

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Myanmar's economy is not too much declining because of manufacturing export products made from agriculture and livestock farms: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting 7/2022 of the Union government in Nay Pyi Taw on 7 October 2022.

ALL ministries must spend the budget under the appropriate titles without waste, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 7/2022 of the Union government at the SAC Chairman office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

It is the most assured that

efforts are being made to develop the State economy through internal strength

Each government is responsible for the development of the State economy. The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank indicated the minus sign of Myanmar's economic growth. But Myanmar's economy is not too much de-

clining because of manufacturing export products made from agriculture and livestock farms. It should not rely on the external for the economic development of the State. If efforts are made for encouraging local economy as much as possible, it will be the best. Hence, encouragement is being given to MSME industries the ethnic people can operate. If MSMEs use local and internal

raw materials, they will not face shortages of raw materials. The government will disburse loans to MSME businesspersons but they have to pay back the debt to the State at a time. The Senior General said that he adopted the policy for MSMEs to use local raw materials.

If the country can export a large volume of rice to the international market, it will have a

chance to join the role of taking responsibility for food security. More than 17 million acres of monsoon and summer paddy are cultivated in Myanmar. It is necessary to consider the improvement of Yangon, Patheingyi, Sittway and Mawlamyine ports which operate the export of rice overseas.

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Those wishing to enter the legal fold can contact respective townships' Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in addition to reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council has released statements inviting CDM staff, students and youths, who are in border areas and ethnic armed groups, they can contact the nearest reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations if they want to enter the legal fold and the government will guarantee their lives following the rules and regulations.

In order to prevent the unnecessary loss of human resources, the State Administration Council has publicly invited the basic education staff who are absent from duty to resume their duties and those who take part in armed resistance under various names of groups, including PDFs. Meanwhile, 3,156 education workers, who were absent from their duties, another 1,009 people, who want to withdraw the cases that were opened against them, and 231 PDF members have contacted and returned to the legal fold. Then, they were given back to their parents systematically and the numbers of people who enter the legal fold and those who wish to are rising. Therefore, the government is making efforts to accept more numbers of those people.

The government opens reception centres in border areas for those who would like to return to the legal fold. Moreover, those wishing to return home can contact respective townships' Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. It is guaranteed that they will be able to lead their daily lives peacefully.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Objectives of 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2022

- (a) To uplift national prestige and integrity and to preserve the cultural heritage and national characteristics
- (b) To discover, preserve and uplift the traditional cultural heritage of performing arts of ethnic nationals and national cultural characteristics
- (c) To preserve traditional cultural performing arts in order to further revitalize adoration of the State and hand it down to new generation youths
- (d) To contribute much to the restoration of perpetual peace

An Mountain Range eyes more travellers in open season



The beauty of An in the cold season (top).
An valley road (above).
PHOTO :KANU
THE Rakhine State boasts the MraukU cultural area, a collection of cultural heritage to lure local and foreign visitors, and the natural beauties of the

An Mountain Range of Rakhine Yoma (mountain range) are also attractive to travellers.

The Rakhine Yoma, with a chain of mountain ranges, is high in the north and low in the south, separating Rakhine State from other states like a great wall.

The highest mountain in Rakhine is Sun Hill which is 6,527 feet high. An Township is more famous than others for its natural beauty because of the abundance of forests and steep mountains there.

The people visit Ngapali and Sittway beaches to enjoy

the moves and beauties of the oceans in Rakhine. The people also can enjoy the picturesque landscape of Yoma and An township by making short/long trips by car or motorcycle passing the Pyidaungsu Highway on the An Mountain Range of Rakhine Yoma. Tourism entrepreneurs invite travellers to pay visits there in the open season of November, and the image of Rakhine State, beauty of mountain range An city also lures the local/foreign travellers with its natural beauties.

— Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Head of Service
Organization appointed

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Nay Lin from the Ministry of Defence as Director-General of the office of the Union Government on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.



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INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (2022)
“ကြိုတင်သတိပေးထုတ်ပြန်ချက် ဆောလျင်ဆောင်ရွက်အားလုံးအတွက်”
“Early Warning and Early Action for All”
အောက်တိုဘာလ (၁၃) ရက်

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Join the official political platform

I will hold meetings with ethnic armed organizations for the second time. At the same time, I invite other EAOs that have yet to hold talks to participate. If they actually want to serve the interests of their regions and ethnic people, hold discussions, make requests, and join the official political platform, we have kept the door wide open. I would like to invite them to bravely walk in.

(The excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on the Occasion of the Eighteen Months of the Assumption of State Duties by the State Administration Council on 1 August 2022)

Myanmar's economy is not too much declining because of manufacturing export products made from agriculture and livestock farms: Senior General

FROM PAGE-1
One Region One Product

The Senior General said the development of MSME industries and encouragement to primary products of relevant regions. He said: "The next one is related to data and formation of MSME industries. On the other hand, MSME industries need to clearly operate their functions in regions and states and districts. Anyone should not spend their spare time in a working office works. We all need to view productions. MSME industries must be established in major districts and cities of regions and states. The districts producing primary products must be engaged in One Region One Product. More than 120 districts must manufacture more than 120 items of products. For example, Pakokku

must produce good quality textile items. At the ceremony in commemoration of World Tourism Day, blankets and textile wares were exhibited. I saw that Pakokku could show the best quality textile items. Some items may be there I missed the chance to see. The other day, I saw the good quality of the Inma sarong. It was a good quality product. I encourage such businesses to do so. Some regions can produce quality products of rice, beans, bamboo, metals, etc. If the country manufactures the products through One Region One Product, these may catch the attention of tourism at an opportune time."

All-out efforts for the development of regions
Relevant ministries need to cooperate with region-wise

Industrial zone plots are allowed for industries only without housing projects. Industrial zones must prioritize industrial production. Officials need to supervise all tasks under the checklist to have success while seeking advice from subordinates to be able to achieve greater success.

departments for ensuring equitable development of the regions across the nation. Ministries need to hand over the unused budget to the government. All ministries must spend the budget under the appropriate titles without waste. Union ministers reported on sector-wise presentations. In his response, the Senior General said that the ministries operating businesses need to ensure the budget bal-

ance to be able to secure benefits without losses as much as they can.
The Senior General also said that relevant ministries need to solve the problems of MSME businesspersons at the meetings in time. The government will immediately fulfil the needs if necessary. Monsoon and summer paddy, oil crops and beans should be cultivated in double and mix-cropping patterns to increase the income of the State. Industrial zone plots are allowed for industries only without housing projects. Industrial zones must prioritize industrial production. Officials need to supervise all tasks under the checklist to have success while seeking advice from subordinates to be able to achieve greater success. — MNA

SAC member attends ceremony of handing over state flag to ensure success for contestants of Rakhine State

THE ceremony of handing over the state flag to ensure success was held at the U Ottama Hall in Sittway yesterday morning for those who will participate in the 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition. State Administration Council Member Daw Aye Nu Sein, Rakhine State Chief Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Min, Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Htin Latt Oo, Chief Justice Daw Wah Wah Tun of the Rakhine State High Court, state government officials, departmental personnel and contestants attended the event.
The Rakhine State chief minister in the ceremony gave a speech that talented performers



SAC Member Daw Aye Nu Sein poses for the documentary group photo with the attendees at the event.

from regional-level competitions were selected for central-level competitions and expected that contestants were being mindful of their health amid the COVID-19 infection and will bring success with their talents for the pride of Rakhine State.
Next, Rakhine State Gov-

ernment Social Affairs Minister U Aung Myo received the state flag from the chief minister and committed to achieving success. Then, performers from the Rakhine State culture troupe performed Mayeintak choreographed group dance, followed by contestants with classical songs, modern songs, patriotic songs and solo dance.
Afterwards, SAC Member Daw Aye Nu Sein awarded contestants honourable cash prizes and posed for documentary photos with them. It is learnt that a total of 66 contestants will participate in the central-level competition of the 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition. — MNA

Myanmar Rice Conference 2022 successfully concludes



The Myanmar Rice Conference 2022 is in progress yesterday.

THE Myanmar Rice Conference 2022 was successfully held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning with the attendance of

State Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung, Union Commerce Minister U

Aung Naing Oo, ministers of regions and states, experts and businesspersons.

Regarding rice production development, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation discussed the papers on the development of rice cultivation, seeds production and rice purchase, storage, milling and value-added activities.

In addition, the Myanmar Rice Federation, associations, companies and representatives of rice growers discussed the difficulties and the points to support in order to develop and promote rice production.

Senior officers from relevant departments read the papers on the development of Myanmar rice, the role of government in the sustainable development of the rice sector, the national export strategy

and the rice export strategy.

The Myanmar Rice Conference 2022 held on 6 and 7 October was attended by 400 representatives from relevant ministries, the Myanmar Rice Federation and associations and farmers.

During the two days of the conference, the reviews on the development of Myanmar's rice sector such as the collection and cultivation of only good varieties according to regions/states, purchase of fertilizers at a low price, upgrading rice mills to export quality rice and sending delegations abroad to increase exports including the government and the private sectors to carry out together.

The conference was successfully wound up in the afternoon, it is reported. — MNA

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

VACCINATION is being carried out in full swing in various regions and states as the vaccination programme is 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 health-care workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 214 people from Tamway township in Yangon Region, 55,406 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 1,048 people from five townships in Rakhine State, and 3,042 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

In addition, to assist in the control and prevention of the Covid-19 disease, military officers from various military commands in collaboration with district and township administrative officials, departmental personnel and members of civil society organizations (CSOs) conducted 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 Putao and Moenyin townships, Kachin State, Myeik and Dawei townships in Taninthayi Region, 44 townships in Yangon Region, five townships including Mahaaungmye Township in Mandalay Region yesterday. – MNA

376 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 7 October, total figure rises to 625,873

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 625,873 after 376 new cases were reported on 7 October 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 599,888 have recovered from disease. Death toll reaches 19,466 after two deaths.

Myanmar reported 145 COVID-19 deaths between 28-1-2022 and 26-9-2022. Of them, 102 deaths (70 per cent) had underlying chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, liver, kidney, lung and cancer.

According to the analysis of the COVID-19 vaccination rate of deaths with underlying chronic diseases, 81.4 per cent have received no vaccination at all and have not been fully inoculated, 17.2 per cent have received full vaccination and 1.4 per cent has received booster shots.

COVID-19 vaccination rate of deaths with underlying chronic diseases

Out of COVID-19 deaths with underlying chronic disease		
81.4 per cent	17.2 per cent	1.4 per cent
have not been vaccinated at all and have not been fully vaccinated	have been fully vaccinated	have received booster shots

Therefore, according to the analysis of the COVID-19 vaccination rate of deaths with underlying chronic diseases, it causes fewer deaths obviously among those who are fully vaccinated and those who receive the booster shots. The people who are suffering from chronic diseases should follow the COVID-19 health rules, wear face masks and contact the nearest health departments, and village/ward administrative offices to receive the vaccines and booster shots.

More detailed information about COVID-19 can be found on the website of the Ministry of Health: moh.gov.mm. — MNA

CURRENT
AFFAIRS

Bagan cultural zone attracts over 100,000 tourists and homegrown visitors in H1

MORE than 100,000 tourists and homegrown visitors flocked to the ancient Bagan Cultural Zone. A high number of pilgrims are expected to come during the holidays of the Thadingyut Festival, the locals said.

The visit frequency of homegrown visitors during the pandemic significantly dropped compared to the years 2019-2020, Ko Kyaw Htin, a lodge operator of NyaungU, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The number of tourists to the Bagan zone increased in H1 of 2022 compared to the corresponding period in 2021. However, the visit frequency is still lower than those in the previous years prior to COVID-19.

According to the data provided by the Department of

Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan branch), the number of pilgrims is estimated at 700-1,000 per day in September 2022. The zone attracted over 1,000 visitors during weekends.

“The government is implementing tourism development activities in each region and state. Bagan is a major tourism destination. The arrival of tourists declined at present so the sales of souvenirs dropped. Earlier, a group of tourists purchased the souvenirs worth US\$1,000 when they went into a shop”, the GNLM quoted Ko Zaw Tun, a lacquerware maker, as saying.

“I am looking forward to the high number of pilgrims during the Thadingyut holidays. In the past two years, the number of pilgrims fell drastically, forcing

the tour guide to pursue another career,” he added.

During the pandemic, the number of pilgrims to Bu Pagoda and Shwezigon Pagoda was estimated at over 50,000 per month.

“The motor boat businesses bustled with the passengers in October-December. Now, those boats are waiting for the guests at the riverbank,” said a motor-boat operator.

A total of 106,844 tourists and homegrown visitors entered the Bagan Cultural Zone in the Jan-June period of 2022.

“In 2019, all the hotels and guesthouses were occupied. The number of visitors has decreased amid the COVID-19 impacts and security concerns on road transport triggered by the political changes. The hotel



The Bagan-NyaungU area was crowded with tourists and homegrown visitors in 2018.

and motel businesses are offering a discount on social media to attract home-grown visitors. We have received room booking for the Thadingyut holidays,” an official of a hotel said in a phone

interview with the GNLM.

A total of 684,892 visitors were recorded to visit the famous pagodas across the nation in the first half of 2022. – TWA/GNLM

Death toll of Pwint Nay Chi theatrical troupe vehicle accident reaches 11



An advert sign of the Pwint Nay Chi theatrical troupe.

ON the night of October 6, the death toll reached 11 people in the car accident of the Pwint Nay Chi theatrical troupe on the Myawady-Kawkareik Asia Highway, Kayin State, according to the Mon State Police Force.

The accident left five people dead and 23 injured at the scene in the downhill of Khunchangwe on the Myawady-Kawkareik Asia Highway at about 4 pm on 5 October. It is known that the truck was unable to control its speed and slipped through the road.

Mon State Police Force stated there were nine men and two women – 11 in total — dead to date. Dead bodies were transported to the Painnagon cemetery and the injured were sent to the Mawlamyine hospital from the Myawady hospital for further treatment by welfare associations. — TWA/GNLM

58th mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium comes about in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 58th mid-year Myanmar Gem Emporium will take place at the Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw between 19 and 25 October, according to the Central Committee on Organizing the Myanmar Gems Emporium.

The central committee will hold this emporium under the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. Myanmar’s precious gems for pearl, jade and gems lots will be exhibited at the emporium.

The first Myanmar Gems Emporium was held at Inya Lake Hotel in 1964. Last April, the central committee held its 57th Myanmar Gems Emporium at the Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw between

22 and 28 April.

At the 57th Myanmar Gems Emporium, the proceeds were levied at 11 per cent gem tax

upon jade lots, three per cent upon service tax and five per cent commercial tax upon pearl lots. —TWA/GNLM



Gem merchants check jade lots at the Maniradana Jade Hall in the 57th Myanmar Gems Emporium.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Fuel prices rebound to K2,000 per litre

THE price of Octane 92 has gone up to K2,000 per litre again, according to the fuel oil market.

The fuel prices fluctuated starting from the last week of September. On 5 October, oil prices fell to K1,880 per litre for Octane 92, K1,950 for Octane 95, K2,565 for premium diesel and K2,480 for diesel. The prices rebounded to K2,000 for Octane 92, K2,045 for Octane 95, K2,790 for premium diesel and K2,705 for diesel on 7 October, showing an increase of K100-200 per litre within two days.

The domestic fuel prices are tracking the rise in price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in southeast Asia, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distri-

bution of Fuel Oil.

The committee is governing the fuel oil storage and distribution sector effectively not to have a shortage of oil in the domestic market and ensuring price stability for energy consumers.

The committee draws up Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on fuel import, storage and distribution and sends reports of fuel import matters to the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee. Last September, fuel importers had an import quota of 233,594.60 tonnes of fuel oil, with 80,499 tonnes of gasoline and 153,095.60 tonnes of diesel.

The Petroleum Products Inspection and Supervision Department, under the guidance of the committee, is issuing the daily reference rate

for oil to offer a reasonable price to energy consumers. The reference rate is set on the MOPS' price assessment, shipping cost, profit margin, premium insurance and other general costs.

The rates for regions and states other than Yangon are evaluated after adding the transportation cost and the retail reference rates daily cover on the state-run newspapers and are posted on the media and official website and Facebook page of the department on a daily basis starting from 4 May.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. The domestic fuel price is highly correlated with international prices. The



Myanmar also poses only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate.

State is steering the market to mitigate the loss between the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar. How-

ever, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than Myanmar.

Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also poses only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. — NN/GNLM

Broken rice price slightly falls

THE price of broken rice has declined, according to the Wadan Rice Wholesale Centre.

The price of broken rice was K45,000 per 108-pound bag on 30 September. The price dropped to K38,000 per bag on 7 October, reflecting a significant decrease of K7,000 per bag within 15 days.

Additionally, the prices of rice also move down in the domestic markets. The prices of high-Pawsan rice varieties decreased from K93,000 per bag on 30 September to K90,000 per bag on 7 October.

Fluctuation of the exchange rate is positively related to the prices of rice and broken rice. At present, the market is quite slow-moving. Additionally, the supply of new rice is seen in the market.

Therefore, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association, Myanmar Rice Millers Association, and traders involved in rice wholesale centres (Wadan and Bayintnaung) have offered rice at a cheaper rate from 3 August every day between 9 am and 3:30 pm except for 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/GNLM



An advert of Myanmar broken rice on an external website.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal animals, communication devices, foodstuffs, consumer goods, motorbike parts and vehicles confiscated

SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, effective action is being taken to prevent illegal trade under the law.

An on-duty team under the supervision of the Customs Department made inspections at the Asia World Container Terminal Checkpoint.

Officials captured K12,505,500 worth of communication devices and CCTV cameras and accessories that arrived 60 days before the licence approval on 4 October and K8,780,475 worth of household appliances without the Import Declaration (ID) on 5 October. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Afterwards, a combined team led by Myanmar Police Force captured an unregistered Kenbo 125 (estimated value of K200,000) in Shwebo township on 5 October; an unregistered Toyota Mark II car (approximately K3.5 million) at the Yadanabon Bridge Combined Checkpoint. The action was taken under the



Seized illegal foodstuffs.

Export and Import Law.

In addition, a combined team under the management of the Ayeyawady Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force at the Pantine Checkpoint seized 16 illegal draught and dairy cattle worth K8 million on 6 October. The action was taken under the Important Goods and Services Act.

Similarly, the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint in Mon State confiscated K2,086,560 worth of motorbike parts that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a trailer and a Scania Tractor Head (ap-

proximately K115 million) heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

The Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint captured 51 cartons of orange worth K1.53 million without official documents from a vehicle. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Therefore, 11 arrests estimated at K176,442,535 were made on consecutive days from 5 to 7 October, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Federal probe finds evidence of Hunter Biden tax crimes: report

FEDERAL agents investigating Hunter Biden, the son of US President Joe Biden, believe they have evidence of tax crimes and it will be up to a prosecutor to decide whether to bring any charges, The Washington Post reported Thursday.

The newspaper, citing people familiar with the case, said investigators also believe they have sufficient evidence to charge the younger Biden with making a false statement in connection with a gun purchase.

It would be up to the US Attorney in Delaware, an appointee of former president Donald Trump, to decide whether to file



Federal investigators indicate they have enough to charge Hunter Biden: report. **PHOTO: MOSES ROBINSON/AFP**

charges against the 52-year-old Biden.

Hunter Biden, a lawyer and lobbyist, acknowledged in a statement in December 2020 that his tax affairs were under federal investigation and denied any wrongdoing.

From 2014 to 2019, while his father was vice president, Hunter Biden served notably on the board of Burisma, a Ukrainian gas company.

Trump was impeached by the US House of Representatives in 2019 for trying to pressure Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky into digging up what he alleged was compromising

information on Hunter Biden.

According to the Post, federal agents believe they have gathered sufficient evidence to charge Hunter Biden with tax crimes and lying on gun purchase paperwork in 2018.

The newspaper said US Attorney General Merrick Garland has left any decision on whether charges should be brought in the hands of David Weiss, the US Attorney in Delaware, the Bidens' home state.

A lawyer for Hunter Biden, Chris Clark, told the Post that federal agents are not allowed to leak information to the media. —AFP

Germany's passenger car market sees strongest growth in more than a year

GERMANY'S passenger car market saw the strongest growth in more than a year in September, with registrations of new passenger cars increasing by 14 per cent year-on-year to almost 225,000 units, to the Federal Motor Transport Authority (KBA) said on Thursday.

The development is "encouraging," said Reinhard Zirpel, president of the Association of International Motor Vehicle Manufacturers

(VDIK).

However, the level of new car registrations still remains well below the long-term average, he said, with growth mainly based on an "extremely weak month last year, and a reduction of the purchase application backlog built up in previous months".

In the first nine months of the year, new registrations were down seven per cent year-on-year. The balance is "sobering," Zirpel said. —Xinhua



Germany's government is aiming to have 15 million pure electric cars on the road by 2030. An employee of German car maker Volkswagen works on an assembly line. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

IMF chief highlights "fundamental shift" in global economy

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief said Thursday there is a "fundamental shift" in the global economy, urging countries to bring down inflation, put in place responsible fiscal policy, and jointly support emerging market and developing economies. The global economy is moving "from a world of relative predictability – with a rules-based framework for international economic cooperation, low interest rates, and low inflation... to a world with more fragility – greater uncertainty, higher economic volatility, geopolitical confrontations, and more frequent and devastating natural disasters," IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said in a curtain raiser speech ahead of the 2022 Annual Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank scheduled next week.

Stressing the urgency to stabilize the economy, Georgie-



A street food vendor sets up his stall and waits for customers at Galle Face promenade in Colombo. **PHOTO: ISHARA S. KODIKARA / AFP**

va noted that global outlook has darkened by multiple shocks, among them a war, and inflation has become more persistent.

The IMF has downgraded its growth projections already three times since October last year, to only 3.2 per cent for 2022 and 2.9 per cent for 2023, the IMF chief said, adding that the global institution will downgrade growth for next year in its updated World Economic Outlook

next week.

"We will flag that the risks of recession are rising," she noted. The IMF estimates that countries accounting for about one-third of the world economy will experience at least two consecutive quarters of contraction this or next year. "And, even when growth is positive, it will feel like a recession because of shrinking real incomes and rising prices," she added. —Xinhua

Brazil police seize gold, bling in crypto scam crackdown

BRAZILIAN police said Thursday they had seized gold bars, luxury watches, piles of cash and other bling in a crackdown on a group accused of mounting an international, multi-million-dollar pyramid scheme using fake cryptocurrency investments.

The group is accused of swindling thousands of inves-

tors in Brazil, the United States and at least 10 other countries by convincing them to "rent" cryptocurrency assets, allegedly offering returns of up to 20 per cent a month, federal police said in a statement.

In reality, "while part of the money was used to make the monthly payments, the rest was

used to acquire high-value real estate, luxury cars, boats, designer clothes, jewels and other items" for the suspects themselves, police said.

The crackdown, which involved around 100 police officers, came after the US Department of Homeland Security tipped Brazilian authorities off to a multi-mil-

lion-dollar money-laundering case involving a cryptocurrency Ponzi scheme based out of Brazil.

The group is accused of moving up to four billion reais (\$770 million) in Brazil alone over the course of six years.

The scheme's alleged mastermind — dubbed the "Bitcoin Sheik" in the press — was based

in the city of Curitiba, in southern Brazil, where he claimed to have assembled a large team of crypto traders.

The group, which included many of his family members, also sold its own supposed cryptocurrencies, promising extravagant monthly returns, police said. —AFP

OPINION

Give shelters to migratory birds to show a good environment

IT CAN be assumed that habitats or residences of living beings, especially humans and animals, moving activities and food supply activities are a must to be affected to conserve the natural environment. These activities are the nature of living beings and unchangeable universal truths.

Living beings move from one place to another to have easy access to food, clothing and shelter for the security of their lives. Of them, birds have the right to move from one place to another whenever they lose resilience in inhabiting their habitats. As such, the birds from the northern part of the world can fly to the southern part to shelter in the cold season. Reciprocally, the birds from the southern part of the world fly into the northern part to take shelter in the whole bad weather.

Their moves aim to save and rescue themselves from bad situations and weather.

As part of marking the moves of birds wishing to migrate from one region to another one, called migratory birds, the World Migratory Bird Day is organized by a collaborative partnership between two UN treaties such as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) -and the non-profit organization, Environment for the Americas (EFTA).

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is an awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. It aims to draw attention to the threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and the need for international cooperation to conserve them. It is celebrated bi-annually on the second Saturday in May and in October. Dim the Lights for Birds at Night! the theme of this year's celebration of World Migratory Bird Day 2022 is a must for highlighting the difficult habitats of migratory birds which face illegally hunting, loss of natural environment such as wetlands, lakes, forests, climatic conditions, and so on. The degradation of the natural environment affects the declining number of migratory birds in the country.

The flying of migratory birds to habitats in the country proves the good nature of the environment. If not, they will not turn to dangerous habitats. Otherwise, these birds will give a chance to residents to watch the beautiful scenes of migratory birds, catching the attention of local and foreign tourists. Throughout the year, the message “dim the lights for birds at night” and the steps individuals, communities, and governments can take to reduce the impact of light pollution on shared birds.

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Contact with Extraterrestrial Intelligence(s): false alarms but ‘glorious isolations’?

4 October 2022 is the 65th anniversary of the launch of the world's first satellite *Sputnik 1* on 4 October 1957. There are a few other anniversaries in human space exploration to commemorate.

ET movie's 40th anniversary and false alarms of radio signals from extraterrestrials

In June 1982 the movie ‘ET’ directed by Steven Spielberg (born on 18 December 1946) was first shown in cinemas throughout the United States. *ET* is a movie about an extraterrestrial trapped (temporarily) on Earth before ‘ET goes home’.

Fast forward 40 years to the month. In June 2022 there was (temporarily) a news item which appeared on a website maintained by relevant personnel and astronomers from the People's Republic of China. The news item stated that they have received what they believed to be radio signals from an ‘alien civilization’. Apparently, within hours of the website announcing this ‘breakthrough’, it was removed. It turned out to be a non-event. See e.g., ‘China’s “alien” signal almost certainly came from humans’ www.livescience.com/china-did-not-detect-aliens (accessed 5 July 2022) Interestingly but unsurprisingly throughout the decades a few ephemeral radio signals, which some astronomers initially thought, were of extraterrestrial origin were proven to be false alarms. Even if they were not so the conjectures (by no means ‘scientific evidence’) of radio signals from ‘ET’ were at best inconclusive. Not even a tentative hypothesis can be made that these radio signals ‘emanate’ from extra-terrestrial civilizations.

Over 40 years after *Chariots*, in 2010, the cosmologist Paul Davies (born 22 April 1946) published his book *The Eerie Silence: Renewing the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence*. It explores scientifically and, in the complimentary sense of the word, imaginatively the search for and the possible existence of extraterrestrial civilizations. After an extensive discussion of the pros and cons, it was, to this dillatante interested in the subject, somewhat disappointing that Davies seems sceptical -about the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence(s). Davies does not

Chariot of the Gods to The Eerie Silence: two very different contemporary ‘ET’ publications

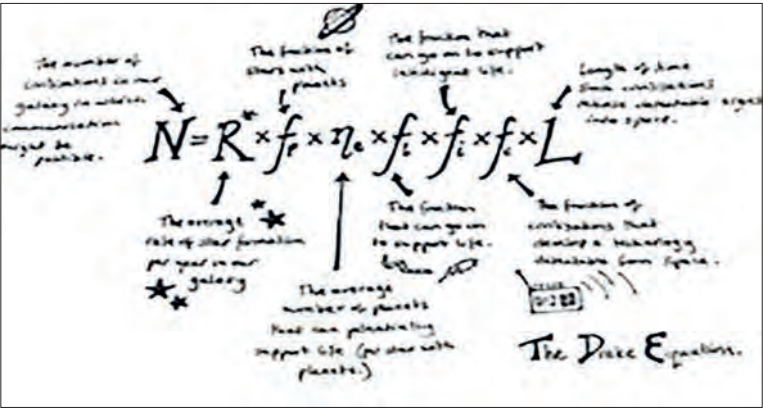
In the year 1968 Eric von Daniken (born 14 April 1935)



published a book initially titled *Chariots of the Gods?* (Later editions left out the question mark in the title). Von Daniken in effect claimed that among others the Pyramids were built by the ‘gods’ coming from (perhaps) ‘a galaxy far, far away’. (That phrase does not appear in *Chariots of the Gods* but yours truly has mischievously borrowed the term used in the 1977 movie *Star Wars*). Von Daniken did not state in *Chariots* the ‘home’ of those aliens who built pyramids and airstrips (for the alien star ships to land?) in ancient times. Von Daniken and -one hopes- some of his readers should know that the aliens could not have come from within our Solar system. Even in 1968, it is almost common knowledge for the informed public that apart from the Earth no extraterrestrial ‘intelligence’ resided in any of the planets or the moons of the planets in the Solar system.

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(2004) and *From Extraterrestrials to Animal Minds Six Myths of Evolution* (2022) Conway Morris virtually unequivocally asserts that *homo sapiens* are the only ‘intelligence’ in the whole Universe. Sagan’s last book was titled *Billions and Billions: Thoughts on Life and Death at the Brink of the Millennium*. In the Milky Way galaxy alone the number of stars is in the ‘billions and billions’. And there could be other billions of galaxies in what they say as the ‘known Universe’ (This discounts the new albeit very tentative cosmological concept of ‘Multiverse’). In these trillions of stars and billions of galaxies that constitute the Universe or Multiverse are we humans literally, ‘gloriously’ alone? The sweep of Conway Morris’ arrogant ‘homocentric’ (so to speak) assertion of human uniqueness cosmologically and (pertaining to the Universe) Universally is in the most uncomplimentary sense of the word staggering. In quite a few senses this claim is (almost) ‘more to be pitied than censured’.

Carl Sagan’s postulate that there could be millions of civilizations in the Milky Way galaxy can be said to be broad, optimistic, presumptuous and unrealistic. But it is shorn of the arrogance and the dogma of Conway Morris’ claim. Spending a few hundred million dollars on SETI research Evolutionist and philosopher of biology Ernst Mayr (5 July 1904- 3 February 2005) published a few collections of his essays on

his 100th birthday in a book titled *What Makes Biology Unique Considerations on the Autonomy of a Scientific Discipline*. In one of his essays in his last book, Mayr argued that funds spent on SETI are a waste of money. Mayr did not, unlike Conway Morris, unequivocally assert or insist that extraterrestrial civilizations do not exist. He merely expressed his opinion that funds spent on SETI research are a waste of money. Carl Sagan and other SETI enthusiasts have disagreed with Mayr. This writer would point out that perhaps a few billion dollars were spent starting from the 1980s for about 25 years on the inane Strategic Defence Initiative (known as ‘Star Wars’ since it envisages developing laser weapons in Space) first touted by the ‘great phoney’ (rather than ‘great communicator’) Ronald Reagan (6 February 1911- 5 June 2004) Carl Sagan had spoken out against this ‘Star Wars’ initiative/project (not the movie).

There is no disadvantage in spending a few hundred million dollars on SETI. The People’s Republic of China, apparently, in July 1969, did not officially report news of the first moon landing by astronauts from the United States. But in 2022 if not years earlier as evident from the news item mentioned above Chinese astronomers have been conducting SETI research.

ing the topic?

The late astronomer Frank Donald Drake (28 May 1930- 2 September 2022) is considered one of the leading pioneers of SETI research. At apparently the first extraterrestrial meeting attended by ten SETI enthusiasts in 1961 Frank Drake devised what later came to be known as the ‘Drake equation’. In a very rough sense, the Drake equation estimates the possibilities of extraterrestrial intelligence in the Universe. In a certain sense it is not as straightforward and for that matter practically speaking useful as the much more well-known equations of F equals MA or E equals MC square.

One does not know whether Conway Morris discusses or not the Drake equation in his willy-nilly insistence that there is no extraterrestrial intelligence at all in the whole Universe or Multiverse.

What would Frank Drake, a leading and distinguished SETI pioneer and researcher, comment on Conway Morris’ assertion that there are no ‘ETs’?

An astronomer has in 2021 published a book claiming not only the existence of ETs but even the (pilotless, see below) ‘vehicle’ used by extraterrestrials to roam across parts of the cosmos. I refer to the book *Extraterrestrial The First Sign of Intelligent Life Beyond Earth* by Harvard astronomer Avi Loeb (born 26 February 1962). Loeb’s book was first published in January 2021 and was on the *New York Times* best sellers’ list. Loeb in effect claims that an extra-solar system object named *Oumuamua* (formal designation 11/2017 U 1) is arguably a device or vehicle of extraterrestrial origin. Apparently coming from outside of the Solar system and between 100 meters to 1000 meters long *Oumuamua* was, when it was first observed in 2017, already leaving the solar system. Loeb is of the view that *Oumuamua*

is of the view that *Oumuamua* apparently is an ‘extraterrestrial vehicle’. It obviously does not contain an extraterrestrial *in situ* (in the vehicle) ‘pilot’. Notwithstanding the sterling scientific credentials in the cosmology of Avi Loeb this writer is very sceptical indeed he would reject this part of Loeb’s claim. (Incidentally, Conway Morris also has sterling credentials in palaeontology but not cosmology. That does not mean statements made by both Loeb and Conway Morris outside of or even within their fields of specialization are not to be challenged or refuted.) When Professor Frank Drake formulated the Drake equation in 1961 the future Professor Avi Loeb was not even born. What would Frank Drake – a SETI pioneer and enthusiast of more than sixty years think of the possible attribution of (extraterrestrial) ‘artificiality’ to the (human) football field size *Oumuamua* ‘space-faring’ object?

By Dr Myint Zan

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Just like Loeb’s book first published in January 2021 Conway Morris most recent book published in March 2022 also had the word ‘Extraterrestrial’ in its title. Did Conway Morris refer to Loeb’s claim in his book? As one who objects to (let’s not mince words) Conway Morris’ claims and as a sceptic of Loeb’s claim at least regarding *Oumuamua* I raise this query. Nevertheless, I am not that interested in what Conway Morris thinks of Loeb’s claim beyond mentioning it.

‘Glorious isolations’ of extremely, almost infinitesimally rare Extraterrestrial Civilizations?

In this article, this writer has ‘dropped’ quite a few names. Most of the canvassed views regarding the ET topic are from distinguished scientists (*sans* von Daniken). Here without attributing sources but very *unoriginal* thoughts of this writer

can be stated:

Carl Sagan’s views of millions of ET civilizations in the Milky Way galaxy alone may be much more than a tad optimistic. This writer’s guess (repeat guess) is that in the Milky Way galaxy with its billions (and billions) of stars there may be perhaps a few dozen ET civilizations which develop the technology of radio astronomy. Perhaps the ability to travel (pilotless or with pilots to use a human term) at say even half the speed of light for intra-galactic travel could be developed by even fewer ET civilizations. (The speed of light is 186,282 miles per second.)

According to cosmologists, the Earth would be consumed so to speak by our Sun roughly five billion years hence. If say a million years, a hundred thousand years or even a thousand years from now humanity (if they survive to the time-frames indicated above) were able to travel outside the solar system in ‘star ships’ they may still be wondering whether ETs exist. The newly discovered ‘exo planets’ (as of now at most several thousands of them) orbiting their own Suns might have developed or are developing inchoate forms of life. In a very few exoplanets within the Milky Way galaxy what humans might have called super-human intelligence capable of (intra) galactic travel say half – or even ¼ the speed of light might have developed. But before such technologies were fully put to use by those postulated extraterrestrials their Suns could have died out ‘taking’ them and their technologies and civilizations. These extraterrestrials in their own glorious isolations and in their own ways, might have wondered, researched, postulated and debated the existence or otherwise of ‘other’ extraterrestrial civilizations.

US flies Russian cosmonaut to ISS as Ukraine conflict rages

A SpaceX capsule carrying a Russian crew member docked Thursday with the International Space Station on a NASA mission that carries significant symbolism amid the war in Ukraine.

The Crew Dragon spaceship “Endurance” blasted off Wednesday from Florida and rendezvoused with the orbiting research outpost some 30 hours later, docking at 5:01 pm Eastern Time (2301 GMT).

“Crew-5 is happy to have



(L-R) Russian cosmonaut Anna Kikina, NASA astronaut Josh Cassada, NASA astronaut Nicole Mann, and Japanese astronaut Koichi Wakata. **PHOTO: AFP**

finally arrived at the International Space Station,” said commander Nicole Mann, the first Native American woman in space.

“We are looking forward to getting to work.”

Also aboard: Koichi Wakata of Japan, Josh Cassada of the United States and Anna Kikina of Russia, the only female cosmonaut currently in service.

Around two hours after docking, hatches will open al-

lowing the crew to join seven others already on the station: two Russians, four Americans, and an Italian.

Two weeks ago, an American astronaut took off on a Russian Soyuz rocket for the orbital platform.

The long-planned astronaut exchange programme has been maintained despite soaring tensions between the United States and Russia since Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine in February.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Climate change made 2022 drought ‘at least 20 times likelier’

HUMAN-CAUSED climate change made this summer’s drought across the Northern Hemisphere at least 20 times more likely, according to a rapid analysis released Wednesday that warns such extreme dry periods will become increasingly common with global heating.

The three months from June-August were the hottest in Europe since records began, and the exceptionally high temperatures led to the worst drought the continent has witnessed since the Middle Ages.

Crops withered in European breadbaskets, as the historic dry spell drove record wildfire intensity and placed severe pressure on the continent’s power grid.

Successive heatwaves between June and July, which saw temperatures top 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) in Britain for the first time, saw some 24,000 excess deaths in Europe.

China and North America also experienced unusually high temperatures and exceptionally low rainfall over the period.

An international team of climate scientists have determined the warming caused by human activity made such extreme weather significantly more likely than it would have been at the dawn of the industrial age. —AFP

Sydney smashes annual rainfall records

AUSTRALIA’S most populous city Sydney smashed a 70-year annual rainfall record Thursday after a year marked by devastating east coast floods.

By early afternoon, Sydney had registered its highest annual rainfall total on record – 2,216 millimetres – with some 86 days still left until the end of the year.

Sydney’s previous wettest year was 1950, when there were 2,194 millimetres of rain.

It was the highest figure recorded since annual rainfall data for the city of Sydney were first collected in 1858.

With a La Nina weather pattern forecast to bring a wetter-than-average summer, it is likely the final 2022 tally will be significantly higher.

Sydney, along with the broader state of New South Wales, is bracing for another heavy deluge this weekend.

State emergency services minister Steph Cooke said Thursday that more rain could have a severe impact. “We know that our catchments are saturated, our dams are full, and our rivers are already swollen. So any additional rainfall, no matter how minor, is likely to exacerbate flooding circumstances,” she said.—AFP

Kenya lobby groups protest lifting of ban on GM crops

Potatoes in Kenya are an important subsistence crop; there are approximately 25 000 to 30 000 hectares grown annuallyA potato variety genetically engineered to resist potato blight can help reduce the use of chemical fungicides by up to 90 per cent. **PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/JULIAN STRATENSCHULTE/AFP/FILE**

ACTIVISTS and agriculture lobby groups on Thursday urged Kenya’s government to reverse its decision to lift a long-standing ban on genetically modified crops as the country struggles with a crippling drought.

The government of newly elected President William Ruto on Monday allowed the open cultivation and import of GM crops, saying it was in response to the drought — the worst to hit the country in 40 years.

But activists protested the move, raising concerns over the safety of GM foods in a joint statement signed by nearly a dozen groups, including Greenpeace Africa.

“Food security is not just (about) the amount of food but the quality and safety of food,” the statement said.

“Our cultural and indigenous food have proved to be safer, with diverse nutrients and with less harmful chemical inputs.”—AFP

Death toll in Indian Himalayas avalanche rises to 19

AT least 19 people are confirmed dead after an avalanche struck climbers in the Indian Himalayas, authorities said Friday, with bad weather hampering the fourth day of search and rescue efforts.

A group of climbing trainees and instructors were caught in Tuesday’s massive snowslide near the summit of Mount Draupadi ka Danda II in the northern state of Uttarakhand.

“Nineteen bodies have been recovered. 10 people are still missing,” state disaster agency spokesperson Ridhim Aggarwal told AFP.

“Rescue operations have resumed for the day but are subject to weather,” she added.

Authorities are still conducting rescue operations in the Indian Himalayas in search of 26 missing climbers struck by an avalanche that killed at least four members of their expedition. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

“The weather is bad.”

Police, disaster authorities and the Indian air force have been mobilized to help with search efforts, with 32 people successfully rescued from the mountain despite snow and rain-fall.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Air travel rebounds but still suffering from pandemic

AIR travel rose sharply in the northern hemisphere summer, traditionally the peak vacation travel season, but still remains considerably affected by the pandemic, industry data showed Thursday.

Total air traffic in August soared up by two thirds from the same time last year, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said, but was still only at 73.7 per cent of its pre-Covid level.

With pandemic travel restrictions having been removed in North America and Europe, and in parts of Asia, there was



With pandemic travel restrictions having been removed in North America and Europe, and in parts of Asia, there was pent up demand to travel. **PHOTO: AFP**

pent up demand to travel. Asia experienced the biggest rebound, where traffic more than tripled. “While the region experienced the strongest year-over-

year growth, remaining travel restrictions in China continue to hamper the overall recovery for the region,” said IATA, a trade association that brings together most of the world’s major airline groups.

IATA Director-General Willie Walsh said in the association’s regular monthly update that the season “finished on a high note”.

“Considering the prevailing economic uncertainties, travel demand is progressing well,” added the former head of IAG, the parent company of British Airways.

While referencing concerns

of a global recession and soaring inflation, IATA did not mention staff shortages and strikes that have hobbled airlines and airports.

Several European airports have limited the number of flights airlines may operate due to a lack of ground staff.

In June, IATA forecast passenger traffic would hit its pre-pandemic level in 2024, after having plunged by 60 per cent in 2020 as countries closed borders to slow the spread of Covid-19.

The association expects the airline industry to return to profit next year.—AFP

Türkiye faces looming wave of COVID-19 infections as cases in Europe surge

TURKISH health authorities and experts have warned that Türkiye might face another

wave of COVID-19 infections within a few weeks due to the rising number of cases in Eu-

rope. According to a report from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, 15 European countries are witnessing increasing cases. It’s the first spike in coronavirus cases across the region since the latest BA.5 wave began.

The COVID-19 waves in Europe have often signalled future increases in Türkiye.

Turkish Health Minister Fahrettin Koca told reporters last week that the surges in Europe “usually affect Türkiye within three to four weeks” and they anticipated that Türkiye would have a similar increase in infections.—Xinhua



In this photograph taken on 15 February 2021 doctor Sergen Saracoglu (L) and nurse Yilzdiz Ayten (C) from the Bahcesaray public hospital vaccination team, arrive at the village of Guneyyamac in eastern Türkiye, as part of an expedition to vaccinate residents of 65 years old or above with Sinovac’s CoronaVac Covid-19 vaccine. **PHOTO: BULENT KILIC/AFP / FILE**

Malta spends over 1.6 bln euros on COVID support measures



People queue outside tents set up for either COVID-19 positive or in quarantine voters to cast their vote in Zejtun on 26 March 2022 during Malta’s general election. **PHOTO: AFP**

MALTA has spent more than 1.6 billion euros (1.58 billion US dollars) on support measures since the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in 2020, the country’s Finance Minister Clyde Caruana said on Wednesday.

Of the 1.66 billion euros spent on tackling coronavirus, 1.5 billion euros came from the national treasury. Some 150 million euros

was provided through the European Social Fund and the Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe (REACT-EU). Just over 662 million euros were spent on measures in 2020, the Finance Minister explained. This increased to just over 706 million euros in 2021, but support dropped to just under 300 million in 2022.—Xinhua

HEALTH: TOP HEADLINES

Over 55% more people may die from liver cancer by 2040: Research

ACCORDING to a recent estimate, primary liver cancer was one of the top three causes of cancer death in 46 nations in 2020, and by 2040, the number of primary liver cancer diagnoses and deaths could increase by more than 55% annually. In a recent article in the Elsevier-published Journal of Hepatology, researchers demand that measures to control the disease be given priority.

Senior author Isabelle So-

erjomataram, MD, PhD, International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC/WHO), Cancer Surveillance Branch, Lyon, France, stated: “Liver cancer generates a large burden of disease globally each year.” Major risk factors for the disease include hepatitis B and C viruses, alcohol use, excess body weight, and metabolic diseases including type 2 diabetes. It is also completely preventable if control efforts are addressed.—ANI

Botswana launches health institute to respond to infectious disease threats

BOTSWANA Health Ministry on Tuesday launched the Public Health Institute (BPHI), which will enable the southern African country to quickly help stop, detect and respond to infectious disease threats before they become epidemics.

Minister of Health Edwin Dikoloti said during the BPHI reference committee’s

inaugural meeting in Gaborone, Botswana’s capital, that the meeting demonstrates high-level commitment and leadership toward building the necessary capacity for health security and overall health system resilience.

“BPHI is a scientifically-driven unit to consolidate public health function, will serve to harness and pro-

mote local public health research and development and response,” he said.

He noted that the BPHI will enable Botswana to participate strategically on a local, regional and international level by contributing to the growing scientific knowledge and evidence and finding solutions specific to their region and communities.—Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

EU leaders struggle for common response to energy crisis

EU leaders meeting in Prague on Friday looked to bridge divisions on how to tackle soaring energy prices as they grapple with the fallout from Russia’s war on Ukraine.

President Volodymyr Zelensky was dialling in from Kyiv as the bloc looks to maintain its economic and military support for Ukraine and hold a tough line against Moscow.

EU leaders were also discussing how to better protect their critical infrastructure in the wake of leaks from the Russia-Europe Nord Stream gas pipelines that have been blamed on “sabotage”.

But it was the sharp disagreements over how to tackle the energy crisis that were the major focus of attention as the 27 nations wrangled over the best plan to try to bring down prices.

Europe is facing an energy crunch as the price of electricity generation skyrockets because of a massive surge in gas prices caused by Russia turning off the taps.

Governments across the bloc are scrambling to lower the costs for their consumers, but they rely on different sources for their energy and are split over the solutions.—AFP



EU leaders have disagreed over how to tackle soaring energy costs. **PHOTO: AFP**

Bringing down inflation will take time, more rate hikes: Fed officials

THE United States will require further interest rate hikes in order to cool the world’s largest economy and rein in high prices, Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook said Thursday.

As US annual inflation has soared to the fastest in 40 years, the Fed has moved aggressively this year to tamp down demand, raising the interest rates five times, for a total of three percentage points. And the central bank has said more increases are likely to come this year.

“Inflation remains stubbornly and unacceptably high, and data over the past few months show that inflationary pressures



Prices have surged over the past year, partly due to global supply chain problems that created shortages of key parts such as semiconductors needed for cars and electronics, as well as a shortage of workers. **PHOTO: AFP**

remain broad-based,” Cook said in her first speech as a member of the US central bank’s board.—AFP

French motorists scramble for fuel as strike cuts supply



Totalenergies runs a network of around 3,500 stations in France, nearly a third of the total, with most of them low on fuel. **PHOTO: NICOLAS TUCAT / AFP**

FRUSTRATED motorists faced more chaos at petrol pumps across France on Friday as a strike at energy giant Totalenergies entered its 12th day.

Totalenergies, among the world’s biggest oil companies, runs a network of around 3,500 stations in France, nearly a third of the total, with most of them

low on fuel.

“Does anyone know of a petrol station around here that’s been re-supplied?”, read a post in a local Facebook post Friday morning. “Where can I get ethanol?” posted another motorist in the hope of filling the tank before the weekend.

Several of Totalenergies’s oil refineries have been blocked by striking workers.

“We’ve been dry since Sunday,” a manager at a station in central Paris said on Thursday.

TotalEnergies has, since the start of September, cut petrol prices by 20 euro cents (\$0.19) per litre to help vehicle owners cope with sharp rises in energy prices triggered by the war in Ukraine.—AFP

NEWS IN
BRIEF

Mexican economy minister resigns amid trade spat with US

MEXICAN Economy Minister Tatiana Clouthier has resigned, the government said Thursday, amid a trade dispute with the United States and Canada over President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador’s energy policies.

“We respect her decision,” President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador told reporters.

“We insisted that she stay, but she’s a woman with convictions,” he added, without elaborating on her reasons.

Clouthier appeared at Lopez Obrador’s daily news conference, thanking him for the opportunity to serve in his government.

Lopez Obrador did not immediately name a replacement for the 58-year-old, who took the position in December 2020 having previously served as a lawmaker and campaign manager for Lopez Obrador.

Her resignation comes as Mexico faces a formal trade complaint from the United States and Canada under a North American trade deal, the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

Lopez Obrador has promoted reforms to strengthen the state-owned electricity provider CFE and roll back the effects of liberalization under previous governments that he says benefited private companies.

Washington and Ottawa say Lopez Obrador’s push to boost the state’s role in the energy industry hurt foreign investors and impeded development of clean energy.—AFP

Libya PM defends undersea gas deal with Türkiye

LIBYA’S Tripoli-based prime minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah has defended a deal signed earlier this week with Türkiye over oil and gas exploration in the Mediterranean, which angered European nations. The memorandum of understanding, three years after a controversial maritime border deal, sparked a sharp reaction from Greece as well as from Dbeibah’s rivals in Libya, where two administrations are grappling for power.

“The Turkish-Libyan MoU is based on previous deals even prior to 2011,” Dbeibah said, referring to the year a NATO-backed uprising toppled dictator Moamer Kadhafi and plunged the North African nation into years of violence.

“It’s our right to sign MoUs, and we have signed hundreds of them in order to promote cooperation with other states.”

Dbeibah’s government was installed in the capital Tripoli in the west of Libya as part of a United Nations-led peace process last year.—AFP

Japan’s largest airport hotel complex to open at Haneda in Dec.

SUMITOMO Realty and Development Co. said Thursday that it will open part of a 1,717-room hotel complex directly connected to Tokyo’s Haneda airport, the largest of its kind in Japan, on 21 Dec.

The complex, connected to the airport’s international terminal or Terminal 3, will begin operations at its two hotels – Villa Fontaine Grand and the higher-end Villa Fontaine Premier – with reservations services starting from Friday, the developer said.

The facility, scheduled to fully open in January, will also comprise a large-scale conference hall, a shopping area, a bus terminal and an open-air bath with a view of Mt. Fuji.

The complex was initially scheduled to open in



Undated photo shows a hotel complex directly connected to Haneda airport in Tokyo. PHOTO: SUMITOMO REALTY AND DEVELOPMENT CO. /KYODO

April 2020 but the plan was delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic. The real estate developer said it decided to go ahead with the opening, with the government’s recent policy shift to remove its cap on daily

arrivals starting Tuesday, the company said.

The number of foreign visitors to Japan topped 100,000 for the fifth consecutive month in August following a relaxation of border controls. The level

was still down more than 90 per cent from the same month in the pre-pandemic year of 2019.

But the figure is expected to rise ahead with the removal of the daily entry cap.— Kyodo

China expects increased railway trips as holiday week nears end



A Fuxing bullet train runs on the Lhasa-Nyingchi railway in Southwest China’s Tibet autonomous region. PHOTO: XINHUA

CHINA is expected to see 6.55 million railway passenger trips on Thursday, the sixth day of the weeklong National Day holiday, as more travellers embark on return trips, according to the national railway operator. A total of 8,144 trains have been arranged to handle the travel rush on Thursday, according to China State Railway Group Co., Ltd.

On Wednesday, Chi-

na’s railways saw about 6.12 million passenger trips, the railway operator said.

Local railway authorities have improved services and safety management to ensure smooth travel for passengers. China’s railways are expected to handle 68.5 million passenger trips during the 11-day National Day holiday travel rush, lasting from 28 Sept to 8 Oct 2022.—Xinhua

US services sector expands slower in September amid cooling economy

THE US services sector posted slower growth in September than the previous month amid cooling economic growth, the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) reported Wednesday.

The Services Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) registered 56.7 per cent, 0.2 percentage points lower than the August reading, according to the latest Services ISM Report on Business.

Any reading above 50 per cent indicates the services sector is generally expanding.

“Most of the details indicate just that: continued growth with some modest give back in the pace of activity,” Tim Quinlan and Shannon Seery, econo-

mists at Wells Fargo Securities, said in an analysis.

The New Orders Index figure of 60.6 per cent is 1.2 percentage points lower than the August reading. The Supplier Deliveries Index registered 53.9 per cent, 0.6 percentage points lower than that reported in August, indicating faster deliveries and improved supply chain situation.

“Easing supply chains continue to provide some relief, and a rebound in the employment component signals another steady month of hiring,” said Quinlan and Seery.

The Employment Index registered 53.0 per cent, 2.8 percentage points higher than the previous month, the ISM report showed.— Xinhua

Spain smashes giant counterfeit money ring

SPANISH police said Thursday they had smashed one of Europe’s largest counterfeit money rings that had made over eight million euros of fake cash.

The gang, based in Spain’s eastern coast, is made “high quality” counterfeit 500-euro bills, they said, adding that 12 people had been arrested.

“This money was allegedly destined to commit different criminal activities, such as the purchase of drugs,” a statement said.

The operation, carried out jointly with Catalan police and Europol, had “dismantled the most important and active laboratory in Europe dedicated to the production of fake 500-euro bills,” it added.

Among those arrested was the man who allegedly printed the fake bills as well as the main distributors of the counterfeit cash. Police launched an

investigation in 2021 after fake 500-euro banknotes were found in circulation which were similar to those made by a ring that was dismantled a decade ago in the eastern region of Valencia.

The probe gathered pace after a neighbour of one of the suspected members of the ring found a bag with 4.3 million euros in fake bills in front of his home near Barcelona, said the head of the counterfeit money unit of Catalonia’s police force, Sergi Sanchez.

Some of the bills did not have “the holographic patch” that makes it possible to verify their authenticity, he told a Madrid news conference where counterfeit bills and seized machinery were displayed.

Jorge Ruiz, a lawyer at the Bank of Spain, said the counterfeit banknotes were of “very high quality” and virtually undetectable to the naked eye.—AFP

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER
ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE
(Tender No. EPGE PV 04/ 2022-2023)

In accordance with section 8.2 "AMENDMENTS" of Request for Proposals (RFP) of EPGE PV 04/2022-2023, EPGE herewith would like to announce that Bid Submission Date shall be amended as 16th November 2022 and the Addendum No.2 shall be issued.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

British PM battles on despite own party 'wipeout' fears

HER set-piece speech this week may have placated the restless Conservative party faithful but new UK Prime Minister Liz Truss's position is still fragile only a month into her premiership, as she battles social and economic headwinds.

While she may have given some partial reassurance, Truss — who sees herself as the heir to Britain's first woman prime minister Margaret Thatcher — remains weakened as her government faces an economic crisis.

Since succeeding Boris Johnson, Truss has alienated voters, financial markets and many of her own MPs with a crash programme of debt-fuelled tax cuts to boost Britain's stagnant economy. But despite dire opinion polls, Truss held firm on Wednesday in a speech to her party's annual conference, pledging to stick to her policy of promoting growth through tax cuts and deregulation.

Departing late on Thursday morning for a European summit in Prague, the premier left be-

hind a party far from convinced by the approach she has taken.

Election 'wipeout' fear

Steven Fielding, professor of political science at the University of Nottingham, told AFP Truss's policy had been formed from talking to "a very small number of ultra rightwing, neoliberal think-tankers" but those views were not widespread, even in the Conservative party. "If you look at what she actually said, none of it was new. It was all very familiar," he added.—AFP



Britain's Prime Minister Liz Truss delivers her keynote address on the final day of the annual Conservative Party Conference in Birmingham, central England, on 5 October 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

French author Annie Ernaux wins Nobel Literature Prize



Books by French author Annie Ernaux are on display at the Swedish Academy after the announcement that Ernaux is this year's winner of the 2022 Nobel Prize in Literature at the Swedish Academy in Stockholm, on 6 Oct 2022. **PHOTO: JONATHAN NACKSTRAND / AFP**

won the Nobel Literature Prize, the jury announced.

Ernaux, 82, was honoured "for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory", the jury said.

Interviewed on Swedish television immediately after the announcement, Ernaux called it a "very great honour" and "a great responsibility".

Her more than 20 books, many of which have been school texts in France for decades, offer one of the most subtle, insightful windows into the social life of modern France.—AFP

FRENCH author Annie Ernaux, known for her deceptively sim-

ple novels drawing on personal experience of class and gender,

US court orders review of 'Dreamers' immigration programme

A US appeals court on Thursday declared unlawful a programme that protects undocumented migrants brought to the country as children, but allowed it to remain in place for current recipients.

The ruling affirms a July 2021 decision by a federal judge to curb the programme. Today's decision allows about 600,000 current enrollees to maintain their status but continues to block new applications.

The Deferred Action for

Childhood Arrivals (Daca) policy now goes back to a lower court for review.

"I am deeply disappointed by today's DACA ruling and the ongoing uncertainty it creates for families and communities across the country," Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said in a statement.

"We are currently reviewing the court's decision and will work with the Justice Department on an appropriate legal response."—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

N. Korea touts "strengthened" Russia cooperation in message to Putin

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un said cooperation between his country and Russia has been "strengthened as never before" in a message sent Friday to celebrate Russian President Vladimir Putin's 70th birthday, state-run media said. In the message, Kim said he has "rejoiced" in the strengthened mutual support and cooperation enabled through the struggle "to defend the regional peace and stability and realize...international justice," according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

"Today, Russia is reliably defending the dignity of the state and its fundamental interests



A woman crosses a bridge in front of the Kremlin in central Moscow on 4 Oct 2022. **PHOTO: YURI KADOBNOV / AFP**

from the challenges and threats by the US and its vassal forces. Such reality is unthinkable without your distinguished leadership and strong will," KCNA quoted

Kim as telling Putin. "I wish you happiness in good health and great success in your responsible work for the prosperity of Russia," he said.—Kyodo

Nuclear 'Armageddon' threat back for first time since Cold War: Biden

US President Joe Biden said Thursday the world risks nuclear "Armageddon" for the first time since the Cold War and that he is trying to find Russian President Vladimir Putin's "off-ramp" in the Ukraine conflict.

"We have not faced the prospect of Armageddon since Kennedy and the Cuban missile crisis" in 1962, Biden said at a Democratic party fundraising event in New York.

Putin is "not joking" when he threatens to use nuclear weapons to pursue his invasion of Ukraine, Biden said.

Biden made his unusu-

ally strong comments about the risks created by Putin's nuclear threats while speaking to party supporters at an event hosted in the Manhattan home of James Murdoch, son of newspaper mogul Rupert Murdoch.

Referring to the nuclear standoff triggered by the Soviet Union stationing missiles in Cuba, within easy range of the United States, Biden said that for the "first time since the Cuban missile crisis, we have a direct threat from the use of nuclear weapons if in fact things continue down the path they are going."—AFP

Thai king to visit nursery shooting survivors

THE Thai king will on Friday visit survivors of a gun and knife attack on a nursery that left at least 37 people dead, most of them young children.



Officials prepare a red carpet leading to the nursery ahead of the arrival of Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn in the northeastern Nong Bua Lam Phu province on 7 October 2022, the day after a former police officer killed at least 37 people in a mass shooting at the site. PHOTO: AFP

King Maha Vajiralongkorn will meet families reeling from the tragedy in northeastern Nong Bua Lam Phu province, as will Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha, a government spokesman said. Thailand has begun mourning one of its deadliest mass killings, with flags on government buildings flying at half-mast. Former police officer Panya Khamrab stormed the children's nursery armed with a knife and gun before later killing his wife and child, and taking his own life. Overnight rescue workers delivered coffins to a hospital at Udon Thani and autopsies are scheduled for Friday morning.—AFP

Japan most Googled travel destination for Aussies

JAPAN is the most searched travel destination by Australians on Google, according to data released by the internet search giant on Wednesday to mark two decades in Australia. An analysis of Australian search trends over the 20-year period saw Japan top the list as the most Googled destination, followed by New Zealand and Thailand. Other destinations featured in the top 10 included Vietnam, Australia and Tasmania, an island state in the country's south. David Galt, CEO of Australian online travel agent Webjet OTA



Tourists visit Tokyo's Asakusa district on 10 Jan 2020. PHOTO: KYODO said Japan has always been a popular destination for Australians, from ski holidays to cherry blossom viewing, and Aussies are eager to return as pandemic border restrictions ease.—Kyodo

Prince Harry launches legal action against UK media group



Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, leave after a service for the reception of Queen Elizabeth's coffin at Westminster Hall in September. PHOTO: AFP

BRITAIN'S Prince Harry and singer Elton John are among six public figures suing the publisher of the Daily Mail over alleged unlawful information-gathering at its titles. The others taking part in the legal action are actresses Liz Hurley and Sadie Frost, John's husband David Furnish and Doreen Lawrence, the mother of murder victim Stephen Lawrence, the domestic PA news agency said in a report. The six had "become aware of compelling and highly distressing evidence that they have been the victims of abhorrent criminal activity and gross breaches of privacy" by Associated Newspapers Limited (ANL), a statement by law firm Hamlins acting for the group said. ANL, also the publisher

of The Mail On Sunday and MailOnline, said on Thursday it "utterly and unambiguously" rejected the allegations. Lawrence, whose son was killed in a racially-motivated attack in south London in 1993, had also lodged a claim against Rupert Murdoch-owned News Group Newspapers, publisher of various titles including The Sun and the now-defunct News Of The World. The details of that claim are not known, but it is understood also to relate to misuse of private information. The statement about the legal action against ANL released by Hamlins claimed that the unlawful acts alleged to have taken place included the hiring of private investigators to secretly place listening devices inside cars and homes and the recording of private phone conversations.—AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

US, Philippines reinforce alliance with joint military drills

US and Philippine marines stormed a beach near a disputed rocky outcrop in the South China Sea on Friday as part of joint military drills involving more than 3,500 troops. It is the first time the annual naval exercises have been held under Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, who has expressed strong support for the decades-old alliance, after rocky relations under his predecessor Rodrigo Duterte. Duterte had threatened to

cancel drills and axe a key military deal with the United States as he pivoted towards China. But Marcos told US President Joe Biden during a meeting in New York last month that he appreciated America's role in "maintaining the peace in our region". The KAMANDAG exercises — the Filipino acronym for "Cooperation of the Warriors of the Sea" — kicked off Monday and will be held across the country's main island of Luzon until 14 October. —AFP

Germany repatriates 12 citizens from Syrian jihadist camp

GERMANY on Wednesday said it had resolved "almost all known cases" of its citizens stuck in Syrian jihadist camps, after announcing the repatriation of 12 people. Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock released a statement announcing that seven children and four women returned to Germany on Wednesday night from the Roj camp in northeastern Syria. A teenage boy who had been taken to Syria aged 11

was also part of the group. "I am relieved that this action has allowed us to close almost all the known cases," Baerbock said. "I am especially relieved because the children are not responsible for their parents' fateful choices," she added, deeming it impossible to leave them "without a future in the camps of northeast Syria". The German foreign ministry said the women and the teenager will have to "answer

for their acts" and were detained upon their arrival in the country. It added that there was only one instance where an agreed repatriation had not been carried out yet, and that the mothers did not wish to return in the other cases. The ministry said six operations have led to 76 minors and 26 women being repatriated from northeastern Syria to Germany to date.—AFP



Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Wingback and midfield duties are different says Shan player Thet Paing Htwe

SHAN United midfielder Thet Paing Htwe said that the duties of wingback and midfield players are different, according to the team's interview with the player.

"It was my considered opinion that I had better play at midfield, than as a wingback. To say frankly, I'm not the guy who plays as a wing-back. The wing-back plays are to have very good stamina and can run so fast and have good endurance," said the midfielder Thet Paing Htwe.

"For instance, it is sort of Ko Kyaw Zin Lwin, A Nge Lay (Zwe Htet Min). I can't run like them, I know myself. Moreover, Saya Han Win Aung also said that it is a place for a defensive midfielder (DMF), and it is okay for me.

"The duties of wingback and midfield players are absolutely different, although both are serious tasks. Now my playing position as a DMF become a more serious task. There are only defenders and a goalkeeper behind me," he continued.

Thet Paing Htwe also stressed the important role of the goalie and back players.

"By the way, our defenders and goalkeeper are really reliable players. The goalkeeper Ko

Kyaw Zin Phyoe save the day many times. Similarly, Center Back players, Sin Ma (Ye Min Thu) and Ko Aung Kyaw Thu are really strong players.

"Every aspect of the defending ball from the other side is okay for them. They are powerful players and not afraid of anything. Sometimes, we are trapped in counter-attacks, we are only three players including me, and the offending players are also three, but we can handle it comfortably," Shan United star added.

The Shan United players also praised the skills of his teammates.

"I trust my teammates. They can control bad situations. When they are to deter the ball distribution of opponent players, they do it smartly. We can really rely on them. At the wing position, there are Ko Kyaw Zin Lwin and Ko Poe Nge (Hein Thiha Zaw); they are my senior player, like my big brother. Because of their support, I can play well my position.

"I totally believe that our team, Shan United will defend the Championship title for the 2022 season," he said. — GNLM



Shan United midfielder Thet Paing Htwe. PHOTO: SUFC

Messi says 2022 World Cup will 'surely' be his last



Argentine superstar Lionel Messi said the Qatar World Cup will be the last of his career. PHOTO: GABRIEL BOUYS / AFP

ARGENTINA captain Lionel Messi said Thursday that the 2022 World Cup in Qatar will "surely" be the last of his career.

"It's my last World Cup, surely. I feel good physically, I was able to do a very good pre-season this year, which I couldn't do last year. It was essential to get to where I am, with

a good state of mind and a lot of hope," the 35-year-old told ESPN Argentina.

Messi, who is due to appear in his fifth World Cup, made his international debut in 2005 and has since won 164 caps for Argentina and is the country's all-time record scorer with 90 goals.

In the interview, which took place in Paris where Messi plays for Paris Saint-Germain, he admitted he was nervous about the impending tournament in Qatar.

"There is anxiety, nerves about the World Cup," he said. "We can't wait for it to start."

Messi's international debut as a substitute against Hungary in 2005 lasted just two minutes before he was sent off but he quickly established himself in the national team set-up and travelled to Germany for his first World Cup in 2006.—AFP

Barcelona predict record revenues, rising profits

BARCELONA on Thursday forecast profits of 274 million euros (270.7 million dollars) this season

and record revenues of 1.255 billion euros.

"It's a conservative budget,"



Barcelona on Thursday forecast profits of 274 million euros (270.7 million dollars) this season and record revenues of 1.255 billion euros. PHOTO: AFP

Barca's financial vice-president Eduard Romeu said, as the club released figures for the 2021/22 financial year and forecasts for the current campaign.

Barcelona said the revenue figure included more than 450 million euros from the sale of long-term television and other rights.

The Catalans said in the year just ended they made a profit of 98 million euros after taxes, with operating income of 1.017 billion euros and expenses of 856 million euros. That followed two loss-making seasons during the Covid-19 pandemic. Barca said they were "back on the road to profit and looking to initiate a new virtuous circle".—AFP