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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.

Our Tatmadaw cordially invited to pave the way to non-signatory EAOs in NCA: Senior General

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address at the Passing Out Parade of the 64th Intake of Defence Services Academy at the parade ground of DSA in PyinOoLwin yesterday morning.

Also present at the passing out parade were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Thiri Pyanchi Maung Maung Aye and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zeya Kyawhtin Moe Aung and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Zeya Kyawhtin Tun Aung and wife, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, Union ministers, the chief minister of Mandalay Region and wife, the commander of Central Command, military attachés of foreign missions to Myanmar, the commandant of DSA, officials of PyinOoLwin Station, instructor officers and faculty members and officers from academic and training departments who are parents and guardians of cadets, and guests.

Cadet companies saluted the Senior General with slow-march past and quick-march



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing presents the best cadet award to cadet Tun Lin Kyaw at the Passing Out Parade of the 64th Intake of Defence Services Academy in PyinOoLwin on 2 December 2022

past. The Senior General presented the best cadet award to cadet Tun Lin Kyaw, the ex-

cellent performance award in training to cadet Nay Lin Soe, the excellent performance

award in studies (Arts) to cadet Zwe Nyi Min Paing, the excellent performance award in

studies (Science) to cadet Myo Min Aung and the excellent

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Graduation dinner of 64th Intake of Defence Services Academy held

THE graduation dinner of the 64th Intake of Defence Services Academy took place at the cadet mess hall of Anawrahta Battalion at Defence Services Academy in PyinOoLwin yesterday evening, attended by State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Also present at the graduation dinner were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and wife, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, Union ministers, the Mandalay Region chief minister and wife, the Central Command commander, the commandant of DSA, officials from PyinOoLwin station, officers and faculty members from the Academic and Training Departments and guests.

First, the Senior General cordially greeted graduate officers. Then, the Senior General and party had dinner together with graduate officers and attendees.

Before and during the dinner the Myawady Band played music. The Senior General and party watched entertainments.

—MNA



SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing cordially greets graduate officers at the dinner.

20 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 2 December, total figure rises to 633,281

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,281** after **20** new cases were reported on 2 December 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **607,800** including **23** new recoveries.

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

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

Daily laboratory examination showed decline of infection to less than 1 per cent for 17 successive days.

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

Commissioning graduate cadets of 64th intake of Defence Services Academy held

THE commissioning ceremony of graduate cadets from the 64th intake of the Defence Services Academy was held yesterday morning at the Convocation Hall of the academy.

The ceremony was attended by Military Appointment-General Lt-Gen Lin Aung of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Commandant of the Academy Maj-Gen Zaw Min Latt and graduates.

At the ceremony, Lt-Gen Lin Aung, senior military officers and the Commandant of the Academy took seats on the stage, and Lt-Gen Lin Aung handed over the appointment certificates to each of the graduates. The ceremony was concluded after Lt-Gen Lin Aung delivered a remark. — MNA



COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

VACCINATION is being carried out in full swing in various regions and states as the vaccination programmes are one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 disease.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, and relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 1,705 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 2,088 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

Similarly, on that day healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 296 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 regional 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. — MNA

“အားလုံးပါဝင်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးဖို့ ဆန်းသစ်တီထွင် အဖြေရှာဖို့။
အားလုံးလက်လှမ်းမီညီမျှရေး၊ တီထွင်ဖန်တီးမှု စွမ်းအားဖြင့် ဆောင်ရွက်ပေး”

“Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world”

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နေပြည်တော်

Economy drives improvement of political and defence capacities

A country must have economic, political and defence capacity. The economic driving force will help the improvement of political and defence capacity.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with MSME businesspersons from Mon State on 18 October 2022)

Our Tatmadaw cordially invited to pave the way to non-signatory EAOs in NCA: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing addresses the Passing Out Parade of the 64th Intake of Defence Services Academy at the parade ground in PyinOoLwin yesterday.

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performance award in studies (Computer) to cadet Thurein Soe respectively.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General delivered an address, saying that fulfilling daily tasks and duties in line with the directives means undergoing training daily. It is necessary to keep practising for having prowess consistent with the era and individual competence will be getting improved if we properly fulfil our daily duties.

In pursuit of the Tatmadaw's training policy "Be Fit, Be Competent, Be Bold", I would like to urge comrades to keep on practising to achieve physical and mental fitness. Therefore, according to the motto – "Competency, Confidence and Bravery towards Victory", I would like to urge you to emphasize training but not to belittle it since it is the key to success.

Let the country be led by any political system and government, Tatmadaw keeps on upholding Our Three Main National Causes as a national policy. National defence means safeguarding the lives and property of the people at the

bottom line and safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes denoted as the national duty at the utmost, and military personnel are shouldering defence duty with their consent for the sake of communal interests.

According to Section 20 (f) 2008 Constitution, Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes and the Constitution. Tatmadaw is going to serve those duties as a Guardian for the betterment of the country and the ethnic people within.

After the temporary acceptance of the state responsibility in 2021 according to emergencies ignited by politics, Tatmadaw took action against the mischievous people towards the country. Those courses of legal action were only taken for the violation of the law without taking the political means into account. It is witnessed that no one is above the law.

It can be witnessed that different administrative systems have been practised for a 75-year tenure. Through historical experience, it is not enough to foster a multiparty democratic system alone in

our nation-building, and it can be seen that the building of a Union system in the oneness of opportunity through a peaceful co-existence of multiethnicity is the most reliable system for our country. Thus, it is needed to build the Union based on a

in accord with two political agendas; the strengthening of the genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system, and the democratic and federal system, our Tatmadaw cordially invited to pave the way to non-signatory EAOs in NCA.

"The Senior General noted that those outstanding cadets need to pay back gratitude to their parents and not forget the gratitude of the Tatmadaw and the DSA which nurtured them to be junior leaders of the Tatmadaw within a four-year period."

democratic and federal system.

In a definition of the Union system based on the democratic and federal system, the administrative system selected by the people in the Union is meant for living in unison and the entitlement of adopting self-legislation in the respective states and regions according to the Constitution.

Since it will be performed

The Senior General left the parade ground after taking the salute of cadet companies.

At the parlour of the DSA Headquarters, the Senior General met five outstanding cadets and spoke words of honour.

In his speech, the Senior General stressed the need for continuously maintaining good basic practices for hard work to improve their lives, self-con-

trol and obedience to military disciplines along their lives. Otherwise, the Senior General noted that as they may face losses before reaching the goals, they have to continue hard work with self-control not to face individual losses as well as not to cause losses for the State and the Tatmadaw.

The Senior General underscored that only then, will good leadership lead a country as well as a Tatmadaw, and they have to cooperate with good followers. They have to continuously control good results in their lives. After commissioning them, they would complete the under-training period, and they all need to go ahead along their lives with self-control.

The Senior General noted that those outstanding cadets need to pay back gratitude to their parents and not forget the gratitude of the Tatmadaw and the DSA which nurtured them to be junior leaders of the Tatmadaw within a four-year period. The Senior General pointed out that those cadets need to avoid indulgence for themselves in their lives and their subordinates and try hard to be idol leaders for the subordinates. — MNA

Incomes from the coffee business will help raise the per capita income and revenue of the State: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets coffee businesspeople from PyinOoLwin on 2 December 2022.

ONLY when good quality coffee species are chosen for cultivation will they have high per-acre yields and quality products, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was quoted as saying at the meeting with coffee businesspersons from PyinOoLwin at the city hall in PyinOoLwin yesterday morning.

Reports on farmland utilization, ground inspection and general requirements in PyinOoLwin region

Officials and coffee businesspersons reported on the manufacturing and export of coffee in Myanmar, cultivation of coffee and other crops in PyinOoLwin Township, farmland utilization and inspection, needs of aid for coffee manufacturing, the need to scrutinize the construction of necessary buildings for coffee manufacturing, tax exemption and needs of loans.

Discussions over reports

In his speech, the Senior General stressed the need to further develop the cultivation of coffee plants in the PyinOoLwin region for regional development and improvement of the local economy. The government will scrutinize the implementa-

tion of eco-tourism services and taxation related to coffee cultivation. Moreover, restrictions will be eased for flourishing good agricultural practices.

Reports of Union ministers for the cultivation of coffee plants in PyinOoLwin Township

Union ministers reported on the need for actual cultivation of allotted lands for coffee plantations and not to use it in other ways, issuance of warnings to businesspersons who do not actually grow coffee plants on their allotted lands and coordination for providing technics, inputs and investments for the cultivation of coffee plants.

Encouragement to manufacturing based on domestic raw materials

In his speech, the Senior General said improvement of MSME businesses is based on raw materials, inputs, capital and good human resources. The manufacturing process needs to use raw materials obtained at home.

Quality strain, soil, water and technique

The Senior General continued to say that quality strains of crops, fertile soil, the sufficiency



SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets coffee businesspersons in PyinOoLwin yesterday.

of water and good cultivation techniques are essential for the agricultural sector.

Only when good quality coffee species are chosen for cultivation will they have high per-acre yields and quality products. Feeding of fertilizer should be systematic and the farms should use bio-fertilizers obtained from animals. Cultivation of coffee needs large capital and long term, businesspersons must strive for achieving success while observing the domestic and international markets. The government will assist in man-

ufacturing high-quality coffee products.

Emphasizing coffee cultivation to have success for benefiting region and the nation

The Senior General noted that there are some 49,000 acres of coffee plantations across the nation. If the per-acre yield increases, the profit will be larger. The Senior General expressed his hope for increasing the per-acre yield rather than expansion of sown acreage. Incomes from the coffee business will help raise the per capita income and reve-

nue of the State.

The Senior General disclosed that arrangements will be made for businesspersons export coffee products to foreign countries through UMFCCI. He urged them to advertise their products in the market and try to secure GAP and ISO for the products.

The Senior General unveiled that plans are underway to disburse loans to MSME businesses for their development and coffee cultivation as well.

After the meeting, the Senior General cordially greeted coffee businesspersons. — MNA

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General inspects maintenance of National Kandawgyi Garden, Pwekauk Waterfall



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round the National Kandawgyi Garden in PyinOoLwin on 2 December 2022. (Above and Below photos)

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday afternoon inspected the maintenance of the National Kandawgyi Garden in PyinOoLwin.

At the briefing hall, officials reported on facts and figures for the garden, renovation of water inlet channels and underground drains for ensuring proper flow of water into the lakes in the garden, maintenance of the garden by workers and arrangements to hold the 15th flower festival.

In his response to the reports, the Senior General said that only when lakes must be prepared with beautifying works and storing water in the lakes can visitors be attracted. The Senior General stressed the need to coordinate measures on the inflow of water and storage between local authorities and relevant ministries.

The Senior General noted that it is necessary to nurture flowery plants in the garden and operate the flowery research farm so as to maintain the domestic species of flowery plants. The Senior General instructed officials to carry out greening of the Kandawgyi Garden and ensure the proper flow of water into the lakes.

The Senior General and party viewed round the National Kandawgyi Garden by car and inspected the progress of the spillway at the Kandawlay Lake.

As a lesser volume of water flowed into lakes in the National Kandawgyi Garden in previous years, the Senior General on his inspection tour of PyinOoLwin in September and December 2021 and April



The Senior General feeds the elephants at the show.

2022 gave guidance on the proper flow of water into the lakes in the garden and watershed area and inspected natural springs including Nyaungni spring. As such, the Kandawgyi Lake stores 31 feet and eight inches deep of water level this year compared to 16 feet deep of water last year. No 1 lake stores 6.5 feet deep of water

against six feet deep storage capacity, No 2 lake seven feet meeting the target and No 3 lake 8.8 feet deep water against 11 feet deep water, and water resource maintenance is being carried out.

On the morning of 1 December, the Senior General visited the Pwekauk waterfall resort (BE Fall).

Chairman of Myanmar Economic Corporation Lt-Gen Nyo Saw reported on the brief history of the BE Fall, public relaxation, preparations to expand the jungle walkway, and construction of sky cable. The Senior General stressed the need to beautify the fall for public relaxation and clean the walkway in the jungle.

The Senior General cordially greeted the people who took relaxation at Pwekauk Waterfall Resort (BE Fall) after inspecting the progress of Sky Cable.

After enjoying the elephant clever show and fed them. Next, the Senior General inspected the jungle walkway and the site for the sky cable landing area.

Pwekauk Waterfall was not set in a systematic layout plan. There were many shops and undisciplined littering and cutting of trees causing environmental degradation. In accord with the guidance of the Senior General on his inspection tour, the waterfall was upgraded. Water from the fall uses the natural water treatment system for the people to take healthy relaxation. The resort is formed with three inner waterfalls and the LED glass bridge was built there. The area is facilitated with a glass bridge, suspension bridge, log house, coffee shop, jungle walkways, relaxation centres and playgrounds. At present, a 554 metres long sky cable is under construction and will be commissioned into service soon. — MNA

MoI Union Minister discusses preparation of parade floats, dance troupes for Diamond Jubilee Independence Day



Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn chairs the coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 December 2022.

THE upcoming 4 January 2023 holds a great significance history in Myanmar marking Diamond Jubilee Independence Day. It will mark the 75th anniversary of holding Independence Day and plans are underway to celebrate it at the national level in Nay Pyi Taw aiming to preserve

the sovereignty of the country in the future.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, in his capacity as Chairman of the Organizing Committee on Diamond Jubilee Independence Day, presided over a coordination meeting on the preparation of floats of regions and states containing dance troupes in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

First, the Union minister said arrangements are underway to hold the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day ceremony grandly and the meeting aims to discuss the preparation of floats marching and performers in detail. Although there is the experience of last year and there would no difficulties, preparations should be made in advance not to occur any mistakes and to be on time as the festival is bigger than the last year for having many programmes, manpower and taking a long time.

Then, Committee Secretary Deputy Minister U Ye Tint and relevant officials presented float decorations, dance troupes, numbers of performers, and selected ethnic traditional dances and songs.

Parade floats and booths representing ministries, regions and states will be displayed at Taboung Ground in front of Up-patasanti Pagoda starting at 4:30 pm on 4 January to 8 January. The five-day event will include sales of ethnic food and entertainment of ethnic dance troupes of regions and states.

— MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, consumer goods, industrial materials, motorbike parts and vehicles confiscated

AN on-duty team under the supervision of the Customs Department conducted inspections on 1 December.

Officials captured industrial materials worth K4,725,000 and 60 baby battery motorbikes worth K4.8 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from two containers at the Asia World Port Terminal Container Checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

Similarly, a combined on-duty team confiscated two goods including 2,400 motorbike parts worth K46,855,200 that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a Chen-glong tractor head and a trailer (approximately K70 million) near Laydauntkan village on No 2 Highway of the Myawady-Hpa-an-Yangon Road. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

In addition, a total of 10.0380 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K943,620 was seized in the Gwa township of Rakhine State. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 2 December, the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint in Kayin State nabbed 35 cartons of foam mats worth K1.4 million without official documents from a vehicle heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

Afterwards, a team led by the Bago Township Customs Department impounded 373 used bicycles worth K10.2 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a Mitsubishi Fuso car (estimated value of K40 million) heading from Myawady to Yangon and the action was taken under Customs Procedures. A total of 1.5318 tonnes of illegal hardwood worth K765,900 was seized in the Yoma protected forest of Yedashe township and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 12 arrests (at an estimated value of K179,689,720) were made on 1 and 2 December, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee.

— MNA

MoHT Union Minister receives Commercial Director of Russia-based Yi Ling Tourism Co Ltd



MoHT Union Minister Dr Htay Aung receives Mr Kosinkov Evgeny, Commercial Director of Russia-based Yi Ling Tourism Co Ltd yesterday.

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung received Mr Kosinkov Evgeny, Commercial Director of Russia-based Yi Ling Tourism Co Ltd in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, Mr Kosinkov Evgeny called for relaxation on the insurance of Myanmar as Russian travellers make tours by buying international insurance and highlighted the ongoing talks with Myanmar International Airways to operate flights for travellers from Russia and large numbers of tourist arrivals if the country facilitates the monetary sector.

Then, the Union minister said there are examples as the Italian Airways operated flight from Milan to Phuket by stopping over in Myanmar previously. Now, the MAI makes proper arrangements. He also pledged to negotiate with the department concerned regarding travel insurance and to arrange for the currency of travellers.

He continued that the country is also cooperating in the tourism industry as the bilateral relationship between Myanmar and Russia is moving into a higher gear.

— MNA

A d v e r t i s e

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LOCAL BUSINESS

YGEA's reference price edges up to K2.1 mln per tical following global gold spot price

YANGON Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) hiked up the reference price of the yellow metal to K2.1 million per tical as gold spot price jumped in international markets.

When the gold spot price was US\$1,645 per ounce on 1 November, YGEA set the pure gold price at K1,938,000 per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme).

On 2 December, the gold spot price rallied to \$1,802 per ounce. Therefore, YGEA raised the reference price to K2,122,000 per tical.

The gold spot price jumped by \$150 per ounce within one month, whereas the pure gold price was up by K184,000 per tical.

Despite the YGEA reference price, the price of pure gold touched a high of K2,680,000 per tical in the domestic markets.

There is a gap of over K500,000 per tical between the YGEA's reference price and market price.

YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate of K2,100, with some addition. The dollar was exchanged at about K2,900 in the black market.

Therefore, there is a large gap between the YGEA price and the market price based on the black-market dollar rate.

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 exchanging at over K4,500 pushed up the pure gold price to a record-high of K3.7 million per tical in late August

For the gold price to decline,



Jewellery is displayed at the gold outlet in Yangon.

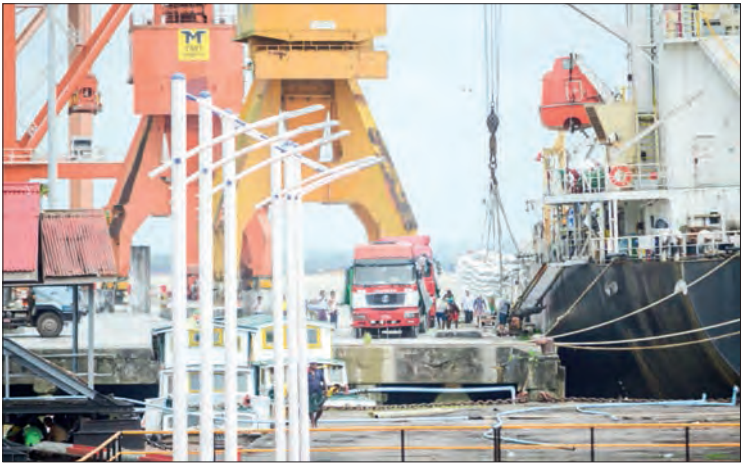
the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been selling gold ingots in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi

Taw under the auction system.

With an aim at reducing gold prices, the YGEA and Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs As-

sociation sold gold bullion supplied by the executive members and the members as well. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar ships approximately 110,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh under G-to-G pact



Export rice bags are being loaded onto one overseas-going vessel at Yangon Port.

MYANMAR has conveyed about 110,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh under the government-to-government pact, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar and Bangladesh inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on rice trade in September this year.

According to this MoU, Bangladesh has agreed to buy 250,000 tonnes of white rice and 50,000 tonnes of parboiled rice from Myanmar between 2022 and 2027.

Under the MoU, Bangla-

desh's Directorate General of Food and Myanmar Rice Federation signed a sales contract for 200,000 tonnes of Myanmar's white rice to be exported to Bangladesh. As per the sales contract, Myanmar has shipped about 110,000 tonnes of white rice to Bangladesh as of 28 November 2022. Furthermore, over 2,000 tonnes of rice are being loaded onto the ship for now. The remaining will be delivered before the deadline.

As per the MoU between Myanmar and Bangladesh on the rice trade, 48 companies, under

the supervision of the Myanmar Rice Federation, are to export 200,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh with Chinese yuan payment between October 2022 and January 2023.

Following the contract, white rice (ATAP) GPCT Broken STX variety will be delivered. The FOB prices were 2.78856 Yuan per kilo and 2788.56 Yuan per tonne.

The Export/Import division of the Trade Department issued 42 export licences worth over 534 million Yuan for 41 companies to convey 191,700 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh.

Since 7 September 2017, Myanmar and Bangladesh have engaged in rice trade under the government-to-government pact. That MoU stated that Bangladesh has agreed to buy Myanmar's white rice (250,000 tonnes) and parboiled rice (50,000) tonnes between 2017 and September 2022. Bangladesh's Directorate General of Food and MRF signed the sales contracts as per the MoU and Myanmar sent 100,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh each in 2017 for the first time and 2021 for the second time, as per the sales contract. — NN/GNLM

The prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 2 December 2022

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K 1,995
Octane 95	K 2,070
Diesel	K 2,425
Premium Diesel	K 2,500

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K 2,122,000 per tical
HIGH-PURITY gold in the external gold market	K 2,680,000 per tical

Dollar Price

A US dollar regarded by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K 2,100
A US dollar in the external market	K 2,850 to K 2,880

The above prices may change from time to time.

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OPINION

Stretch your hands to give helps to others

N OBODY should harm the weak points of others. Especially, anyone should not tease or blame or harm the weakness of persons with disabilities. If not, those who commit such kinds of inappropriate acts show off their minds of lower social class.

In fact, nobody can be disabled. Everybody wishes to be a person with physical and mental strengths meeting the standard. But, anyone cannot afford to repair their fortune in their lives. So also, their mothers wish to give birth to babies without any weaknesses. But, no one can see the fortune.

As such, nobody should take advantage of the weakness of anyone in all arenas. On the other hand, those with disabilities

That is why all the global people including Myanmar citizens should enjoy the shared future through thick and thin for shaping their respective futures and fortunes by giving a helping hand to the handicapped persons to be able to build their future together. If so, they will have the chance to uphold the concept in line with this year's theme: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Dignity and Justice for All of Us, of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

equitable place.

The 2022 global observance to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities will be around the overarching theme of innovation and transformative solutions for inclusive development, covering in three different interactive dialogues the following thematic topics.

In this regard, sustainable development goal 8 mentions the Innovation for disability-inclusive development in employment. Likewise, SDG10 also expresses the Innovation for disability-inclusive development in reducing inequality. Moreover, Innovation for disability-inclusive development emphasizes the sport as a good practice example and a site of innovation, employment and equity.

That is why all the global people including Myanmar citizens should enjoy the shared future through thick and thin for shaping their respective futures and fortunes by giving a helping hand to the handicapped persons to be able to build their future together. If so, they will have the chance to uphold the concept in line with this year's theme: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Dignity and Justice for All of Us, of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

IN MYANMAR, online classes and online teaching have become popular and well-known only during the COVID-19 period. Before that, although they were being used by some teachers and students, they were not well-known nationwide. However, online classes and online teaching have been well used for over a decade, especially in countries where internet access can be used abundantly. In those countries, many students, teachers, and researchers have got many experiences utilizing various kinds of tools and devices associated with their online education. Therefore, Myanmar people especially the teachers who are teaching online classes using internet access had better learn their experiences as much as they can.

Over the last few years, we have seen one of the biggest fundamental shifts in educational practice in history. Within the space of weeks, millions of students and their teachers were forced out of their classrooms and onto online platforms with little or no preparation.

As someone who has been training teachers to work with technology for more than 20 years, this has been incredibly interesting, at least from a pedagogical point of view.

Seeing how different teachers of various ages and with very different attitudes to and experiences of technology, social media, and communication technologies have coped has been fascinating. It also filled me with admiration for the people who work within my profession. Their willingness to share and learn from each other

How to build rapport in the remote classroom

By Yin Nwe Ko



All in all, online teaching and learning will be lasting for many years in the world.

and to look for different tools and approaches has been awesome.

However, I do feel that some vital aspects of what we do have been overlooked in this rapid shift to remote teaching.

In 2014 I was lucky to work as the head of learning for a 100% online school. In this school, all lessons were automatically recorded so that students could watch them again. Students also chose which teacher they wanted from lesson to lesson. This provided consider-

able data on what made teachers successful online.

Among the successful teachers, one factor set them apart. This was their ability to transfer their interpersonal skills into the virtual classroom. These teachers could speak to the webcam as though it was a person, which helped them engage and quickly build rapport with their students.

So how do we make that shift to projecting our personality through the webcam?

Here there are several tips and techniques that one may find useful:

Make sure you have your room and equipment set up properly

- You need plenty of light on your face. Be sure to avoid backlight. You don't want to appear as a silhouette to your students.
- You also need to make sure the room is quiet and distraction-free.
- Make sure you have a plain background. Bookcases, windows, and piles of washing can be distracting. Virtual backgrounds are okay if you have no better option, but they blur your edges especially if you move around a lot (and you should). The best thing is a plain wall.
- Use boxes or a riser under your computer to ensure your webcam is at eye level and that the screen is parallel to your body. This will give students the impression you are making eye contact and your body won't be distorted by the lens. There's also nothing worse than looking up someone's nose or at the top of their head and the ceiling.

Think about your body and your voice

- Step back from your comput-

er. This will give the students a better view of your body and help them understand your body language.

- I teach standing up and about a meter back from the webcam. Having more distance between myself and the camera also allows me to use proximity as I would in the classroom. I can move in closer to get students' attention or even move off-screen to give them space or thinking time.
- Use a headset with a microphone. Using your built-in computer ones will hurt the sound quality for everyone.
- Think about how you use your voice and vary the volume and tone of your voice. With a headset microphone, you can speak normally as you would to someone across the desk. Even if you whisper students should still be able to hear you.
- Avoid using your classroom voice. You don't need to speak over the murmurings of forty students. If you project your voice loudly it will be uncomfortable to listen to and distort the sound.

Get the most out of the camera

- If you want to give the impression of eye contact, you need to remember to speak to the camera, not to your computer screen. To make this easier, drag the small screen where you see yourself to

the top of the screen beneath the webcam. Then you can monitor your body language and give the impression of making eye contact.

- You need to get students to use their webcam too. Acting as a model for how they use it will help and will share a few of these tips with them.
- Use activities that encourage and develop the use of the camera.
- Do "show and tell" using the camera. Students can show photos and objects that have special significance for them or even give other students a tour of their house/room and introduce their family.
- Have dress-up days with younger students. Everyone, including you, wears a costume, or get students to make puppets to use in front of the camera if they are shy.

Help students think about their body language

- Build awareness of how we use body language to communicate. We mirror the body language of people we are speaking to if we like them, so get the students to practice mirroring each other or you.
- Body language is a powerful communicator of attitude, so get students to mime different attitudes and guess each other's attitudes.

Moreover, we have to take notice of other important issues in building rapport in online classrooms.

Learn something about your students' interests and hobbies.

You should keep a notebook for all of your classes and jot down notes whenever the students reveal something new about themselves, whether it be a favourite video game or a new hobby. Before class, you review your notes so you can ask the students about their recent trip to Japan, their new baby brother, or the latest novel they are reading. If the students are very young, you can encourage them to talk about their favourite food or sport and then make it a point to discuss those things during future lessons. Don't be shy about sharing your own interests, likes, and dislikes, too. Doing so lets your students learn something more personal about you and may inspire them to ask you questions. For example, sharing your love of drawing and samples of your own artwork with students may inspire your students to show you their own drawings.

Begin class with a greeting and a warm-up activity or game.

Many of us have the tenden-

cy to follow the lesson script and clock so much that we forget to take time to greet the students and ask them questions about their day or week. A cheerful greeting shows the importance of the individual student to you, which establishes trust between you and them. Be careful not to get so caught up in the process that you forget the individual student. Good communication between you and the student is crucial to building rapport. There are times you can get frustrated when you ask, "How are you?" and the student replies with the expected answer of "I'm fine, and you?" For times like these, you refer to the notes you keep to spark a more in-depth conversation, or you ask completely random questions like, "What did you eat for dinner?" or "Which do you like better basketball or soccer?" you may also begin class with a warm-up game such as, "Interesting questions" or the "How do I feel?" to help engage students.

All in all, online teaching and learning will be lasting for many years in the world. Therefore, it is sure every online teacher will emphasize their successful online teaching in their virtual classrooms. To obtain success, they will have to build an easy and convenient rapport with their students there. I believe, the statements mentioned above will not be completely flawless but they will surely provide effective support to all of the remote classrooms and satisfactory benefits for the teachers who are seeking ways to gain complete control of their students.

Reference: Teaching Teen

India growth slows to 6.3% as pandemic bounceback wanes

INDIA'S growth slowed to 6.3 per cent in the September quarter, official figures showed Wednesday, with rising rates and higher consumer prices both dragging on Asia's third-largest economy.

This year India bounced back strongly from the coronavirus pandemic but it is now grappling with the same headwinds buffeting the global economy.

The pace of expansion fell dramatically from 13.5 per cent year-on-year GDP growth in the previous quarter, a figure more illustrative of the shock to activity during the height of last year's coronavirus wave.

India imports more than 80 per cent of its crude oil needs and rising petrol costs since Russia's February invasion of Ukraine have hit

the wallets of the country's 1.4 billion people.

Consumer inflation has consistently overshoot the central bank's two-to-six per cent target range this year, hitting an eight-year high of 7.79 per cent in April.

Official data showed consumer inflation moderating slightly to 6.77 per cent in October after reaching a five-month high of 7.41 per cent in September.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in September raised interest rates for the fourth time in five months — up a total 190 basis points this year — with a further rate hike expected next week.

Merchandise exports hit a 20-month low of \$29.78 billion in October, as high inflation and recession fears hit demand in key over-

seas markets.

'Resilient progress'

Elevated crude oil prices and a falling rupee have left India struggling with a deteriorating trade balance as import costs rise.

The Indian rupee has hit record lows this year, plunging up to 10 percent against the US dollar as the greenback rallied on risk-averse market sentiment.

But India's currency has proven more resilient than its Asian peers, aided by regular central bank intervention.

Analysts also say pent-up consumer demand and expectations of higher government expenditure will support growth in the face of headwinds.

"Several indicators suggest that the Indian economy is making resilient progress," State Bank of India Chief Economic Adviser Soumya Kanti Ghosh said in a note.

"Growth impulses continue to be strong and it may be better to look through the GDP headline numbers for a couple of quarters before arriving at a definitive conclusion about the growth trajectory."

The International Monetary Fund forecasts 6.1 per cent growth for India next year, down from 6.8 per cent in 2022 but still significantly higher than every other major economy.

India's benchmark Sensex index closed 0.67 per cent higher in Mumbai ahead of the GDP data release.

SOURCE: AFP



India's growth slowed to 6.3 per cent in the September quarter. PHOTO: PUNIT PARANJE/AFP

CURRENT AFFAIRS

ME to hike passport renewal fee due to changes in Japanese yen value



The Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo, Japan.

THE Myanmar Embassy to Japan issued that the extension of the regular Myanmar passport will be charged at an increased rate owing to changes in the value of the Japanese yen.

The new rates were applied to start on 1 December. The announcement was made for notifying Myanmar citizens in Japan that the renewal fee for a regular passport went up.

When applying for the renewal of regular Myanmar passports, a difference can be seen in the exchange rate due to the variation in Japanese

yen value.

The passport extension fee was changed from 3,000 to 4,000 yen beginning on 1 December. In addition, a fine for the lost passport will be charged from 10,000 yen previously to 12,000 yen starting from 1 December, the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo announced.

The embassy accepts in-person applications for regular Myanmar passport renewals during business hours and serves passport re-issuance and other consular matters. In addition, enquiry calls are

accepted between 1 and 3 pm on working days and those who find it difficult to enquire can send a message to email: consularsection@myanmar-embassy-tokyo.net.

The Myanmar Embassy to Japan accepts applications sent by post and urged applicants to observe the following website — <http://www.myanmar-embassy-tokyo.net/2022/consularamendment/revised2.htm> — and complete the necessary documents for the application. — TWA/GNLM

Taxation of tissue-culture banana exportation to China shifts from Kyat to Yuan payment

TAXES levied on tissue-culture bananas are changed to Yuan payment from the local currency from 28 November.

Earlier, taxes were collected in Kyat payment for exports of tissue-culture bananas to China through the Kampaiti border. The currency for taxes has been changed to Yuan from 28 November.

The Central Bank of Myanmar gave the green light to the direct Yuan/Kyat trade for cross-border transactions. From 28 November, 2.36 Yuan was imposed on tissue-culture banana exports.



The photo shows tissue-culture bananas in cardboard cartons to be exported to China.

The value of trade on the Kampaiti border amounted to US\$1.881 million in the second week of November, with exports worth \$1.575 million and imports worth \$0.306 million, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

In the first week of November, 76 truckloads of tissue-culture bananas (1,900 tonnes) were exported to China via the Kam-

paiti border. The tissue-culture banana season commenced in November. So, the export volume was higher in November than that in October.

The main export items on the Kampaiti border is tissue-culture banana, while iron baskets, engines, machines, equipment, steel and related goods, wire, plastic raw mate-

rials, cotton, clothes and other consumer goods are imported into the country.

Myanmar Heng Ya Investment Development Company is implementing the construction projects of the Kampaiti economic zone for a five-year term, with the approval of the Myanmar Investment Commission. — TWA/GNLM

Government approves US\$16 million to buy ART

THE US\$16 million has been approved for the purchase of ART drugs and medications to the Ministry of Health in the financial year 2022-2023, according to the announcement of the Ministry of Health on 1 December, World AIDS Day.

With Myanmar implementing efforts on HIV/AIDS control activities as the national response, the government's supporting funding has significantly increased every year.

There are over 190,000 HIV/AIDS-infected patients

have been treated with ART through joint programmes on AIDS and venereal disease which are cooperated by locals and international friendship organizations under the supervision of the Health Ministry, according to the statement stated until the end of 2021.

About 90 per cent of HIV/AIDS patients received treatments at the ART centres under the Ministry of Health, and the treatment and care are being carried out, it is learnt. — TWA/GNLM



ART medicines.

HEALTH/PANDEMIC
WORLD

China actively optimizes
COVID-19 response measures

AS the pathogenicity of the Omicron virus weakens, the vaccination rate rises and China accumulates experience in containing the virus, the country is actively optimizing and refining its COVID-19 response.

The Chinese mainland on Wednesday reported 4,080 locally transmitted confirmed

COVID-19 cases, the National Health Commission (NHC) said Thursday. A total of 31,720 local asymptomatic carriers were newly identified.

The districts of Haizhu, Tianhe, Panyu and Liwan in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province, lifted all temporary control measures on Wednesday. All

areas except for designated high-risk ones are now classified as low-risk areas or subject to regular control measures.

Starting from Thursday, differentiated control measures have been adopted for the orderly resumption of normal life and production in four districts, a high-tech development zone and an industrial park in Shijiazhuang, capital of north China's Hebei Province.

Beijing has optimized its COVID-19 control measures to minimize their impact on people's livelihoods. It has ordered closed management measures to be lifted in a timely manner for eligible residential complexes, and has allowed virus-hit supermarkets to reopen following a one-day closure.

From Wednesday, Beijing residents who do not engage in social activities are no longer required to undergo community nucleic acid screenings if they do not need to leave their homes, according to local authorities.— Xinhua



Residents select vegetables in Liwan District of Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province, 1 Dec 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/DENG HUA

No abnormalities found
in emperor's prostate
tissue sample



Japanese Emperor Naruhito leaves University of Tokyo Hospital in Tokyo on 28 Nov 2022, after staying overnight to undergo a tissue examination for an enlarged prostate. PHOTO: KYODO

NO abnormalities were revealed in an examination of a prostate tissue sample from Emperor Naruhito, the Imperial Household Agency said Friday.

The tissue sample was taken from the 62-year-old on Sunday after the agency announced in October his prostate-specific antigen level, a tumor marker, was slightly higher

than normal and an MRI scan he underwent in early November had confirmed an enlarged prostate.

The agency said the emperor has no symptoms and is spending his days as usual. His health condition will continue to be monitored though blood tests, according to Ryoza Nagai, medical supervisor of the imperial household.—Kyodo

LGBTQ groups seek legal ban on
Swiss conversion therapy

LGBTQ organizations in Switzerland are concerned that without swift action, the country could become a haven for conversion therapy, which is banned in neighbouring France and Germany.

Swiss lawmakers will start debating a motion calling for a

ban on Monday, a year after the government pledged to take up the issue of conversion therapy.

Designed to change sexual orientation in favour of heterosexuality, the practice is mainly performed in religious settings.

In Germany and France, "attempts at conversion are al-

ready banned, and initiatives to ban them throughout the European Union are under way," said Pink Cross, the Swiss national umbrella organisation of gay and bisexual men.

"We absolutely have to prevent Switzerland from becoming a refuge for 'gay healers'."

Political and civil society representatives have pointed to the arrival in Zurich of the Bruderschaft des Weges (Brotherhood of the Way) association, following the change of law in Germany. The group, which did not respond to questions from AFP, says on its website that it rejects "any form of conversion treatment" and "does not offer any form of therapy". It says it is a "community of men who experience conflict in their sexuality" and "for reasons of our Christian faith, we therefore do not want to live our sexuality".— AFP



A campaign poster showing gagged Swiss MP Celine Amaidruz of right wing populist Swiss People's Party and asking Swiss voters in a referendum to reject a proposed ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation, charging it will lead to censorship, is seen on a billboard in Geneva, on 30 January 2020. PHOTO: FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Philippines' largest prison holds mass
burial for 70 inmates

THE bodies of 70 inmates from the Philippines' largest prison were laid to rest Friday in a mass burial, weeks after their decomposing remains were discovered in a Manila funeral home.

They were among 176 corpses found by police during an investigation into the death of an inmate, who was accused of being involved in the killing of a journalist in early October. Most of the deaths were due to "natural causes", said Cecilia Villanueva, the Bureau of Corrections' acting director for health and welfare services. Among them was a Japanese national.

Villanueva said 127 of the 140 bodies buried so far were badly decomposed and could not be autopsied again. The bodies began piling up in the funeral home in December 2021 after their families — most of them poor — did not claim them. —AFP

Peru enters fifth wave of COVID-19
pandemic

PERU entered into its fifth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic after an increase of infectious cases in most regions in the past three weeks, Peruvian Health Minister Kelly Portalatino said on Thursday.

A total of 6,541 new infections were detected, and nine deaths were reported between Tuesday and Wednesday. Since the start of the pandemic, Peru has had a total of 4,252,383 cases and 217,414 deaths, according to a report on Wednesday by the health ministry.—Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan enacts 29 tril yen extra budget to blunt inflation impact



Japan's parliament enacts a 28.92 trillion yen (\$214 billion) extra budget for the current fiscal year with its passage through the House of Councillors on 2 Dec 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN'S parliament on Friday enacted a 28.92 trillion yen (\$214 billion) extra budget for the current fiscal year to help struggling households cope with accelerating inflation and support an economy facing downward pressure.

The House of Councillors approved the second supplementary budget of the year through March 2023 on Friday after the House of Representatives passed it earlier this week.

The funding is necessary to implement inflation-relief steps

included in a broader package to ease the pain on households, mainly by reducing their utility bills amid higher energy costs caused by Russia's war in Ukraine. Rising inflation has become a global issue and Japan, which has seen prices rise at a much slower pace than the United States or Europe, is no exception. It has become one of the biggest challenges facing Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who has seen a sharp drop in support ratings after more than a year in

office due to controversy over ties between his ruling party and a controversial religious group. The support measure aims to reduce utility bills for an average Japanese household by 5,000 yen a month between January and September, with 3.11 trillion yen set aside for electricity and city gas payments.

Some 3.02 trillion yen is earmarked to retain government subsidies to oil wholesalers in order to prevent a rise in gasoline and kerosene prices.—Kyodo

All churned up: Austrian oat milk ad draws farmers' ire



A winter tourism advert for the Austrian Tyrol region featuring oat, not cow's, milk has provoked a row and been pulled. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

AUSTRIAN farmers were left fuming after an advert for winter tourism featured oat — instead of

cow's — milk, in what industry representatives sourly slammed as an "affront to Tyrolean farm-

ers". The commercial was to promote Austria's western Tyrol region, renowned for its rolling pastures and rugged peaks that are a magnet for winter sports lovers.

In the ad, a hairy, horned mythical figure called "Percht" — known for driving out winters in Alpine folklore — is invited into a Tyrolean mountain hut for a warming drink after returning a young girl's glove that he found in the snow. But it is the next scene that had farmers in a froth — when the "Percht" creature orders a "latte macchiato with oat milk".—AFP

OPEC set to stick or cut more amid plan to cap Russian oil price

MAJOR oil producers are expected to stick to their current output strategy or even slash production further when they meet on Sunday in the face of falling prices, a potential Russian oil price cap and an embargo on Russian crude shipments.

At their last ministerial session in October the 13-nation Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries headed by Riyadh and its 10 allies led by Moscow, collectively known as OPEC+, agreed to reduce output by two million barrels per day (bpd) from November.

The OPEC+ reduction amounted to the biggest cut since the height of the Covid

pandemic in 2020.

Amid fears of economic slowdown, Sunday's the cartel's meeting via videoconference convenes ahead of the EU enforcing an embargo on Russian crude shipments from Monday.

G7 countries, the EU and Australia had also appeared close to agreeing a \$60 dollar per barrel price cap on Russian oil Thursday.

The alliance should vote for a "rollover of the previous decision" to cut two million bpd, an Iranian source told AFP Thursday, arguing that the market was "very uncertain" in light of imminent European sanctions.—AFP

Brexit ramps up UK food bills by £6 bln: study



Brexit increased household food bills by an average £210 in the two years to the end of 2021, according to findings from the London School of Economics. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

BRITAIN'S exit from the European Union added almost £6 billion to consumers' food bills, hitting the poor the hardest and further stoking red-hot inflation, a study said Thursday.

Brexit increased household food bills by an average £210 in the two years to the end of 2021, according to findings from the London School of Economics. Food prices were pushed higher by the rising cost of extra checks and requirements on EU imports, the LSE noted in the report. The LSE judged that Brexit started ramping up food bills from late 2019 onwards, as firms antici-

pated higher costs and adjusted prices accordingly.

Products increased in price by six per cent over the two-year period, it added.

The hike disproportionately hit the poor because those on low incomes spend a greater share of their pay on food than richer people. "In leaving the EU, the UK swapped a deep trade relationship with few impediments to trade for one where a wide range of checks, forms and steps are required before goods can cross the border," said Bristol University professor and study co-author Richard Davies.—AFP

US personal spending rises in October

US households increased spending in October from the previous month, government figures released on Thursday showed.

Personal spending in October grew 0.8 per cent from September, according to data released by the US Commerce Department. The data suggests that interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve have not prevented consumers from spending, even if they must dig into their savings. The US savings rate dropped to 2.3 per cent, the second lowest ever.

Spending in October was mainly driven by purchases of new autos, as well as spending on housing and food items.

“Households are heading into the holiday season in fairly good shape,” said Ryan Sweet, chief US economist at Oxford Economics, as quoted in Investing.com and published in Yahoo Finance. Sweet added that “all in all, it’s going to be another solid holiday shopping season, with unemployment low and wage growth still solid.” Still, many economists note that US inflation remains stubbornly high, the worst in four decades, and the Fed has shown no signs of backing off of the most aggressive rate hike cycle in decades. —Xinhua

S.Korea’s income disparity widens in 2021

SOUTH Korea’s income disparity widened last year due to lower public transfer income for the low-income bracket, government data showed Thursday.

The adjusted disposable income averaged 36.69 million won (28,220 US dollars) in 2021, up 6.3 per cent from the previous year, according to joint data from Statistics Korea, the Financial Supervisory Service and the

Bank of Korea (BOK).

The adjusted disposable income refers to households’ disposable income, including earned, business, property and public transfer income minus public transfer expenditure, adjusted according to the number of family members.

Among the bottom 20-per cent income bracket, the adjusted disposable income gained 4.5 per cent to 12.32 million won (9,480 dollars) last year, while the income for the top 20-per cent income group advanced 6.5 per cent to 73.39 million won (56,450 dollars).—Xinhua



People walk through the Myeongdong shopping district in Seoul on 27 Aug. PHOTO: JUNG YEON-JE/AFP

Japan’s largest labour union to call for 5% pay hike, highest in 28 yrs



Wage growth remains sluggish in Japan even after rebounding from a recent low of around 1.6 per cent among major companies in 2003. PHOTO: KYODO

JAPAN’S largest labour union decided on Thursday to demand a pay hike of around five per cent in annual wage negotiations starting next spring, the highest in 28 years, to catch up with rising inflation. The Japanese Trade Union Confederation agreed to ask for the five per cent pay rise, including a base-pay increase of around three per cent, and call for a minimum hourly wage of at least 1,150 yen (\$8), the same level as 2022 annual negotiations.

The request, the highest since a range of five to six per cent sought in 1995, reflects tepid wage growth over the past decades in Japan that have hardly kept up with soaring inflation. Wage growth remains sluggish in Japan even after rebounding from a recent low of around 1.6 per cent among major companies in 2003. The union, also known as Rengo, had consistently called for a four per cent pay hike in spring negotiations from 2016 to 2022.—Kyodo

China-Europe freight train service sees steady progress

THE number of China-Europe freight train trips has increased rapidly in recent years, helping stabilize the international supply chain, according to the provincial government of east China’s Jiangsu.

From 2016 to 2021, the number of China-Europe freight trains increased by 55 per cent year on year, with the annual freight volume rising nine times, according to a press conference held on the sidelines of the China-Europe railway express cooperation forum being held in Jiangsu’s Lianyungang.—Xinhua

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR PENIDA VOY.NO. (128N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR PENIDA VOY.NO. (128N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK VICTORIA VOY.NO. (246W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK VICTORIA VOY.NO. (246W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-12-2022** 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.

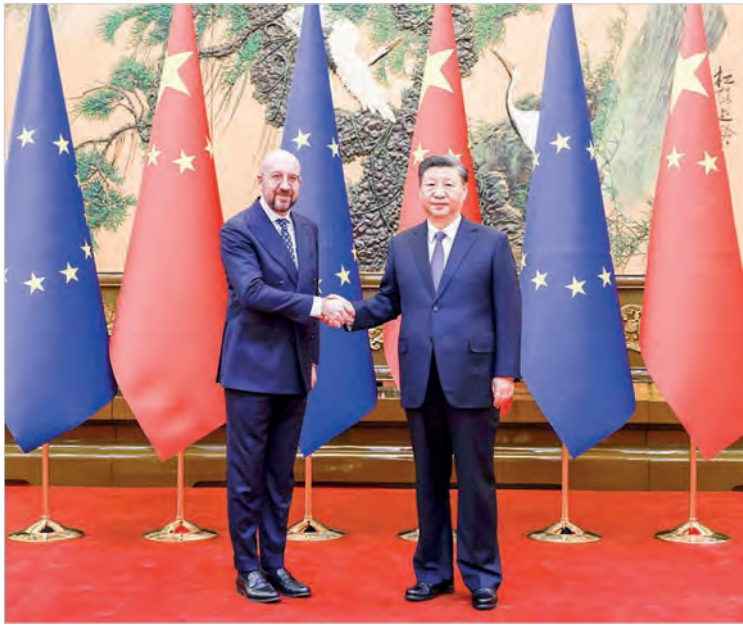
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK AISA PTE., LTD

Xi holds talks with European Council president



CHINESE President Xi Jinping held talks with visiting President of the European Council Charles Michel in Beijing on Thursday. Xi said President Michel's visit to China after the conclusion of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) — on behalf of all European Union member states — demonstrates the good will of the Chinese President Xi Jinping holds talks with visiting President of the European Council Charles Michel at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Dec. 1, 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/DING LIN

EU towards the development of relations with China. Noting that China and the EU are two major forces for world peace, two major markets for common development and two major civilizations for human progress, Xi said it is in the common interests of China, the EU and the international community to maintain the upward momentum of China-EU relations and pursue mutual benefits. The more turbulent the international situation becomes and the more prominent the global challenges become, the greater the global significance of China-EU relations will be, he added. Xi also mentioned Comrade Jiang Zemin, saying Jiang passed away on Wednesday in Shanghai due to illness after medical treatment had failed. During his tenure as China's state leader, Comrade Jiang attached great importance to the development of China-EU relations. He visited European countries many times, maintained close contact with leaders of the EU and European countries, promoted the establishment of the China-EU leaders' meeting mechanism, and promoted dialogue and cooperation between the two sides in various fields.—Xinhua

US, France vow to settle spat over green industry subsidies

PRESIDENT Joe Biden said Thursday US support for green industry was not intended to be at Europe's expense as he and French leader Emmanuel Macron pledged to surmount a serious transatlantic trade dispute. Speaking after summit talks at the White House, both stressed cooperation amid European Union concern that Biden's landmark Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) was anti-competitive and would cost European jobs, especially in the energy and auto sectors. "We agreed to discuss practical steps to coordinate and align our approaches so that we can strengthen and secure the supply chains, manufacturing and innovation on both sides of the Atlantic," Biden said in a joint news conference. Biden said he would not apologize for the \$430 billion IRA passed in August that largely fo-

cuses investments and investment support on climate and social spending. But he said the IRA was never intended to disadvantage any US allies. Instead, it aimed at strengthening industrial supply chains together with partners like Europe to protect against the kind of economic vulnerabilities that surfaced during the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.—AFP



What is the "Inflation Reduction Act" which worries Europeans so much? PHOTO: AFP/FILE

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russian booksellers 'worried' by spectre of censorship



Many publishers like Kopyov are waiting for authorities to clarify what they believe is LGBTQ 'propaganda' or not. PHOTO: ALEXANDER NEMENOV /AFP

RUSSIAN publishers at a leading Moscow bookfair told AFP Thursday they were "all very worried" by new restrictions and feared the return of Soviet-like censorship. Since President Vladimir Putin sent troops to Ukraine on

24 February, Russian authorities have strengthened controls on the flow of information, including in the arts. Last week, lawmakers approved a bill banning all forms of LGBTQ "propaganda" in books, films, the media and the internet. Authorities also want to ban the sale to minors of books written by "foreign agents" -- a label given to Kremlin critics and activists, but also to a growing number of writers. Leading novelists like science fiction writer Dmitry Glukhovsky and historical fiction novelist Boris Akunin have been slapped with the tag, which has Stalin-era connotations.—AFP

Ukraine war shows Europe 'not strong enough': Finnish PM

FINNISH Prime Minister Sanna Marin on Friday offered a "brutally honest" assessment of Europe's capabilities in the wake of Russia's war on Ukraine, stating bluntly that "we're not strong enough" to stand up to Moscow alone. Visiting Australia, the leader of the pending NATO member said Vladimir Putin's invasion and occupation of neighbouring Ukraine had exposed both European weaknesses and strategic blunders in dealing with Russia. "I must be very honest, brutally honest with you, Europe isn't strong enough right now. We would be in trouble without the United States," she told Sydney's Lowy Institute think tank. Marin insisted Ukraine must be given "whatever it takes" to win the war, adding that the United States had been pivotal in supplying Kyiv with the weapons, finance and humanitarian aid necessary to blunt Russia's advance. "We have to make sure that we are also building those capabilities when it comes to European defence, the European defence industry, and making sure that we could cope in different kinds of situations," she said.—AFP

Tea culture in Azerbaijan and Türkiye added to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list

THE culture of tea practised in both Türkiye and Azerbaijan was on Thursday added to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list, recognized as a symbol of "identity, hospitality and social interaction".

Black tea, taken at all hours of the day across Türkiye, is traditionally prepared in small samovars, and served in small, tulip-shaped glasses that can be cupped in the palm of the hand.

The UN's cultural organization acknowledged the ceremo-

ny's strong social significance in its statement announcing the decision.

"Tea culture in Azerbaijan and Türkiye is an important social practice that shows hospitality, builds and maintains social ties, and is used to celebrate important moments in the lives of communities," it said.

It is taken in bazaars across the country, where tea-sellers still walk the streets of cities serving the drink to traders and their customers on metal trays.

In some parts of Azerbaijan, UNESCO noted, people add spices and herbs such as cinnamon, ginger and thyme.

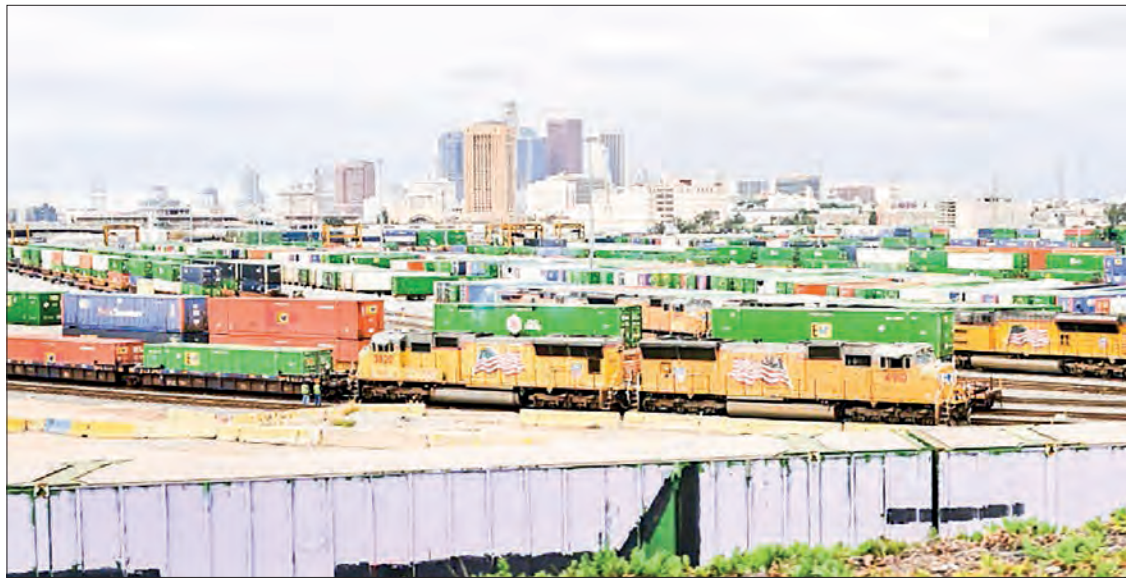
"Tea culture is an essential part of daily life for all layers of society, providing a strong sense of cultural identity," said the UNESCO statement.

Among the other traditional practices the UN acknowledged on Thursday was the "traditional tea processing techniques and associated social practices" in China.— AFP



Tea is taken in bazaars across the country, where tea-sellers still walk the streets of the city serving the drink to traders and their customers, in Istanbul, Türkiye. **PHOTO: AFP/OZAN KOSE/FILE**

US House approves bill to avert freight rail strike



A freight rail strike could have proved catastrophic during the critical pre-holiday period. **PHOTO: AFP**

LAWMAKERS in the US House of Representatives voted Wednesday to prevent a potentially catastrophic freight rail strike, stepping in to break an impasse between workers and executives during a critical pre-holiday period.

The bill, passed with a solid bipartisan majority, effectively forces hold-out unions to accept a September deal on increased wages, which a majority of unions had already

agreed to.

The bill must now go to the Senate, where leaders of both parties have suggested they will move quickly to head off a disruption of the US rail system right before Christmas.

Congress is empowered under a 1926 law to resolve disputes between railroads and labour unions, as part of its power to regulate commerce.

President Joe Biden praised the bipartisan vote to

avert a shutdown that "would devastate our economy and families everywhere," but said the measure must pass swiftly.

"Without more action, supply chain disruptions will begin," Biden said on Twitter. "The Senate must urgently send a bill to my desk."

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told a press briefing that Biden expects the bill to reach him by next weekend.—AFP

'Rogue wave' kills person on Antarctic cruise

ONE person died and four were injured when a massive wave smashed into an Antarctic cruise ship during a storm as it sailed off the southernmost tip of South America, the company said Thursday.

The Viking Polaris cruise ship was sailing Wednesday towards Ushuaia in Argentina – the main starting point for expeditions to Antarctica – when there was "a rogue wave incident," a representative of the Viking cruise company said in a statement.

"It is with great sadness

that we confirmed a guest passed away following the incident. We have notified the guest's family and shared our deepest sympathies," said the statement.

Four other tourists "sustained non-life-threatening injuries" and were treated onboard. The ship suffered minor damage and was anchored off Ushuaia, 3,200 kilometres (nearly 2,000 miles) from the capital Buenos Aires, with several windows smashed on the side, AFP journalists reported.—AFP



The Viking Polaris cruise ship anchors off the coast of Ushuaia in Argentina after one person died and four were hurt when the vessel was struck by a massive wave. **PHOTO: SAUL LOEB/AFP**

Ramaphosa in talks with ANC as his future hangs in the balance

PRESIDENT Cyril Ramaphosa was in talks with South Africa's ruling party late Thursday as pressure mounted for him to quit or be forced from office over a cash burglary at his farm that he allegedly covered up.

Ramaphosa "is looking at a number of options and... consulting with a number of role players" in the African National Congress (ANC), presidential spokesman Vincent Magwenya told journalists. The talks were unfolding on

the eve of an emergency session of the party's decision-making body to discuss the escalating crisis. "All options are on the table," Magwenya said. He said an announcement from Ramaphosa was "imminent", without adding

when exactly it would be made. But the president was not "panicking" and his decision would not be "rushed", Magwenya said. It would be made in the interest of the country and the government's "stability".

The national currency, the rand, fell nearly three per cent earlier as Ramaphosa cancelled a scheduled question-and-answer session in parliament following publication of a report into the scandal.—AFP



Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

ONE 164 featuring Tial Thang's bout to
kickstart today

ONE CHAMPIONSHIP 164 event featuring the Bantamweight fight of Myanmar MMA fighter Tial Thang will be held today at the Mall of Asia Arena in Manila, the Philippines.

The ONE Championship organization will split the event into two parts, with Part 1 containing five bouts and Part 2 presenting six bouts.

Part 2 will feature the main matches where Tial Thang will battle Filipino Pacatiw as the second match of Section 2.

As the main card of the event, the Strawweight world championship Joshua Pacio from the Philippines will take on Brooks from the United States starting from 7 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

As the second main event, the Flyweight Muay Thai World Grand Prix Final will be fought between two Thais, Superlek and Pampayak. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

Demands to prove correctness of FIFA's decision
on Japan vs Germany match rise

THERE is an uproar over Japan's second goal in the World Cup 2022 match between Japan and Germany, and there are increasing demands for FIFA to provide proof if they believe their decision is correct at the highest level of matches such as the World Cup.

Japan beat Spain 2-1 in the match, and Television shows the ball crossing the boundary line when Mitoma sent the ball towards his teammate Tanaka for the second goal.

Because of this situation, the referee did not give a goal, but it was determined as a goal during the VAR review.

"As the position of the ball was still on the line, it was assumed that the goal was awarded by VAR, but football commentators believe that the perspective of the referee's decision should be revealed, which is solid proof for fans around the world.

"Every broadcast studio, pundit reviewing a football match, and anyone interested in the World Cup will want to see these images. We saw in real-time how the ball went. The pictures we saw also looked like the ball had gone out.

"Why is FIFA not revealing the details of such a controversial issue? This hurt the Germans a lot. This is a big deal.



The video displays how the ball crosses the line before it was seen as a goal.

It's been a long time since the match and why can't they show the videos yet," said Son Nek, a veteran football commentator.

Because of the victory of the Japanese team, they entered the round of 16 as the group winners. If Japan had not conceded a goal and drawn, Germany would have qualified for the knockout stage over Japan. — Htun Htun/GNLM

Inspirational Adams: USA's
leader on & off pitch

CHRISTIAN Pulisic may have the "Captain America" nickname, but there is no doubt about who is the USA's leader at the World Cup. From the moment he was named skipper by US coach Gregg Berhalter on the eve of the tournament, Tyler Adams has been an inspirational captain — on and off the pitch.

The 23-year-old defensive midfielder was arguably the key figure in the USA's journey into the last 16, where they will face the Netherlands on Saturday at Doha's Khalifa Stadium. In Tuesday's nerve-shredding 1-0 win over Iran — the Leeds

midfielder was a towering presence, a beacon of calm authority in a game that ended with the Americans under siege. "His leadership has been vital to us from day one," Berhalter said. "In this World Cup, he's been extremely focused and his play has been outstanding over the course of these three games. He's been performing lights out. "When you start talking about captain types, Tyler fits a very specific role. He's the general, he's the strategist. He's the guy that goes out there and leads by example. When he talks, people listen."—AFP

World Cup 2022
Results

Uruguay	2-0	Ghana
S Korea	2-1	Portugal

