WIDEN SCOPE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PLANET EARTH

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 241, 6th Waning of Nattaw 1384 ME | www.gnlm.com.mm | Tuesday, 13 December 2022

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepts the courtesy call of Mr Chhouk Bunna, Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar on 12 December 2022 in Nay Pyi Taw.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chhouk Bunna at the parlour of the Office of the SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they frankly discussed friendly relations between Myanmar and Cambodia and diplomatic relations, cooperation in bilateral trade, investment and tourism development, assumption of State responsibilities taken by the State Administration Council in accord with the Constitution (2008) due to voting frauds in the 2020 multiparty democracy general election, adoption of the roadmap and undertakings for development of the State, and performance of all tasks for ensuring peace and stability of the nation under the law.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar exchanged commemorative gifts and posed for documentary photos.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and officials. The Cambodian ambassador was accompanied by embassy officials.—MNA

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Public Notice

1. The State Administration Council awarded Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma, Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma, Agga Maha Thray Sithu, Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu, Maha Thray Sithu, Thray Sithu, Sithu, Thura, Thiri Pyanchi, Zeya Kyaw Htin, Wunna Kyaw Htin, Alinka Kyaw Swa and Theikpa Kyaw Swa titles in 2022 with Order Nos 2/2022, 54/2022, 63/2022, 211/2022, 212/2022, 213/2022, 214/2022, 215/2022, 218/2022, 219/2022, 220/2022 and 221/2022.

2. The honorary titles recipients will be awarded honouring Diamond Jubilee Independence Day and are invited to attend in person or their family member to the honorary titles conferring ceremony.

3. It is here announced that the recipient of titles or one family member on behalf of awardees who will attend the ceremonies must contact Phone Nombers 067-3412715 and 067-3412716 of Sub-Committee on Invitation no later than 20-12-2022.

5 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 12 December, total figure rises to 633,462

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,462** after **five** new cases were reported on 12 December 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **607,983** including **10** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,488** on 12 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 27 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

Graduate cadets from 24th Intake of DSTA commissioned into Tatmadaw

A ceremony to commission the graduate cadets from the 24th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy into the armed forces took place at the convocation hall of the DSTA yesterday morning, attended by Military Appointment General Lt-Gen Lin Aung of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Commandant of the DSTA Brig-Gen Soe Myat Htut and graduate cadets.

The commissioning ceremony for graduate cadets is in progress.

Military Appointment General Lt-Gen Lin Aung presented certificates of commission to the graduate cadets individually and delivered a speech before concluding the ceremony. —MNA

Defence Services Technological Academy holds 24th convocation

THE Defence Services Technological Academy held the 24th convocation ceremony at its convocation hall in PyinOoLwin Station yesterday morning.

Commandant of DSTA Brig-Gen Soe Myat Htut, Rector Col Thaung Naing and academic board members of the academy attended the ceremony.

The Rector announced the holding of the convocation ceremony, and the graduate cadets took the oaths.

The rector conferred engineering degrees on 144 cadets of the 24th Intake, post-graduate engineering diplomas on 70 officer trainees of the 5th Intake, engineering academic diplomas on 12 officer trainees of the 7th Intake, master's engineering degrees on 65 officer trainees of the 12th intake and doctoral engineering degrees on 33 officer trainees of the 7th Intake, totalling 324.

So far, the DSTA has turned out 7,522 engineering officers, five M Phil (Engineering) degree holders, 106 academic engineering diploma holders, 374 post-graduate engineering diploma holders, 574 ME degree holders and 136 PhD engineering degree holders in addition to two honorary PhD degree holders. —MNA

The 24th Convocation of the Defence Services Technological Academy is underway.

Well-educated human resources needed to materialize genuine disciplined democratic system without fail

TO implement federalism compatible with geographical conditions, national characters and culture of the nation although many countries exercise democracy and federalism across the world. Necessities to turn out well-educated human resources in realizing the genuine disciplined democratic system without fail. Only when the number of educated persons is on the rise can nation-building tasks be accelerated for the promotion of the education sector.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the peace talk with the peace delegation led by General Yawd Serk, Chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) on 29 August 2022)

Modern weapons and military equipment that belong to Standard Army can be skilfully applied is a fundamental thing to be a high Combat Power and Combat Capacity Tatmadaw: Vice-Senior General

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Thray Sithu Soe Win addresses the Passing-out Parade of the 24th Intake of the Defence Services Technological Academy in PyinOoLwin yesterday.

ON behalf of Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing, Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Thray Sithu Soe Win delivered an address at the Passing-out Parade of the 24th Intake of the Defence Services Technological Academy, which took place at the parade ground of DSTA in PyinOoLwin yesterday morning.

Also present at the parade were Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of the Vice-Senior General, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Thiri Pyanchi Maung Maung Aye and wife, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the chief minister of Mandalay Region, the commander of Central Command, the commandant of DSTA, officials from PyinOoLwin Station, officer instructors and faculty members from studies and training departments of DSTA as parents and guardians of the graduate cadets, and guests.

The cadet companies saluted the Vice-Senior General with slow-march past and quick-march past. The Vice-Senior General presented the Best Cadet Award to cadet Ye Lin Htut, the Excellent Award in Training to cadet Hein Thu Aung and the Excellent Award in Studies to cadet Naing Naing Han Tun.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General said: On behalf of State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing, I would like to address what you should know in your honourable ceremony.

Engineering forces that are good historical traditional arms not only bravely served the three main tasks that are "To move, To fight and To live" on the battlefield during the operation period but also effectively served in building the various sectors of the Nation and Tatmadaw which were provided professional engineering assistance, implementation the fulfilment of supply requirements and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief-HADR.

Tatmadaw members need to be not only human resources who are trained to fulfil the engineering skills for military engineers but also human resources who will help the implementation to develop the multi-development of the nation as necessary when our Tatmadaw is built and structured to be a Standard Army as the objective.

Modern weapons and military equipment that must have in a Standard Army can be skilfully applied is a fundamental thing to be a high Combat Power and Combat Capacity Tatmadaw. Therefore, most of the countries in the current age are attempting to improve military science and multi technologies by laying down short-term and long-term plans and increasing the budget of the defence sector yearly for the perpetuation of national sovereignty and protection of their national interest.

Nowadays, it can be considered that to get adequate information, obtain security and protection, assault effectively and fight shortly in decisive battles in modern warfare depend on superior and complete technology as military science and technology are innovating internationally. Therefore, you will have to perform the necessary process such as identifying lessons, upgrading, fulfilling, and substitutional production in respective sectors based on the results after performing continuously the research project according to technical requirements for improving the defence capacity of our nation and Tatmadaw by continuously analyzing the development of military science and technology that are being taken currently at an international level.

To become a Capable Tatmadaw is mainly related to Tatmadaw members, but to be a powerful Tatmadaw will be performed by the Nation. You all, comrades who will be young leaders, have to perform systematically step-by-step control and administration by thinking and taking individually from all sides to be a capable Tatmadaw that is mainly related to you. I would like to urge you will have to attempt and learn to be like this that only being able to perform by thinking well from all sides is good leadership and outstanding and expertise is just for one duty and one field.

In conclusion, I would like to urge you that

- To constantly learn and study technology that is developing and evolving with the passage of time since the role of engineering is vital in building a Standard Army that is able to fight well in unconventional operations.

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SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win comforts those warded at local military hospital in PyinOoLwin Station

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, yesterday morning, gave words of encouragement to officers, other ranks and families receiving medical treatments at the local military hospital in PyinOoLwin Station of Mandalay Region.

On arrival at the hospital, the Vice-Senior General and party were welcomed by the commandant of the hospital and officials.

The Vice-Senior General met officers, other ranks and families warded at the hospital and individually asked about suffering from diseases and the progress of medical treatment, and presented foodstuffs and aid to them.

At the maternity ward, Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of the Vice-Senior General, and party comforted the pregnant women and presented aid.

The Vice-Senior General presented cash awards for health staff serving at the hospital to the hospital commandant.

The Vice-Senior General and party inspected the construction of the radiation and cancer treatment ward in the compound of the hospital where officials conducted them round the construction site. —MNA

SAC Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief(Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win encourages the patient at the local military hospital in PyinOoLwin yesterday.

Modern weapons and military equipment that belong to Standard ...

The Vice-Senior General attends the graduation dinner (Left) and the song and dance performances are in progress during the dinner (Right).

FROM PAGE-3

- To attempt and perform the enhancement of combat power and combat capacity of Tatmadaw by trying hard and performing continuously in accordance with the guided motto of our Tatmadaw: "Learn, Practice, Obey" and studying constantly to be skilful in the respective field of your assigned duty.

- To try hard to improve yourself by living and practising in accordance with the sixteen features of leadership as a young military leader who is systematic and is able to think and perform from all sides.

- To perform and endeavour to enhance the honour of Tatmadaw, the Nation and the peoples by attempting powerfully with your knowledge of engineering subjects in the sectors of national defence and national building.

The Vice-Senior General took the salute of the cadet companies and left the parade ground.

After the parade, the Vice-Senior General met with outstanding cadets at the parlour of the DSTA headquarters and gave words of honour.

In the evening, the Vice-Senior General attended the graduation dinner of the 24th Intake of DSTA. Before and during the dinner, the Vice-Senior General and attendees enjoyed the song entertainment of the Myawady entertainment troupe under the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare. — MNA

Judgements passed on 8 special civil appeals; 3 special criminal appeals heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Myo Tint, Daw Khin May Yi, U Thein Ko Ko, and Daw Thin Thin Nwet, was convened yesterday morning at the Supreme Court of the Union and passed the judgements of eight special civil of the Union appeal cases: No 15/2021 (Yangon), 2/2022 (Yangon), 23/2022 (Yangon), 31/2022 (Rakhine), 51/2020 (Ayeyawady), 17/2021 (Yangon), 34/2022 (Shan) and 35/2022 (Shan).

In addition, three special criminal appeals cases: No 8/2022 (Mon), 9/2022 (Bago) and 10/2022 (Bago) were heard following the COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines. — MNA/GNLM

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

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

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SAC Chairman's wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attends opening ceremony of 32nd Annual Meeting of MMCWA

Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win opens the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association attended by Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the SAC Chairman Prime Minister in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE opening ceremony of the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA) was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by the MMCWA Honorary Patron Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister, Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win, Deputy Minister Dr Aye Tun, the directors-general, the MMCWA chairperson, executive members, secretaries, the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and officials of relevant organizations.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win said the government organized the MMCWA as a social welfare organization on 30 April 1991 to promote the health, education and living standard of women and children across the nation. The MMCWA also establishes clinics and offers healthcare services to pregnant women.

He also highlighted the public awareness programmes of the association regarding communicable and non-communicable diseases and cooperation with relevant departments, organizations and foreign associations to ensure an inclusive healthcare system.

He then expressed thanks to MMCWA for participating in the COVID-19 vaccination processes and called on the association to work with the Ministry of Health to meet the set goals while the ministry is providing the requirements.

Afterwards, Honorary Patron Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of SAC Chairman Prime Minister, and Honorary Patron Daw Khin Thet Htay took commemorative photos with the attendees and observed the photo records of the association.

MMCWA Chairperson Prof Dr San San Myint Aung then delivered an opening speech.

The association secretary explained the activities done in 2022 and the treasurer presented the 2021-2022 financial statement and 2022-2023 budget. The chairperson of MMCWA concluded the meeting after approving the meeting outcomes and future work plans. —MNA /KTZH

The wife of the SAC Chairman Prime Minister and party view round the documentary photos at the event.

SAC members, Union Ministers enjoy quarterfinals of SAC Chairman's Trophy U-18 women's football Tourney

THE SAC Chairman's Trophy U-18 women's football tournament quarterfinals to mark the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 in collaboration with the Department of Sports and Physical Education under the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Myanmar Football Federation, were held at 3:00 pm yesterday at Training Ground No 1 and No 3 of Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw with the aim of raising the standard of Myanmar football and producing many talented new generations (female) football players from the states and regions.

SAC members, Union ministers and dignitaries watch the quarterfinal match yesterday.

SAC members U Khin Maung Swe, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, U Sai Lone Seng, Saw Daniel, Dr Banyar Aung Moe and wife, and U Shwe Kyein, Union ministers, deputy ministers, football fans and officials enjoyed the tourney.

In the quarterfinals held at Training Ground No.1 of Wunna Theikdi Stadium, the Ayeyawady Region team beat the Sagaing Region team 4-0, while the Shan State team beat Magway Region team 7-1 at Training Ground No 3.

The Mandalay Region team will take on the Bago Region team at Training Ground No.1, and the Yangon Region team will face the Kachin State team at Training Ground No.3 in the other Quarterfinals to be held on 13 December.

Any sports fan can watch and support for free, officials said. — MNA/KZL

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SSB mobile medical units serve treatment to insured employees marking Diamond Jubilee Independence Day

TWO mobile medical units of the Social Security Board under the Ministry of Labour are providing healthcare services at its affiliated ministries like the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Electric Power and Ministry of Immigration and Population to hail the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day.

Union Minister for Labour Dr Pwint San comforted the operations of medical units and the Union ministers concerned also inspected the treatment processes yesterday.

The Social Security Board of MoL is drafting a strategic plan under the Social Insurance system and providing 15 SSB benefits of two insurance systems out of six to the employees, who are mainly from the country's manufacturing sector, using the SSB contributions of employer, employee and government under the 2012 Social Security Law. Depending on the monthly SSB fees, insured workers can get the benefits such as health treatment, maternity, funeral, temporary disability benefit, permanent disability benefit and survivors' benefits for decease owing to occupation.

Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, Union Labour Minister Dr Pwint San and party inspect the healthcare services yesterday.

Moreover, the SSB is carrying out four reforms – IT Reform, Medical Reform, Administrative Reform and Legal Reform to become a reliable department of insured workers, offer better healthcare, the main requirement of employers and employees and facilitate the fast flow of benefits.

The SSB implements the Social Security Project providing health care and benefits to 1.3 million insured workers in 116 townships at three workers' hospitals, 99 SSB offices of regions/states/districts/townships, 96 township clinics, 57 departmental clinics, 12 Free for services payment clinics with PPS system, 25 Capitation payment clinics, eight obstetric clinics one traditional medicinal clinic and also offering treatment with two mobile medical units, and a total of 89,949 insured workers get treatment at departments to date.

The two mobile medical units of SSB under the Ministry of Labour will provide medical treatment at the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Immigration and Population, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Electric Power and Ministry of Labour between 12 and 14 December to hail the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day and will keep providing mobile health-care service at industrial zones of Yangon Region. — MNA/KTZH

MoI Deputy Minister inspects bookstore and library of Sarpay Beikman

DEPUTY Minister U Ye Tint of the Ministry of Information looked round the bookshop and the library of Sarpay Beikman, located on Merchant Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon yesterday morning.

First, the deputy minister observed the display and sale of books and the computer system installed for the readers to be able to read the books without difficulty.

Then, in his meeting with the Editor-in-Chief and the staff, the deputy minister called on them to help increase the people's knowledge of literature, enhance the development of literature, fulfil the needs of the readers, be well-versed in their work and read constantly themselves.

Next, the deputy minister visited the photo-litho printing press in Bahan Township and inspected the printing process, the operation of machines and the storage of raw materials. — MNA/CT

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint looks into the Sarpay Beikman bookstore yesterday.

MoH Deputy Minister joins 7th China-ASEAN Forum on Traditional Medicine online

The seventh China-ASEAN Forum on Traditional Medicine is in progress yesterday.

THE opening ceremony of the seventh China-ASEAN Forum on Traditional Medicine was held in China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region via a hybrid method yesterday.

During the event, Chinese Mayor Haung Jiang delivered the opening speech.

In the video message of Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun, he said that traditional medicine practitioners play a key role in healthcare services in addition to herbal plants and traditional methods of treatment in rural areas of developing countries. Today, the use of traditional medicines is increasing and governments support the development of traditional medicine.

It is also necessary to conserve the endangered biodiversity and grow medicinal plants, which are facing extinction risk, systematically. The countries should cooperate to ensure the sustainability of medicinal plants, and traditional medicine research and development and to use them in controlling the pandemic. The exchange of views on traditional medicines, research, common framework, national policies and future work plans between ASEAN member countries and Chinese representatives will promote cooperation.

The forum was attended by traditional medicine practitioners from China and ASEAN and the Consul-General of Nanning-based Myanmar Consulate-General in person, and the traditional medicine practitioners of the Ministry of Health joined it online. — MNA/KTZH

ASEAN students arrive in Nay Pyi Taw to join 10th ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level

THE students, administrators from ASEAN member states and representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat arrived at the Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw from Yangon to take part in the 10th ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level to be held at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 December.

The 30-member group was welcomed by MRTV officials under the Ministry of Information.

The rehearsal of ASEAN students will be on 13 December at MICC-II and they will compete in the 10th ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level on 14 November morning.

The ASEAN countries selected first, second and third prize winners between the age of 15-18 by holding the quiz at different levels to represent the countries at the 10th ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level.

The ASEAN countries host the quiz once every two years. The first to eighth events were conducted as physical events and the ninth event held in Singapore in 2020 was an online event due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

ASEAN students are seen on the way to Nay Pyi Taw (above and below photos).

This year, Myanmar will host the hybrid event and a total of 18 students – three each from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar and Viet Nam – will participate in person and the students from Brunei, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand will join online.

The event will be organized in a computerized quiz system using the Quiz 360 software. The event preparation, entertaining programmes, installation of video cameras, technical arrangements, networking and Quiz 360 software test were conducted at MICC-2 Nay Pyi Taw starting 10 December. — MNA/KTZH

ASEAN students arrive in Yangon to join 10th ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level

THE students, administrators from ASEAN member states and representatives of ASEAN Secretariat arrived at the Yangon International Airport starting Sunday to take part in 10thASEAN Quiz-Regional Level to be held at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw. The officials of MRTV under the Ministry of Information welcomed and took them to the hotels to stay at.

The ASEAN students left Yangon for Nay Pyi Taw by car yesterday and will conduct the rehearsal event at Nay Pyi Taw MICC-II today. They will compete in the 10th ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level representing their respective countries on 14 December.—MNA /KTZH

Students from ASEAN countries are seen at Yangon International Airport on 11 December.

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.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

10th ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level opening ceremony to be broadcast live on MRTV

THE opening ceremony of the 10th ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level will be hosted grandly by Myanmar at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw at 9 am on 14 December.

The opening ceremony will be broadcast live on MRTV, MRTV-HD, MRTV News, MRTV Sports channel, MITV, MWD HD Channel, MWD Variety HD Channel, MRTV Web & App; Radio Myanmar and Myanma Radio (English Channel) starting at 8:45 am that day. — MRTV /KZL

China lifts ban on medical inspection and disinfection at Lweje

AT the Lweje checkpoint in China's border, all medical inspection and disinfection have been abolished, border traders said.

According to statements from the Chinese side, due to the cancellation of the ban, trucks entering China will no longer need to be sprayed with disinfectants; drivers need not to wait 12 hours for disinfection after spraying; there will no longer be a need to present proof of entry when entering checkpoints, and they don't need to give the list of exported goods in advance.

At present, only the Lweje border is in operation, and trading will likely be allowed on all China-Myanmar land borders soon. Merchants said that such operations at the Muse border (105th-Mile) which has the largest number of trucks in Myanmar are likely to be cancelled soon.

Currently, China is gradually removing all the restrictions related to the prevention of Covid-19, and traders and farmers are hoping to reach the situation before the Covid-19 period. — TPT/GNLM

OPINION

Widen scope for the future of the planet Earth

AS now is open season, it is difficult to hope for storing raindrops. In monsoons, raindrops fall on the land without any barriers. Most raindrops flow into drains and then into the creeks and rivers but some of them infiltrate the earth and were consumed by trees.

With regard to geographical conditions, 71 per cent of water volume covers the world. The volume of water sources in oceans and seas called aboveground one accounts for 96.5 per cent, the underground water, 1.7 per cent and glazier, Antarctica and Greenland 1.7 per cent as well as moisture, clouds and rain 0.001 per cent.

Some 70 per cent of freshwater is used in the agricultural sector whereas salt is produced from seawater. Although many parts of the world are filled with a large volume of water, global people can consume just three per cent of fresh water from rivers, creeks and lakes.

> As such, everybody needs to have a sense and conscience in consuming both freshwater and seawater without waste and loss and they have to know efficient consumption of water saves the planet Earth on one hand. That is why all the global people should save the Earth as well as efficiently consume the water for their future.

Generally, the rainwater can be stored in monsoon and it cannot be kept in the open season. Only when the monsoon ends will living beings know its value. But they cannot bear such knowledge for the whole year. It is because they know it is sure that monsoon will come in next year. So, they do not limit the consumption of water and waste it in undisciplined acts.

In Myanmar, when the monsoon times out, the central part of the nation faces water scarcity during the open season, especially in summer. Due to its location in the dry regions, local people need a supply of water. So, any small and large water sources are very important for all. Local people spend a long time a day collecting water for their daily consumption.

Indeed, everybody needs to save consumption of freshwater even if monsoon gives raindrops. So, they have to save efficient use of freshwater with minimizing waste and loss. Generally, all persons need to practise thrift of freshwater in all seasons whereas they have to arrange storage of freshwater including rainwater in possible tanks and lakes for consumption in the period when they face a shortage of water.

As such, everybody needs to have a sense and conscience in consuming both freshwater and seawater without waste and loss and they have to know efficient consumption of water saves the planet Earth on one hand. That is why all the global people should save the Earth as well as efficiently consume the water for their future. ■

ARTICLE

Algorithms of Social Media

By U AC

SOCIAL media in Myanmar is referring to the one and only Facebook. Its algorithms are major contributors to the unrest and infighting within the country and if not careful, eventual destruction of her.

What does it mean by algorithms?

At the base level, it is just a set of rules that would determine the order of things or define cause-and-effect relationships. In computer terms, it is simply programming that puts rules into an application (app).

In social media terms, algorithms decide a post's position on the news feed, based on predictions about each user's preferences and tendencies. The details of Facebook's algorithms design determine what sorts of content/news/stories thrive on its platform, and what types languish.

How does Facebook rank news and stories?

Typically, your posts or the posts that people shared are ranked based on popularity, content type, relationship and recency. Clearly, the Facebook posters want their posts to be popular and be on top of everyone's view, ahead of others. They want their posts to reach the greatest number of Facebook accounts. Yet for Facebook, everything is about $ and cents and revenue generation through advertisements.

That's why over the years, organic reach (i.e., the number of people who have seen your post without spending on an advertisement) has declined significantly. The key benefit of organic reach is that you can distribute your posts for free. Nowadays, organic reach is just five per cent. Engagement is worse, i.e., getting reactions and comments, is at 0.25 per cent, worse at 0.08 per cent if the page or account has more than 100,000 followers.

What are the issues with FB also nowadays?

Starting in 2009, a relatively straightforward ranking algorithm determined the order of stories for each user, making sure that the juicy stuff — like the news that a friend was "no longer in a relationship" — appeared near the top. Just think about this; post 1 is about your friend and her boyfriend of five years, getting married happily, whereas post 2 is about your female friend marrying two men at the same time. Which one do you truly think would Facebook algorithm put the place in a better position for more organic reach, by having the post appear more times and prioritizing its placement on top of individual pages?

In 2016, however, Facebook executives grew worried about a decline in "original sharing." Users were spending so much time passively watching and reading that they were not interacting with each other as much. Young people in particular shifted their personal conversations to rivals such as Snapchat and TikTok which offered more intimacy.

Once again, Facebook found its answer in the algorithm: It developed a new set of goal metrics that it called "meaningful social interactions", designed to show users more posts from friends and family, and fewer from big publishers and brands. In particular, the algorithm began to give outsize weight to posts that sparked lots of comments and replies.

The downside of this approach was that the posts that sparked the most comments tended to be the ones that made people angry or offended them. Facebook became an angrier, more polarizing place. It didn't help that, starting in 2017, the algorithm had assigned reaction emoji — including the angry emoji — five times the weight of a simple "like", according to company documents. Facebook computer engineers have given extra value to emoji reactions, including 'angry,' pushing more emotional and provocative content into users' news feeds. In Myanmar's case, which of these two posts would ignite comments, angry emojis, swearing, hatred and sharing: Myanmar military helping the people in flood-hit areas or a fake news post about the military bombing a school with children inside? Based on Facebook algorithms, which one, do you think, would go more into the users' news feed?

Mind you, Facebook has no filter to validate fake news, especially in a non-English language post. Just think based on practicality. Facebook has about 10 Burmese language-speaking employees. Myanmar has 24 million Facebook users. Even if 10 per cent of them churn out 1 post a day, it means 2.4 million posts per day. How would 10 persons review 2.4 million posts per day? Humanly impossible! Algorithms do not fact-check either. In other words, Facebook cannot be held accountable for the incessant production of fake news.

Since 2018, the algorithm has elevated posts that encourage interaction, such as posts popular with friends. This broadly prioritizes posts by friends and family and viral memes, but also divisive content. For a subset of extremely partisan users, such as NNCP terrorists and their sympathizers, today's algorithm can turn their feeds into echo chambers of divisive content and hate news, albeit falsehood, of varying reputability, that support their outlook.

Internal documents show Facebook researchers found that, for the most politically oriented one million American users, nearly 90 per cent of the content that Facebook shows them is about politics and social issues. Those groups also received the most misinformation, especially a set of users associated with mostly right-leaning content, who were shown one misinformation post out of every 40, according to a document from June 2020. (Washington Post, October 2021)

What can we learn from knowing this?

You are giving up your privacy in exchange for attention, in terms of likes, emojis and comments. The widespread online harassment and cyberbullying mean that the stealing of private words, actions, conversations or photos and the use of them without consent, context, or compassion all fuel the trafficking of shame and the culture of humiliation.

That price of shame and humiliation through fake news and half-truths, funnel into the profits of those who prey upon them, including Facebook. Invasion of privacy of others is the raw materials efficiently and ruthlessly mined and packaged and sold at a profit, through a marketplace platform where fake news and public humiliation is a commodity and shaming is now an industry.

Dollars are generated through clicks, emojis and comments. More shaming means more of these three. That means more eyeballs, more emojis, more comments, more engagements and more advertising dollars and more profits for Facebook.

Based on what has happened in Myanmar, many individuals and entities minutely related to Tatmadaw are targeted via fake news and half-truths for shaming and public humiliation. Some of them who are caught committing these crimes are now in jail. Some are still overseas still trying to commit the same offences. Yet who is making money at the back of our fellow countrymen's humiliation and our nation's suffering? Only Facebook!

What else do we need to know?

We live in an avatar world of Facebook, where a majority of the users are having compassion deficits and suffering from empathy crises. Its algorithms are not going to be altered in the near future. It is their business model. That's how Facebook make money.

The only way to counter that would be to have empathy and compassion towards those who have been targeted unfairly. Algorithms that promote hatred and anger cannot survive empathy. Even one encouraging comment would make a huge difference to the victim between following the route of Tyler Clementi or standing stall. We can also be up-standers instead of just being bystanders to fake news.

Know that the right to the freedom of speech must come together with the responsibility for the freedom of expression. Are we speaking up with intention or are we speaking out for attention?

Between 80 per cent and 100 per cent of what is on our site/platform is B*llshi*(crap), according to John Oliver of the Last Week Tonight show. Don't fall victim to their algorithms to aid the destruction of our own country.

On a final uplifting note, one need not lose too much sleep over this. Facebook is facing its own set of major issues now. Apple has decided to shut down the tracking ability of third-party apps on iPhones starting from iPhone 14, causing a huge blow to Facebook which needed to do targeted ads on its users. More and more people are also experiencing and realizing all over the world about Facebook's unethical algorithms. Facebook's new service, Horizon Worlds, debut so badly that it even has to force its own staff to install and use it. All these are reflected in the fall in the value of the company of nearly $700 billion+, since becoming Meta in June 2022.

As Obama quoted Martin Luther King's words, "The arch of the moral universe is long, but in the end, it bends towards justice". ■

Research finds ageing is driven by unbalanced genes

IN a new study, Northwestern University researchers used artificial intelligence to analyse data from a wide variety of tissues, collected from humans, mice, rats and killifish. They discovered that the length of genes can explain most molecular-level changes that occur during aging.

All cells must balance the activity of long and short genes. The researchers found that longer genes are linked to longer lifespans, and shorter genes are linked to shorter lifespans. They also found that aging genes change their activity according to length. More specifically, aging is accompanied by a shift in activity toward short genes. This causes the gene activity in cells to become unbalanced.

Surprisingly, this finding was near universal. The researchers uncovered this pattern across several animals, including humans, and across many tissues (blood, muscle, bone and organs, including liver, heart, intestines, brain and lungs) analyzed in the study.

The researchers found that longer genes are linked to longer lifespans, and shorter genes are linked to shorter lifespans. **PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/FREEPIK**

The new finding potentially could lead to interventions designed to slow the pace of — or even reverse — ageing.

The study will be published on 9 Decmber in the journal Nature Ageing.

"The changes in the activity of genes are very, very small, and these small changes involve thousands of genes," said Northwestern's Thomas Stoeger, who led the study. "We found this change was consistent across different tissues and in different animals. We found it almost everywhere. I find it very elegant that a single, relatively concise principle seems to account for nearly all of the changes in activity of genes that happen in animals as they age."

"The imbalance of genes causes ageing because cells and organisms work to remain balanced — what physicians denote as homeostasis," said Northwestern's Luis A.N. Amaral, a senior author of the study. "Imagine a waiter carrying a big tray. That tray needs to have everything balanced. If the tray is not balanced, then the waiter needs to put in extra effort to fight the imbalance. If the balance in the activity of short and long genes shifts in an organism, the same thing happens. It's like aging is this subtle imbalance, away from equilibrium. Small changes in genes do not seem like a big deal, but these subtle changes are bearing down on you, requiring more effort."

An expert in complex systems, Amaral is the Erastus Otis Haven Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering in Northwestern's McCormick School of Engineering. Stoeger is a postdoctoral scholar in Amaral's laboratory.

Looking across ages

To conduct the study, the researchers used various large datasets, including the Genotype-Tissue Expression Project, a National Institutes of Health-funded tissue bank that archives samples from human donors for research purposes.

The research team first analyzed tissue samples from mice — aged 4 months, 9 months, 12 months, 18 months and 24 months. They noticed the median length of genes shifted between the ages of 4 months and 9 months, a finding that hinted at a process with an early onset. Then, the team analyzed samples from rats, aged 6 months to 24 months, and killifish, aged 5 weeks to 39 weeks.

"There already seems to be something happening early in life, but it becomes more pronounced with age," Stoeger said. "It seems that, at a young age, our cells are able to counter perturbations that would lead to an imbalance in gene activity. Then, suddenly, our cells are no longer able to counter it."

After completing this research, the researchers turned their attention to humans. They looked at changes in human genes from ages 30 to 49, 50 to 69 and then 70 and older. Measurable changes in gene activity according to gene length already occurred by the time humans reached middle age.

"The result for humans is very strong because we have more samples for humans than for other animals," Amaral said. "It was also interesting because all the mice we studied are genetically identical, the same gender and raised in the same laboratory conditions, but the humans are all different. They all died from different causes and at different ages. We analyzed samples from men and women separately and found the same pattern."

'Systems-level' changes

In all animals, the researchers noticed subtle changes to thousands of different genes across samples. This means that not just a small subset of genes that contributes to aging. Ageing, instead, is characterized by systems-level changes.

This view differs from prevailing biological approaches that study the effects of single genes. Since the onset of modern genetics in the early 20th century, many researchers expected to be able to attribute many complex biological phenomena to single genes. And while some diseases, such as hemophilia, do result from single gene mutations, the narrow approach to studying single genes has yet to lead to explanations for the myriad changes that occur in neurodegenerative diseases and ageing.

SOURCE: ANI

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Stickers bearing "Passengers will not be allowed to ride without CSC" distributed at coach stations

ACCORDING to the instructions of the Yangon Region Private Transport Supervisory Committee (YRTC), stickers bearing "Passengers will not be allowed to ride without citizenship scrutiny card" were distributed to bus lines in Aung Mingala and Hlinethaya coach stations.

According to this directive, highway bus passengers must show their citizenship scrutiny cards when they purchase a ticket.

In addition, YRTC is checking the passenger's information from the bus line terminals every week, and action will be taken if the bus lines fail to abide by the rules.

Authorities have given instruction not to allow the purchase of tickets by showing such identity cards as student cards, driver's licences and employee cards and bus stations must not sell tickets to them without CSC. If it is found out for the first time that the bus lines do not observe the rules, they will be given a warning, for the second time they will be suspended for three or six months, and for the third time, they will be closed down forever. —TWA/KZW

Prices of some commodities decline

ON 10 December 2022, the prices of onions, potatoes, palm oil and pepper fell in the Yangon market.

The price of chickpeas remained unchanged during the week. On 10 December, around 150,000 visses of new monsoon onions entered the Yangon market but prices dropped.

On 9 December, Myittha and Myingyan onion prices dropped by K200 per viss within two days.

The smallest size of onion is priced at between K800 and K1,000 per viss.

In the Mandalay market, the price of Kyukok garlic has dropped below K3,000 per viss, and in the Yangon market, the price of the garlic was K3,250 per viss on 9 December, and only K3,100 per viss on 10 December, according to a person selling garlic on Yetama Street.

It is known that a total of 10 vehicles carrying 60,000 visses of Shan potatoes entered the potato market on 10 December.

Shan potato in small A-1 size is more expensive than medium OK and S1 strains of potatoes.

On 10 December, the price of Aungban potato was set at K1,750 per viss for A1 and K1,700 for OK, K1,700 for S1 and K2,150 for S2.

The price of old Chinese potatoes is K2,100 per kilo while new Chinese potatoes are K1,450 and Bengal potatoes are K1,200 respectively.

Palm oil price also went down by K150 per viss on 10 December, when it traded at only K5,350 per viss.

A grocery is seen near the Lanmadaw Than Market.

The price of one tonne of red pigeon pea remained unchanged at K1,835,000 per tonne on the six days of the opening of the commodity depot this week. Pepper, which had been at a high price, has come down in price due to new arrivals.

The new Sinphyukyun pepper was priced at K28,000 per viss at the end of November, but on 10 December, the price was only K26,000 per viss. The new Panye long pepper was at K20,000 per viss at the end of November, but the price dropped to K16,000-K18,000 these days. Shan pepper was also priced at K13,000 per viss in the previous days, but now it is only K11,500 per viss.

Moehtaung peppers went from K13,000-K14,000 per viss wholesale in November to K12,500-K13,000 on 10 December. According to the pepper market, the price of Shan Saga pepper was K16,000 per viss on the previous day, but now it is only K12,500 per viss.

It is known from the market that the prices of some commodities decreased again in December, so it has become convenient for consumers. —TWA/KZL

Automobile market booming for cars worth below K50 mln

ALTHOUGH the market of luxury cars is weakening, the automobile market sees brisk sales of cars worth below K50 million at a reduced price.

"Vehicles worth more than K100 million are seldomly sold despite the price drop of K10 million. Cars worth below K50 million are regularly traded. The offer price declines a bit. The investors do not see the automobile market amid the stability in the forex market and gold price," U Wunna Soe, a car dealer, told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The luxury cars were priced at around K150 million last month. At present, they are traded at K130-140 million. The price of cars worth below K50 million was down by K3 to 5 million these days.

The automobile market is usually slow-moving in September-December. Only policy changes can shake the market. Despite the expectations of the dealers, the luxury car import has been suspended for nearly one year. Some local showrooms rarely imported the cars. Some are even forced to shut down the centre after withdrawing deposits as they no longer bear the burden of rent, showroom preparations, salaries of the employees and other charges.

"The car showrooms need a large plot of land. The rent is too high. If they do not have car trading, they make losses due to the rent and salary. As they cannot import the cars from abroad, for now, they are doing a car trade with the vehicles in their hands. That being so, some cannot overcome this difficult time so they suspend the business," U Thein Than Swe, a car dealer, told the GNLM.

The buyers are also interested in imported battery electric vehicles.

"Some BEVs are seen in the market now. Most of the BEVs in the domestic market are second-hand but the showroom offers new ones. The new BEV is priced at approximately K40 million. The buyers mull buying them due to the lack of power stations in the country. Some charge them with their home's electricity. Nonetheless, they cannot drive on high-way roads or long road trips," U Wunna Soe elaborated on the BEVs.

As the charging stations have a long way to go for now, regardless of the public's interest. The buyers will still demand gasoline cars, said the dealers.

"The gasoline cars generate noise from the pinging sound in the engine. Electric cars emit very low sounds and are quieter than gasoline-powered cars. It can give a better driving experience," said Ko Aung Lwin, a BEV driver.

The market prices of the cars are K22-40 million for 2008 Honda Fit, K21-29 million for 2007,2008,2009 Toyota Vitz, K18-25 million for 2011, 2012 Suzuki Swift, K18-28 million for 2011 Nissan March, K55-80 million for 2006-2008 Mitsubishi Fuso Canter, K15-30 for 2018, 2019 Suzuki Carry Truck. – TWA/EMM

An online sale post on Tamway car market Facebook page.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Salt prices bounce back in domestic market

Mon State, the second largest producer in Myanmar, yearly produces 40,000 tonnes of sun-dried salt, beyond magnesium chloride (MgCl2), iodized salt (I2) and table salt (NaCl).

THE prices of salt have rebounded, according to the salt market.

In Last November, salt was priced at the lowest of K203 and the highest of K250 per viss only. The prices have slowly increased to K263-K270 per viss this month.

The slight increase is attributed to the low outputs by salt fields due to rainfall until end-November, low stocks and offer prices.

At present, a decline in salt production pushed up the price. When an abundant supply of salt enters the market, the price is likely to dip, salt farmers said.

The salt harvesting process begins around mid-September in Mon State and raw salt is processed in December and January. High fuel oil prices affected production and transportation.

The traders faced low inventory despite the high price at the end of the salt season.

During the 2021 salt season, salt farmers were battered by losses.

Mon State, the second largest producer in Myanmar, yearly produces 40,000 tonnes of sun-dried salt, beyond magnesium chloride (MgCl2), iodized salt (I2) and table salt (NaCl).

The 2019-2020 statistics of Mon State salt production businesses showed that there are 14 iodine salt processing plants and one factory each for magnesium chloride (MgCl2) and table salt (NaCl) production, with a production capacity of 60 tonnes of magnesium chloride, 204 tonnes of table salt and 12,132 tonnes of iodized salt. — NN/EMM

Palm oil reference price rise persists

Locals are seen lining up to buy palm oil at the reference price.

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market continued rising, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The price stood at K3,880 per viss in the week ending 16 October. Then, the reference price has gradually risen to K4,515 per viss in the week from 12 to 18 December, indicating an increase of over K600 per viss within the two months.

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 transportation cost, tariff and banking service, 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 reasonable prices to the 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 in order 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

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 12 December 2022

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K1,805
Octane 95	K1,895
Diesel	K2,185
Premium Diesel	K2,260

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,104,000 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,668,000 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 K2,830

The above prices may change from time to time.

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ECONOMY
WORLD

Britain's GDP grows 0.5% in October: statistics office

The Bank of England, Britain's central bank, is pictured in the City of London on 2 November 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

BRITAIN'S economy grew 0.5 per cent in October, official data showed Monday, after a sharp fall the previous month in part because of the national holiday for Queen Elizabeth II's funeral.

Gross domestic product fell 0.6 per cent in September after businesses closed for the royal funeral, and Britain's economy shrank by 0.2 per cent in the third quarter, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Darren Morgan, ONS director of economic statistics, said the economy was helped especially by car sales which "rebounded after a very poor September, while the health sector also saw a strong month".

The ONS said in its statement Monday that in the three months to October, the economy contracted by 0.3 per cent.

Britain's finance minister Jeremy Hunt said in a statement that despite the figures showing growth, "there is a tough road ahead".

"High inflation, exacerbated by (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's illegal war, is slowing growth across the world, with the IMF predicting a third of the world economy will be in recession this year or next," he said.

British inflation stands above 11 per cent, the highest level in more than 40 years.

The Bank of England has predicted the UK economy would contract in the final quarter of 2022, meaning the economy was in a recession.

The technical definition of recession is two quarters of contraction in a row. —AFP

Stock markets track Wall St down on inflation fears

EQUITY markets dropped and the dollar edged up Monday after a forecast-beating US inflation reading dampened hopes for a more dovish tilt by the Federal Reserve in its battle against soaring prices.

The producer price index reading for November followed data showing the jobs market remained tight, suggesting the central bank would likely need to keep hiking interest rates.

Investors are now looking to the release later on Monday of key consumer price index figures, which comes ahead of the Fed's next policy meeting.

A below-forecast print for October's CPI sparked a rally on markets last month as investors bet on a shorter pace of rate hikes, though concerns about a recession continue to weigh on sentiment.

"An ominous feeling is consuming markets ahead of this week's crucial CPI report and (Fed policy) meeting," said Stephen Innes at SPI Asset Management.

"While headline inflation continues to drop, the top-side beat on PPI expectations suggests that while inflation might climb down the mountain, the slope remains very uncertain."

Policy decisions in the United Kingdom, the European Union and several other economies are also due this week.

All three main indexes on Wall Street fell Friday, and Asia followed suit.

Hong Kong led the way down — shedding more than two per cent — having surged last week, while Tokyo, Shanghai, Sydney, Seoul, Singapore, Taipei and Wellington were also in the red.

London opened lower even as data showed the UK economy grew more than expected in October. Paris and Frankfurt also slipped.—AFP

Sunlit Greece seeks to lure Europeans amid winter energy crisis

WITH most of Europe struggling with soaring energy costs, Greece has launched an initiative to put its mild winters to good use and attract sun-seeking travellers all year round.

The Mediterranean nation recorded November temperatures comfortably exceeding 20 degrees Celsius (68 degrees Fahrenheit) — quite a draw for Europeans eager to save on heating bills that have rocketed in the wake of the war in Ukraine.

The Greek government has earmarked 20 million euros ($21 million) for a poster campaign targeting mainly European pensioners that could boost an economy where the travel sector represents 25 per cent of annual output.

"Wanna feel 20 again?" says the poster featuring an elderly pair nibbling watermelon and sipping drinks on a yacht.

"With warm winter temperatures up to 20 degrees Celsius, Greece is the place to be," it adds.

Tourism Minister Vassilis Kikilias, fresh from a tour of several European capitals including Paris and Berlin to promote the initiative, told AFP the government was working "on a plan to campaign for Greece 12 months per year".

With northern European countries facing much longer and bitterly cold winters, "energy-wise there are many more needs than here in the south where the winter is mild" and shorter, he added.

"You live a great one or two months here enjoying your vacation and spending less than you would have spent staying at home," Kikilias said.—AFP

Tourists sit at Areopagus hill overlooking the ancient Acropolis in Athens on 12 July 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Cambodia imports oil, gas products worth US$3.38 bln in first 11 months

CAMBODIA have imported oil and gas products worth 3.38 billion US dollars in the first 11 months of 2022, up almost 58 per cent over the same period last year, a report from the General Department of Customs and Excise said on Monday.

The report did not mention the volume of oil and gas the Southeast Asian country imported during the January-November period this year.

Currently, Cambodia relies entirely on oil and gas imports as its seabed's oil and gas reserves have not been tapped yet.—Xinhua

Sri Lanka resumes direct flights between Jaffna, India's Chennai

DIRECT flights between Jaffna in northern Sri Lanka and Chennai in southern India resumed on Monday when a passenger plane touched down at the Jaffna International Airport after a lapse of nearly three years.

According to Sri Lankan Tourism Minister Harin Fernando, India's Alliance Air will operate four weekly flights hereon between Jaffna and Chennai, boosting tourism and business travellers into Sri Lanka's north.

Direct flights from the northern Jaffna peninsula to Chennai resumed three years after the island nation discontinued the service due to the COVID-19 pandemic, said the minister. The Tourism Ministry said it hopes to boost tourism in Sri Lanka's north, which will strengthen the country's northern economy.

The Jaffna International airport, which became Sri Lanka's third international airport in October 2019, had its first flight from Chennai. —Xinhua

Japan wholesale price index hits highest level on energy, weak yen

THE wholesale price index hit its highest level again in November, with prices of goods traded between companies surging 9.3 per cent from a year earlier, Bank of Japan data showed Monday, underscoring the contribution of surging energy costs and a weaker yen to inflationary pressure.

The key index stood at 118.5, the highest since comparable data became available in 1960. Wholesale prices, which affect consumer prices with a lag, rose for the 21th straight month, staying above nine per cent for almost a year.

The pace of increase, however, slowed somewhat in November from a revised 9.4 per cent in the previous month.

The yen's weakening, particularly against the US dollar, has been boosting the import costs of everything from energy and raw materials to food items. Import prices jumped 28.2 per cent from a year earlier, compared with a 15.1 per cent gain in export prices.

People walk along a popular covered shopping street in central Kyoto on 13 October 2022. **AFP**

As a growing number of companies have passed on higher costs by hiking retail prices, rises in consumer prices have also stayed above the BOJ's two per cent target in recent months.

The price trend has not changed the bank's view that the recent inflation will not last long and that the current ultralow rate policy should be maintained.

Electricity, city gas and water prices gained 49.7 per cent, with the pace of rise accelerating from a revised 44.1 per cent a month earlier.

Iron and steel prices saw a 20.9 per cent increase while those of food were up 7.2 per cent.

The pace of gain in petroleum and coal products, which had soared amid Russia's war on Ukraine, slowed to 0.5 per cent, with the surge taking a breather as monetary tightening by major central banks raises concerns about a global economic slowdown.

The contrasting monetary policies of Japan and its peers in the United States and Europe had weakened the yen but such selling pressure on the Japanese unit has been easing in recent weeks.—Kyodo

PNG to implement new policies to boost coffee growing industry

THE government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) will implement some new policies to boost the coffee growing industry in the Pacific Island country.

A statement from the Prime Minister's Office said on Sunday that the government will encourage as many families as possible within the 17 coffee-producing provinces to grow 2,500 trees per family.

"If one family can grow 2,500 trees, it can make between 21,000 Kina (about 5,938 US dollars) and 25,000 Kina (about 7,070 US dollars) per year to sustain itself," said PNG Prime Minister James Marape.

To encourage farmers' interest in this traditional cash corp, the government, beginning next year onwards, will make sure the price of coffee would not drop below seven Kina (about two US dollars) per kilogramme with a number of agricultural support programs such as price support and freight subsidy to buffer against price drop.

Coffee is a crucial source of income for more than 2.5 million Papua New Guineans, according to a research from Australia's Curtin University in 2020. But despite its importance to rural livelihoods and the PNG economy, coffee production and quality has been in steady decline since the 1990s.

Moreover, dispersed smallholder farmers selling coffee individually to buyers reduces the farmers' bargaining power and creates further disincentive to produce good quality coffee.

Marape called on the provincial governments of Jiwaka, Western Highlands and Chimbu to begin working collaboratively on coffee with a view to opening up a special economic zone to develop this cash commodity further.

He also committed five million Kina (3.4 million US dollars) to the provinces of Jiwaka and Western Highlands respectively, and two million Kina (1.4 million US dollars) to each of the coffee-producing districts in Jiwaka to fund the coffee grow projects and to begin exploratory and preparatory work to coordinate and link all coffee growers.—Xinhua

Notice to call Special General Meeting of Strides Toyotsu Alliance Company Limited (the "Company") for reduction of share capital

Notice is hereby given as required by Section 116 (e) of the Myanmar Companies Law that:

(1) the Company incorporated in Myanmar with Certificate of Incorporation No. 106573220 and having its registered office at Pyay Road, No. 631, Kamayut Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar 11041 will call a Special General Meeting of the Company ("**SGM**") to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the reduction of share capital by way of equal reduction ("**Capital Reduction**"), and

(2) the Company had filed the Notice of SGM and associated documents with regard to the Capital Reduction to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration through Myanmar Companies Online (MyCO).

Notice for change of registration distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official registered distributor appointed by Syngenta Crop Protection Ltd, Thailand for the following pesticides has been changed from Myanma Awba Group Co., Ltd. to Ageba Company Limited.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number	Registration distributors	
					Old	New
1	Icon 2.5 CS	Lambda-cyhalothrin 2.5%CS	Full	FF2020-386	Myanma Awba Group Co., Ltd.	Ageba Company Limited
2	Actellic 50% EC	Pirimiphos-methyl 50%EC	Full	FF2020-065	Myanma Awba Group Co., Ltd.	Ageba Company Limited

Myanma Awba Group Co.,Ltd invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, and Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days form the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

Contact Details: Ageba Company Limited. No.(824), Corner of Tha Khin Tun Oak Street and Aung Thiri Street, 28th Quarter, North Dagon Township, Yangon Region, The Republic of Union of Myanmar.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (767N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (767N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-12-2022** 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 GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (158N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (158N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-12-2022** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Striking UK nurses say walkouts over pay 'last resort'

UK nurses are set to walk out on strike for the first time in their union's 106-year history this week, insisting they are taking action as a "last resort".

Up to 100,000 members of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will hold a one-day stoppage on Thursday after rejecting a government pay offer.

Chemotherapy, dialysis, intensive care and high-dependency units, as well as neonatal and paediatric intensive care will be protected.

Nurse Mark Boothroyd, a RCN (Royal College of Nursing) member and a Unite union rep, poses for a photograph outside of Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital in central London on 6 December 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

But other services will be reduced to Christmas staffing levels, the RCN said.

Accident and emergency staff nurse Mark Boothroyd, 37, said the situation had reached a tipping point.

"Workloads are horrendous. Nurses are burnt out, can't provide safe service to patients. We are seeing harm to patients and patients put at risk every day," he told AFP.

Boothroyd, an RCN member and staff representative for the Unite union, said Thursday's stoppage and another on 20 December were about restoring "quality of care for patients".

As in other countries, Britain is gripped by a cost-of-living crisis, pushing up prices for housing, food and energy.

The RCN's industrial action is part of a growing wave among public and private sector employees.

Healthcare unions say their members are skipping meals, struggling to feed and clothe their families, and leaving the state-run National Health Service (NHS) in droves.—AFP

Presidents of Türkiye, Ukraine discuss expanding scope of grain deal

PRESIDENTS of Türkiye and Ukraine on Sunday discussed expanding the scope of the grain deal and the Ukraine-Russia conflict over the phone, the Turkish presidency said in a statement.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky that Türkiye continued to work towards meeting the humanitarian needs of the Ukrainian people in the "difficult winter months".

"The grain corridor could be expanded to include different food products and other commodities," said Erdogan.

He also expressed hope for "approaching a solution" to the issue of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in southern Ukraine, the statement said.

Türkiye has been evaluating the contributions that can be made for the implementation of the peace plan announced by Zelensky at the G20 Summit, Erdogan told his Ukrainian counterpart.

Turkish first lady Emine Erdogan was closely involved with the group of 1,033 people consisting of Ukrainian orphan children and their companions hosted in the Turkish capital Ankara, he added.

Earlier in the day, Erdogan had a phone talk with Russian President Vladimir Putin, during which they discussed Türkiye-Russia relations, exports through the Black Sea grain corridor and the fight against terrorism along the Turkish-Syrian border, said the Turkish presidency. —Xinhua

A team of representatives from the Joint Coordination Centre inspects on the first grain-laden ship leaving Ukraine on the northwestern entrance of the Bosphorus Strait in Istanbul, Türkiye, 3 August 2022. **PHOTO: TURKISH DEFENSE MINISTRY/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA)**

Golden Globes to unveil nominations as censured awards eye comeback

BOYCOTTED by A-listers and studios last year, the Golden Globes will attempt to rebuild their reputation as one of Hollywood's top award shows with organizers unveiling this year's nominees on Monday.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which organizes the film and television awards, has scrambled to reform itself since long-harboured criticisms of the group's practices went public in early 2021.

Tinseltown completely distanced itself from the Globes last January over voters' lack of diversity, alleged corruption and lack of professionalism, and the show took place behind closed doors.

But broadcaster NBC has gambled that it is time to bring back the glitzy gala, which will take place in Beverly Hills on 10 January.

Tinseltown is waiting to see which stars will show up. Much of that will depend on who is nominated.

Tom Cruise and Brendan Fraser are both seen as strong contenders this awards season for their lead roles in "Top Gun: Maverick" and "The Whale", respectively.

But Cruise last year returned his three Golden Globes to the HFPA in protest at its behaviour, and Fraser has said he will not attend the awards if he is nominated.

"It's because of the history that I have with them. And my mother didn't raise a hypocrite," Fraser told GQ last month.—AFP

(FILES) In this file photo taken on 13 December 2021, the stage is set for the nominations announcement for the 79th Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California. **PHOTO: AFP**

Loud blast, shots near China guest house in Afghan capital

A loud blast and gunfire were heard in the Afghan capital Monday near a guest house popular with Chinese business visitors, a witness said.

Although the Taliban claim to have improved national security since storming back to power in August last year, there have been scores of bomb blasts and attacks — many claimed by the local chapter of the Islamic State group.

"It was a very loud explosion and then there was a lot of gunfire," the witness told AFP, while local media also reported similar details.

Security officials were not immediately available to comment on the blast, which happened in Shahr-e-naw, one of Kabul's main commercial areas.

There has been a significant number of Chinese business people visiting Afghanistan since the Taliban's return to power, and Beijing maintains a full embassy even while not officially recognizing the regime.—AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Yemen war has killed or maimed over 11,000 children: UN

Yemeni children attend class outdoors in a heavily damaged school on the first day of the new academic year in Yemen's war-torn western province of Hodeida on 17 October 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

MORE than 11,000 children are known to have been killed or maimed in Yemen's civil war since it escalated nearly eight years ago, the United Nations said Monday.

"The true toll of this conflict is likely to be far higher," said the children's agency UNICEF about the casualties of the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

"Thousands of children have lost their lives, hundreds of thousands more remain at risk of death from preventable disease or starvation," said UNICEF executive director Catherine Russell.

About 2.2 million Yemeni children are acutely malnourished, one quarter of them aged under five, and most are at extreme risk from cholera, measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases, UNICEF said.

Yemen's war broke out in 2014 and quickly saw Iran-backed Huthi rebels seize the capital Sanaa, prompting Saudi-led forces to intervene to prop up the government the following year.

Hundreds of thousands have died since, either as a result of fighting or indirectly through unsafe drinking water, disease outbreaks, hunger and other impacts.

The agency's latest numbers confirm 3,774 child deaths between March 2015 and September 2022.—AFP

Japan eyes higher corporate, tobacco taxes to fund defence spending

JAPAN is considering raising corporate and tobacco taxes in stages, as well as tapping revenue from a temporary tax measure for its recovery from a major earthquake, to cover a planned increase in defence spending, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

The ruling coalition of the Liberal Democratic Party and the Komeito party is exploring stable funding sources for a combined 43 trillion yen ($315 billion) in defence spending over the next five years from April. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has said some 1 trillion yen annually will have to be secured though tax increases after fiscal 2024 or later.

Under one government plan, 700 to 800 billion yen will be secured through higher corporate taxes and around 200 billion yen by hiking the tobacco tax. Another 200 billion yen would come from the temporary income tax measure adopted in the aftermath of the 2011 major earthquake and tsunami, the sources said.

Kishida's push to increase tax burdens has prompted a backlash from some ruling party lawmakers, as well as from some Cabinet ministers, calling for bond issuance to finance the increased defence spending.

But the prime minister has ruled out new government bonds as a stable funding source, with Japan's fiscal health in dire straits. The ruling coalition is expected to finalize a tax reform plan for the next fiscal year later this week. —Kyodo

Japan Ground Self-Defence Force personnel conduct an evacuation drill on 19 November 2022, for a massive eruption on Sakurajima in Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Cyclone Mandous kills 3, affects over 21,000 in Sri Lanka

SRI Lanka's Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said on Monday that three people were killed and over 21,000 have been affected by the adverse weather conditions caused by cyclone Mandous.

The DMC said 19 people were injured and those affected belong to 6,113 families in 16 districts, adding that 5,639 houses in various parts of the island country have been damaged.

DMC Deputy Director Pradeep Kodippili told media that they have already started assessing the damage and those affected will be compensated.

The DMC said the effects of Mandous have reduced greatly but still requested Sri Lankans to take precautions.—Xinhua

Indonesia seeks to allay tourism fears over new sex law

INDONESIAN officials on Monday played down concerns about a new law criminalizing sex outside of marriage, saying foreign holidaymakers will not be charged as fears grow over the impact on vital tourism.

The Southeast Asian country's parliament last week passed legislation approving jail terms of up to a year for anybody in Indonesia caught having sex outside of wedlock.

Cohabitation by unmarried couples can also be punished with six months in prison.

Businesses have voiced worries that the sweeping overhaul of the criminal code will be detrimental to tourism in Indonesia, which received more than 16 million visitors in 2019.

Foreign tourists walk on a beach in Seminyak, Badung regency on Indonesia resort island of Bali, on 7 December 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

But Deputy Law and Human Rights Minister Edward Omar Sharif Hiariej on Monday dismissed those concerns, saying foreigners will not be prosecuted.

"I want to emphasize for foreign tourists, please come to Indonesia because you will not be charged with this article," Hiariej told reporters.

He said extra-marital sex and cohabitation offences would only be prosecuted if a spouse, parent or child reported it, while adultery had already been illegal for years under the previous criminal code.

In the holiday hotspot of Bali, Governor Wayan Koster also tried to allay fears about the law, saying local authorities would not check the marital status of tourists.

He said in a statement that Bali would not make any "policy changes" related to the new criminal code.

"Bali is Bali as usual, which is comfortable and safe to be visited," Koster said.

"There will be no checks on marital status upon check-in at any tourism accommodation... nor inspections by public officials or community groups."

The new criminal code still needs to be approved by President Joko Widodo and will not come into force for three years.—AFP

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS
Yemen war has killed or maimed over 11,000 children: UN
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32nd SEA Games Chinlone sports to feature 12 types of competition

The Myanmar team is seen competing in the previous SEA Games.

THE 32nd SEA Games, which will be hosted by Cambodia, will include 12 types of competition in the Chinlone (cane ball) sports event.

According to the announcement of the host country Cambodia, Chinlone, one of Myanmar's traditional sports, will be held under the title of Sepak Takraw.

A total of 12 events: four men's events, four women's events, and four men's and women's mixed events will be included in the Chinlone competition.

However, participating countries will not be allowed to compete in all types of events and allowed to enter only two events for each and every category.

The Myanmar national team players are under training in Nay Pyi Taw for the upcoming SEA Games.

Chinlone, one of Myanmar's traditional sports, was included in the 2013 SEA Games, which was hosted by Myanmar.

It started being included in the 2013 SEA Games and participated again in the 2015 Singapore SEA Games and 2017 Malaysia SEA Games, but did not participate in the 2019 Philippines SEA Games and 2021 Viet Nam SEA Games, but made a comeback from the 2023 Cambodia SEA Games.

The Myanmar team has been able to win gold medals every time the Chinlone sport is included in the SEA Games. — 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.

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar2022

Modric and Croatia stand between Messi and World Cup final

LIONEL Messi and Argentina's World Cup dream remains alive but an indefatigable Croatia side inspired by the enduring brilliance of Luka Modric stands in their way in Tuesday's semi-final in Doha.

Argentina have recovered from the shock of losing their opening game in Qatar to Saudi Arabia and made the last four with an exhausting win on penalties against the Netherlands at the end of a fractious quarter-final on Friday.

Having been 2-0 up and cruising after 83 minutes, with Messi setting up one goal in sublime fashion and netting a penalty, they conceded twice late on and had to survive extra time before triumphing 4-3 in a shoot-out.

Backed by an enormous contingent of travelling supporters who have brought the passion, noise and colour of Argentina's own stadiums to this World Cup, Messi and his teammates are starting to believe this really could be their year.

"We have balls, passion, heart and we are doing this for 45 million people," said goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez, and Argentina's optimism now has only increased after seeing great rivals Brazil go out in the last round.

Now aged 35, this has been billed as Messi's last chance to win a World Cup, eight years on from Argentina's defeat in the final to Germany in Rio de Janeiro. He is determined to seize the chance and has already scored his first two goals in the knockout rounds of any World Cup, netting against Australia in the last 16 before his penalty against the Dutch. — AFP

(COMBO) This combination picture made on 12 December 2022 during the Qatar 2022 World Cup football tournament shows Croatia's midfielder Luka Modric (R) on 1 December 2022 and Argentina's forward Lionel Messi, in Doha on 9 December 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

World Cup dream was beautiful while it lasted, says Ronaldo

CRISTIANO Ronaldo has appeared to acknowledge that his dream of winning the World Cup with Portugal is over after the team's elimination from football's showpiece tournament in Qatar.

Portugal were denied a berth in the semifinals after they suffered a 1-0 quarterfinal loss to Morocco in Doha on Saturday. "Winning a World Cup for Portugal was the biggest and most ambitious dream of my career," Ronaldo said in an Instagram post on Sunday. "Fortunately, I won many titles of international dimension, including for Portugal, but putting the name of our country on the highest level in the world was my biggest dream."

Ronaldo started on the bench for the second consecutive match at Al Thumama stadium after scoring just once — a penalty against Ghana — in four outings at this World Cup. The defeat to Morocco was almost certainly the 37-year-old's last appearance in football's showpiece tournament.

The former Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus star cut a distraught figure as he walked off the pitch in tears immediately after the final whistle.—Xinhua

FIFA World Cup 2022
Semi-final
01:30 MST (14-12-2022)
Argentina - Croatia