GIVE A HELPING HAND TO AIDS PATIENTS IN SOCIETY 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.

Myanmar eyes success in hilsa breeding trials to grasp strong market share in global market

The Hilsa shad is primarily harvested in Rakhine and Mon states and Dawei and Myeik districts in Taninthayi Region, Bago Region and Yangon Region. The best fishing spots are Ayeyawady Region and Mon State. **PHOTO : OAKTHA**

HILSA shad is primarily harvested in Rakhine State and Ayeyawady Region. Myanmar's freshwater hilsa earns a better reputation than other saltwater fish. Furthermore, Myanmar achieved success in the artificial breeding of hilsa at a hatchery like the neighbouring countries. Efforts are being exerted for the successful spawning and rearing process. Myanmar needs to capture a strong market share in the international fish market.

Bangladesh is the top hilsa-producing country in the world, generating US dollars from hilsa exports. On-board breeding activities are carried out in the water of India and Bangladesh. Hilsa is the national and commercially valued fish of Bangladesh and contributes to the GDP a lot. Normally, hilsa shad is anadromous fish species, and it lives in the sea and migrates upstream to the freshwater environment of the river system for spawning.

Artificial breeding of hilsa is successful in India and Bangladesh. However, they find it hard to be reared. They banned overfishing and set a fishing season to maintain sustainable production of hilsa. Only those marketable hilsa are harvested to meet the market demand. Fisheries will thrive in sustainable fishing.

Myanmar's hilsa produced in the Ayeyawady river is of good quality. It is popular in the markets. However, overfishing, including harvesting the small ones, threatens hilsa production. Thanks to effective management, hilsa species survived. Myanmar targets to boost exports of hilsa from controlled breeding and larval rearing in the river water of Ayeyarwady Region and Rakhine State. The number of hilsa declines from fishing in freshwater and sea. Myanmar's hilsa was on the verge of extinction from overfishing in the previous years.

"The Department of Fisheries researched hilsa. It cannot be farmed yet the hilsa can be alive in controlled breeding in the natural environment. Only artificial breeding status was successful in India and Bangladesh. They failed to rear them. Both Myanmar and the neighbouring countries have not achieved artificial hilsa breeding. Therefore, they have been farmed in the natural environment under a controlled breeding system in a certain area for over 20 years. Breeding of hilsa in nature is the best option so far.

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Working Committee to address the impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Notification No 4/2022
30 November 2022

Notification on one-year extension of COVID-19 loan repayment period for livestock breeding sectors including Myanmar citizen-owned fish and prawn breeding industries

1. The Working Committee to address the Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) disbursed loans to the worst-hit livestock breeding sectors including Myanmar citizen-owned fish and prawn farming industries for a one-year period at a one per cent interest rate using the COVID-19 Fund to recover the COVID-affected businesses as one of its duties on 16 November 2021.
2. The Myanma Economic Bank granted K7.6 billion loans of the COVID-19 Fund to 325 companies/businesses as of 31 October 2022, and the due date of the repayment period for those who received loans in the earliest period is approaching near.
3. At present, businesses are still hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic and the State Administration Council instructed for an extension of another year starting its due date to streamline the circulation of currency flows of local businesses.
4. Therefore, it is here announced that the loan repayment period will be extended for another year from its due date for the companies/businesses from livestock breeding sectors including Myanmar citizen-owned fish and prawn farming businesses that received COVID loans if they meet the following conditions:
   (a) they must have paid the interest on the due date
   (b) they must be companies/industries that perform their operations using loans effectively
5. In the notices of the working committee for loans, it states "if it fails to repay, action will be taken under the law" and so if the companies/industries that took loans from the Myanma Economic Bank fail to pay back the capital and interest, they will face legal action as per the terms and conditions of the loan contract and they must repay the outstanding loan completely within the period of extension.

Working Committee to address the impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Myanmar eyes success in hilsa ...

FROM PAGE-1

Bangladesh recognizes hilsa as the National Fish and earned a core revenue from exporting. More research activities are required for sustainable hilsa production in Myanmar. All the stakeholders including marine workers and the officials of the department concerned need to exert concerted efforts to make Myanmar's hilsa a commercially valued export item," said Dr Tun Thein, director of the Kayah State Fisheries Department.

The Fisheries Department is creating hilsa conservation areas this year during a particular amount of time. Eleven areas in Ayeyawady Region are designated as protected areas throughout the year. Additionally, hilsa conservation period is set in some rivers. Myanmar's hilsa is exported to Bangladesh. Hilsa eggs are traded in the domestic market, spurring the market. Those hilsa shads which are ready to spawn need protection. That measure can support the livestock sector of the State.

If continuous research activities bring successful breeding of hilsa along with catch in the natural environment, it will create a strong hilsa market, and promote the reputation of Myanmar's hilsa in the international markets and inflow of foreign currency. — Nyein Thu(MNA)/GNLM

"အားလုံးပါဝင်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးဖို့ ဆန်းသစ်တီထွင် အဖြေရှာစို့။
အားလုံးလက်လှမ်းမီညီမျှရေး၊ တီထွင်ဖန်တီးမှု စွမ်းအားဖြင့် ဆောင်ရွက်ပေး"

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MRTV to broadcast Diamond Jubilee Independence Day Variety Show live

THE Variety Show for Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 "Athet Htet Myat Thaw Gon Thake Kha" (Dignity Nobler Than Life) was staged at the open theatre of the City Hall in Nay Pyi Taw from 26 to 30 November. At the request of the audience, artistes from the Department of Fine Arts under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture are going to perform at the open theatre of the City Hall in Nay Pyi Taw from 6 pm to 11 pm on 1 December.

The variety show will be broadcast live on MRTV-HD, MRTV Parliament Channel, MWD HD Channel, MWD Variety Channel, and MRTV Web & App from 6:30 pm to 8 pm and 9 pm to 11 pm. — MNA

To hail Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023, the 21st Conference of the Myanmar Traditional Physicians and Seminar on Myanmar Traditional Medicines will be held at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw on 8 and 9 December 2022.

28 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 30 November, total figure rises to 633,245

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 633,245 after 28 new cases were reported on 30 November 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 607,760, including 35 new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged to 19,488 on 30-11-2022 with no new death reported from the pandemic.

The country has vaccinated 30,771,395 people aged 18 and above for COVID-19 vaccines and 6,764,287 people aged under 18 till 29 November 2022.

Status of COVID-19 vaccination (as of 29 November 2022)

People aged 18 and above who received vaccines	30,771,395
People under 18 years old who received vaccines	6,764,287

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

Concerted efforts needed to ensure better enhancement of NCA

ON the occasion of the 7th Anniversary of signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), I myself would like to urge all-

- to make concerted efforts for analyzing the advantages and disadvantages of peace and stability based on experiences along our route for ensuring better essence of NCA,
- to regard the Our Three Main National Causes and deeply follow the commitments of NCA to ensure the success of building the Union based on democracy and federalism,
- to nurture ourselves and our environment to become the persons with mindsets of good citizens endowed with knowledge of national politics and loyalty of citizens,
- to organize and lure remnant organizations to sign the NCA as much as possible so as to post a historical milestone.

(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.)

NSPNC holds meeting with working group of political parties

The meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and the working group of political parties in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the working group of political parties was held at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre yesterday morning.

SAC Member Union Minister at the Union Government Office National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and committee members, leader of the working group of political parties Shan Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP) Chairman U Sai Aik Pao and representatives of the working group participated in the meeting.

NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and SNDP Chairman U Sai Aik Pao gave opening speeches at the meeting. Afterwards, they had an informal discussion on each point of NSPNC's analysis of proposals concerning points to be amended in the 2008 Constitution put forward by the working group of political parties.

Next, the views from both sides were put on record and chairpersons of the NSPNC and SNDP made closing remarks. — MNA

Working Committee to address impact of COVID-19 on national economy meets

THE meeting of the Working Committee to address the Impact of COVID-19 on the National Economy 6/2022 was virtually held yesterday afternoon at Office the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

The meeting was chaired by Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. Members of the Working Committee deputy ministers for Planning and Finance, for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, for Labour and for Commerce, the deputy governor from the Central Bank of Myanmar, the permanent secretary, the directors-general and representatives from the ministries concerned also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the responsibilities of the working committee regarding coordination on loan repayments including the fishery and livestock sector as well as a one-year extension for this sector were discussed.

Moreover, the working committee secretary Deputy Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations discussed loan repayment monitoring situations in states and regions as well as capital and interest return.

The Working Committee to address the Impact of COVID-19 on National Economy holds its meeting 6/2022 online.

The meeting also discussed relief measures carried out by the ministries concerned, works regarding the statement on the one-year extension of loan for the fishery and livestock sector and the plan of action to be done by the committee. — MNA

Coord meeting on Youths and Literary Arts Festival held to mark Diamond Jubilee Independence Day

MoI Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn chairs the coordination meeting to hold the Youths and Literary Arts Festival in commemoration of Diamond Jubilee Independence Day.

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn presided over a coordination meeting to hold the Youth and Literary Arts Festival to mark Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 yesterday.

The Youths and Literary Arts Festival will be held from 26 to 28 December at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw.

The festival intends to encourage students to read books and journals, know the benefits of literature, uplift patriotic spirit and dignity through arts with the knowledge of the history of independence and to know peace, stability and development of the country including the lovely culture of rural regions and to love their regions and states via photo contests and to understand activities of ministries concerned clearly through the booths.

Speaking at the meeting, the Union minister said the Youths and Literary Arts Festival is one of the programmes to mark Diamond Jubilee Independence Day. The festival marking Diamond Jubilee Union Day was held at Wunna Theikdi Stadium last year. This year, the name is changed to the Youths and Literary Arts Festival to be a unique one and will be a State-level event. It will prioritize youth-related matters, health, social, education, literature and other proper subjects. Moreover, it will include fun games for children and officials will make efforts to organize the festival in its full essence.

Then, the deputy minister, the permanent secretary and relevant officials presented ongoing activities for young people, booths and arrangements to hold the festival successfully.

The Union minister coordinated the presentations and gave concluding remarks.

The Youths and Literary Arts Festival in marking Diamond Jubilee Independence Day will include booths featuring books, journals, book shops, photos of 20th-century writers, displays of literature, photos and movie sections and exhibits of the ministries concerned. — MNA

JMCPA Chairman calls on MoC Union Minister

Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo receives JMCPA Chair Mr Fumio Usui yesterday.

UNION Minister U Aung Naing Oo of the Ministry of Commerce, received the delegation led by Chairman Mr Fumio Usui of the Japan-Myanmar Cultural Promotion Association at the meeting room of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters relating to bilateral friendship, further promotion of trade and investment and cooperation in socioeconomic development.

The permanent secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, the director-general and officials of the Department of Trade were also present at the meeting.— MNA

Myanmar delegation attends 1st conference of Worldwide Public Security Cooperation Forum

CHINA hosted the first conference of the Cooperation of Worldwide People Security Forum from 29 to 30 November online.

Myanmar Delegation led by Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Chief of Myanmar Police Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet, Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers of Home Affairs, deputy ministers, Chiefs of the Police Force and ambassadors of China, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Viet Nam, Russia, Belarus, Hungary, Spain, Egypt, Brazil, Argentina, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, New Zealand, Solomon, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Israel, and the President and the Vice-President of Interpol, representatives from 38 countries attended the conference.

Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Minister of the Ministry of Public Security Mr Wang Xiaohong gave a speech and the conference was held under four topics.

The leader of the Myanmar delegation said at the forum that international cooperation must be strengthened in order to effectively solve the current challenges and obstacles and that this will enhance global crime prevention and combating efforts and that Myanmar will effectively implement UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and related accords and agreements. — MNA

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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.

Variety Show for Diamond Jubilee Independence Day continues its fifth day

THE fifth day of the variety show marking Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 continued at the open-air theatre of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall yesterday evening.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko, deputy ministers, officials from Union-level organizations, military officers and wives, staff and families, and people watched the show.

Union Ministers, dignataries, staff, families and people view the variety show in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Artistes from the Department of Fine Arts under the MoRAC presented the play "Athet Htet Myat Thaw Gon Thake Kha" (Dignity nobler than Life), based on the true history and scripted by U Nan Nyunt Swe (Mandalay).

It has been planned to perform the play to the public at the National Theatre in Yangon in 2023, it is learnt.

After the performance, MoI and MoRAC officials honoured artistes from the Department of Fine Arts under the MoRAC with basket of flowers and cash awards. — MNA

Myanmar delegation attends 11th Annual Conference of International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) in Austria

MYANMAR delegation led by Vienna-based Permanent Representative to the United Nations Myanmar Ambassador U Min Thein attended the 11th Annual Conference of International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) held in Vienna of Austria on behalf of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) of Myanmar on 28 November.

At the conference, the permanent representative said Myanmar was a member of UNCAC in 2012 and is currently carrying out anti-corruption activities under the Anti-Corruption Law enacted in 2013. Among the anti-corruption activities, Myanmar joined the IACA in 2019 with the belief that the IACA will support promoting the intellectual and ability of Myanmar people. Moreover, the ACC drafted the Anti-Corruption Strategic Plan (2022-2025) and conducted prevention of corruption, education programmes and investigations in the country.

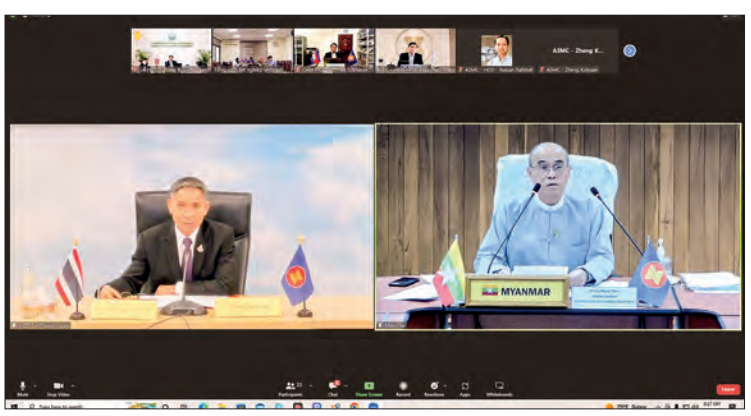
He also highlighted the educating activities regarding anti-corruption on state-owned papers, TV channels, social media and governmental training courses and cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

He then stressed the formation of Corruption Prevention Units (CPU) in 14 regions and states, Public Feedback Programme (PFP), investigations against persons regardless of their ranks, cooperation works with UNODC, ASEAN-PAC member countries, MoU with Viet Nam, Thailand, Laos, South Korea, India, Cambodia and LOI with Denmark.

The conference was also attended by delegates from member countries. It also focused on the progress of IACA, implementation of the 2021-2014 plan, current work plans of anti-corruption, changing situation and challenges, budget for 2023 and approved two resolutions for measurement of corruption and general matters. — MNA

Myanmar delegation is pictured attending the meeting in Austria on 28 November.

11th meeting of Subregional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution in Mekong Subregion hosted by Thailand held



THAILAND hosted the 11th Meeting of the Subregional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Subregion online yesterday. The meeting was attended by representatives of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), representatives from the ASEAN secretary-general office and representatives of the ASEAN Specialized Meteorological Centre (ASMC).

The Director-General from the Environmental Conservation Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation led a Myanmar delegation including senior officials from the Forest Department, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Fire Services, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department and the Department of Disaster Management and attended the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the implementation activities for the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) and perform preventive activities on transboundary haze pollution in order to be implemented by the country. Deputy Permanent Secretary Mr Thalearnsak Petchusuwan of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Thailand) chaired the meeting and the MNRE Minister (Thailand) gave the opening speech via video message.

The ASMC presented the formation of fire hotspots and haze within the ASEAN region in 2022, weather conditions, the drawing of a new roadmap on ASEAN cooperation towards transboundary haze pollution control 2022-2030 by the ASEAN secretary-general office, the development of the new ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy 2022-2030, and transboundary haze pollution reduction measures of the Mekong Subregion countries, implementation measures of the Chiang Rai Work Plan 2017, and development of cooperation with international partners which were discussed at the 17th meeting of Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution in Mekong Subregion.

Afterwards, Myanmar presented the regional reduction activities on transboundary haze pollution, conditions of cooperation with international partner organizations and business plans for proceeding with regional reduction activities. — MNA

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Covid restrictions to be eased for travellers to Myanmar via int'l flights

International travellers are pictured undergoing the RDT tests at Yangon International Airport.

THE rules and regulations for COVID-19 will be relaxed for travellers to Myanmar via international flights starting from 1 December, according to the Ministry of Health.

The local infection rate has declined and the positivity rate has reached below one per cent for 14 consecutive days, it is learnt.

Before, the travellers were required to show COVID-19 vaccination record cards as proof of being fully vaccinated or the RT-PCR negative test results within 48 hours. And then they would have to take the RDT test at the airport.

Now, the restrictions to take tests with RDT will be relaxed for travellers to Myanmar starting from the morning of 1 December, according to the announcement of the Health Ministry.

The details will be published in "Public Health Requirements for Travellers who Wish to Enter Myanmar through International Commercial Flights" on 1 December.

In addition, the public health requirements for travellers by relief flights and travellers via land borders will remain the same as the requirements were released on 8 October 2022, it is learnt. — TWA/GNLM

MoE to accept enrolment registration of first-year distance learning courses from 26 Dec

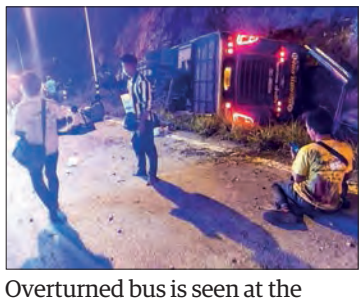
THE enrolment registration of first-year distance learning courses will be accepted from 26 December according to the Higher Education Department of the Ministry of Education.

The registration of first-year distance learning courses for students who passed the 2022 matriculation examination will be accepted at respective universities and colleges from 26.12.2022 to 31.1.2023 and for students who passed the matriculation examination before 2022 will be accepted from 26.12.2022 to 28.2.2023.

Registration for all second-year and above distance learning courses will be accepted from 16.1.2023 to 28.2.2023 including Saturdays and Sundays.

The list of those who have been admitted to the first-year distance learning courses for successful candidates of the 2022 matriculation examination will be announced on 1.12.2022 by the respective universities and colleges, on the Ministry of Education website: www.moe.gov.mm and the Department of Higher Education website www.dhe.gov.mm. —TWA/GNLM

Vehicle carrying Myanmar MoU workers overturns in Thailand with 3 casualties and 44 injuries


Overturned bus is seen at the incident site.

A vehicle carrying Myanmar MoU workers crashed into the side of the road between 68 and 69 kilometres on the Mae Sot-Mueang Tak Road in Tak Province, Thailand at about 9 pm on 29 November.

Tak provisional officials and local rescuers rushed to the scene and carried out rescue work.

Two Myanmar workers and a Thai driver died on the spot and 43 Myanmar workers and a Thai citizen were injured.

Ambulances transported injured persons and dead bodies to Somdet Phrachao Taksin Hospital. — TWA/GNLM

Black gram price returns to K1.7 mln per tonne, down by over K200,000 against pigeon peas price

THE prices of pulses stood at K1.7 million per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K1.95 million per tonne of black gram (Special Quality) and K1.915 million per tonne of pigeon peas (red gram/RC) on 28 November 2022.

The prices of black gram (FAQ/RC) were K1.667 million per tonne on 5 August and K1.78 million per tonne on 6 August and rocketed to K2.1 million on 31 August. Thereafter, the prices were on downward trends and it returned to K1.7 million per tonne on 28 November.

Meanwhile, the price of pigeon peas does not fluctuate much like black gram. The price of pigeon peas is K215,000 per tonne higher than the black gram (FAQ/RC) on 28 November.

FOB prices stood at US$730-750 per tonne of black gram (FAQ), $850.870 per tonne of black gram (SQ) and $790-810 per tonne of pigeon peas. New black gram and pigeon peas cultivated under an intercropping system started to enter the market.

The black gram price hit a record high of K2.456 million per tonne in the Yangon market on 17 October 2015, whereas the FOB price was $1,850-1,870 per tonne and the Kyat-US Dollar Exchange Rate was K1,285. The black gram SQ was priced at K2.656 million per tonne then, with the FOB price at $1,970-2,000.

On 31 August 2022, the black gram prices stood at K2.1 million per tonne (FAQ) and K2.41 million (SQ), while the FOB prices were $785-805 for FAQ and $925-945 for SQ. The reference dollar exchange rate was K2,100 and it was higher a lot in the grey market.

Following the suspension of India's pulses import as of the end of March 2018, the Yangon market was forced to shut down for four days from 22 August. Prior to those days, 95 container loads of black gram (FAQ) (2,340 tonnes) were traded at K800,000 per tonne on 21 August 2017. The black gram SQ was valued at K1.025 million per tonne at that time. ($600-620 (FAQ) and $780-800 (SQ) in FOB prices).

Sample of marketable black gram.

One month after the resumption of the Yangon market, the black gram price plunged to K425,000 per tonne (FAQ) on 16 October 2017, with FOB price at $390-410 per tonne. The price continued declining to K382,000 per tonne on 4 May 2018 ($285-305 in FOB prices).

The market events showed the price is positively related to the foreign exchange rate, India's demand and India's policy on pulses import.

According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2022, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that annual quota.

Thus, it is unlikely to happen like the unfortunate event in mid-2017. The market observer pointed out that the black gram prices are expected to hit a record high like that in late 2015. — TWA/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Weekly market update of dry groceries

DURING the week ending 29 November, monsoon new onions, summer old onions and Chinese onions were supplied to the Bayintnaung wholesale market. The price of the Kyukok garlic variety started to rise. Prices of chickpeas, chilli peppers and black gram dipped.

Onion

On 29 November, 90,000 visses of onions from various regions flowed into the Yangon market. The price remained unchanged. Prices of monsoon new onions from the Myingyan area moved in the range of K2,600-3,700 per viss depending on size. Those from the Myittha area were priced at K3,300-4,400 per viss. Summer old onions are valued at K3,500-4,400 per viss. Prices of Chinese onions were K1,700-3,300 per viss.

Garlic

The wholesale prices of the Kyukok garlic variety slightly increased to K3,375 per viss on 29 November, while the quality of local garlic from Shan State decreased over time with the price moving in the range between K2,800-4,200 per viss. Newly harvested garlic from Shan State is expected to enter markets in early 2023.

Potato

Prices of Chinese potatoes stood at K1,650-2,200 per viss, while Shan potatoes fetched K1,800-2,150 per viss.

Chilli pepper

Prices of bell peppers have dropped. New varieties of chilli peppers were seen in the market at K20,000 per viss although they had high moisture content.

The wholesale prices of chilli peppers were K15,500-17,000 per viss of Shan long chilli pepper and K13,500 for Shan Moehtaung variety. Prices of bell peppers were K29,000 per viss from the Sinphykyun area and K31,000 provided by cold storage.

Palm oil

The wholesale reference price of palm oil in the Yangon Region this week was up by K45 per viss compared to the last week's price. The reference price for a week from 28 November to 4 December was set at K4,425 per viss.

Consequently, the wholesale prices of palm oil barrels were K5,450 per viss on 28 November and K5,500 on 29 November in Yangon markets. There is a gap of K1,025 between the reference price and the market price.

Rice

New glutinous rice entered Yangon's wholesale markets and the price declined. Prices of glutinous rice from the Pathein area stood at K90,000 and K95,000 from the Pyapon area.

Meanwhile, prices of high-grade Pawsan stood at K85,000-94,000 per bag from the Shwebo area, K67,000 from Pathein/Myaungmya areas and K63,000 from the Pyapon area, while other rice varieties were K57,000 for new Pawsan rice, K50,500 for Pawkywe, K49,000 of short-mature rice (90 days), K46,000 for rice grown under the intercropping system, K 43,000 for monsoon low-grade rice and K39,000 for broken rice.

Short-mature rice (90 days) is seen at a shopping centre.

Pulses

Prices of various pulses stood at over K1,704,000 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K1,954,000 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC), K1,910,000 per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) RC, K3,950 -4,150 per viss of chickpea and K2,915-3,000 per viss of green gram (Kayan Shwewah variety) in Yangon markets. — TWA/GNLM

YGEA receives over 100 applicants for gold trading licence

MORE than 100 traders sought business licences for gold trading and opening new gold shops, according to Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

In a bid to end the black market and stabilize the volatile prices, YGEA urged the members and gold traders to make gold transactions with immediate payment. Cross-border trade is not allowed without reporting to the association, according to its statement released on 17 May. The statement includes seeking trade licences for gold shops, licences for gold bar transactions and taking action against those unauthorized dealers involved in online trade platforms.

Afterwards, YGEA is also granting recommendation letters for those gold traders who are applying for a licence.

This move will help curb manipulation in the gold market and cross-border illicit trade. Additionally, it will stabilize the gold market, U Myo Myint, chair of YGEA gave a remark.

Jewellery is seen at the gold outlet in Yangon.

Last October, YGEA also directed the gold traders in Yangon Region to apply for licence renewal for gold shops and gold refineries by separating the small, medium and large-sized enterprises. Upon applications, the YGEA will forward them to the Yangon City Development Committee, with its recommendation letter.

There are over 10,000 gold shops in Yangon Region. Annually, business licences expire at the end of December. Therefore, the shops are processing licence extensions for the coming year.

The price of pure gold is approximately K2,670,000 per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme), while the YGEA set the reference price at K2,060,000 per tical.

The association determined the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate against a dollar at K2,100. The exchange rate against the US dollar over-the-counter market is around K2,900. There is a large gap of around K600,000 between the current market price and YGEA's set price.

Meanwhile, YGEA called for the gold shops in Yangon Region to sell pure gold at K2,530,000 per tical, according to its notification released on 30 October 2022.

The soaring dollar exchange at over K4,500 pushed up the pure gold price to a record-high of K3.7 million per tical in late August 2022. – NN/GNLM

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OPINION

Give a helping hand to AIDS patients in society

THE inequalities which perpetuate the AIDS pandemic are not inevitable but everybody can tackle them. With regard to World AIDS Day, UNAIDS is urging each the global people to solve the inequalities which are holding back progress in ending AIDS.

In fact, everybody should not discriminate against and set aside the patients of AIDS in society. In normal contact, AIDS is not infectious to one another. So, everybody should consider if people discriminate the AIDS patients in society, and how they can suffer from deep emotions.

> Terrible pandemics emerge one after another across the world. Such pandemics could initially influence the global people but those people can control the infection of pandemics later. Hence, global people should hold up their hopes that they would conquer any pandemics in the not-far future.

The people need to give a helping hand to AIDS patients. On the other hand, those patients which may suffer from one more disease in addition to the HIV virus should take care of their daily lifestyle not to infect their additional viruses such as tuberculosis they suffer from to the people from the environment. If the patients and other people from the society exercise discipline about healthy practices, both groups will stay away from infection by unacceptable diseases.

On 1 December every year, global countries mark World AIDS Day in order to consider how to provide assistance for the health of those patients, how to prevent the HIV virus, and how to raise public awareness for the people, especially students and youths to be able to understand the disadvantages of HIV and how to tackle the AIDS and youth affairs. People around the world unite to show support for people living with and affected by HIV and to remember those who lost their lives to AIDS.

This year's World AIDS Day is marked with the slogan: Equalize. Data from UNAIDS on the global HIV response reveals that during the last two years of COVID-19 and other global crises, progress against the HIV pandemic has faltered, resources have shrunk, and millions of lives are at risk as a result.

Four decades into the HIV response, inequalities still persist for the most basic services like testing, treatment, and condoms, and even more so for new technologies. Significantly, as the saying goes: Man matters most, and the global people need to make decisions to thoroughly minimize the cases of AIDS infection day by day.

Terrible pandemics emerge one after another across the world. Such pandemics could initially influence the global people but those people can control the infection of pandemics later. Hence, global people should hold up their hopes that they would conquer any pandemics in the not-far future.

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A glimpse of International Law

U Khin Maung (A retired diplomat)

1. Please let me be honest. I am not an international law expert. International law is so wide, so delicate and so demanding a subject that, I believe, only the highly qualified jurists and eminent scholars shall have all the credentials and the capabilities to write it, comprehensively, competently and convincingly. It is quite a task. Nevertheless, I hope you'll be good enough to let me present just a glimpse of international law from a law student's point of view. In saying "a law student's point of view", believe me, I really mean it in the literal sense of the phrase. And on this point, I think, you may wish to ask me; why do you, an oldie, a retired civil servant, consider yourself a law student? My answer is simply because I am still giving my time to studying a few subjects I am interested in. And, of course, international law is a subject that I like to study for my own academic interest. Still, I think, you might wish to shoot me another question. Why, despite your age, do you keep on learning? Again, my answer is, because I believe that there is no end to the learning process; in other words, because I believe, "no educative process is, ever the end; it is always the beginning of more education, more learning, more living". Well, on the question of the process of learning, may I ask you, my dear reader, to have your opinion? What do you say? I wonder.

Now, let's say something about the topic.

What is international law?

2. International law is the "law of nations" or a body of rules that govern inter-state relations. International law treats all states the same; no matter what they are big or small, rich or poor, strong or weak. Hence the principle: equality before the law. States are subjects of international law. States are to follow and abide by international law and international law is not for the states to take into their own hands and abuse to their advantage. For being subjects of international law, states have international personalities. By virtue of this, states have rights to enjoy and duties to fulfil under international law. On the other hand, there is also a growing concept that under international law individuals and corporations have rights and duties in certain situations. And yet there is another widely accepted view that, after all, it is the states that have to represent the individuals and corporations in their relations with their counterparts.

3. In the widest possible sense, international law may be classified into two kinds: customary international law and conventional international law. Customary international law is that type of law which is based upon the well-established age-old customs, traditions and certain rules of conduct, which the modern states have accepted to be binding on them and which they have also agreed as to their enforceability by appropriate means in case of their violations. Conventional international law is that branch of law, which takes as its source the agreements, decisions, and resolutions, reached upon and adopted by the international conventions and/or the multilateral treaties. For example, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea; the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, etc.

The role of international law in today's world

4. With the increasing popularity and worldwide application of Information and Communication Technology-ICT — the world is being regarded as a single community or a global village. And in this global village of ours, we come to have swifter, easier and more convenient contacts and communications with each other, states with states; peoples with peoples. Thus, states become more and more interdependent and interactive. As such, each state has obviously become "a member in the family of nations". So, in this ICT age, I think, international law has come to have a more active and important role to play as it becomes central to the international community concerns. In this connection, I think, "the doctrine of incorporation" should be explained in brief – "the doctrine of incorporation" is the principles recognized by many states that the international law is part of i.e., incorporated into the laws of the land. Consequently, the courts take judicial notice of it. The constitutions of a number of states expressly provide for the adoption of the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the land.

5. Well, now, the sovereign equality of states: I firmly believe it is the cardinal principle of international law. With a view to reinvigorating the principles of international law, concerning friendly relations and cooperation among states in accordance with the UN Charter, the 25th session of the United Nations General Assembly solemnly proclaimed them under its resolution, GA 2625 (XXV). It was simply called General Assembly Declaration. The principles thus proclaimed include inter alia the following: -

— The principle concerning the duty not to intervene in matters which fall within the domestic jurisdiction of any state.

— The duty of states to cooperate with one another.

— The principle of equal rights and self-determination of the peoples.

— The principle of sovereign equality of states.

On the principle of sovereign equality of states, the Declaration stressed that:

— States enjoy sovereign equality. They have equal rights and duties and they are equal members of the international community, notwithstanding differences of an economic, political or other nature. In particular, sovereign equality includes the following elements.

(1) All states are juridically equal.

(2) Each state enjoys the rights inherent in full sovereignty.

(3) Each state has the duty to respect the personality of other states.

(4) The territorial integrity and political independence of the state are inviolable.

(5) Each state has the right to freely choose and develop its political, social, economic and cultural systems.

(6) Each state has the duty to comply fully and in good faith with its international obligations and to live in peace with other states.

6. The General Assembly Declaration also proclaimed that the principles of the UN Charter should constitute the basic principles of international law. It further appealed to all states to be guided by these principles in their international conduct and to develop their mutual relations on the basis of their strict observance.

7. Well, the aforementioned are just a gist of the principles of international law proclaimed by the General Assembly Declaration - GA2625 (XXV). But all these principles, if I may have to express my own opinion, should not remain mere solemn proclamations in the UN resolution, nor mere splendid words recorded in UN documents. Each and every principle should be strictly and unreservedly followed and observed by all states in good faith. Moreover, I would also like to say, if a law or a principle is to be followed, it must be followed "not only to the letter of the law but also to the spirit as well". Then, states shall treat each other with mutual respect and the rule of law shall prevail in inter-state relations. And then and only I think, the undesirable tendencies of "some countries to sit in judgement over others, and the big to bully the small, the rich to oppress the poor, and the strong to lord it over the weak" shall disappear from this earth once and for all. I hope you'll agree with me. What do you say, my dear reader?

Sources:

(1) International law, a treatise by L Oppenheim.
(2) Diplomatic Handbook, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
(3) Significant terms and their meanings in international law, International law and treaties division, MOFA.

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Beijing to reduce hospital service interruptions amid COVID-19 control

This file photo shows a patient being transferred to the dialysis room from the emergency department of Beijing Chao-Yang Hosptial in Beijing, capital of China, 2 May 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

BEIJING authorities on Tuesday told hospitals to avoid closing important departments, such as emergency and maternity departments, even if they have been hit by COVID-19 cases.

Departments including emergency, dialysis units, operating rooms, intensive care units, delivery rooms, maternity and neonatal units must not be closed unless absolutely necessary, said Wang Xiao'e, spokesperson for the Beijing Municipal Health Commission.

Closed-off management in virus-hit hospitals must be shortened to the minimum and should be lifted as soon as possible, Wang told a press conference.

She also said hospitals must not turn down hemodialysis patients, pregnant women, children and patients seeking radiotherapy or first aid if they fail to present nucleic acid test results.

The Chinese capital has been optimizing its COVID-19 control measures to minimize its impact on people's livelihoods. It has demanded that closed-off management be lifted in a timely manner for eligible residential complexes and has allowed epidemic-affected supermarkets to reopen after one day of closure.

The city government has also banned barricading building gates and residential-complex entries in high-risk areas, demanding that passages remain clear for medical transportation, emergency escapes and rescues.

Beijing reported 957 local confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 3,429 local asymptomatic cases on Monday, compared with 840 and 3,048 on Sunday. —Xinhua

ARTICLE
WEATHER REPORT

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 30 November 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the East-central Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 1 December 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region and Southern Shan, Kayin and Mon states, scattered in Kayah State and isolated in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Eastern Shan, Chin and Rakhine states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region and Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 December 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 December 2022: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 December 2022: Partly cloudy.

Monthly Weather Forecast for December 2022
Issued on 28-11-2022

Bay of Bengal Condition

Two low pressure areas may form over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal and one may further intensify into a depression. Weather will be generally fair over the North Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

Rain Condition and Rainy Days

Rain or thundershowers are likely above normal in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Rakhine and Mon states, below normal in Kachin State and about normal in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago regions and Shan, Chin, Kayah and Kayin states.

Rainy days are expected about (5) to (8) days in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Mon State and about (1) to (4) days in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah and Kayin states.

Night Temperature

Night temperature will be (1.5°C) above normal of December average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State and about normal of December average temperatures in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states.

Fog Condition

Foggy days will be expected about (16) to (25) days in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states and about (6) to (15) days in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions.

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

China launches Shenzhou-15 spaceship, aiming for first in-orbit crew rotation

CHINA launched the manned spaceship Shenzhou-15 on Tuesday night, with three astronauts onboard due to meet with their colleagues on the country's space station and conduct a work handover.

The spaceship, atop the Long March-2F Y15 carrier rocket, blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China at 11:08 pm (Beijing Time), according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA).

About 10 minutes after the launch, Shenzhou-15 separated from the rocket and entered its designated orbit. The crew members are in good shape and the launch is a complete success, the CMSA declared.

After entering orbit, the Shenzhou-15 spaceship will make a fast, automated rendezvous and dock with the space station combination.

The Shenzhou-15 astronauts will, for the first time in China's space history, conduct an in-orbit rotation with the Shenzhou-14 crew, who were sent to the space station in June, said the CMSA.

The rotation can verify the feasibility of the regular rotation mode that will follow, according to Gao Xu, a senior spaceship designer at the China Academy of Space Technology.

The Shenzhou-14 crew plan to complete the in-orbit work handover in a week, and then return to the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, said Ji Qiming, assistant to the CMSA director, at a press conference on Monday.— Xinhua

The manned spaceship Shenzhou-15, atop the Long March-2F Y15 carrier rocket, blasts off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China, 29 November 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

SpaceX postpones mission to put Japanese lander on Moon

In this still image taken from a SpaceX broadcast, SpaceX's Falcon Heavy rocket lifts off from Launchpad 39A at Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on 1 November 2022. The rocket USSF-44 mission carries a US Space Force payload. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / SPACEX / AFP**

SPACEX on Wednesday postponed by one day a mission to launch the first private — and Japanese — lander to the Moon.

A Falcon 9 rocket is now scheduled to blast off at 3:37 am (0837 GMT) Thursday from Cape Canaveral, Florida. SpaceX said on Twitter that the delay was to carry out more preflight checks.

Until now, only the United States, Russia and China have managed to put a robot on the lunar surface.

The mission, by Japanese company ispace, is the first of a programme called Hakuto-R.

The lander would touch down around April 2023 on the visible side of the Moon, in the Atlas crater, according to a company statement.

Measuring just over 2 by 2.5 metres, it carries on board a 10-kilogramme rover named Rashid, built by the United Arab Emirates. The oil-rich country is a newcomer to the space race but counts recent successes including a Mars probe in 2020. If it succeeds, Rashid will be the Arab world's first Moon mission.—AFP

Climate's toll on trees threatens the sound of music

STROKING a tiny spruce sapling, Swiss forest ranger Francois Villard fears the tree will not withstand global warming and live to a ripe old age like its ancestors.

The Risoud Forest, covering the border between France and Switzerland some 1,200 metres (3,900 feet) up in the Jura mountains, is filled with spruce trees which are hundreds of years old.

Their wood is perfect for crafting acoustic guitars, violins and other string instruments, making it sought after by luthiers around the world.

But climate change has brought drier, warmer weather, threatening the special tonal qualities of the wood.

"I have never seen so many dry trees," says Villard, who is now approaching retirement.

He is saddened by the sight of so many spruces turning red, losing their needles and drying up, and by spending his days marking trees for felling.

"When I arrived here 30 years ago, there was an average annual temperature of five to six degrees Celsius (40-43 degrees Fahrenheit). Now we are well above that," he tells AFP.

Recent winters have been nowhere near as cold as before. Spruces are the most common tree in Switzerland, and the hitherto stable climate in the Jura made the species perfect for producing tonewood for acoustic string instruments.

Stiff yet light softwoods like spruce are used to make soundboards — the top of the instrument — which amplifies the vibrations of the strings.— AFP

Swiss forest ranger Francois Villard inspects the straightness of a spruce tree in the middle of the Risoux forest in le Chenit on 19 October 2022. The Risoux Forest is filled with spruce trees which are hundreds of years old, covering the border between France and Switzerland some 1,200 metres up in the Jura mountains with their wood having a rare perfection, making it sought after by luthiers around the world for making acoustic guitars, violins and other stringed instruments, but climate change, in the form of drier weather, is threatening the special tonal qualities of the wood. **PHOTO: VALENTIN FLAURAUD / AFP**

Scientists in Peru discover two new endangered plant species

A group of Peruvian and international botanists has discovered two new species of plant that are endangered by mining activity in the Peruvian Andes, the University of San Marcos reported Tuesday.

The new species, named "Viola ornata" and "Viola longibracteolata," belong to the Neo-andinium subgenus of Viola, which in Peru currently has 15 species.

"San Marquino botanists are publishing a study in which they reveal two new species of plants found in Arequipa and Moquegua, and which are in critical danger due to mining activity," the university said in a statement.

This subgenus brings together species that are mostly found inhabiting the Andes, at extremely high altitudes, in remote areas little explored between 12,500 and 16,400 feet (3,800 and 5,000 meters) above sea level.

The new species are perennial herbs, quite hairy in appearance, that grow in rosettes with small flowers, and their coloration and shape help them blend them with their environment.

"The conservation status of both new species is critically endangered, mainly due to the decrease in the quality of their current and potential habitats, since these areas are seriously impacted by extensive mining exploitation," the statement added.

The plants were recently found in the high Andes in the Moquegua and Arequipa regions, in the south of the country. — AFP

Health or jobs: Peruvian mining town at a crossroads

THE Peruvian mining city of La Oroya, one of the most polluted places in the world, is seeking to reopen a heavy metal smelter that poisoned residents for almost a century.

The Andean city, situated in a high-altitude valley at 3,750 metres (12,300 feet), is a grey, desolate place.

Small houses and shops — many abandoned — cluster around towering black chimneys, surrounded by ashen mountain slopes corroded by heavy metals and long devoid of vegetation.

In 2009, the gigantic smelter that was the economic heartbeat of La Oroya went bankrupt, forcing residents to leave in droves and bringing local commerce to its knees.

Aerial view of a mine open pit on the way to the city of La Oroya, located at 3,745 metres above sea level in the department of Junin, east of Lima, taken on 7 November 2022. **PHOTO : AFP**

Since 1922, the plant processed copper, zinc, lead, gold, selenium, and other minerals from nearby mines.

If the metallurgical complex reopens, as announced by its new owners in October, it could breathe life back into the economy. "The large majority of the population is eager and has waited a long time for this to start up again, because it is the source of life, the economic source," said 48-year-old taxi driver Hugo Enrique.

But at what cost?

A lifetime of disease

In 2011, La Oroya was listed as the second-most polluted city on Earth, falling into fifth place two years later, according to the Blacksmith Institute, an NGO which works on pollution issues.

It was in insalubrious company, rubbing shoulders with Ukraine's nuclear-sullied Chernobyl and Russia's Dzerzhinsk, the site of Cold War-era factories producing chemical weapons.

According to the International Federation for Human Rights, in 2013, 97 per cent of La Oroya children between six months and six years of age, and 98 per cent between age seven and 12, had elevated levels of lead in their blood.

Manuel Enrique Apolinario, 68, a teacher who lives opposite the foundry, told AFP his body has high levels of lead, arsenic, and cadmium.—AFP

Alzheimer's drug data shows results but also risks

EXPERTS hailed full data Wednesday showing a new drug can slow cognitive decline in Alzheimer's patients, but warned improvements were comparatively small and the treatment can have serious side effects.

Preliminary data from a trial of lecanemab was released in September and found it slowed cognitive decline by 27 per cent across an 18-month period.

The complete trial data, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, fleshes out those findings but also raises concern about the incidence of "adverse effects" including brain bleeds and swelling.

The results showed 17.3 per cent of patients administered the drug experienced brain bleeds, compared with nine per cent of those receiving a placebo.

And 12.6 per cent of those taking the drug experienced brain swelling, compared with just 1.7 per cent of those in the placebo group.

Deaths were reported at approximately the same rate in both arms of the trial of the drug, which was developed by firms Biogen and Eisai.

The results were broadly welcomed by researchers and campaigners for patients with the disease, including Bart De Strooper, director of the UK Dementia Research Institute.— AFP

A carer helps an elderly resident - one of three alzheimer sufferers in the establishment- in a house at L'Hay-les- Roses on the outskirts of Paris on 17 February 2022, which is run as an alternative to the traditional carehome model. **PHOTO:AFP**

9 mln people to get COVID-19 vaccine doses in week-long campaign in Bangladesh

BANGLADESH Wednesday announced a target of getting nine million people vaccinated for COVID-19 under a week-long special campaign from Thursday. Shamsul Hoque, member secretary of the vaccine deployment committee of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) under the Ministry of Health, made the announcement, saying the campaign has been divided into two phases, publicity campaign and vaccination campaign.

Hoque said they are organizing the special inoculation campaign against COVID-19 to celebrate the month of Bangladesh's victory in the Liberation War.

He said vaccine doses will be administered on 1-7 December at 15,984 centres across the country during the drive.

A health worker inoculates a student of a higher class with a jab of Covid-19 coronavirus vaccine inside a school premises in Dhaka on 1 November 2021 as per a directive by the government. **PHOTO: AFP**

About 73 per cent of Bangladeshis have received two doses of COVID-19 vaccines, and 95 per cent of people above the age of five have received the first dose, and 52 per cent have received the third dose. — Xinhua

Elon Musk's Twitter lifts rule against Covid misinformation

TWITTER said it has stopped enforcing a policy intended to prevent the spread of Covid misinformation, as new owner Elon Musk — who has clashed previously with US officials over pandemic safety rules — continues to remake its content moderation policies.

The move comes after the mercurial billionaire reinstated a slew of accounts on the social media network that had previously been banned for violating its content rules, such as that of former president Donald Trump.

"Effective 23 November 2022, Twitter is no longer enforcing the Covid-19 misleading information policy," read a message posted at a Twitter transparency web page. During the pandemic, Twitter took to labelling misleading tweets about Covid and booting users who persisted in spreading such misinformation.

Banned content included statements intended to influence people to violate health authority guidelines, along with bogus cures or denial of scientific facts, according to a Twitter blog.

As of September of this year, Twitter had suspended 11,230 accounts under the policy, the blog stated.— AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

Japan aims to issue "green transformation" bonds in FY 2023

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (L) addresses a meeting to discuss future projects for decarbonization in Tokyo on 29 November 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN said Tuesday it will aim to issue new bonds as early as next fiscal year in an attempt to boost investment in decarbonization projects and accelerate the transition to the green economy.

A government draft said Japan plans to use revenue from carbon pricing, a system that requires polluters to pay when they emit carbon dioxide, to redeem the bonds.

The government plans to work out a road map for the issuance in a meeting to be held in December and submit bills related to the bonds to next year's ordinary parliamentary session starting in January.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said that to achieve sustainable decarbonization and overcome an energy crisis, "We need to make the most of renewable energy, energy conservation, nuclear power and others."

Kishida, who attended a meeting on green transformation at the prime minister's office, instructed officials to work on the details, including when carbon pricing can be introduced in Japan.

The government plans to raise about 20 trillion yen ($145 billion) by issuing the bonds and hopes to complete the redemption by 2050.

The government has estimated public and private investment of over 150 trillion yen will be necessary over the next 10 years to achieve the country's goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.—Kyodo

Thailand's central bank announces 3rd straight policy rate hike

THAILAND'S central bank on Wednesday decided to raise its key policy rate for a third straight time, by 0.25 percentage point, in an effort to balance efforts between easing inflation and supporting economic growth.

The Bank of Thailand (BOT) monetary policy committee voted unanimously to raise the policy rate from 1 per cent to 1.25 per cent, effective immediately.

The move came after a 0.25-percentage-point rate hike announced at the monetary policy committee meeting on 28 September and another one on 10 August, the country's first rate hike since late 2018.

Wednesday's rate hike, in line with market expectations, brought the key policy rate to its highest level since February 2020.

Thailand's economic recovery has continued to gain traction, with tourism and private consumption remaining key economic drivers while the financial system is resilient, but the headline inflation is expected to be higher than the previous projection for 2023 due to domestic energy prices, the BOT said in a statement on its website. The statement said a gradual policy normalization remains an appropriate course for monetary policy given the growth and inflation outlook, adding that the size and timing of policy normalization will be adjusted if needed.

Thailand's inflation growth slowed to 5.98 per cent in October, from 6.41 per cent in September and a 14-year-high of 7.86 per cent in August. —Xinhua

US retailers cheer strong holiday sales so far but fear rail strike

US retailers cheered a buoyant start to the holiday shopping season Tuesday, but warned that a potential freight rail strike could still cripple the critically busy period.

In spite of grinding inflation, customer counts on "Black Friday" and throughout the Thanksgiving holiday shopping weekend jumped from last year, exceeding expectations, according to data from the National Retail Federation. Surveys had suggested shopper reticence, but "there's a difference between attitude and action," said NRF President Matthew Shay. Consumers "say one thing and do another," added Shay, who characterized the robust labour market as an offset to the drag from higher costs for gasoline and household staples.

The NRF's survey estimated that 196.7 million Americans shopped in stores in the five-day stretch between last Thursday's Thanksgiving and "Cyber Monday," spending an average of $325.44 on holiday-related purchases.

The number of shoppers accounts for almost 60 per cent of the US population and stands 17 per cent above the 2021 level, with most of the increase coming from a resurgence in physical shopping after ecommerce saw heady growth the last two pandemic-affected seasons.

The NRF has projected that holiday retail sales will grow between six and eight per cent over 2021 to as much as $960.4 billion for the entire season.

"We continue to expect a healthy holiday season," Shay said. "Consumers are spending and generally speaking, retailers are feeling positive about their inventory levels."

But Shay emphasized that a rail strike would have "devastating" effects on the consumer-driven US economy, employing the same word US President Joe Biden used Monday night in calling on Congress to intervene in the matter.—AFP

(FILES) In this file photo taken on 25 November 2022, people shop at Macy's department store during Black Friday in New York City. **PHOTO: AFP**

Türkiye's economy grows 3.9% in 3rd quarter

TÜRKIYE'S economy grew 3.9 per cent year on year in the third quarter, expanding at the slowest rate since the second quarter of 2020, the Turkish Statistical Institute data announced on Wednesday.

The limited growth in consumption compared to the second quarter and the slowdown in foreign demand contributed to the decrease in the growth rate.

Gross domestic product (GDP) narrowed 0.1 per cent from the previous quarter on a seasonally and calendar-adjusted basis, the data showed. Consumption expenditures of resident households increased by 19.9 per cent as a chained volume index in the third quarter of the year compared to the same period of the previous year. While the final consumption expenditures of the government increased by 8.5 per cent, the gross fixed capital formation decreased by 1.3 per cent.—Xinhua

Norway to scrap gas exploration licences in untapped areas

NORWAY, Europe's biggest supplier of natural gas, will not grant licences for new exploration in untapped areas from 2025 under a political deal announced on Tuesday.

In talks to pass its 2023 budget proposal, the centre-left minority government agreed to a request from the Socialist Left (SV) party, which has made the climate a priority.

"SV had this at heart, they prevailed," Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store told a press conference.

Since 1965, a mechanism has allowed oil companies to apply for exploration licences in areas of the Norwegian continental shelf that have seen limited or no exploration.—AFP

China's factory activity shrinks amid COVID-19 resurgence

Workers produce electric bus on the assembly line of a new energy vehicle plant in Shijiazhuang, north China's Hebei Province, 24 March 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE purchasing managers' index (PMI) for China's manufacturing sector came in at 48 in November, down from 49.2 in October, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed Wednesday.

A reading above 50 indicates expansion, while a reading below reflects contraction.

The November reading was weighed on by sporadic and scattered COVID-19 resurgences at home and the complex international environment, the bureau's senior statistician Zhao Qinghe said.

Despite the negative factors, some sectors have continued to see expansion. The PMI for industries such as agricultural and sideline food processing, food and beverages, medicine, as well as electrical and mechanical equipment manufacturing, remained in expansion territory, indicating that the output and demand of these sectors are growing.

Enterprises have reported rising difficulties due to disrupted logistics and production, financial strains, and lack of demand, Zhao said. The sub-index measuring suppliers' delivery time declined to 46.7, indicating that logistics remained slow in November.

Production activities have been disturbed by the epidemic outbreaks, with the sub-index for production standing at 47.8 in November, down 1.8 percentage points from the previous month. Demand has also declined, with the sub-index for new orders dropping 1.7 percentage points from October to 46.4. The PMI for large, medium and small enterprises dropped by different extents, with small enterprises facing greater pressure, Zhao noted. The sub-index measuring purchase prices of major raw materials retreated 2.6 percentage points from last month to 50.7. The sub-index for prices at the factory gate was 47.4, down 1.3 percentage points from October.— Xinhua

Japan's Oct industrial output falls 2.6% on month

JAPAN'S industrial output in October fell 2.6 per cent from the previous month for the second straight month of decline, mainly due to weak overseas demand amid economic slowdowns in China and elsewhere, government data showed Wednesday.

The seasonally adjusted index of production at factories and mines stood at 95.9 against the 2015 base of 100, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said in a preliminary report, issuing a downgraded assessment that output is "moderately picking up but showing weaknesses in part."

The decline followed a downwardly revised decrease of 1.7 per cent in September.

Of the 15 industries covered by the survey, eight logged output declines and seven showed increases.

Among the eight, the production machinery industry saw the biggest decline of 5.4 per cent from the previous month, led by semiconductor manufacturing devices and flat panel display-producing equipment, on weak capital investments overseas, the ministry said.

Electronic parts and devices logged a decrease of 4.1 per cent as demand for memory chips for such uses as smartphones and data centres slumped abroad.

The seven industries reporting output rises included auto manufacturing, which saw an increase of 5.6 per cent from the previous month led by compact cars, according to the ministry.— Kyodo

Malaysia's producer price index eases further to 4% in Oct

MALAYSIA'S producer price index (PPI), which measures the prices of goods at factory gate, eased further to record four per cent in October as compared to 4.9 per cent recorded in September, official data showed Wednesday.

The moderate growth in the PPI in October was attributed to a 7.3-per-cent increase in manufacturing index, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) said in a statement.

The rise in this sector was due to a 20-per-cent increase in the indices of manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products, followed by manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products (6.7 per cent), manufacture of food products (5.4 per cent) and manufacture of chemicals and chemical products (4.2 per cent).

Meanwhile, utility indices recorded an increase of 4.9 per cent for the water supply index and 1.2 per cent for electricity and gas supply index.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing index, however, slipped 18.2 per cent in October, dragged by the growing perennial crops index which fell 28.7 per cent.

The mining index also declined by 0.5 per cent as extraction of crude petroleum index decreased by 10.6 per cent.

For a monthly comparison, PPI for local production increased 0.1 per cent in October after recording a decline for four consecutive months. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V LONG TAN 39 VOY.NO. (03.2022)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V LONG TAN 39 VOY.NO. (03.2022)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-11-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MKH** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILHELMSEN PORT SERVICE(S) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HAIAN BELL VOY.NO. (2254S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HAIAN BELL VOY.NO. (2254S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-12-2022** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SEA PLAIN 8 VOY.NO. (2210)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SEA PLAIN 8 VOY.NO. (2210)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **02-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT-1** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ELDER TRIUMPHANT SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Trade tensions overshadow Macron's showy White House visit

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron arrived in Washington late Tuesday for a state visit hosted by President Joe Biden where hard-nosed disagreements about US-EU trade will overshadow the White House pomp and ceremony.

Due to Covid delays, this is the first formal state visit of Biden's presidency and US officials say the choice of France for the honour reflects both deep historical ties and their intense current partnership in confronting Russia over its war in Ukraine.

Macron touched down at Joint Base Andrews, the air force facility used by Biden outside Washington.

While in the capital, the French leader will be given a full ceremonial military welcome to the White House, an Oval Office sit down with Biden and a state banquet on Thursday, where Grammy-award winning American musician Jon Batiste will perform.

Compared to Macron's edgy first experience of a state visit as the guest of Donald Trump in 2018, this trip — concluding with a stop Friday to the once-French city of New Orleans — will be a carefully choreographed display of transatlantic friendship.

Certainly the diplomatic furore that erupted last year when Australia cancelled a deal for French submarines and instead signed up for US nuclear subs is now buried. But even with little risk of Trump-style fireworks, Macron has major grievances to air. — AFP

French President Emmanuel Macron (R) and his wife Brigitte Macron disembark from their plane upon arrival at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland on 29 November 2022. Macron is in Washington to discuss a slew of issues with US counterpart Joe Biden, ranging from aligning policy on Russia's invasion of Ukraine to easing trade spats. **PHOTO: AFP**

Self-driving lorries hit the road in Sweden

BARRELLING down a motorway south of Stockholm in a 40-tonne lorry and trailer, the driver keeps a careful eye on the road but, jarringly, no hands on the wheel.

Instead, the truck drives itself, and veteran driver Roger Nordqvist is at the ready only in case of unexpected problems.

Swedish truck maker Scania is not the only auto manufacturer developing autonomous vehicles, but it recently became the first in Europe to pilot them while delivering commercial goods.

"We take their goods from point A, drive them to point B, fully autonomously," Peter Hafmar, head of autonomous solutions at Scania, tells AFP outside the company's transport lab in Sodertalje, south of Stockholm.

In the pilot project, the self-driving truck is manoeuvring a stretch of some 300 kilometres (186 miles) between Sodertalje and Jonkoping in Sweden's south, delivering fast-food goods. From the outside, the vehicle looks almost like any other lorry, save for a rail on the roof packed with cameras and two sensors resembling bug antennae on the sides.

Inside the cab, the wheel and seats are where you'd expect to find them, but small devices and screens dot the dashboard and a nest of wires run to the computer rack housed behind the passenger seat. -- AFP

Scania's self-driving truck is pictured on a motorway, south of Stockholm, on 18 November 2022 near Södertälje, Sweden. **PHOTO: AFP**

France says 240 England-bound migrants rescued in 24 period

FRENCH emergency services rescued 240 migrants heading in small boats across the Channel to the southern coast of England within a 24 hour period this week, local authorities said.

The 240 were rescued in five different operations between Monday and Tuesday off Calais on France's northern coast, France's Maritime Prefecture of the Channel and the North Sea said in a statement late Tuesday.

According to the UK authorities, 426 migrants were detected crossing the Channel on Monday after very few crossed the week earlier during a period of bad weather.

Britain and France this month signed a deal for UK authorities to increase what their French counterparts are paid to prevent the crossings, as ties warm under new Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

UK police on Tuesday arrested a man suspected of playing a "key role" in the deaths of at least 27 people who drowned attempting to cross the Channel in a dinghy last November in the deadliest such tragedy.—AFP

Fire at oil depot in Russian region bordering Ukraine: governor

AN oil depot in Russia's Bryansk region near the border with Ukraine was on fire Wednesday, according to the local governor.

"Reservoirs with oil products are on fire in the Surazhsky district. Fire and rescue teams are at the scene," governor Alexander Bogomaz said on social media. The governor did not say what could have caused the fire.

Bogomaz said the fire engulfed an area of 1,800 square metres (19,000 square feet) and over 80 people were involved in putting it out.

He added that there were no reports of casualties.

Citing emergency services, state news agency TASS later reported that the fire had spread to an area of 4,000 square metres.—AFP

Belgian port city terrorized by drug violence

IN Belgium's port city of Antwerp, residents live in fear of eruptions of violence between the gangs that control Europe's vast cocaine trade.

The city is the main port of entry into Europe for Latin American cocaine, a business controlled by transnational cartels with an increasing reputation for the most extreme violence.

This week investigators working off a database of criminal messages seized from a cracked communications app once favoured by gangs busted one major smuggling network.

But while illicit cargoes flow through Antwerp there will always be gangsters to fight over the spoils, in an underworld conflict that now spills onto the city's residential streets.

Steven De Winter, a 47-year-old bank employee from the city's Deurne district, has counted three waves of violence since 2017, the latest starting in the spring of this year.—AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

China's nuclear arsenal to more than triple by 2035: Pentagon

China's DF-41 nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missiles are seen during a military parade at Tiananmen Square in Beijing on 1 October 2019 to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. **PHOTO: AFP**

CHINA'S nuclear arsenal is likely to more than triple to 1,500 warheads by 2035, the Pentagon said in a Tuesday report that also highlighted the increasing sophistication of the country's air force. Washington has identified Beijing as the most consequential challenge to the United States, and the annual report on China's military emphasized improvements to both its nuclear and conventional forces.

"The Department of Defence estimates that (China's) operational nuclear warheads stockpile has surpassed 400," the report said. "If China continues the pace of its nuclear expansion, it will likely field a stockpile of about 1,500 warheads" by 2035.

That figure would still however lag far behind the arsenals of the United States and Russia, which each include several thousand nuclear warheads.

China "probably intends to develop new nuclear warheads and delivery platforms that at least equal the effectiveness, reliability and/or survivability" of those under development by the United States and Russia, the report said.

Pentagon Press Secretary Brigadier-General Pat Ryder said Tuesday that an increased Chinese nuclear arsenal would be a source of instability.

"The more proliferation there is, the more concerning it is, the more destabilizing to the region it is," Ryder told journalists. The report also said Beijing is working to modernize its ballistic missile arsenal, launching some 135 in testing during 2021 — "more than the rest of the world combined", excluding those fired in conflicts.—AFP

Chile ceramics, Colombian wisdom get UNESCO heritage status

TWO social traditions from South America were honoured Tuesday as UNESCO recognized the rapidly disappearing skill required to make black pottery in Chile and the ancient knowledge of Colombian Indigenous groups as intangible cultural heritage practices. The United Nations' cultural agency wrote on Twitter that it had added the centuries-old ceramics skills of mainly women in the Chilean towns of Quinchamali and Santa Cruz de Cuca to its list of cultural heritage in need of urgent preservation.

Techniques to make the black earthenware, which is adorned with white accents, are applied to functional items such as cups and plates and to more decorative items such as figurines of farm animals or rural people. According to the UNESCO nomination form, there are only five male and 74 female potters currently carrying on the tradition, many of whom are elderly, meaning that in 10 years, there would only be 12 active potters under 60.—AFP

A Chilean craftswoman makes a traditional pottery piece in Quinchamalí, Chile, on 26 November 2022. The black pottery made in the Chilean villages of Quinchamalí and Santa Cruz de Cuca, whose raw material is in danger of disappearing due to logging, was recognized by the UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding on 29 November 2022. **PHOTO:AFP**

Qatar official says '400-500' died on World Cup projects

QATAR'S top World Cup official said Tuesday that more than 400 migrant workers died in labour accidents in the country in the years leading up to the tournament. Hassan Al-Thawadi, head of Qatar's delivery and legacy organizing committee, gave the figure of 400-500 in a British television interview when asked how many workers had died "doing work for the World Cup".

The organizing committee said his response referred to "national statistics covering the period of 2014-2020 for all work-related fatalities" in Qatar "covering all sectors and nationalities". It said there were 414 worker deaths over the eight-year period.—AFP

Jiang Zemin passes away

JIANG Zemin passed away due to leukemia and multiple organ failure in Shanghai at 12:13 pm on 30 November 2022, at the age of 96, it was announced on Wednesday.

The announcement was made by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the State Council of the PRC, the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and the Central Military Commissions of the CPC and the PRC. It was announced in a letter addressing the whole Party, the entire military and the Chinese people of all ethnic groups. The letter says they proclaim with profound grief to the whole Party, the entire military and the Chinese people of all ethnic groups that our beloved Comrade Jiang Zemin died of leukemia and multiple organ failure after all medical treatments had failed.

The letter says that Comrade Jiang Zemin was an outstanding leader enjoying high prestige acknowledged by the whole Party, the entire military and the Chinese people of all ethnic groups, a great Marxist, a great proletarian revolutionary, statesman, military strategist and diplomat, a long-tested communist fighter, and an outstanding leader of the great cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. He was the core of the CPC's third generation of central collective leadership and the principal founder of the Theory of Three Represents. —Xinhua

A file photo of Jiang Zemin. Jiang Zemin passed away due to leukemia and multiple organ failure in Shanghai at 12:13 pm on 30 November 2022 at the age of 96. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

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FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar2022

Leckie savours World Cup strike as Australia reach last 16

AUSTRALIA'S Mathew Leckie described his intense emotions after scoring in a 1-0 win over Denmark that took the Socceroos to the last 16 of the World Cup for the first time since 2006.

Leckie struck on the hour mark with a twisty run and low finish to ensure Australia finished second in Group D behind world champions France and knocked out the fancied Danes.

"I think in those moments you don't think too much, you don't have time to think, you know it all happened so fast. It was a great ball and I had one more man to beat," said Leckie of his goal.

"Low and hard, it's difficult for a keeper to save and as I soon as I saw it was going in I was so excited and so happy.

"I think by the celebration you can see how much emotion there was. I'm just so proud you know, we've worked so hard.... My first World Cup is probably one of the most important goals for me and for the team."

Australia will now face the winners of Group C, which will be decided later on Wednesday. — AFP

Australia's forward #07 Mathew Leckie scores his team's first goal past Denmark's goalkeeper #01 Kasper Schmeichel during the Qatar 2022 World Cup Group D football match between Australia and Denmark at the Al-Janoub Stadium in Al-Wakrah, south of Doha on 30 November 2022. **PHOTO : AFP**

World Cup 2022 Results

Australia 1-0 Denmark
Tunisia 1-0 France

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.

Myanmar beat Thai Club Chonburi FC 4-1 in friendly match

THE preliminary Myanmar national team, which is training in Thailand, played an international warm-up match against Chonburi, which won second place in the Thai League, at 6:00 pm local time on 29 November, and won by 4-1.

In the warm-up match, which was played at the Chonburi team's home ground, the preliminary Myanmar national team had 11 players in the first half, and another 11 players competed with a different starting line-up in the second half. The Chonburi team also featured defender Zaw Min Tun, who recently retired from the national team, and League (1) players.

In the 45th minute of the game, Win Naing Tun scored a goal past the goalkeeper through a counter-attack. In the first half, Myanmar won against Chonburi 1-0.

Naing Zin Htet scored the second goal at 51 minutes for team Myanmar but Chonburi found their lone goal at 66 minutes.

Next, Lin Htet Soe netted the third goal at 85 minutes, Yan Kyaw Htwe got the fourth at 88 minutes and Myanmar secured a big 4-1 win over Thai Club Chonburi at the final whistle. —GNLM

A Myanmar player (red) attempts to pass Thai players during their friendly match played in Thailand on 29 November 2022. **PHOTO: MFF**