

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.

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends choice of arms for cadets of 9th Intake of Graduate Female Cadet Course at Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School (Hmawby)



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends the choice of arms for 9th Intake cadets from the Graduate Female Cadet Course in Hmawby Station in Yangon on 26 October 2022.

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win attended and scrutinized the

choice of arms for cadets of the 9th Intake of Graduate Female Cadet Course at Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School (Hmawby) in Hmawby Station of Yangon yesterday morning.

Also present at the ceremo-

ny were senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the commander of Yangon Command, the commandant of the school and officials. The Vice-Senior General met cadets

individually and chose the appropriate military corps of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) depending on obedience to disciplines throughout the training period, outstanding performance in respective subjects, bent and

industry.

The Vice-Senior General and party had lunch together with cadets and trainees of the special platoon commander (female) course at the mess hall of the school. — MNA

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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

Announcement

ALL the universities, degree colleges and colleges under the Department of Higher Education, the Ministry of Education, will open the day classes for First Year (Second Semester) and all classes (from Second Year to Master's degree) on 10 November 2022. Students can enrol from 27-10-2022 to 18-11-2022 inclusive.

The day classes for First Year (First Semester) for those who matriculated in 2022 will be opened on 21 November 2022.

Department of Higher Education

157 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 26 October, total figure rises to 631,059

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 631,059 after 157 new cases were reported on 26 October 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 604,941 have recovered from disease. Death toll reaches 19,480 after two deaths.

Up to 25-10-2022, 30,692,938 people aged 18 and above and 6,679,906 people aged 18 and under were vaccinated.

According to the study of people who had COVID-19 and people who died of COVID-19 from 28-1-2022 to 15-10-2022, it has been found that 90.4 per cent of Covid patients and 80.9 per cent of Covid deaths are not vaccinated at all or fully vaccinated, respectively.

Status of COVID-19 injection	COVID-19 Patient	Death with COVID-19
People have no vaccination and have not been fully inoculated.	90.4%	80.9%

According to the international study, it is found that people who have been vaccinated do not suffer severely from the disease, need not to be hospitalized and are unlikely to die. If they have received booster shots, the death rates can be reduced more. Therefore, it is a must for people aged five and above to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

The Ministry of Health is giving free vaccinations to all people aged five and above. Booster shots of vaccine are being given to students between the ages of 12 and 18 and people aged 18 and over. Therefore, people should contact local health centres and village/ward administration offices to receive vaccinations. The information about COVID-19 disease can be seen on the Ministry of Health official website www.moh.gov.mm. —MNA

Myanmar Gazette

Transfer, confirmation and appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

1. The State Administration Council has transferred and appointed Dr Ko Ko Naing, Director-General of the Department of Disaster Management under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, as Director-General of the Minister's Office of the same ministry from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

2. The State Administration Council confirmed the appointment of the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) Dr Marlar Myo Nyunt	Director-General Department of Foreign Economic Relations Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations
(b) U Zaw Moe Win	Director-General Civil Service Affairs Department Union Civil Service Board

3. The State Administration Council has appointed U Aung Kyaw Oo, Deputy Director-General of the Planning and Administrative Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Director-General of the same department from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Federalism is a system of power-sharing among different regions and states, ethnicities and races

DEMOCRACY is a governance system where people choose their representative to represent them. Federalism is a system of power-sharing among different regions and states, ethnicities and races. Thus, a Union system based on democracy and federalism means that ethnic national people across the nation live together under a governance system of their own choice, with each state or region having the right to legislate. Only then will a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system emerge.

(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.)

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets officers, other ranks, families of Taikkyi, Hmawby stations

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win met officers, other ranks and their families of Taikkyi and Hmawby stations at the station halls separately yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General explained the implementation of the five-point road map and nine objectives by the State Administration Council, root causes for the implementation of two national visions: the



SAC Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services C-in-C (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets officers, other ranks and family members of Hmawby Station yesterday.



The Vice-Senior General provides foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and families in Taikkyi Station yesterday.

prosperity of the State and food sufficiency, and two political processes: strengthening the genuine discipline-flourishing multiparty democratic system and building the Union based on democracy and federalism, the implementation progress, current progress of political, economic, defence, social and international relations arenas of the State, and efforts for the restoration of perpetual peace.

With regard to the Tatmadaw, the Vice-Senior General also clarified the implementation of the policies by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services since the start of his term for military-owned and manageable agriculture and livestock farms so as to ensure food sufficiency, the convenience of food, clothing and shelter needs in the military units with the sufficiency of food and sales of surplus

products to local people at fair prices, arrangements for the convenience of military personnel and families in food, accommodation, education, health and transport sectors, needs of security knowledge and awareness for serving the State defence duty round the clock, and sharing good knowledge with Tatmadaw members and families in implementing the four military-building tasks and convenience in service terms, and fulfilled the needs of Tatmadaw members and families individually.

The Vice-Senior General presented foodstuffs to Tatmadaw members and families of respective military stations to officials.

After the meetings, the Vice-Senior General and party cordially greeted the Tatmadaw members and families.

— MNA

Committee on Organizing Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 holds first coord meeting

THE Committee on Organizing Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 held its first coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, Com-



Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn chairs the first coordination meeting of the Committee on Organizing Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

mittee Chairman Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn said the 75th Anniversary of Independence Day is a special day and the Prime Minister instructed that it should be held at the highest national level ceremony out of all ceremonies.

Arrangements are also being made to hold other ceremonies before Diamond Jubilee Independence Day. The respective ministries, regions and states should prepare the floats for the ceremony. The Diamond Jubilee Union Day was held successfully and the attendees should discuss the advantages and disadvantages of holding a similar ceremony based on that experience.

Then, Vice-Chairman of Committee Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Tin Oo Lwin briefed the preparations by drafting six tasks for holding Diamond Jubilee Independence Day including ongoing and future work plans.

Afterwards, Committee Secretary Deputy Minister U Ye Tint discussed the formation of a working committee under the Central Committee for the 75th Independence Day Celebration and other officials focused on security, transport services, healthcare services, alphabet formation of students, float preparations and sound systems to be installed at the parade ground.

Then, the Union minister concluded the meeting after Joint Secretary of Committee Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung read out the decisions made at the meeting.

— MNA

Myanmar delegation joins 44th AMAF, 22nd AMAF PLUS Three, 7th AIMMAF online

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo joined the 44th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF), the 22nd ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry and the 7th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AIMMAF) hosted by the Government of the Lao PDR via videoconferencing yesterday.

During the 44th AMAF, the ministers focused on instructions resulting from ASEAN Summits, drafting of the policy framework of food, agriculture and forest sector in ASEAN regions, food, crop, fisheries, forestry, research and development sectors and priorities in 2023 to ensure the ASEAN farming sector development mentioned in reports of superior officials to the 44th AMAF.

Then, the Union minister said Myanmar's economy is based on agriculture, which accounts for 23.7 per cent of the country's total domestic production, earns 35 per cent of the income from foreign exports and 70 per cent of the

population in rural areas is engaged in agricultural activities.

Myanmar exported 1.9 million tonnes of rice, 1.87 million tonnes of beans and pulses, 2.6 million tonnes of corn, 0.3 million tonnes of sesame and 0.6 million tonnes of marine products. Such success is gained through the balanced cooperation of government and private and also for the support of the government.

During the 22nd ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry, the ASEAN ministers exchanged views on instructions for the agricultural sector through ASEAN Plus Three Summit, cooperation work in food security, agriculture and forest sectors between ASEAN Plus Three countries, agreement on ASEAN Plus Three reserve rice, ASEAN food security information system and ongoing work plans, and approved the joint statement.

Meanwhile, the Myanmar delegation expressed thanks to China, Japan and Republic of Korea for their technical assistance to develop the ASEAN farming sector, and



The 44th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry and ASEAN+3 related meetings are in progress online yesterday.

welcomed the offer of Korea to keep 600 tonnes of rice donated by Korea as part of the 2022 ASEAN+3 Emergency Rice Reserve Tier 3 in Myanmar and thanked the Korean Government.

At the 7th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AIMMAF), the ministers discussed the outcomes of the ASEAN-India Summit, Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting and ASEAN-India Economic Ministers' Meeting for the agricultural sector and further work plans based on implementation work via the cooperation of ASEAN-India Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry.

Then, the Union minister urged the superior officials and working groups to make more efforts than before in emerging agriculture that is sustainable and in harmony with nature and able to withstand climate changes, and for developing sustainable soil. He also said that the participation of Indian experts in the agricultural sector of ASEAN and India will be more effective.

Afterwards, the Ministers confirmed the statement of the 7th AIMMAF and concluded the meeting. —MNA

Response to queries of HK-based CNN International

Questions from CNN International
Excuse me! Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, I am Sandicidu from Hong Kong-based CNN International.

I sent this letter as I'd like to ask for a statement or a reply from you related to statements which came out for attacks by the Myanmar Tatmadaw on the anniversary celebration held in Kachin State on 24 October.

These statements mentioned more than 100 civilians were wounded and many persons dead in the air strike.

The United Nations also issued a press release that it was unacceptable for attacks of the security forces with larger strength on unarmed civilians and that it demanded the security forces take responsibility for the incident. Let me know how you would respond to the press release. Thank you.

Answers from Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun

- ◆ The information was released about the incident on 24 October through State-owned media. I think you might have read the press release issued by the State. If so, you would not ask this question. All the topics you would like to know have been mentioned in that news. It is one of the points I'd like to tell you.
- ◆ For the second point, I'd like to ask you what facts you refer to for your question and how reliable it is.
- ◆ For the third point, where is the location for the death of people and artistes mentioned in the rumour? How did those artistes arrive there? Some documentary photos portraying those artistes in KIA uniforms are spreading. So, who are they? How many artistes arriving there do you know? Some close societies said those artistes are alive. I think you ask me about the

things that can't be confirmed.

- ◆ With regard to the fourth point, the spokesperson of KIA himself said it is the KIA-controlled area. If so, who will be there? There were only KIA troops, PDFs and their related persons. It is based on our evidence. As it is a controlled area or restricted area as mentioned by KIA, any civilians are not allowed to go there. It is not easy to go there. If the people go there via Kanse, they have to pass the ruined Buzadee Village and along the Uru River. It is locally called Urukha Creek. After passing there, they would arrive there. You may check the satellite maps. You may know. Check that building. It is a stall Guan Maw said. There is no stall. Local people buy goods in Kansee and Aungbalay (Tanguan). No stall is there. If so, what the spokesperson said needed to tally with what Guan Maw said in the first place. There was no



Arms and ammunition manufactured by KIA seized in 23 June 2021.



Map showing process of the event that security personnel safely rescued the people who were unjustly arrested and kept in custody by so-called PDF terrorists, affiliate of NUG and CRPH



Security personnel are taking the people, who were unjustly arrested and kept in custody by so-called PDF terrorists, affiliate of NUG and CRPH, to the hospital after they were safely rescued.

- traveller. Any local people do not go beyond Buzadee Village. You may think who goes there?
- ◆ As the fifth point, I would say that according to the statements, only the PDF members and NLD members including persons with the level of

KIA brigade were included. We have evidence in connection with the levels, names, and positions. There was not any list of civilian names. As names of some NLDs and PDFs were found they would be connected with groups declared as terrorist groups. So, it is obvious that they were jointly committing terrorist acts. Who were behind the incidents which occur in Sagaing Region? You can know if you check them. KIA is providing not only training to PDFs in Sagaing Region but also arms and ammunition as well as mines. Of the seized arms, the great majority were from KIA. All the arms seized in Mandalay Region were also of the KIA. We have records in connection with the involvement of the KIA officer from behind the scene. Hence, the Tatmadaw had to launch a necessary military operation. Last year, these groups attacked our area control camps near Aungbalay village. If you look at online photo evidence, you can see that all the dead or wounded wore uniforms. There were no civilians at all, as it is not a place where civilians live.

- ◆ The last thing I would like to say is that Tatmadaw never attacks unarmed civilians. PDF took away 15 passengers near Kandaunk village on the Monywa-Kyaw road on 12 October. In response, commando troops launched

search and rescue missions in the area around Yinbaungtai and Shwehlan villages in Yinmabin Township on 19 and 20 October. There were three engagements with KIA/PDF groups. At last, commandos could rescue 26 hostages including women, children, civil servants and villagers. Children from two to 12 years were included in the hostages. Some were under confinement from seven months to one year. This is the nearest answer. Tatmadaw never attacks civilians. It only rescues the people confined by terrorists.

- ◆ Now, I have already given you a comprehensive answer to your question. Tatmadaw never attacks unarmed civilians. It only saves the people. The Yinmabin incident is proof. KIA announced that the area in Phakant where the incident took place was a KIA brigade 9-controlled area. Evidence shows that only KIA members and PDF terrorists and their affiliates were there. Hence, Tatmadaw had to launch an operation. We have no idea about any annual celebration. We knew that it was a den where enemies and terrorists were hiding. So, we launched a necessary military operation. Throughout history and till now, Tatmadaw has never attacked civilians, and we don't need to clarify the matter in connection with fake news.

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A dead body of the deceased is being prepared to send to a hospital.

Dead body of woman who jumped from Kamarkyi Bridge found 3 days later

THE corpse of Ma Zar Chi aged around 20 years old, who jumped off from No 2 Kamarkyi Bridge in Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region, was discovered by the rescue team on 26 October.

The woman left her mobile phone, a charger, an Air-Pod, a purse and some money on the bridge and committed suicide by jumping down into the Ngamoeyeik creek at 9 am on 24 October. Rescue teams tried to search and rescue her though the current of the

creek was fast. After three days, the teams managed to find her body. Several rescue teams conducted the search along the creek.

"The corpse was found 500 yards away from No 2 Kamarkyi Bridge at 1:15 pm. The body has been sent to the Sanpya Hospital," said a rescue member who joined the search.

Some people close to the deceased commented that she was a cheerful person. — TWA/GNLM

3 dead, 14 injured in bus accident on Yangon-Mandalay expressway

AN express bus named Man-shwepyi which departed from Lashio to Yangon overturned on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, at around 7 am on 25 October.

Fire brigade members of the Palwe highway fire service station, Pantin highway fire service station, Phayar Taung Region fire service station and members of respective highway police stations and social organizations rushed to the scene and carried out rescue work.

A member of the highway police station said that the express bus could not control its speed and overturned between



Mile Posts (228/2) and (228/3) of the Yangon-Mandalay expressway in Tatkon Township, leaving three dead and 14 wounded out of the 17 passengers.

The dead and injured were sent to Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed) by vehicles of Thukhadana and Myittayay-sin Taungnyo social organizations and highway ambulances.

Also in September, two passenger buses collided head-on on the Meiktila-Kyaukpadaung Road near Zeephyugon village in Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Region. Thirteen passengers were killed and 14 passengers injured in the accident.

It is reported that 4,282 car accidents occurred in regions, states and on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway during the nine months of 2022 with 2,102 casualties and 5,911 injuries. — TWA/GNLM



The picture shows an overturned vehicle and the rescue process at the scene (top and above photos).

Onion price heads for two-day high



Hessian sacks of onions are seen being stockpiled at a warehouse.

The large onions reached a record price of K3,700 per viss in early December 2015. Afterwards, Bangladesh's demand pushed up onion prices in 2019. However, the price does not increase higher than that.

However, the decrease in onion outputs and low supply to border markets raised the prices to K3,800 in 2022. Then, the price dipped to K3,400 per viss and regained to K4,000 per viss. On 26 October, the price hit a fresh new peak of K4,300 per viss.

On 25 October, 180,000 visses of onions from various regions entered the Yangon market, making the price up by K200 per viss. Although 100,000 visses of onion supply to Yangon markets on 26 October, the price went up to



K3,200-4,000 per viss from the Seikphyu area and K3,500-4,300 from the Myingyan area.

The rise in local onion prices resulted in high demand for Chinese onions at the Bay-intnaung wholesale market, said Ko Yee Tun, a seller from Nyaungpinlay wholesale market.

Similarly, Chinese onions also increased from K1,800 per viss on 25 October to K2,200 on 26 October. The buyers of

kitchen groceries from hotels and restaurants are commonly seen at Thanzay, Lanmadaw Township. When the local onion of large size fetched up to K4,000 per viss, Chinese onions were highly demanded in the markets in recent days. Thus, the retailers from Thanzay purchase more Chinese onions at the Nyaungpinlay wholesale market, Ko Yee Tun, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM). — TWA/GNLM

HIGH prices of onions were extended for two days (25 and 26 October) on the back of strong demand by border markets. The

onions hit an all-time highest of K4,300 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the wholesale market.

China’s promotion of free trade significant to development of world markets — Japanese researcher

CHINA’S open market has attracted the world’s participation and China’s promotion of free trade is significant to the sound development of markets around the world, Japanese researcher Kiyoyuki Seguchi has said.

China’s active participation in free trade is of great significance because China’s presence plays a very important role in the world, Seguchi, research director at Japan’s Canon Institute for Global Studies, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

China’s open market has attracted talents, capital and technology from different parts of the world. Considering the strong link between the Chinese economy and the global economy is an increasingly important subject facing every country, Seguchi said.

The researcher encouraged young Japanese to go

to China to experience the world’s most dynamic market and face the challenge of vigorous competition.

In recent years, China has continued widening market access and shortening the negative list for foreign investment. It has put into force laws and regulations, including the Foreign Investment Law, to protect foreign investors’ legitimate rights and interests.

China also adheres to the right course of economic globalization. It is committed to working with other countries to foster an international environment conducive to development and create new drivers for global growth.

Against the backdrop of the sluggish world economic growth caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, China has been able to maintain stable economic growth, Seguchi said, adding that the large

scale of China’s GDP means the development of the Chinese market has a huge impact on Japan, Europe, the United States and other economies.

China’s GDP grew 3.9 per cent year on year to 30.76 trillion yuan (about 4.32 trillion US dollars) in the third quarter, 3.5 percentage points higher than that in the second quarter, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed Monday.

China’s GDP has come to account for 18.5 per cent of the world economy, up 7.2 percentage points over the past 10 years. The world’s second largest economy has become a major trading partner for over 140 countries and regions, leading the world in the total volume of trade in goods.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which groups China and 10 members of the



Aerial panoramic photo taken on 1 Oct 2022 shows the petrochemical functional area of Yangpu Economic Development Zone in south China’s Hainan Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA/PU XIAOXU**

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as well as Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand, is the world’s largest free trade deal to date.

The RCEP represents an

important platform for promoting economic cooperation in the region and contributing vitality to world economic development and boosted economic growth in emerging countries. —Xinhua

Gazprom begins tests on gas field for China exports



Gas processing facilities at the Kovykta field in East Siberia in Russia that is operated by Gazprom. **PHOTO: GAZPROM**

GAZPROM said Tuesday it has begun operational tests on the Kovykta natural gas field in eastern Siberia, bringing Russia a step closer to boosting energy exports to China.

The tests announced Tuesday are part of the measures to put the Kovykta gas field into service, which is expected in December, and will allow Russia to increase exports to China.

“Putting the Kovykta into service is an important step in the implementation of the

‘Power of Siberia’ project and the creation of new centres of gas production in the east of the country,” Gazprom chief executive Alexei Miller said in a Telegram statement.

Miller described Kovykta as “a key resource base for the development of gas supply to the eastern regions of Russia and for exports” to China.

Bringing Kovykta into production comes as Russian gas exports to Europe decreased following the beginning of the

Ukraine offensive.

Russia does not have pipelines to transport gas from its Western Siberian and Arctic gas fields that have served Europe to China, but around a decade ago began efforts to develop new fields and build the Power of Siberia pipeline to deliver it the rapidly expanding market.

The first Power of Siberia pipeline went into operation and began to ship gas from eastern Siberia to China at the end of 2019.

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said last month that Gazprom would increase gas deliveries to China to 20 billion cubic metres per year.

It shipped 10.4 billion cubic metres of gas to China last year.

Russia aims to export 38 billion cubic metres of gas to China by 2025, when the pipeline reaches maximum capacity.

Moscow plans to build a Power of Siberia 2 pipeline, yet another sign that Russia is looking to China in the face of Western sanctions. —AFP

Canada rejects part of telecoms Rogers, Shaw merger

INDUSTRY Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne on Tuesday formally rejected part of a deal between Canadian telecom giants Rogers and Shaw to merge, insisting on the need for competition in the wireless market.

The two companies announced the Can\$26 billion (US\$19 billion) tie-up in March, but faced pushback as it would arguably lead to less choice for consumers and higher cellphone bills.

“Earlier this year, I stated that I would under no circumstances permit the wholesale transfer of wireless spectrum licences from Shaw to Rogers,” Champagne told a news conference.

“Today, I officially denied that request,” he said.

Anticipating the decision, Rogers had already proposed an alternative to address the concerns by selling Shaw’s Freedom Mobile subsidiary to Quebec-based Videotron. —AFP



A Rogers store offering services from Rogers Wireless, a wireless telephone subsidiary of the company. **PHOTO: RAYSONHO, PUBLIC DOMAIN - CCO 1.0/AFP**

Soonest complete development of Nay Pyi Taw Capital

NAY Pyi Taw, the capital of Myanmar can be dubbed as the administrative city whereas Yangon is can be said as an economic hub. The capital Nay Pyi Taw has so far been established for 16 years.

Good plans have been adopted in Nay Pyi Taw since its establishment for the purpose to implement development projects in the future by allotting agricultural and livestock zones and industrial zones so as to create job opportunities for local people.

It can be seen that industrial zones and agriculture and livestock

zones in some towns are not in line with the prescribed disciplines due to the construction of residential houses. In fact, industrial zones and agricultural and livestock zones must not allow the settlement of residents. If not, such acts indicate misuse of project areas.

If lands of these zones are misused, difficulties will emerge in manufacturing the products which will help economic development undertakings. Hence, it is necessary to take lessons from the wrongdoings of other cities for carrying out the development of Nay Pyi Taw. Currently, relevant authorities are striving for improvement of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. For example, the government is building the Nappytaw State Academy for local people.

Manufacturing products with the use of domestic raw materials is much beneficial for Nay Pyi Taw Area. In fact, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area is an area to cultivate paddy, beans and oil crops as well as operate

livestock breeding farms. It is necessary to strive for economic growth by successfully manufacturing products based on agriculture and livestock farms.

Myanmar is sufficient in manufacturing feedstuff for the operation of livestock breeding farms with wide pasture lands in addition to undertaking agricultural farms. Hence, farmers need to systematically operate livestock farms in order to manufacture value-added products for export purposes to earn income.

Agricultural produce ensures food sufficiency for dwellers in Nay Pyi Taw Capital whereas livestock breeding farms develop slaughtering to produce meat and leather for booming business industries. That is why people and local authorities should strive for the successful operation of livestock farms in the capital area.

Now is the time to develop Nay Pyi Taw Capital in order to uplift the living standard of the people and boom their businesses. As the capital is one of the many parts of the nation, its development will help the nation improve one hand. As such, Nay Pyi Taw Capital needs to march onward in taking a leading role to meet the development goal with collaborative efforts. Nay Pyi Taw is waiting for seeing its future progress.



Discover The 8 New UNESCO Global Geoparks

By **THAN HTUN**
(MYANMAR GEOSCIENCES SOCIETY)

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education, and sustainable development. A UNESCO Global Geopark comprises a number of geological heritage sites of special scientific importance, rarity, or beauty. These features are representative of a region's geological history and the events and processes that formed it. It must also include important natural, historic, cultural tangible, and intangible heritage sites.

A UNESCO Global Geopark must have a geological heritage of international significance which is, during the evaluation process, assessed by geoscientific experts, from the International Union of Geosciences (IUGS). It is based on the international peer-reviewed, published research conducted on the geological sites within the area. The experts make a globally comparative assessment to determine whether the geological sites constitute international value following a fixed set of criteria and questions.

The establishment of a UNESCO Global Geopark stimulates the creation of innovative local enterprises, small businesses, sustainable tourism activities and businesses, geotrails, and new jobs by generating new sources of revenue (e.g. geotourism, geo-products) while protecting the geo-resources.

A quick check to verify if an area has got all the important assets to prepare an application for UGGp designation is the Self-evaluation checklist and its explanatory notes, developed by the UGGp Council. This should be the first thing to do for anybody who has the idea to prepare an application dossier for UNESCO.

On 13th April 2022, UNESCO's Executive Board approved the designation of eight new UNESCO Global Geoparks bringing the number of sites participating in the Global Geoparks Network to 177 in 46 countries. Two new countries, Luxembourg and Sweden, this year join the Global Network with the designation of their

first geoparks. With these eight new designations, the Network now covers a worldwide surface area of 370,662 square kilometres, comparable to the area of Japan. The newly designated UNESCO Global Geoparks are:

- Seridó UNESCO Global Geopark, Brazil
- Southern Canyons Pathways UNESCO Global Geopark, Brazil
- Salpausselkä UNESCO Global Geopark, Finland
- Ries UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany
- Kefalonia-Ithaca UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece
- Möllerdall UNESCO Global Geopark, Luxembourg
- Buzău Land UNESCO Global Geopark, Romania
- Plåtåbergens UNESCO Global Geopark, Sweden
- Seridó UNESCO Global Geopark, Brazil

The Seridó UNESCO Global Geopark covers an area of 2,800 km² in the semi-arid northeast of Brazil. It is home to more than 120,000 inhabitants, including communities like the Quilombolas, who keep alive the memory of their enslaved ancestors from Africa to preserve their culture through traditional practices, museums and cultural centres. The geopark bears testimony to the last 600 million years of the Earth's history and shelters one of South America's largest scheelite mineralizations, an important tungsten ore, as well as basalt flows that stem from volcanic activity during the Mesozoic and Cenozoic Eras. This geodiversity determines to a large extent the region's unique biodiversity, especially characterized by the Caatinga ('white forest' in the Tupi language), an ecoregion marked by specific subtropical flora. The Caatinga is the only exclusively Brazilian biome, which means that much of its biological heritage cannot be found anywhere else on the planet.

Southern Canyons Pathways UNESCO Global Geopark, Brazil

The Caminhos dos Cânions do Sul UNESCO Global Geopark in southern Brazil covers an

area of 2,830.8 km² and is home to 74,120 inhabitants. It is characterized by Atlantic Forests, one of the planet's richest ecosystems in terms of biodiversity. The area's pre-Colombian inhabitants used to shelter in paleoburrows (underground cavities excavated by extinct paleo-vertebrate megafauna like the giant ground sloth) whose numerous vestiges are still visible in the geopark. The site moreover

the geopark are a central feature of the landscape, along with the long, distinct Salpausselkä ridges. Extending over more than 600 km across southern Finland, the ridges consist of sediments deposited by glaciers. They bear witness to climate change, specifically to the Younger Dryas, the cool period that lasted roughly from 12,900 to 11,600 years ago, and disrupted the Northern

temberg comprising the Ries Crater, situated between the Swabian and Franconian Alb in southern Germany. The geopark covers an area of 1,749 km² with around 162,500 inhabitants. Some 15 million years ago, a meteorite collided with Earth in this very place, leaving an impact crater that is the best-preserved meteorite crater in Europe and the most intensively studied impact



Brejui Mine, the largest scheelite mine in South America, EMPROTUR/Seridó UNESCO Global Geopark, Brazil.

features the most impressive canyons in South America, formed by the unique geomorphological processes that the continent underwent during the breakup of the Gondwana supercontinent some 180 million years ago.

Salpausselkä UNESCO Global Geopark, Finland

Home to around 177,000 inhabitants, the Salpausselkä UNESCO Global Geopark is located in southern Finland, in the southernmost part of the Finnish Lakeland, covering an area of 4,506 km². Around 21 per cent of the geopark is covered by water and over half by forests. The hundreds of lakes in

Hemisphere's warming trend at the end of the Pleistocene Epoch (2.6 million to 11,700 years ago). Studied since the 19th century, these ridges constitute Finland's best-known geological heritage set in a landscape formed by melting glaciers that created glaciofluvial landforms and rock formations that store an abundance of groundwater and provide the region with naturally high-quality drinking water.

Ries UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany

Most of the Ries UNESCO Global Geopark area lies in the state of Bavaria, with a smaller part in the state of Baden-Wür-

temberg comprising the Ries Crater, situated between the Swabian and Franconian Alb in southern Germany. The geopark covers an area of 1,749 km² with around 162,500 inhabitants. Some 15 million years ago, a meteorite collided with Earth in this very place, leaving an impact crater that is the best-preserved meteorite crater in Europe and the most intensively studied impact

Kefalonia-Ithaca UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece

In Western Greece, the Kefalonia-Ithaca UNESCO Global Geopark is an island complex be-

longing to the Heptanese (from the Greek for seven, the number of principal Ionic islands). Kefalonia occupies an area of 773 km² and is home to 35,801 inhabitants and Ithaca's 117 km² are inhabited by 3,084 people. The geopark is rich in geosites of karstic or

post-Byzantine monasteries, traditional settlements, windmills, bridges, and lighthouses, a rich cultural heritage scattered over the area's extraordinary geological features.

Möllerall UNESCO Global Geopark, Luxembourg

In Eastern Luxembourg, the rural Möllerall UNESCO Global Geopark covers 256 km² with a population of about 25,500 inhabitants. The geopark is situated in the centre of the Trier-Luxembourg Basin, which extends from the Paris Basin to the Rhenish Massif. It features the Luxembourg Sandstone Formation which reaches a thickness of up to 100 meters and dates from the Lower Liassic age (205 to 180 million years ago). It forms one of the most spectacular sandstone landscapes in Western Europe and has been a tourist attraction since the late 19th century. Today, the region can be explored by following a dense network of well-signposted hiking trails, including the 112 kilometre-long Mullerthal Trail, which has won the Leading Quality Trails – Best of Europe award.

Buzău Land UNESCO Global Geopark, Romania

In the Carpathian Bend Area in Romania, the hilly and mountainous territory of the Buzău Land UNESCO Global Geopark covers 1,036 km² and is home to some 45,000 inhabitants. Several tectonic plates collided in the region, creating a very complex fold and thrust mountain range which was later eroded by glacial action. One of the most geodynamically active areas in Europe, the geopark exhibits 40 million years of geological history. Over this period, its tectonic movements pushed up mountains and transformed a deep-sea environment into a terrestrial one. Fossils of marine species, terrestrial vegetation, mammals, and birds dating from the last glacial period have been well-preserved in the Carpathians. Many fossils

of beetles, spiders, crustaceans, reptiles, and other species are conserved in amber, a fossilized resin. Some of the longest and deepest salt caves in the world are also found here, remnants of large deposits of salt and gypsum formed by the evaporation of shallow enclosed bodies of water. This rich geodiversity has influenced a unique cultural heritage with local legends in which mud volcanoes become dragons, mud boilers are traps made by giants to catch cattle, and the future can be predicted by looking through a lens of amber.

Plåtåbergens UNESCO Global Geopark, Sweden

In West Sweden, the Plåtåbergens UNESCO Global Geopark covers an area of 3,690 km² and is home to 289,198 inhabitants. It presents a unique landscape of 15 flat-topped Table Mountains, plåtåbergen in Swedish, after which the site is named. These mountains were shaped by erosion during the last Ice Age 115,000 years ago. The area also covers the Västgöta Plain with its shallow floodplain lakes, undulating ridges, and well-preserved cultural landscapes. Some of Sweden's most interesting historical discoveries have been made in this area where museums preserve numerous vestiges that bear witness to inhabitants' use of the local stone over the millennia: from megalithic graves (5,300-4,700 BCE) to the first known stone church in Sweden, built by Christian Vikings in the early 11th century.

In Myanmar, since 2016, the Forest Department and Department of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and Myanmar Geosciences Society have been striving to establish National Geopark in the Mount Popa region. We look forward to seeing many National Geoparks and UNESCO Global Geoparks in Myanmar in the foreseeable future.

Reference: International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP)



SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Residents afraid to return home as aftershocks rock Philippines

RESIDENTS were too afraid to return to their homes as aftershocks rocked a blacked-out northern Philippines Wednesday, hours after a strong earthquake injured at least 26 people and damaged schools, churches and other buildings.

The 6.4-magnitude quake struck the mountain town of Dolores in Abra province late Tuesday, cutting power to most of the region. Numerous aftershocks rattled Abra through the night and into Wednesday morning, authorities said.

Rescuers pulled out 10 res-

idents from damaged buildings in Ilocos Norte, where 15 people sustained injuries, authorities said.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr ordered a school holiday as authorities assessed damaged buildings and said electricity was being restored.

A building housing a gallery of photos of the presidency of his father, Ferdinand Marcos Sr, in their home city of Batac was among those damaged.

"People are asking for tents, and the reason why is they are afraid of going back to

their houses because of the aftershocks, which could collapse their houses with the foundations weakened," Marcos Jr told reporters.

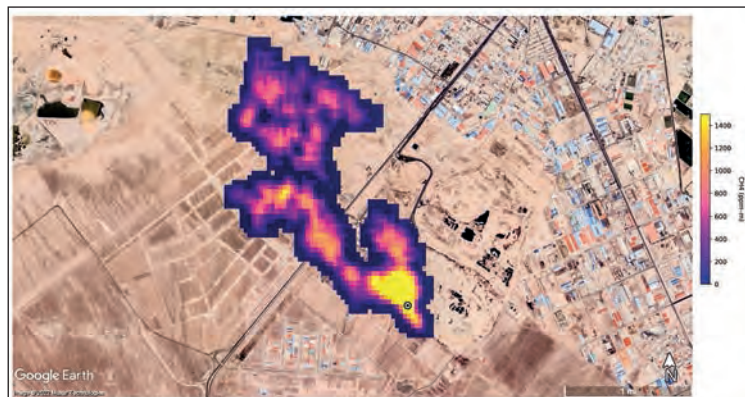
Several patients spent most of the night outside two government hospitals in Ilocos Norte after ceilings collapsed on several rooms in one and damaged equipment, officials said.

All patients and staff were safe but the outpatient department of one of the two facilities was closed while the building was being inspected.—AFP



This handout photo taken on 26 Oct 2022, courtesy from the Facebook page of parish priest Christian Edward Padua, shows a damaged church of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente in La Paz town, Abra province, north of Manila, a day after a 6.4-magnitude quake struck the province the day before. **PHOTO: AFP**

New NASA tool helps detect 'super-emitters' of methane from space



This handout satellite image from NASA/JPL-Caltech shows a methane plume at least three miles (4.8 kilometres) long coming from a major landfill south of Tehran, Iran. **PHOTO: NASA/JPL-CALTECH/AFP**

NASA scientists, using a tool designed to study how dust affects climate, have identified more than 50 spots around the world emitting major levels of methane, a development that could help combat the potent greenhouse gas.

"Reining in methane emissions is key to limiting global warming," NASA Administra-

tor Bill Nelson said in a press release on Tuesday.

"This exciting new development will not only help researchers better pinpoint where methane leaks are coming from, but also provide insight on how they can be addressed -- quickly."

NASA said its Earth Surface Mineral Dust Source Investigation (EMIT) is designed

to foster understanding of the effects of airborne dust on climate.

But EMIT, which was installed on the International Space Station in July and can focus on areas as small as a soccer field, has also shown the ability to detect the presence of methane.

NASA said more than 50 "super-emitters" of methane gas in Central Asia, the Middle East, and the southwestern United States have been identified so far. Most of them are connected to the fossil-fuel, waste or agriculture sectors.

Kate Calvin, NASA's chief scientist and senior climate advisor, said EMIT's "additional methane-detecting capability offers a remarkable opportunity to measure and monitor greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change."—AFP

28 dead in Bangladesh cyclone, millions without power

BANGLADESH rescue workers found the bodies of four missing crew of a dredger boat, taking the death toll from Cyclone Sitrang to 28 as millions remained without power, officials said Wednesday.

Cyclones -- the equivalent of hurricanes in the Atlantic or typhoons in the Pacific -- are a regular menace in the region but scientists say climate change is likely making them more intense and frequent.

Cyclone Sitrang made landfall in southern Bangladesh on Monday but authorities managed to get about a million people to safety before the monster storm hit. With winds of 80 kilometres (55 miles) per hour, it still left a trail of devastation in the country's densely popu-

lated, low-lying coastal region, which is home to tens of millions of people.

The government said nearly 10,000 tin-roofed homes were either "destroyed or damaged" and crops on large swathes of farmland were wrecked at a time of record-high food inflation. Fire department divers found the bodies of four crew of a dredger boat that sank during the storm in the Bay of Bengal.

"We found one body on Tuesday night and three more this morning. Four crew are still missing," Abdullah Pasha from the fire department told AFP.

Nearly five million people were still without power on Wednesday, Rural Electrification Board official Debashish Chakrabarty told AFP.—AFP



Cyclone Sitrang left a trail of devastation in Bangladesh's densely populated, low-lying coastal region **PHOTO: AFP**

Four offshore farms planned to double Denmark's wind power

DANISH energy company Orsted said Tuesday it was planning four new offshore wind farms, which would double the country's wind power production as it seeks to limit its dependence on Russian gas and oil. Orsted said in a statement it had entered a partnership

with investment fund Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) "to develop approx. 5.2 gigawatts of offshore wind in Denmark across four projects".

In 2021, the production from offshore wind turbines amounted to 2.3 gigawatts according to statistics from in-

dustrial group Wind Denmark.

The four projects, which are scheduled to be in operation by 2028, are in addition to the efforts announced by Nordic nation's government, which says it wants to be a pioneer in transitioning to renewable energy.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Australia admits cyber defences ‘inadequate’ as medical hack hits millions

HACKERS accessed millions of medical records at one of Australia’s largest private health insurers, the company said Wednesday, prompting the government to admit the nation’s cyber safeguards were “inadequate”.

This was the latest in a series of hacks targeting millions of people that have brought Australian companies’ lax approach to cyber security into sharp relief.

Medibank chief executive David Koczkar said information about each of the company’s 3.9 million policy holders — some 15 per cent of Australia’s population

— had been compromised.

“Our investigation has now established that this criminal has accessed all our private health insurance customers’ personal data and significant amounts of their health claims data,” he said in a statement to the Australian stock exchange.

“This is a terrible crime. This is a crime designed to cause maximum harm to the most vulnerable members of our community.”

The cyber attack was revealed last week, but it was not known until now how many people were impacted.

The hackers have previously threatened to leak the data, starting with 1,000 famous Australians, unless Medibank pays a ransom.

Medibank on Wednesday also confirmed it was not insured against cyber attacks, estimating the hack could cost the company as much as Au\$35 million (US\$22 million). The Medibank hack followed an attack on telecom company Optus last month that exposed the personal information of some nine million Australians — almost a third of the population.—AFP



People walk down a deserted street in Melbourne’s Chinatown on 19 October 2021 as the city prepares to lift some restrictions later in the week after enduring its sixth lockdown since the start of the pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ultrasound scan can diagnose prostate cancer: Research



An ultrasound scan can be used to detect cases of prostate cancer, according to new research. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/GBMC.ORG**

AN ultrasound scan can be used to detect cases of prostate cancer, according to new research.

Researchers at Imperial College London, University College London and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust have found that a new type of ultrasound scan can diagnose most prostate cancer cases with

good accuracy in a clinical trial involving 370 men.

The ultrasound scans missed only 4.3 per cent more clinically important prostate cancer cases — cancer that should be treated rather than monitored — compared to magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans currently used to detect prostate cancer.

MRI scans are expensive and time-consuming. The team believes that an ultrasound scan should be used as a first test in a community healthcare setting and in low and middle-income countries which do not have easy access to high-quality MRI scans. They say it could be used in combination with current MRI scans to maximize cancer detection. The study is published in Lancet Oncology.

Professor Hashim Ahmed, lead author of the study and Chair of Urology at Imperial College London, said:

“Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the UK. One in six men will be diagnosed with the disease in their lifetimes and that figure is expected to rise. —ANI

Post-Diwali Delhi wakes to toxic firecracker smog

NEW Delhi woke to toxic smog on Tuesday after Diwali revelers defied a firecracker ban and risked jail to celebrate the annual Hindu festival.

According to international monitoring company IQAir, harmful PM 2.5 particles surged to 350 on the air quality index — more than three times the reading a day earlier.

The reading for the partic-

ulates — so tiny they can penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream — is more than 23 times the recommended daily maximum set by the World Health Organization.

The PM 2.5 reading had eased to around 145 by mid-morning, still nearly 10 times the WHO limit.

A report by IQAir in 2020 found that 22 of the world’s 30

most polluted cities were in India.

New Delhi imposed a ban on the sale and use of firecrackers last month and announced that those flouting the ban could face up to six months in jail.

Many of the Indian capital’s roughly 20 million residents were still able to get hold of firecrackers, setting them alight into the early hours.—AFP

Feathers fly as Philippine cockfighting shakes off Covid closures

IN a raucous cockpit in the Philippines, Dennis de la Cruz grins from ear to ear as he watches his roosters slash their opponents to death in a frenzy of blood and feathers.

Shut for two years during the Covid-19 pandemic, traditional cockfighting arenas are getting back to full capacity across the archipelago nation.

Cockfighting is hugely popular in the Philippines, where millions of dollars are bet on matches every week.

Roosters wearing bladed spurs on their legs go beak to beak in a brutal fight to the death, as spectators — mostly men — wager on the result.

Supporters defend the

blood sport as being part of the Filipino identity and argue the birds would be eaten if they did not fight.

But opponents maintain it is cruel and should be banned, as it is in many other countries.

“In our village, more than half the residents are cockfighters,” de la Cruz, 64, told AFP at a recent derby in San Pedro, a city south of Manila, where he fell one win short of the one-million-peso (\$17,000) champion’s pot. The son of a longtime cockpit operator, de la Cruz said he had never held a regular job. Instead, he relied on his winnings from the roosters bred by his nephews on a large farm.—AFP



In this file photo, cockfighting enthusiast Armando Dagulan holds his fighting cock before a duel with neighbours in the village of Puerto Princesa, Palawan. Shut for two years during the Covid-19 pandemic, traditional cockfighting arenas are getting back to full capacity across the Philippines. **PHOTO: ROMEO GACAD / AFP**

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan to cut household electricity bills by 20% to fight inflation

JAPAN will cut household electricity bills by about 20 per cent early next year under a new economic package amid accelerating inflation, a source familiar with the matter said Wednesday.

The government is expected to spend around 25 trillion yen (\$170 billion) on the package, details of which will be announced as early as Friday. Lowering household electricity bills by 7 yen per kilowatt-hour will be a main pillar of the package.

For companies, the government will provide support of 3.5 yen per kilowatt hour, according to the source.

In addition to electricity, an average household is expected to save about 900 yen in monthly city gas service charges, with the government providing support of 30 yen per cubic metre of consumption.

Combining utility bill support with an ongoing subsidy programme for oil wholesalers



For companies, the government will provide support of 3.5 yen per kilowatt-hour, according to the source. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/KYODO**

to help reduce retail gasoline and kerosene prices, a Japanese household could save a total of about 45,000 yen from January through September.

The government eyes extending the subsidy programme beyond December but at a reduced amount, the source said.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has instructed officials to draw up the new economic package focusing on ways to ease the pain of higher prices on households, spurring wage growth and revving up an economy still recovering from the coronavirus pandemic.—Kyodo

THE WORLD in brief

Greeks turn to firewood to heat homes amid energy crisis

RESIDENTS of the Athens suburb of Glyfada who are struggling to heat their homes as energy prices soar now have an option – free firewood from the local council.

“We need it... especially in this difficult year,” says Yiannis Dimitrakopoulos, a 75-year-old pensioner queuing for logs.

Dozens of people wait patiently in their cars for their turn.

“We try to get as much wood as we can. We have a fuel oil central heating system but you never know,” says Erofilis Generali, a teacher in her 50s.

She looks on while her husband fills the boot of their car with wood collected from local forests and parks.

Although temperatures in Glyfada remain fairly mild during the winter season, the inhabitants of this fashionable southern suburb, nicknamed the Athens Riviera, still need to heat their homes somewhat in winter. —AFP

German business morale slips ahead of ‘difficult winter’

BUSINESS confidence in Germany weakened again in October, a key survey said Tuesday, as the country hurtles towards a recession on the back of high inflation and a raging energy crisis.

The Ifo institute’s monthly confidence barometer, based on a survey of about 9,000 companies, fell for a fifth consecutive month to reach 84.3 points, down from 84.4 points in September. —AFP

Would-be crypto investors in Singapore could face risk tests



This picture taken on 2 January 2019 shows the skyline of the financial business district in Singapore. **PHOTO: ROSLAN RAHMAN / AFP**

PEOPLE looking to trade cryptocurrency in Singapore may soon have to take a test to prove they understand what they are getting into, the central bank said Wednesday, as it looks to prevent clueless investors from bankrupting themselves.

The Asian finance hub has taken cautious steps to expand

its digital assets market, but has warned against the risks from trading in digital coins, especially among small investors lured by stories of quick riches.

“Trading in cryptocurrencies is highly risky and not suitable for the general public,” the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) said as it unveiled

proposals to protect traders.

“However, cryptocurrencies play a supporting role in the broader digital asset ecosystem and it would not be feasible to ban them.” Under the plan, which will face public scrutiny before it can become legislation, the MAS will require cryptocurrency service providers to be more transparent in telling consumers about the risks so they could make informed choices.

Would-be investors must also take a test to assess their understanding of the risks before they are allowed to trade, and they will be barred from using credit cards or payment apps to buy the units.

If an applicant fails to answer the questions correctly, service providers can give them “educational materials... to strengthen the customer’s knowledge of the risks... This should not be limited to those questions to which the retail customer answered incorrectly”.—AFP

Brazil’s 2022 growth forecast revised up to 2.76%

FINANCIAL analysts upgraded their forecast for Brazil’s economic growth for 2022 from 2.71 per cent to 2.76 per cent, and from 0.59 per cent to 0.63 per cent for 2023, the Central Bank of Brazil said Monday. According to the bank’s weekly survey of the country’s leading financial institutions, market analysts lowered the inflation forecast for the year from 5.62 per cent to 5.6 per cent, and from 4.97 per cent to 4.94 per

cent for the next year.

The government’s inflation target is 3.5 per cent for 2022 and 3.25 per cent for 2023, with a margin of error of 1.5 percentage points in both cases.

Regarding the benchmark interest rate, currently at 13.75 per cent annually, analysts expected it to remain unchanged until the end of the year and to gradually decline to 11.25 per cent by the end of 2023. —Xinhua



A fisherman removing a large Pirarucus (Arapaima gigas) fish from the water at the Amana Sustainable Development Reserve, in Amazonas State, northern Brazil on 27 November 2018. **PHOTO: MAMIRAUÁ INSTITUTE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/BERNARDO OLIVEIRA/AFP/FILE**

Germany allows smaller Chinese stake in Hamburg port



China's state-owned Cosco had originally sought a 35-per-cent stake in the Hamburg port. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

GERMANY'S coalition government on Wednesday allowed a Chinese firm to take a smaller-than-planned stake in a Hamburg port, after Chancellor Olaf Scholz resisted calls to ban the controversial sale outright.

Under the compromise reached by Scholz's cabinet, Chinese shipping giant Cosco will be allowed

to buy a stake "below 25 per cent" in a container terminal owned by HHLA, the economy ministry said in a statement.

"The reason for the partial prohibition is the existence of a threat to public order and safety."

China's state-owned Cosco had initially sought a 35-per-cent stake and the deal would have automati-

cally gone ahead if a compromise solution hadn't been found this week.

The fate of the Tollerort terminal at Hamburg's port — Europe's third busiest — has sparked a fierce row in Scholz's coalition government, amid growing concern about critical infrastructure falling into foreign hands.

Scholz, a former Ham-

burg mayor, had supported the sale and has repeatedly stressed the importance of strong trade ties with China.

He is due to visit China next week, the first European Union leader to make the trip since November 2019.

But Scholz's coalition partners the Greens and the FDP wanted to veto the Hamburg port deal, citing security risks.

Badly burnt by its over-reliance on Russian energy, many in Germany are also wary of becoming too dependent on China economically.

Six German ministries, including those of economy, defence and foreign affairs, had opposed the Cosco sale.

The European Commission had also expressed reservations about the deal, a source told AFP at the weekend.—AFP

Airbus hands employees extra 1,500 euros as inflation hits

EUROPEAN aircraft maker Airbus announced Monday a one-off payment of 1,500 euros for all employees in its four founding nations — UK, France, Germany, Spain — as inflation hits.

"The Airbus Executive Committee has decided that an exceptional premium will be paid before the end of 2022 to all Airbus employees", including senior management, the company said in a message to employees seen by AFP.

Outside of the four main Airbus countries, employees will receive a special premium, "calculated as a percentage of the average local base salary," the planemaker said.

At the end of last year, Airbus employed 126,000 people worldwide, including 46,000 in France and 43,000 in Germany.

"The volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity that characterize our current environment have been further reinforced in recent months by the energy crisis and inflation," Airbus said in its message to employees.

"This phenomenon of widespread price rises is placing a heavy and direct financial burden on the economies of many countries and companies. This reality also applies to Airbus employees," it added.—AFP



Outside of the four main Airbus countries, employees will receive a special premium, "calculated as a percentage of the average local base salary", the planemaker said. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Hong Kong arrests two in \$446 million money-laundering case



People walk past Exchange Square displaying the Hang Seng Index (top R) in Hong Kong. PHOTO: AFP

HONG Kong authorities have arrested two men for laundering funds worth HK\$3.5 billion (\$446 million) by reselling precious metals, one of the city's largest money-laundering cases, officials said Wednesday.

The two were involved in a scheme selling around eight tonnes of precious metals -- mostly

gold and palladium -- between 2020 and 2021 for returns "incommensurate" with their backgrounds, customs official Rita Li said at a press conference.

It was a record for money-laundering cases busted by Hong Kong Customs, Li said, although the police have cracked larger cases.— AFP

Novartis net profit down in Q3 amid restructuring

SWISS pharmaceutical giant Novartis on Tuesday reported a sharp drop in net profits in the third quarter, weighed down by the cost of restructuring.

Novartis in a statement reported a 43 per cent fall in third-quarter net profits to nearly \$1.6 billion.

Turnover fell by four per cent to \$12.5 billion on the strength of the US dollar but rose by four per cent in local currency, it said.

The company in April announced a major reorganization, notably by merging its pharmaceutical and oncology divisions and separating its generic medicine branch, Sandoz.

That division faced fierce price competition in

the third quarter, particularly in the United States, but its turnover climbed by four per cent in local currency.

Its pharmaceutical division's sales also rose by four per cent thanks to its flagship products such as Cosentyx, Entresto and Pluvicto, a new prostate cancer treatment approved in the United States and the European Union this year.

Novartis said it expected its pharmaceutical division to grow by around five per cent in 2022 and upped its sales forecast for Sandoz. The group said in June that it was slashing around 8,000 jobs worldwide as part of the restructuring push.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MBS BRATAN VOY.NO. (2209)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MBS BRATAN VOY.NO. (2209) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-10-2022 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Norway and Russia agree on Barents Sea fishing quotas

NORWAY and Russia have reached a deal on fishing quotas for 2023, Oslo said, a rare sign of understanding amid heightened tensions over the war in Ukraine.

Since 1976 -- when a first deal was drawn up during the Cold War -- NATO member Norway and Russia have agreed on catch quotas in the Barents Sea which is home to prized cod stocks and off the coast of both countries.

"It's good that we have reached a fishing agreement with Russia despite the extraordinary situation in which we find ourselves", Norwegian Fisheries Minister Bjornar Skjaeran said in a statement issued late Tuesday.

In order to not endanger that agreement, which has been held up as a model of cooperation

since, the Scandinavian country has strayed a little from European sanctions imposed on Moscow after its invasion of Ukraine.

Russian vessels are banned from docking in European ports, but Norway has granted fishing trawlers an exception, allowing them to unload their catches in the Scandinavian country.

In early October, Oslo however restricted them to three ports and required Russian trawlers to undergo systematic inspections.

In a sign of the exceptional situation, the negotiations between the two countries were conducted solely on online channels. On Twitter, Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store called the agreement "important at a challenging time with the war in Ukraine". —AFP



A picture shows trawlers from the Murmansk fleet in the port, waiting the next fishing expedition. **PHOTO: DARIO THUBURN/AFP /FILE**

Mercedes-Benz to sell off Russian assets to local investor

GERMAN carmaker Mercedes-Benz is expected to sell its Russian assets to a local investor, the Russian Industry and Trade Ministry said Wednesday, becoming the latest automaker to exit since Moscow sent troops to Ukraine.

"Mercedes-Benz intends to sell its shares in Russian subsidiaries to a local investor," Avtodom, the ministry said in a Telegram statement.

"The new owner of the Russian divisions of Mercedes-Benz, Avtodom, will be able to attract other companies as partners for joint productions," the ministry added.



German carmaker Mercedes-Benz is the latest foreign automaker to exit Russia following the invasion of Ukraine. **PHOTO: MERCEDES-BENZ RUS/AFP**

Mercedes-Benz confirmed it intended to sell in a separate statement.

"The fulfilment of obligations to customers in Russia... as well as the preservation of

jobs for employees of the Russian divisions of the company" were the priority in concluding the deal with Avtodom, general director of Mercedes-Benz-RUS Natalya Koroleva said.

"The completion of the transaction is subject to the approval of all relevant authorities," Mercedes-Benz said in the statement. Many Western companies left Russia for ethical or logistical reasons since Moscow launched what it calls a "special military operation" in Ukraine on 24 February.

No financial details of the transaction were provided by either side on Wednesday.—AFP

Romania defence minister resigns after Ukraine comments

ROMANIA'S defence minister said Monday he would resign, after he faced a wave of criticism for saying the war in Ukraine could only end through peace talks with Russia.

Vasile Dincu announced the move on social media, citing the "impossibility of collaborating with the president" as the reason for his resignation.

Romania's President Klaus Iohannis publicly condemned Dincu over his Ukraine comments earlier this month, saying "only Ukraine can decide when and what it negotiates". —AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINE



The conflict began in November 2020 when Abiy sent troops into Tigray in response to what he said were TPLF attacks on federal army camps. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Ethiopia peace talks open in South Africa

THE first formal peace talks between the warring sides in the brutal two-year conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region opened in South Africa on Tuesday.

Led by the African Union (AU), the negotiations in Pretoria follow a fierce surge in fighting in recent weeks that has alarmed the international community and triggered fears for civilians

caught in the crossfire.

They "have been convened to find a peaceful and sustainable solution to the devastating conflict", South African President Cyril Ramaphosa's spokesman Vincent Magwenya told reporters, adding that they would run until 30 October. South Africa hopes "the talks will proceed constructively and result in a successful

outcome that leads to peace for all the people of our dear sister country", he said. The dialogue between negotiators from the Ethiopian government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and the regional authorities in war-stricken Tigray was launched almost two months to the day since fighting resumed, shattering a five-month truce.—AFP

NEWS IN
BRIEF

Japan, US, S. Korea agree to beef up
deterrence against N. Korea

SENIOR diplomats of Japan, the United States and South Korea agreed Wednesday to strengthen deterrence in reining in the North Korean military threat, amid fears that Pyongyang could carry out its seventh nuclear test soon.

Vice-Foreign Minister Takeo Mori told reporters after a trilateral meeting in Tokyo that the three countries will never tolerate the nuclear blackmail employed by Russia in its war against Ukraine.

Mori, US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman and South Korean First Vice-Foreign Minister Cho Hyun Dong also opposed any attempt to change the status quo in the East and South China seas, in a veiled criticism of China's assertive territorial claims and military buildup.—Kyodo

Tribunal rejects Canada Indigenous
children compensation deal

A human rights tribunal on Tuesday rejected a historic Can\$40 billion (US\$30 billion) agreement to reform Canada's discriminatory child welfare system and compensate Indigenous families who suffered because of it. The deal was announced late last year to settle a lawsuit that found the government had underfunded Indigenous children's services compared to those for non-Indigenous children. It was the largest proposed settlement in Canadian history. Its rejection by the tribunal "is disappointing to many First Nations people", Indigenous Services Minister Patty Hajdu told reporters in Ottawa.—AFP

Israel's cost of living crisis
becomes election issue



Tel Aviv, with its soaring property prices, was ranked the world's most expensive city by The Economist magazine last year. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

WITH her tattooed arms bare and her head uncovered, Talia looks somewhat out of place shopping at a Jerusalem discount supermarket that caters to modestly dressed ultra-Orthodox Jews.

"I have no choice but to come here," the 32-year-old nurse told AFP, asking not to be fully named as she discusses her family's financial struggles

at a time food prices are surging in Israel.

She worries about being able to feed her two children even though she and her husband, who repairs household appliances, "work like crazy", including night shifts for her and weekend jobs for him.

"We can't do it anymore," she said in frustration as she filled her cart with packets of

pasta while avoiding the pricier items.

It's a familiar problem for millions of Israelis who have endured soaring consumer prices for years, failing to fully benefit from an era of rapid economic growth driven by a high-tech boom.

Much of the world has endured rapid inflation since Russia's war in Ukraine started early this year, driving up energy and food prices everywhere.

But in Israel — where 400 grammes of canned tuna can each cost around 30 shekels (about \$8.50) — the problem has been acute for years, blamed in part on the strong shekel which makes imports more expensive.

Tel Aviv, with its soaring property prices, was ranked the world's most expensive city by The Economist magazine last year, and simmering rage over costs and income inequality is especially widespread.—AFP

Iran tensions rise in
protests ahead of Mahsa
Amini ceremony

IRANIAN students protested Tuesday at multiple universities, defying a bloody crack-down as tensions mount on the eve of planned ceremonies marking 40 days since Mahsa Amini's death.

"A student may die but will not accept humiliation," they chanted at Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz, in the southwestern province of Khuzestan, in an online video verified by AFP.

Young women and school-girls have been at the forefront of protests sparked by Amini's death last month, after her arrest for an alleged breach of the Islamic republic's strict dress code for women.

The 22-year-old Iranian of Kurdish origin died three days after being taken into custody by the notorious morality police on 13 September while visiting Tehran with her younger brother.—AFP



Pedestrians in Tehran's Valiasr Square near a huge billboard depicting Iranians marching with national flags. **PHOTO: AFP**

Suspended sentences for German
would-be mystic mercenaries

TWO former German soldiers were handed suspended sentences on Monday for trying to form a paramilitary group to fight in Yemen's civil war after being inspired by a psychic.

The two men, aged 53 and 61, were found guilty of taking steps to "found a paramilitary unit consisting principally of former and active members of the German armed forces to commit acts of combat" in Yemen, the higher regional court in Stuttgart said in a statement.

The men had been identified during their trial as Achim Allweyer and Arend-Adolf Graess respectively.

The duo are believed to have been motivated by fundamentalist Christian beliefs and "by the prophecies of a Turkish fortune teller", the court said.

Starting in early 2021, they are accused of trying to create a paramilitary unit of 100 to 150 men to intervene in the civil war in Yemen.



A Saudi-led coalition has for years been fighting against Iranian-backed rebels in Yemen. **PHOTO: SALEH AL-OBEIDI/AFP**

A Saudi-led coalition has for years been fighting against so-called Huthi rebels in Yemen, who are in turn supported by Iran.

The two suspects had wanted their unit to help conquer areas of Yemen controlled by the Huthi rebels, the court said.

They were aware that their mission "would inevitably involve killing in the context of armed conflicts as well as civilian casualties", it said.

The two men had been hoping to secure funds to pay members a monthly wage of 40,000 euros (\$46,000) each.

Allweyer is accused of contacting representatives of the Saudi Arabian government in a bid to secure funds, while Graess is said to have been responsible for recruitment. According to the court, neither had been successful in their efforts, which were thwarted with their arrest in October 2021. —AFP



Juventus crash out of Champions League but Chelsea, PSG through to last 16

JUVENTUS were knocked out of the Champions League in the group stage for the first time in nine years on Tuesday but Chelsea, Paris Saint-Germain, Benfica and Borussia Dortmund all secured qualification for the knockout stage with one group game to spare.

A 4-3 defeat away to Benfica in Portugal sealed the fate of a Juventus side who have been in decline in Europe for several seasons and have now lost four of their five matches in Group H.

Having already won when the sides met in Italy, Benfica went ahead in Lisbon when Antonio Silva headed in an Enzo Fernandez cross.

Moise Kean quickly equalized for Juve with a goal that was confirmed following a VAR review, but Joao Mario

restored Benfica's lead from the penalty spot and then set up Rafa Silva to make it 3-1 before half-time with a superb backheel flick.

The same player then got Benfica's fourth early in the second half, and a Juventus fightback that produced goals by Arkadiusz Milik and Weston McKennie came too late. Juventus had been knocked out in the last 16 in each of the last three seasons but they have not been eliminated from the Champions League in the group stage since 2013/14.

"I am angry and sad be-

cause we are out of the Champions League, but we must think about the league now," said Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri, whose team are eighth in Serie A.—AFP



Kai Havertz celebrates after scoring Chelsea's winner away to Red Bull Salzburg. PHOTO: APA/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.

MFF Grassroots Football Festival 2022 held in Yangon

THE Myanmar Football Federation held the MFF Grassroots Football Festival 2022 this week, according to the youth football development programmes of the Asian Football Confederation at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Soe Moe of the Sports and Physical Education Department, Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Moe Tun of the Yangon Region Education Office, Yangon Region Sports and Physical Education Department director U Aung Moe, Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon) Principal U Aung Naing Swe, executive member of the Myanmar Football Federation and chairman of the youth tournament organizing committee U

Min Hlaing, general secretary U Ko Ko Thein of the Myanmar Football Federation, technical director U Tin Myint Aung, MFF officials, coaches and students attended the grassroots football event.

U Min Hlaing, an executive member of the Myanmar Football Federation and chairman of the youth tournament organizing committee, gave an opening speech at the event.

According to the programme, football coaches taught basic football skills to young students and introduced the fun of football.

More than 350 students and football trainers from basic education schools in Yangon Region participated in the MFF Grassroots Football Festival 2022. — GNLM



A child among others practises football techniques at the MFF Grassroots Football Festival 2022. PHOTO: MFF