goods.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 8/2022 of the Union government on 1 November 2022)

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends final match and awarding for men's football ...

FROM PAGE-1

In the second half, the Hpa-an Education Degree College team scored its second goal in the 60th minute and the Meiktila Education Degree College team scored its second goal in the 72nd minute, but the Hpa-an Education Degree College team scored its third goal in the 90th minute. At the final whistle, the Hpa-an Education Degree College team clinched the title with a 3-2 win over the Meiktila Education Degree College team.

Next, the SAC members U Yan Kyaw, U Khun San Lwin, Dr Kyaw Tun, U Maung Ko and Mahn Nyein Maung presented the best player awards to the players of Hpa-an Education Degree College team, Magway Education Degree College team and Meiktila Education Degree College team.

Afterwards, SAC Members Porel Aung Thein presented individual medals, prizes and cash



The Vice-Senior General and dignitaries watch the final match between the Meiktila Education Degree College team and the Hpa-an Education Degree College team in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



awards to the third-prize-winning Magway Education Degree College team while Lt-Gen Yar Pyae to the second-prize-winning Meiktila Education Degree College team and Admiral Tin Aung San to the first-prize-winning Hpa-an Education Degree College team.

Then, the Vice-Senior General presented cash awards and the championship trophy to the first-prize-winning Hpa-an Education Degree College team.

After the prize-awarding ceremony, the Vice-Senior General and party cordially greeted the athletes.

The men's football tournament of the Inter-Education Degree Colleges for the 2022-2023 Academic Year is held to support the health and education of the entire nation as per the social objectives among the 12 objectives of SAC and also aim to produce outstanding

athletes, who will become reliable new young athletes for the country, through the sports festivals. The final match of the Inter-University Football Tournament (Men) will be held at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 February 2023. — MNA/KTZH

Coord meeting held for Walking Thingyan in Nay Pyi Taw

THE preliminary meeting was held to observe the Walking Thingyan for the people of Nay Pyi Taw to celebrate the 2023 Myanmar Traditional Thingyan Festival at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn highlighted that the Walking Thingyan will be included this year and it is the first time in Nay Pyi Taw. He called for preserving Myanmar's traditional cultural atmosphere and collaborative efforts to systematically manage the festival under all-round and different perspective reviews.

Then, Deputy Minister U Ye

Tint, Nay Pyi Taw Council member Colonel Min Naung, Nay Pyi Taw Deputy Mayor U Maung Maung, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung and officials from Brilliant Aura Company discussed the successful holding of the coming 2023 Nay Pyi Taw Thingyan Festival.

Afterwards, the Union minister coordinated the necessary things and concluded the meeting. — MNA/TS

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn chairs the coordination meeting for holding the Walking Thingyan in Nay Pyi Taw.



SAC Member DPM Union Defence Minister meets staff in Haka, visits Kalay People's Hospital

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Defence Minister General Mya Tun Oo, SAC Member Dr Mhu Htan, Union ministers, the Chin State chief minister, the North-West Command commander, the deputy ministers and officials, who were currently in Haka, Chin State, met religious leaders and town elders of the Haka Township on the morning of 21 February and presented gifts after giving necessary instructions.

Then, Deputy Prime Minister General Mya Tun Oo and party paid obeisance to the monks led by Dr Bhaddanta Tayzaw-sara at the Zetawun Monastery in Haka and offered donations.

Afterwards, the Deputy Prime Minister and officials met family members of Haka Station at the hall of the station and handed over cash awards and foodstuffs. After that, he warmly



State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Defence Minister General Mya Tun Oo meets officers, other ranks and family members in Chin State yesterday.



greeted officers, other ranks and their family members who were present at the meeting.

In the afternoon, the Deputy Prime Minister and party proceeded to the Kalay Station and greeted officers, other ranks

and their family members at the Aung San Hall of Kalay Station and presented supplies and food-stuffs.

Next, the Deputy Prime Minister and officials visited the district and township-level

departmental staff, health workers and education staff at the collective office of Kalay Township and provided supplies and refreshments to the attendees.

Finally, the Deputy Prime Minister and party went to the

Kalay People's Hospital to cheer up the residents receiving medical treatment there and provided nutritious foodstuffs to them. — MNA/CT

51st Myanmar Health Research Congress continues its 3rd day



The third-day session of the 51st Myanmar Health Research Congress is in progress yesterday in Yangon.

THE third day of the 51st Myanmar Health Research Congress organized by the Ministry of Health was held

at the Department of Medical Research in Yangon yesterday.

In the morning session, the Myanmar-Japan Joint

Symposium (2023): Health Hazards of Environmental Arsenic Poisoning was held. The symposium discussed the

health awareness programmes on short and long-term side effects of arsenic poison for the residents, results received from research on the development of infants born to mothers who drink water containing arsenic and other measures to reduce arsenic in water.

The event was presided over by Director (retired) Dr Khin Maung Lwin of the Central Health Knowledge Division under the Ministry of Health member of the senior advisory board of Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Professor Yoshitaka Hishikawa of the University of Miyazaki. Patron Dr Khin Maung Lwin then made a greeting speech.

Afterwards, Professor Dr Yoshiki Kuroda, Assistant Pro-

fessor Yasunori Yano and Professor Dr Masahiro Amano of the University of Miyazaki from the University of Miyazaki, Director Dr Khin Phyu Phyu of the Medical Research Department, Prof and Department Head of Dermatology Unit of Yangon General Hospital Dr Khine Khine Zaw and Director (retired) Dr Khin Maung Lwin discussed the researches and findings under different topics.

About 150 local and foreign experts and researchers attended the event.

A total of 10 papers were read out during the first paper reading session and the participants, experts and researchers discussed the papers during the second session.

The congress will be held for five days until 24 February. — MNA/KTZH



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We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aunghthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Martial Law Order No 8/2023

4th Waxing of Tabaung 1384 ME
22 February 2023

1. The State Administration Council has entrusted Martial Law power related to administration and judicial measures in Shwebo Township, Wetlet Township and Ayadaw Township in the area of North-West Command to the commander of North-West Command under Section 419 of the Constitution to exercise more effective undertakings for ensuring security, the rule of law and local peace and tranquillity.
2. The military command commander himself can exercise Martial Law power as well as transfer the power to military region commanders depending on the timely changing of situations.

By Order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Martial Law Order No 9/2023

4th Waxing of Tabaung 1384 ME
22 February 2023

1. Under the State Administration Council's Martial Law Order No 8/2023 dated 22 February 2023, the council has transferred the executive and judiciary power to the Commander of North-West Command to exercise Martial Law under Section 419 of the State Constitution in order to enforce security, the rule of law and community peace in Shwebo Township, Wetlet Township and Ayadaw Township in the martial law areas of the North-West Command.

2. Local administration bodies in the areas which have been placed under Martial Law shall carry out their respective tasks under the command of the Commander of North-West Command.

3. The Commander of North-West Command shall designate the military regions and can appoint military region commanders under the martial law order, with the approval of the State Administration Council Chairman.

4. The Commander of North-West Command shall accomplish the following tasks by himself, or military region commanders or an appropriate person or a body to be transferred the power: -

(a) Administration

- (1) Security measures
- (2) Social issues
- (3) Trade issues
- (4) Transport issues

(b) Judiciary

- (1) Formation of courts: The Commander of North-West Command shall decide criminal cases that occurred during the martial law period at courts formed under the existing law or Military Tribunal.
- (2) Deciding cases at Military Tribunal: Criminal cases can be heard and decided by Military Tribunal in a summary way.
- (3) Punishment: Following punishments shall be sentenced by a Military Tribunal under the existing laws for anyone who is found guilty of crimes mentioned in Appendix-A.
 - (AA) Death Sentence
 - (BB) Prison sentence with hard labour for unlimited years
 - (CC) The highest punishment designated in the light of respective crimes
- (4) Approval: The decisions and sentences handed down by Military Tribunal shall be final. However, a death sentence shall be approved only with the approval of the State Administration

Council's Chairman. An unlimited years-prison sentence shall be approved with the approval of the commander of North-West Command. Following are the rights for exercising the rights for approval.

- (AA) Abolishing a decision of a case
- (BB) Commuting a sentence
- (CC) Changing a sentence to another lesser one
- (DD) Approving the conviction

(5) Appealing: No appeal for decisions or convictions handed down by Military Tribunal.

(6) Applying for reversal of decisions: If a death sentence is handed down by a Military Tribunal, applying to the State Administration Council's Chairman can be made for reversal of the decision within 15 days from the day of conviction. Reversal for other punishments can be applied to the commander of North-West Command within 15 days after the convictions. The State Administration Council Chairman or commander of North-West Command can reverse the decision. The rights for exercising power for reversal of the decision are as follows: -

- (AA) Abolishing a decision of a case
- (BB) Commuting a sentence
- (CC) Changing a correction to another lesser one
- (DD) Approving the conviction

(7) The Chairman of the State Administration Council or the commander of North-West Command not only can exercise the rights mentioned in the above sub-para (6) but also can increase the punishment.

5. The Commander of North-West Command can form an advisory body for martial law to get assistance in performing his duties.

6. The Commander of North-West Command shall report to the Chairman of the State Administration Council on the situation of the martial law areas.

By Order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

SEE PAGE-6

Language schools allowed purchasing only 150 JLPT application forms



Language learners are seen at one Japanese Language school.

ONLY 150 JLPT forms per school at the most will be sold to Japanese language schools in Yangon and Mandalay, the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA) has announced.

The Japanese Language Proficiency Test-JLPT will be held on 2 July. Language schools and companies must register in advance to purchase the application forms and the time for sale and submission of applications will be announced

when the application forms arrive in Myanmar.

The Japanese Language schools have to pre-register through the Google form on the MAJA Facebook account between 20 February and 27 February and the application forms will be sold by the booking system.

MAJA announced the individual application forms will be accepted online without limitation. — TWA/MKKS

Price gap between diesel and octane narrows

THE fuel prices indicated the narrow gap between octane and diesel. Prices are relatively the same in Yangon's retail fuel market on 22 February 2023, Ko Hla Han, a pump attendant, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The fuel prices stood at K2,145 per litre for Octane 92 and K2,150 for diesel. The price difference between them is merely five kyats. On 8 February, the price gap was about K20.

Similarly, the prices were K2,225 per litre for Octane 95 and K2,230 for diesel, showing an increase of only five kyats per litre, K25 per gallon and K50 for a gallon in diesel against Octane prices.

The decrease in diesel saves some costs for truck drivers, those who are using electric generators and agricultural machines.

On 22 February, the wholesale reference price was K2,036 per litre for Octane 92, K2,043 for diesel, K2,112 for Octane 95 and K2,116 for premium diesel.

The diesel-fuelled truck

drivers are so delighted with the price decline, said a truck driver Ko Zaw.

Additionally, it has a positive impact on fishing trawlers and vessels cruising. Operators can save the cost significantly, said a vessel owner Ko Soe.

I can save approximately K700,000-K1 million this month for the round trip (upstream and downstream of the river) prying to and from the delta regions compared to the cost in the past six months, Ko Tin Win, captain

of a private double-decker ferry.

The diesel price peaked at K3,200 per litre at the end of August 2022. The prevailing price is K1,100 per litre lower than that.

This month, crude oil prices plunged. Consequently, diesel prices are relatively low compared to gasoline prices. This could contribute to the farming and transportation businesses as it is time to harvest the summer paddy this month. —TWA/EM



A fuel attendant is seen filling the car with oil.

Illegal black sesame, consumer goods, industrial materials and vehicles confiscated

AN on-duty team under the management of the Mandalay Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force made inspections at the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint on 20 February.

Officials captured 150 bags of black sesame worth K12 million and 350 bags of local rice worth K11.2 million without legal import documents that were hidden on a Nissan Diesel car (approximately K40 million). The action was taken under

Customs procedures.

In addition, an on-duty team conducted inspections at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint in Mon State.

Officials confiscated two kinds of goods including 2,400 pairs of sandals worth K7,332,000 that exceeded the quantity in the Import Declaration (ID) from two vehicles (approximately K70 million) heading to Yangon from Myawady on 20 February and 3,000 kilogrammes of

washing liquid and 700 plastic jerry cans worth K4.32 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a Nissan Diesel tractor head and a trailer (approximately K115 million) heading to Yangon from Myawady on 21 February. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Similarly, an on-duty team captured four kinds of goods including Fujitsu hard drives without official documents worth K3

million at the Yangon International Airport on 20 February, two kinds of goods including 242 head torches worth K4,819,500 that exceeded the quantity in the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal container checkpoint and 875 kilogrammes of PE film worth K3,307,500 that exceeded the quantity in the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Asia World container checkpoint

on 21 February. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Two unregistered motorbikes worth K2.7 million were seized in Monywa township and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Therefore, 15 arrests (estimated value of K350,871,121) were made on 20 and 21 February, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

FROM PAGE-5

Appendix-A

Crimes to be heard by Military Tribunal

1. High Treason (Section 122 of the Penal Code)
2. Attempt to excite disaffection towards the Government (Section 124-A of the Penal Code)
3. Sabotage or hinder the performance of the Tatmadaw of the Union or law enforcement organizations (Section 124-C of the Penal Code)
4. Disrupts or hinders the Tatmadaw and Government employees (Section 124-D of the Penal Code)
5. Section 505 of the Penal Code
6. Cause fear, spread false news, agitate directly or indirectly criminal offence against a Government employee (Section 505-A of the Penal Code)
7. Cases against unlawful associations act
8. Cases against weaponry act
9. Murder cases
10. Death cases
11. Rape cases
12. Robbery cases
13. Banditry cases
14. Corruption cases
15. Cases against the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law (1993)
16. Cases against the Protection of Public Properties Act
17. Cases against the Protection of Public Properties Law (1963)
18. Cases against the News and Media Law
19. Cases against the Printing and Publishing Law
20. Cases against the Myanmar Immigration (provisional) Act (1947)
21. Cases against the Electronic Communications Law
22. Cases against the Ward or Village-tract Administration Law
23. Cases against the Anti-Terrorism Law

LOCAL BUSINESS

Low supply of watermelon to China pushes up price

THE number of Myanmar trucks carrying watermelons to China dropped so the price significantly escalated, Muse fruit traders said.

Earlier, over 150 truckloads of watermelon and muskmelon per day were delivered to China through the Muse border. At present, the border point saw an entry of about 100 trucks of watermelons and muskmelons to China.

Additionally, the prices touched a high of 5.2 Yuan per kilogramme for watermelon, 6 Yuan for Taiwan watermelon and 8.3 Yuan per kilo for muskmelon.

In early February, tight inspections of Chinese Customs hindered truck transport. Only 20-30 trucks were, therefore, able to pass the checkpoint amid the delays despite the high price of watermelon and muskmelon.

Consequently, watermelon was sold out at the depots on the China side and more than 500 trucks queued in line on the Myanmar side.



Lorries loaded with watermelons are seen on the Sino-Myanmar border.

On 5 February, the trade channel was eased and around 100 trucks entered China. Those trucks struck on the Myanmar side were given the go-ahead in rotation for exports depending on demand, the Muse fruit wholesale centre stated.

Myanmar's watermelon and muskmelon are heavily reliant on the Chinese market. Traders grappled with China's strict vi-

rus policy.

In 2021, the COVID-19 restrictions hindered Myanmar's watermelon and muskmelon exports to China. Chinese Customs Regulation increased delay. Long delays of trucks caused harm to watermelon quality and only one in five trucks heading to China remained undamaged with quality watermelons.

The traders are observing

delivery time, price and profitability as they are perishable fruit, while they are trying to explore new markets besides China.

On 1 April, Nantaw and Sinphyu border posts were suspended in the wake of COVID-19 impacts. China has closed down the major border crossing Mang Wein from 30 March 2021 following COVID-19 cases in Myanmar.

On 8 July 2021, the two re-

maining borders – Kyinsankyawt and Panseng – were suspended. As a result of this, the border trade between Myanmar and China was completely halted.

Among Sino-Myanmar border posts, Kyinsankyawt resumed operations on 26 November 2021.

Trade activity at the Muse-Mang Wein border, which performed the majority of trade between Myanmar and China, resumed on 14 January 2023. Additionally, other goods except for agricultural products (watermelon, muskmelon), minerals and fisheries products are allowed to be sent to China through that border point.

Additionally, Nantaw and Sinphyu, which are the major borders, were reopened on 25 January 2023.

At present, Myanmar daily delivers rice, broken rice, rubber, various beans and pulses, fishery products, chilli pepper and other food commodities to China through Kyinsankyawt by over 100 trucks. — NN/EM

MRF to sell rice at fairer prices for industrial blue-collar workers

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) will sell the rice at a fairer price for factory workers and families of blue-collar workers in Yangon Region, according to its notification dated 22 February.

To reduce the food cost of the workers, the federation will sell 10-per-cent broken Aemahta rice per 10-kilogramme bag (five pyi) at K10,000.

The MRF has been implementing this scheme for factory workers and low-income people. About 216,600 10-kg bags of rice were sold at a fairer rate for the blue-collar workers engaged in factories, workshops and private

institutions.

Those who want to buy the rice at a much fairer rate can dial the contact number of the MRF (09 400067270) and Viber No (09 400067260) to make further enquiries, make payment and proceed with delivery or withdrawal method at the designated place.

Other rice varieties can be purchased at reasonable prices at Wahdan and Bayint Naung Wholesale Centres.

The prices of various rice varieties moved up in the domestic markets. The prices of new high-grade Pawsan rice were around K73,000-87,000 per

bag depending on the producing areas (Shwebo, Myaungmya, Deday and Pyapon), while old 90-day short matured rice fetched K61,000. New Khuni rice was worth K64,000 per bag. Pawkywe rice was priced at K61,000 per bag and rice that is grown under the intercropping system fetched K55,000 per bag.

Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association, Myanmar Rice Millers Association, and traders involved in rice wholesale centres (Wahdan and Bayintnaung) have offered rice at a cheaper rate from 3 August 2022 every day between 9 am and 3 pm except for government office holidays.

Ayeyawady Pawsan, Shwebo Pawsan, Pawkywe and short-mature rice varieties (90 days) will be sold at a cheaper price between K35,000 and K77,000 per bag.

Each household is entitled to buy one rice bag only and those resellers, traders and retailers are excluded from this scheme.

— NN/EM



Bayintnaung wholesale centre.

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 22 February 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,145
Octane 95	K2,225
Diesel	K2,150
Premium Diesel	K2,230

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,166,500 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,857,000 per tical

US Dollar Vs Kyat

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,860 to K2,875

The above prices may change from time to time.

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OPINION

Make self-criticism based on a flexible mindset for the nation

ASAYING in the political arena that the same things are done together whereas different things are set aside is very correct. Such a saying can be used in other sectors such as business, social relations and all community works.

Even if there are two persons, their attitudes and perspectives cannot coincide with each other. If so, their concepts will be different. As a consequence, they need to negotiate their attitudes to go forward. Some of their attitudes and perspectives may be equal but some concepts may be different. Hence, they need to negotiate different things after they have done things in line with their equal attitudes and perspectives.

If they cannot negotiate the different things, they should not worry about that they set aside these different things as pending cases. When they have completed the implementation of things based on similar attitudes and perspectives, some pending cases may automatically ease difficult sections due to the effects of endeavours in the implementation process, especially mutual understanding and mutual trust.

If so, there will remain a few cases to be solved. At this juncture, accomplishments and fruits of success in implementing the agreed things will contribute to easing the restrictions of both sides over the remaining pending cases through mutual trust, respect, understanding and fraternity.

In solving the problems, if both sides related to the cases do not have flexible-mindedness, everything between them never meets success. If so, both sides will face undesirable results. To avoid such things of cases, everybody

needs to understand that nobody can be correct in attitudes and outlooks and everybody may change their ideas, attitudes and stances depending on situations which must benefit the nation and the people.

Moreover, some cases which cannot be solved in a moment should be left, and both sides need to go ahead to solve further problems step by step. As such, they have to make utmost efforts in solving the problems together. When they march towards the goal together, they may leave some unimportant and unsolved things which cannot disturb them en route to the goal. These situations are based on fraternity.

That is why the people of Myanmar in all arenas including political and peacemaking sectors have the chance to firmly grasp their attitudes. But they should have to analyze and criticize themselves whether they are ready to abandon their attitudes whenever the interests of individuals or relevant organizations are compared to that of the nation for the sake of the people.

ALL too often reading is beloved by almost everyone who has learnt to read pretty well. Quite frankly, they want to try reading as many words as they see the minute they learn to read. It is really and truly a gentle thing as well as can be easily done just without costing a small fortune. Not every reader is, however, a person with a long memory for the simple reason that he, as always, forgets most of the things which he has read whether consciously or unconsciously. Alternatively, some readers are not able to take hold of their reading material for long with their eyes shut. That is why such readers have not practised smart reading yet, of course. Smart reading usually includes silent reading or reading aloud, doing both deep reading and reading for pleasure, studying not only non-fiction but also literature, recounting nearly everything that has been read to the letter, and applying reading knowledge or aesthetics in the real world. Here, deep reading involves detailed reading, scanning, skimming, and even conditional reading. Providing that any reader has got smart reading, he will enjoy himself at all times of reading, and it may not take longer time for him to do reading than he has expected.

By the time reading is carried out, silent reading is mostly conducted, but reading aloud should be done sometimes. In the main, it cannot be denied that silent reading particularly used by the majority of advanced readers gives them a faster reading speed than reading aloud; so, that will help save reading time for them. But the main purpose of getting reading aloud done is to be aware of the rhythmic schemes of poems or the writing flow of prose by authors through the sense of hearing as readers. Then, deep reading and reading for pleasure are frequently needed by the readers. They tend to decide on either reading in-depth or pleas-

urable reading when absolutely necessary, as a matter of fact. It is certain that every piece of writing must not be performed by means of deep reading simply because some writing is intended for pleasure only, otherwise, it will just last ages if amateur readers except for professional writers take enjoyable writing seriously. As mentioned above, detailed reading, scanning, skimming, and conditional reading have comprised deep reading. Detailed reading is essential to researchers, scholars, academics, and advanced learners since this reading certainly provide the linguistic forms, stylistic features, food for thought, and historical values of any literature to them. By Longman, scanning is the process of reading something quickly in order to understand its main meaning or to find some particular information whereas skimming is the process of reading something quickly to find the main facts or ideas in it. As regards deep reading, conditional reading means choosing to read the currently requisite themes, especially when readers do not have enough time to read books from beginning to end. Conditional reading consists of skipping unnecessary points or chapters in a book and reading with ages or genres of literature or writers. What is more, any reader ought to read non-fiction for his good brain and literature for his kind heart.

Not only must a reader have a good grasp of the subject matter but also, he should have known vocabulary usage, grammatical rules, modern expressions, and stylistics after a fashion. I take the view that writing can be generally classified into four types according to styles of writing: essay writing, article writing, story writing, and poetry writing. If all readers have seen how to organize each type of writing in advance, they could possibly grasp the subject matter and spoken or written languages or both from the writing with their eyes closed. Fur-

thermore, the first three types of writing relate to prose groups in general except that drama writing may probably contain a mixture of prose and poetry. The golden ages of poetry and drama had gone by in the world of global literature, as far as I knew. These days articles and so-called modern poems are still most well-known among quite a bit of book lovers in the current field of literature, I should think. It is imperative that each and every individual reader take good care of the common linguistic structures of a writing case, whichever writing is read.

It is normally assumed that an essay is neither an article nor a story. Notwithstanding, essays partly encompass the theories of

articles and stories. Unless any writer knows all about essays, he might write down an article or a story to the core under the illusion that they will be both essays. Actually, the essay does not commonly express as many facts and figures as articles. In spite of this, the writer's tender ideas, noticeable doubts, and unconscious desires would be found in an essay. Also, there may be partially included a story in the essay, but not the very story. An essay is, in short, merely an attempt to write something. Hence, an essay writer does not like making preparations for essays; he will write an essay by grabbing his sudden reflection while having intrapersonal peace and quiet. Moreover, it

is essays that shed nine sorts of aesthetics over fine art for maximum effect - 1) love between husband and wife, 2) humour or smile, 3) compassion, 4) harshness, 5) loathsomeness, 6) fear, 7) surprise, 8) bravery and 9) calm, which of these should exceptionally be suitable for literature. Virtually all essays contribute to the reader's sense of feeling calm in their ends, no matter what aesthetic is involved - that pleasant feeling was once named a target feeling by Saya Zaw Gyi, a Myanmar national laureate and author.

An article is significantly different from an essay concerning the subject matter and essays can be divided up into a great many varieties: lead-



Not only must a reader have a good grasp of the subject matter but also, he should have known vocabulary usage, grammatical rules, modern expressions, and stylistics after a fashion. **ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE / FREEPIK**

Let's Take up Smart Reading

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

ing articles, academic articles, educational articles, literary articles, linguistic articles, political articles, religious articles, medical articles, health articles, technical articles, research articles, travel articles, articles of clothing, beauty articles, write-ups, scientific articles, narrative articles, and articles with a mixture of knowledge and pleasure. Besides having various items, articles are also more reliable, more valid, and more relevant regarding their entries, instances, proverbs, sayings, and quotations included. The most prominent style of article writing is quick and simple or short and to the point as well. In other words, they are not confused about their writing principles like short stories and novels. Additionally, article readers will get to accept an opinion more critically and logically than usual because articles offer an effective and efficient explanation. Great care should be taken that only the authors who have research fever write excellent but few articles.

There is a lot to make out in story writings: author, incident, subject, form, setting, theme, technique, plot, narrative, character, hero, heroine, protagonist, antagonist, narrator, dialogue, monologue, action, scene, premise, crisis, mental conflict, psychology, climax, suspense, trick, descent, ending, resolution, balance, taste, unity, and emphasis. When someone reads a story, it would be better if he has known about its writers such as his love affair or married life. If so, he can easily get background knowledge or connotations of the story, for only occasionally are a story and its author directly linked. I do not think that every subject from an incident can be written as a story apart from one particular subject that does stick in the writer's mind. After that, he should think about which form of language to use - the written, spoken or both forms - for the subject which he has decided

to write. Next, he ought to fix the setting, theme, and technique of a story. The story comes alive with its perfect setting, and the central theme of a good story will never fade away. The techniques for creating stories differ as to authors' own styles of writing. Only if plots and narratives are interesting in a story would it become a flawless story. Nonetheless, apparent character traits are closely observed in classic stories. In a story are two kinds of characters - dead characters and living characters - and these characters may be a hero, heroine, protagonist, antagonist, or even narrator. Whoever they are, they are allowed to go into monologues or dialogues and take action with a scene. Otherwise, they might come out like barely hand puppets for sure. The premise, crisis, mental conflict, psychology, climax, suspense, trick, descent, and ending occur in a story as its vital parts depending on the writer's art of making up stories. A resolution is the life of detective stories in particular. This is because a detective story that has an illogical resolution will not be meaningful by any means. The balance, taste, unity, and emphasis due to the subject matter of a story are other careful factors in the eyes of the story, too.

Reading a poem, a reader has also got to be acquainted with the poet's personal profile, his aim of writing the poem, and its relevant background information like history and events at first. Broadly speaking, there may be seen three kinds of poetry in the world of literature: epic poetry, lyric poetry, and pastoral poetry. Those kinds of poetry will probably call for the three basic facts mentioned above in full measure; provided that a poem reader gets fully informed about them, he can gain beyond doubt a deep insight into the poem, including its literal meaning and connotation. Based on how to compose poems, there are still other kinds of poetry - couplet,

tercet, quatrain, quintain, sextet, septet, octet, nonet, free verse and so forth. In addition, the characteristics of poetry are repetition, imagery, tones, stanzas, feet, poetic meters, rhymes and rhythms. Poems are iambic, spondaic, or pyrrhic as feet and have monometer, dimeter, trimeter, tetrameter, pentameter, hexameter, heptameter, or octameter as poetic meters, to the best of my knowledge. The three sorts of beauty in poetry are still meant to be pure beauty like the beauty of a naturally beautiful girl, ornate beauty like the beauty of a pretty girl with make-up or in clothes, and grotesque beauty like the beauty of an ugly little girl. Reading up on a poem, its writer's distinctive style, characterization, first person (writing in the pronouns 'I' and 'we'), second person (writing in the pronoun 'you'), third person (writing in the pronouns 'he', 'she', 'it' and 'they'), symbol, metaphor, simile, figurative, personification, alliteration, assonance, onomatopoeia, oxymoron, irony, hyperbole, or cliché should be considered carefully.

Naturally, smart reading requires that literature lovers read a wide assortment of writings and also learn to read so. As reading makes it ready that talking points exist, literary group discussions can be held more often. From those discussions, bookworms should exchange information or ideas on how to read, imitate others' high-quality reading methods dissimilar to theirs, and improve their ability to read more than before. Smart reading is much better than average reading and it means that readers ought to read to know about others, different places from theirs, and themselves, that is, self-reflection. Time spent on smart reading is time well spent. It is not a waste of time. Gifted persons find it reading to lead a successful or happy life. Too much time and money may be spent on smart reading, though this reading will have contributed enormously to readers' making a better U-turn of life without a doubt. The longer the reading age is becoming, the more advanced smart reading is getting. So, let's take up smart reading right now!

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Information on issuance of passports to be released in Feb last week

DETAILED information about the issuance of passports will be released in the last week of February.

The issuance of passports was suspended for security reasons and they will be issued again within the next few days, according to the State Administration Council Information Team Leader Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun.

The online application system for passport issuance is being prepared, and detailed information will be released on 24 February.

QR code applications through the online booking system for passport application and the issuance of passports were suspended from 5 December 2022 and from 2 January 2023 respectively. —TWA/KZW



Those who come to apply for passports are seen in front of the passport issuing office.



An MNA female flight crew is seen attending passengers aboard.

MNA to launch Mandalay-Chiang Mai direct flight on 2 March

MYANMAR National Airlines (MNA) will operate a regular flight from Mandalay to Chiang Mai every Thursday commencing on 2 March.

The flight will leave Mandalay International Airport at 3:45 pm and will arrive at Chiang Mai Airport at 5:35 pm (local time in Thailand). The flight will leave Chiang Mai Airport at 6:35 pm (local time in Thailand) and will arrive at Mandalay International Airport at 7:25 pm. MNA sells a single ticket at US\$172 and a return at US\$280.

MNA launched Yangon-Chiang Mai-Yangon flights on 9 December 2022. — TWA/MKKS

Petroleum products top import line-up with over \$4 billion in past 10 months

OF ten import items, petroleum products ranked first with over US\$4 billion as of the end-January 2023 of the current financial year starting April 2022.

The statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce indicated that import values stood at over \$4.4 billion for petroleum products, over \$1.2 billion for garments, over \$560 million for iron and steel raw materials, \$540 million for pharmaceuticals, \$530 million each for fertilizer and palm oil.

Myanmar brings in capital goods, intermediate goods, consumer goods and raw materials used in the businesses working on a Cutting-Making- and-Packaging basis, whereas the country exports agricultural produce, livestock products, fishery products, mineral products, forest products, finished industrial goods and other items. — TWA/EM



The picture shows petroleum storage tanks

Potato arrivals from various regions cause price to fall in Yangon market

AN entry of various varieties of domestic and foreign potatoes pushed down the price in the Yangon market, especially for large-sized potatoes, a potato trader Ko Thein Myint told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

These days, potatoes from Sinphyukyun and Bhamo regions, potatoes from China and Bangladesh, as well as Shan potatoes, entered the market. With the influx of potatoes from the Sinphyukyun area, the price of large-sized potatoes has decreased. At the time of the arrival

of Shan potatoes, the wholesale price of S1 and S2 sizes (large sizes) stood at K1,850 and K2,100 per viss respectively.

When Sinphyukyun potatoes entered the market, the wholesale price of S3 sizes including S1 and S2 sizes was only K1,400 per viss on 14 February.

Normal sizes of potatoes A1, OK, S1 and S2 were valued at K1,600, K1,700, K1,700 and K1,400 per viss each. Similarly, the price of Bhamo potatoes and China potatoes were only K2,000 and K2,150 per viss these days.

A total of 96,000 visses of

potatoes from various regions arrived at the market on 18 February and 66,000 visses entered the market on 20 February. Po-



Potatoes from Bangladesh are seen in the market.

tatoes from Bangladesh were sold in various sizes at depots in Yangon, and the price of medium-sized potatoes stood at

only around K1,500 per viss. The price of large-sized potatoes decreased due to the low demand in the market.

In early December 2022, when onion was valued at K4,000 per viss, the price of potato was only half of the onion price. Currently, potato and onion prices are almost the same.

Although onion is a daily necessity, it is used less when the price is high. Potatoes are used as a side dish. Thus, when the potato price is high, consumers use other vegetables instead of potatoes. — TWA/CT

Weather forecasts mitigate crop yield loss

WEATHER warnings posted on social media platforms helped prevent the crops from possible damage triggered by the untimely rain in some delta regions on 17 and 18 February 2023, a farmer of summer paddy from Mawlamyinekyun Township told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

There is no news of crop yield loss in the township, the locals said. The heavy rain and strong wind lashed Yangon city from 3:30 pm on 16 February.

Some trees fell due to strong wind and heavy rain in some townships. There is also a weather forecast that

untimely rain might happen at the end of February in some areas.

The erratic weather condition did not affect yield as the paddy harvest season has not come yet. The weather warnings helped farmers prepare for plant protection and mitigate the possible dam-

age, especially in delta regions (Kyaunggon, and Hinthada townships). As the rainwater did not flood the field, the crop yield loss is extremely low.

As the rainwater did not drown the crops, the chilli pepper yield is expected to increase, some growers told the GNLM.

However, there is no news about crop loss in Mawgyun, Bogale and Wakema townships and Yangon markets.

Yet, fake news about crop loss might be found among local communities and can affect the price. The public needs to be aware of fake news without reliable sources. — TWA/EM

Self-powered e-skin enables monitoring of subtle human activities

A team of Chinese researchers have recently developed a new type of self-powered flexible and transparent electronic skin (e-skin) that can monitor subtle human activities, shedding light on the future of wearable electronics.

This new e-skin integrates a flexible transparent supercapacitor as an energy storage device with a stretchable transparent strain sensor, said Lan Wei, professor at the School of Physical Science and Technology of Lanzhou University and leader of the research team.

“Thanks to its mechanical

softness, the integrated e-skin can be directly attached to various locations on the body for the monitoring of human activities,” Lan added.

It has great application prospects in smart health care, human-machine interaction, virtual reality and artificial intelligence, among other fields.

As the largest organ of the human body, the skin is responsible for multiple major functions such as protection, respiration, perspiration, thermo regulation, and sensory stimulation. It forms the basis of people’s physical interactions with the

outside world.

The ideal e-skin should be ultra-sensitive, self-powered, conformal to human skin, and optically transparent for visual or aesthetic purposes.

“Inspired by sensory functions and performance of real human skin, we have been devoted to making the new e-skin both flexible and transparent to meet aesthetic as well as functional requirements,” Lan said. The all-in-one system of the new e-skin is composed of a transparent supercapacitor, stretchable strain sensors and snakelike electrical resistance.—Xinhua



This photo taken on 6 November, 2022 shows a surgical robot exhibited at the Fosun Health booth in the medical equipment and healthcare products exhibition area of the fifth China International Import Expo (CIIE) at the National Exhibition and Convention Centre (Shanghai) in east China’s Shanghai. **PHOTO: DING TING/XINHUA**

Japan to start new round of COVID-19 vaccination from May for elderly



An elderly woman receives her first dose of Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine at a special nursing home in Itami, Hyogo prefecture, western Japan, Monday, 12 April, 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN plans to launch a fresh round of COVID-19 vaccinations from May, starting with the elderly, those with underlying medical conditions and healthcare professionals, health ministry officials said Wednesday.

The ministry’s plan, which also includes expanding inoculations to the rest of the public from September, was approved at a panel comprised of health

experts, heads of local governments and others.

The fresh inoculation drive comes despite the government’s decision to downgrade the legal status of COVID-19 to the same category as common infectious diseases like seasonal flu on 8 May.

“As the effects of vaccinations could diminish in six months to one year, it is good

to provide an opportunity for vaccination around spring and summer. With the inoculation system installed through much of the year, (authorities) can deal flexibly according to the infection status of the pandemic,” one of the panel members said.

From May to August, the government plans to administer vaccines developed to target the Omicron variant to those aged 65 and above, those with underlying medical conditions, healthcare professionals and workers at nursing homes, they said.

The broader public would be targeted from September to December, and the type of vaccines to be used during the period will be decided at an early date in fiscal 2023 starting April, according to the officials.

Vaccinations for children aged 6 months to 11 years, which began last year, would also continue in fiscal 2023.—Kyodo

Can metaverse improve public health?

THE ‘metaverse’ has the popular imagination as a universe of infinite possibilities that can affect all parts of existence.

Until the rebranding of Facebook as ‘Meta’ in 2021, discussions regarding the utility

of entirely immersible virtual environments were limited to a small number of tech and Sci-Fi circles.

Since then, the concept of the metaverse has attracted a lot of attention, and academics

are now beginning to investigate how virtual settings might be utilised to better scientific and health studies.

Metaverse that can help us better manage non-communicable diseases? —ANI

Nurses in England to pause strikes during new govt talks

NURSES in England will pause months of strike action over pay after the UK government agreed to hold “intensive talks”, both sides said on Tuesday.

Members of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) had been due to walk out for 48 hours next Wednesday, the latest in a series of stoppages unprecedented in the union’s 106-year history. They are part of a wave of UK industrial action which has seen workers ranging from paramedics to train drivers to teachers go on strike over the last year amid decades-high inflation. Nurses and ambulance drivers have even walked out on the same day for the first time.

The UK government has been refusing to discuss pay levels for the current fiscal year,

insisting salaries have already been set for public sector workers by independent pay review bodies. Ministers also argue that the country, which is grappling with a cost-of-living crisis as inflation remains stubbornly above 10 per cent, cannot afford increases at or near these decades-high rates. But in a joint statement Tuesday with the RCN, the Department of Health and Social Care said the two camps had agreed “to enter a process of intensive talks”.

“Both sides are committed to finding a fair and reasonable settlement that recognizes the vital role that nurses and nursing play in the National Health Service and the wider economic pressures facing the United Kingdom,” it said.—AFP



UK nurses are staging the first strikes in their union’s 106-year history after the government rejected their pay demands. **PHOTO: AFP**

ECONOMY WORLD

China imports farm materials from B&R countries



A farmer drives a piece of farming machinery to harvest rice at a family farm in Jiutai District of Changchun, northeast China's Jilin Province, 20 September 2022. Autumn harvest has recently started at the rice-growing areas across the province. **PHOTO: YAN LINYUN / XINHUA**

TO ensure stable production and supply, the ports in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region are handling a larger volume of imported farming supplies, as the preparations for spring farming are in full swing.

Two major ports in Xinjiang, the Alataw Pass and the Horgos Port, handled the imports of 66,000 tonnes of chemical fertilizers and 89,000 tonnes of potash fertilizers, respectively, in January. These fertilizers, mainly produced in countries along the Belt and Road, entered the Chinese border via the China-Europe cargo trains before being sold to the inland regions.

Horgos Jie'an international

freight, a logistics agency, has imported 60,000 tonnes of potash fertilizers over the past two months, which is close to 70 per cent of its total import volume last year.

"The peak period of spring ploughing is coming, and the demand for agricultural materials and machinery in the domestic market has increased greatly, resulting in a significantly higher workload for us," said Zhai Jinbin, head of the company.

To facilitate the entry of farming supplies, the local railway and customs departments have set up green channels for the materials and streamlined the procedure.—Xinhua

Four-day working week 'more productive': UK study

A four-day working week is more productive for most staff and companies than the traditional five days, one of the biggest trials of its kind conducted in the UK reported on Tuesday.

Over 60 firms in Britain took part in the six-month experiment allowing almost 3,000 employees to work one day less per week while retaining the same salary.

Conducted between last June and December, it was organized by non-profit group 4 Day Week Global alongside the think tank Autonomy, the University of Cambridge and Boston College in the United States.

It has been described as the world's biggest trial of a four-day working week.

The study found more than nine out of ten firms will continue with the shortened working week



A worker seen at London's Pressure Drop Brewery, north London. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

or plan to do so, organisers said in a statement.

Just four per cent will not extend it.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

IMF chief welcomes Kyiv's anti-corruption efforts

THE head of the International Monetary Fund, a key financial backer of Ukraine in its fight against Russia, hailed on Tuesday Kyiv's efforts to tackle corruption and praised its "resilient" economy and people.

Ukraine has for years suffered endemic graft but efforts to stamp it out have been overshadowed by Moscow's war.

IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva, who was in Kyiv this week on her first visit to Ukraine since the start of Russia's invasion a year ago, praised Ukrainian authorities for their willingness to tackle graft.

"The Ukrainian authorities are very open about the corruption problems and very determined to fight it. So is the whole of society," Georgieva said in an interview with three international media, including AFP.

Georgieva said she was "optimistic" that Ukraine can make progress in its fight against corruption and that people "are not going to tolerate" it.

During the trip, she held meetings with Ukraine's leadership, including with President Volodymyr Zelensky.

She also visited Irpin, a town near Kyiv that was badly damaged during Russia's unsuccessful attempt to seize the capital last year.

Georgieva was in Kyiv following a slew of high-profile corruption scandals in the Ukrainian government.—AFP

EU asylum claims soar to seven-year high

ASYLUM applications in the EU jumped last year after Covid travel curbs were lifted, surging 50 per cent over 2021 to the highest level since a 2016 influx of refugees.

The preliminary data, from the EU Agency for Asylum (EUAA), showed there were nearly one million asylum claims lodged in 2022 in the bloc's 27 member states plus Switzerland

and Norway.

Syrians and Afghans were the two main nationalities seeking protection in Europe, together accounting for a quarter of the claims.

Migrants from Türkiye, Venezuela, Colombia, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Georgia were the next biggest groups, though in smaller numbers.

Ukrainians fleeing the Rus-

sian invasion mostly did not come under the asylum data as they benefit from a separate EU temporary protection regime introduced in March 2022, which gives automatic protection after registration.

According to the EU statistics agency Eurostat, four million Ukrainians took up protected status and only two percent applied for asylum.—AFP



Members of Frontex stand outside the newly closed migrant camp on the Greek island of Kos, 27 November 2021. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Russian oligarchs' superyachts on sanctions radar

LUXURIOUS superyachts owned by Russian oligarchs reportedly close to the Kremlin have proved difficult to seize under Western sanctions imposed over Moscow's war in Ukraine.

Russian President

Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion one year ago, sparking a raft of economic penalties to punish his government and associates, both at home and abroad.

They included targeting the eye-catching

and opulent marine status symbols of Russia's elite that are still dotted around the world.

Experts say many of those yachts disappeared after the assault on Ukraine, before resurfacing in waters of countries that have not joined the unprecedented sanctions.

Former CIA agent and author Alex Finley has spearheaded an online hunt for Russian-registered mega-yachts under the Twitter hashtag #YachtWatch.

"People were very interested because... it really is a visual symbol of what was happening," Finley told AFP—AFP



The French government seized the Amore Vero, a superyacht owned by a company linked to Igor Sechin, chief of Russian energy giant Rosneft. PHOTO: AFP

ANA, JAL, 3 others picked to operate flying taxis for 2025 World Expo



An image of a flying car by SkyDrive Inc. PHOTO: SKYDRIVE INC./KYODO

ANA Holdings Inc., Japan Airlines Co and three other companies have been selected to operate air taxi services during the 2025 World Exposition to be held in Osaka in western Japan, the event's organizer said Tuesday.

Japan wants the "flying cars" to be one of the main attractions at the

expo, with the next-generation mobility expected to provide access to the event venue to be set up on an artificial island in Osaka Bay.

ANA Holdings, the parent of All Nippon Airways Co., will partner with US startup Joby Aviation Inc., a company in which Toyota Motor Corp has a stake. Other companies se-

lected as operators are SkyDrive Inc, based in Aichi Prefecture, and trading firm Marubeni Corp.

Naoki Okada, minister in charge of the World Expo 2025, said he hopes the technology will "surprise" people around the world. He also called on the five companies to cooperate on demonstration flights prior to the start of the 184-day event.

The flying cars, which will carry two to five people each, will connect the three areas of the exposition venue on Yumeshima, central Osaka city and nearby Kansai International Airport. Their flight routes, landing and takeoff areas are to be determined.—Kyodo

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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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 BLPL SHIPPING LINES

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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:

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AE NEPTUNE VOY.NO. (103572)

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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.
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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Europe pays high price for Russia-Ukraine conflict



A worker walks past gas pipes that connect a Floating Storage and Regasification Unit ship with the main land in Wilhelmshaven, northern Germany on 17 December 2022. **PHOTO: MICHAEL SOHN/ AFP**

ONE year into the Russia-Ukraine conflict, France and the rest of Europe are finding themselves in a delicate position, teetering under the impact of inflation, an energy crisis, and slowing economic growth.

INFLATION, ENERGY CRISIS

The Russian-Ukrainian con-

flict has pushed up inflation in France. Price hikes have reached record level in the country since February last year.

Data from the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) show that France's annual inflation rate stood at 5.2 per cent for 2022,

after 1.6 per cent in 2021 and 0.5 per cent in 2020.

Energy prices alone have increased by 23.1 per cent yearly, followed by 6.8 per cent for food and three per cent for manufactured goods and services. Energy prices in the country reached record high in 2022, with natural gas traded at 340 euros (364 US dollars) per megawatt-hour (MWh) on 26 August last year, against under 30 euros (32 dollars) per MWh at the same time in 2021. Faced with soaring energy prices, the tariff shield introduced in 2021 by the French government has been extended, particularly for small businesses. An Energy Sobriety Plan was officially unveiled on 6 October, 2022, aiming to reduce the country's overall energy consumption by 10 per cent within the next two years and by 40 per cent by 2050.—Xinhua

UN to convene as Ukraine, allies seek votes for 'peace' resolution

THE UN General Assembly meets Wednesday, two days ahead of the anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with Kyiv and its allies hoping to garner broad support for a resolution calling for a "just and lasting peace".

The draft resolution, sponsored by some 60 countries, is to be voted on after the close of debate — not expected until at least Thursday. The text "underscores the need to reach, as soon as possible, a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine in

line with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations." Like previous resolutions, it reaffirms the UN's "commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine" and calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities.—AFP

Dubai airport sees surge in arrivals bolstered by Russian influx

DUBAI'S airport welcomed 66 million passengers in 2022, more than double the previous year, it said Tuesday, a spike its chief executive attributed to "huge growth" in Russian travellers.

The main business hub of the oil-rich United Arab Emirates is home to one of the world's busiest airports.

The airport "welcomed a total of 66,069,981 passengers during 2022", representing year-on-year growth of 127 per cent, according to a statement.

In 2021, around 29.1 million passengers passed through Dubai, and the authorities had expected 57 mil-

lion visitors for the year 2022.

India, Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom topped passenger arrivals but Russia has also "been an important contributor", CEO Paul Griffiths said.

"We've seen a huge growth in the Russian market since the... tensions between Ukraine and Russia" started on year ago, he told AFP.

Russians accounted for 1.9 million passengers — more than double the 912,000 recorded for 2021, Griffiths said.

The UAE has maintained a neutral stance towards Russia's war in Ukraine, which is nearing its one-year anniversary.—AFP



The main business hub of the oil-rich United Arab Emirates is home to one of the world's busiest airports. **PHOTO: AFP**

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Japan, US, S Korea hold maritime drills after N Korea ICBM firing

JAPAN carried out joint maritime drills with the United States and South Korea on Wednesday following North Korea's latest launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile late last week, the Defence Ministry said.

The exercises involving the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force's Atago, a destroyer equipped with the Aegis missile interceptor system, as well as US and South Korean Aegis ships, were conducted in the Sea of Japan, the ministry said.

The destroyers were engaged in information sharing on the assumption of ballistic missile launches and other military ac-

tivities by other nations, such as North Korea, the ministry said.

North Korea has recently resumed its provocative missile

firings into the Sea of Japan in protest of joint defense drills by the United States with its East Asian allies.



Aegis ships of (from L) Japan, the United States and South Korea engage in joint maritime drills in the Sea of Japan on 22 February 2023. **PHOTO: JAPANESE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S JOINT STAFF OFFICE / KYODO**

On Saturday, Pyongyang fired a Hwasong-15, an ICBM seen as capable of reaching anywhere on the US mainland, on a lofted trajectory. The United States held air exercises with Tokyo and Seoul, respectively, on Sunday. The missile appeared to have fallen into Japan's exclusive economic zone off its northern territory, but it could travel over 14,000 kilometers on a normal trajectory.

North Korea also fired two ballistic missiles on Monday morning, which seemed to have fallen outside Japan's EEZ, warning of more launches over the Japanese archipelago.—Kyodo

Canadians fearing nuclear apocalypse flock to visit Cold War bunker

A shed on a hillside on the outskirts of Canada's capital hides a Cold War bunker that has been fielding a surge of queries since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, asking if it is operational.

It's now a museum, so the answer of course is no.

Inside, past displays of atomic bombs, a blast tunnel opens up to decontamination showers. There's also a medical clinic, a vault for gold bullion, a radio studio, and a sparse chamber for the prime minister.—AFP

US judge rules 9/11 victims cannot seize Afghan central bank funds

THE families of victims of the 11 September 2011 terror attacks cannot seize \$3.5 billion in funds belonging to Afghanistan's central bank, a New York federal judge ruled Tuesday.

The assets, held in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, were frozen on 15 August 2021 — the day the Taliban entered Kabul and toppled the US-backed Afghan government. US President Joe Biden later said the money could be made available to the families of 9/11 victims.

A group of families — who years earlier sued the Taliban for their losses and won — has since moved to seize the funds to pay off the judgement debt.

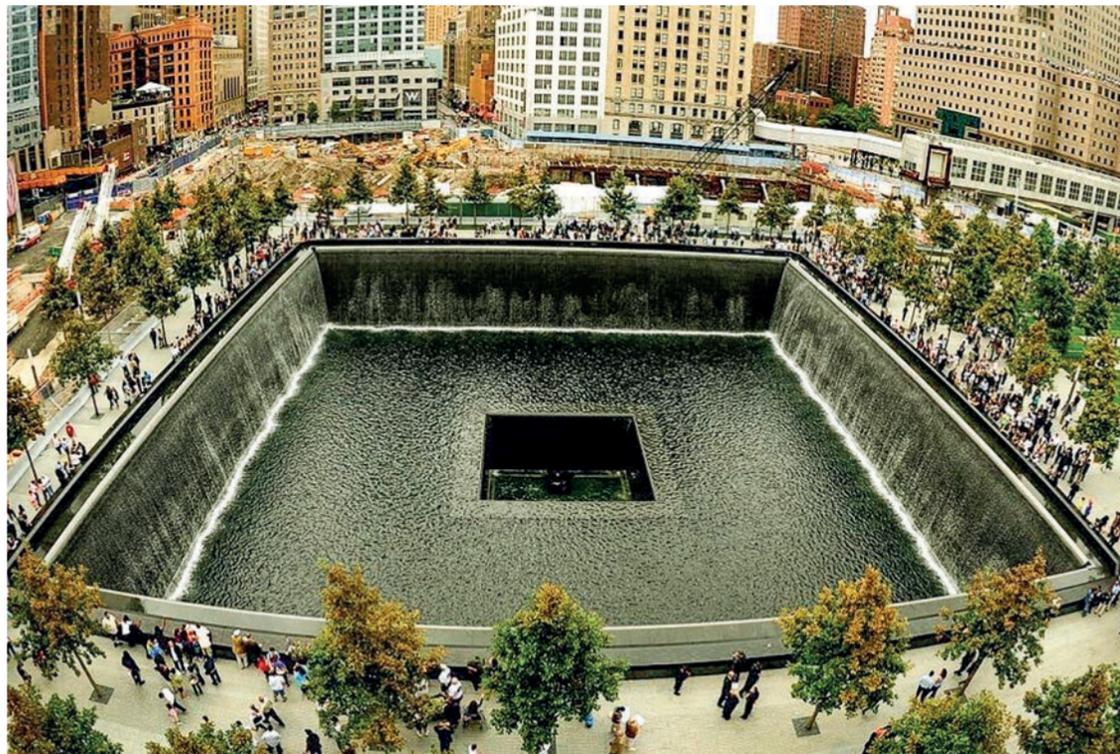
But Judge George Daniels of the Southern District of New York said Tuesday that the fed-

eral courts lack the jurisdiction to seize the funds from Afghanistan's central bank.

"The Judgment Creditors are entitled to collect on their default judgments and be made whole for the worst terrorist attack in our nation's history, but they cannot do so with the funds of the central bank of Afghanistan," Daniels explained in a 30-page opinion.

"The Taliban — not the former Islamic Republic of Afghanistan or the Afghan people — must pay for the Taliban's liability in the 9/11 Attacks."

Daniels also said he was "constitutionally restrained" from awarding the assets to the families because it would effectively mean recognizing the Taliban as the legitimate government of Afghanistan. —AFP



Families line up against the wall of the South Memorial pool during 1^{0th} anniversary ceremonies at the site of the World Trade Centre in New York. PHOTO: AFP

US authorizes extradition to Peru of ex-president Toledo



Former Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo speaks during a press conference in Lima on 10 November 2010. Toledo was arrested 16 July in Menlo Park and faces extradition to Peru to answer to corruption charges. PHOTO: ERNESTO BENAVIDES/AFP/FILE

THE United States has authorized the extradition of former Peruvian president Alejandro Toledo, who served from 2001 to 2006, to face charges of corruption in his home country, Peru's prosecutor's office said Tuesday.

"We have been informed that the US State Department authorized the extradition of Alejandro Toledo Manrique for the crimes of collusion and money laundering," the prosecutor's office said on Twitter. Formally known as the Public Ministry, it said it was coordinating with "national and foreign" authorities for "the upcoming execution of his extradition." —AFP

US returns 77 stolen antiquities back to Yemen

THE United States has returned 77 looted antiquities to Yemen, US authorities said Tuesday, adding the objects would be housed "temporarily" in a museum in Washington in line with an agreement with the war-torn country's government.

The pieces are "64 relief carved stone heads, 11 Quran manuscript pages, a bronze inscribed bowl, and a Funerary Stele" from Minaean tribal cultures in northwest Yemen's highlands dating back to the 1st century BCE, Breon Peace, the district attorney for the Eastern

District of New York, said in a statement.

The announcement was made jointly by the prosecutor's office, the Department of Homeland Security, the State Department, and the Smithsonian Institution, which includes nearly 20 museums in the United States.

New York state's justice department has been carrying out a vast campaign for several years to restore antiquities looted around the world and which have ended up in museums and galleries in the metropolis. —AFP

US plans tough restrictions on asylum seekers

PRESIDENT Joe Biden's administration proposed tough new restrictions on asylum seekers Tuesday, saying it wanted to head off a rush of migrants to the southern border when Covid-related controls are lifted.

The new rules say migrants who arrive at the border and simply cross into the United States will no longer be eligible for asylum.

Instead they have to first go through the process of applying

online through a Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) app, or apply first for asylum in one of the countries they pass through to get to the US border.

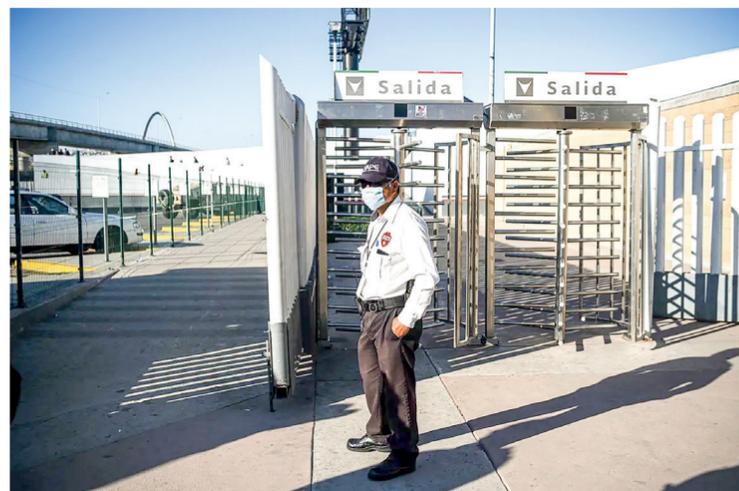
Those processes could potentially be extremely onerous for the 200,000 people who try to cross the border from Mexico to the United States each month.

Most are from Central and South America, and cite poverty and violence back home in requesting asylum.

'Mass chaos'

Migrant rights advocates immediately blasted the new rules as inhumane and illegal, and said they resembled the tough asylum bans announced by former president Donald Trump in 2018-2019, which were eventually overruled by courts.

But the Biden administration said that, in the absence of action from Congress, this is the only way to deal with the border. —AFP



A security guard stands at the entrance of El Chaparral crossing port on the US-Mexico border in Tijuana, Mexico, on 29 February 2020. PHOTO: GUILLERMO ARIAS/AFP/FILE

Europe pays high price for Russia-Ukraine conflict

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SPORT

MFF signs partnership agreement with AYA Bank



Myanmar Football Federation officials exchange the documents at the partnership contract signing ceremony between AYA Bank and MFF. PHOTO: THAW GYI

THE Myanmar Football Federation and Ayeyarwady Bank held a Partnership Contract ceremony on 21 February at Yangon Novotel Hotel Max to cooperate in the development of Myanmar football sports.

Myanmar Football Federation Vice-President Dr Sai Sam Tun and executives, General Secretary U Ko Ko Thein, Myanmar National League Committee Chairman U Zaw Min Thein, Chief Executive Officer U Soe Moe Kyaw and officials, Myanmar National League club owners, officials from sponsoring companies, elite athletes and invitees attended the event.

At the partnership signing ceremony, Myanmar Football Federation Vice-President Dr Sai Sam Tun gave a welcome

speech and U Myint Zaw, Chief Executive Officer of Ayeyarwady Bank, explained the support.

Afterwards, the Myanmar Football Federation and Ayeyarwady Bank signed a partnership agreement, presented souvenirs and took a group photo.

AYA Bank will assist Myanmar National Team, Women's National Team, and Futsal National Team to play international friendly matches, and international football tournaments, and go on overseas training trips.

A total of K10,500,000 is being supported for a year as a partner sponsoring a partnership for the Myanmar Football Federation to operate academies and youth development projects under the Federation.

Alpine drinking water,

RGK+ Z&A Group, Warrix Sporting Goods, PAN sports shoes, and Novotel Yangon Max are also supporting Myanmar Football Federation as co-sponsors.

Next, the Myanmar National League and AYA Pay signed an agreement.

AYA Pay is supporting the 2023 season MNL Championship starting from 21 February as a Supporting Sponsor with K100 million.

SkyNet Television as Host Broadcaster, Genius, 100 Plus, AYA SYMPO, and Warrix as official partners, CP Five Star, Fresh Air Con, Alpine MAX Energy and MAX Cement as co-sponsors are also supporting to host of the 2023 Myanmar National League with AYA Pay. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council: Twelve 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 prioritize 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.
- (d) To ensure peace, stability, rule of law, and the safe and smooth functioning of transport networks across the Union.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to 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 assure support for the sustainability of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, in order to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities.
- (d) To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.

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 people and preserve and safeguard their faiths, beliefs, culture, and characteristics of patriotic nationalism.
- (c) To strengthen basic health care in order to achieve the emergence of a health system that enhances the longevity and health of the entire nation.
- (d) To comprehensively promote the education sector to make it capable of producing the human resources necessary for building a modern, developed, and progressive democratic nation.

Alcaraz halted by rain on brink of victory in Rio opener

WORLD number two Carlos Alcaraz of Spain seized a 6-4, 5-3 lead over Brazilian Mateus Alves before heavy rain washed out play Tuesday at the ATP Rio Open.

Defending champion Alcaraz held serve in the eighth game of the second set to reach the brink of victory in the first-round match as he tries to defend his title on Brazilian clay.

Fresh off winning his seventh career ATP title at last

week's Argentina Open, top seed Alcaraz will finish his match on Wednesday on stadium court to try and book a date in the round of 16.

The 19-year-old Spaniard, who missed four months with injuries before making his 2023 debut last week at Buenos Aires, would next face the winner between Italy's Fabio Fognini and Chile's Tomas Barrios Vera.

Fognini led 6-2, 5-2 when

his match was stopped by the deluge. Alcaraz won five titles last year, capped by a US Open crown for his first major trophy and to become the youngest-ever world number one before surrendering the spot after his injuries.

Alcaraz swatted a forehand winner past 556th-ranked Alves to break for a 4-3 edge and held twice to claim the opening set. — AFP

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz seized a 6-4, 5-3 lead over Brazil's Mateus Alves in a first-round match at the ATP Rio Open before rain postponed the finish until the following day. PHOTO: AFP

