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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 delegation of foreign economic organization JSC "Tyazhpromexport" of Russian Federation



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepts the courtesy call of Director-General Mr Sergey Egorov of JSC "Tyazhpromexport" from the Russian Federation yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday afternoon received a delegation led by Direc-

tor-General Mr Sergey Egorov of JSC "Tyazhpromexport", which is a foreign economic organization of the Russian Federation, at the hall of the SAC Chairman Office in Nay

Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on matters relating to technological cooperation of Russia in the development of iron and steel

manufacturing in Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than and officials. The director-general of JSC "Tyazhpromexport"

which is a foreign economic organization of the Russian Federation was accompanied by Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nikolay Listopadov. — MNA

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17 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 6 December, total figure rises to 633,341

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,341** after **17** new cases were reported on 6 December 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **607,877** including **14** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,488** on 6 December 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 21 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

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of Service Organizations transferred, confirmed and appointed

1. The State Administration Council has transferred and appointed U Win Zaw Aung, Director-General of the Department of Population under the Ministry of Immigration and Population, as Director-General of the Union Minister's Office from the date he assumes charge of his duties.
2. The State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of Dr Kaythi Htwe as Rector of the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon) under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture after the one-year probationary period.
3. The State Administration Council has appointed on probation the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Htein Lin Aung Ministry of Defence	Managing Director Myanma Timber Enterprise Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
(b) U Ye Tun Oo Deputy Director-General Department of Electronic Identification Ministry of Immigration and Population	Director-General Department of Immigration Ministry of Immigration and Population
(c) Daw Lae Lae Aye Deputy Director-General Department of Disaster Management Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement	Director-General Department of Disaster Management Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement



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Lacquerware College (Bagan) to run diploma courses in lacquerware

THE Lacquerware College (Bagan), the only one of its kind in Southeast Asia, will run a one-year diploma course in lacquerware in December, according to the principal of Bagan Lacquerware College. The college is situated in Bagan, NyaungU District, Mandalay Region.

From the 1924-1925 Academic Year to the 2019-2020 Academic Year, the college turned out a total of 2,564 graduates who completed basic, advanced and diploma courses.

"A one-year diploma course in lacquerware will start in December. Any graduate can apply for the course. All those who have passed the matriculation

exam can apply for a two-year diploma course. Management, information and technology will be taught in the two-year course. Students will have the right to live in hostels on campus. Those who graduated from the course will get a chance to join the third-year course at the Universities of Cooperative and Management in Thanlyin and Sagaing," said Daw Nilar Myint, principal of the Bagan Lacquerware College.

The Lacquerware Vocational School was first established in 1924. Then, it was upgraded to an institute and a college in 1995 and 2003 respectively. — Maung Aye Chan/CT



Their skill demonstration of students is pictured at Bagan Lacquerware College.

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Need to export value-added products to external markets

IT is more beneficial to manufacture and export value-added commodities to external markets in spite of rather shipping raw materials both from aboveground and underground resources ...

(Excerpt from the address delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the SAC meeting 7/2022 held on 16 August 2022.)

It is necessary to provide smooth and secure travel for local and foreign tourists for booming all kinds of tourism services: Vice-Senior General



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win chairs the meeting 2/2022 of the National Tourism Development Central Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

SIGNIFICANT tourism products and services must be promoted through the digital platform, said Chairman of the National Tourism Development Central Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the meeting 2/2022 of the central committee at the Jade Hall of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General said that all global countries are striving for the resurgence of the tourism industry because businesses faced unprecedented losses triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As Myanmar experiences less than one per cent of infection from the pandemic for 20 successive days, all are to strive for gaining development momentum in the tourism industry keeping in line with the COVID-19 protocols.

The Vice-Senior General noted that the World Tourism

Organization showed tourism industry contributes to the global economy and creates more than 320 million employments throughout the world, accounting for 10 per cent of the world GDP. Moreover, the organization recognized the tourism industry to contribute much to the growth of micro, small and medium-scale enterprises.

Currently, the Vice-Senior General underscored that more than 200 countries including Myanmar resumed operations of the tourism industry. As such, some 700 million international tourists visited the global countries from January to September 2022, increasing 133 per cent more than that of the same period last year. As a result, the economic growth reached 65 per cent of growth against the progress in 2019.

The Vice-Senior General urged authorities of regions and states to hold necessary technical knowledge awareness and training courses, workshops and shows for manufacturing

tourism-related goods such as foodstuffs and souvenirs using domestic raw materials so as to attract businesspersons.

As the majority of MSMEs face challenges of capital, technologies, infrastructures, skilled labour and market share, authorities and hotels and tourism agents have to support the improvement of MSME industries.

All stakeholders need to participate in the long-term development of the tourism industry and environmental conservation as well as implement barrier-free tourism in all regions and states.

The Vice-Senior General pointed out that new ideas and ways must be sought for the implementation of some sorts of tourism such as agri-based tourism, farming-based tourism and educational tourism in the country whereas tourism towns and villages must be shaped in regions and states.

The Vice-Senior General urged authorities to initially designate the friendly countries

All stakeholders need to participate in the long-term development of the tourism industry and environmental conservation as well as implement barrier-free tourism in all regions and states.

and neighbouring countries as the tourism market of Myanmar. Significant tourism products and services must be promoted through the digital platform. It is necessary to provide smooth and secure travel for local and foreign tourists for booming all kinds of tourism services.

Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung reported on tourism measures. The director general of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, who is in the capacity

of joint secretary of the central committee, sought approvals for the accomplishment of the decisions from the meeting 1/2022 and amendment of formation for tourism work committee and regional tourism work committees.

Union ministers, chief ministers, private tourism organizations and experts discussed the development of the tourism industry.

Before concluding the meeting, the Vice-Senior General coordinated the discussions and reports. —MNA

CBM Governor attends 58th SEACEN Governors' Conference/ High-Level Seminar, 42nd SEACEN Board of Governors Meeting



Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe takes part in the 58th SEACEN Governor's Conference/ High-Level Seminar and the 42nd SEACEN BOG Meeting on 5 December in Cambodia.

GOVERNOR of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe attended the 58th SEACEN Governors' Conference/High-Level Seminar and 42nd SEACEN Board of Governors-BOG Meeting jointly organized by The South East Asian

Central Banks (SEACEN) Research and Training Centre and the National Bank of Cambodia on 5 December in Cambodia.

During the 58th SEACEN Governors' Conference/ High-Level Seminar, Governor Mr Chea Chanto of the National

Bank of Cambodia and SEACEN Executive Director Dr Mangal Goswami made greeting speeches.

Then, European Central Bank-ECB Head Ms Christine Lagarde, Prof Dr Larry Summers of Harvard University,

Deputy General Manager Dr Luiz Pereira da Silva of Bank for International Settlements-BIS and Managing Director Mr Ravi Menon of the Monetary Authority of Singapore discussed the topic "Current Policy Challenges".

Moreover, Deputy Director Dr Sanjaya Panth of the Asia and Pacific Department of the International Monetary Fund reported on "The Global and Asia Economic Context" and Governor of Bank of Thailand Dr Sethaput Suthiwartnarueput, the Deputy Chief Executive of Hong Kong Monetary Authority and Deputy Governor of Bank Indonesia Mr Dody Waluyo and attendees exchanged views on the presentations.

Deputy Director Dr Fabio Natalucci of the Monetary and Capital Markets Department of IMF clarified the "Transition Challenges and Scaling Up Climate Financing" and Governor of the Central Bank of the Philippines Dr Felipe Medalla and Head of the Institute of Finance and Sustainability Dr Ma Jun coordinated for the report.

During the 42nd SEACEN Board of Governors-BOG Meeting, Executive Director of SEACEN Dr Mangal Goswami presented the implementation of strategic plans of SEACEN Centre in 2022, motions for 2023, the budget estimate for 2023, and the 19 Governors of Central Banks instructed the proper management procedures. — MNA

Myanmar delegation attends Regional Consultative Meeting on Promoting Establishment of Regional Victim Assistance Network

A delegation led by Director-General U Aung Kyaw Moe of the Department of Rehabilitation under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement participated in the Regional Consultative Meeting on Promoting the Establishment of Regional Victim Assistance Network held at Bali, Indonesia, on 5 December.

At the opening of the regional consultative meeting, Executive Director Mr Prum Suonpraseth of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) extended greetings to the attendees. Then, Mr Kwon Hee-seog, Ambassador of the Mission of the Republic of Korea to ASEAN and Mr Yeap Samnang, Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia to ASEAN

gave their opening speeches.

Afterwards, they discussed proposals and suggestions for the establishment of a support network for people injured by landmines in the ASEAN region, and good practices and difficulties resulted from national coordination meetings held country-wise for building a support network for people injured by landmines in Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Viet Nam and the ASEAN region.

Myanmar delegation studied the registration and support for people with disabilities, information regarding rehabilitation, and providing development assistance to be carried out after the process of mine clearance has been completed, it is learnt. — MNA

The documentary group photo of the Regional Consultative Meeting on Promoting the Establishment of Regional Victim Assistance Network in Bali, Indonesia, on 5 December.

Myanmar to celebrate International Anti-Corruption Day

THE United Nations Convention against Corruption ratified by the United Nations Member States under General Assembly Resolution 58/4 on 31-10-2003 designated

9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar officially joined the convention on 12 December 2012 and

became a member. Myanmar will celebrate International Anti-Corruption Day like other member states of the convention. — MNA

ROK-ASEAN joint XR Project, XR Convergence Sports Contents and Experience Centre opened



Rector Daw Saw Sanda Aye of the University of Information Technology is pictured saying words of thanks at the event yesterday.

THE opening ceremony of the ROK-ASEAN joint XR Project, XR Convergence Sports Contents and Experience Centre was held at the University of Information Technology in Hline Township in Yangon yesterday.

Director-General Daw Nwe Ni from the Department of Advanced Science and Technology of the Ministry of Science and Technology said that the ROK-ASEAN Joint XR Project: XR Convergence Sports Contents and Experience Centre in Myanmar is one of the nine new projects of 2022 the Republic of Korea-ASEAN Joint XR in ASEAN countries and that it was established to build the foundation for mutual growth of extended reality technology and technological fields between the

Republic of Korea and ASEAN.

Afterwards, Mr Jeong Mun Seob, CEO of Busan IT Industry Promotion Agency of the Republic of Korea, and Dr Youn Shik Ha, Chairman of KMPI Consortium Co Ltd explained the information technology cooperation between the two countries and Dr Saw Sanda Aye, Rector of the University of Information Technology, expressed words of thanks.

At the ceremony, the Busan IT Industry Promotion Agency of the Republic of Korea and the Department of Advanced Science and Technology of Myanmar signed an agreement on cooperation in ICT development between the two countries.—MNA

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

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

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, and relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 6,903 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 1,104 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, and 107 people from Toungoo Township in Bago Region.

Similarly, on that day healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 338 students from seven districts in Mandalay Region.

In addition, to assist in the control and prevention of the COVID-19 disease, military officials from various regional commands in collaboration with district and township administrative officials, departmental personnel and members of civil society organizations (CSOs) conducted educational campaigns such as prevention of COVID-19, wearing of masks in public places and distribution of masks to the locals at schools, markets, streets, city entry points and crowded areas in 44 townships in Yangon Region yesterday.—MNA



A local from Hinthada Township in Ayeyawady Region gets jabbed against COVID-19 on 6 December 2022.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, crude oil, feedstuffs, foodstuffs, consumer goods, electronics and vehicles confiscated

A combined team under the supervision of the Magway Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections on 4 December.

Officials captured an unregistered Daihatsu Move car (approximately K4 million) in Pakoku township and an unregistered Honda Fit car (approximately K2.5 million) in Magway township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

In addition, 28 gallons of illegal crude oil worth K140,000 from two motorbikes (estimated value of K200,000) were impounded in Yenangyaung and Minbu townships and the action was taken under the Public Property Protection Act.

On 5 December, a combined inspection team seized 56 used TVs worth K2,360,000 without official documents from a Nissan Diesel Truck (estimated value of K35 million). The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

Similarly, a total of 1.9224 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K679,392 was confiscated in Lewe and Ottarathiri townships. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Moreover, officials concerned captured 10 mobile phones worth K3.5 million without official documents hidden in luggage at the Yangon International Airport and seized K11,544,000 worth of consumer goods that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) at the Myanmar Industrial Port container checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

An on-duty team nabbed three kinds of foodstuffs including 1,000 kilogrammes of animal food that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a Nissan

Diesel (estimated value of K35 million) near No 2 highway on Myawady-Hpa-an-Yangon Road. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

An unregistered Alphard car (worth approximately K9 million) and an unregistered Toyota Hilux Surf car (approximately K5 million) were seized in Monywa township and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

A total of 6.6098 tonnes of illegal teak worth K2,412,828 was confiscated in the Khaboung forest reserve in Toungoo district and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 16 arrests (at an estimated value of K126,509,062) were made on three consecutive days from 4 to 6 December, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee.—MNA

Drugs seized in Mongton and Kalaw townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-drug Police Force stopped and searched the house of Min Aung (aka) Min Min in Wamsala village in Mongton and seized 6,000 stimulant tablets at 12:15 pm on 5 December.

At 3:50 pm on 4 December, members of the Shan State Police Force examined a suspected garlic basket that was taken by Myint Swe and Ma Yin Yin Htwe from a bus station

in Mokaung ward in Aungban in Kalaw township and found 28,000 stimulant tablets.

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

LOCAL BUSINESS

Weekly market update of dry groceries

DURING the week from 30 November to 6 December, the prices of both old onions and new stocks hit a record high. The market price of palm oil extended its decline.

Onion

On 6 December, Bayintnaung Wholesale market saw the entry of newly harvested monsoon onions.

The wholesale prices of old onions from the Myingyan area peaked at K5,100 per viss on 2 December. Approximately 100,000 tonnes of new onions from the Myittha area were supplied to the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market on 5 December. The new onions are valued at K2,900-4,100 per viss from the Myingyan area and K3,650-4,650 from the Myittha area on 6 December. The prices of Chinese onions were K1,700-3,300 per viss during the week ending 6 December.

Garlic

The wholesale price of the Kyugoat garlic variety remained unchanged at K3,300 per viss on 6 December, while the local garlic from Shan State (Aungban) fetched K2,800-3,900 per viss.

Potato

The markets saw a high influx of Chinese potatoes these days. On 6 December, the prices of Chinese potatoes stood at K1,650-2,250 per viss, while the prices of Shan potatoes moved in the range between K1,750 and 2,150 per viss.

Chilli pepper

The wholesale prices of chilli peppers were K13,000-13,500 per viss of Shan long chilli pepper and K12,000-13,000 for the Moehtaung variety. The prices of bell peppers were K28,000 per viss from the Sinphyukyun area and K31,000 provided by cold storage.

Palm oil

The wholesale reference price of palm oil in the Yangon Region this week was up by K205 per viss compared to the last week's price. The reference price for a week from 5 to 11 December was set at K4,630 per viss. The delivery order price in the Yangon market was K5,450 per viss between 28 November and 5 December.

Consequently, the wholesale prices of palm oil slid to K5,350 per viss on 6 December. There is



Foodstuffs are seen at one dry grocery.

a gap of K720 between the reference price and the delivery order price.

Rice

The prices of sticky rice from the Pyapon area stood at K90,000, K85,000 from the Pathein area and K80,000 from other areas.

Meanwhile, the prices of high-grade Pawsan stood at K90,000-95,000 per bag from the Shwebo area, K68,000-70,000 from

Pathein/Myaungmya area and K65,000 from the Pyapon area, while other rice varieties were K56,000 for new Pawsan rice, K53,000 for Pawkywe, K50,000-51,000 of short-mature rice (90 days), K47,000-48,000 for rice grown under intercropping system and K42,000 for monsoon low-grade rice.

Pulses

The prices of various pulses stood at over K1,712,000 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K1,942,500 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC), K1,835,000 per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) RC, K3,900 -4,100 per viss of chickpea and K2,830-3,000 per viss of green gram (Kayan Shwe Wah variety) in Yangon markets. —TWA/EMM

DO price of palm oil stands above wholesale reference price with slight difference



Edible oils are seen in the market.

THE Delivery Order (DO) price of palm oil stood at K5,350-K5,400 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilograms) at oil tanks in the Yangon market and the market retail price touched only K5,400-K5430 per viss on 6 December 2022, according to the Bayintnaung oil market.

The palm oil price at oil tanks in Meiktila fetched K5,600 per viss on 6 December, K200 higher than Yangon. The regional price rate of palm oil is normally around K100 per viss higher than Yangon, commented

tan oil trader.

The wholesale reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market rose by only K200 per viss in November. However, the oil wholesale reference price shoots up to K4,630 per viss between 5 and 11 December, indicating a price rise of K205 per viss within one week. Therefore, the DO price was K720 per viss higher than the wholesale reference rate on 6 December.

The retail price of palm oil went up to approximately K4,000 per viss than the reference rate

around August 2022.

It is reported that the DO price, the wholesale price and the retail price of palm oil were being sold at the same price in the Yangon oil market within these months. The usual price gap between the wholesale price and the retail price is K30 per viss. However, the demand for oil in the Yangon oil market is decreasing this month. Thus, the same rate for palm oil is the distinguishing feature of the Yangon oil market at the end of this year, said an oil dealer.

Oil dealers in Yangon and other regions are at a loss this month. Thus, an oil seller suggested that the price gap between the wholesale reference price and the raised DO price should be reduced.

As such, most consumers will be able to buy palm oil at a reasonable price that will be less different from the reference price. — TWA/CT

The prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 6 December 2022

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K1,965
Octane 95	K2,045
Diesel	K2,360
Premium Diesel	K2,435

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,087,000 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,657,000 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.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Equity market continues downtick in Nov

THE stock trading values by seven listed companies on the YSX were estimated at over K558 million with 103,292 shares traded in November; the Yangon Stock Exchange's monthly price data indicated.

The trading values continued to drop in October and November compared to September's record figure.

Trading of 61,435 shares valued at K282 million was recorded on the exchange in January 2022 and the trading volume rose to 80,291 shares in February, with an estimated value of K414.9 million. A total of 52,408 shares with an estimated value of K233.634 million were traded on the exchange in March. The trading value slightly rose to K276 million with 53,059 shares traded on the exchange in April. The equity market saw

K314 million with 55,024 shares traded in May, K200.63 million with 40,062 shares in June, K246.9 million with 72,843 shares and K370 million with 109,809 shares in August. The highest trading with 347,597 shares worth K1.624 billion was recorded in September. Then, the market witnessed a downtick in trading with 143,034 shares worth K687.12 million in October; according to the monthly report of the YSX.

At present, shares of seven listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co Ltd (EFR) and Amata Holding Public Co Ltd (AMATA) were traded in the equity market.

The securities saw a slight decline in share prices in November and the prices were closed at K9,000 for FMI, K3,300 for MTSH, K7,700 for MCB, K19,500 for FPB, K2,650 for TMH, K2,650 for EFR and K4,900 for AMATA respectively last month.

Additionally, YSX launched a pre-listing board (PLB) on 28 September 2020 to provide unlisted public companies with fund-raising opportunities and build a bridge toward listing on YSX.

Moreover, the YSX stock investment virtual series 2022 launched in December through the YSX YouTube channel and other social media platforms every weekend of December 2022, including three sessions; Insights talk with listed companies, Investment presentations



The YSX, a Myanmar bourse, was launched four years ago to improve the private business sector.

by securities companies and Panel discussion with market experts.

Furthermore, block trading of YSX can be done with the minimum order quantity (10,000 stocks) or with the stocks of trading value of K30 million starting from 1 September 2022.

Next, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar

(SECM) has allowed foreigners to invest in the local equity market since 20 March 2020.

The YSX was launched four years ago to improve the private business sector. It disseminates rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading through stock investment webinars and training courses.—KK

Myanmar conveys over 1.4 mln tonnes of rice to external markets in Apr-Oct



The photo shows bags of export rice being loaded onto the vessel.

MYANMAR shipped over 1.4 million metric tons of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the past eight months (April-October) of the current financial year 2022-2023, with an estimated income of US\$510 million, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

In the past eight months, more than 42 exporter companies delivered over 1.09 million MT of rice and broken rice to external markets by sea, whereas over 315,677 MT were sent to neighbouring countries via border posts.

Myanmar shipped rice and broken rice to regional countries, countries in Africa and European Union member countries through

maritime trade. It is also exported to neighbouring countries, China and Thailand through cross-border posts.

China is still the main buyer of Myanmar's rice in the past seven months, purchasing over 224,000 tonnes of rice and over 237,000 tonnes of broken rice.

Myanmar exported rice to over 20 foreign markets in the past months, mostly to China (224,291 MT), followed by Bangladesh, the Philippines and other European countries such as Italy, Spain, Poland, Belgium, the Netherlands and France. Additionally, Myanmar primarily conveyed 237,757 MT of broken rice to China and 198,738 MT to Belgium.

The prices of high-grade rice

varieties stood at K60,000-90,000 per bag and K35,500-45,000 per bag for low-grade rice varieties.

The export price of Myanmar's rice was relatively lower than the rates of Thailand and Viet Nam, according to MRF.

The federation targeted to ship two million tonnes of rice this year. Myanmar has shipped more than 1.4 million tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners between 1 October and 31 March in the past mini-budget period (2021-2022), Myanmar Rice Federation stated.

Myanmar bagged US\$700 million from the export of two million tonnes of rice to foreign countries in the past 2020-2021 financial year. —KK

Myanmar prepping for green gram export to EU in 2023

MYANMAR has been making a readiness to export green grams to European Union countries in 2023, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Ministry of Commerce agreed to export the green grams for sprouts in 2015.

The steering committee has been holding a series of meetings to call for bids, conduct awareness courses for the farmers and inspect farm-level processing regarding exports of the green grams for bean sprouts.

The Agriculture Department takes charge of farmer and collector inspection and testing, while the Consumers Affairs Department carries out processor inspection and training. Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service (MITS), the authorized organization of the State, was asked to monitor processor level to meet the criteria, food safety and quality standard set by the EU. Those inspectors from MITS are trained by the experts of the Plant Protection Division, Agriculture Department and the German Development Agency GIZ. MITS conducted inspection

annually, with nine in 2018, 10 in 2019, six each in 2020 and 2021 and five in 2022 respectively.

For Myanmar's bean and pulses exports to the EU, handling and hygiene practices are crucial for bean export to the EU.

The inspection undergoes the following stages; purchasing green grams, warehousing, processing and refining green gram, cargo handling for exports, quality control and health and hygiene of the workers.

The MITS undertakes an inspection once at a factory that meets the criteria and standards. If the MITS finds the requirements during inspection, they set a time-frame for the factory manager to fix them. Then, they went on a second inspection tour. They present certificates for those factories that passed the test.

The MITS is ready to implement a processor-level test for those export companies to the EU in 2023.

Myanmar's green gram is primarily shipped to India, China and European countries. It has grasped a strong market share in international markets. — NN/EMM

Modernize civil aviation service to benefit the society

THE Covid-19 pandemic gradually plummets down due to the united strengths of global people in harmoniously fighting the infectious rate. At the same time, aviation services resume operations so as to give transportation to the global people.

Among various kinds of transport services, the aviation service can cut the valuable time of passengers but it is very expensive. But such an expensive cost is deserved to be spent on travelling. As such, all the global countries try to improve their civil aviation

As such, all global countries and global people need to sustain the development of civil aviation services for improving transport services and development of the society. Year by year, these services use modern aviation facilities including aeroplanes for ensuring the safety and security of the passengers with setting plans to reach the goals in a short time. As such, it is necessary to modernize the civil aviation service inch by inch.

At present, some countries which have embraced sufferings in the outbreak of Covid-19 enjoy the fruits of the civil aviation sector. These outcomes help their State economy resurge and operate various kinds of businesses in relevant countries. Really, booming businesses and civil aviation services are relying on each other. Especially, the tourism sector puts its reliance on civil aviation measures.

From now until 2023, the Council has decided that the theme will be: Advancing innovation for global aviation development. The day has been celebrated by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) since 7 December 1994, the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Convention on International Civil Aviation. The purpose of the day is to recognize the importance of aviation, especially international air travel, to the social and economic development of the world.

As such, all global countries and global people need to sustain the development of civil aviation services for improving transport services and development of the society. Year by year, these services use modern aviation facilities including aeroplanes for ensuring the safety and security of the passengers with setting plans to reach the goals in a short time. As such, it is necessary to modernize the civil aviation service inch by inch.

Appreciation for the 21st Anniversary of Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference, Seminar and Exhibition

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

MYANMAR traditional medicine is a branch of medical studies that stand out firmly and solidly for thousands of years in the chronicle of history as the Myanmar cultural heritage highlighting as national medicinal arts. For many centuries, the Myanmar people have lived their lives under the healthcare of Myanmar traditional medicine in successive eras.

In Myanmar, traditional medicine has been regarded as an invaluable national heritage and flourished significantly as a major part of the Myanmar culture. In line with the direction of the Union Government, the Ministry of Health has accorded it, as one of the priority activities and exerted all-out efforts from all perspectives for strengthening the provision of traditional medicine services to the people.

The provision of traditional medicine services is at the basic health services level with the objective of making essential traditional medicine easily accessible for the benefit of both urban and



Myanmar traditional medicine is a broad, deep and delicate branch of science covering various basic medical knowledge, different treaties, a diverse array of therapies and potent medicines. **ILLUSTRATION: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/FREEPIK**

rural populations. It also supports the people of Myanmar in the context of primary healthcare. Particularly for the rural population, traditional medicine is still a

priority and has been carried out in the mode of preventive focus, getting along with the traditional values and the traditional art of treatment. The cultural values of traditional medicine have been handed down for generations, sustaining its potent therapeutic milestones, till the current era.

It was chronicled that Myanmar traditional medicine has been considered a prestigious service in the earliest history of Myanmar, such as Tagaung, Sri Ksetra and Bagan periods which was about 600 BC. Myanmar traditional medicine is a broad, deep and delicate branch of science covering various basic medical knowledge, different treaties, a diverse array of therapies and potent medicines.

The focal and central root of Myanmar traditional medicine derives from four main streams such as that of the Day Tha Nar Naya (the teachings of Lord Buddha), the Bay Thit Za Naya (the disciplines of medicine), the Weiz Za Da Ra Naya (the knowledge and wisdom: terms for a person who is an expert in a particular

branch of knowledge, a person with supernatural powers), and the Net Khat Ta Naya (the aspects of astrological science), and that they are based on practical treatment with cured records.

Records on treatment methods and the cases of cured illnesses were put up on the Pae (a version found in palm leaves); the Parabeik (The palm leaves book); the literary testimony; and the medicinal statement in the eras and kingdoms of Tagaung, Sri Ksetra, Bagan, Innwa or Ava, Nyaungyan, Konbaung, and Yadanabon.

The authentic records were written by the Myanmar traditional physicians themselves in connection with the application of definite treatments of the kings, the princes, the ministers, the military commanders, and the public.

In the Buddha era literature, it could be found that there was a traditional medicine university where professors taught medicine subjects to scholars such as Sayagyi Ziwaka, who clarified the remedial potency of the creepers, the grass, and the herbal shrubs,

and eventually had spelled out the adage such as “When the utterance of oral words and quotation are serious and solemn, then the creepers, the grass, and the herbal shrubs bring curative potency”.

In the Myanmar era of 1133, during the reign of the Third King Hsinphyushin Min Tayar of the Konbaung Dynasty, authorized and legal traditional royal physician U Myat Tun of Khway Saung Ywar submitted the “Maha Di Gar Yu Say Kyan Medicine Treatise”, a conditional manual, which remains until today as reference dissertation by the Myanmar traditional practitioners.

According to the references found in these documents, there are many books and records on the most renowned physicians and medicine books during different eras and kingdoms. During the sovereignty of King Mindon Min, the Glass Palace Chronicle of the Kings of Burma mentioned that ten royal physicians were assigned on duty for (24) hours, with the high titles of “Nay Myo Bi

Tat Ka Raja”, which reflected the significant and vital position of the Myanmar traditional physicians.

The University of Traditional Medicine, Mandalay (UTM), has been opened with a view to nurturing human resources with qualified healthcare skills in conjunction with the aim for the development of Myanmar traditional medicine in sound and firm foundation in similar growth and expansion of the past.

In addition, our sincere appreciation to all the respected professionals in the field of traditional medicine for contributing to their knowledge and experiences, which will be a valuable historical platform in traditional medicine for future generations and in the promotion of accessing traditional medical care services for all people.

Ref: Records from the Department of Traditional Medicine

Warmer noses are better at fighting colds: study

C HILLY weather and common respiratory infections often go hand in hand.

Reasons for this include people gather inside more in winter, and viruses survive better in low-humidity indoor air. But there has been less certainty about whether lower temperatures actually impair human immunity and, if so, how.

Now, a new study published Tuesday in The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology details a previously unknown way that the immune system attacks viral intruders inside the nose -- and finds it works better when it's warm.

These discoveries could pave the way for an eventual treatment against the common

cold and other viruses, Mansoor Amiji, a pharmaceutical sciences professor at Northeastern University, who co-led the research, told AFP.

The starting point was previous research by Amiji and colleagues in 2018, which found that nasal cells released “extracellular vesicles” (EVs) — a spray of tiny sacs that swarmed and destroyed bacteria upon inhalation.

“The best analogy that we have is a hornet’s nest,” said Amiji. Like hornets defending a nest from attack, EVs swarm, bind to, and kill invaders.

Two questions

For the new research, the team set out to answer two ques-

tions: are EVs also secreted in the nose in the presence of viral infections? And, if they are, is the strength of their response linked to temperature?

To answer the first question, they used a test substance which mimics a viral infection to stimulate nasal mucosa -- a thin tissue that lines the nose -- that was taken from volunteers who had surgery to remove polyps.

They found it did in fact produce EVs that target viruses.

In order to tackle the second question, they divided the nasal cell samples into two groups and cultured them in a lab, subjecting one set of samples to 37 degrees Celsius, and the other to 32C.

These temperatures were

chosen based on a separate test that found the temperature inside the nose falls by about 5C when outside air drops from 23C to 4C.

Under regular body heat conditions, the EVs were successfully able to fight off viruses, by presenting them with “decoy” targets that they latch on to instead of the receptors they would otherwise target on cells.

But under the reduced temperatures, fewer EVs were produced, and those that were made packed less punch against the invaders tested: two rhinoviruses and a non-Covid coronavirus, which are typically found in winter cold season.

“There’s never been a convincing reason why you have

this very clear increase in viral infectivity in the cold months,” said co-author Benjamin Bleier, a surgeon at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts Eye and Ear, in a statement.

“This is the first quantitative and biologically plausible explanation that has been developed.”

One of the most exciting aspects of the work is the potential to rev up the body’s natural production of virus-targeting EVs in order to fight or even fend off the cold -- or even the flu and Covid, said Amiji.

“That’s an area of great interest for us and we certainly continue to pursue that,” he said.

SOURCE: AFP



A new study published in The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology details a previously unknown way that the immune system attacks viral intruders inside the nose -- and finds it works better when it's warm. **PHOTO: ANGELA WEISS/AFP**

CURRENT AFFAIRS



The photo shows Ngapali beach where tourists like to go.

Myanmar to revive travel insurance, spending for Russian travellers to Ngapali beach

THE government will make arrangements regarding the insurance and monetary sectors for Russian travellers to Ngapali beach, said Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung during the meeting with Ngapali Beach Hotelier Association (Rakhine Zone).

Russian travellers are fond of visiting Ngapali beach for its clear water and clean beach area, he added.

Currently, MAI operates flights and officials will co-operate to facilitate the trav-

el insurance and spending matter of Russian visitors, according to the ministry.

Moreover, the Union minister also received Mr Kosinkov Evgeny, Commercial Director of Russia-based Yi Ling Tourism Co Ltd in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 December. During the meeting, the Union minister pledged to take necessary measures as the bilateral relationship between Myanmar and Russia is moving into higher gear. Mr Kosinkov Evgeny also

requested to ease the insurance sector of Myanmar as Russian travellers make tours by buying international insurance. Between April and October, the country sold \$3.8 million worth of travel insurance to about 60,000 travellers, according to Myanma Insurance.

The country hosted only about 5,000 Russian travellers per year previously, the digits of the ministry showed. —TWA/KTZH

YESC to provide rotational power supply in Yangon Region

THE Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation is making arrangements to divide the region into two parts for electricity supply alternately.

In the coming summer, it will not be possible to meet the electricity demand, and plans will be made to supply part-time, Union Minister U Thaung Han of the Ministry of Electric Power said at the meeting on 27 November.

Sixteen townships in Yangon Region such as Yankin, Thingangyun, South Okkalapa, Tamway, Kyaukta-

da, Pabedan, Latha, Lanmadaw, Dagon, Ahlon, Kyimydine, Sangyoung, Mayangon, Hline, Kamayut and Bahan are set as the priority in the rotational power supply system. The round-the-clock lighting system will be provided to hospitals and important departments in the townships.

Moreover, the industrial zone in South Okkalapa will be provided electricity from 9 am to 5 pm, according to the YESC. — TWA/KZW

ရန်ကုန်လျှပ်စစ်ဓာတ်အားပေးရေးကော်ပိုရေးရှင်း၊ ဝန်ဆောင်မှု ဓာတ်အားဖြန့်ဖြူးပေးမည့်အစီအစဉ်											
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၁၇	17.12.2022	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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၁၉	19.12.2022	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
၂၀	20.12.2022	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
၂၁	21.12.2022	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
၂၂	22.12.2022	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
၂၃	23.12.2022	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
၂၄	24.12.2022	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
၂၅	25.12.2022	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
၂၆	26.12.2022	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
၂၇	27.12.2022	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
၂၈	28.12.2022	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
၂၉	29.12.2022	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
၃၀	30.12.2022	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
၃၁	31.12.2022	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Newly installed system protects YBS drivers against untoward incidents

A system will be installed that will allow the driver to notify the YBO control centre if any unusual events occur on the YBS line, according to the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee.

“It is a telematics system in which the driver himself presses the SOS button and informs the YBO control centre. In the situation of driving without a conductor, if something happens to the vehicle, it is difficult to get help in time without knowing who to call. Just press the button like this and if the control centre knows, it’s fine,”

a YBS driver Ko Zarni Aung told the GNLm.

If notification is received from the driver, the police will



Photos show the YBS bus No 65.

be notified through the YBO control centre, and it will be a system that can be quickly controlled.

The telematics system

SOS button has now been installed in some YBS buses, and YRTC is working to install it in all remaining YBS buses.

In addition, YRTC has in-

structed some YBS vehicles without CCTV to install CCTV and repair damaged CCTV as soon as possible. —TWA/KZW

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Brazil's Lula undergoes laryngoscopy

BRAZIL'S president-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva underwent a laryngoscopy Sunday, with the result "within normality" following surgery to remove a lesion from his vocal cords last month, according to a Sao Paulo hospital.

Lula, 77, was elected for a third term as president in October, in a razor-thin victory over incumbent Jair Bolsonaro.

He was a smoker for more than 50 years before quitting in 2010 after being hospitalized for high blood pressure.

"Lula da Silva was today in the morning at the Sirio Libanes hospital for a previously scheduled laryngoscopy," said



Lula had surgery on November 20 to remove the lesion in his left vocal cord after a months-long presidential campaign in which his hoarse voice had generated concern. **PHOTO: AFP**

the report, released by Lula's communications office. "The examination was normal," the

brief medical bulletin added.

Lula had surgery on 20 November to remove the lesion

in his left vocal cord after a months-long presidential campaign in which his hoarse voice had generated concern.

Doctors noted there were no new tumours present.

Lula was diagnosed with throat cancer in 2011, shortly after he left office following two presidential terms between 2003 and 2010.

He went into remission the following year after undergoing radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

His typically hoarse voice became notably more ragged throughout the long election campaign, and was at times barely audible.— AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Singapore to see new wave of COVID-19 infections: health minister

SINGAPOREANS should expect a new wave of COVID-19 infections with more people travelling and due to the upcoming year-end festivities, the Straits Times website quoted Health Minister Ong Ye Kung as saying.

"There is bound to be more infections but it is not something we have not seen before. This year alone, we have already seen three infection waves," he said on Sunday. Ong said at an event held at Nanyang Junior College on Sunday that it is more important to monitor developments overseas and watch if a new variant of concern emerges when winter hits the Northern Hemisphere.—Xinhua

Brunei records daily average of 503 COVID-19 cases in past week

BRUNEI logged a daily average of 503 new COVID-19 cases in the past week compared to 643 cases per day the week before, official statistics released on Monday showed. According to the health ministry's weekly briefing, 46,245 Antigen Rapid Test (ART) test results were uploaded to the government platform within one week, with 7.5 per cent of them being positive. Currently, two hospitalized cases are held in the intensive care unit and one case requires oxygen assistance, the health ministry said.—Xinhua

Russia reports 5,667 new COVID-19 cases

RUSSIA registered 5,667 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, bringing the nationwide tally to 21,623,268, said the official monitoring and response centre on Monday. The nationwide death toll increased by 52 to 392,283, while the number of recoveries grew by 4,647 to 21,023,627, it said. Meanwhile, Moscow reported 958 new cases, taking its total to 3,262,674.—Xinhua



Record 34% of central govt workers took paternity leave in FY 2021

A record 34 per cent of male central government workers in Japan took paternity leave in fiscal 2021, the minister in charge of civil service reform said Tuesday.

The figure, up five percentage points from the previous fiscal year, surpassed the government's target of raising the ratio of men taking such leave to 30 per cent by 2025, Taro Kono said at a press conference.

But the overall rate for taking paternity leave in the country, which is struggling with a declining birth rate, remains low.

Data showed that only around 7.5 per cent of employed new fathers in Japan took time off, despite its father-specific leave system being by far the most generous among OECD countries.

Men in Japan are eligible for the equivalent of 31.9 fully paid weeks off, more than countries like South Korea, Luxembourg and Norway, according to a report updated in September by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.—Kyodo

A record 34 per cent of male central government workers in Japan took paternity leave in fiscal 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Experts warn of tough RSV season in Sweden

SWEDISH experts have warned of a tough Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) season this winter in the country as the number of infections kept increasing recently.

"Right now there are quite a lot of children being cared for with RSV," said Malin Ryd Rinder, head of the children's intensive care unit at Astrid Lindgren's children's hospital.

She told the Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter (DN) on Sunday that the RSV season already started in the country a few

weeks ago and there could be a tough time ahead. AnnaSara Carnahan, epidemiologist at the Swedish Public Health Agency holds the same concern about the virus. "There is a risk that there will be an extensive spread of infection among groups of children at preschools, for example," said Carnahan. At Astrid Lindgren's children's hospital in Stockholm, there are approximately 20-25 children infected with RSV, including four having received intensive care.—Xinhua



A large part of Sweden was paralyzed on 21 Nov following heavy snowfall over the weekend. **PHOTO: AFP**

ECONOMY WORLD

Philippine lawmakers propose \$4.9 bln sovereign wealth fund chaired by Marcos



It would help the Marcos administration achieve its goals of getting the Philippine economy to “soar to greater heights in spite of external shocks”, the authors wrote. **PHOTO: AFP**

PHILIPPINE lawmakers have proposed a \$4.9 billion sovereign wealth fund to be chaired by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr to boost growth, but critics warn it will be prone to graft and risk Filipino pensions.

Congressmen Sandro Marcos and Martin Romualdez — the president’s son and cousin respectively — are among the six authors of the bill filed to the House of Representatives and

will be examined by several committees before being debated in the house.

The “Maharlika Investments Fund” (MIF) would be seeded with 275 billion pesos from government financial institutions, including two pension funds and two banks, according to the latest version of the bill.

It would help the Marcos administration achieve its goals of getting the Philippine econo-

my to “soar to greater heights in spite of external shocks”, the authors wrote.

The word “maharlika” is widely associated with Marcos Jr’s late dictator father and namesake, who presided over widespread human rights abuses and corruption during his two decades in power. He was ousted in 1986.

Marcos Sr claimed to have led an anti-Japanese guerrilla unit called Ang Mga Maharlika during World War II, but he has been accused of lying about his war record.

The MIF has been met with concern from business groups, economists, activists and opposition figures, who have questioned the need for a sovereign wealth fund in the debt-laden country.

They argue pension funds were already being invested and that diverting them to the MIF would expose them to additional risk. Even the president’s own sister, Senator Imee Marcos, said it was “risky to gamble” retirement funds.— AFP

Countries agree to framework for managing skipjack tuna catches

COUNTRIES attending a meeting of a fisheries commission on managing tuna stocks in the western and central Pacific have agreed to a framework to manage skipjack tuna and northern Pacific albacore tuna catches over the medium to long term, Japan’s Fisheries Agency said

Monday.

The decision by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission at its recent annual gathering came in line with Japan’s call for stronger stock management, given that their catches have been on a declining trend in nearby waters.



Skipjack catches in the entire western and central Pacific doubled over roughly 20 years, with about 1.75 million tonnes caught in 2021, according to the agency. **PHOTO: AJINOMOTO GROUP / KYODO**

Skipjack catches in the entire western and central Pacific doubled over roughly 20 years, with about 1.75 million tonnes caught in 2021, according to the agency. However, the stock has continued falling, with Japan catching about 180,000 tonnes in 2020, down 110,000 tonnes from 2010. The countries agreed at the gathering to reduce “effort levels” measured by the number of fishing boats and operating days, if the adult skipjack stock falls below 40 per cent of the level predicted in the absence of fishing. The stock level was 54 per cent in 2021 and no reduction in fishing is deemed necessary as long as that level is maintained. Albacore catches will also be reduced if the stock falls below 30 per cent.— Kyodo

41% of Finnish SMEs prepare for layoffs in 2023: survey

UP to 41 per cent of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Finland are preparing to carry out layoffs, and 10 per cent consider it possible that they may go bankrupt next year, the Confederation of Finnish Industries (EK) said in a press release published on Monday.

According to a business survey carried out by the EK, the prospects for the country’s SMEs in 2023 are in many respects almost as gloomy as they were at the end of 2020, the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, 35 per cent of SMEs estimated that demand

would decrease, and the same percentage of the respondents anticipated that investments would shrink next year. Up to 25 per cent of companies engaged in international operations predicted that foreign trade would decline.

As a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the increased raw material and energy prices force companies to be cost-effective and consider adaptation measures, said Jari Huovinen, the EK’s leading expert. Smaller businesses find themselves in the tightest spot as the consecutive crises have exhausted their financial buffers, he added.—Xinhua



According to a business survey carried out by the EK, the prospects for the country’s SMEs in 2023 are in many respects almost as gloomy as they were at the end of 2020, the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Australia hikes interest rates, sounds warning on mortgage crunch

AUSTRALIA’S central bank on Tuesday hiked interest rates to their highest level in a decade, heaping more pressure on mortgage holders as it tries to dampen soaring inflation.

The Reserve Bank of Australia lifted borrowing costs 25 basis points to 3.1 per cent, mirroring global efforts to tame runaway food and energy prices by encouraging saving over spending. Bank governor Philip Lowe said inflation was expected to soon peak at eight

per cent, a level not seen since the early 1990s.

More rate rises were likely in coming months, before inflation is predicted to recede towards the end of next year, he added. “The board expects to increase interest rates further over the period ahead, but it is not on a pre-set course,” he said. “It is closely monitoring the global economy, household spending and wage and price-setting behaviour.” —AFP

German factory orders see small uptick in October

GERMAN industrial orders rebounded slightly in October, official data showed Tuesday, adding to hopes that an economic slowdown caused by Russia's war in Ukraine and soaring energy prices might not be as bad as feared.

New orders, which provide a foretaste of

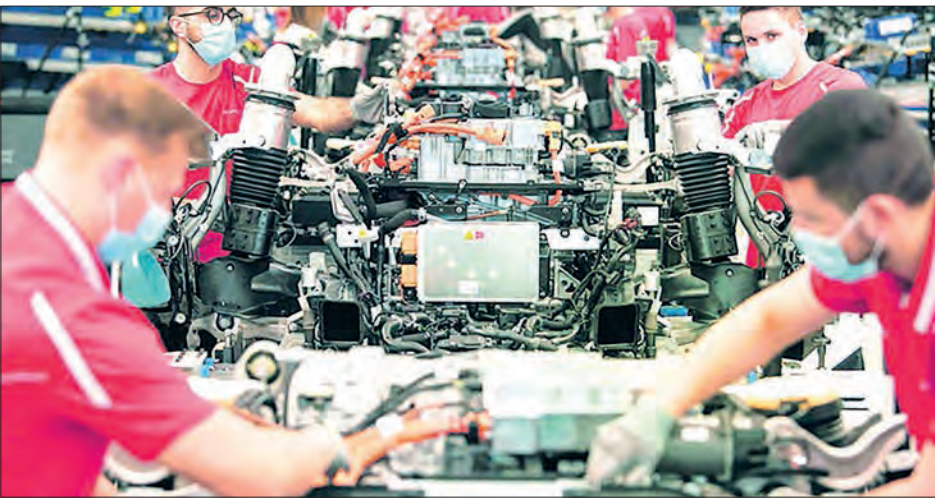
industrial output in Europe's largest economy, inched up by 0.8 per cent on the previous month, federal statistics agency Destatis said.

The small uptick follows two months of steep falls, and was mainly down to a strong recovery in orders from abroad.

Domestic orders

meanwhile were down month-on-month.

Germany's export-oriented economy has been hammered this year by the fallout from Russia's war in Ukraine, which has exacerbated supply chain woes and pushed up energy prices across the continent.—AFP



Germany's export-oriented economy has been hammered this year by the fallout from Russia's war in Ukraine, which has exacerbated supply chain woes and pushed up energy prices across the continent. PHOTO: AFP

Nigeria train resumes eight months after deadly attack

NIGERIA on Monday resumed a train service linking the capital with a northern city, eight months after it was suspended following one of the country's most high-profile attacks.

Gunmen with explosives on 28 March blew up the tracks and assaulted the train travelling between Abuja and Kaduna and opened fire, killing eight people, wounding 26 and taking an unspecified

number of passengers hostage.

The hostages were released in batches following negotiations with their captors who were believed to have collected huge ransoms from their families. An AFP reporter at the railway station in Abuja on Monday said the train departed the nation's capital at around 10:00 am (0900 GMT) for the two-hour journey to Kaduna.—AFP



The Kaduna train attack was one of several major incidents this year. PHOTO: AFP

Apple faces critics over its privacy policies

APPLE presents itself as a white knight on the subject of privacy, but critics say its own advertising ambitions are built on anti-competitive practices.

Two developers going by the name 'Mysk' claimed last month that Apple was tracking users' every tap on the App

Store, with no way of disabling the function.

A class action lawsuit was subsequently filed in California, claiming that Apple's "promises regarding privacy are utterly false". The company has not commented and did not respond to questions from AFP.—AFP

CHANGING THE NAME OF INSECTICIDE TRADING

The foreign manufacture Makro Chemical will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing trading name –

No	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Herbi Nut	G-Power	Imazethapyr 10% SL	Full	F 2022-3496

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address: Golden Key Co., Ltd. No. 258/262, STRAND ROAD, 11th FLOOR, CLASSIC STRAND CONDO, PABEDAN TOWNSHIP, YANGON, MYANMAR. PH: 01371629

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (270N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (270N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (22026N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (22026N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S X-PRESS FEEDERS LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (211W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (211W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KHDY0328N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KHDY0328N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

US dominates global arms sales: SIPRI

UNITED States companies dominate global arms sales, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said in a report on Monday.

The arms sales of the 40 US companies in the listing of the world's top 100 arms companies totaled 299 billion US dollars in 2021, a slight 0.9 per cent decrease compared with 2020, the report said. Since 2018, the world's five largest arms companies have all been based in the United States.

The report also said that a recent wave of mergers and acquisitions in the US arms industry continued in 2021.

"We can probably expect to



Photo taken on 19 Feb 2020 shows the Pentagon seen from an airplane over Washington DC, the United States. **PHOTO: XINHUA/LIU JIE**

see stronger action from the US government to limit arms indus-

try mergers and acquisitions in the next few years," Nan Tian,

SIPRI senior researcher, said in a press release, adding that "the US Department of Defence has expressed concern that reduced competition in the industry could have knock-on effects on procurement costs and product innovation."

Globally, despite supply chain challenges, sales of arms and military services by the 100 largest companies in the industry reached 592 billion US dollars in 2021, a 1.9 per cent increase compared with 2020 in real terms.

The increase marked the seventh consecutive year of rising global arms sales, the report noted.—Xinhua

2 police officers arrested over Halloween crowd crush in Seoul

TWO senior police officers were arrested Monday for their alleged bungled response to a deadly Halloween crowd crush in Seoul, Yonhap News Agency reported. They were the first to be detained over the 29 Oct incident in the capital's Itaewon district that killed more than 150 people. Park Sung Min, a former high-ranking intelligence officer at the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency, allegedly ordered the deletion of an internal report giving prior warning about the possibility of safety issues during the Halloween period in an apparent attempt to cover up inaction, Yonhap said, quoting police.—Kyodo

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Shunned over war, Russians holiday on Venezuelan resort island



Russian tourists pose for photos at Punta Arenas beach in Venezuela during a guided tour of Isla Margarita. **PHOTO: YURI CORTEZ / AFP**

SHUTTLED between tourist spots, posing for pictures on beautiful beaches, and dancing awkwardly to merengue: Russian tourists have found a friendly holiday destination on a Venezuelan island far from

the motherland and its war with Ukraine.

Isla de Margarita is a tropical gem with white-sand shores and turquoise waters. However, years of political and economic turmoil in Venezuela have

frightened off most tourists, with Western nations sternly warning citizens not to travel there.

For thousands of Russians seeking sun-soaked holidays, but faced with visa and flight restrictions over the Ukraine war, it is a match made in Caribbean heaven.

"There aren't many destinations available to Russia right now. It's hard to find places to go on holiday," says Ekaterina Dolgova, 39, who sells medical supplies.

Out of a group of Russian tourists on a recent guided tour of the island, she is the only one willing to say anything about the brutal conflict in which Ukrainians are under constant Russian attack and enduring freezing temperatures, many without water or electricity, thousands of miles away.—AFP

Romania starts exporting gas to Moldova

ROMANIA has started transporting gas to Moldova as the small impoverished country bordering Ukraine struggles with an energy crisis.

Gas started flowing on Saturday through a pipeline connecting Iasi in eastern Romania to the Moldovan border town of Ungheni, state news agency Agerpres reported citing Romanian gas distributor Transgaz. Transgaz representatives did not return an AFP request for comment on Monday.

Romania and Moldova unveiled in 2014 the pipeline that allows the former Soviet republic to import gas from Bucharest and reduce its dependence on Russian supplies, but it had not been used to date.

Moldova only connected it in 2019 to reach its capital Chisinau. Compressor stations were commissioned in 2021.

The 43-kilometre (27-mile) pipeline, financed in part with EU aid, has a capacity of some 1.5 billion cubic metres per year, which covers Moldova's annual needs. Moldova's President Maia Sandu has warned that her country faces a "dramatic energy crisis" this winter due to the war in Ukraine.

Russian energy giant Gazprom has slashed its gas supplies to Moldova, while the country can no longer rely on Ukraine for electricity imports after repeated Russian air strikes on Ukrainian power infrastructure.—AFP



Moldova has seen its Russian gas deliveries slashed and its regular electricity imports dry up. **PHOTO: MOLDOVAGAZ/AFP**

Ukraine's power system functioning despite Russian new strikes on energy facilities: PM

UKRAINE'S power system is functioning and remains intact despite Russia's latest missile attacks on the energy facilities, Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said Monday.

Energy facilities in the Kyiv

region in northern Ukraine, the central Vinnytsya region and the southern Odesa region were hit by the missile strikes, Shmyhal said on Telegram.

Ukrainian state-run energy company Ukrenergo said the sit-

uation in Ukraine's energy system is "difficult, but controllable" after the attacks. Emergency power outages have been introduced in all regions throughout the country, Ukrenergo said in a statement.—Xinhua

Jiang Zemin’s remains cremated in Beijing



Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Han Zheng, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi, Wang Qishan, Hu Jintao, and others pay their final respects to Comrade Jiang Zemin at the Chinese PLA General Hospital in Beijing, capital of China, Dec. 5, 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/LI XUEREN

THE remains of Jiang Zemin, who passed away last Wednesday, were cremated at the Babaoshan Revolutionary Cemetery in western Beijing on Monday.

Jiang was an outstanding leader enjoying high prestige acknowledged by the whole Communist Party of China (CPC), the entire military and the Chinese people of all ethnic groups.

He was hailed as a great Marxist and a great proletarian revolutionary, statesman, military strategist, and diplomat. Jiang was a long-tested communist fighter and an outstanding leader of the great cause of socialism with Chinese charac-

teristics. He was the core of the third generation of the Party’s central collective leadership and the principal founder of the Theory of Three Represents.

Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Han Zheng, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi, Wang Qishan, and others went to the Chinese PLA General Hospital to pay their final respects to Comrade Jiang before escorting Jiang’s body to the Babaoshan Revolutionary Cemetery for cremation.

Hu Jintao also went to the hospital to pay his final respects to Jiang.—Xinhua

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Argentina braces for graft verdict against VP Kirchner

A court on Tuesday will deliver a verdict in a divisive corruption trial of Argentina’s Vice-President Cristina Kirchner, who is likely to avoid jail even if found guilty due to congressional immunity.

Kirchner is accused of fraudulently awarding public works contracts in her stronghold in Patagonia as president between 2007 and 2015, and prosecutors have requested a 12-year prison sentence and lifetime ban from politics. The 69-year-old leftist has been at the centre of Argentine politics for two decades, drawing love and hatred in equal measure. She says the trial is a political witchhunt and the result a foregone conclusion.—AFP

Iran protests: regime challenged by push for change

ALMOST three months of protests in Iran have left the clerical regime facing an existential challenge by shattering taboos and shaking its ideological pillars in a push for change that shows no sign of retreating. The demonstrations, which erupted in mid-September following the death of Mahsa Amini who had been arrested by the Tehran morality police, are a reflection of pent-up public anger over economic shortcomings and social restrictions, analysts say.—AFP

Ireland marks 100 years since founding of Irish Free State

ONE hundred years ago on Tuesday, Ireland gained statehood in the midst of a bitter civil war.

But it was not as a republic, as revolutionary leaders had hoped. Instead, a new era began under the ambiguous label of the Irish Free State.

On 6 December 1922, Irish lawmakers gathered to take an oath of allegiance to King George V as a dominion of the British Empire.

It was one in a string of compromises made in the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 that concluded Ireland’s three-year war of independence.

Not least among the accommodations made to the imperial power was provision for the continued partition of six, majority Protestant counties in the UK-ruled jurisdiction of Northern



Northern Ireland, part of the United Kingdom, was created as a pro-British, Protestant majority enclave in 1921. PHOTO: AFP

Ireland. Debates in the Irish parliament that day — among those lawmakers who had not boycotted it entirely — stressed allegiance to the king was given under duress.

A day after the free state was born, lawmaker Sean Hales

was assassinated by gunmen opposed to the treaty as he left lunch at a central Dublin hotel.

In swift and brutal reprisal, the new Irish government executed four anti-treaty prisoners by firing squad without charge or justification—AFP



Rights groups have protested against Indonesia’s move to outlaw pre-marital sex. PHOTO: AFP

Indonesia parliament approves ban on extra-marital sex

INDONESIA’S parliament on Tuesday approved legislation that would outlaw sex outside marriage in a move critics said was a huge setback to rights in the world’s most populous Muslim country.

After the new criminal code was endorsed by all nine parties in a sweeping overhaul of the legal code, deputy house speak-

er Sufmi Dasco Ahmad banged the gavel to signal the text was approved and shouted “legal”.

A revision of Indonesia’s criminal code, which stretches back to the Dutch colonial era, has been debated for decades.

Rights groups had protested against the amendments, denouncing a crackdown on civil liberties and political freedoms,

as well as a shift towards fundamentalism in Muslim-majority Indonesia, where secularism is enshrined in the constitution.

“We have tried our best to accommodate the important issues and different opinions which were debated,” Yasonna Laoly, Minister of Law and Human Rights, told parliament.—AFP



SPORT

Myanmar national team to play two more friendly matches in Thailand



A Myanmar team player (red) poises to kick the ball during the friendly match against Thai Club Chonburi on 29 November 2022. PHOTO: MFF

THE Myanmar national team, which is training in Thailand in preparation for the 2022 AFF Cup, will play two more friendly matches, according to the Myanmar football authorities.

On 7 December, the Myanmar national team will play

against the Thai club Samut Prakan, and on 11 December, they will play against the Thai national team.

Team Myanmar has been training in Thailand since 28 November, and as their first friendly match, the Myanmar

team played against the Thai club Chonburi FC on 29 November and won by 4-1.

The Myanmar national team brought 25 players who played well in the domestic league to Thailand, and those who played in foreign clubs joined the team in early December.

The Myanmar national team will play against the Thai national team as the last warm-up match before the 2022 AFF Cup.

The 2022 AFF Cup will be held from 20 December 2022 to 16 January 2023. The Myanmar team will be in Group B with Viet Nam, Malaysia, Singapore and Laos teams.

Team Myanmar will play at home against the Malaysian team on 21 December as the first match of the group. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

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.

Morocco dump Spain out on penalties to reach historic World Cup quarters

ACHRAF Hakimi struck the decisive penalty to send Spain crashing out and Morocco into the World Cup quarter-finals for the first time, winning 3-0 in a shoot-out on Tuesday after a 0-0 draw.

Spain coach Luis Enrique had claimed his players prepared by taking 1,000 penalties as homework but Pablo Sarabia, Carlos Soler and Sergio Busquets all missed from the spot and Madrid-born Hakimi

dinked his home to the delight of Morocco's raucous support.

Walid Regragui's side will face Portugal or Switzerland in what is uncharted territory for them, with their previous best a last-16 exit in 1986.

Spain had been hoping they could repeat their 2010 World Cup triumph after reaching the semi-finals of Euro 2020, where they were also beaten on penalties by Italy.

The teams were closely matched through a nail-biting clash, with Spain having more of the ball but Morocco creating the better openings, few though they were. —AFP



Morocco's defender #02 Achraf Hakimi (C) celebrates with teammates after converting the last penalty during the penalty shoot-out to win the Qatar 2022 World Cup round of 16 football match between Morocco and Spain at the Education City Stadium in Al-Rayyan, west of Doha on 6 December 2022. PHOTO: AFP

Asian teams 'getting closer' despite World Cup knockout blows

ASIAN teams came crashing back down to earth in the World Cup last 16 but the region still enjoyed its best-ever tournament to suggest it is closing the gap on the global elite.

The continent's finest will be back in Qatar for the 2023 Asian Cup and, if the World Cup is anything to go by, it could be the finest yet. Australia, Japan and South Korea — three of the six Asian Football Confederation teams at the World Cup — reached the first knockout stage.

It was the first time three AFC sides had got to the last 16, even if South Korea in particular suffered a sobering defeat, going down 4-1 to highly fancied Brazil.

There would be no repeat of 2002, when South Korea reached the semi-finals as co-hosts, still the best World Cup showing by an Asian side. The Koreans

did though defeat Portugal in the group phase in Qatar.

Saudi Arabia, also part of the AFC, pulled off the biggest shock of the tournament in coming from behind to defeat Lionel Messi's Argentina 2-1 in the group stage.

Japan also roared back to stun former champions Spain and Germany and top Group E, before suffering a heartbreaking defeat to 2018 finalists Croatia on penalties.

Speaking ahead of the game, defender Kou Itakura said: "I feel that Asia is getting closer to Europe."

Hajime Moriyasu's side boasts a growing number of players in top European leagues.

Eight of his 26-man World Cup squad play in Germany's Bundesliga and Moriyasu said Japan's success was good for all of Asia. —AFP