BE MATURE FOR FACING BOTH WINS AND LOSSES PAGE-8 (OPINION)

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.

SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General presents prizes to winners in Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Sports Competitions for 2022

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends the final football match and prize presentation ceremony of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Sports Competitions for 2022 in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 November 2022.

THE awarding for the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Sports Competitions for 2022 took place at Zeyathiri Sports Ground in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, attended by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The ceremony was also attended by Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, Vice-Chairman of SAC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Command-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, State dignitaries and spectators.

In the final match of the 59th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy (Army, Navy and Air) A-Class Football Tournament, the Central Command team and the Yangon Command team made vigorous efforts to attack each other but the match ended with a goalless draw at the final whistle. Both teams went on to the extra time. In the 6th minute of the first extra time, the Yangon Command team scored a leading goal. Despite opening attacks, the Central Command team could not score an equalizer. Hence, the Yangon Command team thumbed up its victory with a 1-0 win over the Central Command team in the final match.

Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Kyaw Swa Lin presented the trophy, cash awards and individual medals for fair play awards to the North-East Command team in the B-Class event, the Eastern Command team in the A-Class event and third prize in the B-Class event to No 99 Light Infantry Division team respectively.

Chairman of the Tatmadaw Sports and Physical Education Administration Board Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Soe Min Oo presented the trophy, cash awards and individual medals for best player awards for respective positions in the B-Class event and A-Class event and third prize in the A-Class event to Northern Command team respectively.

Lt-Gen Than Tun Oo of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) presented cash awards and individual medals for best player awards, man of the match award winners in the A-Class event and second prize in the B-Class event to the South-East Command team respectively.

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19 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 25 November, total figure rises to 633,137

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 633,137 after 19 new cases were reported on 25 November 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 607,576 including 17 new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at 19,488 on Friday with no new deaths reported from the pandemic.

According to the research, it is found that people who have been vaccinated do not suffer severely from the disease, need not to be hospitalized and unlikely to die. If they have received booster shot, the death rates can be reduced more.

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

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

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

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

Diamond Jubilee Independence Day Variety Show to be broadcast live on MRTV

THE Variety Show for the 75th Anniversary Independence Day will be held for five days from 26 to 30 November at the open theatre in Nay Pyi Taw City Hall, the artistes from film, theatrical and music fields will entertain for the first three days, artistes under the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Welfare on 29 November and the artistes from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture on 30 November.

Concert performances will be broadcast live on MRTV-HD, MRTV Parliament Channel, MWD HD Channel, MWD Variety HD Channel, and MRTV Web & App two times from 6:30 pm to 8 pm and from 9 pm to 11 pm.

The programmes that were performed between 8 pm and 9 pm will be delayed broadcast on these channels the next day starting from 4 pm, ending of the news programme, to 6 pm. — 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 programmes are one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 disease.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, and relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 1,792 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 7,064 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

Similarly, on that day healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 1,522 students from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 308 students from seven districts in Mandalay Region.

In addition, to assist in the control and prevention of the COVID-19 disease, military officials from various military commands in collaboration with district and township administrative officials, departmental personnel and members of civil society organizations (CSOs) conducted educational campaigns such as prevention of COVID-19, wearing of masks in public places and distribution of masks to the locals at schools, markets, streets, city entry points and crowded areas in 44 townships in Yangon Region, yesterday. — MNA

A local from Kyaunggon Township in Ayeyawady Region gets jabbed against COVID-19 on 25 November.

Over 3,000 illegal trade cases worth K45.6 billion registered in nine months of 2022

THERE are over 3,000 illegal trade cases in nine months of 2022, said Chairman of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the coordination meeting 5/2022 of the steering committee at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 November.

During the nine months from January to September this year, action was taken against 3,095 illegal trade cases and the value of the confiscated illegal goods was estimated at K45.6 billion.

There were 1,558 illegal trade cases and the value of the confiscated illegal goods stood at K6.626 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year.

The most seizures of illegal goods were made in Mandalay Region in August and October and Kayin State in September.

In addition, Chairman of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win said special task forces need to arrange no hindrance to the inflow of necessary agricultural inputs to the farmers in time while effectively inspecting illegally imported ammonium nitrate with security awareness. In suppressing the illegal trade, task forces seized not only illegal commodities but narcotic drugs, explosives, arms and ammunition and related accessories. Therefore, special task forces and departments concerned need to make thorough inspections for the secret conveyance of illegal arms and ammunition and explosives. — TWA/GNLM

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Peace processes unwaveringly base on nationwide ceasefire agreement-NCA and Constitution (2008)

WE would have two basic factors for the continuation of implementing the peace process. These are: to firmly stand for the nationwide ceasefire agreement-NCA and firmly stand for the Constitution (2008).

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the 7th Anniversary of Signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) on 15 October 2022)

SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General presents prizes to winners in Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Sports Competitions for 2022

The Senior General presents the championship shield to the C-in-C (Navy) Office team.

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Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung and Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye presented cash awards and individual medals for second prize in the A-Class event to Central Command team, first prize in B-Class event to North-East Command team and first prize in A-Class event to Yangon Command team respectively.

The Vice-Senior General presented the first prize trophy of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, a duplicate trophy and a cash award to the North-East Command team in the B-Class event and the Yangon Command team in the A-Class event respectively.

The Senior General presented the championship shield to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) team holding 50 golds, 35 silvers and 37 bronzes, totalling 122 medals to the team administration officer and players.

After the ceremony, 17 sports teams and the military band left the ground. The Senior General and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and guests waved to the teams.

Meanwhile, fireworks were launched in commemoration of the successful completion of the awarding ceremony. — MNA

SAC Vice-Chairman Dy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win receives Mr Hideo Watanabe, Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win received Mr Hideo Watanabe, Chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association, at the parlour of the SAC Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, they frankly exchanged views on further cooperation measures of the Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association, undertakings for improvement of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, internal and international political and economic progress, investments of Japan, political changes in Myanmar, and implementation of the roadmap and objectives.

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win receives Chairman Mr Hideo Watanabe of the Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

After the meeting, the Vice-Senior General and the Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Chairman exchanged commemorative gifts.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Myo Htut and officials. The Chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association was accompanied by Secretary Mr Yusuke Watanabe. — MNA

MoHA Union Minister meets delegation led by Director-General of Border Guards Bangladesh, 8th BGP (MPF)-BGB Senior-Level Border Conference held

STATE Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut received Director-General of Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) Maj-Gen Shakil Ahmed (SPP, nswc, afwc, psc) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Both sides discussed Myanmar-Bangladesh border security and rule of law, counter-terrorism, combatting illegal entry of borders and timely exchange of information. Bangladesh pledged that they will not allow the terrorist groups and terrorists in their region at all and will eradicate such bases by cooperation with Myanmar Border Guard Police. They also frankly exchanged views on patrols for border stability and enhancement of trust between the two countries.

Moreover, Deputy Chief of MPF Police Maj-Gen Aung Naing Thu signed the Joint Record of Discussion (JRD) with Director-General of Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) Maj-Gen Shakil Ahmed (SPP, nswc, afwc, psc). The JRD was agreed upon by the two countries during the 8th BGP (MPF)-BGB Senior-Level Border Conference.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Soe Htut receives Director-General of Border Guards Bangladesh Maj-Gen Shakil Ahmed in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The 8th BGP (MPF)-BGB Senior-Level Border Conference was held at the meeting hall of the Myanmar Police Force on 24 November.

The conference was attended by 15 Myanmar delegates led by Deputy Chief of MPF Police Maj-Gen Aung Naing Thu and 11 senior officials led by Director-General of Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) Maj-Gen Shakil Ahmed (SPP, nswc, afwc, psc).

The meeting focused on bilateral cooperation between two border guards for security and the rule of law, joint patrols along the border line, prevention of transnational crimes, combatting terrorism and terrorist groups, cooperation to curb border passing of Mafia, prevention of illegal entry and exit and drug cases.

Then, they agreed on 14 facts regarding work plans on combatting terrorism, drug case and promotion of bilateral relations.

On 24 November, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet received the delegation led by Director-General of Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) Maj-Gen Shakil Ahmed (SPP, nswc, afwc, psc). The two parties discussed security and rule of law at the border area and exchanged gifts.

At the 8th BGP (MPF)-BGB Senior Level Border Conference, the leaders also discussed timely information exchange, holding battalion commander-level and senior-level meetings monthly and annually, combatting any terrorist groups based in the Bangladesh area and holding sports competitions. The agreements made at the discussion will be implemented in December 2022. — MNA

MoIC Union Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

UNION Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing of the Ministry of International Cooperation received Mr Chen Hai, Ambassador of China to Myanmar, at 1 pm on 25 November 2022 at the Ministry of International Cooperation, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to further consolidation of the existing Pauk Phaw relations, accelerating the implementation of Myanmar-China bilateral projects on the basis of mutual benefits, strengthening cooperation in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, providing constructive support towards Myanmar's Peace Process, restoration of peace and stability along the border area between Myanmar and China. They also cordially exchanged views on regional and international matters of mutual interests as well as closer collaboration between the two countries in regional and multilateral contexts particularly ASEAN and the United Nations. — MNA

Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai calls on Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

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

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Variety Show full-dress rehearsal for Diamond Jubilee Independence Day held in Nay Pyi Taw

Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and party view the full-dress rehearsal for Diamond Jubilee Independence Day Variety Show in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE full-dress rehearsal for Diamond Jubilee Independence Day Variety Show was held at the open-air theatre of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall yesterday evening.

Chairman of the Organizing Committee on Variety Show for Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and Vice-Chairman of the Committee Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Tin Oo Lwin, Chairman of the Working Committee Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, Deputy Minister for Religion Affairs and Culture Dr Moe Zaw Tun and Vice Mayor of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Maung Maung viewed and encouraged the full-dress rehearsal for the celebration.

The concert in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary Independence Day will be held from 26 to 30 November at the open theatre in Nay Pyi Taw City Hall, the artistes from film, theatrical and music fields will entertain for the first three days, artistes under the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Welfare on 29 November and the artistes from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture on 30 November.

Concert performances will be broadcast live on MRTV-HD, MRTV Parliament Channel, MWD HD Channel, MWD Variety HD Channel, and MRTV Web & App two times from 6:30 pm to 8 pm and from 9 pm to 11 pm.

The programmes that were performed between 8 pm and 9 pm will be delayed broadcast on these channels the next day starting from 4 pm, ending of the news programme, to 6 pm. — MNA

29th National Monsoon Forum held

The 29th National Monsoon Forum is in progress.

THE opening ceremony of the 29th National Monsoon Forum 2022, Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH), was held in Multi-Hazard Early Warning Centre yesterday. Director-General Dr Kyaw Moe Oo of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology delivered the opening remark.

Departmental representatives in disaster management and other related departments, including participants from the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, regional and state offices of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology with the virtual system totalling about 100 participants attended the forum.

The workshop focused on reviewing the 2022 Monsoon season, presenting and discussing the seasonal outlook of weather forecast and water level forecast for the 2022-2023 winter season, condition of agri-meteorology, condition of La Nina during the winter season, discussing sectorial lessons learned during the Monsoon Season based on historical data and observed conditions and detailed discussions on sectorial preparedness using the forecasts for the 2022-2023 winter season.

The monsoon forum has been held twice annually on a regular basis starting in 2007 and the current forum is the 29th of the forum. —MNA

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Illegal timbers, motorbike parts, mobile phone accessories and vehicles confiscated

SUPERVISED by the Customs Department, an on-duty team conducted inspections on 23 November.

Officials confiscated K72,660,000 worth of mobile phone accessories that were not matched in the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Airport Warehouse of Yangon International Airport. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

Similarly, a patrol on-duty team of the Yepu Permanent Checkpoint under the management of the Shan State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force nabbed a total of 1.04 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K38,040,000 from a vehicle (estimated value of K20 million) on the side of Lashio-Muse Road and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, a total of 0.900 tonne of illegal timbers worth K63,000 was captured near Kinpunchaung village in Kyaikto township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 24 November, a total of 5.1546 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K213,171 was confiscated in Tatkon township of Ottara District. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

A team led by the Myanmar Police Force under the supervision of the Sagaing Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections and captured an unregistered three-wheel motorbike worth K700,000 in Shwebo township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

In addition, on 25 November, the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint confiscated K1.2 million worth of motorbike parts without official documents from a vehicle heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

A total of 1.7842 tonnes of illegal teak worth K731,252 was captured in Toungoo and Thayawady districts and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, nine arrests (approximately K133,607,423) were made on three consecutive days from 23 to 25 November, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA

CURRENT AFFAIRS

437 monks to sit for 75th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination

THE 75th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination will be held from 26 December 2022 to 27 January 2023, according to the Religious Affairs Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

The opening ceremony of the 33-day Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination will be organized at Maha Pasana Cave on the Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon on 26 December.

The opening ceremony and the examination session will be attended by 235 Sayadaws including two State Sangha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws, 11 Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Ovadacariya Sayadaws, and monks who will sit for the exam.

A total of 437 monks — 250 monks for oral sessions and 187 monks for writing tests are registered, according to the department. There were 192 monks who took 74th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination (writing test) and one monk passed the Mula Abhidhamma Kovida while one for Dighanikayakovida, seven for Vinayakovida and 10 for Ubhatovibhanga Kovida in writing test.

The honouring ceremony of the 74th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida held on 22 May 2022 was attended by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws led by Chairman Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa. During the event, Sayadaw delivered sermons with examples regarding the Pariyatti, Patipatti and Pativedha. — TWA/GNLM

State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws led by Chairman Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa are pictured at the 74th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Day.

Agri-export via Chinshwehaw outperforms Muse within one week ending 23 Nov

THE value of agricultural export through the Chinshwehaw border post increased by US$1,150.758 compared to that of the Muse border among the border posts between Myanmar and China.

Myanmar delivered agricultural exports worth US$823,941.54 through the Chinshwehaw border in a week on 23 November, while the Muse border saw agri-exports worth $822,790.782. The figures showed an increase of $1,150.758 at the Chinshwehaw border compared to Muse's export value.

In the 2022-2023 financial year, Chinshwehaw carried out the third largest trade after Myawady and Muse out of the border posts. Rice, broken rice, rubber and corn are commonly exported via the Chinshwehaw border post.

For a week between 17 and 23 November, agricultural export through the Chinshwehaw border was estimated at $8.237 million.

Myanmar exported rubber worth $6.208 million via the Chinshwehaw border post, while the rubber export value at the Muse trade zone was estimated at $2.41 million. Therefore, the Chinshwehaw border surpassed Muse in rubber export as well.

On 24 November, the two countries held the third meeting via videoconferencing for the implementation of the Myanmar (Muse)-China (Ruili) border economic cooperation zone.

The performance to establish the zone, further plan, suggestions and organizing the regional level meeting were discussed at the meeting. The two parties agreed to hold the fourth meeting in February 2023. — TWA/GNLM

Trucks are seen on the Chinshwehaw border.

Authority to inspect income sources of gold buyers for fraudulent purchases

State-sold gold coins weighing 0.25 tical are shown in the picture.

IT is reported that the income sources of buyers will be identified, as the commerce for profit using state-sold gold coins arise in the market.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has sold gold coins in tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme), 0.5 tical and 0.25 tical, in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay since September for people who will keep and use gold coins.

Greedy businessmen issued capital to lower-income people for purchasing gold coins and sold them at the market for profit after smelting them to look like scraps. Thus, the inspection will be made over the buyers' source of income. It is known that arrangements were made by the Myanmar Gems Enterprise to check the citizenship scrutiny card (CSC), household census form and income source of buyers, in the future.

The gold coins were priced at K2.95 million per tical on 5 September and sold at the price of K2.85 million per tical on 6 September. On 24 November, gold coins were sold at K2,490,000 per tical, it is learnt. — TWA/GNLM

ME to issue new PJ passports for Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand

THE Myanmar Embassy to Thailand notified the issuance of new PJ passports (passports for the job) to Myanmar national workers in Thailand who need to renew their passports and MOU representatives on 24 November.

There are difficulties in the passport renewal of Myanmar migrant workers who hold 2015, 2016 and 2017-issued passports due to COVID-19 infections.

Thus, a passport renewal project for expired-PJ passport holders will be conducted at the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand between 1 and 31 December.

A statement was published by the embassy that around 22,000 Myanmar migrant workers who hold passports expired in 2020-2021 were left in factories and outdoor workplaces in Thailand. Thus, the embassy notified MOU representatives to collect the list of those migrant workers and report to U Myo Zaw Thaung and Daw Khin Malar Win from the consulate not later than 30 November.

In addition, Myanmar workers who hold PJ passports that expired in 2022 will be serviced with passport renewal, as usual, starting from 3 January 2023. — TWA/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Agriculture Department to offer mushroom farming course in Dec

The number of trainees is limited to 30. Those enthusiastic can make enquiries through the contact numbers (09420177115, 09254382287).

THE mushroom cultivation course will be opened free of cost at the 10th -mile Agriculture and Livestock Centre of the coffee crop division, the Agriculture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, located in Bago City.

This intensive course will be open between 9 am and 4 pm from 14 to 20 December this year. It is a free course and the trainees will be provided accommodation as well.

However, they need to bear the food cost, course materials cost, spending on practical demonstration and field trip cost.

The number of trainees is limited to 30. Those enthusiastic can make enquiries through the contact numbers (09420177115, 09254382287). — NN/GNLM

Sesame prices sink due to lack of foreign demand

At present, the sesame from Magway, Sagaing, Shwebo and Wetlet areas entered the Mandalay market. The export came to a halt for now.

TRADERS are buying only high-grade sesame. Lack of foreign demand drove the price down in Mandalay markets.

On 1 November, the prices of sesame hit the highest of K130,000 per 45-viss bag of Niger seed, K235,000 per bag of brown sesame, K265,000 per bag of white sesame and K295,000 per bag of black sesame (Samone variety). The prices plunged to K130,000 for Niger seed, K220,000 for brown sesame, K237,000 for white sesame and K245,000 for black sesame on 25 November. The figures indicated a decrease of K15,000 to 50,000 per bag over the past 20 days, while the price of Niger seed remains stable.

At present, the sesame from Magway, Sagaing, Shwebo and Wetlet areas entered the Mandalay market. The export came to a halt for now.

The directive released on 30 June said that transactions for the exports of agricultural products including corn, rice, beans and pulses are to be made in dollars instead of Yuan-Kyat/Baht-Kyat direct payment for border trade settlement.

Therefore, export earnings of the beans and pulses have to be exchanged for the US dollar according to the reference rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar (K2,100). At present, the exchange rate against the US dollar over-the-counter market is around K2,900. Nonetheless, there is a large gap between the regulated rate and the unauthorized rate of the US dollar. As a result of this, it brought impacts on agricultural products and exports dropped accordingly, traders said.

According to a meeting (66/2022) of the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee, export earnings of some items can be made in Chinese Yuan and Thai Baht in addition to the US dollar.

The CBM's notice dated 18 November takes effect on those export items; various pulses (green gram, black gram, chickpea and pigeon pea), edible oil crops (peanut and sesame), corn, rubber, fishery products (fish, shrimp, crab and eel) and livestock products (live cattle, hides, frozen meat and dried meat).

The traders need to apply for a licence to make Yuan or Baht payments. As per the US dollar policy, 65 per cent of earnings must be exchanged for local currency at the CBM's reference foreign exchange rate, while exporters can use 35 per cent of export earnings or transfer or sell them to authorized dealers (AD) or others with an over-the-counter rate within one month. This directive came into effect starting on 21 November, the CBM stated.

Traders remarked on the need for close observation of the exportation of edible oil crops (peanut and sesame) through the cross-border posts.

Last April, the world's top palm oil exporter Indonesia, which is one of the main oil suppliers to Myanmar, declared an export ban on cooking oil export to reduce the domestic shortage. Consequently, Myanmar's Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce temporarily suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) from 9 May in order to have oil self-sufficiency

Exports of Myanmar's edible oil crops resumed as the world's top palm oil exporters returned to normalcy, according to a notification dated 5 July 2022 released by the Trade Department. — NN/GNLM

Onion traders receive handsome profit in 2022

THE price of onions hit an all-time high in late 2022. Those traders who keep the stocks in their hands reap a great profit.

On 25 November, the price of old summer onions from the Myingyan area broke the record price at K4,800 per viss, while the prices of new onions stood at K3,300-K4,000 from the Myingyan area and K3,600-K4,100 from Myittha area.

Meanwhile, Chinese potatoes moved in the range of K2,500-K3,500 per viss in the Yangon wholesale market.

New monsoon onions that entered the Pakokku commodity centre on 9 November are of low quality.

Following the supply of 274,349 visses of monsoon onions on 21, 23 and 24 November, the highest price was only K3,525 at the Pakokku commodity centre.

The highest prices of summer onion were around K900 per viss in the March-May period, whereas those from the Myittha area fetched K1,100 per viss. Those traders who kept the stocks offered a price lower than the dealers in the Yangon market. There is a wastage of 25 per cent of onions stocks while being stored at a warehouse for six months, said a dealer.

If the trader stores 1,000 visses, only 750 visses can be left after clearing the damaged one. On account of the damaged stock, they can receive only K2,250 per viss rather than the market price of K3,000. Traders gain a decent profit of K1,500 per viss in the second half of 2022. Those traders who stored 10,000 visses of onions had a profit of K15 million.

There are traders working on a large scale with more than 50,000 visses of onion stocks. They do a roaring business this year. The growers faced losses in 2020 and 2021 due to low prices. The price climbed on the back of strong demand at the border in 2022. The farmers who cannot afford to store the stocks sell to traders at market price. So, they were not able to capture this benefit when the price hit a record high.

The profit in mid-2022 exceeds the loss in 2020 and 2021 for those traders working on a large scale. Along with the high prices of other kitchen groceries in mid-2022, onions traders made the highest profit after chilli pepper traders. — TWA/GNLM

On 25 November, the price of old summer onions from the Myingyan area broke the record price at K4,800 per viss, while the prices of new onions stood at K3,300-K4,000 from the Myingyan area and K3,600-K4,100 from Myittha area.

OPINION

Be mature for facing both wins and losses

EVERYBODY may taste wins and losses in their life. All work processes are based on wins and losses. Every work process will end with a win or a loss. It is a Universal truth. As such, nobody should tremble with the win and the loss.

Along the lifespan, everybody needs to face uncountable wins and losses. Some people are too much satisfied with the wins but disappointed with the losses because they cannot control their emotional feelings. In fact, they have to stabilize their mindsets not to tremble with the results of every event. Only when the persons do not tremble with the outcomes of events can they be identified as mature persons.

> That is why everybody needs to enhance their minds to have durability in facing the way of the mundane world. They should not mention their emotion in all aspects for any reason. Their maturity will teach them how to live in society and how to act in every event. Physical and mental stability must be sustained in facing all events and must be applied in managing these events as an act of solving possible problems.

Practically, mature persons can control their minds in all work processes. Too much celebrating the wins is designed not to pay respect to the losing opponents. Such a kind of celebration may be designed to ridicule the losing opponents. Indeed, they should not do so. The losers have the deserved prestige as they also tried their best in the process.

On the other hand, no one should do immature acts. Someone acts as if they face the loss, they are downhearted to do nothing. They are seemed they lose strength with tiredness and exhaustion. In truth, they should not mention their expressions not to be underestimated by the winning opponents. If they express their disappointment over loss, it will support the victory of winning opponents. Consequently, as a nature, they will never recover from the losses because their minds have plunged into the bottom line.

That is why everybody needs to enhance their minds to have durability in facing the way of the mundane world. They should not mention their emotion in all aspects for any reason. Their maturity will teach them how to live in society and how to act in every event. Physical and mental stability must be sustained in facing all events and must be applied in managing these events as an act of solving possible problems.

The nature of society is very complicated with various kinds of mindsets. Some people are happy about good news but some cannot be happy about it due to inappropriate mindsets. Some people praise the winners and show sympathy to the losers. But some persons show off the reversed acts of the aforesaid persons. As such, everybody needs to maintain their maturity without fail for handling the wins and losses of life.

ARTICLE

One of the Two Certainties in Life

Not so Certain Yet

By U AC

"THERE are only two certainties in life: death and taxes", the famous quote says. Yet in Myanmar, the tax system is nothing but certain. A good tax system should follow four basic principles: fairness, certainty, convenience and efficiency. The country is still having a lot to catch up on in each of the four principles.

Main Issues

The first issue relates to none of the four principles. It is a cultural issue where people simply are not used to paying taxes. Even though we were taught calculus, trigonometry and advanced mathematics in high school, which 99 per cent of us have no use in life, we were not taught about finance, accounting or taxes. Taxes are not taught in universities either, other than perhaps in accounting, finance and economics courses.

Students have been taught to stand up during the national song and the rising of the national flag, yet, they were definitely not taught that paying taxes is a mandatory civic duty for all citizens. When adults have to pay taxes now, they tend to question what the government would do specifically for them, for paying taxes. They look for direct benefits akin to a business transaction. No one has been taught that it is patriotic and statesmen like to pay taxes, hence, no one is motivated to pay. No one has been taught why we have to pay taxes, for the sake of our own country!

Financially speaking, it is better to delay paying taxes, rather than go into debt or overdraft in order to pay taxes.
ILLUSTRATION CREDIT: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/FREEPI

This issue, however, is not limited to Myanmar alone. Even in the world's biggest county, our good neighbour China, only two per cent of the population pays taxes. Considering being the world's second-largest economy, it suggests there might be a significant grey economy within China too, likely conducted via WeChat. That modus operandi even extends to the famous jade market in Mandalay, where the money changed hands via WeChat pay, evading any form of taxes payable to the Myanmar or Chinese government.

> Supplement that with financial and tax education across all ages, especially young adults, coupled with continuous training for tax officers, we would have a fair, convenient and efficient system in our country in no time.

This habit of not paying taxes is evidenced in the amount of tax revenues as a percentage of GDP (Gross National Product). In the US, that percentage is 17 per cent. For China, it is nine per cent. Myanmar government tax revenues as a percentage of GDP varies between five per cent and eight per cent in the past ten years. If the grey economy within the country is to be included, the percentage would be a lot lower. It means, essentially, MOPF (Ministry of Planning and Finance) has two main important tasks; to induce the population to pay taxes and to include a greyer economy in tax assessments.

The second issue is the implications for non-payment of taxes. Maybe the government does not have the resources or competence to track down tax dodgers. Or maybe the government is holding that offence as a hidden card, in case of wanting to charge or arrest a person on a separate charge, which has insufficient evidence to apprehend that same individual. Without many serious implications, people here got used to the concept of paying only on a need basis, such as when they need white money or when they buy something that needs registration or disclosure, etc.

One of the common complaints from the regular payer of taxes, through pay, as you earn system for middle- and high-income earners have been the fact that the monthly taxes that they had paid are not fully allowed for offset against the white money requirements. The sometimes-promotional tax rates between three per cent and 10 per cent are also a disincentive for the regular payer of taxes, such as wage earners. The effective tax rates may be a lot higher than three per cent, especially for high-wage earners. So why pay regularly?

Even if the tax dodgers or underpayers or late payers are found, the penalty is normally just 10 per cent of the outstanding tax liability. Even if the tax liability has been outstanding for only a year, that 10 per cent is less than the current borrowing rate of 13 per cent. Financially speaking, it is better to delay paying taxes, rather than go into debt or overdraft in order to pay taxes.

The third issue is related to companies. Currently, there are two tax assessment systems in place for companies and businesses: Official Assessment System (OAS) and Self-Assessment System (SAS). SAS has been applauded by most taxpayers for convenience and fairness, especially for the ability to do online and claim allowable expenses first. The eventual target would be for all companies to be able to file under SAS. At this point in time, only large taxpayers and some medium taxpayers are being able to file under SAS. There come legacy issues related to OAS. Paper-based system means loss of documents sometimes. Frequent change of tax officers in charge is not helping either. The assessment is simply subject to tax officer whims and fancies, which could eventually give rise to under-table payments and corruption. If you happened to dispute the tax officer's assessments, he or she would put your case under 'pending' leading to years incommunicado from either the officer or the income tax department.

The fourth and final issue seems to be systemic. The tax system in Myanmar is a direct descendant of the British system, in which the tax law is principle-based, instead of rule-based, just like the US. Principle-based systems are subject to many interpretations and a lot of interpretations are based upon precedents, decided by courts. With the judicial system in Myanmar very much underdeveloped, especially in relation to commercial cases, precedents are hard to come by as companies rarely challenge the tax department's decisions. The usual approach would be to resolve this through 'negotiations' with the tax officer concerned.

Typical Complaints

Typical complaints by business taxpayers would include the allowing of expenses in the income statement, not being able to carry forward losses (especially in relation to OAS), preference being given to irregular taxpayers over regular payers, group tax assessments being not available and commercial tax payments being not in line with collections.

The Way Forward

How do we best achieve fairness, certainty, convenience and efficiency in our tax system? MoPF is already on the right track pushing for conversion from OAS to SAS. Maybe due to Covid or a change of government, the process has been slow and hence, the results have not materialized yet. SAS would reduce human-to-human interactions ('negotiations'). Doing everything online would reduce paperwork and loss of paperwork. Best of all, the responsibility, to be honest, is pushed towards the taxpayer and the responsibility to dispute the tax filed is put back into the hands of the tax officers. Supplement that with financial and tax education across all ages, especially young adults, coupled with continuous training for tax officers, we would have a fair, convenient and efficient system in our country in no time.

■

Australia nears peak of current COVID wave

People queue at a supermarket after the South Australian state government announced a six-day lockdown because of a Covid-19 coronavirus outbreak in Adelaide on 18 Nov 2020. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

AUSTRALIA has reported a small uptick in active COVID-19 cases as the country nears the peak of its fourth wave of infections.

According to Department of Health data, there were an average of 11,953 new cases recorded daily in the week to Friday.

It represents an increase of 10 per cent from the previous week - a significantly smaller increase than in early and mid-November.

On average there were 2,242 Australians with coronavirus being treated in hospital over the last seven days - up from 1,973 of the previous week - and there were more than 100 deaths.

In South Australia (SA), chief health officer Nicola Spurrier said she believes SA is approaching the peak of the current wave after cases increased by three per cent in the last week.

"We are getting towards the peak. Until we see those case numbers come down I can't officially tell you we're at the peak, but we're certainly at that top-end plateau," she told reporters.

"We are very hopeful that we will be on the other side of that wave well before Christmas, so we can all enjoy a healthy Christmas."

SOURCE: XINHUA

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ADVERTORIAL/ENVIRON: WORLD

"A Hundred Companies in a Thousand Villages" Campaign of CNMC Heading towards the Fast Lane

The launching ceremony of project : "A Hundred Companies in a Thousand Villages" of CNMC in Zambia was held solemnly in Mulungushi International Conference Centre in Lusaka on 28 September 2022.

By Wang Keli

ON 20 November 2022, the China Corporate Social Responsibility Forum in Africa was held in the framework of a press conference of initial results of the "A Hundred Companies in a Thousand Villages" in Beijing. The campaign "A Hundred Companies in a Thousand Villages" implemented by CNMC has received widespread attention, which has also marked its heading towards the fast lane.

At the event, the "Blue Book of Power of State-owned Companies – A Hundred Companies in a Thousand Villages" was officially released to the public, and CNMC's "Building a demonstration project of vocational education 'Going global' and Deepening China-Africa Cooperation in the Construction of 'Belt and Road'" was evaluated as one of the top ten classic comprehensive cases of "A Hundred Companies in a Thousand Villages", and its "Green Development along the Congo River – Ecological Protection of the Deziwa Tailings Reservoir of CNMC" was selected as one of 70 special cases. Kong Fanxin, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of CNMC, has delivered a keynote speech entitled "CNMC Practice of Contributing to Forge the 'China-Africa Community with a Shared Future' in the New Era".

The campaign "A Hundred Companies in a Thousand Villages" was announced by Chinese President Xi Jinping in his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the 8th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC): "Supporting the Alliance of Chinese Business in Africa for Social Responsibilities (ACBASR) to launch the 'A Hundred Companies in a Thousand Villages' campaign", which is also included in the "Nine Projects of Poverty Alleviation and Agricultural Benefit Projects of China-Africa Cooperation".

The SINO-ZAM Vocational College of Science and Technology, which was awarded as one of the top ten classic comprehensive cases of "A Hundred Companies in a Thousand Villages" this time, is an important starting point for CMC to promote pragmatic cooperation between China and Africa. In April 2019, with the support of the Ministry of Education of China and the Ministry of Higher Education of Zambia, the SINO-ZAM Vocational College of Science and Technology was established, marking China's vocational education teaching standards going global and entering into the national education system of a sovereign country for the first time, filling the gap of national vocational education teaching standards in Zambia. Since the official enrolment, the college has carried out 50 sessions of skills training and Chinese language training for industrial use among 1,000 students, and sent more than 150 Zambian students to China for exchange and study. This case of promoting the "Going Global" of Chinese vocational education was reported by the People's Daily, and the iconic photos of the vocational college were selected in the "Reading Materials for Students of Xi Jinping's Thought of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era".

CNMC has implemented President Xi Jinping's concept of Building a "Community with a Shared Future for Mankind" in all aspects of business development, and has been operating in Africa for 24 years, adhering to the concept of sincerity and has donated more than 200 million RMB to carry out public welfare undertakings in Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Since joining the ACBASR and being elected as the vice-chairman unit of the executive committee, CNMC has actively responded to the advocacy of the ACBASR, deeply participated in the "Eight Actions" of China-Africa pragmatic cooperation, actively promoted the "Nine Projects", and established a positive image of state-owned companies in the implementation of "Going-Out" strategy. ■

The Masumbu Public Welfare School, built with the assistance of CNMC Deziwa, was under construction on 22 November 2022.

Aerial photo shows a view of the Lujiazui area in Shanghai. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

Shanghai to develop green, intelligent shipping industry technology

SHANGHAI will accelerate the development and application of green and intelligent technology, in order to build a world-class international shipping center, a local official said at the 2022 North Bund Forum. The city will build intelligent ports and airports, promoting unmanned and self-help services, to improve the efficiency and quality of daily operations. Clean energies will also be applied in ports and airports, said Yu Fulin, head of Shanghai Municipal Transportation Commission. Currently, Shanghai remains a hotspot for shipping despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Data showed that the container throughput of the Shanghai Port reached 34.89 million 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in the first three quarters of 2022, remaining the world's busiest and achieving positive growth year-on-year. Shanghai's shipping industry is also making progress in terms of technological innovation and equipment upgrading, said Yu.—Xinhua

Russian lawmakers approve bill banning LGBTQ 'propaganda'

RUSSIAN lawmakers unanimously approved a bill banning all forms of LGBTQ "propaganda" in a final reading Thursday, as President Vladimir Putin seeks to promote his country as the antithesis of Western liberal values.

Russia already has a law banning so-called "gay propaganda" for minors, and the new bill would broaden it to include adults and effectively ban any public mention of gay relationships. Rights activists say the new legislation ramps up the crackdown on LGBTQ relationships in Russia, affecting everything from books and films to social media posts and even drag shows.

The legislation will need to backed by the upper house and Putin before becoming a law, steps seen as a formality.

Amid raging tensions with the world's top democracies as the Kremlin pushes its offensive in Ukraine, Putin has been promoting increasingly conservative values to rally his core constituency.

"Any propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations will have consequences," Vyacheslav Volodin, the speaker of Russia's lower house of parliament, the State Duma, said on Telegram.

The legislation, he said, "will protect our children and the future of country from the darkness spread by the US and European states." "We have our own traditions and values," he added. The bill also prohibits the "propaganda of paedophilia and sex change".

The legislation bans what authorities deem as LGBTQ "propaganda" in advertisement, books, media and cinema.

Violators will face hefty fines of up to 10 million roubles ($165,000).—AFP

Russian riot police detain an LGBT-rights activist during a rally in Moscow in 2015. **PHOTO: DMITRY SEREBRYAKOV/AFP/FILE**

UK nurses strike latest crisis for health service

Union leaders and health workers blamed overwork, staff shortages, and low pay. **PHOTO: NURPHOTO /AFP/FILE**

WITH record waiting times, staff shortages, financial black holes and now a nurses strike over pay, the UK's state-run National Health Service is facing an unprecedented crisis.

The walk-out by nurses next month heaps fresh misery on the much-loved but creaking institution, just as winter illnesses bite and as the country faces a prolonged recession.

Matthew Taylor, head of the NHS Confederation, which represents the service in England and Wales, said demand for frontline care is "sky-rocketing" .

"Waiting time standards are deteriorating despite the sterling efforts of NHS staff — and the winter months look to be very bleak and the busiest on record," he said recently.

A record 7.1 million people are waiting for treatment, with long delays for tests as well as routine and emergency care.

Richard Sullivan, a cancer care specialist, said some 14,000 prostate cancer cases were "missing" due to a lack of diagnosis, with around one in 18 waiting more than a year. "You shut down your health system… you are going to lead to a massive number of people with stage shifts, where their cancers become more advanced," he added.—AFP

US extends tariff exclusions on medical goods from China

THE United States will extend exemptions from punitive tariffs for some medical products from China, the US Trade Representative said Wednesday.

The exclusions were originally set to expire on November 30 and have been extended for three months, said the USTR in a statement.

Such exemptions were first announced in December 2020, and the latest move comes "in light of the continuing efforts to combat Covid," said the USTR.

The exclusions cover 81 medical-care products, and the exemptions on them were extended once in November 2021 and again in June.

Items on the list include pump bottles for hand sanitizer, plastic containers for sanitizing wipes, blood pressure monitors, fingertip pulse oximeters, MRI machines and X-ray tables.

The USTR said it may continue to consider further extensions or modifications "as appropriate".

With inflation surging to the highest level in decades, US President Joe Biden has been under pressure to end the so-called Section 301 tariffs. —AFP

Record number of children miss measles vaccine: global report

A record high of nearly 40 million children around the world missed a measles vaccine dose in 2021, according to a new report Wednesday that found immunization levels had failed to rebound from disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The research, which was jointly published by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said the decline was a major setback in eliminating the deadly disease.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus noted the irony in the fact that while vaccines against Covid were developed and deployed in record time, routine immunization programmes were badly impacted, leaving millions at risk.

"Getting immunization programmes back on track is absolutely critical. Behind every statistic in this report is a child at risk of a preventable disease," he said in a statement. According to the report, 25 million children missed their first dose while 14.7 million missed their second.

Measles is almost entirely preventable through vaccination. But because it is so contagious, an estimated 95 per cent of a population needs to be vaccinated with two or more doses in order to create herd immunity to achieve and maintain elimination.—AFP

Dana, 15 months, held by her mother Inna, being administered her first dose of mumps, measles and rubella (MMR) vaccine on 4 April 2018 in Children's Policlinic in Obolon district, Kyiv, Ukraine. **PHOTO: KREPKIH /UNICEF**

ECONOMY
WORLD

South Korea truckers strike again, threatening supply chains

SOUTH Korean truckers staged their second major strike in less than six months Thursday, in an action that could disrupt critical global supply chains in sectors from cars to steel.

All 25,000 members of the Cargo Truckers Solidarity Union stopped working, as part of a long-running protest against the ending of a minimum wage guarantee, Park Yeon-su of the organization told AFP.

With fuel prices rising, the drivers have been demanding the government make permanent the "safe freight rate" minimum pay scheme, which is set to expire at the end of the year.

South Korean truck drivers who are on strike cross a road near a line of parked trucks on a road outside a container port in Incheon, South Korea on 14 June, 2022, on the eighth day of protests over rising fuel costs that have further snarled global supply chains. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The administration of Seoul's conservative president Yoon Suk-yeol on Wednesday said it would extend the programme for three years, but truckers say there is no point unless the scheme becomes permanent.

"The government earlier this year said they will prioritize this issue, but that certainly didn't happen," Park told AFP.

The latest strike comes about five months after the truckers staged an eight-day action in June, delaying cargo shipments across Asia's fourth-biggest economy.

At the time, the government said the strike cost more than $1.2 billion in shipment disruption for cars, steel and petrochemicals over the first six days.

Thursday's strike was also expected to inflict significant supply disruption, causing manufacturers to reduce daily output.

The move has again triggered concerns about the impact on global supply chains, already strained by prolonged Covid-19 lockdowns in China and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Land minister Won Hee-ryong said the strike — which "pours cold water on the national economy" — would "not receive public support".

"We strongly urge them to withdraw (the strike) and engage in dialogue and negotiations as soon as possible," Won added.—AFP

Gas price cap divides EU energy ministers' meeting

EU energy ministers met Thursday to debate measures to mitigate the energy crunch in Europe but were divided over a gas price cap proposal slammed by many as a "joke".

They were to discuss a proposal by the European Commission, unveiled just two days earlier, that would set a cap on gas prices at 275 euros per megawatt hour.

But many members complained that the plan comes with such conditions attached that it was designed never to be used.

"The gas price cap, which is in the document, currently it doesn't satisfy any single country," Polish Climate Minister Anna Moskwa said as she arrived at the meeting.

The receiver station of the Druzhba pipeline of petroleum between Hungary and Russia at the Duna (Danube) Refinery of Hungarian MOL Company located near the town of Szazhalombatta, about 30 km south of Budapest on May 5, 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

"It's a kind of joke for us after so many amounts of discussions and proposals" to arrive at the price cap put forward, she said. France, Spain and Greece have also come out criticizing the commission proposal.

The price cap plan — which the commission was never keen on — was seen as neutered under pressure from members including Germany and the Netherlands, which had feared it could divert gas supplies to more lucrative markets, especially Asia. Yet at least 15 EU countries — more than half the bloc —want some form of workable ceiling on wholesale gas prices to tackle a crunch in supply forced by Russia's war in Ukraine.

While the European Union hasn't banned Russian gas, the Kremlin has been turning off the taps in retaliation for sanctions imposed by Brussels in the wake of Moscow's invasion.—AFP

UK defends Brexit deal despite economic woes

In this file photo, an anti-Brexit demonstrator waves a British flag alongside a European Union flag outside the Houses of Parliament in London, 28 March 2018. **PHOTO: AFP /FILE**

FINANCE minister Jeremy Hunt on Wednesday defended the UK's post-Brexit trade deal with the EU, despite growing criticism about its economic impact, and rejected claims he was pushing for closer European ties.

Hunt, who voted to remain in the European Union at the 2016 referendum, was rumoured to be the source of a report last weekend that the government was eyeing a "Swiss-style" deal with Brussels. But he scotched talk he was the "senior government figure" quoted in the article, which has threatened to reopen deep divisions in the ruling Conservatives over the form Brexit should take.

The government supports the trade and cooperation agreement (TCA) struck with the EU, he told the influential cross-party Treasury Committee in parliament.—AFP

Sweden hikes rate to highest level in over 10 years

SWEDEN'S central bank announced Thursday yet another large interest rate hike to combat inflation nearing 10 per cent, bringing its key rate to its highest level in more than 10 years.

The Riksbank raised its policy rate by 0.75 points to 2.50 per cent and warned that more increases were to come.

"Inflation is still far too high," the bank said, adding that it was undermining the purchasing power of households and making it more difficult for them and businesses to plan their finances.

"The forecast shows that the policy rate will probably be raised further at the beginning of next year and then be just below three per cent," it said.

It noted however that it is "still difficult to assess how inflation will develop". Central banks worldwide have been raising borrowing costs in efforts to tame runaway prices, at the risk of causing recession as the moves slow economic activity.—AFP

Grinding inflation clouds 'Black Friday' shopping bonanza

RETAILERS braced for their biggest test of the year: Will US consumers open their wallets wide for the Black Friday sales that kick off the holiday shopping season?

Consumer confidence is precarious, rattled by soaring inflation in the world's biggest economy, casting uncertainty on this festive shopping season that starts the day after Thursday's Thanksgiving holiday.

A year ago, retailers faced product shortfalls in the wake of shipping backlogs and Covid-19-related factory closures. To avert a repeat, the industry front-loaded its holiday imports this year, leaving it vulnerable to oversupply at a time when consumers are cutting back.

"Supply shortages was yesterday's problem," said Neil Saunders, managing director for GlobalData Retail, a consultancy. "Today's problem is having too much stuff."

Saunders said retailers have made progress in recent months in reducing excess inventories but that oversupply created banner conditions for bargain-hunters in many categories, including electronics, home improvement and apparel.

Juameelah Henderson always checks for sales, "but more so now," she said while exiting an Old Navy store in New York with four bags of items.— AFP

Consumer confidence is precarious, rattled by soaring inflation in the world's biggest economy. **PHOTO: AFP**

MUFG to buy Asian units of Dutch consumer lender for 596 mln euros

Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc. said Thursday it will acquire two Southeast Asian subsidiaries of Netherlands-based consumer finance company Home Credit B.V., located in the Philippines and Indonesia, for a total of about 596 million euros ($622 million). **PHOTO: KYODO**

MITSUBISHI UFJ Financial Group Inc. said Thursday it will acquire two Southeast Asian subsidiaries of Netherlands-based consumer finance company Home Credit B.V., located in the Philippines and Indonesia, for a total of about 596 million euros ($622 million).

The Japanese bank group, together with its local subsidiaries, will buy a 100 per cent stake in HC Consumer Finance Philippines Inc. and hold an 85 per cent share in PT Home Credit Indonesia, it said. The deal is expected to be completed in 2023.—Kyodo

LatAm business climate improves but still less than positive: report

THE climate for doing business in Latin America has improved in the fourth quarter compared to the third, influenced by improved perceptions regarding the present situation, but it remained less than positive, said a report released Wednesday.

The Brazilian think tank Getulio Vargas Foundation said in its quarterly report that the Economic Climate Index (ECI) rose by 11.8 points to 66.5 points, a level still much below the 100-point mark indicating a favourable climate. Constructed as the geometric mean of the Present Situation Index (PSI) and the Expectations Index (EI), the ECI rose in this quarter mainly due to an improved PSI, which rose by 22.7 points to 67 points, according to the report. –Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (210W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (210W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-11-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** 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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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

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Changing Trade Name For Registered Pesticide

The pesticide manufactured by **Anhui Byter Agriculture Technology Co.,Ltd** and distributed by **Myanmar Golden Byter Co.,Ltd** is changing trade Name as follow,

No	Previous Name	New Name	Registration No
1	Byter Fighter 4 EC (Abamectin 1% + Acetamiprid 3% EC)	Byter Ye Din (Abamectin 1% + Acetamiprid 3% EC)	P2019-3696

Any Objection regarding to this changing can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

Changing Trade Name For Registered Pesticide

The pesticide manufactured by **Guangxi Baike Biological Technology Co.,Ltd** and distributed by **Myanmar Kete Co.,Ltd** is changing trade Name as follow,

No	Previous Name	New Name	Registration No
1	Byter Kaung Yin (Bacillus thuringiensis 8000 IU/µl SC)	Byter Say Kyain Lone (Bacillus thuringiensis 8000 IU/µl SC)	P2019-4778

Any Objection regarding to this changing can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

Changing Trade Name For Registered Pesticide

The pesticide manufactured by **Guangxi Baike Biological Technology Co.,Ltd** and distributed by **Myanmar Byter Agro Tech Co.,Ltd** is changing trade Name as follow,

No	Previous Name	New Name	Registration No
1	Byter Kaung Myan (Matrine 0.5% AS)	Byter Hmaw Dar (Matrine 0.5 % AS)	P2020-4965

Any Objection regarding to this changing can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Japan govt domestic travel discount programme to continue next year

THE Japanese government will continue to implement its domestic tourism subsidy programme through next year, tourism minister Tetsuo Saito said Friday, although the start date will depend on COVID-19 infection rates.

The National Travel Discount programme, originally planned to last until 27 Dec, provides a financial subsidy of up to 11,000 yen ($79) a night per person for up to a total of seven days, but the subsidy will now be reduced to a maximum 7,000 yen per night from 2023.

The year-end and New Year holidays will not be subject to the government's tourism-boosting subsidy programme for residents of Japan.

People visit Sensoji Temple, a popular tourist location, in Tokyo on 13 Sept. **PHOTO: YUICHI YAMAZAKI/AFP**

The programme began on 11 Oct in all of Japan's 47 prefectures except Tokyo, which joined the scheme later in the month.

Under the new plan, package tours that include charter bus and rail travel costs will be subsidized up to 5,000 yen, down from 8,000 yen. Those going on day trips or only paying for accommodation can obtain a subsidy of up to 3,000 yen, instead of the current 5,000 yen.— Kyodo

Brussels expected to maintain freeze on Hungary funds

THE European Commission does not yet accept that Hungary has made sufficient anti-corruption reforms to justify lifting its embargo on 7.5 billion euros ($7.8 billion) in EU funds, officials said Thursday. The EU executive's official position on unfreezing the cash will be announced after a meeting of commissioners, "perhaps next week", in the words of commission spokeswoman Dana Spinant. The next such meeting is on 30 November, but European sources, speaking on condition of anonymity ahead of the formal decision, said Hungary had failed to make enough progress.—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Ukraine sets up 3,720 emergency shelters amid energy supply cutoff

Young boys stand at the former check point of Russian at the entrance of Kherson on 18 November, 2022. **PHOTO: BULENT KILIC/ AFP**

UKRAINIAN authorities have set up 3,720 emergency shelters across the country amid an energy supply cutoff after Russia's missile attack on energy infrastructure, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, deputy head of the Ukrainian president's office, said Thursday on Telegram.

The centres, equipped with power generators, will provide people with heat, electricity, water, internet and medicines.

About 70 per cent of households in Kyiv still suffered power cut as of Thursday morning, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said on Telegram.

All critical power facilities across the country have been connected to the grid, Energy Minister Herman Galushchenko was quoted by the government-run Ukrinform news agency as saying.

Galushchenko estimated that the nuclear power plants will resume operation by Thursday evening. On Wednesday, Russia carried out missile strikes against Ukraine, resulting in 10 deaths, said Ukrainian authorities, adding that the attack disconnected the country's all four operating nuclear power plants and other major power facilities from the grid and triggered massive outages.— Xinhua

German gas company Uniper requires additional 25 bln euros in state aid

GERMANY'S largest gas importer Uniper said on Wednesday it would require up to 25 billion euros (25 billion US dollars) in additional state aid as a result of the energy crisis.

A planned capital increase of eight billion euros would "not be sufficient to stabilize Uniper," the company said. The additional capital is to be created by issuing shares, for which the German government will be the only subscriber. "This is to be used to partially restore the equity weakened by further losses in 2022, 2023 and 2024, particularly in connection with gas replacement procurements as a result of Russian gas supply restrictions," Uniper said in a statement.—Xinhua

50 Ukrainian servicemen freed in prisoner swap with Russia

AFTER the latest prisoner swap with Russia, 50 Ukrainian servicemen have returned home, head of the Ukrainian President's Office Andriy Yermak said Thursday.

Among those released were two officers, as well as 48 sergeants and soldiers, Yermak wrote on Telegram.

Most of the released soldiers served in Ukraine's Naval Forces, the National Guard, and the Armed Forces, he added.

Yermak did not provide the details on the number of Russian troops released by Ukraine under the deal.

The efforts to free more Ukrainian servicemen from Russian captivity are underway, the official said.

Ukraine and Russia conducted their first prisoner exchange in March— Xinhua

Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs) pose after a swap, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Zaporizhzhia region, Ukraine 24 November, 2022. **PHOTO: PRESS SERVICE OF THE UKRAINE'S MILITARY INTELLIGENCE/HANDOUT**

Spain parliament passes 2023 budget boosting social spending

Deputies meet in Madrid's Congress of Deputies. **PHOTO: OSCAR DEL POZO/AFP/FILE**

SPAIN'S parliament on Thursday approved the left-wing government's budget for 2023 which includes record levels of welfare spending to help households grapple with soaring inflation.

Lawmakers voted through the plan with 187 votes in favour and 156 against in what will be the last budget presented by Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's government before a general election, which is due by the end of next year.

It was backed by Sanchez's Socialists and hard-left junior coalition partner Podemos with the support of smaller regional parties including the Catalan separatist ERC in exchange for greater regional investment.

"This is the third budget we have approved with a large majority, a budget with historic levels of welfare spending," Sanchez tweeted after the vote.

The budget still needs to be rubber-stamped by the Senate within the next month but its passage there is guaranteed given the support it has won from the government's allies.

It outlines plans for a record spend of 198 billion euros ($206 billion) in 2023 that will mean higher pensions and public worker salaries, as well as increased funding for higher education and health.—AFP

French MPs vote to enshrine abortion rights in constitution

LAWMAKERS in the French parliament voted Thursday to add the right to abortion to the constitution in response to recent changes in Poland and the United States.

MPs from the left-wing France Unbowed (LFI) party and the ruling centrist coalition struck a deal on the wording of the new clause, which passed with a huge majority.

"The law guarantees the effectiveness and equal access to the right to voluntarily end a pregnancy," reads the proposed constitutional addition to article 66. It was approved with 337 votes for and 32 against, with the bill now set to be sent to the conservative-majority Senate for approval.

The initiative was prompted by the US Supreme Court's explosive decision this year to overturn the nationwide right to termination procedures for Americans.

Protesters hold a banner reading "Abortion is sacred" during a rally in support of worldwide abortion rights in Paris, after the US Supreme Court's overturned America's constitutional right to abortion, on 24 June 2022. **PHOTO: STEPHANE DE SAKUTIN /AFP**

The conservative government of Poland has also heavily restricted abortion rights.

"The assembly is speaking to the world, our country is speaking to the world," said jubilant MP Mathilde Panot from LFI, dedicating the vote to women in Hungary, Poland and the United States.

Panot, who spearheaded the legislation along with a member of President Emmanuel Macron's party, said the move was necessary in France to protect "against a regression".—AFP

Libya expels over 200 migrants across land borders

LIBYA on Thursday sent more than 200 illegal migrants back across its land borders, in a rare display of cooperation from the country's divided political institutions.

The migrants, dressed in differing tracksuits to identify their nationalities, were handed biscuits, milk and bottles of water by police in Tripoli, before being bused in convoys to Libyan border crossings.

The group of returnees included "105 Egyptians, 101 Chadians and 20 Sudanese", Badreddine al-Sed Ben Hamed, deputy chief of the bureau in charge of the operation, told AFP.

Embassy staff from the migrants' home countries watched the process, with each group driven to border crossings with their home country.

The operation was organized by the Interior Ministry of Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah's Tripoli-based government, whose authority is contested by a rival administration in Libya's east.— AFP

Migrants from various nationalities are gathered inside the building housing the Anti-Illegal Migration Agency in the Libyan capital Tripoli, before being expelled to their countries of origin, on 24 November 2022. **PHOTO: MAHMUD TURKIA / AFP**

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Congolese give cautious welcome to deal on rebel violence

CONGOLESE and security experts reacted cautiously Thursday to the announcement of an impending truce in an escalating conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

A militia called the M23 has been gaining ground since mounting an offensive in North Kivu province earlier this year, and is within a few dozen kilometres from Goma, a city of around a million people. The fighting has sparked a surge in diplomatic tensions with neighbouring Rwanda, which the DRC accuses of abetting the rebels – a charge that Kigali denies.

On Wednesday, though, talks between the two countries in the Angolan capital Luanda gave rise to an agreement for an "immediate ceasefire", effective from 1600 GMT on Friday.– AFP

Namibia pulls down statue of German colonizer

AUTHORITIES in Namibia's capital Windhoek on Wednesday took down and relocated a statue of a controversial German colonial officer following pressure from local activists.

The monument commemorated Curt von Francois, a German army commissioner who has been credited with founding Windhoek – something local campaigners and historians dispute.

The statue, which stood on a high pedestal outside municipal buildings, depicted von Francois in a military uniform with a moustache, a large hat, and holding a sword.–AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS
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SPORT

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Tial Thang leaves for Philippines to fight against Pacatiw in ONE 164 Event

MYANMAR MMA fighter Tial Thang left the United States for the Philippines early in the morning on 25 November to compete in the ONE 164 Tournament to be held on 3 December.

Tial Thang will fight Filipino Pacatiw for his second bout of this year and travel to the Philippines a week before.

Tial Thang will fight Filipino Pacati as a bantamweight challenger. Tial Thang has won three of his five challenge bouts after working with the ONE Championship organization. He lost one match and was stopped before the end of the match as he hit a forbidden spot in the last bout. Pacatiw, who will fight against Tial Thang, has more tournament experience than him.

Tial Thang trains hard for ONE 164 fighting event to be held in the Philippines on 3 December 2022. **PHOTO: TIAL THANG'S FACEBOOK**

The ONE 164 tournament to be held in the Philippines on 3 December will feature 10 bouts and will be divided into two sections. Tial Thang's bout will be the first one of Part 2. As the main event in this tournament, the Strawweight world championship Joshua Pacio from the Philippines will take on Brooks from the United States. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar2022

Last-gasp Iran sink Wales at World Cup

IRAN claimed a famous 2-0 victory over 10-man Wales on Friday as Carlos Queiroz's men scored two goals deep into added time to keep their World Cup campaign alive.

The Iran players, who sang the national anthem before kick-off, sent their thousands of supporters at the Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium delirious by beating a European team at a World Cup for the first time. Wales goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey became the first player to be sent off in the Qatar tournament for clattering into Mehdi Taremi late in the game.

Iran, who had earlier twice struck the woodwork, finally broke the deadlock in the 98th minute through substitute Rouzbeh Cheshmi's powerful drive.

Ramin Rezaeian clipped in a second on the counter-attack three minutes later.

Iran, who would have been eliminated with a defeat, instead climbed to second in Group B behind England, against whom they had lost 6-2 in their opening game.

Wales tumbled to the bottom of the group and will have to defeat neighbours England in their final match next week to have any chance of reaching the knockout phase in their first World Cup since 1958. The United States take on England later on Friday.

The Iran players opted to sing the national anthem in contrast to their stance before the game against England, when they remained silent in an apparent gesture of solidarity with anti-government protestors.

Some Iranian fans were in tears during the anthem.—AFP

World Cup 2022 Results

Wales	0 - 2	Iran
Qatar	1 - 3	Senegal
The Netherlands	1 - 1	Ecuador

Iran celebrate their World Cup win against Wales. **PHOTO: AFP**

2022 Myanmar National League bears eight hat-trick scores

A total of eight hat-trick scores appeared at the end of the Myanmar National League 2022 season, the Myanmar National League recently announced. Striker Yan Kyaw Htwe from Ayeyawady United created the hat-tricks twice even in a season, while the other seven players made once.

Kaung Myat Thu from Ayeyawady United, Soe Kyaw Kyaw from Hanthawady United, Aung Myat Thu from Hanthawady United, Hla Min Htwe from Yangon United, Naing Zin Htet from Myawady FC, Win Naing Tun from Yangon United and Junior from Yangon United scored their hat-tricks once within the 2022 season of the domestic league, officials stated.

After the Championship, the Shan United team won the Championship title with 48 points, and the Yangon team is second with 39 points. Hanthawady United finished third with 32 points, and Yan Kyaw Htwe (Ayeyawady) won the award for the most goals with 14 goals. Shan United won the Championship title for the fourth time after the end of the season. All the Myanmar National League 2022 matches were held at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. — GNLM