THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 232, 12 Waxing of Nattaw 1384 ME www.gnlm.com.mm Sunday, 4 December 2022

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

SAC Vice-Chair Dy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2022

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win speaks on the occasion of International Day of People with Disabilities 2022 in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 December 2022.

INTERNATIONAL Day of Persons with Disabilities 2022 was commemorated at 10 am yesterday at Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw, and National Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities Chairman State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win attended the ceremony and delivered a speech.

Also present on the occasion were the State Administration Council members, Union ministers, the commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command, the deputy ministers, the permanent secretaries, the directors-general, personnel from NGOs and INGOs, responsible personnel from the Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities, people living with disabilities, invitees and officials concerned.

The Vice-Senior General said inter alia that awareness of the affairs of the disabled is to be promoted, that December 3 has been designated as an international day by the United Nations and this day is celebrated worldwide every year to be able to provide assistance for the promotion of dignity, human rights and wellbeing of the disabled, that Myanmar, on its part, has been celebrating this day since 1994, that the motto of this year is, "Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world" and that technical assistance is to be sought to overcome the challenges.

The Vice-Senior General went on to say that the technology and innovation can promote accessibility and usability, that Myanmar ratified the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 7 December 2011, that the Incheon Strategy for Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (2013-2033) and the ASEAN Enabling Master Plan (2025) are being implemented, that under the Incheon Strategy, Myanmar has been designating the level of disability in Pobbathiri in Nay Pyi Taw, Hlinethaya in Yangon Region, Hpa-an in Kayin State and Hopong Township, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone in Shan State (South), that this activity will be continued to carry

SEE PAGE-3

Six tourism destinations in Sagaing Region attracts over 93,000 tourists, homegrown visitors in past 10 months

A total of 92,313 homegrown visitors and 1,180 tourists flocked to six tourism destinations in Sagaing Region between January and October 2022, according to the Sagaing Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

The regional tourism committee held a meeting on 30 November at the meeting hall of the Sagaing Region government office, with a view to ensuring the safe and sound travel of local visitors and tourists and creating jobs for local residents from tourism-dependent businesses.

The committee highlighted fair price of hotels and guesthouses, providing good service, keeping tourism sites clean, conservation of cultural heritage in the region, advertising travel destinations in the region on the website or other forms of Ads such as pamphlets, efforts to enhance the socioeconomy of the local community, transport and security conditions.

The famous tourist sites are Sagaing Hill, Sun U Ponnyashin, U Min Thonze (30 caves) Temple, Kantalu Pagoda, Kyauknaga Pagoda and Sheinmakar area. Mingun Yokeson monastery, Mingun bell and Myatheintan Pagoda.

There are 60 hotels and guesthouses operated under the Sagaing Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism in 11 townships.

There are six tourism zones in Sagaing Region: Sagaing, Monywa, Shwebo, Katha, Kalay and Khamti. Local pilgrims mostly flock to Zalon Taung and the reclining figure called the Alaungdaw Kathapa. Normally, those places are crowded with pilgrims during the high season. — Lu Lay/EMM

MITV debuts innovative setting design of news studio

A documentary group photo of the event.

AN inaugural ceremony of MITV's innovative setting design of News Studio was held at MITV News studio at the MRTV in Yangon.

MRTV Director-General U Ye Naing, Managing Director U Min Min of Shwe Thanlwin Media Company Limited and officials attended the event.

First, the MRTV director-general unveiled the MITV News Studio signboard and along with the Shwe Thanlwin MD cut the ribbon to introduce the Smart TV screen with the background innovative setting design.

Afterwards, they watched the documentary video about the structure of the innovative setting design for the news studio and viewed the beginning of news reporting.

MRTV and Shwe Thanlwin Media Company Limited have made joint efforts to develop the MITV channel and a new background setting of MITV News Studio has been built by a graphic designer from Thailand with the cost of K10 million.

MITV is the only channel broadcasting in English and has good programmes with local and world news being regularly broadcast daily from 7 am to 3 pm three times within 24 hours. — MNA

15 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 3 December, total figure rises to 633,296

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 633,296 after 15 new cases were reported on 3 December 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 607,821 including 21 new recoveries.

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

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

Daily laboratory examination showed decline of infection to less than 1 per cent for 18 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

MSME industries can lift manufacturing, substitute imports and hike exportation

MSMES aim to enhance manufacturing and import-substituting and increase the volume of export goods.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 8/2022 of the Union government on 1 November 2022)

SAC Vice-Chair Dy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2022

FROM PAGE-1

out in all townships across the country and that under the ASEAN Enabling Master Plan (2025), the Five-Year Strategic Project for Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2022-2027).

Vice-Senior General Soe Win also pointed out that the barrier-free environment and accessibility are needed to be considered in such doing, that the government has issued K3 billion to raise a revolving fund for the disabled, that the people living with disabilities are not to be excluded in political, economic, social, education, health and public affairs sectors, that they should be better integrated into the society and that the disabled do not need to be discouraged, facing bravely all the challenges, living a healthy life so that they can actively participate in the nation-building tasks.

Afterwards, the National Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities Vice-Chair Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine explained the activities carried out in respect to the effectuation of the rights of the disabled. Next, the video message sent by the United Nations Secretary-General was played followed by a video documentary commemorating International Day of People with Disabilities. Then, the Deputy PM Vice-Senior General presented prizes to winners of the article competition. Afterwards, SAC Members General Mya Tun Oo and Admiral Tin Aung San presented prizes to those who have won medals for enabling unhindered travel for the disabled. They then presented prizes to the Myanmar Sports Federation of Persons with Disabilities for winning medals and for being ranked sixth in the 11th ASEAN Sports Event for the Disabled in 2022.

Next, Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine presented prizes to those who have created job opportunities for the disabled. Afterwards, Chairman of the National Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win posed for a documentary group photo with those attending the ceremony. Next, the Vice-Senior General observed the books and documentary photos displayed, it is learnt.—MNA

The Vice-Senior General presents the prize to the winner of the commemorative article contest.

The Vice-Senior General views round the displayed books and documentary photos at the event.

Collective walk held for public sports month in Nay Pyi Taw

The public collective walk is in action in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE collective walk was held as a gesture of marking the public sports month of December 2022 at Wunna Theikdi Stadium yesterday morning.

State Administration Council Member Saw Daniel, Union ministers, deputy ministers, departmental officials, staff and families participated in the walking event.

They walked from Gate No 1 of Wunna Theikdi Stadium to Gate A according to designated routes and took part in the group physical fitness exercises parts 1 and 2, and physical fitness dance exercises. Then, officials from the Department of Sports and Physical Education provided water, Pocari Sweat electrolyte drinks and nutritious snacks.

The community walk will be held every Saturday in December, and employees from various ministries and their families will participate in the sports activity. — MNA

MoFA Union Minister signs condolence book on demise of Chinese ex-President Jiang Zemin

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin visited the Embassy of China to Myanmar at 10 am yesterday at No 1, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Dagon Township and signed the book of condolence open for the passing of former President of the People's Republic of China Mr Jiang Zemin.

The late president Mr Jiang Zemin was the president of the People's Republic of China from 1993 to 2003 and paid a State visit to Myanmar in 2001.— MNA

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin is pictured signing the book of condolence yesterday.

Kayin State govt receives MPEG Company Limited

KAYIN State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo, members and departmental officials met the MPEG Company Limited at the Kayin State government office at around 2 pm on 2 December.

At the meeting, MPEG Managing Director Daw Mya Kay Thi as a Kayin State representative presented the despatching of 50 to 200 agricultural workers per season according to the recruitment process of agricultural workers for seasonal crop cultivation in Korea. The chief minister directed to follow rules and policies of the Labour Law and coordinated with respective departments. — Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)/CT

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

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

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

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

Write for us

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

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

CURRENT AFFAIRS

MNA to launch Yangon-Chiang Mai-Yangon flight on 9 Dec

MYANMAR National Airlines (MNA) will launch flights from Yangon to Chiang Mai commencing on 9 December and the flight schedule is on Fridays and Sundays two times per week.

The launching ceremony will be held on 5 December and flight tickets can be purchased through www.flymna.com by Credit Card, Debit Card, MPU Card and 123 Service (over the counter, Mobile Banking, iBanking and Wallet).

An advert of MNA's Yangon-Chiang Mai-Yangon flight.

MNA sells a one-way Yangon-Bangkok flight ticket with a starter of US$40 with full services as a special promotion for New Year's Eve. In addition, MNA and King Power have jointly planned a promotion from 1 September to 31 December with a 15-per cent discount on the first buy by showing MNA's international boarding pass at the King Power duty-free shops.

MNA operated Yangon-Gaya-Yangon and Yangon-Bangkok flights on 4 November, and domestic flights from Yangon to Kawthoung and Lashio are also under operation. Passengers can surf www.flymna.com for flight dates and times. — TWA/MKKS

An aerial view of the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda festival in 2017.

Magway to hold Mann Shwesettaw Buddha Pujaniya festival in Feb

THE festival of the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda in Minbu (Sagu) Township of Minbu District in Magway Region will be held on 5 February 2023, according to the festival committee.

The Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda festival was temporarily suspended in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic and reopened in 2021.

During the pagoda festival, travellers and pilgrims coming from across the country are allowed to spend the night in lodgings as per specified rules.

The Mann Shwesettaw Buddha Pujaniya festival is held from the fifth waxing day of Tabodwe to the first day of the Myanmar New Year. —TWA/KZW

MoH resumes kidney transplant operation

THE Ministry of Health has announced that kidney transplant operation, which has been suspended due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic since February 2020, has now resumed as a gesture of hailing Diamond Jubilee Independence Day.

On 29 November 2019, a 23-year-old female patient and a 25-year-old twins donor underwent a kidney transplant operation at the 500-bed Yangon Speciality Hospital.

The kidney transplant was successfully completed, and the patient and the kidney donor are in good health and are being monitored and treated in the intensive care unit.

Kidney transplant operation has been started in the 500-bed Yangon Speciality Hospital since 2014. A total of 54 successful surgeries have been performed during seven years from 2014 to 2020.

The first paediatric kidney transplant in Myanmar was performed on two patients with chronic kidney disease from the 300-bed Children's Hospital in Mandalay on 24 and 25 February at the Urology and Kidney Surgery Ward of Mandalay Hospital. — TWA/KZL

The first child kidney transplant was operated on at the Urology and Kidney Surgery Ward of Mandalay Hospital, and specialists, doctors and nurses on duty were seen being happy about the successful operation.

External demand for Myanma coffee on the rise

coffee seedlings are seen on a coffee farm.

AS the country receives high raw coffee bean demand from foreign countries, there are no more raw products in the country, according to Myanmar Coffee Association.

The country exports 75 per cent of raw coffee beans this year and the transactions are in good condition at good prices for high foreign demand. The plantation rate is also increased to nearly 10 per cent from previous years, according to the association.

The government will grant loans to the coffee growers at proper interest rates, said Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing during the meeting with coffee businesspeople in PyinOoLwin on 2 December.

'The coffee season starts in November. Locally produced coffee fetches good prices in foreign countries. They order raw materials from other countries and produce the finished products. So, they import raw coffee beans from Myanmar. We need to produce high-quality finished coffee products and grab a certain rank as Myanma Coffee in the global market," said a coffee entrepreneur.

This year, the coffee production rate in the world has declined and Myanma coffee can get good prices and there would be high cultivation for good climate conditions. Myanma coffee is marketed to 16 countries including the US, Canada, Switzerland, Dubai, South Korea, China, Japan and Germany.

The country produces between 8,000 and 10,000 tonnes of coffee yearly and the coffee is priced around US$8,300 per tonne at the maximum and about $5,500 per tonne at the minimum.

Although the coffee demand from foreign countries declined during the outbreak of COVID-19, it is on the rise again this year.

Ninety per cent of the coffee production in Myanmar is Arabica coffee. Shan State and Mandalay Region produce the majority of coffee and the country has 49,000 acres of coffee plantations including Robusta coffee. — TWA/KTZH

LOCAL BUSINESS

Pigeon pea price reaches below K1.9 mln while black gram below K1.7 mln

IN the Yangon bean market, prices of four types of beans declined on 30 November and the black gram FAQ/RC rose to above K1.7 million per tonne on 3 December while the pigeon pea prices reached below K1.9 million per tonne.

On 30 November, the black gram FAQ/RC was priced at K1,690,000 per tonne and SQ at K1,935,000 per tonne while the pigeon pea Red/RC was K1,900,000 per tonne, K2,915-3,000 per tonne of mung bean (Htatesa) and K3,950-4,150 per viss of chickpea. On 3 December, the black bean was K1,725,000 per tonne and K1,965,000 per tonne of SQ/RC, K1,835,000 per tonne of pigeon pea, K2,830-3,000 per tonne of mung bean (Htatesa) and K3,900-4,150 per viss of chickpea, according to the daily market prices of wholesale centres.

The black gram prices reached above K1.7 million per tonne starting on 6 August and it dropped under K1.7 million on 30 November and 1 December and it rose again above K1.7 million beginning 2 December.

The pigeon pea price was under K1.9 million per tonne between 11 and 25 November and it reached K1.9 million and above between 28 November and 2 December.

However, it declined under K1.9 million on 3 December. The price of mung bean (Htatesa) was K3,165-3,335 per viss on 29 October, K3,000-3,170 on 1 November and K3,000-3,085 on 10 November. It was only K2,915-3,000 on 30 November.

A bean wholesale shop is seen in the Yangon market.

The price of chickpeas was K4,150-4,350 per viss on 11 November and only K3,950-4,150 recently.

On 30 November, the sales of beans in the Yangon market were five containers of black gram FAQ, 10 containers of black gram SQ while 20 containers on 28 November and five containers on 29 November. The sales were totally silent on 26 November. The black gram and pigeon pea transactions were also at a standstill on 1, 2 and 3 December.

On 24 November, the FOB bean prices were US$735-755 per tonne of black gram, $860-880 per tonne of SQ, and $790-810 per tonne of pigeon pea FAQ. Between 28 and 30 November, prices were $730-750 per tonne of black gram FAQ, $850-870 per tonne of SQ and $790-810 per tonne of pigeon pea FAQ.

Between 1 and 3 December, it was $725-745 per tonne of black gram FAQ, $820-840 per tonne of SQ and $780-800 per tonne of pigeon pea FAQ.

The new black gram and pigeon peas are entering markets and prices are changing in the Yangon market daily. The countryside markets make sales depending on the daily market prices of Yangon, said bean merchants from Hinthada Township. — TWA/KTZH

Govt introduces Manifest Form along trade routes to curb illicit trading

THE Manifest Form system is launched for trade routes to control and prevent illegal trade, according to Myanmar Highway Freight Transport Service Entrepreneurs Association.

The Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee implemented the procedures of Manifest Form to identify the local trucks and export/import trucks and for conducting checks at inspection camps easily, controlling and preventing illegal trade and to be exact from systems of each truck on 1 December and the committee informed the association on 25 November.

The pilot project for Manifest Form was launched on 1 December for six months on Myawady-Yangon and Muse-Mandalay trade routes, according to the statement of the Customs Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance released on 25 November.

The statement said the Manifest granted by each organization will be compiled on a daily, weekly and monthly basis and the difficulties, weaknesses, advantages and suggestions for using the form will be recorded.

The members must follow the instructions of Manifest and can get the forms at Myanmar Highway Freight Transport Service Entrepreneurs Association.

The Manifest Form is available at Myanmar Highway Freight Transportation Service Entrepreneurs Association in Yangon, Mandalay, Kayin State-Myawady border, northern Shan State-Muse border, southern Shan State-Taunggyi, Bago Region, Myitkyina of Kachin State.

The Manifest expresses the type of products, amount, packaging system and prices in detail and it can pass the inspection camps easily without delays. Officials will open only the suspected products so it can reduce the losses. Moreover, the Manifest can build trust between authorities, owners and organizations. — NN/KTZH

Sugar price persists rise amid domestic milling season

DOMESTIC sugar mills usually start running at the end of the year — November and December — and have a clearance sale to get rid of their old sugar stocks. Thus, the sugar price usually slumps in the domestic sugar market.

However, the wholesale sugar is still high price at around K2,500 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in November and December 2022, the GNLM quoted a sugar and jaggery seller, Daw Shan Ma, on Aungthapyae street in the Bayintnaung Market.

The popular sugar brand from northern Shan ern State was priced at K2,500-K2,520 per viss and other brands at K2,480 per viss, at the Yangon Market on 2 December 2022. Sugar produced from sugar mills in the Bago region had brisk sales around 2015, whereas the current price only hit K2,400-K2,430 per viss.

One of the sugar brands in the Yangon market printed three production dates on their products clearly and fetched the average price of around K2,300 per viss.

The Mandalay sugar market listed that the price of sugar per viss is K2,420. Thus, the sugar price in Yangon reached K2,500 per viss including the freight charge. The retail price of sugar (white and brown) at the shopping centres was K950 per 400-gramme bag, a customer stated.

The sugar price had risen in the domestic market in October 2010, 2016 and 2017, and dropped back to below K1,000 per viss in 2014, 2018 and 2019. The price of sugar soared again around mid-2021 and hit the highest rate of the sugar market in 2022 with K2,550 per viss. As the sugar price was high, some mills purchased sugarcane at a high price.

Domestic usage for sugar has around 450,000 tonnes per year. External trade has been done since around 500,000 tonnes of sugar are produced each year. Although the price of sugar stood up, the jaggery price is falling. On 2 December 2022, wholesale prices of NyaungU jaggery with additives, jaggery from the Mahlaing area, raw jaggery from Pakokku and bleached jaggery from Yesakyo fetched K3,300, K2,900, K3,250 and K3,200-K3,700 per viss respectively. — TWA/CT

Lorries are seen delivering sugarcane to the Pyinmana sugar mill.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Summer onion price inches higher to K5,100 per viss

THE price of summer old onions (large size) inflated from K4,900 to K5,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the Yangon wholesale markets.

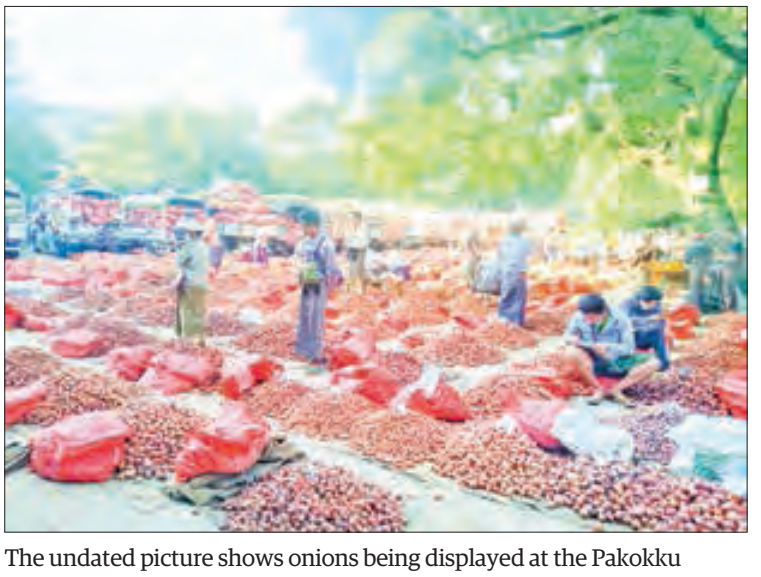
On 2 December 2022, over 100,000 visses of onions were supplied to the Yangon market, with K50,000 viss each of new onions and old onions and K5,000 viss of Chinese onions.

The wholesale prices stood at K4,000-5,100 per viss of old onions from the Myingyan area, K3,600-4,800 per viss from the Seikphyu area, K3,300-4,400 per viss of new onions from the Myingyan area, K3,600-4,700 per viss of Myittha onions and K3,000 per viss of Chinese onions (which is similar to onions from Myittha area).

Following the entry of 116,964 visses of new onions to Pakokku Commodity Centre on 2 December, the maximum price was K3,250 per viss. At Myingyan Commodity Centre, they were priced the highest at K3,500 and the lowest at K1,500 per viss.

The highest price of onions from Myittha was K3,800 per viss in the Mandalay market. High prices in regions outside Yangon pushed up the prices in the Yangon market as well, Ko Thein Win, an onion seller at Baying Naung Wholesale Market, told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The onion-producing countries are facing a drop in outputs due to the weather impacts. The prices are on the rise in those countries, according to foreign grocery market news.



The undated picture shows onions being displayed at the Pakokku wholesale market.

In 2019, onion price hit a record high of K3,500 per viss on the back of strong demand by Bangladesh. At the end of October this year, the price (around K2,000 per viss) in Bangladesh decreased by half compared to the market price (K4,200) in Myanmar.

The price in China also increased from 2.3 Yuan in end-October to 3.2 Yuan in early December. The Yuan exchange rate is K296.3 so Chinese onions fetch K1,450 per viss these days.

Despite the entry of new monsoon onions, the onion price is still strong. The summer onions that are being cultivated are expected to enter the market at high prices. It is the same occurrence that millers and traders of paddy had to buy new monsoon paddy at a higher price.

Consequently, traders will sell them back by raising the price more for sure. Hopefully, we can reach the market price. Most of the consumers are muttering about the inflation of locally produced rice and onions for two years and calling for a fair market scheme. — TWA/EMM

Chilli prices persist fall during new crop season

AMONG high-priced kitchen goods, new chillies and onions entered the market. However, their prices did not drop, according to the market.

There is little chance that prices in the same period of 2023 will match the typical prices of previous years. Edible oil, Kyukok garlic and potatoes are falling in price despite the rise in prices of chillies and onions.

Therefore, a broker requested consumers to buy chillies and onions with patience. Prices of old summer onions and chillies reached the highest rates ever seen in the trading business after mid-2022, Ko Phyo, a local trader, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Although chilli peppers entered the market at the end of 2022, the price did not drop significantly, said Ko Phyo. The price of long chilli pepper is usually around K3,000 to K5,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the new season, while bell pepper is around K8,000 to K10,000 per viss. Meantime, the wholesale prices of cold storage bell peppers and Panye Hmyani cold storage chilli fetched K3,1000 and K2,2000 per viss respectively in mid-2022.

The wholesale prices of newly released chilli varieties — Sinphyukyun bell pepper, Thazi bell pepper, Thedaw bell pepper and Shan Buu Soe chilli — stood at K28,000-K29,000, K22,200, K20,000 and K20,000 per viss separately. Although there is a slight drop in prices of Shan Buu Soe chilli, Thazi bell pepper and Thedaw bell pepper, it has not reached around K10,000 per viss.

The price of the new Panye long chilli pepper is around K20,000 per viss despite its low quality. Long chilli pepper from Shan State and Moehtaung chilli from various regions are currently priced at around K15,500 per viss and K13,000-K13,500 per viss.

A broker stated that the price will be much higher than the same period in regular years when the new delta chillies start to enter the market in summer.

As prices of chillies and onions are expected to soar in 2023, there is a possibility that traders will have to purchase them at higher prices than usual. Chilli growers benefit from the prices given by traders.

However, respective organizations should monitor and control to create a balance between traders and consumers since consumers have to buy high-priced kitchen goods for two consecutive years as reviewed by a market researcher. — TWA/EMM

The prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 3 December 2022

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K 1,965
Octane 95	K 2,040
Diesel	K 2,400
Premium Diesel	K 2,475

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K 2,117,000 per tical
HIGH-purity gold in the GOLD market	K 2,675,000 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 2,840 to K 2,870

The above prices may change from time to time.

OPINION

Electrify the people in summer without waste and loss

ELECTRICITY is essential for modernizing the country in order to uplift the living standard of the people, operating all kinds of manufacturing industries. If the country cannot consume electricity at full capacity, such a country will lag behind in development.

As a least developed country, Myanmar needs to systematically arrange the supply of electricity for public consumption and for the manufacturing industries. The country needs to strive for utilizing many kinds of renewable energy such as wind power, solar power and hydropower to electrify the nation.

> The smooth electrification process is a good daily service for people. It can polish the image of the nation. In truth, systematic power consumption by the people is playing a pivotal role in the national electrification system. That is why both the government and the people should take responsibility for supplying quality and stable electricity to the whole nation all year round.

Among many regions and states, the Yangon Region consumes the largest load of electricity on a yearly basis due to the largest population and number of industries. As such, it is necessary to arrange the systematic supply of electricity in the Yangon Region in three major seasons.

During monsoon and cold seasons, hydropower power plants across the nation can feed their electricity to the national grid which can electrify all parts of the nation in an appropriate ratio.

In fact, the supply of electricity is a critical point for feeding the people in summer when declining water sources cannot help operate hydropower plants in full swing. Consequently, the output of these power plants cannot meet the target production. So, the supply of electricity in summer cannot meet the ratio in monsoon in all parts of the nation, especially in the Yangon Region.

In summer, although the power plants cannot generate electricity to be able to meet the daily demand of the people, proper plans must be schemed for sharing electricity with the people based on the timetables. In this regard, it is necessary to take care of losing electricity deserved to be supplied to the people in accord with the timetables. As such, maintenance, servicing and upgrade works should be done in time at sub-power stations and power cables not to cause outages and loss of electricity for designated areas.

Moreover, it is necessary to arrange the electrification process through reserved lines to be able to regularly supply electricity and not waste time and manpower not only for the power generation industries but for the people if a false of cables happens. If so, the operation of industries and daily consumption of the people will have to run smooth procedures.

The smooth electrification process is a good daily service for people. It can polish the image of the nation. In truth, systematic power consumption by the people is playing a pivotal role in the national electrification system. That is why both the government and the people should take responsibility for supplying quality and stable electricity to the whole nation all year round. ■

COVID-19 emergency phase closer to end despite Omicron transmission: WHO

WHO's statistics has shown that the number of weekly deaths reported to it has declined slightly over the past five weeks, but more than 8,500 people lost their lives last week.

Travellers with face masks walk past a sign showing the location for COVID-19 testing at Vancouver International Airport in Richmond, Canada, on 26 Sept 2022. **PHOTO: LIANG SEN/XINHUA**

THE World Health Organization (WHO) said Friday that the world was "much closer" to end the emergency phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, while also warning that Omicron was still circulating rampantly around the world and continued to cause significant mortality.

"We are much closer to being able to say that the emergency phase of the pandemic is over -- but we're not there yet," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at a press briefing here.

The reason behind is that "Omicron has proved to be significantly more transmissible than its predecessor, Delta, and continues to cause significant mortality due to the intensity of transmission".

Meanwhile, "gaps in surveillance, testing, sequencing and vaccination are continuing to create the perfect conditions for a new variant of concern to emerge that could cause significant mortality," Tedros added.

WHO's statistics has shown that the number of weekly deaths reported to it has declined slightly over the past five weeks, but more than 8,500 people lost their lives last week.

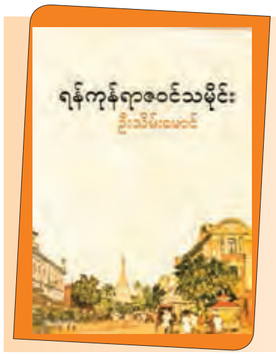
It's "not acceptable three years into the pandemic, when we have so many tools to prevent infections and save lives," he said. The WHO chief, however, admitted that Omicron, of which over 500 sublineages are circulating, tends to cause less severe disease than previous variants of concern.

WHO estimates that at least 90 per cent of the world's population now has some level of immunity to SARS-CoV-2, due to prior infection or vaccination.

According to Maria Van Kerkhove, technical lead of the WHO's Health Emergencies Programme, at least 2.5 million cases worldwide were reported to WHO in the last week alone, but that number was a gross under-estimate of the circulation of the virus around the world. Some estimates from wastewater data has suggested that the number of new cases could be as much as five times higher in some countries, meaning the virus is still circulating rampantly around the globe.

SOURCE: Xinhua

ARTICLE
BOOKRACK



Book Title	-	A vast chronicle of Yangon history
Author	-	U Thein Maung
Publishing House	-	Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date	-	October 2017 (republication)
Price	-	K6,000

A vast chronicle of Yangon history

THIS week's pick is for historians. It is "A vast chronicle of Yangon history" by U Thein Maung.

This book unveiled fascinating events, obscure facts and fun details about Yangon. The author's witty and innovative approach will capture the interests of the readers. The publisher Zwe U Tun Shein remarked in the first edition that many consider history as boring and uninteresting facts. He frankly shared his opinion about the history book and requested the author to stimulate the readers' attention and take readers on an entertaining and enlightening journey on Yangon's history, regardless of readers' background knowledge.

This book presents history, politics, religions, economics, arts and prominent events that happened in Yangon. For instance, the most sacred and majestic Shwedagon Pagoda, the landmark of Yangon, plays a pivotal role in Yangon's history. The book revealed starting from the foundation of the Pagoda to the enshrined treasure that British soldiers stole from pagodas including the Shwedagon Pagoda. One of them is the British official: King Bell. People raised criticism over a road near the pagoda, which was named Kingbell, to change its name. Moreover, a tiger's visit to the Shwedagon Pagoda, fire incidents at staircases of the Shwedagon Pagoda and the first trustees' board of the pagoda with eight members of Myanmar nationals are featured in this book.

Under the rule of acting governor Sir J A Maung Gyi of British Burma in 1930, the then Interior Department released a statement that the term Mon was to be used instead of Talaing. Thereafter, people claimed that the Mon race is not Talaing. Likewise, Talaing is not related to Mon. The readers will vividly see how the Talaing race emerged from the mixed ethnicity of the migrants from India with residents living in southern Myanmar's coastal regions, with solid facts.

Those two people narrated their experiences and the situations of Yangon in the Konbaung dynasty and the rule of King Alaungpaya. Additionally, the book revealed Yangon's situation during Missionary Mr Bell Nak's visit, 78 years after the establishment of the first Yangon (20 years before the second war between Burma and Great Britain).

The book entitled " A vast chronicle of Yangon history" contains 23 parts, with Okkala King and Shwedagon in Part 1, Is Yangon Okkalapa? in Part 2, Life of Mon and Okkala in Part 3, A story of King who grew up in Dagon in Part 4, Dagon and Shinsawpu in Part 5, Yangon and Alaungpaya in Part 6, the first Yangon under the kings of the Konbaung dynasty in Part 7, the second Yangon under kings of the Konbaung dynasty in Part 8,The first era of Yangon under British rule in Part 9, The beginning of Politics from Yangon in Part 10, Yangon during pre-war period in Part 11, Shwedagon Pagoda and the series of problems in Part 12, Yangon under Japanese rule in Part 13, Yangon and Myanmar flag in Part 14, Yangon during the post-war period in Part 15, The notorious massacre in Yangon in Part 16, Yangon's artefact in Part 17, Nay Pyi Taw Transport in Part 18, On land of Yangon in Part 19, Buddhism arises in Part 20, Tradition and innovation in theatre in Part 21, Creature in Yangon in Part 22 and View and features of Yangon on Peasants' Day (2 March).

Seikku Cho Cho Publishing House republished this book with 440 pages and decorated it with a double card book cover and additional photos. ■

Book Title	-	Reminiscing about Yitkangyi Village
Author	-	Chit San Win
Publishing House	-	Tar Moe Nyel
Publication Date	-	March 2020 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K5,000

Reminiscing about Yitkangyi Village

THE world countries are keeping their eyes on Myanmar as it is a country of great ethnic diversity, rich in natural resources, tradition and culture. Foreigners eye rural sites rather than urban areas. They like to learn about the living styles of rural communities that contrasted with the urban people. This book can make the readers visualize the astonishing scenic view of Myanmar's rural sites and the customs of Myanmar people.

This book marked the 80-year birthday of the writer Chit San Win who received the National Literary Award twice, the Pakokku U Ohn Phay Literary Award, the Thuta Swesone Literary Award, the National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement and the Tun Foundation Literary Award. It is the 200th book of the writer.

Maung Khin Min (Danuphyu), Sinphyukyun Aung Thein, Dr Maung Maung Nyo, Chit Oo Nyo, Chit Naing (Psychology), Maung Thway Thit, Ma Sandar and Kyaw Win (Anthropology) gave remarks in preamble respectively. Dr Maung Maung Nyo introduced this stating, "Don't ever undermine Yitkangyi village. The history of the village disclosures that it was where Wareru, the founder of the Martaban Kingdom, took the Siamese princess, where commander Minye Kyawswa was hit by the halberd and fell from the elephant, and home to Yenganpaing U Shin Gyi (spirit who guards saltwater). The story of Mon's race is unveiled in it. Chit San Win's writing style expresses a message simply and clearly, yet evokes emotions. Other appealing stories are also included in the book.

All the details of the life experiences of the author at his young age with background stories of Yitkangyi Village are exposed in the book. The small pieces make the big picture of Yitkangyi Village to make the readers become visible and imagine it. Even the author himself is longing for the feelings of the Yitkangyi Village.

I was reminded of Mon-Myanmar stories that my grandmother told me while reading a Razadarit chronicle. I reminisced about my Mon-Myanmar village.

"This time, it is time to harvest. Pounding sticky rice flakes in the wok gives you a delicacy. I miss my aunt who shakes a tray of sticky rice flakes to clear sand and stone. In the longing for the village and my grandmother, I continued to write this piece of writing.

This book contains nearly 40 parts with 400 pages, decorated with a double card book cover. Furthermore, a variety of colour photos and documentary black and white photos are presented in order of their occurrences. Thus, the readers can envisage the beauty of the Yitkangyi Village strikingly. ■

ENVIRON WORLD

Energy crisis driving climate-friendly power savings: IEA

RUSSIA'S invasion of Ukraine has driven countries across the world to boost energy efficiency, creating "huge potential" to tackle high prices, security and climate change, the IEA said on Friday.

Governments have scaled up fossil fuel subsidies to cushion the impact of rising energy costs on households in the wake of the Ukraine conflict, which has disrupted gas supplies and stoked prices.

But a new report from the International Energy Agency found that it had also prompted policymakers and consumers to shrink their power use, causing record investment in energy efficiency measures, like building renovations, and infrastructure for public transport and electric cars.

IEA executive director Fatih Birol said after the oil shocks of the 1970s, governments pushed "substantial improvements" in energy efficiency, particularly in cars, appliances and buildings.

"Amid today's energy crisis, we are seeing signs that energy efficiency is once again being prioritised," he said.

"Energy efficiency is essential for dealing with today's crisis, with its huge potential to help tackle the challenges of energy affordability, energy security and climate change."

According to the IEA research, governments, industry and households invested a record $560 billion this year in energy efficiency measures.—AFP

This energy-efficient system sucks warm air from outside to heat air/water inside the building. **PHOTO: AFP**

On Ischia, illegal construction blamed for deadly landslide

A wave of mud and debris swept through the small town of Casamicciola Terme, following heavy rains on Ischia. **PHOTO: AFP**

ISCHIA, the little Italian island hit by a deadly landslide last weekend, is a victim of geography and weather but also of illegal construction, experts and politicians agree.

Eleven people died and one woman remains missing after a wave of mud and debris swept through the small town of Casamicciola Terme, following heavy rains across the lush island off the coast of Naples.

But WWF Italia, the environmental organization, said it was a "predictable tragedy, with specific causes and responsibilities".

It blamed the "repeated and irresponsible management of the island's territory which, with the acceleration of the effects of climate change under way, has now become a bomb primed and ready to explode".

"It sounds like hypocrisy to mourn the victims of recent days, when we continue to build where we should not."

Experts say that both illegal and legal construction, combined with deforestation, reduces the ability of the soil to absorb large quantities of water.

Buildings erected without permission is a widespread problem across Italy.

The minister for civil protection, Nello Musumeci, acknowledged this week that "the sad and widespread problem of illegal construction" is a subject that "can no longer be avoided".

But Ischia, an island of volcanic origin which suffered a deadly earthquake in 2017, is particularly vulnerable.

Some "49 per cent of the territory of Ischia is classified as at a high or very high risk of landslide... with more than 13,000 people living in these areas", Environment Minister Gilberto Pichetto said.

According to the latest report from the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA), 93.9 per cent of Italian communes are at risk of landslides, flooding or coastal erosion.—AFP

Ecuador seeks to protect unique Galapagos birds from flu

ECUADOR has put in place a plan to try and protect its unique wild bird species on the Galapagos islands from the H5N1 virus also rampaging through Europe and North America.

The bird flu virus reached South America via migratory wild birds in recent weeks, impacting mainly Peru, where thousands of pelicans and other seabirds have died, and Ecuador, which has ordered the culling of 180,000 farm birds.

The director of the Galapagos National Park, Danny Rueda, said in a statement that "permanent monitoring has been arranged in areas with the most seabirds," including all tourism hotspots. The Galapagos is a bird-watchers paradise for the scores of unique and colorful birds found on the archipelago, such as the blue-footed booby with its quirky mating rituals, and endemic penguin, cormorant and albatross species.—AFP

The Galapagos Islands are home to blue-footed boobies. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Hawaii volcano sprays fountains of lava in spectacular eruption

FOUNTAINS of lava and rivers of molten rock were spewing from the world's biggest volcano Friday, as the first eruption there in almost four decades showed no signs of abating.

Two fissures on Mauna Loa were venting huge volumes of viscous rock and gases from deep within the Earth, in a thunderous display of the power of nature.

Vulcanologists said they were watching lava flows heading towards a highway on Hawaii's largest island, though they still believe the eruption, which began Sunday, posed no immediate threat to humans.

"The Northeast Rift Zone eruption of Mauna Loa continues, with two active fissures feeding lava flows downslope," the United States Geological Survey (USGS) said on Thursday.

"Fissure 3 remains the dominant source of the largest lava flow. The fissure 3 lava flows are traveling to the north toward the Daniel K. Inouye Highway (Saddle Road) but have reached relatively flatter ground and have slowed down significantly as expected."

The molten rock was travelling at around 130 feet (40 metres) per hour and was still a few miles (kilometres) from the road.

"Advance rates may be highly variable over the coming days and weeks due to the way lava is emplaced on flat ground," the USGS said.—AFP

WHO 'pleased' with China's loosening of zero-Covid

Health workers, wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), stand at a check point next to a neighbourhood during a COVID-19 lockdown in the Jing'an district in Shanghai on 8 April 2022. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE World Health Organization has cheered China's loosening of its zero-Covid policy, with cities across the country making further moves towards unwinding some restrictions after days of unprecedented protests against the measures.

President Xi Jinping suggested the spread of the less lethal Omicron strain might allow China to ease its strategy of lockdowns and mass testing, senior EU officials reported Friday.

The World Health Organization was "pleased to learn that the Chinese authorities are adjusting their current strategies", balancing control measures with the lives of communities who have "suffered", WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan told reporters Friday. Chinese government officials had signalled a broader relaxation of the zero-Covid policy could be in the works. Speaking at the National Health Commission Wednesday, Vice-Premier Sun Chunlan said the Omicron variant was weakening and vaccination rates were improving, according to state-run Xinhua news agency.— AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

WHO estimates 90% have some resistance to Covid

THE WHO estimated Friday that 90 per cent of the world population now had some resistance to Covid-19, but warned that a troubling new variant could still emerge.

Gaps in vigilance were leaving the door open for a new virus variant to appear and overtake the globally dominant Omicron, said World Health Organization director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "WHO estimates that at least 90 per cent of the world's population now has some level of immunity to SARS-CoV-2, due to prior infection or vaccination," said Tedros, referring to the virus that causes Covid-19 disease.—AFP

EU bans cough syrup chemical from sale in Luxembourg

COUGH medicines containing the chemical pholcodine, which have been on sale in Luxembourg and other EU countries, should be withdrawn from sale, the EU's drug regulator said on Friday.

This is due to the risk of potentially deadly allergic reactions in people under general anaesthetic. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) recommended that treatments containing pholcodine, which is used in adults and children to treat dry coughs, should be withdrawn from sale.—AFP

UK's COVID-19 cases top one million again

THE number of COVID-19 cases in the United Kingdom (UK) has risen above one million once again, in a worrying sign of a new winter wave, official figures showed on Friday.

The number of people in the UK testing positive for COVID-19 rose by six per cent in the week to 21 November. This was up from 972,400 for the previous seven-day period, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

It is the first increase in nationwide infections since the week ending 17 October.

There has been a 40 per cent jump in the number of patients in hospital with flu compared to the previous week, according to weekly figures from Britain's National Health Service (NHS). This follows a warning from clinical leaders that the NHS is facing the threat of a "tripledemic" of COVID-19, flu and record demand on urgent and emergency services. Hospital admission rates and intensive care admission rates have increased further in the last week, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) said on Thursday.—Xinhua

Ambulances are seen in a hospital in London, Britain, 27 March 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/LI YING**

Face masks help prevent spread of respiratory infections: study

A woman wearing a face mask and gloves commutes on a train in Hong Kong. **PHOTO: AFP**

FACE masks can help prevent transmission of respiratory infections, a new study published this week shows.

The study carried out by the University of Helsinki in cooperation with Stanford University, the University of Missouri, and Swansea University, systematically reviewed all the studies on the issue conducted between 1981 and 2022.

A total of 2,400 previous research articles were reviewed by the researchers, and nearly 400,000 people from different parts of the world were covered by the studies, the University of Helsinki said in a press release on Friday.

The researchers concluded that face masks reduce respiratory infections, in particular in community settings, and when combined with appropriate hand hygiene.

"The results support the international scientific consensus on the benefits of face masks in the prevention of COVID-19 infection and other airborne diseases," said Hanna Ollila, a researcher from the University of Helsinki.—Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

Philippine central bank says economy remains resilient

The Philippine central bank on Thursday underscored the resilience of the country's economy after its gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 7.6 per cent during the third quarter of 2022. **PHOTO: ADB/FILE**

THE Philippine central bank on Thursday underscored the resilience of the country's economy after its gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 7.6 per cent during the third quarter of 2022.

The robust expansion recorded for the third quarter "places the Philippines in a strong position to meet its target GDP growth rate of 6.5 to 7.5 per cent this year," said Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Felipe Medalla.

The latest GDP growth rate marks the sixth consecutive quarter of economic expansion after pandemic-triggered contractions between the first quarter of 2020 to the first quarter of 2021.

"The favourable growth outcome shall also provide the BSP the flexibility to manoeuvre as it acts to bring inflation back to the target, while helping the national government steer the economy towards a durable recovery," Medalla added.

The central bank has increased its benchmark interest rates by 300 basis points since this May to anchor inflation expectations amid price pressures stemming from local and global circumstances. Medalla said the central bank stands ready to adjust its monetary policy settings and is reassured by the timely implementation of non-monetary interventions to address supply-side inflation pressures. —Xinhua

German exports drop again in October

GERMAN exports fell in October for the second month in a row, official data showed Friday, as high inflation and soaring energy prices weigh on Europe's largest economy.

Germany exported 133.5 billion euros' ($140 billion) worth of goods in October, a 0.6-per-cent drop on the previous month, according to seasonally-adjusted figures from federal statistics agency Destatis.

The dip surprised analysts surveyed by Factset, who had expected a slight jump in exports.

The setback, which comes after exports already slipped by 0.5 per cent in September, was mainly down to softer demand from European Union countries, according to Destatis.

The continent is reeling from the fallout of Russia's war in Ukraine, which has pushed up energy prices and sent inflation soaring to record heights.

The cost-of-living squeeze coupled with lingering global supply chain issues have left Germany bracing for a recession.—AFP

Germany exported 133.5 billion euros' ($140 billion) worth of goods in October, a 0.6-per-cent drop on the previous month, according to seasonally-adjusted figures from federal statistics agency Destatis. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

IMF chief warns of bigger chance world growth slows below 2%

IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva warned Thursday that the chance of global growth dropping below two per cent – last seen during the coronavirus outbreak and the global financial crisis of 2009 – is increasing as major economies slow.

Her comments come as the world's biggest economies grapple with fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which sent food and energy prices soaring, along with a surging inflation and a slowdown in China.

"The probability of growth slowing even further, falling below two per cent was one-in-four," said Georgieva at the Reuters NEXT conference Thursday, referring to the fund's recent expectations for 2023.

"When we look at the most recent indicators, we are concerned that this probability may be going a bit further up," she added. The International Monetary Fund expects more than a third of the global economy to shrink this year or next, with the United States, European Union and China stalling.—AFP

Mexico's economy still on growth track in 2022

MEXICO'S economy will maintain a slight growth trend at the end of 2022, largely supported by the service sector, according to leading indicators from the Mexican Institute of Finance Executives (IMEF) released Thursday.

The IMEF manufacturing indicator rose 0.5 point in November from the previous month to 50.5 points, in line with global volatility, the agency said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the IMEF non-manufacturing indicator, referring mainly to the service sector, accelerated in November from 51.7 to 53.4 points, rising for the 10th straight month in the expansion zone, it said.

"The IMEF manufacturing and non-manufacturing indicators for the month of November registered an increase again, thus maintaining the trend of a slight expansion at the close of the year," it said.

However, the IMEF warned that global growth prospects continue to deteriorate, with manufacturing indicators in the United States and the Eurozone in contractionary territory. The Mexican economy saw higher growth in the third quarter than in the previous period, with the construction and tourism sectors standing out.— Xinhua

A vendor wearing a face mask waits for customers at a wholesale food market amid the COVID-19 outbreak in Mexico City, Mexico, on 18 June 2020. **PHOTO: FRANCISCO CANEDO/XINHUA**

Sri Lanka hopes for tourism revival with 1.5 million arrivals next year

SRI Lanka hopes to double tourist arrivals to 1.5 million next year and bring in US$5 billion in vital foreign exchange, the tourism minister said on Thursday (1 December), as the island nation seeks ways to tackle its worst financial crisis in seven decades.

The country of 22 million people, famed for its beaches, ancient temples and aromatic tea, has been struggling for months to pay for essential imports of fuel, food and medicine because of a lack of foreign exchange.

"Tourism can play a major role in Sri Lanka's recovery and this is what we are aiming for next year," Tourism Minister Harin Fernando told reporters in Colombo.

Sri Lanka would likely end this calendar year with 750,000 tourist arrivals and about US$2 billion in earnings, Fernando said, adding his ministry would be targeting high-end tourists and introducing new products in 2023.

The Indian Ocean island is also rolling back night-time power cuts in tourism zones, as the overall electricity situation improves from 13-hour power cuts earlier in the year, Power Minister Kanchana Wijesekera said on Wednesday.

Months of protests, political turmoil, power cuts and fuel queues dampened tourism in Sri Lanka just as it was recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic in mid-2022.— AFP

The "Mein Schiff 5", a luxury cruise ship, docks at Colombo Port, Sri Lanka, 29 November 2022. **PHOTO: AJITH PERERA/XINHUA**

Volvo's e-car sales soar in November

VOLVO Cars sold 11,644 fully electric vehicles in November, 332.4 per cent more than in the same month last year, the company said on Friday.

"Overall underlying demand for the company's cars continues to remain robust, especially for its Recharge range of pure electric and plug-in hybrid cars," it said.

Volvo's line of Recharge models represented 42.2 per cent of sales in November, with fully electric vehicles accounting for 19.7 per cent of total sales.

Compared with November last year, the sale of Volvo's fully electric vehicles in Europe, China and the United States increased by 370.5 per cent, 22.4 per cent and 161.2 per cent, respectively.

In total, Volvo Cars sold 59,154 vehicles in November, up 12 per cent compared with the same month last year. Sales increased by 15.8 per cent in Europe and 20.4 per cent in the US, but declined by 6.2 per cent in China.

The company's top selling model in November was the XC40, followed by the XC60 and the XC90.—Xinhua

A Volvo C40 Recharge photographed in Stockholm, Sweden, on 2 March 2021. **PHOTO: CLAUDIO BRESCIANI /AFP**

ABB to pay $315 mln to settle US charges over South Africa bribes

SWEDISH-SWISS industrial company ABB agreed to pay $315 million to settle US criminal charges that it bribed state-owned Eskom of South Africa over government contracts, the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced Friday.

Two affiliates of ABB each pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to violate the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act as part of a three-year deferred prosecution agreement, the US agency said of a settlement that was coordinated with government authorities in Switzerland, Germany and South Africa.

The issue concerns a troubled project near Johannesburg with the Kusile power station, the fourth largest coal-fired generator in the world, which has been fraught with allegations of graft. South Africa's struggling power utility Eskom commissioned the plant in 2007. In October eight people, including former Eskom CEO Matshela Koko, were arrested on corruption charges linked to the ABB work.

Between 2014 and 2017, ABB through its subsidiaries secured "multiple" government contracts, syphoning illicit payments through subcontractors associated with an official at Eskom, South Africa's state-owned power company, the DOJ said.—AFP

Japan to extend tax cut for eco-cars as production delayed

THE government and ruling parties are planning to extend Japan's tax reduction for owners of eco-friendly vehicles beyond the current end date of April, as semiconductor shortages have delayed the delivery of purchased cars, sources close to the matter said Friday.

Automakers and the industry ministry have requested a one-year extension but details have yet to be worked out, the sources said. Normally, cars subject to the tax cut are gradually narrowed down with applicable standards tightened in order to encourage drivers to switch to more fuel-efficient cars and manufacturers to develop new technologies.—Kyodo

Maldives receives nearly 1.5 million tourists in first 11 months

THE Maldives received nearly 1.5 million tourists in the first 11 months of this year, according to data from the country's Ministry of Tourism.

India was the top source market for the Maldives, followed by Russia and Britain, according to the data.

Tourist arrivals for Maldives bounced back in 2021, receiving a total of 1,321,932 tourists in the year after a sluggish 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.—Xinhua

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

US drops charges against Huawei exec who was held in Canada

THE US Justice Department on Friday dropped all charges against Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou, who was held by Canada on a US warrant for Iran sanctions-related charges for nearly three years.

Meng, who had fought extradition to the United States while Ottawa struggled with China's alleged retaliatory arrest of two Canadians, was freed in 2021 after reaching a deferred prosecution agreement with US authorities.

The Justice Department said Friday that she had completed the period of the agreement without violating it, and so the charges were fully dropped and could not be revisited.

The case became a major thorn in relations between China and both Canada and the United States. Meng, the 50-year-old daughter of Ren Zhengfei, the billionaire founder of the Chinese telecoms giant, was Huawei's chief financial officer when she was arrested in Vancouver in December 2018.—AFP

The Justice Department said Friday that she had completed the period of the agreement without violating it, and so the charges were fully dropped and could not be revisited. **PHOTO: DAN MACKINNON/AFP**

World food prices fall slightly in November: FAO

The first commercial vessel carrying grain under the Black Sea Grain Initiative. **PHOTO: UN OCHA/LEVENT KULU**

INCREASED stability in grain exports from Russia and Ukraine sent global prices for grains and cereals lower in November, the Rome-based United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported on Friday.

The broader FAO Food Price Index was flat compared to a month earlier, remaining near record highs.

The organization said that Russia's rejoining of the Black Sea Grain Initiative was a driving force in November, pushing global prices for wheat 2.8 per cent lower.

FAO's sub-index for grains and cereals, which includes wheat, also declined, though only by 1.3 per cent. The sub-index is the largest component in the main Food Price Index.

Black Sea ports, normally major trading hubs of wheat and other grains, have been unreliable since the start of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine in February, pushing prices to record highs earlier in the year.

After a period outside the initiative, Russia rejoined it in November and the terms for the agreement were extended into 2023.

FAO said the stability in wheat exports connected to the Black Sea Grain Initiative was enough to balance higher demand from the United States and some European countries.

The overall Food Price Index was unchanged from October, though it remained 0.3 per cent above its levels from a year earlier — then an all-time record.—Xinhua

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Seven vessels with agricultural products leave Ukraine's ports

SEVEN vessels carrying agricultural products left Ukraine's seaports Friday under the Black Sea Grain Initiative, the country's Infrastructure Ministry said on Facebook.

The ships, which departed from the ports in the southern Odesa region, will deliver 287,400 tonnes of goods to the countries in Asia, the ministry said.

Since the grain initiative came into effect on 1 August, Ukraine has exported 12.7 million tonnes of foodstuffs via its seaports, it said.

Besides, the ministry noted that the third ship entered the Odesa port for loading under a separate programme "Grain from Ukraine". The vessel will deliver 25,000 tonnes of wheat to Somalia.

Ukraine plans to send more than 60 vessels with wheat to countries in need by the end of spring 2023 under the "Grain from Ukraine" humanitarian programme, according to the ministry.

On 22 July, Russia and Ukraine separately signed a document in Istanbul with Türkiye and the United Nations on grain and fertilizer exports from Ukraine to ensure supplies to global markets amid the Russia-Ukraine armed conflict.—Xinhua

EU agrees to plan to cap price for Russian oil

THE European Union will join the G7 powers in imposing a US$60-per-barrel price cap on Russian oil, the Polish ambassador to the bloc said Friday, three days ahead of an EU embargo on imports by sea.

Poland had delayed approving the adoption of the plan while it pushed for a lower price ceiling and tough new sanctions to punish Russia for its war against Ukraine and starve its military of funds. "We can formally agree to the decision," Poland's EU ambassador Andrzej Sados said, explaining that Warsaw's fellow EU members had agreed to push forward with a new ninth round of sanctions against Russia.

"We're working on the next package of sanctions, which will be painful and expensive for Russia," Sados told reporters.

A worker takes the stairs outside a giant tank at the Duna (Danube) Refinery of Hungarian MOL Company located near the town of Szazhalombatta, about 30 kilometres south of Budapest on 5 May 2022. **PHOTO: ATTILA KISBENEDEK / AFP**

The EU presidency, currently held by the Czech Republic, confirmed member state ambassadors had reached an agreement on the price cap and that the decision would enter into force when published in the EU official journal this weekend.—AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

NEWS IN BRIEF

US unveils new stealth bomber

THE United States on Friday unveiled the B-21 Raider, a high-tech stealth bomber that can carry nuclear and conventional weapons and is designed to be able to fly without a crew on board.

The slickly choreographed ceremony at B-21 manufacturer Northrop Grumman's facility in Palmdale, California opened with the US national anthem as older bombers roared over a crowd that included top US officials.

Dramatic music played and lights flashed as the doors of a hanger holding the new aircraft slowly opened, and the crowd applauded as the cloth covering it was pulled away to reveal a sleek grey bomber that is on track to cost nearly $700 million per plane.

"The B-21 Raider is the first strategic bomber in more than three decades. It is a testament to America's enduring advantages in ingenuity and innovation," US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said in remarks at the ceremony.—AFP

Pakistani ambassador to Afghanistan survives shooting attack unscathed

PAKISTANI Ambassador to Afghanistan Obaid ur Rehman Nizamani has survived unscathed a gun attack on his life in Afghan capital Kabul, local TV channel Tolo News TV reported Friday.

A security guard of the Pakistani embassy was injured in a gunfire by unknown armed men at the entrance of the embassy, the TV channel said on social media.

An eyewitness on condition of anonymity told Xinhua that he was crossing the area near the Pakistani embassy, when the gunfire happened. "I saw a security personnel of the embassy wounded on the spot."—Xinhua

Berlin says goodbye to part of Germany's colonial past

BERLIN on Friday stripped a street and a square of German colonialists' names and dedicated them to African resistance figures, as the country looks to reckon with historical guilt beyond World War II atrocities.

"For far too long in Germany we have minimized our colonial past, understated colonial injustices and the crimes committed," said Stefanie Remlinger, the Green leader of Berlin's central borough of Mitte. During the renaming ceremony in the middle of the capital's "African Quarter", Remlinger called on participants to "look not just to the past, but the future, as well", and to improve the teaching of colonialism in schools. Built in the early 20th century, before World War I, when Germany presided over a sizeable colonial empire, Berlin's "African Quarter" has stood as a symbol of the failure to look closer at colonial injustices.

Built in the early 20th century when Germany presided over a sizeable colonial empire, Berlin's 'African Quarter' has stood as a symbol of the failure to look closer at colonial injustices. **PHOTO: TOBIAS SCHWARZ / AFP**

'Symbol'

After years of protest from various campaign groups, "Nachtigalplatz" (Nachtigal Square) was renamed "Manga-Bell-Platz". The explorer Gustav Nachtigal, who lent his name to the square, played a key role in the 19th century in the creation of German colonies in west Africa — Togo and Cameroon — and Namibia, which was known as German South West Africa.

His name has been replaced by that of Emily and Rudolf Douala Manga Bell, the heads of the royal family of the Douala people from Cameroon. Leader of the resistance against the expulsion of the Douala people from their ancestral home, Rudolf was executed in 1914. "The inauguration of this square… rehabilitates him 108 years after his execution in Douala," said Victor Ndocki, Cameroon's ambassador to Germany.— AFP

Dutch turn against blackface festive character: poll

THE Dutch are rapidly turning against the use of blackface for a popular festive character, with young people in particular saying it has no place in modern society, a survey showed Friday. Zwarte Piet, or Black Pete, is the sidekick of Sinterklaas, or Saint Nicholas, whose feast day is celebrated in early December with presents and family celebrations — but his appearance has met increasing opposition.

Only one third (33 per cent) of people now believe that Piet should sport his traditional costume of a jet-black painted face, red lips, an afro wig and large gold earring, the survey of 1,457 Dutch adults by I&O research said.—AFP

Support for the use of blackface on 'Zwarte Piet' has dropped strongly since 2016. **PHOTO: ANP/AFP**

80 years since daring 'cockleshell' raid on Nazi ships in France

William Sparks (C), one of the only two survivors of the raid, returned for a visit in 1992. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

FRANCE marks next week the 80th anniversary of a daring World War II raid by British Royal Marines, who slipped past German patrols up the Gironde estuary to mine crucial supply ships.

Dubbed "The Cockleshell Heroes" in a 1950s book and film after their tiny canvas-and-plywood boats, the 10-man infiltration team set off on "Operation Frankton" on 7 December 1942.

Faces blackened against detection, they slipped from a submarine near the entrance to the estuary for a 100-kilometre (60-mile) moonlight paddle trek that would take several nights to complete, resting on the banks by day. Their mission was to sink ships moored in the port of Bordeaux that had been running arms and raw materials between German and its ally Japan.

That objective complete, the commandos would then have to make their own way another 160 kilometres overland to a meeting with resistance fighters, who would smuggle them into Vichy France.

Historian Robert Lyman dubbed the attack "Operation Suicide" in a 2012 book. Although young — the men under the command of Major Herbert Hasler were mostly in their early 20s — the unit scored a resounding success, blasting five ships in the early hours of 12 December. But only Hasler himself and his boat mate William Sparks made it home alive four months later, after fleeing on foot, by bicycle and on trains to Gibraltar.—AFP

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Berlin says goodbye to part of Germany's colonial past

PAGE-15

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.

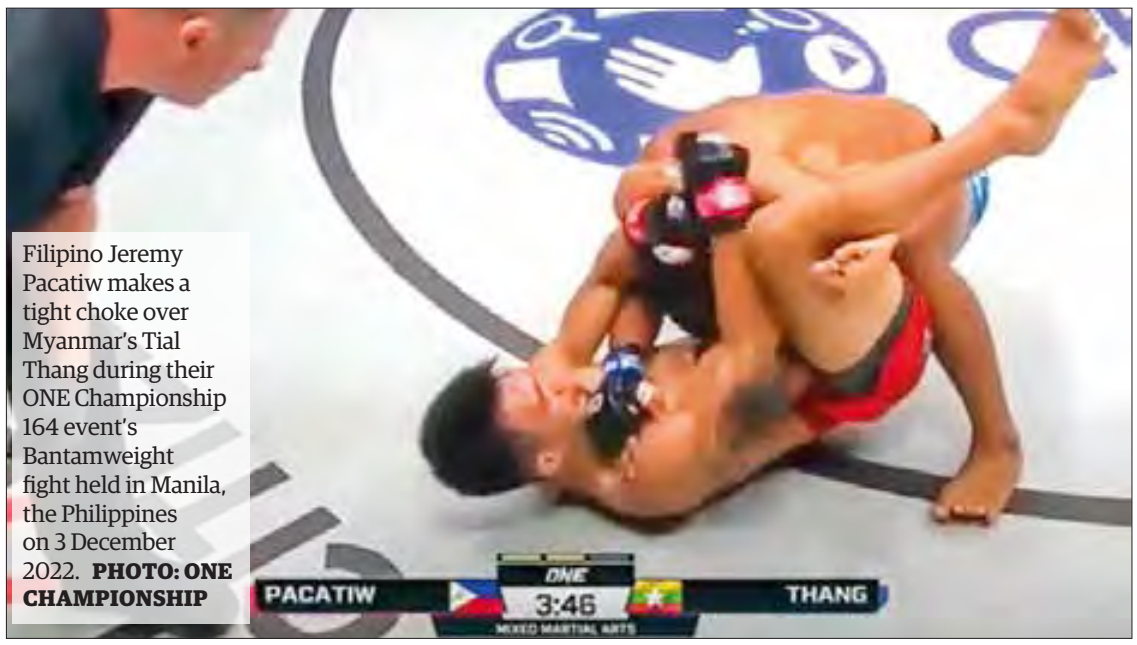
3. Social affairs

(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.

Jeremy Pacatiw submits Tial Thang via triangle choke



Filipino Jeremy Pacatiw makes a tight choke over Myanmar's Tial Thang during their ONE Championship 164 event's Bantamweight fight held in Manila, the Philippines on 3 December 2022. **PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP**

JEREMY Pacatiw submitted Myanmar's Tial Thang with a deep triangle choke in the second round of the ONE Championship 164 event's Bantamweight fight held in Manila, the Philippines yesterday.

Pacatiw stood out with staggering boxing combinations and pushed for the finish early in the first round with an arm bar submission.

The Filipino fighter came out of his corner with aggressive chokes and dragged Tial Thang to the ground to latch on to the bout-ending strangle.

"Respect to brother Tial Thang. He was very tough and very talented and I know someday we'll face him again in the cage. I took an arm bar, but it was slippery. I looked for an opening and he gave me the triangle choke. It was 'good night, Irene'," Pacatiw said after his win over Myanmar fighter. — KZL

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar2022

Dutch masters into World Cup quarter-finals as USA downed

A clinical Netherlands ended the United States' World Cup dream on Saturday, sweeping into the quarter-finals with a ruthless 3-1 victory.

First-half goals from Memphis Depay and Daley Blind and a late strike from Denzel Dumfries sealed a deserved victory as the Dutch handed out a painful lesson in finishing to their American opponents.

The Netherlands, bidding to win their first World Cup after losing in three previous finals, will face Argentina or Australia in the last eight.

Veteran coach Louis van Gaal's men were worthy victors in Saturday's last-16 clash at the Khalifa International Stadium.

Although the USA enjoyed long periods of possession in a bright first-half display, all too often a lack of composure in the final third let them down.

Instead it was the Dutch who calmly bided their time before carving open the Americans with forensic precision.—AFP

Players of Netherlands celebrate after qualifying to the next round after defeating USA 3-1 in the Qatar 2022 World Cup round of 16 football match between the Netherlands and USA at Khalifa International Stadium in Doha on 3 December 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Senegal coach Cisse unwell ahead of England World Cup clash

SENEGAL'S preparations for their World Cup last-16 clash against England have been hampered by an illness to coach Aliou Cisse but he is expected to recover in time for Sunday's game. Assistant coach Regis Bogaert told a news conference that Cisse had not been able to take training on Friday and may not be involved in Saturday's final session. "Yesterday (Friday) he let us take the training, using his instructions and the content he had decided," said Bogaert, who stood in for Cisse at the press conference in Doha. "This afternoon (Saturday) we hope he will be on the field, but we are sure that tomorrow night at 10:00 pm (1900 GMT) it is him who will lead the team," he added. Bogaert did not specify Cisse's illness, saying only that he had "a little fever, that's why we are vigilant". —AFP

FIFA world cup 2022

21:30 MST (4-12-2022)		
France	-	Poland
01:30 MST (5-12-2022)		
England	-	Senegal