THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Mr Maxim Reshetnikov, Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Mr Maxim Reshetnikov, Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation at the Credentials Hall of the SAC Chairman's Office in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 December 2022.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation Mr Maxim Reshetnikov at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

They cordially exchanged views on Myanmar-Russia economic measures, technological cooperation, arrangements of the direct flight between the two countries for the development of the tourism industry, other requirements, formation of the Myanmar-Russian Friendship and Cooperation Association in all parts of the nation, investments from Russia in tourism development of Myanmar, plans to manage technological cooperation in the improvement of iron and steel manufacturing industries in Myanmar, energy measures, pharmaceutical manufacturing and treatment services, cooperation in mineral production, cooperation in technologies for the development of agriculture and livestock sectors, plans to cooperate in operating industries, and bilateral cooperation in other sectors between the two countries.

Also present at the meeting together with the Senior General were Union Ministers Dr Kan Zaw and U Ko Ko Hlaing, and officials. The Russian Minister of Economic Development was accompanied by Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nikolay Listopadov, the Deputy Minister of Economic Development of Russia and officials.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the Russian Minister of Economic Development exchanged commemorative gifts and posed for documentary photos. — MNA

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 77/2022

13th Waxing of Nattaw 1384 ME
5 December 2022

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Chief Justice of Shan State High Court

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned U Than Oo Lwin to the duty of Chief Justice of the Shan State High Court under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 78/2022

13th Waxing of Nattaw 1384 ME
5 December 2022

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Judge of Shan State High Court

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned Daw Nang May Yin to the duty of Judge of the Shan State High Court under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

A local from Hinthada Township in Ayeyawady Region gets jabbed against COVID-19 on 5 December 2022.

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 582 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region.

In addition, to assist in the control and prevention of the COVID-19 disease, military personnel from various 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,Yangon Region, and Pyapon Township, Ayeyawady Region yesterday. — MNA

Governmental staff contribute masks to the public in Yangon on 5 December 2022.

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

6 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 5 December, total figure rises to 633,324

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 633,324 after 6 new cases were reported on 5 December 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 607,863 including 16 new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at 19,488 on Monday 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 20 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

Encouragement needed for emergence of good human resources

Only when human resources are qualified, will it gain qualified work forces. Hence, encouragement must be given to emergence of good human resources.

(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)

MoRAC holds symposium on 37-spirit dance performances

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture held a symposium on the performance of 37-spirit dances at 9:00 am yesterday at Lacquerware College in Bagan.

State Administration Council Members Mahn Nyein Maung and Daw Aye Nu Sein, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko, Deputy Minister Dr Moe Zaw Tun and officials, members of the Cultural Protection and Preservation Committee, and local people attended the event.

First, State Administration Council members Mahn Nyein Maung and Daw Aye Nu Sein, and Union Minister U Ko Ko cut the ribbon and opened the event.

Then the Union minister said the songs composed to sing and dance about the spirits are called Natchin in the spirit festival.

Natchin and Nat dances are the oldest Myanmar traditional songs and traditional dances. Natchins continue to spread as cultural art and songs.

Since the Pyu era, Myanmar dramas have been based on religious beliefs.

He said that it is possible to study and learn about musical instruments and materials and music, lyrics, the mannerism of dances and worship and faith.

He said that it can help discover and preserve the intangible cultural heritage of performance and appreciate the importance of Myanmar's traditional performing arts.

Dr Lei Lei Aung, Director of the Training and Research Division of the Department of Fine Arts, recited the "Dance of the 37 Goddesses and the Dance of the Maiden Dance" Paper.

Professor/Department Head of National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon) U Khaing Tun read "A Study of the Choreography of the Debut Dance and the Maiden Dance" paper.

Maung Lu Mway (Myanmar Handicraft) also read the paper "The Maiden and Dramatic Tradition", and musician U Kyaw Nyunt acted as the chairperson.

SAC members Mahn Nyein Maung and Daw Aye Nu Sein, Union Minister U Ko Ko attend the event yesterday.

After reading the papers, participants discussed and asked questions about the documents.

Afterwards, artistes from the Department of Fine Arts under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture entertained all with dance and music.

Next, State Administration Council members Mahn Nyein Maung and Daw Aye Nu Sein presented gifts to the chairperson and resource persons.

Then, Union Minister U Ko Ko reviewed the papers before concluding the symposium. — MNA

Third Russia-Myanmar intergovernmental trade and economic cooperation commission meeting held

THE Third Meeting of the Intergovernmental Russian-Myanmar Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held under the leadership of the Joint Chairpersons of the Commission the Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and the Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation Mr Maxim Reshetnikov delivered opening speeches.

Afterwards, the contract signing ceremony continued, and seven contracts were signed by relevant officials from Myanmar and Russia.

The third Russia-Myanmar intergovernmental trade and economic cooperation commission meeting is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Ministers Dr Kan Zaw, Admiral Tin Aung San, U Aung Naing Oo, UMFCCI president U Zaw Min Win, Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation Mr Maxim Reshetnikov and representatives of business organizations of the Russian Government acted as panellists at the economic forum and over 300 business representatives from the Russian Federation and Myanmar attended the meeting.

In the afternoon session, Russian and Myanmar business representatives discussed the industry and agriculture sectors, energy and mining industry sectors, finance and banking sectors, IT and digital technology sectors, medicine and medical equipment production sectors, hotels and tourism sectors and the logistics sector.

The discussion was led by Union ministers, deputy ministers and the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar. Over a hundred companies from the Russian Federation and about two hundred companies from Myanmar attended the forum. — MNA

SAC Chairman's Trophy Inter-State/Region Volleyball Tourney, U-18 women's football tournament opened

SAC members, Union ministers and dignitaries watch the opening match of the SAC Chairman's Trophy Inter-State/Region Volleyball Tournament in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

IN commemoration of the 2023 Diamond Jubilee Independence Day, the opening ceremony of the State Administration Council Chairman's Trophy Inter-State/Region Invitational Volleyball Tournament was held yesterday morning at the Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium B in Nay Pyi Taw.

SAC members Jeng Phang Naw Taung, U Moung Har, U Sai Lone Seng, Saw Daniel, Dr Banyar Aung Moe and U Shwe Kyein, Union ministers, deputy ministers, officials from Myanmar Volleyball Federation, team administrators and coaches attended the ceremony.

First, Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan made the opening address.

Next, the competing athletes recited four sports pledges, and members of the State Administration Council, Union ministers and officials of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs warmly greeted the competing athletes.

They watched the opening match between the Nay Pyi Taw Women's Team and the Mandalay Region Women's Team.

In the afternoon, State Administration Council members U Khin Maung Swe, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, U Moung Har, U Sai Lone Seng, Saw Daniel, Dr Banyar Aung Moe and U Shwe Kyein, Union ministers, deputy ministers, officials from Myanmar Football Federation, team administrators and coaches attended the opening ceremony of the U-18 women's football tournament at the Wunna Theikdi Stadium.

After delivering the opening speech by the MoSYA Union minister, the athletes recited the National Anthem and the four sports pledges. The SAC members, Union ministers and officials cordially greeted the competing athletes.

Then, Union ministers and officials watched the opening match between the Ayeyawady Region Women's Team and the Taninthayi Region Women's Team.

The volleyball and football tournaments will be held from 5 to 9 December at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium (B), training ground No 1 and ground No 3 of the Wunna Theikdi Stadium. Anyone who is interested in sports can come and enjoy the matches for free, it is reported. — MNA

Union Minister for International Cooperation receives Ambassador of Switzerland to Myanmar

U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for International Cooperation, received Mr Tim Enderlin, Ambassador of Switzerland to Myanmar at 4 pm on 5 December 2022 at the Union Minister's Office of the Ministry of International Cooperation in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the meeting were officials from the Ministry of International Cooperation and Peace and Conflict Adviser to the Embassy of Switzerland in Yangon. During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to delivering humanitarian assistance and development aids in Myanmar. —MNA

Daily newspapers available online

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

MoE Union Minister receives Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology of Russian Federation

UNION Minister of the Ministry of Education Dr Nyunt Pe received Deputy Minister Ms Natalia A. Bocharova of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology of the Russian Federation and party at the Naypyitaw State Academy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Education Minister Dr Nyunt Pe explains the Naypyitaw State Academy to Russian Deputy Minister Ms Natalia A. Bocharova.

First, the MoE Union minister explained the functions of the higher education sector and measures for the establishment of the Naypyitaw State Academy. Then, Pro-Rector Dr Nu Nu Lwin of the Naypyitaw State Academy explained the set-up of the Naypyitaw State Academy, the number of staff and students, the main subjects being taught and the extension of courses to be offered.

Afterwards, the Union minister and the deputy minister of the Russian Federation discussed matters relating to sending academic staff for further studies, further cooperation in education and research and conducting Russian language teaching. — MNA

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Union Ministers for MoHT and MIFER receive delegation led by Minister of Economic Development of Russian Federation

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung along with Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw received a delegation led by Mr Maxim Reshetnikov, Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport on 3 December.

At the meeting, they exchanged their opinions on the facilitation of the visit of Russian tourists and the development of the tourism sector of the two countries and then left for Ngapali Beach by air.

On the morning of 4 December, MoHT Union Minister Dr Htay Aung met the chairman of the Myanmar Hotelier Association (Rakhine Zone) and executives at the Aureum Palace Hotel at Ngapali Beach in Thandwe Township.

At the meeting, the Union minister said that the State has been encouraging the tourism business as a priority sector and that Russian tourists love beaches, especially Ngapali Beach as they are fond of visiting beaches. They enjoyed the beautiful scenery of Ngapali Beach and the environment that is not overcrowded with tourists. Thus, the Union minister urged the entrepreneurs to support the development of the State and the socio-economic life of residents by welcoming Russian tourists and directed them to make an effort for the long-term development of tourist attractions, the advancement of small and medium-scale enterprises and the promotion of the local products for large quantity sales.

Next, the chairman of the Myanmar Hotelier Association (Rakhine Zone) and executives made a presentation about the cleanliness of destinations, the sufficient power supply and appropriate relaxations, and the Union minister fulfilled the requirements through coordination.

Afterwards, the MoHT Union minister together with MIFER Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw met the delegation led by Mr Maxim Reshetnikov, Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, and discussed issues of promotion and cooperation in tourism business between Myanmar and Russia.

At the meeting, the Union minister clarified tourism cooperation agreements and the preparations of a draft memorandum of understanding (MoU) regarding the tourism cooperation between the two countries.

The Minister of Economic Development of Russia said tourists from Russia will visit Myanmar soon and arrangements will be made so that governmental and private groups can cooperate in upcoming projects. Then, the attendees discussed the measures to facilitate the visit of Russian tourists.

In the afternoon, the Union ministers conducted the Minister of Economic Development of Russia and party round the hotel rooms and services of the Amazing Ngapali Resort, the Bayview Beach Resort and the Sandoway Resort, it is learnt. — MNA

MoHT and MIFER Union Ministers Dr Htay Aung and Dr Kan Zaw receive the Russian delegation at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport on 3 December.

Central Supervisory Board holds coord meeting to standardize road signs and signals

THE coordination meeting of the Central Supervisory Board for the harmonization of road markings, signs and signals was held at 9:30 am yesterday at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw.

Central Supervisory Board Chairman Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Aung Myaing, CSB members, chairpersons and officials of the region/state and Nay Pyi Taw supervisory boards attended the meeting.

The central supervisory board chairman said the coordination meeting was held on 25 October 2022 for nationwide uniformity of road markings, signs and signals in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State.

According to the nationwide directives (2022) approved by the meeting, the Central Supervisory Board and the Union Territory (Nay Pyi Taw) and the region/state supervisory boards were formed. The Central Supervisory Board convened its first meeting and is making efforts to implement the instructions of the Head of State as soon as possible, he added.

Myanmar ratified the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Traffic and the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals as a member country in 2019, and the current road signs and signals are based on the provisions of the Vienna Convention.

The Ministry of Construction, which manages the roads used by vehicles on the ground, and the Ministry of Border Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw Council and region/state governments, Nay Pyi Taw/Yangon/Mandalay City Development Committees and related departments are to act as per the instructions issued.

If the road signs and signals currently used are not in conformity with the provisions of the directive, they should be revised quickly, he added.

The central supervisory body will select priority areas and priority roads and make field inspections from time to time.

Then, the central supervisory board secretary director-general of the Road Transport Administration Department explained the measures being taken for road signs and signals and road audit in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area in line with the rules and regulations.

The central supervisory board members, Union Territory (Nay Pyi Taw), and region/state supervisory board chairpersons participated in the discussions. — MNA

The work coordination meeting on unification of road markings, signs and signals is underway in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

LOCAL BUSINESS

High influx of Chinese potatoes brings down prices amid low output of local potatoes

Chinese potatoes are seen flooding the market.

THE supply of potatoes from Shan State (Aungban area) has decreased since October. However, the prices of potatoes did not reach a record price like onions as Chinese onions have been flooding the Yangon markets. The competitive market benefits the consumers, Ma Khaing Lay from Hlinethaya Township, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

On 11 October, 9 and 12 November 2022, there was no entry of Shan potatoes to the Bayintnaung market. That being so, the market price was not set then. The domestic market sees an excess supply of Chinese potatoes and a small supply of Shan potatoes these days.

On 5 December, around 40,000 visses of Chinese potatoes and 6,000 visses of Shan potatoes flowed into the Yangon market. The wholesale prices were K1,600 per viss for new Chinese potatoes, K2,150 for old Chinese potatoes, and K1,500-K2,100 for Shan potatoes.

As Chinese potatoes having moisture content are required to be separated and processed, new Chinese onions that entered the Yangon market these days are of good quality. A bag of potatoes weighs 25 visses, Ko Aung, a dealer who sends potatoes to regions outside Yangon, told the GNLM.

On 15 and 16 November 2022, Chinese potatoes were priced at K2,500-K2,550 per viss in the wholesale market. On 19 January 2022, a truckload of Chinese potatoes was valued at K3.7 million, while the wholesale price of Chinese potatoes was only K1,350 per viss and local potatoes fetched K1,750-K2,200 per viss.

On 20 June 2022, the prices stood at K1,500 per viss of Bangladesh potatoes, K1,700 for Chinese potatoes and K1,600 for Shan potatoes.

On 16 September, Shan potatoes were worth K1,500-K2,300 per viss whereas Chinese potatoes were priced at K2,450-K2,500 per viss. About 36,000 visses of Chinese potatoes on 11 October, 54,000 visses on 9 November and 48,000 visses on 12 November were delivered to the Yangon markets. There was no supply of local potatoes in those days.

There are two types of potatoes from Heho and Aungban in Shan State in the domestic markets. Potatoes from the Sinphyukyun area usually flow into Yangon markets for three months in summer. The prices of Chinese potatoes are lower than those from Shan State and Sinphyukyun area at that time. Nonetheless, Chinese potatoes are offered higher than Shan potatoes in the second half of the year.

On 11 November 2022, Chinese potatoes were estimated at K1,950-K2,350 per viss, whereas Shan potatoes fetched K1,900-2,150 per viss. Shortly thereafter, the prices dipped. There is news speculating about the possible low supply of Chinese onions as Chinese goods are hard to enter the border market in recent days. The potato warehouses stated that the price of potatoes is expected to increase on low supply. — TWA/EMM

The prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 5 December 2022

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K1,965
Octane 95	K2,040
Diesel	K2,400
Premium Diesel	K2,475

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,120,000 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,665,000 per tical

Dollar Price

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,810 to K2,840

The above prices may change from time to time.

Price fluctuation of Kyukok garlic surpasses Shan garlic

THE market price of Kyukok garlic is beating that of Shan garlic in the domestic garlic market. Although there is a price gap of around K4,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in Kyukok garlic, the price of Shan garlic has ranged between the minimum of K3,000 and the maximum of K4,200 per viss in 2022. Changes in the Shan garlic price are not visible despite the wild fluctuation of the Kyukok garlic price in 2022.

The domestic market is mainly dealing in garlic from Shan State and Kyukok garlic entering from the border. There is Bamar garlic in the Mandalay market. However, the yield is very low and only available in the region of its origin.

Two types of Shan garlic are garlic from Taunggyi and garlic from Aungban. The price of Aungban garlic is a little higher than that of Taunggyi garlic and has a great demand in the Yangon market. Kyukok garlic entering from the border has a bigger size than the big garlic from the Shan State and it has earned a strong market share for two decades, Ko Myint Aye, a dealer in the Bayintnaung market told the GNLM.

In the years when Kyukok garlic started to enter the garlic market, it had to compete with Shan garlic for the market share for a few years, a dealer commented.

Shan garlic is difficult to peel even though its quality surpassed Kyukok garlic. Thus, Kyukok garlic is widely used in restaurants and is able to capture its market share.

On 10 January 2022, the wholesale price of Aungban garlic from Shan State reached K1,500-K3,000 per viss and that of Kyukok garlic fetched K4,800-K5,100 per viss.

New Shan garlic entered the Yangon market with K2,200-K2,900 per viss on 13 February. On the same day, the old Shan garlic was priced at K1,200-K3,000 per viss and Kyukok garlic at K3,800-K3,900 per viss.

The price of Kyukok garlic started to rise in March 2022 and hit a record high of K6,700-K7,000 per viss on 9 March. Meanwhile, the wholesale price of Shan garlic was only K2,700-K3,700 per viss.

The Kyukok garlic price dropped starting in April. The price drop continued on 2 June, the day when new Kyukok garlic entered the market, with K2,700 per viss of new Kyukok garlic and K2,800 per viss of old Kyukok garlic. The wholesale price of Shan garlic fetched K1,800-K3,500 per viss on that day.

On 2 July, the market price of Shan garlic and Kyukok garlic ranged between K2,200-K3,700 per viss and K2,600-K2,800 per viss. However, the prices of Kyukok garlic and Shan garlic soared to K5,000 per viss and K2,700-K4,200 per viss respectively on 1 September.

From that day onwards, the Kyukok garlic price slumps further and reached K3,300 per viss on 5 December. Shan garlic was pegged at K2,800-K3,900 per viss with little price change. Therefore, the Kyukok garlic price is high whereas the Shan garlic price is low in the domestic market. — TWA/CT

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar watermelon export to China raises its head

MYANMAR'S watermelon export to China through Muse border post is on the rise, according to Muse fruit traders.

The prevailing prices per kilogramme stood at 1-1.8 Yuan for watermelon 855 variety, 2.2 Yuan for Taiwan watermelon, 2.2 Yuan for seedless watermelon and 2.5-3.5 Yuan for muskmelon.

The ease of lockdown in some big cities in China prompted traders to get into business again so Myanmar's watermelon market has become active again, traders said.

Myanmar's watermelon and muskmelon are underpriced owing to China's lockdown spurred by COVID cases. Consequently, the trade was slow-moving, stressed the traders.

Approximately 40 truckloads of watermelons and muskmelons are daily sent to China at the present time.

At present, Myanmar's watermelons are mainly shipped to China. In a bid to contain the spread of coronavirus at the border, China imposed lockdowns in some areas, resulting in additional costs. Furthermore, the prices are extremely lower than last year's rate.

Last year, the COVID-19 restrictions hindered Myanmar's watermelon and muskmelon exports to China. Chinese Customs Regulation increased delay. Long delays of trucks caused harm to watermelon quality and only one in five trucks heading to China remained undamaged with quality watermelons.

The traders are observing delivery time, price and profitability as they are perishable fruit, while they are trying to explore new markets in addition to China.

On 1 April, Nantaw and Sinphyu border posts were suspended in the wake of COVID-19 impacts. China has closed down the major border crossing Mang Wein from 30 March 2021 following the COVID-19 cases in Myanmar.

The prevailing prices per kilogramme stood at 1-1.8 Yuan for watermelon 855 variety, 2.2 Yuan for Taiwan watermelon, 2.2 Yuan for seedless watermelon and 2.5-3.5 Yuan for muskmelon.

On 8 July 2021, the two-remaining cross-border posts Kyinsankyawt and Panseng were suspended. As a result of this, the border trade between Myanmar and China was completely halted.

Among Sino-Myanmar border posts, the Kyinsankyawt border resumed operations on 26 November on a trial run.

At present, Myanmar daily delivers rice, broken rice, rubber, various beans and pulses, fishery products, chilli pepper and other food commodities to China through Kyinsankyawt by 70 trucks and building materials, electrical appliances, household goods and industrial raw materials are imported into the country by 30 trucks. — NN/EMM

Myawady border trade totals $1.456 billion in about eight months

THE value of border trade via the Myawady border post between 1 April and 25 November hit US$1.456 billion, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The figures showed a drastic drop of $148.545 million recorded in the corresponding period last year. The trade policy changes and political instability in the border areas resulted in an extreme fall in export to Thailand. The border trade between Myanmar and Thailand through Myawady, Tachilek, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Meisei amounted to $3.452 billion, which is an increase of $451.342 million from the year-ago period.

Trucks are seen entering the Myawady border trade zone.

Myanmar sent agricultural products (chilli pepper, onion, rice powder, turmeric, dried lily buds, coffee bean, green gram, rubber, cinnamon, macadamia nuts in shell, plum from Bago and peanuts), fishery products (anchovy, clam, hilsa, crab, shrimp and other fish) and finished industrial goods on a Cutting-Making and Packaging basis (men's sweaters, women's shirts and other clothes) on 27 and 28 November through Myawady border trade zone to Thailand. Onions, rice powder, chilli pepper, coffee beans, peanut, rubber, green gram and fishery products are the main export items to Thailand.

Thailand's demand for Myanmar's kitchen groceries has risen as it resumed the tourism businesses in the post-COVID period and the restaurants and food businesses widely used them.

Fishery products are directly sent to Bangkok, Thailand, through Mae Sot. The fast and fresh delivery service is the priority.

About 33-34 trucks are leaving for Thailand. The authorities are inspecting the goods onboard with the lists in the declaration form. The cloth rolls, construction materials, industrial raw materials, pharmaceuticals, motorcycle parts, footwear, clothes, fruits, food products, cosmetics, gas, lubricants, household goods, foodstuff, bicycles, stationery, auto parts, tiles, feedstuff, fertilizer and electronic devices are imported with 161 trucks.

A batch was exchanged for K67 in early November and K79 at the end of November. The exchange rate fluctuation influenced the import volume. — TWA/EMM

Palm oil wholesale reference price jumps by over K200 per viss

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market climbed over K200 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) from last week's rate, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The price stood at K4,425 per viss in the week ending 4 December. Then, the reference price has gradually risen to K4,630 per viss in the week from 5 December to 11 December, indicating an increase of over K205 per viss from last week's price.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transport costs, tariffs and banking services, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

Despite the reference price, the current market price is too high.

If those edible oil retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Specific Goods Tax Law, MoC released a statement.

The Ministry of Commerce is striving for consumers not to worry over the supply of edible oil. The ministry is also trying to secure edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer a reasonable price to consumers and maintain price stability.

At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July to offer palm oil at a subsidized rate. They sell palm oil at K4,400 per viss to consumers directly. However, there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell palm oil at a reference rate depending on the volume quota.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at 1 million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/EMM

OPINION

Seek experiences shared by seniors

YOU may have experiences that while walking or cycling or riding something, someone overtakes them. If so, you should not be downhearted at that event but you should have held up a concept that as you do not stop at the point for a while, you would have more chances to overtake the former person.

Those who wish to secure success should have to put any investments into their missions. It means everybody needs to make deserved efforts for winning the victory in all aspects. They have to uplift their capacity to be able to overcome any challenges in their missions. Any success cannot be achieved without making effort.

> All in all, all the arenas in society are formed with seniors and juniors. The seniors are responsible for handing over their invaluable experiences to the juniors. Such kinds of experiences may be bitter for the juniors but they have to adorably and delightedly embrace the bitter things to be applied in their lifespans for surviving themselves en route to their goals.

As a Myanmar proverb goes: "The grass which can be run over thrives more", the persons who overcome challenges and difficulties at various levels would have the chance to enjoy the sweet taste of their missions. It is designed to return the deserved award for them.

Moreover, nobody will stop on their standing point forever. All the people are trying their best to reach their goals. In the other ward, everybody is struggling for their survival among others not to be late in marching towards the goals. In the way of the mundane world, the people who could try to survive themselves are sure to meet their goals. While surviving, opponents will be left behind unintentionally.

No one should be depressed about the losses. In the secular world, everybody has chances more than one to build their lives. As such, even those who fell several times will have the chance to build them up repeatedly. As such, everybody should hold up a concept that even if they lose many times, they have to utilize the remaining chances to reach the missions.

Anyone should seek advice from close friends for marching to their missions. These suggestions and advice may be bitter for them but these will be sweeter then. For example, bitter medicines will be more potent. Likewise, everybody should seek bitter advice and suggestions beneficial for them to secure success in life.

All in all, all the arenas in society are formed with seniors and juniors. The seniors are responsible for handing over their invaluable experiences to the juniors. Such kinds of experiences may be bitter for the juniors but they have to adorably and delightedly embrace the bitter things to be applied in their lifespans for surviving themselves en route to their goals.

■

ARTICLE
WEATHER REPORT

Gut microbes disturbed by COVID-19 infection, antibiotics: Research

Medical problems often arise when the balance between beneficial and pathogenic microbes in a person's microbiome is thrown off, a condition known as dysbiosis. **PHOTO: ILLUSTRATION CREDIT: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/ FREEPIK**

ACUTE infection upsets a healthy balance between good and bad microbes in the gut, especially with antibiotic treatment, according to Rutgers scientists who examined the impact of the virus that causes COVID-19 on patients' microbiomes, the collection of microorganisms that live in and on the human body.

The research could result in the creation of probiotic pills to correct any gastrointestinal abnormalities in future patients, according to the researchers.

The first findings of an ongoing investigation into the microbiomes of patients and volunteers at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick were published in the scholarly journal Molecular Biomedicine.

Gastrointestinal issues

The study, which began in May 2020, the early days of the pandemic, was designed to zero in on the microbiome because many COVID-19 sufferers complained of gastrointestinal issues - both during the acute phases of their illness and while recuperating.

"We wanted to gain a deeper understanding by looking at specimens that would give us an indication about the state of the gut microbiome in people," said Martin Blaser, the Henry Rutgers Chair of the Human Microbiome at Rutgers University, director of the Centre for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine (CABM) at Rutgers and an author on the study.

"We found that, while there were differences between people who had COVID-19 and those who were not ill, the biggest difference from others was seen in those who had been administered antibiotics."

A round of antibiotics

According to Blaser, who is also a professor of medicine, pathology, and laboratory medicine at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, it was common practice to treat COVID-19 patients with a round of antibiotics early in the pandemic, before the introduction of vaccines and other antiviral treatments, in an effort to combat potential secondary infections.

According to Blaser, humans harbour substantial and varied populations of microorganisms. The colon has the highest concentration of these germs, although they also reside in the gastrointestinal system, on the skin, and in other organs. The microbiome interacts with metabolism, the immune system, and the central nervous system to influence human health, as researchers like Blaser have demonstrated over the past few decades.

The microbiome has many different functions. "One is to protect the human body against invading pathogens, whether they're bacteria or viruses or fungi," Blaser said. "That goes deep into evolution, maybe a billion years of evolution."

A person's microbiome

Medical problems often arise when the balance between beneficial and pathogenic microbes in a person's microbiome is thrown off, a condition known as dysbiosis.

By counting the populations of bacteria in faeces samples collected from 60 individuals, researchers were able to study microbiomes. Twenty COVID-19 patients, twenty healthy donors, and twenty COVID-19-recovered participants made up the study group. When contrasting the microbiomes of infected patients with the healthy and recovered patients, they discovered significant variations in the populations of 55 different bacterial species.

To determine the long-term impact of COVID-19 on specific microbiomes, Rutgers researchers intend to keep testing and monitoring the microbiomes of study participants.

"Further investigation of patients will enhance understanding of the role of the gut microbiome in COVID-19 disease progression and recovery," Blaser said. "These findings may help identify microbial targets and probiotic supplements for improving COVID-19 treatment."

SOURCE: ANI

World's first intra-nasal vaccine for COVID gets CDSCO nod for restricted use in emergency situations

WORLD'S first intra-nasal vaccine for COVID developed by India has got approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) for restricted use in emergency situations in the age group of 18 and above.

This was stated by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, on Thursday, while he was chairing a meeting of the Societies of Autonomous Institutions of the Department of Biotechnology where he also informed about the historic decision to merge the 14 societies of Biotechnology Institutes into a single society in the interest of convenient functioning, cost-effectiveness and integrated working.

Intranasal vaccine

The Minister lauded the role of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and its PSU, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance (BIRAC) for supporting the development of the world's first Intranasal vaccine for COVID by Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL).

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the Product development and Clinical trials were funded by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India and BIRAC under the Mission COVID Suraksha Programme. This vaccine received approval under restricted Use in emergency situations for ages 18 and above for primary 2 dose schedule, homologous booster doses.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, "India's efforts through Mission COVID Suraksha under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not only strengthened AtmaNirbhar Bharat but also bolstered India's status as a worldwide vaccine development and manufacturing centre showcasing the strength of Science and Technology. It is a matter of great pride for the country."

Heterologous booster

On 28 November, iNCOVACC - the intra-nasal vaccine received both Primary series and Heterologous booster approval, as per a press release by Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL).

This vaccine has the double benefit of enabling faster development of variant-specific vaccines and easy nasal delivery that enables mass immunization to protect from emerging variants of concern. It promises to become an important tool in mass vaccinations during pandemics and endemics.

The vaccine is a recombinant replication-deficient adenovirus vector vaccine with a pre-fusion stabilized spike protein. This vaccine candidate was evaluated in Phases 1, 2, and 3 clinical trials with successful results.

It has been specifically formulated to allow intranasal delivery through nasal drops. The nasal delivery system has been designed and developed to be cost-effective in low- and middle-income countries. This vaccine is stable at 2-8 degree celsius for easy storage and distribution.

Large manufacturing capabilities have been established by Bharat Biotech at multiple sites across India, including Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Telangana, with operations pan India.

Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) has received approval for its intranasal vaccine against Covid-19, iNCOVACC (BBV154). **PHOTO: HINDU BUSINESS LINE/ANI**

It promises to become an important tool in mass vaccinations during pandemics and endemics.

With the receipt of this approval, launch dates, pricing and availability will be announced in due course of time.

Product development data will be submitted to peer-reviewed journals and will be made available in the public domain.

SOURCE: ANI

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 5 December 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the Low Pressure Area over South Andaman Sea and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move West-Northwest wards and concentrate into a Depression over Southeast Bay of Bengal around (6.12.2022). Thereafter, it is likely to continue to move West-Northwest wards and further intensify into a Cyclonic Storm and reach North Tamilnadu-Puducherry and adjoining South Andhra Pradesh coasts (India) around (8.12.2022). Weather is generally fair over the North Bay of Bengal, cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and a few cloud to partly cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 6 December 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region and isolated in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, and Magway regions and Northern Shan and Chin states and partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at time Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (35) mph. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (8-10) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and (4-6) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin and Mon states.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Myanmar brings in over $826 mln from pulses exports in eight months

Sample of beans and pulses are displayed at a warehouse.

MYANMAR pocketed over US$826 million from the export of more than a million tonnes of various pulses in the past eight months of the current financial year 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Between 1 April and 25 November, the country shipped 897,499 tonnes of pulses worth $721.856 million to external markets by sea while 153,311 tonnes of various pulses worth $104.475 million were sent to the neighbouring countries via cross-border posts.

Myanmar's agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's economy and it contributes to over 30 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product. The country primarily cultivates paddy, corn, cotton, sugarcane, various pulses and beans. Its second-largest production is pulses and beans, accounting for 33 per cent of agri-products and covering 20 per cent of growing acres. Among them, black beans, pigeon peas and green grams constitute 72 per cent of bean acreage. Other beans including peanuts, chickpeas, soybean, black-eyed beans, butter bean and rice beans are also grown in the country.

Myanmar conveyed US$1.57 million worth of over 2.02 million tonnes of various beans and pulses to foreign trade partners in the 2020-2021 FY. The country shipped $966.4 million valued at over 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through sea route, and $604.3 million valued at over 786,920 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders, the MoC's trade data showed. — TWA/EMM

13 bodies found by roadside in Hlegu Township

ACCORDING to the information given by a village administrator, members of the Myanmar police Force examined 13 bodies of Bengali men found by the side of the road connecting No 7 Highway and Ngaenantha village in Hlegu township at 7 am on 5 December.

The police found that the bodies were soaked with water and swollen. Officials sent them to the Yangon General Hospital and opened a death case.

Also on 28 November, the police arrested 68 Bengalis without official documents near Nyaunghnapin Zone 1 in Hlegu township. It was known that they came from Rakhine State in a 12-wheel vehicle and were being investigated. — TWA/MKKS

Passport Online Booking System suspended on 5 December

THE Myanmar Passport Office announced the suspension of applications for the passport through an online booking system on 4 December and advised against purchasing QR Codes through brokers at expensive prices.

The Myanmar Passport Office introduced the online booking system on 21 March 2022 and, according to the new system, the applicants must make an online appointment on www.passport.gov.mm by entering details such as the applicant's name, father's name, date of birth and gender and, only after they have received the QR code, they can come to the office in person. Those who have received the appointment will have to bring the printout of the passport online appointment letter or the screenshot of the QR code.

Applicants are seen lining up to get their passport at the Myanmar Passport Office.

Now, some changes are being made to the online booking system to enable the applicants to make an appointment round the clock. Therefore, the current system was suspended on 5 December. However, those who have already had an appointment through the old system can come to the office on the appointed day.

The date when the new online booking system can be used will be announced again, it is learnt. — TWA/MKKS

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CBM Deputy Governor attends 3rd Russia-Myanmar intergovernmental trade and economic cooperation commission meeting and related meetings

THE third meeting of the Russia-Myanmar intergovernmental trade and economic cooperation commission and related meetings were held at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meetings were held under three programmes. First, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Russia Mr Alexey Guznov and Chairman of the National Payment Cards company Mr Vladimir Komlev led the discussions on the topic "On prospects for interbank cooperation" and Deputy Governor of the CBM Dr Lin Aung gave an appraisal.

Second, deputy governors from the two countries signed the Memorandum of Understanding on bilateral cooperation between the Bank of Russia and the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Third, CBM Deputy Governor Dr Lin Aung, Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win of the Ministry of Planning and Finance and Deputy Governor of the Bank of Russia Mr Alexey Guznov delivered speeches at the round-table "Bank and Finance". Central banks and financial institutions of the two countries discussed the banking cooperation between Russia and Myanmar. — MNA

The third meeting of the Russia-Myanmar intergovernmental trade and economic cooperation commission and related meetings are in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, consumer goods and vehicles confiscated

Seized illegal goods in Kayin State.

AN on-duty team under the supervision of the Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted surprise inspections on 3 December.

Officials captured foodstuffs including 15,300 litres of palm oil worth K37,755,000 without official documents from three vehicles with a trailer (approximately K84 million) near the PTT petrol station on the Asia Highway in Myawady. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

Similarly, an on-duty team under the management of the Customs Department at the Yangon International Airport confiscated three goods including 19 boxes of Nature's Tea (made in the USA) without official documents hidden in the luggage. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

In addition, a combined team made inspections at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint on 4 December and seized 50 used bicycles worth K1,260,000 that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a Mitsubishi Canter car (approximately K25 million) heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

Afterwards, a total of 3. 3416 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K986,444 was nabbed on the side of the Monywa-YeU Road in Butalin township and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 5 December, a total of 3.9000 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K505,960 in the Toungoo and Nyaunglebin districts and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 15 arrests (at an estimated value of K152,307,404) were made on three consecutive days from 3 to 5 December, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA

Confiscated illegal commodities in Mon State.

Drugs seized in Thazi and Kengtung townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched two suspects, Ye Kyaw Thu and his wife Ma Hnin Thet Moe on a motorbike and seized 4,000 stimulant tablets at 11 am on 4 December.

According to the investigation, at 12:30 pm on the same day, Police examined their house in Kyweltatson village in Thazi township and found 530 stimulant tablets.

At 4 pm on the same day, the Police Force consisting of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined a suspect Liba near Tinhtat village in Kengtung township and captured 400 stimulant tablets and continuously searched his house in Tinhtat village in Kengtung township. A total of 3,900 stimulant tablets and one kilogramme of raw opium were found in his house.

Those offenders are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA

Two offenders are pictured along with seized drugs and a motorbike.

ECONOMY
WORLD

Saudi crown prince eyes investment in Credit Suisse spin-off: report

A picture taken on 25 October 2022 shows a sign of Switzerland's second-biggest bank Credit Suisse on a branch in Basel. **PHOTO: AFP**

SAUDI Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is considering investing around $500 million in a new Credit Suisse investment bank spin-off, CS First Boston, according to The Wall Street Journal.

Citing unnamed sources familiar with the matter, the US financial newspaper listed several potential investors in the new unit.

In addition to the Saudi crown prince, the potential investors include Atlas Merchant Capital, a private-equity firm run by British banking giant Barclays' former chief Bob Diamond, which was also considering pumping $500 million into the unit, according to the sources quoted by WSJ.

Credit Suisse itself has previously said it had $500 million committed from an unnamed investor, and its chairman said last week that it has other firm commitments, the daily reported on Sunday.

The bank has yet to receive a formal proposal from the Saudi entity, WSJ's sources said.

Credit Suisse unveiled a dramatic restructuring plan at the end of October, focused on radically transforming its investment banking unit, at the heart of a string of scandals.—AFP

Malaysia to focus on trade as key growth driver: minister

MALAYSIA will work towards ensuring that trade remains a key growth driver as the Southeast Asian country seeks to boost its economic performance, a Malaysian official said here on Sunday.

Besides a focus on trade, moves will be made to increase investor confidence and ensure the implementation of international trade agreements to be of real value and advantage to participants in the Malaysian supply chain, particularly the micro, small and medium enterprises, International Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz said in a statement.

He also proposed the creation of a special investment fund to attract more high-value-added investments that will generate higher-paid professional employment opportunities.

"The target industries include the E&E (electrical and electronic products) industry which includes the development of applications based on radio frequency and bluetooth technology for the automotive industry, attracting investors to Malaysia's E&E sector, and the systematic development of the medical devices industry," he said.

Other technology-based industries that will be focused on include the aerospace industry, the chemical and petrochemical industry, nanotechnology, health technology, and smart manufacturing.—Xinhua

How Paris cinemas are surviving

SPINNING once again, the sign above France's biggest cinema, the Grand Rex, is testament to how well Paris venues have weathered the twin threats of streaming and the pandemic.

The 2,700-seat Art Deco venue reopened last week after a major facelift to mark its 90th birthday.

It has reason to be hopeful: ticket sales in France are down just 10 per cent on pre-Covid levels, compared to almost a third in the United States.

That is partly due to the country's long-standing love affair with its cinemas, immortalised in 1960s New Wave classic "Breathless", in which Jean-Paul Belmondo and Jean Seberg duck in and out of theatres along the Champs Elysees.

Paris is thought to have the highest density of screens in the world, and the atmosphere has influenced generations of filmmakers.

"I went to old cinemas in the Latin Quarter to watch retrospectives, screenings of old films from Hollywood, France or Japan," director Damien Chazelle ("La La Land") told AFP recently.

"The first time I saw 'Metropolis' by Fritz Lang was here. I'll never forget it!"

Diversification

Paris authorities say there are 398 screens across 75 venues — up eight per cent on 2000 — and down just slightly from 411 in 2019.

Survival requires some creativity.

To coax viewers off their sofas, the Grand Rex has been offering "event" screenings such as manga previews and film marathons that cater to the biggest fans.

Its history has made it a popular choice for premieres, with Steven Spielberg next on the agenda for the launch of "The Fabelmans".

It also requires diversification. The Rex moonlights as a nightclub, escape game venue — and most importantly as a concert hall, featuring everyone from Madonna to Bob Dylan.

(FILES) This file photo taken on 5 October 1995 shows the cinema Le Grand Rex, in Paris. Paris remains the world capital of cinemas with 400 cinemas, including the Grand Rex cinema, which is the largest in the world and has been given a new life. **PHOTO: PIERRE VERDY / AFP**

"If we had to survive on the cinema alone, we would have closed the doors long ago," said manager Alexandre Hellmann. He added that that 71 bigger halls have opened during the Rex's lifetime but none have lasted. —AFP

Inflation in Laos accelerates to 38.46% in November

INFLATION in Laos increased to 38.46 per cent year-on-year in November from 36.75 per cent in October, according to a report issued by the Lao Statistics Bureau on Monday.

The higher prices of fuel and consumer goods and the continuing depreciation of the Lao currency kip are among the main factors driving the inflation.

Rising oil prices are impacting the transport price index, causing an increase in the price of goods that depend on fuel for their production or transport.

According to the report, costs in the communications and transport category rose by 55.4 per cent year-on-year in November.

The price of food and non-alcoholic beverages has surged by 42.3 per cent. The cost of the hotel and restaurant category rose by 30.9 per cent.

In addition, the cost of housing category surged by 30.41 per cent. Meanwhile, the cost of medical care and medicine increased by 42 per cent.

Price hikes across all types of products have caused more hardship for the general public, especially those on low wages.—Xinhua

Sri Lanka to launch mobile app for tourist safety next year

SRI Lanka will introduce a mobile app for the safety of tourists coming to the South Asian country, Minister of Tourism and Lands Harin Fernando said on Sunday.

He told reporters that the mobile app will also help boost Sri Lanka's tourism.

He said that he has already informed a select group of parliamentarians about this proposal, and the mobile app will be launched in January 2023.

With this app, tourists will be able to check their locations, and take some steps to ensure their safety if they face any danger.

A detachment of tourist police will be deployed at all beaches that are frequented by tourists, Fernando said.—Xinhua

Stocks rise as China eases more Covid measures

MOST stocks rose on Monday as traders welcomed more easing of strict Covid containment measures in China that have hammered the world's number-two economy.

The moves helped offset a forecast-busting US jobs report that dented hopes that the Federal Reserve will take a softer approach to hiking interest rates in its battle against inflation.

Investor sentiment has picked up considerably in recent weeks on indications the US central bank will slow down its monetary tightening as price rises appear to be slowing and the economy weakens.

That has come as Chinese leaders take a more pragmatic approach to fighting Covid after recent protests across the country that also called for more political freedoms.

The harsh zero-Covid strategy — which saw major cities including Shanghai locked down for months — has been blamed for a sharp slowdown in economic growth this year and sent shudders through markets.

The move to reopening helped fuel "market optimism about the tailwinds of a likely acceleration in growth in 2023 for China-sensitive assets", said SPI Asset Management's Stephen Innes.

"Although there have been several local changes to Covid policies, China has yet to shift away from the zero-Covid policy officially. Instead, they are trying to balance the expected reopening surge in Omicron cases against minimizing economic and social costs."

The brighter outlook lifted Asian markets with Hong Kong leading the way, jumping more than four per cent while Shanghai put on more than one per cent.

There were also gains in Tokyo, Sydney, Wellington, Singapore, Taipei and Manila.

London opened marginally higher, though Paris and Frankfurt inched down.

The prospect of the world's number-two economy kicking back into gear helped traders overcome data on Friday showing far more jobs than expected were created in the United States in November.

Pedestrians pass an electronic board showing the numbers for the Hang Seng Index in Hong Kong on 5 December 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

A big jump in wages added to concerns that the economy remained hot, meaning the Fed still had plenty of work to do to get inflation down to its two per cent target.

"If next week's consumer price index data stays hot... then our forecast for the Fed funds rate to be raised by 50 basis points each in December and February to hit 4.75-5.00 per cent may prove too low," said Mansoor Mohi-uddin, of Bank of Singapore.

"If the Fed instead needs to keep hiking well into 2023 then the near-term outlook for risk assets will remain challenging for investors."

Still, the dollar remained under pressure against its main peers as investors lower their expectations for US borrowing costs.

China's yuan was among the best performers, breaking below the seven per dollar level for the first time in almost three months.—AFP

Viet Nam's textiles, garments export up 18.5% in 11 months

VIET Nam earned more than 34.5 billion US dollars from exporting textiles and garments in the first 11 months of this year, up 18.5 per cent from the same period last year, according to the country's Ministry of Industry and Trade on Monday.

In November alone, however, Viet Nam's textile and garment export decreased eight per cent year-on-year to around 2.8 billion dollars.

Inflation, currency devaluation and decrease in purchasing power of major countries are among the risks for Viet Nam's textile and garment sector, local newspaper Viet Nam News cited President of the Viet Nam Textile and Apparel Association Vu Duc Giang as saying.

Those factors have forced Vietnamese textile and garment enterprises to seek and diversify export markets. Despite difficulties, many businesses are still growing in production, he said.

The textile and garment industry would likely gain the export target of 42-43 billion US dollars this year, he said. —Xinhua

November deliveries of Tesla's Shanghai factory hit new monthly high

TESLA'S Shanghai Gigafactory delivered 100,291 vehicles in November, hitting a fresh monthly high, the US carmaker has said.

In the first 11 months of this year, the Shanghai factory delivered more than 650,000 vehicles.

The factory's January-November deliveries far exceeded last year's total of 484,130, said Cui Dongshu, secretary-general of the China Passenger Car Association.

The Gigafactory's annual sales for 2022 could hopefully hit 750,000 units, Cui added.

The localization rate of the industrial chain of Tesla's Shanghai Gigafactory has now exceeded 95 per cent, helping China's new energy vehicle industry to develop a world-leading integrated industrial structure and robust consumption potential, said Tao Lin, vice-president of Tesla.

Cui estimated that from January through November, China's new energy vehicle sales exceeded 5.7 million units, while for the whole of 2022, the production and sales of such vehicles could top 6.5 million. —Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (005E/W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (005E/W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V HANSA SIEGBURG VOY.NO. (246W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HANSA SIEGBURG VOY.NO. (246W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-12-2022** 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 ASIA PTE LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
TUG:NAUTILLUS, BG:SINGA BESAR 2801

Consignees of cargo carried on **TUG:NAUTILLUS, BG:SINGA BESAR 2801 VOY.NO. (22/11-02MM)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-1** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S UNI-SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Workers walk past a FIFA World Cup sign in Doha on 16 November 2022, ahead of the Qatar 2022 World Cup football tournament. **PHOTO: AFP**

UN agency seeks FIFA deal for World Cup labour rights role

AFTER fierce criticism of the Qatar World Cup, the head of the UN labour agency on Sunday pressed FIFA's president for a greater role scrutinizing future World Cup hosts.

International Labour Organization director-general Gilbert Houngbo told AFP before meeting with Gianni Infantino that Qatar has been a victim of "double standards" and has made significant progress but more needs to be done for its migrant labourers.

The ILO is seeking a role carrying out "due diligence" on future candidate countries, Houngbo said in an interview.

FIFA has faced increased pressure after years of criticism of labour rights in Qatar, ranging from controversy over deaths on mega construction projects to unpaid salaries and working in the Gulf state's fierce summer heat.

Houngbo said he believes "FIFA is very determined to make sure that for future World Cups, or the next attribution, the social question, the question of respect of worker standards, are critical questions in the decision". —AFP

Iran accuses US of "seeking to cause chaos" to force concessions in nuke talks

THE Iranian foreign minister on Sunday accused the United States, along with some other Western countries, of "seeking to cause chaos" in Iran to force its concessions in the talks on reviving a 2015 nuclear deal.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian made the accusation at a joint press conference with his Serbian counterpart Ivica Dacic following their meeting in Serbia's capital Belgrade.

"We do not let anybody incite riots and terrorism in our country," he was quoted by the Iranian Students' News Agency as saying.

Protests have erupted in Iran after 22-year-old Mahsa Amini died in a Tehran hospital on 16 September, a few days after her collapse at a police station. Iran has accused the United States and some other Western countries of "inciting riots and supporting terrorists" in the country.

Speaking of his recent phone call with EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, Amir-Abdollahian said, "Only a lasting agreement capable of safeguarding Iranian people's interests would be valuable to Iran." Iran signed the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with world powers in July 2015, agreeing to put some curbs on its nuclear programme in return for the removal of the sanctions on the country. The United States, however, pulled out of the deal in 2018 and reimposed its sanctions on Iran, prompting the latter to drop some of its nuclear commitments under the deal.—Xinhua

Trump talk of ending constitutional rules draws sharp rebukes

DONALD Trump's suggestion that the United States disregard rules and regulations including "those found in the Constitution" drew scathing rebukes this weekend from politicians of both parties, with a top Democrat calling it "a danger to our democracy".

What many saw as a bizarre proposal from a singularly unconventional former president came in his latest social media post hammering away at baseless conspiracy theories about the 2020 election, which he lost to Joe Biden.

Given what he claimed was "massive and widespread fraud and deception" involving technology companies and the Democratic Party, "do you throw the Presidential Election Results of 2020 OUT and declare the RIGHTFUL WINNER, or do you have a NEW ELECTION? —AFP

W African leaders agree to create regional force

WEST African leaders agreed on Sunday to create a regional force to intervene against jihadism and in the event of coups, a senior official said.

Leaders of the Economic Community of West African States had decided to act to "take care of our own security in the region", Omar Alieu Touray, president of the ECOWAS commission, told journalists at a summit in Nigeria.

They are "determined to establish a regional force that will intervene in the event of need, whether this is in the area of security, terrorism and restore constitutional order in member countries," he added.

Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso have all been hit by military coups in the last two years.

Several countries in the region are also suffering from the spread of jihadism, including Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, and southwards to the Gulf of Guinea.

National armies, largely powerless against the jihadist forces operating across borders, have been cooperating with external actors such as the UN, France and Russia.

But Touray said this decision would "restructure our security architecture".

The modalities of the planned regional force will be considered by defence chiefs in the second half of January, 2023, Touray said.

The funding of the force must also be decided, but the ECOWAS official stressed that such an operation could not be solely dependent on voluntary contributions. —AFP

Putin ally joins tech giant Yandex

A long-time ally of President Vladimir Putin, Alexei Kudrin, said Monday he will be joining Yandex as the Kremlin seeks to tighten its grip on Russia's top technology giant.

The announcement from the former finance minister comes after months of instability at the internet company, with employees fleeing due to the military offensive in Ukraine and its founder hit by Western sanctions.

Russia's top internet company and most popular search engine is being divided into Russian and international businesses because of Western penalties.

Analysts say that the move will cement government control over what was once seen as one of Russia's top success stories.

Last week Kudrin announced he was stepping down as head of Russia's Audit Chamber to focus on private initiatives with "significant impact on people".

People walk past food delivery robot by Russian IT giant Yandex in Moscow on 11 August 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

"I accepted an offer from Yandex to become a corporate development adviser," Kudrin said on Monday.

He added that in his role he will work to "ensure the long-term and sustainable development of the company on all markets, including international ones".

Kudrin is expected to oversee the operations of the restructured company, while its founder, Arkady Volozh, who was hit by EU sanctions in June, will develop a number of Yandex businesses outside Russia.

In recent years Russian authorities have steadily ramped up control over the internet — once considered the last bastion of free speech.—AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

More people flee after eruption of Indonesia's Mount Semeru

RESCUERS evacuated more people Monday from nearby villages after the eruption of Indonesia's Mount Semeru, with officials warning of danger from cooling lava despite less activity from the volcano.

More than 2,400 villagers have now fled their homes and taken shelter in 11 evacuation centres after the highest mountain on the country's main island of Java erupted early morning Sunday.

"The military, police, local disaster and village officials keep evacuating people in Curah Kobokan where the hot ash cloud and cold lava might travel," Abdul Muhari, a spokesman for Indonesia's disaster mitigation agency, told local television.

"So far the total number of evacuees is 2,489."

Officials have announced a state of emergency for the next two weeks and authorities have been distributing free masks to protect against ash in the air while setting up public kitchens for evacuees.

On Monday morning, dozens of evacuees in Lumajang district where Semeru is located ventured back to their ash-covered homes to retrieve important belongings, before returning to shelters, according to an AFP journalist.

Some shepherded livestock while others carried appliances such as TVs and refrigerators as the volcano spewed ash in the background.

People stand before Mount Semeru following a volcanic eruption at Kajar Kuning village in Lumajang on 5 December 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Muhari said visual observation of Semeru on Monday morning indicated less intense volcanic activity but he warned of potential danger from lava flows that had cooled after heavy rain.

"What we worry about is economic activities such as sand mining. We want to make sure the route where the hot ash cloud and the cold lava might travel is completely free of activity," he said.

The government's alert status indicating danger from the volcano was raised to its highest level Sunday. It had previously been at its second-highest level since a major eruption last December.

Last year's eruption killed 51 people and damaged more than 5,000 homes while forcing nearly 10,000 people to seek refuge.—AFP

Japan to put off tax hike to cover increased defence spending

The Japan Air Self-Defence Force conducts a drill to deploy Patriot Advanced Capability-3 surface-to-air missile interceptors on an artificial island in Osaka, western Japan, on 19 May 2022, in the wake of North Korea's repeated missile launches. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN plans to put off for now a tax hike intended to finance a planned increase in the country's defence spending, a government source said Sunday.

The government will continue to study measures to secure a stable source of revenue as Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has called for raising defence spending to two per cent of gross domestic product in fiscal 2027 from the current one per cent.

The government will set the general direction of the plan but is likely to forego deciding on a specific tax increase when it compiles the initial budget for fiscal 2023 in late December, the source said.

It intends to prioritize cutting non-defence outlays because some Liberal Democratic Party lawmakers oppose raising taxes that would directly hit consumers and companies, the source said.—Kyodo

North Korea fires artillery barrage into buffer zone: Seoul

NORTH Korea fired a barrage of artillery shells into a maritime buffer zone on Monday, Seoul's military said, the latest in a series of launches by an increasingly belligerent Pyongyang.

About 130 artillery rounds were simultaneously fired at 14:59 pm (0559 GMT) from two separate sites, one on North Korea's east coast and one on the west coasts, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

Seoul's military said the barrage was a "clear violation" of the 2018 agreement between the North and South that established the buffer zone in a bid to reduce tensions.

It said none of the shells crossed the Northern Limit Line, the de facto maritime border between the two countries.

The military said it had issued "several warnings" over the barrage, without giving any further details.

"Our military is strengthening its readiness posture in preparation for emergencies while tracking and monitoring related developments under close cooperation between South Korea and the United States," it added.—AFP

Indonesia plans to build nuclear power plant, seeks investors

INDONESIA aims to develop a nuclear power plant in 2039 to achieve net zero emissions and support domestic needs for energy, the country's Nuclear Energy Regulatory Agency (BAPETEN) said here Sunday.

The agency's Director for Nuclear Installation and Material Control, Haendra Subekti, said in a statement that to realize the target, Indonesia is currently looking for investors to help finance the plant's construction. "We have drafted the regulations on the nuclear infrastructure safety, preparing the location for the plant and formulating the trial operation. All of these have been nearly completed," Subekti said, adding that the location of the nuclear power plant will not be in earthquake-prone areas.—Xinhua

Israeli survey finds "significant gaps" in manufacturing's readiness for cyberattacks

AN annual survey has found "significant gaps" between Israeli manufacturing companies' cybersecurity preparedness and the government recommendations.

The survey tried to see if the cyber preparedness in the Israeli manufacturing sector fits with the practices recommended by the Israel National Cyber Directorate (INCD), the Manufacturers Association of Israel, which co-launched the survey with INCD, said in a statement on Sunday.

Among the 126 surveyed companies, 59 per cent had no up-to-date or sound cybersecurity programme, making them significantly vulnerable to cyberattacks, and only 35 per cent performed a breach test for the corporate networks connected to the internet, the INCD statement said.

In addition, although 99 per cent of the surveyed companies kept some kind of backup, only a third performed remote backups and recovery practices this year.

The companies in question have some 38,000 employees and an annual turnover of 19.5 billion shekels (5.72 billion US dollars) in total, according to the statement.—Xinhua

More people flee after eruption of Indonesia's Mount Semeru

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

SPORT

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Luis Enrique set Spain players 'homework' of 1,000 penalties ahead of World Cup

SPAIN coach Luis Enrique set each of his players the "homework" of practicing 1,000 penalties ahead of the World Cup, saying he is convinced they are not a lottery.

The 2010 world champions face Morocco in the last 16 on Tuesday, with the threat of extra-time and penalties looming in the knockout phase of the tournament in Qatar.

Spain beat Switzerland on penalties at last year's Euro 2020 but were eliminated on spot-kicks by Italy in the semi-finals.

"Over a year ago, in one of the Spain camps, I told them they had to get here with at least 1,000 penalties taken," Luis Enrique said on Monday.

"I imagine that they have done their homework. If you wait until getting here to practice penalties... (it won't be enough).

The Spaniard insisted spot kicks were "not a lottery".

"It's a moment of maximum tension, a time to show your nerve, and that you can shoot the penalty in the way you have decided, if you have trained it a thousand times," he said. "It says a lot about each player. It's trainable, manageable, how you manage the tension. It's increasingly less luck — the goalkeepers have more influence.

"We have a very good goalkeeper, any of the three can do very well in this situation. Every time we finish training I see a lot of players taking penalties."

The Spain coach also responded to criticism over the team's style of play — their commitment to playing out from defence sometimes puts them under pressure in dangerous areas.—AFP

Spain's coach Luis Enrique attends a training session at Qatar University in Doha, on 5 December 2022 on the eve of the Qatar 2022 World Cup Round of 16 football match between Morocco and Spain. **PHOTO: AFP**

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar2022

Croatia reach World Cup quarters with shoot-out victory over Japan

Japan's players react after they lost the penalty shoot-outs in the Qatar 2022 World Cup round of 16 football match between Japan and Croatia at the Al-Janoub Stadium in Al-Wakrah, south of Doha on 5 December 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

CROATIA reached the quarter-finals of the World Cup on Monday with a dramatic 3-1 penalty shoot-out win over Japan after a tense last-16 clash ended 1-1.

Mario Pasalic struck the winning penalty to send Croatia through after Ivan Perisic had pulled Croatia level in the 55th minute of normal time following Daizen Maeda's opener for Japan just before the break.

Croatia now face either Brazil or South Korea in the last eight and continued midfield icon Luka Modric's stay at his fourth and likely final World Cup.

Japan's bid to reach the last eight for the first time in their history came to a crushing end after another display of the sort which saw off Spain and Germany on their way to topping Group E.

However they could not claim one more big European scalp in the shape of the 2018 finalists and go home in the second round, as they did four years ago, after having three of their penalties saved.

Japan could easily have been ahead within three minutes when Shogo Taniguchi glanced a header wide from point-blank range, and 10 minutes later Daizen Maeda came close to turning in Junya Ito's brilliantly placed low ball from the right flank.—AFP

Portugal coach Santos 'not happy' with Ronaldo World Cup gesture

PORTUGAL coach Fernando Santos said he was unimpressed with Cristiano Ronaldo's behaviour after the forward reacted angrily when substituted during the team's final group game at the World Cup in Qatar.

Santos, who said the matter was now closed, is preparing his team to face Switzerland in the last 16 on Tuesday.

Ronaldo initially said he was "insulted" by a South Korean player as he was substituted in the second half of his side's 2-1 defeat to the Asian side on Friday.—AFP

FIFA World Cup 2022

21:30 MST (6-12-2022)

Morocco - Spain

01:30 MST (7-12-2022)

Portugal - Switzerland