THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 225, 5th Waxing of Nattaw 1384 ME | www.gnlm.com.mm | Sunday, 27 November 2022

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attend opening ceremony of Diamond Jubilee Independence Day for 2023 Commemorative Variety Show

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla enjoy the Variety Show to mark the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day for 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 November 2022.

A ceremony to launch a Variety Show to mark the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day for 2023 with the aim of enabling the people to have pleasure and enjoy the essence of independence took place at the open-air theatre of the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall yesterday evening, attended by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla.

Also present at the show were the council secretary and wife, the joint secretary and wife, council members and their wives, Union level officials and their wives, Union ministers and their wives, senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, deputy ministers and their wives, departmental heads, officers and staff and families of ministries and departments and people.

At 6:30 pm, the Senior General and his wife arrived at the theatre where they were welcomed by officials.

Artistes from the Myanmar Theatrical Association, famous vocalists, artistes from the film, theatrical and music arenas presented songs.

Then, artistes from Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, Myanmar Comedian Association, Myanmar Theatrical Association, veteran film actresses and famous vocalists performed in comedian talent contests, songs, dramas and theatrical performances.

The Senior General and his wife presented the flower basket and cash awards to the artistes who entertained performances and cordially greeted them.

It was the grandest variety show at the national level held for the first time to enable the people to enjoy the pleasure and essence of independence. State service personnel and artistes showed off their goodwill by entertaining performances for the State and the people. The show which lasts from 26 to 30 November will be staged from 6:30 pm to 11 pm. — MNA

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing...

News on page-1

Artistes from film, music and theatrical arenas entertain performances at the Variety Show in commemorating Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023.

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

A local from Kyaunggon Township in Ayeyawady Region gets jabbed against COVID-19 on 26 November.

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 688 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 5,269 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

Similarly, on that day healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 390 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 and Yamethin Township in Mandalay Region yesterday. — MNA

Local authorities distribute masks to local people in Yangon.

20 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 26 November, total figure rises to 633,157

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 633,157 after 20 new cases were reported on 26 November 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 607,615 including 39 new recoveries.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

All ethnic national brethren urged to safeguard democratic system

OUR government is discharging State duties in line with the Constitution. I'd like to firmly say that our efforts following the Constitution and our standing for it are to safeguard the Constitution which emerged under the democracy and safeguard the democratic system the people aspire to as well. Hence, I'd like to urge all ethnic national brethren to safeguard the democratic system in cooperation with the government and walk on the track of peace.

(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)

Seminar on Innovation and Young Entrepreneurship for Mekong Regional Development, Product Exhibition held

THE Seminar on Innovation and Young Entrepreneurship for Mekong Regional Development and Product Exhibition were held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than attended the seminar together with Deputy Minister and officials concerned, and Minister Counselor of the Chinese Embassy Dr Zheng Zhihon and young entrepreneurs joined virtually.

First, the Union Minister said the current seminar will include activities for the digital transition and an e-market platform for MSMEs. The ministry makes to develop the e-market platform and about 100 MSMEs can use it in selling their products and they can expand their market using the Digital Platform. Moreover, it will also prioritize start-ups.

Then, Chinese Minister Counselor Dr Zheng Zhihong and the deputy director-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs explained the processes of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation. Afterwards, the Union minister announced that the e-marketplace for Myanmar products platform started and inspected the booths.

The seminar will be held for three days from 26 to 28 November with the exchange of innovative ideas among young entrepreneurs from six Mekong countries of China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. — MNA

MoI Union Minister Dr Charlie Than views round the booths at the event.

Union Minister inspect development field work of hotels and tourism businesses in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung together with the directors-general and travel associations' officials toured hotel premises and surrounding areas in Nay Pyi Taw, one of the destinations in the Union Territory, yesterday morning.

During the inspection, the Union minister said that as hotels and landscapes of the land should be clean and beautiful in line with features of the capital in order to provide good services to tourists.

While meeting representatives of tourism associations, hoteliers and officials, the Union minister expressed that since Nay Pyi Taw is the capital of Myanmar, to suit the capital characteristics, hotel zones have already been defined and implemented for systematic and long-term development of the hotels and tourism sector.

There are 99 hotels and guesthouses with more than six thousand rooms.

The Union minister underlined the need for tourism operators to know and understand the changing nature of the market as today with the development of technology tourists visit destinations in various transport modes.

He stressed that they should make efforts not only to produce value-added tourism products but to improve the quality as well since the government emphasizes the development of the tourism sector. The number of foreign tourists increased due to the permission of international airlines and the granting of entry visas, he added.

Efforts are also being made to develop bilateral tourism cooperation to develop the Russian market, he said. The Union minister urged that the health and safety programme and guest report system should be used effectively.

Finally, the Union minister and party toured organic plantations operated at Park Royal Hotel and the operations run by solar energy at Park Royal Hotel and Horizon Lake View Hotel. — MNA

MoHT Union Minister Dr Htay Aung inspects the development measures of the hotels and tourism industry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, consumer goods, industrial materials, restricted chemicals and vehicles confiscated

Confiscated illegal industrial materials at the Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa.

A combined team led by the Region Forest Department under the supervision of the Ayeyawady Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections on 22 November, according to information.

Officials captured a total of 3.5988 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K251,916 in Pathein township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, on 24 November, an on-duty team under the management of the Customs Department seized K20,377,200 worth of industrial materials and consumer goods that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) at the Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa (MITT). The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

In addition, an on-duty team made inspections at the Nantsiaung combined checkpoint, according to information. Officials impounded 2,000 kilogrammes of white small seeds suspected of ammonium nitrate worth K2 million from a Mitsubishi Fuso car (approximately K30 million) heading from Mandalay to Mohnyin. The action was taken under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

On 25 November, a combined team confiscated a total of 4.5219 tonnes of illegal teak windows worth K2,984,454 at the Yadanabon Bridge Combined Checkpoint. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

A total of 6.9438 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K486,066 in Thayawady township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, six arrests (estimated value of K56,099,636) were made on 22, 24 and 25 November, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA

Seized illegal goods in Kachin State.

Drugs worth over K28 bln seized in Tachilek township

A total of over K28 billion worth of stimulant tablets was seized in the Tachilek township of Shan State (East), it is learnt.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined a house of Ma Ei Shan Kywet in Tachilek township at 10:30 am on 21 November, according to information. A total of 616,000 ecstasy tablets, 113.04 kilogrammes of Happy Water, 35,000 Erimin-5 tablets and a Honda car (total value of over K28 billion) were captured.

Legal action is taken against them and the Myanmar Police Force is trying to expose those connected with the offender. — MNA

An offender is pictured along with seized drugs and a saloon.

Drugs seized in Mohnyin and Namhsam townships

Offenders are seen together with seized drugs and a bus.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a Mitsubishi Fuso passenger bus driven by Win Min Oo (aka) Pyalon accompanied by Thet Lwin Htun (aka) Ko Thet at the combined checkpoint of Nantsiaung village in Mohnyin township at 3:45 pm on 23 November.

A total of 2,000 kilogrammes of ammonium nitrate were found in the car.

At 11:55 am on 24 November, Police Force searched a Mitsubishi Triton car driven by Sai Kyaw Khaung on Namhsam-Kolem Road in Namhsam township and captured 60 kilogrammes of brown opium powder.

Offenders are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, it is learnt. — MNA

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515
ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

gnlmnews@gmail.com
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

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

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

LOCAL BUSINESS

Corn prices gradually up reaching K1,200 per viss

THE prices of corn have soared gradually reaching about K1,200 per viss, according to the corn market.

The price is on the rise again as the demand for exporters is high, it is learnt. Currently, the country exports corn to China, the Philippines and Viet Nam, according to Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

China purchases corn with the poppy substitution programme via land borders and it started official procurement between China and Myanmar beginning at the end of this year. It also permitted 112 corn export companies and some companies to start the export processes.

The Thai government, the main purchaser via land borders, also permits tax exemption Form-D between 1 February and 31 August yearly. They also imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn import to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season in Thailand.

Transactions for the exports of agricultural products including corn, rice, bean and oil crops are to be made in dollars instead of Yuan-Kyat/Baht-Kyat cross currency swap in border transactions like the dollar payment method practised in trade by sea, according to the directive released on 30 June. The export incomes from corn exports are made in dollars at the fixed reference rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Currently, the reference rate of CBM is K2,100 per dollar and about K2,900 per dollar in the market.

The large gap between reference prices and market prices makes it difficult for merchants.

According to the decision made at the FESC meeting (66/2022), "if it is difficult to make payment for exports via border areas like oil crops (peanut, sesame) including corn, beans and pulses (black gram, mung bean, pigeon pea, chickpea), rubber, marine products, fish (prawn, crab, eel), animals and animal products (live cattle, goat, buffalo skin, cow skin, goat skin, frozen and dried meat) in dollars, it shall make in Yuan or Bath and the 65 per cent of export incomes will be calculated in dollars and must change into Myanmar kyat at the fixed prices of CBM within one working day and the exporters can use the remaining 35 per cent for themselves, transfer to other or sell to AD banks," the CBM announced on 18 November. All must follow the instruction starting 21 November. Therefore, it needs to watch the corn export status, said the merchants.

The country produces corn once every four months like winter corn, summer corn and monsoon corn. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year.

The country exported about 2.3 million tonnes of corn in 2020-2023 and most of the corn was shipped to Thailand followed by the Philippines, India, Viet Nam and China, according to the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. The country produces corn once every four months like winter corn, summer corn and monsoon corn. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/GNLM

Pathein port ships 10,565 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh as first batch

MYANMAR plans to export a total of 200,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh under a G-to-G agreement. The first shipment was directly made by the Ayeyawady International Industrial Port (AIIP) in Pathein of Ayeyawady Region, and 10,565 tonnes of rice out of the targeted 200,000 tonnes has been exported from 2 to 22 November.

The AIIP exported 2,650 tonnes of rice by MV MCL-7 from Ayeya Hintha company on 2 November, 2,615 tonnes by MV MCL-21 on 7 November, 2,650 tonnes by MV MCL-12 on 13 November and 2,650 tonnes by MV MCL-18 on 22 November, 10,565 tonnes of rice in total. A total of 211,300 bags of 50-kilogramme Emahta rice were conveyed from the AIIP to Bangladesh. Efforts are underway to continue exporting the second batch of targeted tonnes of rice.

The vessel laden with export rice to Bangladesh is pictured at the Ayeyawady International Industrial Port-AIIP in Pathein. **PHOTO : KANU**

Deputy Director U Tun Tun from the Consumer Affairs Department commented on the benefits to farmers and businessmen due to direct export that there was an instruction to export 20,000 tonnes of rice as the first batch and 40,000 tonnes of rice as the second batch constantly, totalling 60,000 tonnes.

The direct shipment enhances the economic development of the region and brings advantages to residents and the State. There will be a ship to dock over the next two or three weeks as well, he added.

The respective ministry and export companies are working together to ensure the quality of export rice and fast shipping. Rice mills in Ayeyawady Region are running to export good-quality rice, it is learnt. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Cooking oil, chilli, onion, potato, Kyukok garlic lead to downturn in price

MOST of the commodity prices were on the rise starting mid-2022 and some products reached unexpected prices.

However, the sales were slack by the end of November and the prices declined as the new crops entered the market.

In August, the palm oil price was K9,500 per viss and it was K5,700 per viss on 25 November, palm oil purchaser Ko Win Ko told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Similarly, the price of peanut oil declined in August and was only K9000-9500 per viss in November, according to the market status of Monywa.

The sales of chilli with the highest prices in mid-2022 were slack in November and the prices of Moe Htaung and long chilli also declined, according to the Seinpanlan chilli wholesale centre.

The prices of Myitwa chilli from cold storage and Sinphyukyun chilli at about K10000 per viss in 2022 compared to the same period of previous years hit a record high in the mid-term of this year and it is now K31000 per viss.

The Moe Htaung chilli pepper was priced at K16,000-K17,000 per viss in September and now K14,000-K15,000 per viss as the Yamethin, Natmauk, Pyawbwe and Shan chilli pepper emerged. The Moe Htaung Naut Thee was only K12500 per viss.

On 25 October, the new Shan long chilli was priced at K17,500 per viss and it is now K15,500 per viss by the end of this month.

The wholesale price of Zee chilli was K23,000 per viss previously and is now only K19,000. Thazi chilli pepper was priced at K22,200 per viss and now it declines to K21000 per viss.

The Shan Buu Soe chilli price reaches under K18,000 per viss from K21,000. The Panye and Hmyani long chilli prices remain unchanged at K22,000 per viss.

The potato prices also fall as large stocks of Chinese potatoes enter the Yangon market. On 24 November, 6,000 tonnes of the Shan potato entered the market while there were 102,000 tonnes of Chinese potatoes. The new Chinese potato was priced at K1,600 per viss and K2,200 per viss of the old Chinese potato.

On 15 November, the old Chinese potato was priced at K2,500-K2,550 while K1,900-K1,950-K2,000-K2,150 per viss of Shan Aungban potato. On 26 November, the Shan potato was K1,800-K1,800-K1,850. The Kyukok garlic (China) price is only K3,300 per viss now although its price rose to K5,000 on 1 September.

On 26 November, the Myingyan onion price was K4,300 per viss in the Yangon market while K4,400 per viss of Seikphyu onion, K4,100 per viss of new monsoon onion and K3,700 per viss of new Myingyan onion.

The new monsoon onion enters the Pakokku market daily and the price was K3,200 per viss on 26 November. It reached its highest price at K3,650 per viss on 21 November. In the Mandalay market, the new Myittha onion was K3,300-K3,400-K3,500-K3,600. The large-size Chinese onion was K2,500 per viss and K3,300 per viss of onions the same size as the Myittha onion.

The onion prices seem to drop significantly soon. Although the prices are high obviously, people have to buy at higher prices. However, people don't know clearly about the accurate prices when it falls again. — TWA/GNLM

Shoppers are seen buying foodstuffs at the grocery.

PHOTO NEWS

A sculptor from Darpein sculpture village is working on sculptures in Hlegu Township. **PHOTO : YCDC**

YANGON Region is a tourist destination that can be reached within an hour from Yangon. The Department of Hotels and Tourism, the Department of Archeology and National Museums, the Small Industries Department and the Myanmar Tourism Federation are jointly implementing it.

CBM invites tender to purchase counting machines to detect counterfeit notes

THE Central Bank of Myanmar announced a tender to buy counting machines to distinguish between counterfeit and genuine Myanmar kyats.

An open tender has been announced for the purchase of Myanmar kyat counting machines for use in the Central Bank of Myanmar.

The tender form will be sold at Gate No 2 of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw during office hours from 24 November to 5 December.

It is known that tender applications must be submitted no later than 4 pm on 7 December.

Tenders will be opened at Office No 55 Zabuthiri Hall on 9 December in the Central Bank of Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw).

If people want to know the terms and details of the tender, they can call 067-3418293 (Engineering Branch, Industry) during office hours, officials said.

News related to counterfeit currency is often seen on social networking sites, and the Central Bank has issued notices that it will take action against fake currency sales. —TWA/GNLM

Offenders were arrested and prosecuted for posting fake currency sales on Facebook.

43 Myanmar arrive back in Myanmar from India

A total of 43 Myanmar nationals, who had been charged for various reasons in India and who were victims at sea, were sent to Myanmar on 24 November, it is learnt.

Forty-three Myanmar citizens include detainees in Port Blair's Open Distress Camp in Andaman and Nicobar Islands in India for various reasons and victims at sea who were rescued by India off the south coast of Nicobar Island.

On 24 November, they were repatriated by the Port Blair-Kolkata-Yangon flight and arrived in Yangon at about 9:20 pm.

The travel expenses for those were donated by Sitagu Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Ratha Guru Bhaddanta Nyanissara. — TWA/GNLM

It's time to change the breakfast culture

By Linn Oo

A dish of fried rice with baked garden peas.

PEOPLE living in Myanmar including Myanmar people still prefer sitting at teashops for their breakfast and that culture is most common to date.

When a person meets with his friend, they go to the nearest teashop to have conversations between them. There are various teashops in every place in the country.

The expenses at the teashop became higher one time later in mid-2022 together with the high commodity prices compared to the previous years, Thakayta resident Ko Hla Oo told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The price for a cup of tea is different depending on the decoration of the teashop. It costs K1,000 per drink at the famous teashop and K800 at small shops and about K600 at vendor shops, said Ko Myo from Tamway Township.

Shops that sell instant tea can have expenses for boiled water and cups and accommodation and they collect an extra K200 which is equal to the price of an instant tea sachet, so the people have to pay K400 per coffee sachet.

The prices of Naan (Indian flat bread), Eikyakway (Youtiao or Yu Char Kway – deep-fried bread strips of Chinese origin) and Paukci (Baogi-Filled steamed bread) are also higher one-time later mid-term of this year than the previous year. Therefore, if a person has snacks and tea for breakfast, it will cost about K1,000, said Ko Kyaw Kyaw, a taxi driver.

Similarly, Myanmar's traditional breakfast recipes and popular dishes such as coconut noodle soup and Mohinga are priced at K1,500 per dish with fried fritters at the larger shops and K900/1,000 at roadside shops. Other normal breakfast foods that are priced at K1,000 are higher than that price, Ko Than Win from Lanmadaw Township told the GNLM.

Prices of traditional snacks made from sticky rice and boiled beans are higher one time than before. Although people can buy a dish made from sticky rice for K200 previously, now they can buy only K500 at least.

Therefore, it can cost a person between K500 and K1,000 for breakfast. It will cost more for a big family.

Currently, the daily minimum wage for a person is K4,800. When the businesses do not run properly at the Bayintnaung wholesale centre, the owners have to add extra expenses if the wage is lower. A worker can get up to K7,000 per day at least.

Although the income rate does not show an increase, the costs of accommodation and transport charges are becoming higher and higher. The breakfast costs about 20 per cent of the salary of a daily worker. Except for meeting important friends at the teashops, people should drink instant coffee, milo and Ovaltine at their houses for breakfast and it can reduce the breakfast expense to half.

It is K200 per sachet of coffee (wholesale) while K10,500 for 400-gramme Ovaltine, K6,200 for 285-gramme milo, K4,800 per pack of nutritious cereal (20 sachets), K6,000 per pack of 1,000-gramme milk powder and about K3,000 per viss of sugar.

If people make a cup of Ovaltine, it is about K450. It is more nutritious than tea and saves expenses. People should change their breakfast style except those who drink tea, Daw Aye Than from Sangyoung told the GNLM.

Similarly, it can also save expenses if people fry the rice at their houses instead of buying breakfast at shops. It is not sure that those who have surplus income more than expenses need to save money or not, those, who are struggling to balance incomes and expenses control the buying at the shop and make cooking at their houses when food prices are on the rise. If so, they can reduce expenses and maintain their income and expense.

Translated

■

OPINION

Try to smoothly operate the market mechanism

POLITICAL might, economic might and military might can shape a country to be prestigious to be able to stand tall among the global countries. Moreover, the leaders of the country have the capability to comprehensively handle these kinds of might for the perpetual existence of the country.

To have economic might, all parts of the economic mechanism must be able to smoothly move for overcoming economic challenges. As the government has clearly declared to exercise the market economic system, efforts must be made for operating the economic machinery for recovering both the State economy and privately owned businesses.

> Operating a systematic and firm financial system is the lifeblood of the country, the State and the people. The government is responsible for ensuring the smooth operation of the market mechanism of the nation forever in cooperation with the people with concerted efforts for the sale of goods at fair prices for all.

The market mechanism adjusts production and consumption in the private economy. In this regard, consumers must have a chance to independently purchase goods from the market. All producers must compete with each other in the production with the least production cost. The market competition must not allow the producers for holding the exclusive chance for a long time to manufacture the beneficial commodities.

As such, it is necessary to take preventive measures against monopolization in the market not to keep all chances to a single producer. The market machinery needs to coordinate the best consumption and production and prevent economic instability. That is why the authorities need to enact necessary laws and rules for preventing monopolizing the market.

With the aim of improving the market, the government needs to subsidize foodstuffs production for selling them at fair prices to consumers. Moreover, necessary tax-levying rates must be reduced and tax exemption allowed for stabilizing the economy through a firm financial policy. In this regard, it is necessary to exercise the guideline project in the market machinery.

Currently, the financial market is essential for the State and the citizens. If a systematic and firm financial system cannot be brought about, the country will not be able to meet the aim of a modern and developed nation. In Myanmar, the financial market penetrates various sectors for taking a leading role in the nation.

If businesses from a country cannot join the global financial market, these will meet just a low standard of economy. If so, these businesses will miss the chance to keep abreast of other countries.

Operating a systematic and firm financial system is the lifeblood of the country, the State and the people. The government is responsible for ensuring the smooth operation of the market mechanism of the nation forever in cooperation with the people with concerted efforts for the sale of goods at fair prices for all. ■

Study reveals severe asthma attacks doubled post Covid-19

AFTER Covid-19 limitations were loosened in the UK, adults with asthma experienced about the doubled risk of having a severe asthma attack, according to recent research.

Episodes of progressive worsening of asthma symptoms, termed exacerbations or asthma attacks, are the major cause of illness and death in this condition. Asthma affects more than five million people in the UK and more than 300 million globally. Symptoms include breathlessness and chest tightness as well as wheezing and coughing.

Asthma attacks

Published in Thorax and presented at British Thoracic Society meeting, the research found an increased risk of these attacks after Covid-19 restrictions were relaxed.

When restrictions were lifted, fewer people wore face coverings and there was more social mixing, and subsequently a higher risk of Covid-19 and other acute respiratory infections. The research also found that Covid-19 was not significantly more likely to trigger asthma attacks than other respiratory infections.

In April 2021, when social mixing restrictions and the need for face coverings started to be relaxed, 1.7 per cent of participants reported having a severe asthma attack in the previous month. In January 2022, this proportion more than doubled, going up to 3.7 per cent.

The study analysed data from 2,312 UK adults with asthma, participating in Queen Mary's COVIDENCE UK study between November 2020 and April 2022. Details on face covering use, social mixing, and asthma symptoms were collected via monthly online questionnaires.

Cause-and-effect

Professor Adrian Martineau, lead author of the research and Clinical Professor of Respiratory Infection and Immunity at Queen Mary University of London, said: "This research shows that relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions coincided with an increased risk of severe asthma attacks. Our study was observational, so it can't prove cause-and-effect. But our findings do raise the possibility that certain elements of the public health measures introduced during the pandemic — such as wearing facemasks — could help in reducing respiratory illnesses moving forward".

Dr Florence Tydeman, first author on the paper, added: "It is also reassuring to see that Covid-19 was not significantly more likely to trigger asthma attacks than other respiratory infections in our study participants."

The study is the first to compare the influence of COVID-19 versus other respiratory infections on risk of asthma exacerbations. And it is one of few studies that looks at the impact of lifting national restrictions on people with asthma.

SOURCE: ANI

■

The study analyzed data from 2,312 UK adults with asthma, participating in Queen Mary's COVIDENCE UK study between November 2020 and April 2022. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ AFP**

ARTICLE BOOKRACK

Book Title	-	Intelligentsia
Author	-	Dagon Shwe Hmya
Publishing House	-	Quality Publishing House
Publication Date	-	November 2022 (3rd Edition)
Price	-	K5,000

Intelligentsia

AN individual or a person performed selfless acts when one was young and rescued the entire nation from deep poverty with selfless (Nyatatha Cariya in Buddhism)

One was able to raise the flag of success and coped with lifetime adversity (Karika Dukkha), life changes and physical and mental health (Cetasika Dukkha) through patience, enthusiasm, dedication, integrity, perseverance, compassion and persistence. That kind of person is honoured as an intellectual person, the author remarked on the back cover of the book to share this message to the readers.

This book portrayed the biographies and sniper views, prominent events, famous quotes and historical facts of the 14 world-famous people; Lenin who helped the peasants, President Lincoln, Bogyoke Aung San, Gandhi, national hero Rizal, the Founding Father of the US Washington, the first provisional president of the Republic of China Sun Yat Sen, Johnson, all-rounder U Sa, the writer Tagore, Jones, Tolstoy, King Kyansittha and Florence Nightingale.

The book unveiled how they became prominent figures in the world. Furthermore, it revealed some rare facts. For instance, Russia's Lenin published the Workers' press with the contribution of Plekhanov, the founder of the social-democratic movement in Russia. Lenin's first newspaper called Iskra or spark was published in Munich, Germany. The Iskra's motto is ``From a spark, a fire will spare up".

The book highlighted inspirational messages about how Lincoln from a simple house became the 16th President of the United States of America. Additionally, the national leader Bogyoke Aung San felt the bitterness of losing the fourth newborn baby after 5 days of birth on 26 September 1946, when the government of the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League was established. Although he has many children, he muttered about losing the newborn baby. The readers could sympathize with the love of the father who was disconsolate although he might seem strong in his appearance. This is the nature of human beings anyhow.

The book also contains the life stories of intellectual people, nationalist of the Philippines Dr Jose Rizal who was executed and the all-rounder Myawady Mingyi U Sa who was a poet, composer, playwright and general who was keen on literature and arts, starting from the appointment of commander by General Maha Bandula at Panwar Danyawady column until he served as the Lord of Myawaddy.

Book Title - Think and Grow Rich by Napoleon Hill

Translator - Shwe U Daung

Publishing House - Tet Khit

Publication Date - June 2022 (Republication)

Price - K2,500

Think and Grow Rich by Napoleon Hill

IT is the second bestselling book of the world-famous motivational author after his first work entitled "The Law of Success (1925)". The book entitled Think and Grow Rich is still earning the top spot up to now although it was published in 1937.

A translator Sayagyi Shwe U Daung noted in the preamble that this book will help to sow one's good seeds and plant start-up sprouts to attain personal goals rather than provide tips to surpass others.

For Myanmar readers, Sayagyi did not just translate the works but blended them with religious terms and his life experiences.

Sayagyi raised questions to the readers: ``Do you crave money? Are you willing to succeed? Do you want charisma or charm that can inspire devotion in others? Do you find sustainable happiness from contentment? Do you need a good appearance? Do you wish to be peaceful? Are you on a quest for prosperity? The contents regarding those questions are featured in this book. Sayagyi Thawda Swe added a real incident of how a man named Maung Aung Thein from the Phaungtawthi area became well-off from a just dealer until he owned a brick house and managed a rice mill.

The big secret to success is enclosed as the main highlight of this book. Readers have to search for it. If one deserves to succeed and prosper, he can undoubtedly find this secret.

He urged readers to realize the hidden message.

The first part "First step to success" unveiled that nothing is impossible both in pursuit of material and spiritual values. Even the Buddha attained his enlightenment through his passionate desire for meditation and spiritual journey. One can gain wealth if he is enthusiastic about it. The book contains six tips to build wealth. The tips on how to be successful in life can help you to visualize the best shortcut to achieve the goal.

It is not just a fun reading activity yet it guides the one with the principles to a successful life. ■

SCI/TECH/ENVIRON
WORLD

South Korean capital launches self-driving bus experiment

Jeong Seong-gyun, head of automomous driving at 42 Dot, the start-up now owned by South Korea's Hyundai which created the technology for the country's first self-driving bus route, posing outside a self-driving bus in Seoul. **PHOTO: AFP**

SOUTH Korea's capital launched its first self-driving bus route on Friday, part of an experiment that engineers said aims to make people feel more comfortable with driverless vehicles on the roads.

The new vehicle does not look like a regular bus and has rounded edges as well as large windows that make it appear more like a toy than a technological breakthrough.

This design is intentional, said Jeong Seong-gyun, head of autonomous driving at 42 Dot, the start-up responsible for the self-driving technology that is now owned by auto giant Hyundai.

"This is the future," he told AFP, adding that the bus required "a considerable new type of design".

The bus looks a bit "like Lego" and is made of composite parts to help keep costs down and make it easy to replicate, he said.

It uses cameras and radar to navigate the way instead of expensive sensors, Seong-gyun added.

The company's goal was to make the technology low-cost, safe and easily transferable to many types of vehicles in the future, for example, delivery trucks.

For now — with a safety driver monitoring closely — the bus will drive itself around a small 3.4-kilometre (2.1-mile) circuit in downtown Seoul that takes around 20 minutes.

The public can board at two designated stops after booking a free seat through an app.—AFP

Air pollution killed 238,000 Europeans prematurely in 2020: EEA

FINE particle air pollution led to 238,000 premature deaths in the European Union in 2020, the bloc's environmental watchdog said Thursday, a slight rise from the previous year.

Across the 27-nation bloc that year, "exposure to concentrations of fine particulate matter above the 2021 World Health Organization guideline level resulted in 238,000 premature deaths", the European Environment Agency said in a new report.

That was slightly more than those recorded in 2019 in the EU, despite a fall in emissions due to Covid curbs.

Fine particulate matter, or PM2.5, is a term for fine particulates that are typically the by-product of car exhausts or coal-fired power plants.

Their tiny size enables them to travel deep into the respiratory tract, worsening the risk of bronchitis, asthma and lung disease.

Also in 2020, exposure to nitrogen dioxide (NO2) above the WHO's recommended threshold led to 49,000 premature deaths in the EU, the EEA said. Acute exposure to ozone (O3) caused 24,000 people to die early. "When comparing 2020 to 2019, the number of premature deaths attributable to air pollution increased for PM2.5 but decreased for NO2 and O3," the agency said.

"For PM 2.5, falls in concentrations were counteracted by an increase in deaths due to the pandemic."

The Covid-19 pandemic led to the deaths of some people already living with diseases related to air pollution.—AFP

A woman wear a mask as she walks along a street in Skopje, Macedonia, on 30 January 2019, one of the most polluted cities in Europe. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

NASA Orion spacecraft enters lunar orbit: officials

NASA'S Orion spacecraft was placed in lunar orbit Friday, officials said, as the much-delayed Moon mission proceeded successfully.

A little over a week after the spacecraft blasted off from Florida bound for the Moon, flight controllers "successfully performed a burn to insert Orion into a distant retrograde orbit," the US space agency said on its web site.

The spacecraft is to take astronauts to the Moon in the coming years — the first to set foot on its surface since the last Apollo mission in 1972.

This first test flight, without a crew on board, aims to ensure that the vehicle is safe.

"The orbit is distant in that Orion will fly about 40,000 miles above the Moon," NASA said.

While in lunar orbit, flight controllers will monitor key systems and perform checkouts while in the environment of deep space, the agency said.

It will take Orion about a week to complete half an orbit around the Moon. It will then exit the orbit for the return journey home, according to NASA.

On Saturday, the ship is expected to go up to 40,000 miles beyond the Moon, a record for a habitable capsule.

The current record is held by the Apollo 13 spacecraft at 248,655 miles (400,171 km) from Earth.—AFP

This image provided by NASA shows flight Day 9 imagery that NASA's Orion spacecraft captured looking back at the Earth from a camera mounted on one of its solar arrays. NASA's Orion capsule is now circling the moon in an orbit stretching tens of thousands of miles. **PHOTO: NASA**

Costa Rica crocodiles survive in 'most polluted' river

IN one of the most polluted rivers in Central America, a vulnerable crocodile species is thriving despite living in waters that have become a sewer for Costa Rica's capital, experts say.

Every day, trash and wastewater from San Jose households and factories flood into the Tarcoles River, which vomits tires and plastic into the surrounding mangroves.

Nevertheless, some 2,000 American Crocodiles have adapted to life in the toxic river that bears witness to the country's decades-long battle with waste management.

"It is a super-contaminated area, but this has not affected the crocodile population," said Ivan Sandoval, a biologist with the National University of Costa Rica. "The Tarcoles River is the most polluted river in Costa Rica, and one of the most contaminated in Central America. Heavy metals, nitrites, nitrates, and a large amount of human waste can be found," added the crocodile expert.—AFP

France and India join forces for better healthcare in future

THE Indo-French Healthcare Symposium 2022: together for tomorrow's health is taking place on 28 November 2022, in New Delhi at the Leela Palace.

This healthcare event is organized by Business France, in collaboration with the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the French Institute in India, French and Indian institutional partners and companies.

Senior Government officials of France and India, Mme Anne-Claire Amprou — French Ambassador for Global Health and Dr V.K.Paul — Hon'ble Member of NITI Aayog, Government of India (Chief Guest) will be participating in the event.

The bilateral partnership in the healthcare sector has been spectacular during the pandemic with the exchange of medical support equipment.

France aims to strengthening this cooperation furthermore. This symposium aims to strengthen the bilateral healthcare ecosystem, jointly innovate for the hospital of the future and better healthcare post-Covid. The objective is to develop new synergies in research, training, and trade in the medical and pharmaceutical fields between both countries or third ones. — ANI

The bilateral partnership in the healthcare sector has been spectacular during the pandemic with the exchange of medical support equipment. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP**

China strives to ensure smooth logistics amid COVID-19 flare-ups

A railway staff member checks the freight train that runs via the China-Laos Railway in Dunhuang, northwest China's Gansu Province, 21 April 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/CHEN BIN/FILE**

CHINA has stepped up measures to improve logistics and ensure an unimpeded flow of goods as part of efforts to optimize the COVID-19 response.

The Ministry of Transport recently rolled out 15 measures to improve epidemic control for the transport industry, focusing on personnel management in high-risk positions, nucleic acid testing after arrival, the rectification of excessive restrictions and smooth logistics.

The national transport network has remained smooth, providing strong support for stable industrial and supply chains and economic development, ministry spokesperson Shu Chi told a press conference on Friday.

Regarding trucks in some regions being subjected to excessively strict COVID-19 control, Shu said the authorities have taken action to address the problem in a timely manner.

It is strictly prohibited to restrict the passage of trucks while awaiting test results of drivers or on the basis of the place of vehicle registration and drivers' household registration. Official 24-hour hotlines have been opened for quick response, and those involved in repeated violations will be named and shamed.

The precise and targeted control measures for the transport networks will continue in the future, the spokesperson noted.

In terms of ensuring the smooth transportation of key materials, Shu said the focus will be put on food and vegetables, energy and medical materials, raw materials for major industrial and supply chains, and exported products. The spokesperson added that the ministry will plan ahead for next year's Spring Festival travel rush to ensure healthy, safe, convenient and comfortable journeys.— Xinhua

UN experts to contribute in Zambian lead poisoning case

A top South African court on Friday granted UN experts a role in proceedings against Anglo American, which is being sued for alleged lead poisoning in a Zambian mining city.

Decades of lead mining have left Kabwe, around 150 kilometres (95 miles) north of the capital Lusaka, severely polluted, with serious health impacts on residents.A lawsuit filed in 2020 in South Africa accuses the British-lead mining giant Anglo American of poisoning thousands of people in Kabwe.

Three UN special rapporteurs on human rights around toxics, extreme poverty and persons with disability will now be admitted to the legal proceedings. Two UN working groups on discrimination against women and girls and business and human rights also secured a role in the case as "friends of the court".—AFP

Italy sees new surge in COVID-19 cases

ITALY has reported yet another outbreak of COVID-19, with the transmission rate rising above 1.0 again, the country's National Institute of Health (ISS) said on Friday.

The institute said in its weekly report that the nationwide reproduction rate of the virus jumped to 1.04 in the two weeks from 2 to 15 November, a dramatic increase from 0.88 registered in the previous week.

Any rate above 1.0 means the reach of the virus is expanding, with each recovered patient replaced by more than one new infection.

In addition, the overall number of cases totalled 388 per 100,000 residents for the week of 18-24 November, up from 353 per 100,000 residents a week earlier.

Earlier this week, the Gimbe Foundation, a health sector monitoring entity, reported that overall COVID-19 hospitalizations and admissions to intensive care units were on the rise. It also warned of a resurgence in the virus' reach as the weather cools, forcing more indoor activities and providing conditions more favourable to the virus' spread.

Italy no longer enforces COVID-19 health restrictions except in hospitals, care homes and other areas where highly vulnerable people are concentrated. Health authorities continue to administer a second booster vaccine dose tailored to reduce the risk of infection from new strains of the virus to eligible residents, though the process has so far been slower than at earlier vaccine rollout stages. — Xinhua

A pharmacist wearing a protective respiratory mask tends to a customer in Codogno, southeast of Milan, on 22 Feb 2020. **PHOTO: MIGUEL MEDINA / AFP**

ECONOMY
WORLD

India's IT industry freezes on fresh hiring amid Facebook, Twitter layoffs

Photo taken on 24 Nov 2022, shows a view of Cyber Hub in Gurgaon, India. **PHOTO: XINHUA/JAVED DAR**

THE recent layoffs in companies like Facebook and Twitter may cast a shadow on the information technology (IT) or software firms in India, particularly those which cater to outsourced works from foreign-based companies.

Over the past couple of weeks, while Meta, the parent company of Facebook, announced a layoff of around 11,000 employees, Twitter's new owner Elon Musk too shed nearly 75 per cent of the workforce over the past month. Though, a day ago Musk was learned to have announced keeping the layoff drill on the back burner.

As a result of the recession in some of the world's major economies, and layoffs in companies like Facebook and Twitter, some of the leading Indian IT companies have been observing a freeze on fresh hiring as a cost-cutting exercise over the past couple of months.

Earlier this month The Economic Times quoted sources as saying that the announcement of layoffs "may not be very significant" for Meta India's 400-odd employees in the country.

The report, however, also stated that Elon Musk's announcement wiped out almost the entire Twitter team in India, which had roughly 230 members in the first week of November.

Though IT experts hope it would not be a long freezing period, Gurugram, a city adjacent to New Delhi and one of the IT hubs in India, too have reported freezes and layoffs in software firms over the past couple of weeks.

"Immediately after the COVID-19 outbreak in India in early 2020 the IT companies had opted for layoffs. But, as soon as the concept of work from home settled in, huge recruitments were carried out," said Rajiv Mehrotra, an IT consultant in Gurugram. The freshly recruited staff continued working for over two years. Ever since offices began to reopen as the pandemic receded, an overflow of software hands was felt a couple of months ago, according to Mehrotra.

"Now, the global recession has spelled further doom for the IT industry. Yes, there have been layoffs in the IT industry in recent weeks," he said, though not very significantly.—Xinhua

German economy grew more than estimated in third quarter

Overall, the German economy remains robust. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ AFP/FILE**

GERMANY'S economy grew more than previously thought in the third quarter despite high inflation and an energy crisis, revised official data showed Friday.

Europe's biggest economy expanded by 0.4 per cent between July and September compared to the second quarter — slightly better than the 0.3 per cent growth previously calculated by federal statistics agency Destatis. Analysts had forecast a contraction in the third quarter as the fallout from Russia's war in Ukraine takes a toll on European economies. "Overall, the German economy remains robust," Destatis said in a statement.

Gross domestic product grew "despite difficult general conditions in the global economy such as the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, delivery bottlenecks, continuing price rises and the war in Ukraine," it said.

A separate survey on Friday showed that German consumer confidence has edged up again following a long period of decline, the latest indication that concerns are easing about the severity of an approaching downturn.

Pollster GfK's forward-looking barometer registered minus 40.2 points for December, an increase of 1.7 points from November.— AFP

EU wants changes to "discriminatory" US Inflation Reduction Act

THE member states of the European Union (EU) on Friday voiced their concern about the discriminatory provisions contained in the US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and likely significant repercussions of the IRA on the competitiveness and investment decisions of the EU industry in particular as regards sectors of crucial importance for its transition to a green economy.

"We are very concerned about the likely significant impact of the US Inflation Reduction Act on the EU's manufacturing base," Jozef Sikela, chair of the EU Trade Council, said after a meeting of the member states' trade ministers. "Many of the green subsidies provided for in the act discriminate against EU automotive, renewables, battery and energy-intensive industries. These are serious concerns for the EU, which I, and many of my colleagues, have raised repeatedly with our US interlocutors," EU Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis said.

"What we are asking for is fairness," he said. "We want and expect European companies and exports to be treated in the same way in the US as American companies and exports are treated in Europe."

Sikela and Dombrovskis both underlined the need to avoid a "subsidy race" between the EU and the US, explaining that it would be dangerous, expensive and inefficient. —Xinhua

The European Union has "serious concerns" about the US Inflation Reduction Act, saying it breaches international trade rules. The assembly line for the Volkswagen ID 4 electric car, in Emden, northern Germany. **PHOTO: DAVID HECKER/AFP**

Ghana sets 2023 GDP target at 2.8%

GHANA has announced a 2.8 per cent economic growth rate target for 2023.

Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta announced the goal during the presentation of the 2023 budget in parliament on Thursday.

"The economy is expected to rebound from 2024 and grow steadily in the medium term to record an average growth of 4.8 per cent over the period (between) 2024 and 2026," he said.

The services sector would "remain the dominant sector over the medium term in percentage contribution to overall national output, followed by industry and agriculture," Ofori-Atta said.

He said the government would continue to provide the enabling environment for private sector investments to induce economic recovery and job creation.

The macroeconomic challenges in the economy, manifesting in high food prices and pressures on the local currency, needed a focus on bolstering the productive and export capacity of the private sector, Ofori-Atta said.—Xinhua

US Black Friday shoppers return to bricks-and-mortar stores: media

MILLIONS of Americans are expected to visit bricks-and-mortar stores on the Friday after Thanksgiving as the COVID-19 pandemic recedes and people return to prepandemic habits, reported The Wall Street Journal on Friday.

This is a reversal of the past two years, when people were largely stuck at home and did more shopping online. This year, however, many household budgets are pinched by high gas and grocery prices, noted the report. With many stores closed on Thanksgiving, retailers are preparing for a big surge on Friday. Sales, excluding car dealerships, are forecast to increase 15 per cent compared with Black Friday last year, the report said, citing Mastercard SpendingPulse.

"This is the closest to a normal Black Friday that we've had in several years," Stephen Lebovitz, chief executive of mall owner CBL & Associates Properties, was quoted as saying. Many retailers started dangling big discounts in October to unload excess inventory as supply-chain bottlenecks have eased, but the bargains weren't enough to tempt some shoppers as concerns about inflation and the economy continued to mount, according to the report.—Xinhua

Major Japan utilities to face record amount of antitrust fines

JAPAN'S trade watchdog is likely to impose a record amount of fines on several major utilities after finding they formed a cartel and obstructed the liberalization of the country's electricity market, sources close to the matter have said.

The companies including Chugoku Electric Power Co, Kyushu Electric Power Co and Chubu Electric Power Co will be ordered to pay surcharges totalling tens of billions of yen for violating the anti-monopoly law, possibly the highest amount ever imposed by the Japan Fair Trade Commission, the sources said Friday.

Chubu Electric Power Co's Hamaoka nuclear power plant. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The utilities allegedly agreed for several years to refrain from acquiring new corporate customers outside their traditional service areas, according to the sources.

Japan started opening up its electricity market in 2000 in a bid to end the decades-long monopoly of regional power companies and help lower electricity bills by promoting competition.—Kyodo

Macau casino giants win licence renewals, Malaysia's Genting loses bid

MACAU said Saturday it has renewed the licences of its six major casino operators, with the city aiming for terms that would help diversify its economy away from gambling.

The former Portuguese colony is the only territory in China where casinos are allowed, and it issues just six operating concessions for a multi-billion-dollar industry that, until the pandemic hit, was bigger than Las Vegas.

The six current operators — including the subsidiaries of Las Vegas giants MGM, Wynn and Sands — had submitted renewal applications but a firm linked with Malaysian gaming and resorts giant Genting challenged the long-running oligopoly with a surprise bid.

That attempt failed, however, as Macau's leader Ho Iat-seng announced that the existing licence holders have been granted provisional concessions.—AFP

Macau is one of the biggest gambling hubs in the world. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V B TRADER VOY.NO. (244W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V B TRADER VOY.NO. (244W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-11-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** 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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V HANSA BITBURG VOY.NO. (245W/247E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HANSA BITBURG VOY.NO. (245W/247E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-11-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** 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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (185N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (185N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-11-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V RESOLUTION VOY.NO. (2232S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RESOLUTION VOY.NO. (2232S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-11-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Iran steps up military presence near Iraqi borders against "separatist" threats

IRAN'S Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has stepped up military presence near the western and northwestern borders of the country to deal with "separatist" threats, an IRGC commander said Friday.

Armored IRGC units and special forces have been deployed "to prevent the infiltration of terrorists affiliated with separatist groups based in northern Iraq and the smuggling of weapons into the country," Mohammad Pakpour, commander of the IRGC Ground Force, was quoted as saying by official IRNA news agency.

The forces would decisively confront insecurity caused by "evil-doers and anti-Iranian separatist terrorist groups in the northwest of the country" Pakpour added.

The IRGC recently used artillery and drones to attack what it called the positions of Iranian "separatists" based in Iraq's northern Kurdistan Region.— Xinhua

This video grab taken from footage provided by the Iranian military to Farsnews agency social media on Thursday 29 September 2022, reportedly shows a missile launch from the Iranian Kurdistan (Komalah) region directed towards Sulaimaniyah in Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region. **PHOTO: FARS NEWS AGENCY /AFP**

Univ. of Tokyo to double number of female professors by FY 2027

File photo taken 28 Sept 2018, shows the University of Tokyo's Yasuda Auditorium. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE University of Tokyo has said it aims to double its number of female professors and associate professors to around 400 by fiscal 2027 as it pushes for more diversity on campus.

Japan's leading university announced an action plan in fall 2021 in which it seeks to raise its ratio of female faculty members, including lecturers and assistant professors, from the current 16 per cent to 25 per cent or more.

But even if the university reaches its target for female faculty members, it will still lag behind global standards.

The average ratio of female faculty members in higher education institutions in Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development member countries was 45 per cent.

The target is also short of the 30 per cent figure for female faculty staff at Japanese universities as a whole.

As of May this year, 274 of the 2,322 professors and associate professors at the university were female.

The university said Friday it aims to hire 141 new female professors and 165 associate professors by fiscal 2027, which, taking those who will retire into account, will amount to around 400 women.

The university will also hire more female lecturers and assistant professors, aiming for women to make up about 1,200 of its roughly 4,800 faculty members.— Kyodo

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Half of Kyiv residents still without electricity after strikes

NEARLY half of Kyiv residents were still without electricity Friday, the Ukrainian capital's mayor said, two days after Russian strikes battered the country's already struggling energy grid.

"A third of houses in Kyiv already have heating and specialists continue to restore it. Half of consumers are still without electricity," Mayor Vitali Klitschko said.

"During the day, energy companies plan to reconnect electricity for all consumers on an alternating basis," he wrote on Telegram, as temperatures approached freezing. The head of national electricity operator Ukrenergo, Volodymyr Kudrytskyi, said repair work was ongoing across the country and that the grid had already "passed the most difficult stage" after the most recent attacks.—AFP

US makes profits from Russia-Ukraine conflict, says French journalist

THE United States is making profits from the conflict in Ukraine in terms of liquefied natural gas, the arms industry and industrial competitiveness, a French journalist has said.

The American industry is stocking contracts to export liquefied natural gas "Made in USA" to Europe to replace Russian gas, at much higher prices than those for American customers, said Beatrice Mathieu, head of the economy department of the French magazine L'Express, said in an interview published Friday on Boursorama.com.—Xinhua

Putin tells Russian mothers he shares 'pain' of soldier deaths

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Friday told a group of mothers whose sons are fighting in Ukraine that he shares the pain of those who have lost loved ones in the conflict.

The carefully choreographed meeting at Putin's residence took place as anger simmers in Russia over a chaotic military draft and deaths of soldiers in Ukraine. At least one woman at the meeting wore a black headscarf, apparently marking a recent loss. "I want you to know — I personally and the entire leadership of the country share this pain," Putin told the group ahead of Mother's Day, which is celebrated in Russia on Sunday. "We understand that nothing can replace the loss of a son, a child," Putin said.

File photo of Russian soldiers. **PHOTO: AFP**

He offered condolences to one of the women saying her son did not die "in vain" and reiterated his pledge to fulfil Moscow's goals in Ukraine.

Russian authorities have introduced legislation that effectively bans any public criticism of the offensive. Kremlin critics accuse authorities of concealing the real number of dead and wounded Russian troops.

Putin told the 17 women that Moscow was fighting the "neo-Nazi regime" in Ukraine and warned that they should be wary of what they read on the internet.—AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Death toll of earthquake in Indonesia rises to 310, 24 missing

THE death toll of the 5.6-magnitude earthquake hitting Indonesia's West Java province increased to 310, and 24 others were still missing, an official said on Friday.

"The search operation carried out by rescuers found more bodies on Friday, bringing the death toll up to 310," head of the national disaster management Agency Suharyanto told a press conference. He said that risk assessments of the impacts of the quake are underway. Aid would be continuously distributed to the survivors in evacuation centers across the district of Cianjur, one of the hardest-hit areas.—Xinhua

Three killed in twin school shootings in Brazil

At least three people including an adolescent girl were killed and 11 others wounded Friday when a 16-year-old shooter opened fire on two schools in southeastern Brazil, officials said.

Authorities in the city of Aracruz, in Espirito Santo state, said the shooter had opened fire on a group of teachers at his former school Friday morning, killing two people and leaving nine others wounded. He then left that school – a public primary and secondary school – and went to a nearby private school, where he killed an adolescent girl and wounded two other people, officials said.—AFP

Peru's troubled president names fifth PM in 16 months

Bettsy Chavez, a 33-year-old lawyer who also did a stint as labour minister, was sworn in as the fifth prime minister since the beleaguered Castillo took office 16 months ago. **PHOTO: AFP**

PERU'S President Pedro Castillo on Friday appointed the culture minister as the country's new prime minister after her predecessor resigned over a row with parliament.

Bettsy Chavez, a 33-year-old lawyer who also did a stint as labour minister, was sworn in as the fifth prime minister since the beleaguered Castillo took office 16 months ago.

The pair will reshuffle the cabinet after former premier Anibal Torres quit on Thursday amid an ongoing clash between the leftist Castillo and the conservative-controlled parliament.

Castillo, in power since July 2021, has already faced two impeachment attempts in parliament and is under investigation in six corruption cases, including accusations against his family and political entourage.

Earlier this month, thousands marched in the capital to demand the removal of the former rural school teacher who unexpectedly took power from Peru's traditional political elite.

Castillo has denounced the charges as politically motivated, and enjoys immunity until the end of his term in July 2026.

Chavez, an MP with the leftist bloc which backs Castillo, has 30 days to request a vote of confidence from parliament to be able to assume office.— Xinhua

Honduras under state of emergency over gang activity

POLICE stepped up their presence on the streets of Honduras Friday after President Xiomara Castro declared a state of emergency to quash a rise in gang activity in the Central American nation.

The small country has long been plagued by poverty, gangs, and violence linked to drug trafficking. Gangs have recently been extorting ordinary citizens as they go about their business.

"To strengthen efforts to recover lawless areas in the neighbourhoods, in villages, in departments, I declare a national state of emergency," said Castro on Thursday.

An AFP photographer reported a heavy presence of special forces and other officers in the capital on Friday.—AFP

Honduran special forces at the launch of a plan to battle extortion and organized crime in the country, which has declared a state of emergency. **PHOTO: AFP**

EU ministers endorse new migrant plan after France-Italy spat

The NGO SOS Mediteranee's rescue ship Ocean Viking is docked in Marseille harbour. **PHOTO: SHAHZAD ABDUL/AFP/FILE**

EUROPEAN interior ministers welcomed Friday an EU plan to better coordinate the handling of migrant arrivals, after a furious row over a refugee rescue boat erupted between Italy and France.

France has accused Italy of failing to respect the law of the sea by turning away the NGO vessel earlier this month, triggering crisis talks in Brussels to head off a new EU dispute over the politically fraught issue.

All sides described the meeting as productive, although Czech interior minister Vit Rakusan, whose country holds the EU presidency, later said all participants had agreed that "more can and must be done" to find a lasting solution.

The ministers will gather again at a pre-planned 8 December meeting to pursue the "difficult discussion", he said. European Commission vice-president Margaritis Schinas, the commissioner charged with "promoting our European way of life", said Europe could no longer settle for just another ad hoc solution.

"We cannot continue working event-by-event, ship-by-ship, incident-by-incident, route-by-route," he said, recalling that previous crises had been seized upon by "populistic and europhobe forces".—AFP

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Peru's troubled president names fifth PM in 16 months

PAGE-15

Over 200 athletes compete in Winter Invitational Table Tennis Tournament

Table Tennis players train hard for the Winter Invitational Table Tennis Tournament 2022.

THE Winter Invitational Table Tennis Tournament 2022 organized by the Myanmar Table Tennis Federation and supported by Royal D was held yesterday morning at the U Wizara Road National Swimming Pool of Myanmar Table Tennis Federation in Dagon Township, Yangon Region and over 200 athletes participated in the tourney.

The competition consists of 45 teams with five players each, male and female. The first level is divided into 15 groups, and each group competes in a round-robin of three teams. Two teams will play in the first-round knockout format in the group.

"The main reason we hold this event is that the competitions are a little far away. And it's also the longing that all the players want, we also want to hold the competition continuously, of course. In this year's SEA Games, our table tennis is not at the priority level," said Myanmar Table Tennis Federation President U Kyaw Kyaw. "This year's SEA Games priority level is to select only sports that can win gold and compete in only 22 out of 48 sports. Anyway, we have a youth national team. There is also a new generation of athletes.

"That is why we have to hold this competition. We have made it possible for all young people and adults, Myanmar national team members and former national team members to compete in the competition", he added.

The Winter Invitational Table Tennis Tournament was held to make people aware of the sport of table tennis for competing athletes to gain friendships with each other and have a good competition experience.

First, second, third and consolation prizes will be awarded in the tourney. The first prize has set as K1 million while the second is K500,000, the third is K300,000, and the consolation prizes at K200,000 respectively.

The competition will be held for three days until 28 November. — Bala Soe/GNLM

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.

World Cup 2022 Results

Tunisia	0-1	Australia
Poland	2-0	Saudi Arabia
France	2-1	Denmark

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

Germany clash a 'beautiful challenge' for Spain: Luis Enrique

SPAIN coach Luis Enrique says his team face a "beautiful challenge" against a wounded Germany on Sunday, as La Roja try to clinch qualification from World Cup Group E.

Hansi Flick's side suffered a shock 2-1 defeat to Japan and are fighting for their lives in the tournament, while Spain dismantled Costa Rica 7-0, a statement victory to ignite their bid to lift a second World Cup.

"Germany are a team that always plays on the attack," Luis Enrique told a press conference on Saturday.—AFP

Duke predicted goal as Australia revive World Cup hopes

Fans of Australia celebrate as the team acknowledges the crowd after defeating Tunisia 1-0 in the Qatar 2022 World Cup Group D football match between Tunisia and Australia at the Al-Janoub Stadium in Al-Wakrah, south of Doha on 26 November 2022. -- Miguel MEDINA / AFP

GOAL hero Mitch Duke said he had a feeling he would score after his header gave dogged Australia a 1-0 World Cup win over Tunisia on Saturday to revive their last-16 hopes.

The striker's clever looped header in Qatar put Australia in front in the 23rd minute and they desperately held on in the second half to silence Tunisia's vociferous fans.

The Socceroos sit second in Group D with three points from two games, having been well-beaten 4-1 by holders France in their tournament opener.

They face Denmark — who play France later Saturday — in their final group game and the knockout round is in sight.

"As a striker you need to have that confidence and believe that you can score in every match," said Japan-based centre-forward Duke, 31, whose physical presence was a nuisance all game to Tunisia.

"I actually was messaging some of my family saying that I was going to score today."—AFP