

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends Thanksgiving ceremony for the Christmas

THE thanksgiving ceremony to mark Christmas Day, which was jointly organized by the Myanmar Council of Churches, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance and the Myanmar Christian Mission Cooperation, took place at Holy Cathedral Church at the corner of Bogyoke Aung San Street and Shwedagon Pagoda Road in Pabedan Township yesterday evening, attended by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Also present at the ceremony were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, the joint secretary of the council and wife, council members and wives, Union ministers and wives and officials.

At first, Cardinal Charles Bo, Archbishop of Yangon Catholic Archdiocese, and bishops welcomed the Senior General and party.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that all human beings need to build the essence of Christmas with compassion. If so, a peaceful and prosperous society will be a peaceful and tranquil world. Only when all global people fol-



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives the present from Cardinal Charles Bo, Archbishop Steven Than Myint Oo and Reverend Dr Aye Min at the thanksgiving ceremony to mark Christmas Day in Yangon yesterday.

low the advice of religions, the society and the country will be peaceful and prosperous. The State Administration Council

opens the peace door to all whereas the Tatmadaw is ready to restore peace. The Senior General requested heads of all

religions to attend the ceremony to restore perpetual peace as much as they can. From the significant Christmas Day 2022,

all are to strive for Myanmar to have peace and stability, security and peace as quickly as

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Myanmar imports approximately 5,000 tonnes of pharmaceuticals worth over US\$53.7 mln in Nov

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Five National Objectives of Diamond Jubilee Independence Day

1. To ensure cementing the discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democratic system and build the Union based on democracy and federalism;
2. To utmost strive for ensuring prosperity of the nation and food sufficiency as national work processes;
3. To build a better State and socioeconomic life in accord with the theme “Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal” focusing on interests of the State and ethnic national people;
4. To initiate national solidarity and peace of the Union with a firm vow;
5. To successfully hold the free and fair multiparty democratic general elections and emerge an electoral system in which all ethnic nationals would participate proportionately.

Articulating Myanmar’s Position on United Nations Security Council Resolution

It is observed that the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution on Myanmar through voting at its meeting in New York, United States on 21 December 2022. It is mentioned in the UN Charter that the member states confer the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The situation in Myanmar is solely internal affairs, which in no way pose any risk to international peace and security. Hence, Myanmar highlights that the adoption is not in line with the Charter of the United Nations.

The Britain-initiated resolution was found to incorporate several intrusive elements on Myanmar’s internal affairs that contravene the principles and purposes of the United Nations. Moreover, it is observed that the resolution also constitutes human rights-related matters which have already been discussed repeatedly at the Third Committee of the General Assembly and the United Nation Human Rights Council and which also fall outside the purview of the Security Council’s mandate.

It is found that the resolution demands an end to violence. Myanmar’s security forces have been performing with utmost restraint in accordance with the existing laws. Only the terrorist acts of unlawful organizations, the so-called NUG and PDFs, necessitate condemnation and prohibition.

Myanmar has to declare the State of Emergency after the massive electoral fraud occurred in the 2020 General Elections and subsequently implement the provisions of the state of emergency. Furthermore, Myanmar has been steadfastly fulfilling the Five-Point Road Map, including the holding of free and fair multiparty democratic elections in line with the 2008 Constitution to hand over State duties to the winning party. Therefore, it is for the international community to support and encourage the Government’s endeavours to return to democracy.

In its cooperation with the ASEAN to implement ASEAN five-point consensus, Myanmar upholds principles of non-interference in internal affairs and respecting sovereignty along with the principles of the ASEAN Charter. The said principles will also be fundamental in providing humanitarian assistance under the ASEAN scheme to people in need without any discrimination.

Likewise, the principles of non-interference and respecting sovereignty play a substantial role in Myanmar’s engagement with the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar. Myanmar will continue its cooperation for the repatriation of displaced persons from Bangladesh in accordance with the bilateral arrangements between the two countries.

Myanmar is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country. It is imperative that the history and national characteristics of the country, and divisions created by the colonial divide-and-rule policy are thoroughly considered when it comes to Myanmar issues. Only Myanmar knows best such delicate and wide-ranging matters and it has the ability to handle them.

It is noted that external interventions by means of interference and putting pressure do not bring any success in many countries, given the different historical backgrounds of the countries. The Government of Myanmar has been endeavouring to ensure the perpetuation of sovereignty and non-disintegration of the Union and national solidarity while prioritizing the interests of the people for peace, stability and development of the country. Exerting pressure to destabilize Myanmar rather than supporting the government’s efforts does not help the country and Myanmar will not accept such acts.

It is further noted that the elements contained in the Security Council resolution do not contribute to the peace and stability of Myanmar except for politicization. Myanmar will uphold the 2008 Constitution, existing laws and fundamental principles as the only norms in carrying out state affairs.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
23 December 2022

9 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 23 December, total figure rises to 633,599

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,599** after **nine** new cases were reported on 23 December 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **608,198** including **eight** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,489** on 23 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.

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 citizens to decide Myanmar’s affairs without external interference

“ENSURING peace and stability in the country is rather difficult as long as foreign involvement exists in our country’s internal affairs. Myanmar citizens, themselves are to decide the affairs of Myanmar. It is by no means possible to let other foreign countries interfere or decide. It must be the Myanmar citizens who are to decide the affairs of Myanmar.”

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the State Administration Council Meeting 4/2022 held on 12-5-2022)



Union Ethnic People. PHOTO BY SAI TUN NAY HLAING

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends Thanksgiving ceremony for the Christmas



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks on the occasion yesterday.

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possible and for the creation of good chances for all citizens through peaceful coexistence among all religions.

Cardinal Charles Bo prayed for all Myanmar people to have genuine peace and enjoy physical and mental well-being as well as peace, prosperity and happiness.

Cardinal Charles Bo, Archbishop Steven Than Myint Oo and Reverend Dr Aye Min presented a painting as a Christmas gift to the Senior General and his wife who returned the Christmas gift and cash donation.

The Senior General and party had a fellows’ Christmas



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife attend the dinner.

dinner hosted by the Myanmar Council of Churches, the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance and the Myanmar Christian Mission Cooperation together. — MNA

Peace processes unwaveringly base on nationwide ceasefire agreement-NCA and Constitution (2008)

WE would have two basic factors for the continuation of implementing the peace process. These are: to firmly stand for the nationwide ceasefire agreement-NCA and firmly stand for the Constitution (2008).

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the 7th Anniversary of Signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) on 15 October 2022)

It is necessary to focus on the improvement of the public economy rather than the economy of a group in order to develop the domestic economy: Senior General

ONLY when the amount of circulating currency is larger will the businesses develop, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with officials from associates of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the Mingala Hall of UMFCCI in Yangon yesterday morning.

Discussions on task undertakings and requirements of relevant sectors

First, UMFCCI President U Aye Win reported on the establishment of the federation, formation of the federation, admission of associate organizations under the disciplines, running of the federation, policies and future plans. UMFCCI Vice President and President of Myanmar Rice Federation U Ye Min Aung and officials of associate organizations reported on the formation of organizations, the need for internationally recognized laboratories to increase export volume from respective sectors, the need to apply modern techniques for the development of agriculture sector, needs of assistance for capital, skilled labour and techniques for further development of industries, and arrangements for holding the gems emporiums on sale with foreign currency as well as kyat currency.

Discussions of Union ministers in relevant sectors

In response to the reports, Union ministers U Win Shein, Dr Kan Zaw, U Hla Moe, Dr Charlie Than and U Aung Nang Oo discussed efforts for the economic development of the State, the State's contributions to capital and requirements for the development of MSME industries, issuance of licences as



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets officials from associates of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Yangon on 23 December 2022.

quickly as possible, provision of techniques and capitals by relevant ministries for manufacturing sector based on agriculture and livestock sectors, efforts of ministries to develop the electric vehicles for transportation measures, and undertakings for economic development.

Encouragement to manufacturing measures based on agriculture and livestock sectors

In his speech, the Senior General said that UMFCCI has been founded for more than 100 years, free from any reliance on others. As governments in successive eras have undertaken the development of the nation, the current government is also striving for the improvement of the country. Only when manufacturing measures are active will trade and service come into existence. To be able to do so, the government makes management, encouraging MSME

businesses for manufacturing products. Some 75 per cent of the people are residing in rural areas, primarily engaging in agriculture and livestock farms. Hence, manufacturing and trading based on agriculture and livestock measures can get greater benefits which can help the State economy improve.

MSME industries aim to encourage domestic businesses, substitute imported products and increase the export volume. Priority must be given to manufacturing measures to encourage local businesses. The democratic governments in the first and second terms emphasized the import of goods rather than the manufacturing of the products and faced a trade deficit. Prioritizing domestic production is further benefitting the State. It is necessary to focus on the improvement of the public economy rather than the economy of a group in order to develop the domestic economy. Hence, the government is

enhancing the work process of businesses beneficial for the majority of the people. As operating businesses cannot be free from the control of the government under the disciplines, UMFCCI needs to fully cooperate with the government for the development of the State economy.

The government disburses loans for capital as much as possible. Only when the amount of circulating currency is larger will the businesses develop. So, the government encourages investment measures.

If manufacturing of personal goods and foodstuffs can achieve success with the use of agriculture and livestock products it will meet domestic demand. Exceeded products will be exported to foreign countries.

Turning out of qualified human resources

Subject-wise training schools are opened to turn out relevant qualified human resources. If

private sectors produce skilled labourers, the government will encourage them. Investment in education is enormous, actually benefiting the State. Hence, training must be given to trainees to have brilliant skills in relevant subjects.

Encouraging manufacturing by effectively utilizing natural resources

The Senior General highlighted the manufacturing of products with the use of wood, bamboo, rubber, cotton and other raw materials to develop the production of personal goods, various products and medicines for the people. The Senior General also emphasized the operation of banking services, and the tourism sector and urged officials from associate organizations of the UMFCCI towards the development of the State economy free from politics.

The Senior General cordially greeted attendees. — MNA

SAC Vice-Chair Dy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win enjoys One-Man Show of famous singer Myanmar Pyi Thein Tan



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win watches the show in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 December 2022.

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win watched the One-Man Show of famous singer Myanmar Pyi Thein Tan “Future of Stars” that was held at Zeya

Thiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday as a gesture of hailing Diamond Jubilee Independence Day. The show was also attended by Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of the Vice-Senior General, SAC

Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe, SAC members, senior military officers from the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy, and Air) and wives, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, officers of departments concerned,

military members and families. First, Myanmar Pyi Thein Tan and his troupe sang his famous songs and the audience enjoyed the performance happily. After the event, the Vice-Senior General gave a flower basket

and K30 million donated by Tatmadaw families of (Army, Navy and Air) to Myanmar Pyi Thein Tan and the troupe. The show aims to help orphans (abandoned children) across the nation. — MNA

Anti-Terrorism Central Committee holds 1/2022 meeting

THE Anti-Terrorism Central Committee organized its 1/2022 meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. First, SAC Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut, in his capacity as the committee chairman, highlighted the aims of the meeting. He then said the extremist terrorist group ARSA is an organization that is threatening the people in northern Rakhine State with the intention of taking over the territory under the reasons of race and religion-related matters. Although the PDFs with various names of subordinates of terrorist group CRPH/NUG are shouting democracy, they are also an organization trying to grab the State power by forcible manners by threatening or killing the people brutally affecting the government mechanism. As they have different intentions, the acts of terrorism and the threats against innocent people are also different.



SAC Member Union Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Soe Htut presides over the meeting 1/2022 of the Anti-Terrorism Central Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Therefore, it should strengthen the preventive measures, accelerate the actions for the safety of people and rule of law, improve the capacity of security members, spend the anti-terrorism fund permitted by State Administration Council in

accordance with the procedures and the department concerned should participate in such operations. Then, Committee Secretary Chief of Myanmar Police Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet, in his capacity as Deputy Minister of

Home Affairs reported on the anti-terrorism activities in 2022 and reviewed and Joint Secretary of Committee Brig-Gen Aung Htay Myint, head of the Transnational Crime Division explained the performance of central committee and cooperation with internation-

al countries, Interpol and ASEAN Police. Afterwards, the deputy ministers, the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, Nay Pyi Taw Council the Security and Border Affairs Ministers of Regions and States and other attendees discussed the cooperation in security and collection of information, development programmes and educating programmes at border areas, information releases, rehabilitation processes and other matters. Then, the committee chairman made instructions regarding the preventive measures on potential outbreaks of terrorist incidents in 2023, arrangements to ensure security and rule and law, plans to prevent extremism and early detection of acts of terrorism, effective spending of anti-terrorism fund permitted by SAC and formation of working committees and groups, and he concluded the meeting. — MNA/ KTZH

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

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

New building for Revenue Appellate Tribunal opened in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae is pictured cutting the ribbon to inaugurate the new RAT building yesterday.

IN hailing Diamond Jubilee Independent Day, a new building of the Revenue Appellate Tribunal was inaugurated in Ottarathiri township, Nay Pyi Taw at 9 am yesterday.

Present on the occasion were SAC member Union Minister at the Government Office Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Union Auditor-General U Tin Oo, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Tin Oo Lwin, judges of the Union Supreme Court, deputy ministers, the chairperson of the Revenue Appellate Tribunal and members, responsible personnel and invitees.

Firstly, Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Deputy Minister Daw Than Than Lin of the Ministry of Planning and Finance,

and Revenue Appellate Tribunal Chairperson U Myint Oo cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the new building.

Next, Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae pressed the button to unveil the signboard; responsible personnel sprayed the fragrant water on the inscription plaque and viewed round the documentary photos.

Then, the Union Minister gave a speech. Revenue Appellate Tribunal Chairperson U Myint Oo explained the development process of the new office building of the tribunal and gave commemorative gifts. Dignitaries and officials took documentary photos before concluding the event.

—MNA/TS

MoFA, MoIC Union Ministers meet MISIS officials

UNION Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing of the Ministry of International Cooperation delivered the speeches at the meeting with the members of the Senior Advisory Board and the Executive Board of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), which was held at the meeting hall of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies in Yangon at 10 am on 23 December 2022.

In their remarks, the Union Ministers briefed on the implementations of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs and Ministry of International Cooperation on the political objectives and the Road Map defined by the State Administration Council, responses to the or-



The meeting between MoFA and MoIC Union Ministers and the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies in Yangon yesterday.

ganizations that interfere in the internal affairs of a Sovereign State for the political purpose, Myanmar’s implementations on ASEAN five-point consensus, cooperation in the regional and international partners and challenges. Furthermore, they urged MISIS to contribute to the state through the effective use of track 1.5 Diplomacy and track II Diplomacy in view of assisting the position, policy and endeavours of the Government not only in the domestic but

also in the regional and international arenas, to submit regularly the recommendations, reviews and advises, and to do qualitative research papers to be internationally standardized ones.

Then, the participants who attended the meeting reported to the Union Ministers on undertaking activities of the Institute and exchanged views from the scholar’s perspectives.

Present at the meeting were the chairman of the Executive Board, members of the Senior Advisory Board and the Executive Board, and U Chan Aye, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Zaw Phyo Win, Director-General of the Department of Strategic Studies and Training as well as officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

White elephant Rattha Nandaka lives healthy, happy with his mother

A 33-year-old female elephant called Zar Nan Hla kept by the Myanma Timber Enterprise in Taungup Township of Rakhine State has given birth to one white male elephant at 6:30 am on 23 July 2022. The baby elephant was two feet and five inches in height, three feet and one inch in girth and weighed around 180 pounds at birth.

The title of the baby white elephant is “Rattha Nandaka” and he has pearl-coloured eyes, a plantain branch-shaped back, white hair, a distinctive tail, auspicious plot signs on the skin, reddish-brown or pinkish skin, and five claws on the front

legs, and big ears. Therefore, these features conform with seven out of eight characteristics.

Now, the Rattha Nandaka white elephant is five months old, three feet and one inch in height, four feet and seven inches in girth, and weighs 330 pounds. He stays healthy and happy with his mother elephant at the Yadana white elephant hall of Yadana White Elephant Shed in Nay Pyi Taw. He is the one who has been tame by people since he was young and is being trained with the “Peace Human and Elephant Interaction Training” system to become a tamer. — MNA/CT



The baby White Elephant is seen with his mammal mum.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar's manufacturing sector attracts more than \$187 million in past eight months

A total of 41 foreign enterprises pumped US\$187.426 million into Myanmar's manufacturing sector in the past eight months (April-November) of the current financial year 2022-2023, including capital expansion by the existing enterprises, as per the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Myanmar attracted foreign direct investments of \$1.459 billion from 58 enterprises during the April-November period. The majority of the investments were brought into the manufacturing sector. The agriculture sector drew \$3.5 million from two projects. The power sector received \$817 million from 10 projects, while one enterprise put \$29 million in the real estate sector and two other foreign enterprises made an investment of \$413.068 million in the service sector respectively. The hotels and tourism sector attracted less than 1 million. The mining sector received \$7 million from one project, while one enterprise also put investments of less than a million into the hotels and tourism sector and some capital expansion

of the existing businesses is also seen. Additionally, the livestock and fisheries sector saw a capital expansion of \$1.545 million.

The manufacturing enterprises and businesses that need a large labour force are prioritized to create job opportunities for the local community, according to Myanmar Investment Commission.

Although some labour-intensive enterprises faced financial hardship amid the COVID-19 negative impacts and the political changes, the industry is now returning to normal after the COVID-19 vaccination programme for the workers, as per the HIS Markit's September report.

In a bid to boost factory productivity with a healthy workforce in the garment industry, Mobile Medical Check to garment workers took place in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw, supported by UNICEF Myanmar.

Moreover, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association has organized Labour Law Awareness and WCC Training since July 2022, with the support of UNICEF Myanmar. It aims to provide the soft skills needed

for industrial development and create a better workplace for garment workers.

Additionally, the association launched a voluntary labour compliance assessment-VLCA Online System on 10 November 2022.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in

garment and textiles produced on the Cutting, Making, and Packaging basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

There are active 541 factories operated under MGMA. The majority of them are from China, followed by Myanmar and the Republic of Korea.

Myanmar has drawn foreign direct investment of more than \$647.127 million from 49 enterprises in the past mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022). Of them, 40 foreign enterprises put investments in the manufacturing sector, pumping an estimated capital of \$202.667 million. — KK



Workers are seen at the fishery processing workplace.

Lower stocks push up chickpea price

THE price of chickpeas went up as the stocks in the domestic market dropped.

The prices moved in the range between K1,818,000 and K2,010,000 per tonne on 1 December and escalated to K1,850,000 and K2,085,000 per tonne depending on varieties.

The figures showed a tremendous rise of K30,000-75,000 per tonne within three weeks.

The lower stocks and strong demand hiked up the price at the end of the chickpea season.

Newly harvested chickpeas will abundantly enter the market in end-January 2022, Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

The country primarily cultivates paddy, corn, cotton, sugarcane, various pulses and beans. Its second-largest production is pulses and beans, accounting for

33 per cent of agri-products and covering 20 per cent of growing acres. Among them, black beans, pigeon peas and green grams constitute 72 per cent of bean acreage. Other beans including peanuts, chickpeas, soybeans, black-eyed beans, butter beans and rice beans are also grown in the country.

Myanmar's agriculture sector is the backbone of the

country's economy and it contributes to the Gross Domestic Product greatly.

Myanmar ships chickpeas to foreign markets beyond self-sufficiency. More than 18,000 kilogrammes worth US\$12.678 million have been exported to foreign countries since April, according to the Ministry of Commerce's statistics. — NN/EMM



Myanmar ships chickpeas to foreign markets beyond self-sufficiency. More than 18,000 kilogrammes worth US\$12.678 million have been exported to foreign countries since April.

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 23 December 2022

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K1,965
Octane 95	K2,035
Diesel	K2,340
Premium Diesel	K2,420

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,117,000 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,687,000 per tical

Dollar Price

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,820 to K2,840

The above prices may change from time to time.

Enhance mental power to secure victory

INSTRIVING for accomplishing missions including active-ness, happiness and victories, mental power is a driving force for everybody to secure the progress of life. Actually, mental power is the capability of everybody in all aspects.

Those wishing to secure victory need to forge the optimist mental power. Such kind of power can be obtained by uplifting mental power. As an opposition move, somebody may face mentally destructive situations such as downheartedness, unhappiness, bewilderment and quitting. Hence, it is necessary to notice that both mental power and mentally destructive situations may reflect not only themselves but the society.

Everybody should understand that uplifting mental power is a root cause to enjoy the fruits of victory. Victory is reachable for all. But, it is uneasy to secure such a victory. Whoever wishes to meet the target, they have to rely on their own mental strength as a theme “strength of mind lies within”.

will trigger the acts to be away from the success of missions. In short, everybody needs to pour out the utmost mental power so as to meet the target.

That is why everybody needs to encourage their mental capability by reading and reviewing their actual positions of current life for seeking good solutions to solve the problems along the way leading to the goal. If so, they can translate these results into victory. As a result of uplifting mental power, everybody can secure high qualifications and success in their life.

Everybody should understand that uplifting mental power is a root cause to enjoy the fruits of victory. Victory is reachable for all. But, it is uneasy to secure such a victory. Whoever wishes to meet the target, they have to rely on their own mental strength as a theme “strength of mind lies within”.

Uplifting mental power is a basic skill to help them meet their targets. Although everybody can easily do uplifting the mental power in thoughts, the actual process is different from the thoughts. As such, everybody needs to steadfastly improve their mental power with diligence, perseverance and endeavours.

Endeavour is the most basic step leading to victory. In this regard, those who hunger to consume victory need to raise their mental power so as to practically accomplish the missions of life, overcome the current difficulties and challenges and enjoy a better lifestyle. Hence, those wishing to win victory in their lives should always enhance their mental power.

The positions of mental power depend on critical thinking, behaviours, talks and personality. Sometimes, individual effectiveness based on implementing the missions with a negative sense to secure the high mental power can reflect the society. If so, those persons will face degradation of capability which

THE midterm examination takes place at our college this week. The students are seen flipping through and glancing at the lecture notes as a last attempt to memorize before stepping into the exam room. The question papers and the answer booklets are readily placed at each desk in the exam room. As an exam invigilator, I have to ensure that the process of the examination goes smoothly and the students are well accommodated with necessary arrangements. No sooner do the students come in than the examination begins. But three students are absent and their seats remain vacant throughout the examination period. It gets me puzzled and worried. Why are they absent? What’s happened to them? The queries draw my thought looming over the past.

It was some 40 years ago. To be exact, just two days before my final examination of the second year at the Sittway Regional College, my elder twin brother suddenly passed away in a freak accident on his way home from a trip. I could not make it to be present personally at his funeral held in another remote town where my parents and siblings rushed helter-skelter by air and land in a jumpy series. I was left behind to sit for the exam. Unwanted, but I had to say in silence a final goodbye to him amid the

Wish in whisper

By Chit Ko Pe

exam process. Tears rained and streamed down my cheeks. The tear-stained patches on the answer paper sheets would testify to how fiery my sensation was then.

It was hard to tide over those trying times. The lows of life made me helpless and precarious. Down with sadness, but not out from being my true self. I had to stand on my own with self-controlling, self-counselling and self-realigning. Braced with mental strength, I was able to sit for the exam well staying tuned with the cream of the crop in the class. My resilience paid off to conquer the grey period passing the exam with flying colours, even topping the class, and eventually being admitted into the Rangoon Institute of Technology (RIT). The entry got me rated in the top-ten group of the 3rd year students studying civil engineering. The initial phase of the higher education system in Myanmar was then with two main streams — Science and Arts, with the inception of the regional colleges in all prime cities of seven



In view of their bright future ahead, I try to the best of my ability to develop the youths into morally good persons with good characters while imparting academic knowledge to them in the classroom. **ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/MICROONE/FREEPIK**

Divisions and seven States. The combined grand marks obtained from the matriculation (known as the 10th Standard) exam, the first-year Regional College exam and

the second-year Regional College exam decided our way into higher education. Despite having 36 marks more than the minimum combined grand marks required

for the Medical College (MC), I had to be literally contented with the entry at RIT, the top-tiered university among others for the students including me who studied

at the Science-Math sub-stream in the Regional Colleges.

My brother is no more. But, his gift of resilience is still alive in me. It has braced me firmly in the face of adversities throughout phases of my life from adolescence to midlife to adulthood to date. Were it not imbued with me, my life would have turned uglier with setbacks and failures, and I wouldn’t be here today to chance upon a time with the students at the college.

In view of their bright future ahead, I try to the best of my ability to develop the youths into morally good persons with good characters while imparting academic knowledge to them in the classroom. The responsibilities even devour my leisure time -staying late at night or getting up early in the morning to prepare lecture notes and other materials for the students.

The classroom is the venue to where my life is now committed and devoted. It is like a complete family to see all students present in the classroom. Anyone’s absence makes me worried and anxious.

To query about the absence of the three students in the exam room, I’m now heading to the Students’ Affairs Department with a wish in a whisper: “Let them be safe and well!”



Poem

By U AC

If May Yu were an Old Lady Today!

(A Tribute to Myanmar Navy, on Navy’s Day: 24 December)

I wonder lonely in the sea float,
In 1950s as May Yu boat;
Now hundreds of my friends in pelagic stroll,
I gaze at them from the Thanlyin moor.

We studied twenty years ago of defence,
Targeting against underwater threats;
Now we alternate to play offence,
Using submarine warfare in our attacks.

We bought frigates from China decades ago,
Now fabricate them in our own shores;
We remembered playing catchup with Thai fishermen,
Now standing top 20 in the seas we govern.

Things have changed from years afar,
Including leaders who became stars.

Changing hardware alone would be poor,
Without the mindset and brains of ours;
Navy software have always been strong,
Brains, brawn and intelligence have them on.

Stellar conduct in Navy would not cease,
The will to perform for the country at ease;
From economics to finance, transport to industry,
Navy men leading the cores of our principality.

In the midst of mayhem and chaos,
Our country now needs such worriers the most;
Integrity and intelligence,
Honour and loyalty,
Selflessness and sacrifice,
Paste these up and you will have a fight!

A fight that no one but one,
Our ever improving Navy would have won!

Scientists discover primary cause of smell loss in long Covid-19

While focusing on the loss smell, the finding also sheds light on the possible underlying causes of other long Covid-19 symptoms -- including generalized fatigue, shortness of breath, and brain fog - that might be triggered by similar biological mechanisms.



The finding provides an important insight into a vexing problem that has plagued millions who have not fully recovered their sense of smell after Covid-19. **PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE ONLY/FREEPIK**

ACCORDING to a team of scientists led by Duke Health report, the reason some people do not recover their sense of smell after Covid-19 is due to an ongoing immune assault on olfactory nerve cells and an associated decrease in the number of those cells.

The finding, publishing online 21 December in the journal Science Translational Medicine, provides an important insight into a vexing problem that has plagued millions who have not fully recovered their sense of smell after Covid-19.

Long Covid-19 symptoms

While focusing on the loss smell, the finding also sheds light on the pos-

sible underlying causes of other long Covid-19 symptoms -- including generalized fatigue, shortness of breath, and brain fog - that might be triggered by similar biological mechanisms.

“One of the first symptoms that has typically been associated with Covid-19 infection is loss of smell,” said senior author Bradley Goldstein, MD, PhD, associate professor in Duke’s Department of Head and Neck Surgery and Communication Sciences and the Department of Neurobiology.

“Fortunately, many people who have an altered sense of smell during the acute phase of viral infection will recover smell within the next one to two weeks, but some do not,” Goldstein said. “We need to better under-

stand why this subset of people will go on to have persistent smell loss for months to years after being infected with SARS-CoV2.”

Olfactory epithelial samples

In the study, Goldstein and colleagues at Duke, Harvard and the University of California-San Diego analyzed olfactory epithelial samples collected from 24 biopsies, including nine patients suffering from long-term smell loss following Covid-19.

This biopsy-based approach — using sophisticated single-cell analyses in collaboration with Sandeep Datta, MD, PhD, at Harvard University — revealed widespread infiltration of T-cells engaged in an inflammatory

response in the olfactory epithelium, the tissue in the nose where smell nerve cells are located. This unique inflammation process persisted despite the absence of detectable SARS-CoV-2 levels.

Delicate tissue

Additionally, the number of olfactory sensory neurons were diminished, possibly due to damage of the delicate tissue from the ongoing inflammation.

“The findings are striking,” Goldstein said. “It’s almost resembling a sort of autoimmune-like process in the nose.”

Goldstein said learning what sites are damaged and what cell types are

involved is a key step toward beginning to design treatments. He said the researchers were encouraged that neurons appeared to maintain some ability to repair even after the long-term immune onslaught.

“We are hopeful that modulating the abnormal immune response or repair processes within the nose of these patients could help to at least partially restore a sense of smell,” Goldstein said, noting this work is currently underway in his lab.

He said the findings from this study could also inform additional research into other long Covid-19 symptoms that might be undergoing similar inflammatory processes.

SOURCE: ANI

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Myanmar imports over 29,000 tonnes of fertilizer worth \$57.279 mln in Nov

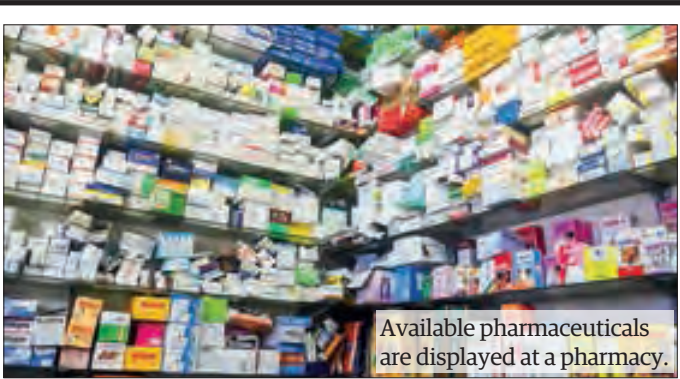
MYANMAR brought in over 29,000 tonnes of fertilizer worth US\$57.279 million from foreign countries by sea and border channels in November, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The country imported over 17,000 tonnes by the sea with an estimated value of \$52.588 million, with 45,000 tonnes from China, about 2,000 from Malaysia, over 10,000 from Saudi Arabia, 9,000 from Japan, over 3,500 from Thailand, 2,600 from the Republic of Korea, over 1,000 from Oman, over 1,000 from Chinese Taipei, 850 from Germany, 550 from Indonesia, over 500 from Israel, 150 from Finland, over 80 from Viet Nam and over five from India. The majority of the seaborne fertilizer import is from China. The import volume of fertilizer was up by 15,000 tonnes compared to that of October.

Meanwhile, the country imported over 12,000 tonnes of fertilizer worth \$4.691 million from the neighbouring countries in November, including over 6,000 from China, over 5,000 from Thailand and about 600 from India. The border posts saw a decrease of 200 tonnes compared to that in November. —TWA/EMM



Fertilizer bags imported from foreign countries are seen at a port.



Myanmar imports approximately 5,000 tonnes of pharmaceuticals worth over US\$53.7 mln in Nov

APPROXIMATELY 5,000 tonnes of pharmaceuticals, with an estimated value of over US\$53.711 million, were imported from foreign countries in November, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar brought in medicines worth \$48.007 million by sea from Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, China, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, India and 32 other countries.

Between 1 and 30 November, Myanmar imported 2,000 tonnes of medicine worth \$5.704 million from China (1,200 tonnes) and Thailand (800 tonnes) through the border posts. —TWA/KK

Trade valued at US\$166.741 mln on Myawady border in Nov



ACCORDING to the statistics of the Ministry of Commerce, the value of trade volume from the Myawady Border Trade Zone was US\$166.741 million in November of the 2022-2023 Financial Year.

Out of the total trade volume, the Myawady Border Trade Zone has earned \$40.352 million from exports and \$126.389 million from imports, indicating that 79.24 per cent of the trade target was achieved.

Compared to the same period of the previous financial year, the export value decreased by \$35.441 million and the import value by \$3.558 million. Therefore, the total trade value dropped by 38.999 million US dollars.

The downturn in exports compared to the same period is due to the decrease in exports of agricultural products, mining products, animal products, fishery products, industrial finished goods and others.

Compared to the recent period, the export value decreased by US\$ 0.349 million and the import value exceeded US\$4.819 million.

It is reported that most of the exported items this month are various kinds of nuts, and imported items are machines and equipment, building materials, petroleum products, chemical products, fertilizers, plastic raw materials, cotton fabrics, pharmaceutical products and other materials. — TWA/CT

An aerial view of the Myawady Border Trade Zone.

Mawlamyine Airport to be relocated

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said the Mawlamyine airport would be moved to a new location during his inspection tour of Mawlamyine airport after the opening ceremony of a new building for the Mon State High Court on 20 December.

Plans are underway for the Mawlamyine airport to move to a new place in order to extend the flights and to expand the runway since the current location is close to downtown and university areas, it is learnt.

The new location is projected to be a standard airport to handle landings for all types of flights from domestic airlines to enhance the development of Mon State and Kayin State. —TWA/MKKS



The current Mawlamyine Airport.

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

WHO chief says many reasons for hope in 2023



Tourists visit the Karnak Temple Complex in Luxor, Egypt, 25 Aug 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA/AHMED GOMAA /FILE

ALTHOUGH 2022 has been a highly challenging year for global health, there are still many reasons for hope as the new year approaches, the head of the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Wednesday.

During 2022, the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, there

were also global outbreaks of mpox, cholera outbreaks in many countries, and an Ebola outbreak in Uganda. Drought and flooding hit the greater Horn of Africa and the Sahel, and there was flooding in Pakistan. However, WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a press briefing on Wednesday that the COVID-19 pandemic is waning, as is the global mpox outbreak, and there have been no new cases of Ebola in Uganda for more than three weeks.

“We are hopeful that each of these emergencies will be declared over at different points next year,” he said.

The number of weekly reported COVID-19 deaths worldwide has dropped by almost 90 per cent since the peak at the end of January, he added, when the

Omicron wave was in full swing.

However, he also warned that the pandemic is not over. Gaps in surveillance, testing and sequencing still make it difficult to understand exactly how the virus is changing; and gaps in vaccination have left millions of people, especially health workers and the elderly, at high risk of severe disease and death.

The WHO chief identified five priorities for the world health authority in 2023: focusing on health promotion and disease prevention by shifting from sick care to healthcare; promoting universal health coverage, particularly primary healthcare; strengthening emergency preparedness and response; pushing forward research, science and technology; and continuing to reform the WHO.—Xinhua

Chinese scientists develop new method to preserve female fertility

A group of Chinese scientists has developed a new method to preserve mouse follicles at a very low temperature, increasing their viability by more than 30 per cent after recovering, compared with conventional methods.

The results shed light on a promising approach for fertility preservation in women, according to the study published in the journal Nature Communications.

For prepubescent girls and women in urgent need of cancer treatment, follicle cryopreservation is almost the sole option to preserve their fertility. However, the protective agents used in the current method of follicle cryopreservation often lead to a poor effect due to their high concentration and high toxicity, said the paper.

Researchers from the University of Science and Technology

of China (USTC), in collaboration with counterparts from the First Affiliated Hospital of Anhui Medical University, developed a method of vitrification cryopreservation of mouse follicles encapsulated in hydrogel by “nanowarming”, a novel cryopreservation technology.

The researchers reduced the demand for the highly toxic protective agents through the method and lowered its concentration to a quarter of the conventional way, said the paper, revealing that the viability of mouse follicles was increased by more than 30 per cent.—Xinhua



In this 2 Dec 2018 photo, a mother and her daughter watch over the family's newborn baby at an infant healthcare center in Hefei, Anhui province. PHOTO: XINHUA

Japan reports 206,943 new COVID-19 cases amid 8th wave of infections

JAPAN'S health ministry and local governments said that 206,943 people had been newly infected with the COVID-19 virus nationwide, according to the latest figures released Wednesday, as the country grapples with an eighth wave of infections.

This is an increase of 16,100 new cases from the same day a week earlier and marks the first time the national tally has topped the 200,000-mark since 25 Aug the

data showed.

Of the total infections, Tokyo confirmed 21,186 new cases, with the figure for the capital rising week-on-week for a 16th straight day, and up by 2,374 cases the same time a week ago, the ministry said.

The figure also exceeded 20,000 new infections in Tokyo for a second consecutive day, according to the data, with the capital on Wednesday also reporting 20 COVID-19 related deaths.—Xinhua



People walk past ticket gates at Tokyo Metro's Kasumigaseki Station, one of the busiest subway stations in Japan. PHOTO: KYODO

Hospitals overflow in China's Covid wave

“DECEASED, deceased”, a staffer in full protective gear shouted as she handed a nurse a death certificate, their hospital in central China overflowing with Covid patients.

China is battling a wave of coronavirus infections that has hit the elderly hard but resulted in only a handful of reported deaths after the government redefined the criteria by which

Covid-19 fatalities are counted.

At No 5 People's Hospital in Chongqing, the main entrance lobby had been converted into a makeshift Covid ward when AFP visited on Friday.—AFP

ECONOMY

WORLD/ AD

US ban on ‘Made in Hong Kong’ label breaches trade rules: WTO

THE United States is flouting international trade rules by labelling imports from Hong Kong as those from China, the World Trade Organization ruled Wednesday, an outcome that Washington rejects.

The United States is flouting international trade rules by labelling imports from Hong Kong as those from China, the World Trade Organization ruled Wednesday, an outcome that Washington rejects.

The WTO ruling addressed a decision under former president Donald Trump’s administration after Beijing imposed a sweeping security law on the financial hub in 2020 to stamp out dissent.

Trump retaliated by removing special trading privileges for the city and US customs authorities later said goods produced there could no longer be stamped “Made in Hong Kong”, sparking the complaint.

Hong Kong argued that such a move ignored its status as a separate



Worker sort bottles of soy sauce on a production line at the Koon Chun Sauce Factory in Hong Kong, which produces soy, hoisin and oyster sauces found in Chinese restaurants and kitchens around the world.

PHOTO: AFP

member of the WTO, violating trade rules.

On Wednesday, a panel set up by the WTO’s dispute settlement body said that the origin marking

requirement was “not justified” under global trade rules. It added that the US “has not demonstrated that the situation at issue constitutes an emergency in international relations”.

The US’s labeling requirement also gives Hong Kong products “less favourable” treatment than others, the panel said, adding that goods of other countries bear their own name rather than that of another WTO member.

The outcome drew a sharp rebuke from Washington Wednesday, with US Trade Representative spokesperson Adam Hodge saying the country “strongly rejects the flawed interpretation and conclusions” of the panel report.

The US was responding to China’s “highly concerning actions”, threatening US national security interests, Hodge said.

He added that the US does not plan to remove the marking requirement as a result of the latest report.—AFP

EU hails WTO ‘win’ in chip spat with Bogota

THE European Union welcomed a World Trade Organization (WTO) ruling Wednesday against Colombia’s imposition of duties on frozen fries from three EU countries.

“This is a major win for European exporters of fries, who were frozen out of the Colombian market,” the EU’s trade commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis said.

The WTO had agreed for a group of experts to mediate in the dispute, which concerned anti-dumping customs fees imposed against fries from Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands.

Anti-dumping measures are permitted by the Geneva-based WTO, but only under certain conditions and are often subject to challenges.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TJ HARVEST VOY.NO. (TJ2209)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TJ HARVEST VOY.NO. (TJ2209)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-1** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S ELDER TRIUMPHANT SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (212W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (212W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-12-2022** 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

Notice of the passing of written resolutions of Myanmar Brewery Limited (the “Company”) approving a buy-back offer

Notice is hereby given as required by section 121(h) of the Myanmar Companies Law (Law No. 29/2017) that the members of the Company have approved a buy-back offer. The summary details of the offer are as follows:

- The members of the Company have unanimously approved on 23 December 2022 a selective buy-back offer to Kirin Holdings Singapore Pte. Ltd. to buy-back all of the shares in the Company held by it, being seventy two thousand, seven hundred and ninety seven (72,797) ordinary shares of the Company.
- The amount of the payment offered for the buy-back of the shares in question is three hundred and twenty-four billion (324,000,000,000) kyats.
- Subject to the acceptance of the buy-back offer by Kirin Holdings Singapore Pte. Ltd., the completion of the buy-back will occur after the expiry of twenty eight (28) days after the date of this notice in accordance with section 121(h) of the Myanmar Companies Law.
- Upon the completion of the buy-back, the shares held by Kirin Holdings Singapore Pte. Ltd. shall be automatically cancelled in accordance with section 122(d) of the Myanmar Companies Law and Kirin Holdings Singapore Pte. Ltd. will cease to have any ownership interest in the Company.

Notice of the passing of written resolutions of Mandalay Brewery Limited (the “Company”) approving a buy-back offer

Notice is hereby given as required by section 121(h) of the Myanmar Companies Law (Law No. 29/2017) that the members of the Company have approved a buy-back offer. The summary details of the offer are as follows:

- The members of the Company have unanimously approved on 23 December 2022 a selective buy-back offer to Kirin Holdings Singapore Pte. Ltd. to buy-back all of the shares in the Company held by it, being six million, four hundred and eleven thousand, six hundred and sixty seven (6,411,667) ordinary shares of the Company.
- The amount of the payment offered for the buy-back of the shares in question is sixty-four million, one hundred and sixteen thousand, six hundred and seventy (64,116,670) kyats.
- Subject to the acceptance of the buy-back offer by Kirin Holdings Singapore Pte. Ltd., the completion of the buy-back will occur after the expiry of twenty eight (28) days after the date of this notice in accordance with section 121(h) of the Myanmar Companies Law.
- Upon the completion of the buy-back, the shares held by Kirin Holdings Singapore Pte. Ltd. shall be automatically cancelled in accordance with section 122(d) of the Myanmar Companies Law and Kirin Holdings Singapore Pte. Ltd. will cease to have any ownership interest in the Company.

Facebook agrees to pay US\$725 million to settle privacy suit

FACEBOOK parent Meta has agreed to pay \$725 million to settle a long-running lawsuit that accused the social network of allowing third parties, including Cambridge Analytica, to access users' private data. The amount was disclosed in a court filing late on Thursday. "The proposed settlement of \$725,000,000 is the largest recovery ever achieved in a data privacy class action and the most Facebook has ever paid to resolve a private class action," lawyers for the plaintiffs said in the filing. Facebook has not admitted any wrongdoing as part of the settlement, which must still be approved by a judge in the San Francisco division in the US District Court.—AFP

Japan Nov consumer prices rise 3.7%, highest since 1981

CORE consumer prices in Japan climbed 3.7 per cent in November, a nearly 41-year high, as increased import prices for food and energy, exacerbated by a weaker yen, maintained inflationary pressure, the government said Friday.

The nationwide core consumer price index, excluding volatile fresh food items, rose for the 15th straight month. The gain of 3.7 per cent was the largest since December 1981. Core CPI remained above the Bank of Japan's two per cent target for the eighth straight month,



Food prices, excluding volatile fresh food items, jumped 6.8 per cent, marking the sharpest rise since February 1981. PHOTO: KYODO

data by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications showed, having been pushed up by higher import costs and a weak yen. The BOJ maintains that such cost-push inflation will not last long so its two per cent target has not been attained in a stable and sustainable manner.—Kyodo

Shanghai's trade with Italy hits US\$14 bln

IMPORTS and exports between Shanghai and Italy saw a 3.2 per cent year-on-year increase to reach 99.31 billion yuan (about 14.25 billion US dollars) in the first 11 months this year, data from Shanghai customs showed.

This makes Italy surpass France and become

Shanghai's second-largest trading partner in the European Union (EU).

At present, Germany continues to be Shanghai's largest trading partner among other EU countries. From January to November, the foreign trade volume between Shanghai and Germany

exceeded 232 billion yuan, accounting for about one-third of the city's total imports and exports to the EU, said Shanghai customs. During the same period, Shanghai's foreign trade value with France reached 90.15 billion yuan, down 8.3 per cent year on year.—Xinhua

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
NO.44, COMPLEX, NAY PYI TAW
MYANMAR

Tender No : MOGE-C001/22
Date : 23-12-2022

FAX : +95 67 3411125/3411178

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Bids are invited by the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. 44, Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar for the DIRECTIONAL DRILLING AND MUD ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR PYALO NW 3-1 IN ONSHORE BLOCK RSF-9 which particulars are attached to this invitation Documents related to these Bids are also attached.

The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications and Commercial Quotation with Original Bid Bond in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 12:00 hours on 5-1-2023.

Managing Director
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise

PESTICIDE TRADE NAME CHANGE ADVERTISING

The following three pesticides distributed by **ASIA CROPS GLOBAL CO.,LTD** and here we would like to pesticide trade name change advertising. Anyone who would like to object or inquiry about new trade name contact within 14 days to Joint-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon. **ASIA CROPS GLOBAL CO.,LTD Tel:09-401573814**

Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1.	Kamysin 2 SL	Sinamycin 2 SL	Kasugamycin 2% SL	P2017-3912

Transferring Distribution for Registered Product

We, Myanmar Golden Byter Co., Ltd. would like to change distributor of the following product, (registered by JingnBo Agrochemical Technology Co.,Ltd to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar), to TPT Yee Shinn (Agriculture) Co.,Ltd. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Department of Agricltre from here to next 14 days.

No	Trade Name	Acitve Ingredient	Registration Type	Regsitration No.
1	Siren 200SP	Acetamiprid 20%SP	Provisional	PD20091277

တောင်းပေါ်သားရီရှင်း(စိုက်ပျိုးရေး)ကုမ္ပဏီလီမိတက်
TPT Yee Shinn (Agriculture) Co., Ltd

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (159N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (159N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-12-2022** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (22028W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (22028W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-12-2022** 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 LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (768N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (768N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-12-2022** 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

GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

WORLD: TOP STORIES

Scotland passes law easing
gender change rules

The Scottish Parliament, pictured in 2021, passed a law dropping the requirement for a gender dysphoria medical diagnosis in order for someone to alter their gender. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE**

LAWMAKERS in Scotland passed a contentious law Thursday making it easier and faster for people to change their gender, despite a rare rebellion within the ruling Scottish National Party (SNP) and “concerns” from the UK government.

The legislation, which garnered 86 votes in favour but 39

against in Scotland’s devolved parliament in Edinburgh, drops the requirement for a gender dysphoria medical diagnosis in order for someone to alter their gender.

“The motion is therefore agreed and the Gender Recognition Reform Scotland Bill is passed,” presiding officer Alison

Johnstone said to loud applause from the public gallery.

People aged 16 and 17 will also now be allowed to change their gender, despite efforts by some Scottish lawmakers to keep the age at 18. The law reduces from two years to three months — or six months for 16-17 year-olds — the time needed for an applicant to live in their new gender before it is officially recognised.

An additional three-month reflection period is also required, during which time those who have initiated or are considering altering their gender can change their mind. Opponents of the law fear it could be a danger to women and girls, particularly around the provision of single-sex spaces. But the Scottish government insists the legislation will not impact the Equality Act, which allows for trans people to be excluded from single-sex spaces such as changing rooms and shelters.—AFP

Philippine giant lantern
festival resumes with
historical ties to Japan

A century-old giant lantern festival in the Philippines has resumed after a three-year hiatus from in-person celebrations due to COVID-19 restrictions, with spectators enjoying the festivity that has historical links with Japan.

People have been flocking to San Fernando City in Pampanga, a province north of Manila also regarded as the country’s “Christmas capital”, to view the lanterns on display from 17 December to 1 January.

An in-person giant festival was last held in 2019. The resumption is a cause for celebration for many Filipinos, well known for observing one the longest Christmas seasons in the world.

The lanterns, each made to represent a village in San Fernando, measure 20 feet in diameter and contain over 8,000 light bulbs that flicker in sync with Christmas songs and pop music played in the background.—AFP



A giant lantern festival kicks off on 17 December 2022, in San Fernando, the Philippines. **PHOTO: KYODO**

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia focused on ‘liberation’ of
Ukraine’s Donetsk: army chief

RUSSIA’S army chief said Thursday his troops in Ukraine were “focused on completing the liberation” of Donetsk, an eastern Ukrainian region Moscow claims to have annexed.

“The situation on the front-line has stabilised and the main efforts of our troops are now focused on completing the liberation of the territory of the Donetsk People’s Republic,” Chief of General Staff Valery Gerasimov said in a briefing.

Gerasimov added that the line of combat stretches over 815 kilometres (506 miles).

Russian armed forces have “hit more than 1,300 critical targets... significantly reducing the combat potential of the Ukrainian armed forces,” Gerasimov said.

He noted that “hypersonic missiles were used for the first time in combat condition,” in-

cluding Kinzhal missiles.

“Damage continues to be inflicted on critical transport and energy infrastructure deep inside Ukrainian territory,” Gerasimov added.

After successful Ukraini-

an counter-offensives pushed Russian troops back in the northern Kharkiv and the southern Kherson regions, the epicentre of the combat has moved towards the east in Bakhmut. —AFP



Residential buildings are seen heavily damaged following attacks in the town of Lyman, Donetsk region. **PHOTO: AFP**

Russia jails man
for three years over
Ukraine remarks

A Russian court on Thursday jailed a man for three years over spreading “false information” about Russia’s offensive in Ukraine on a pirate radio station, as Moscow steps up its crackdown on critics.

The court found Vladimir Rumyantsev, a 61-year-old worker in Vologda city in northwest Russia, guilty of broadcasting “false information” that was “full of hatred” against the Russian army, the regional court said on Telegram.

New legislation came into force after the start of Moscow’s military campaign in Ukraine to penalize what the authorities deem to be damaging or false information about the Russian military.

“Between 7 and 13 April,

the defendant broadcast from his apartment in Vologda, via a specific radio frequency, false information about negative actions by members of the armed forces”, the court said.

It added that the “false” accusations included “violent robberies”, “destruction of local areas” or “rape of young women” in Ukraine.

The court said Rumyantsev also shared on Russia’s largest social network VKontakte “six videos with false information saying members of the armed forces robbed, killed and committed violence against civilians”.

Rumyantsev denied the claims and had been in pre-trial detention since July. The prosecutor had sought a jail term of six years. —AFP



Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha will seek another term in a general election the kingdom is due to hold before May next year.
PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE

Thai PM declares candidacy in next year’s general election

THAI Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha is to seek another term in a general election due to be held in the kingdom before May next year, he told local media on Friday.

Prayut came to power as army chief in a 2014 coup before cementing his position in a controversial 2019 election, but his popularity has been in the doldrums.

The newly-created United Thai Nation Party “has offered to support me in becoming the next PM candidate in the next election,” he told reporters outside Government House in Bangkok.

“I will make it clear today... that I have decided that I will join the role.” Prayut had been widely expected to leave his Palang Pracharath Party (PPRP), which leads the ruling coalition.

PPRP has announced its leader and acting deputy PM Prawit Wongsuwan will be the party’s candidate in the election. Prayut and Prawit both served in Thailand’s military and their political fortunes have been intertwined for decades. Prayut said that the ties between the two remain strong despite the separation of their political paths.—AFP

WORLD: TOP STORIES

France, Germany to hold delayed cabinet meeting in January

THE French and German governments have rescheduled a joint cabinet meeting for next month, the French presidency announced Thursday, as the two neighbours look to put recent tensions behind them.

The meeting was meant to take place in October but was cancelled due to differences between the EU’s biggest partners on energy and defence. The two governments will sit down together in Paris on 22 January, a symbolic date that will be the 60th anniversary of the Elysee Treaty which was a key part of post-war reconciliation between the neighbours.—AFP

Two dead, 400 homes damaged in Chilean seaside resort town fire

AT least two people died and some 400 homes have been damaged or destroyed in a fire that broke out Thursday in the Chilean seaside resort of Vina del Mar, prompting the government to declare a state of emergency.

The flames, fanned by strong gusts of wind, spread from the upper areas of town down ravines and hills in the span of just a few hours to the lowest and most inhabited sections of the city, located some 120 kilometres (75 miles) from Santiago.—AFP

Japan protests S Korean military drills near disputed isles

JAPAN said Friday it had lodged a protest with South Korea over military drills conducted in waters near a pair of islets in the Sea of Japan, claimed by both countries. Takehiro Funakoshi, director-general of the Japanese Foreign Ministry’s Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, told Kim Yong Gil, a minister at the South Korean Embassy in Tokyo, that the drills, reportedly held on Thursday, were “totally unacceptable” and “extremely regrettable”, according to the Japanese ministry.

The ministry quoted Funakoshi as saying the islets are an integral part of Japanese territory in light of historical facts and based on international law.

Citing an informed source, Yonhap News Agency reported earlier Friday that South Korea had conducted “regular military



Yonhap News Agency reported earlier Friday that South Korea had conducted “regular military drills” in waters to enhance the defence of the islets controlled by Seoul, which are called Dokdo in South Korea and Takeshima in Japan. **PHOTO: SOUTH KOREA’S NAVY**

drills” in waters to enhance the defence of the islets controlled by Seoul, which are called Dokdo in South Korea and Takeshima in Japan.

Yonhap also said the drills

followed “Japan’s renewed claims to the East Sea outcroppings” in the Japanese government’s National Security Strategy, revised a week ago for the first time in nine years.—Kyodo

Spain Senate passes controversial criminal code reform



Spain’s Senate on Thursday gave final approval to a controversial criminal code reform that downgrades two charges used against Catalan separatist leaders over their involvement in the failed 2017 independence bid. **PHOTO: ANDRES BALLESTEROS / POOL / AFP**

SPAIN’S Senate on Thursday gave final approval to a controversial criminal code reform that downgrades two charges used against Catalan separatist leaders over their involvement in the failed 2017 independence bid.

The text, which was passed with the support of 140 of the 261 senators present, abolishes the offence of sedition and replaces it with a charge carrying softer penalties, and it also reduces the penalty for misuse of public funds.

Sedition was the charge used to convict and jail nine Catalan separatists over their failed se-

cession bid, with several of them also convicted of misuse of public funds. They were handed jail terms of between nine and 13 years, but later pardoned.

Analysts have said the move is aimed at courting Catalan separatist support ahead of next year’s general election.

Since taking over in June 2018, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has adopted a strategy of “defusing” the Catalonia conflict which threw Spain into its worst political crisis in decades, maintaining dialogue with the moderate separatists and

pardoning those involved in the independence bid.

The reform could also soften any future sentence for former Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont and several others who fled abroad during the crisis to escape prosecution.

The reforms have been fiercely criticized by the right-wing opposition Popular Party (PP), which denounced the move as “tailor-made for convicts”, as well as some of Sanchez’s own Socialists who have denounced him for giving into separatist demands.—AFP



Myanmar team player Win Naing Tun (red jersey) tries for a header during the opener of the AFF Cup Group B against the Malaysia team at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 21 December. PHOTO: THAW GYI

Myanmar to play Singapore today in AFF Cup Group B

MYANMAR national football team will play against the Singapore team today at Jalan Besa Stadium in Singapore as a group B match of the AFF Cup 2022.

The team Myanmar match will begin at 4:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time while the Malaysia team will take on the Laos team in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia at 7 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

Of the four teams that will play today, the Singapore team will play their first game, while the other three teams will play the second game. The Malaysian

team, which won the first match of the group, will play at home against the Laos team, so it is in a good condition to continue winning, and the Myanmar team needs to get a good result in this match to hope to advance to the next round.

The Myanmar team has had a bad result every time they have met the Singapore team in recent years, so they must try to stop it in this match.

“Having lost the first match of the group, we will have to struggle a lot in the remaining

matches. Away games are important as we can hope to top the group with seven points. We will try to win three points as the whole team is injury free,” said Myanmar team’s head coach Antione Hey during a pre-match press conference.

“But it will be difficult because we will have to play on artificial turf. International high-level matches are played only on grass fields. Artificial turf is easy for players to get injured,” the head coach added. — 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.

Argentine goalie Martinez gets a hero's welcome in his home town



Emiliano Martinez waves his gold glove trophy at the crowd in Mar del Plata, Argentina. PHOTO: AFP

ARGENTINA’S World Cup-winning goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez was greeted by a crowd estimated at 100,000 in his home town, Mar de Plata.

It was Argentina’s third title but Martinez is the first World Cup winner from the re-

sort town south of Buenos Aires, where tennis player Guillermo Vilas was previously the most famous sports personality.

Martinez showed the crowd in front of the beach on Thursday his trophy as goalkeeper of the tournament and told them it was “not only for me but for all the kids, the little goalkeepers, who dream of going for the fourth star”.

“This is a beautiful thing, that a goalkeeper gets this recognition, because this is almost always given to strikers,” said Martinez, who left Argentina at 17 to join Arsenal in England and now plays for Aston Villa in the Premier League.

He has developed a reputation as a penalty shootout specialist after his success in the 2021 Copa America final against Brazil and then against France in Doha.—AFP

France planning AI-assisted crowd control for Paris Olympics



Paris 2024 is the first Olympics in the French capital for 100 years. PHOTO: AFP

FRENCH authorities plan to use an AI-assisted crowd control system to monitor people during the 2024 Paris Olympics, according to a draft law seen by AFP on Thursday. The system is intended to allow the security services to detect disturbances and potential problems more easily, but will not use facial

recognition technology, the bill says.

The technology could be particularly useful during the highly ambitious open-air opening ceremony with Olympians sailing down the river Seine in front of a crowd of 600,000 people.

French police and sports

authorities faced severe criticism in May after shambolic scenes during the Champions League final in Paris when football fans were caught in a crowd crush and teargassed.

The draft law, which was presented to the cabinet on Thursday, proposes other security measures including the use of full-body scanners and increases the sentences for hooliganism.

Organizers and Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin have both argued in favour of using so-called “intelligent” security camera software that scans images for suspect or dangerous behaviour. The use of such a system during the Olympics is an “experimentation”, the draft law says, but could be applied for future public events which face terrorism-related or crowd control risks.—AFP