

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 Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing honours military medical officers who served at township and station hospitals in remote areas of Sagaing Region, Chin State, Naga Self-Administered Zone

ONLY when the aspirations of people in individuals thrive will their families and the State have thriving anticipations as well as will the whole society achieve success, said State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to honour military medical officers who served hospitals in remote areas of Sagaing Region, Chin State and Naga Self-Administered Zone for improving health conditions of local people at Bayintnaung Yeiktha yesterday morning.

Geographical conditions of the nation and health conditions of remote areas

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that the life expectancy at birth of citizens of the nation reaches 67 years but those in Chin State 63.3 years according to the statistics in 2020. Moreover, the mortality rate in Chin State faces 18 per 1,000 children under one and 25 children under five while the mother death rate is 158 out of 100,000 mothers. Forty per cent of children under five are also facing nutrition deficiency. As such, Tatmadaw



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing returns the greeting salute of the military medical officers who served hospitals in remote areas of Sagaing Region, Chin State and Naga Self-Administered Zone yesterday.

needs to provide healthcare services to ethnic people from far-flung areas.

Duties served by Tatmadaw medical officers in Chin State, Naga Self-Administered Zone

The Senior General re-

counted that a total of 152 military medical officers — 44 each for the first and second times, 46 for the third time and 18 for the fourth time—have been sent for providing healthcare services since 2016. In the third batch, it was regrettable that 44 of 46 medical officers arrived

back here but the remaining two medical officers serving at Lonle station hospital fell in the attacks of terrorists. Medical officers in the third batch served at 23 township and station hospitals in Tonzang, Matupi, Hmaungtalan, Lahe and Nanyun regions for two years and

three months period. Of them, Captain Hlaing Myint Tun and Captain Win Kyaw served their duties with brilliant performances and were awarded the honorary certificates of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

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Public Notice for elimination of violence

1. SO called "CRPH", "NUG" and "PDF" terrorist groups are unlawfully committing killings of monks, teachers, civil servants and general people and looting under the pretext of saying "for the people".
2. Not rendering of encouragement, support and assistance to the "CRPH", "NUG" and "PDF" terrorists that are committing intimidations, killings and destructive activities could be construed as protecting lives and property of general public.
3. Giving information secretly relating to bearing of their arms, ammunition and terrorists to authorities could be tantamount to protecting lives and property of innocent people.

10 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 13 January, total figure rises to 633,741

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,741** after **ten** new cases were reported on 13 January 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,199**, including **one** new recovery.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged to **19,490** on 13-1-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic.—MNA

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

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Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of U Thein Toe as Director-General of the Department of Small-Scale Industries under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development after the one-year probationary period.

News of reopening Tachilek-Mae Sai Friendship Bridge spreads

THE news that the Myawady-Mae Sai Friendship Bridge I on the Thailand-Myanmar border, which was closed for nearly three years, will be reopened on 22 January is speculating, according to locals.

The news of the Tachilek-Mae Sai Friendship Bridge I to reopen on 22 January came out after the reopening of the Myawady-Mae Sot Friendship Bridge I, which was closed for nearly three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"On previous days, department offices and the bridge on the Thai side are being cleaned. The opening of the Myawady-Mae Sot Bridge caused it to open this bridge soon. If the bridge is opened, the flow of goods between the two countries will be restored. Tourism in Thailand has resumed as well and it is to be more convenient for inland tourists. This area is better than Myawady," a local, U Wan Sai, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM). The news of reopening the

bridge spread last year and officials from the two countries discussed it, but it has not been able to reopen until now.

"I guess that the bridge will be reopened soon as the Myawady-Mae Sot Bridge has been opened. According to information, it is known that the Chiang Rai district authority sent a letter on 11 January to the Tachilek district to open the bridge," U Arlaw, a goods entrepreneur, told GNLM. —TWA/MKKS



The photo shows the Tachilek-Mae Sai Friendship Bridge.

Strong demand from local/foreign buyers pushes up peanut price



The prices of peanut and sesame seeds continued upward spiral. Peanut prices hit over K7,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the domestic market, according to Mandalay's market price data.

THE strong demand for local oil millers and foreign trade partners elevated the prices, as per the Mandalay market's report.

The peanut from various regions is flowing into Mandalay commodity depots. Chinese traders are buying them for now. Moreover, they are highly demanded by the oil millers in the domestic market.

During the last week of November 2022, the peanut market was stagnant due to a lack of demand by oil millers and foreign buyers. Peanut prices declined to K4,700-5,750 per viss then.

The prevailing prices move up to K5,200-6,600 per viss. The figures however still do not reach record prices – K6,800-7,200 per viss – in early September last year.

Myanmar has been shipping oil seeds (sesame seeds and peanuts) to foreign countries. Last April 2022, the world's top palm oil exporter Indonesia, which is one of the main oil suppliers to Myanmar, declared an export ban on cooking oil export to reduce the domestic shortage. Consequently, Myanmar's Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce temporarily

suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) from 9 May to have oil self-sufficiency.

Exports of Myanmar's edible oil crops resumed as the world's top palm oil exporters returned to normalcy, according to a notification dated 5 July 2022 released by the Trade Department.

The country has delivered more than 13,000 kilogrammes worth US\$15.092 million to foreign markets through the border trade channels as of 30 December in the current financial year 2022-2023 since April 2022. – NN/EMM

Development of MSMEs will revitalize State economy

THE economy of our country is based on agriculture and livestock. Both developed and developing countries mainly carry out SME industries. Hence, efforts are being made for the development of MSMEs so as to resurge State economy.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with entrepreneurs from UMFCCI and MSMEs in Yangon Region on 3 October 2022)

SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing honours military medical officers who served at township and station hospitals in remote areas of Sagaing Region, Chin State, Naga Self-Administered Zone

FROM PAGE-1

Only when the aspirations of people in individuals thrive will their families and the State have thriving anticipations as well as will the whole society achieve success. So, 76 of those medical officers are allowed to attend the master's course for medical education. Those medical officers need to continuously strive for securing their destiny and serve their interests as well as their families', State's and Tatmadaw's interests. They all should not degrade perseverance, industry, patience and satisfaction.

The Senior General praised a Tatmadaw medical officer for serving at the people's hospital in Matupi Township in 2018 for the first time and at Lahe People's Hospital in 2022 for the second of his own accord.

Tatmadaw medical officers gave healthcare services to 202,332 people in Chin State and Naga Self-Administration Zone for the first time, 171,084 for the second time and 93,600 for the third time, totalling 467,016.

Providing healthcare services to the people

In a recent political crisis, some health staff left the workplaces, so a large number of health staff declined across the nation. Hence, military hospitals and dispensaries have given healthcare services to 449,892 outpatients and 137,080 inpatients till today.



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends the tea party at the event yesterday.

The Senior General urged those medical officers to continue serving the interests of the State and the nationals while improving their capacity for medical knowledge and techniques.

The Senior General presented gifts to the Tatmadaw medical officers who served duties in remote areas.

Enhancing the health sector as well as serving public welfare in accord with the guidance of the Head

of Tatmadaw

On behalf of the medical officers, medical officer Captain Hlaing Myint Tun spoke words of thanks. He said that under the guidance of the Head of State, they strived the improvement of the health standard of local people and participated in public welfare, all-round development and basic education teaching measures. So, they embraced the warm response of the local people. He expressed thanks to the Senior General and officials for

fulfilling requirements during the assigned period and pledged to serve the State and Tatmadaw in respective sectors.

Tatmadaw medical officers were hosted a tea party in their honour. The Senior General cordially greeted the medical officers.

Military medical officers served at hospitals in remote areas of Sagaing Region, Chin State and Naga Self-Administered Zone. A total of 44 medical officers served there in

2016, 44 more medical officers in 2018, 46 in 2020 and 18 in 2022. Their families along with the medical officers went to the assigned areas to carry out regional development.

Till the third time of medical services, Tatmadaw medical officers gave healthcare to 467,016 local people while carrying out public welfare tasks, awareness raising for agriculture and livestock farming, and regional development tasks together with departmental personnel. — MNA/TTA

Daily newspapers available online

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SAC members, Union ministers meet internally displaced persons, provide basic foodstuffs in Kayah State



The SAC members and Union ministers provide foodstuffs to internally displaced persons in Kayah State yesterday.

THE State Administration Council members and Union ministers yesterday arrived at Loikaw Airport by Tatmadaw flight to attend the 71st Anniversary of Kayah State Day, which will take place on 15 January.

They were welcomed by Kayah State Chief Minister U

Zaw Myo Tin, Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Hla Moe, Kayah State ministers, the advocate-general, departmental officials with the performance of Kayah traditional dance troupes and students of the training school for ethnic youths in border areas.

First, SAC members Saw Daniel, U Sai Lon Seng and U Shwe Kyein, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and U Saw Tun Aung Myint, Kayah State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin, Eastern Command Commander Maj-Gen Hla Moe, Deputy Ministers Dr Aung Zeya and Dr Aye Tun and other relevant officials went to Christ The King Church in Loikaw Township and cordially comforted the internally displaced persons. They also provided basic foodstuffs to them.

Then, the SAC members and party paid homage to Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jinobhasa of Uttarayon Monastery and donated offertories.

They also met with the internally displaced persons at the monastery and provided basic foodstuff.

The Kayah State government will organize the 71st Anniversary of Kayah State Day on 15 January. The event will include an opening ceremony of the archway to Kayah State Day at City Hall, a message reading session and an honorary title conferring ceremony in addition to the opening ceremony of U Thiri asphalt concrete road and Minkyaung tar road, a 400 metres synthetic track at the Kayah State Stadium and departmental booths.

—MNA/KTZH

CBM Governor receives officials of May Bank, Yangon branch

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe received Country Head Sulaiman Abdul Aziz of May Bank, Yangon Branch and officials from Chang Hon Huen (Eddie) (Head, Operations) at the Yangon branch of CBM yesterday morning.

At the meeting, they discussed operating the functions of May Bank in Myanmar as the branch and policy of the head office. They said they wish for instructions from the Central Bank of Myanmar. The CBM supervises the daily

functions of foreign banks and private banks. They also discussed the progress of the current foreign currency market, undertakings at the Interbank Market, payment for trading, active moves of May Bank in worker remittance of Myanmar in Malaysia, and money laundering and financing to the terrorism process.

Also present at the meeting were Permanent Secretary U Aung Aung and Director General Daw Khaing Shwe Wah of the Accounts Department. — MNA/TTA



MoC Union Minister attends Voice of the South Summit virtually



Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo joins the online Voice of the South Summit organized by India on 12-13 January 2023.

UNION Commerce Minister U Aung Naing Oo attended the Voice of the South Summit, a ministerial-level meeting on economy and trade, organized by the Republic of India in a virtual system yesterday evening.

The Union minister discussed that Myanmar and India are neighbouring countries and important trade partners in good relations.

Among Myanmar's 170 trade partner countries, India is the fourth-largest trading country.

He called for cooperation from other partner countries in the region to promote and strengthen trade and investment as well as to find good economic opportunities.

He also pointed out the exchange of views on ways to improve communications and promote tourism, agricul-

ture and livestock farms for food security, technological cooperation in developing the transport sector and human resources between Myanmar and all the countries in the southern part of the world.

The meeting was held on 12 and 13 January, and Ministers and Deputy Ministers of the Ministry of Commerce from 25 countries attended the summit. —MNA/TS

SAC-conferred honorary titles presented

THE State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister conferred honorary titles on recipients individually on 1 and 2 January in honouring the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chair U Tin Oo Lwin and officials presented the Wunna Kyaw Htin title to wife Daw San San Lwin on behalf of former deputy minister for industry-2 U Thein Aung.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Yangon Command Commander



The honorary title is offered in Nay Pyi Taw.

for Information U Taik Soe, retired deputy minister for Co-operatives U Kyaw Than and to wife Daw Than Than May, on behalf of retired deputy minister for Health Col Tun Hla Phyu respectively, Thiri Pyan Chi title to retired minister for Construction U Han Zaw and wife Daw Khaing Nwe Oo on behalf of retired minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, the Wunna Kyaw Htin title to deputy auditor-general Daw Thin Thin of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union; the Alinka Kyawswa title to the

katho Myat Soe); the Wunna Kyaw Htin title to daughter Daw Kyu Kyu Maung, on behalf of retired deputy minister for planning and finance U Nyunt Maung, wife Daw Khin Aye Shwe, on behalf of retired deputy minister for industry-2 U Oo Saw Hla, and the Zeya Kyaw Htin title to the Maj-Gen Maung Myint (Rtd) of the Ministry of Defence.

Similarly, Shan State Chief Minister Dr Kyaw Tun and Eastern Command Commander Maj-Gen Hla Moe offered the Thiri Pyanchi title to



The honorary title is presented in Shan State.



Honorary titles are presented in Taunggyi, Shan State.



Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe and officials offered the Alinka Kyawswa title to wife Daw Than Than on behalf of pianist Chit Swe (deceased) and to writer Maung Maung Latt (Naung) respectively; the Sithu title to wife Daw Khin Nwet Win on behalf of the state councilor U Zaw Win (deceased); the Wunna Kyaw Htin title to retired deputy minister for energy U Myint

Zaw; the Thiri Pyanchi title to son U Khin Maung Lay, on behalf of the retired minister of justice U Khin Maung Latt, the Wunna Kyaw Htin title to wife Daw Yi Yi Win, on behalf of retired deputy minister for agriculture and forestry U Kyaw Htein, the Thiri Pyanchi title to wife Daw Khin Than Nwe, on behalf of the retired minister at the deputy prime minister's office Brig-Gen Maung Maung,

the Wunna Kyaw Htin title to wife Daw Tin Tin Myint, on behalf of retired chief of Myanmar Police Force U Thein Aung of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Thiri Pyanchi title to wife Daw Khin Phyu Mar, on behalf of retired minister at the the president office III U Kyaw Swa Khine, wife, the Wunna Kyaw Htin title to retired deputy minister for transport U San Wai, retired deputy minister

writer U Tin Kha and writer Dr Thaw Kaung respectively, to wife Daw Khin Ma Gyi, on behalf of artiste U Nyunt Win (deceased), the Sithu title to daughter Daw Tin Tin Kyi, on behalf of former state councilor Brig-Gen San Kyi (Rtd), the Alinka Kyawswa title to wife Daw Khin Lay Nwe, on behalf of writer U Kyauk Sauk Thar Noe (Maung Tha Noe) and to writer U Myint Kyi (Tek

grandson U Tin Myint Hlaing on behalf of U Tun Myint; U Khun Saw Min Khaung, on behalf of Wa National Party Chair U Khun Htun Lu (aka) U Di Ki, the Wunna Kyaw Htin title to U Sai Shaung Han, on behalf of RCSS/SSA Chair U Ywet Sit and wife Daw Al Ni, on behalf of U Gabral Pyan, and the Alinka Kyaw Swar title to the writer U Than Tun. — MNA/KZW

5th batch of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund 2022 Projects launched



THE launching ceremony of the fifth batch of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund Projects was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Gyi said the chance to implement the projects under LMC Special Fund can promote the socioeconomic and living status of Myanmar's rural people. It will also implement the 31 projects initiated by Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund to meet the targets in respective fields.

After the remarks of Vice-Chair of LMC Special Fund Body U Win Zeyar Tun and Chinese Minister Counsellor Dr Zheng Zhihong, the relevant directors-general explained the progress of projects initiated by LMC Special Fund 2018, 2020 and 2021.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation was allowed to implement 31 projects with more than US\$10 million. The ministry developed five projects under LMC Special Fund 2017, nine projects under LMC Special Fund 2018, six projects under LMC Special Fund 2020 and four under

LMC Special Fund 2021.

Currently, the ministry will carry out seven projects under LMC Special Fund 2022 — rubber pressing, production of quality sugarcane, improvement of sesame seed production, various quality freshwater fish farming, establishment of crop yield forecasting department, pesticide residue testing laboratory and study on crop loss risk. Therefore, these projects will support promoting socioeconomic status and reducing poverty of rural people who rely on agriculture partially for their living. —MNA/KTZH

Working Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism meets in Nay Pyi Taw



The Working Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism holds its meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 January 2023.

A meeting of the Working Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism was held at the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 January.

During the meeting, Working Group Chairperson Central Bank of Myanmar Governor

Daw Than Than Swe stressed the need to conduct measures to ask for standards on recommendations in the implementation of technologies to Asia-Pacific Anti-Money Laundering and to carry out further directives in time, report on the improvements in understanding of money laundering risk in major sectors, demonstrate the implementation of the regulations related to hundi providers including registration and supervision, accelerate the information exchange with international partner organizations, improve the financial sector surveillance, conduct formal and informal ways in international cooperation for inspections on anti-money laundering, conduct awareness-raising campaigns to

inform reporting entities of their obligations related to PF TFS and to make efforts in seeking standards before 1 February. Then, the working group vice-chair, secretary and members reported on the measures for seeking standards on recommendations and ongoing work plans. The Working Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism has been making efforts for the country to be removed from the list of High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action of FATF since November 2022. It also holds weekly meetings and urges the departments concerned to complete the operations in time. —MNA/KTZH

Illegal timber, consumer goods, foodstuffs, industrial materials and vehicles confiscated

AN on-duty team under the supervision of the Customs Department conducted inspections at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint in Mon State on 11 January. Officials captured K158,486,600 worth of 60 rolls of textile and construction materials that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from two vehicles with a trailer heading to Yangon from Myawady. The action was taken under Customs procedures. Similarly, a combined team under the management of the Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized K18,636,000 worth of foodstuffs without official documents from a Mitsubishi Fuso car (estimated value of K30 million) near the 121/6 Milepost on Tachilek-Kengtung-Taunggyi-Meiktila highway. The action was taken under Customs procedures. On 12 January, officials nabbed various bags, clothes and cosmetics worth

K28,155,000 that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a Hino Profia FW1KXH car (approximately K50 million) at the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures. An unregistered Zongshen cyclone motorbike worth K400,000 was seized in YeU township and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law. A total of 2.5262 tonnes of illegal timber worth K540,264 was seized in Lewetownship and the action was taken under the Forest Law. A total of 41.4302 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K11,176,156 was captured in Bago, Toungoo, Nyaunglebin and Thayawady districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law. Therefore, 17 arrests (approximately K297,394,020) were made on 11 and 12 January, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Factories to strictly adhere to CBM's rules in inward remittance



The Yangon Region Investment Monitoring team is seen conducting an onsite inspection at a garment factory on a CMP basis.

THOSE factories that do not have a record of foreign currency inflows proceed with the compulsory conversion of international fund transfers following the rules stipulated by the Central Bank of Myanmar, Union Minister Dr Pwint San of the Ministry of Labour gave a remark at a meeting regarding the CMP business role in national development held on 11 January. The CBM undertook inspec-

tions across the foreign currency inflows of the 738 factories working on a Cutting-Making and Packaging basis. Between 22 September and 14 November 2022, only 362 factories recorded foreign currency inflows, while 284 lacked inward remittance. Furthermore, 92 factories do not have valid accounts at the designated banks. Those banks have to utilize the banking system for operating cash flow. Additionally,

foreign currency inflow plays a pivotal role in the national economic development. The CMP business supervisory committee is also directing the execution of the factories to check whether they comply with the directives issued by the Ministry of Planning and Finance, pay the tax liability, provide benefits and incentives to the employees, and keep financial records. —TWA/EMM

Visa extension disallowed for foreigners whose visa validates less than 60 days

VISA extensions for foreigners in local companies will not be issued at all if their visa validity is less than 60 days, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) notified on 11 January.

It is found that foreigners

are applying for visas with less than 60 days remaining though they need to apply at least 60 days before their previous visa expires.

On 1 November 2022, foreign companies were informed that they must obtain visa ex-

tensions for foreigners at least 60 days prior to their visa expiry.

A hundred companies were cancelled from the registration list as of 12 December 2022 under Section 430 (f) of the Myanmar Company Law. —TWA/KZW



The office of the Road Transport Administration Department in Yangon Region.

Renewal period for vehicles without vehicle inspection extended by 3 months

THE renewal period for vehicles without the inspection was extended by another three months, according to the Road Transport Administration Department.

For a small vehicle, the registration fee is K15,000 and the inspection fee is K5,000. For larger vehicles, the registration fee is K30,000 and

the inspection fee is K10,000.

In December 2022, 8,828 imported vehicles and 1,636 partially manufactured vehicles by the Ministry of Industry were initially registered for a total of 10,464 vehicles, according to the Road Transport Administration Department. — TWA/KZW

Prices of onions see rapid decline

THE Yangon market received 240,000 visses of onion from various regions on 11 January and 180,000 visses on 12 January 2023. On 12 January, the price of onion from the Myingyan area drastically declined by K300 per viss and that of Myittha onion by K350 per viss.

The wholesale price of Myingyan onion was K1,900-K2,400 per viss and that of Myittha onion was K2,300-K2,550 per viss on 11 January. The prices changed to K1,700-K2,000 per viss for Myingyan onion the next day and K2,100-K2,300 per viss for Myittha onion, depending on various varieties.

A total of 60,000 visses of onion entered the Pakokku market on 12 January with the highest price of K1,850 per viss. At the Mandalay market, onion from the Myittha area was rated at the highest price of K2,200 per viss and the lowest price of K1,800 per viss. They entered the Myingyan market with a bulk of 118,000 visses on 11 January and were priced only at the highest rate of K2,100 per viss.

There is a probability that onions from various regions can join Myingyan and Myittha onions in the market during this

month, due to the initiated shipments of onion growers from various regions.

After mid-2022, stored onion prices went up earlier than usual, urging growers to start the cultivation of monsoon onions in large quantities. Regional markets and the Yangon market saw multiple supplies of monsoon onions daily, due to the excess yield despite the damages in the plantation.

The price of onions increased in mid-2022 since there is an export demand to Vietnam through the Thai border. The record price hit K3,800 per viss in August and K5,100 per viss in November.

It is known that old autumn onions are no longer entering the Pakokku market starting

from the second week of November 2022 and the Yangon market from 6 December, but only new monsoon onions are entering.

It is known that around 100,000 visses of onions enter the Myingyan market every day, and 150,000 visses of onions enter the Yangon market daily on average.

Although the onion prices decreased, it is still higher than in the same period last year. Growers are expecting to get higher prices than normal years in the period when new cold season onions enter the market, before the Thingyan Festival, just as monsoon onion growers are getting higher prices than normal years. — TWA/CT



A small-scale hundi business.

Rules to control hundi businesses enforced: CBM

RULES to curb 'hundi', an informal money transfer system, will come into force, said Daw Than Than Swe, governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, highlighting that at a meeting of the Anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing task force.

She encouraged formal

and informal international cooperation that is integral during the interrogation of cross-border money-laundering cases.

The governor met operators running hundi in Tachilek and Muse cities without inward remittance licences and called for them to seek a licence to

undertake legitimate transfers. Some private banks also notified that they will add another contribution to this government's additional subsidy of K30 per dollar (an equivalent amount of foreign currency) for the salary transferred by Myanmar citizens abroad. — TWA/EMM

Rescue victims in eradicating trafficking in persons

THE problems of trafficking in person are different from other criminal cases. Practically, those lawbreakers skillfully evade legal action of the government with creativity based on political, social, economic and development gaps, impacts of natural disasters and advancement of technologies.

Global countries are trying to eradicate trafficking in persons throughout the world. But, those countries are worrying that such a problem is still worsening day by day. Currently, human traffickers are stretching their wings to almost all countries, causing a terrible challenge which threatens the social security of the whole world.

Primarily, the trafficked persons face problems in the cases of forced marriage with some men from China not only in the border areas but in China with a technique of luring innocent male and female youths to work at some jobs with high salaries, exploitation in various forms for those who seek jobs in neighbouring countries, forced prostitution in the country and varieties of exploitation over profits obtained from working at factories in the country.

The local authorities need to seek cooperation from counterpart bodies of neighbouring countries to eradicate transnational crime in human trafficking due to different legal frameworks. If so, their endeavours will not be in vain in solving the problems of trafficking in persons.

and the wrong traditions and customs which forcefully push the victims into the cases of trafficking in persons.

In addition, the authorities need to emphasize rehabilitation and resettlement of trafficked victims after solving the cases. As the daily lifestyle of those victims needs to be harmonized with society, people from society should give a helping hand to them with empathy and compassion for their future.

The local authorities need to seek cooperation from counterpart bodies of neighbouring countries to eradicate transnational crime in human trafficking due to different legal frameworks. If so, their endeavours will not be in vain in solving the problems of trafficking in persons.

Integrity — the last resort to put right Myanmar’s downfall

By Win Sein

A PERSON can be said to have integrity when he has strong ethical and moral principles, we also know that integrity has a characteristic trait, but not a skill, which you can make an effort and develop by yourself. A person tends to behave honourably and honestly in all the different situations in which he finds himself accepted amicably by others, thus he can be considered a reliable person in this domain that can count on him to do the right thing in the right situation, and so he can collaborate as solemnly as well with his colleagues at all time.

Integrity can be looked upon as a person’s valuable characteristic trait, and most employers look forward to praising them as assets in their employees. A company that has employees who possessed these important integrity characteristic traits is like having a professional reliable culture and traditions, so the company is more likely to have a good working relationship in order to

highly motivate the employees who will consequently be trying to achieve a higher standard of production. A company that emphasizes hiring people with integrity will likely have diligent teams that continue to meet production schedules, such a company can surely supply excellent products, making higher profits and becoming the industry’s leader.

About the basic personality traits associated with integrity are given as follows: -

- Graciousness, having good manners and being genuinely appreciative of people around you.
- Honesty, be honest in your personal and professional relationships.
- Trustworthiness, following through on what you have promised or committed to is an important part of integrity.
- Responsibility, you must take responsibility

for your behaviour and your work commitment.

- Patience, to strive to cultivate patience and tolerance.
- Helpfulness, you tend to have a selfless and helpful outlook towards the world and will be more willing to assist people in need without expecting something in return.

We all know, that integrity is a personal characteristic trait, and if we put immense effort into it, we can develop it to benefit us vastly. Looking back to our Myanmar historical events that countless efforts have been contributed by our ethnic races to repulse the British, likewise from different political parties regardless of religious beliefs constantly accompanied only by the thinking of “unity of thought for rejecting the British colonial domination of our land” which enhanced us to be united together and solidified as the one and

only people unshakably, have driven the British soldiers out of our land. Unfortunately, after we gained independence from the British, we seemed to have lost interest in “unity of thought” the driving force that kept us fighting the foreign domination from the British until finally, we have totally cut off their grip on us in 1948.

We look again at nowadays Myanmar, it has been said that it freely held the rein on its own in determining its destiny many years ago. But, reverse-ly it turned out that Myanmar has sunk so low in international dignity to occupy the worthless place as an LDC (least developed country) in the world, yet our people are still reluctant to give up its incessant internal conflicts of fighting among ourselves on and on, wasting the lives of our sons and daughters, our properties and the destruction of our development infrastructures. For instance, the ethnic races were on one hand, and the general public

comprising of all levels of people was on the other hand and yet the ruling government was also on another hand, scrambling to grab the ruling power from each other, without any trust whatsoever from one another, like a merry-go-round with no end, that internal fightings have eventually turned into civil wars among the ruling government, the ethnic races and the different splinted revolution forces under different political parties are constantly wasting time with no concrete compromise settlement from any faction.

So much so, the mentality of the recent offsprings from parents previously under the rigid control of the successive military administrations for a long period of about 50 years, has deprived them of the freedom which they had been enjoying from the bygone days of Burmese kings era, and the teachings of Buddha’s Theravada Buddhism with the simplest

forms of doing good deeds and avoiding evil things.

Perhaps, at present, the people, rethinking what our citizens have been mobilizing with much effort in culturing and developing the idea of “Integrity” in each and every citizen’s heart would be able to start breathing the new fresh air for a change of scenery in our endeavour to accomplish our aim.

If every citizen of the Union of Myanmar is wholeheartedly equipped with a solid determination and willpower to elect a new crop of trustful, honest and diligent persons in order to entrust the responsibility to them for running a free and democratic government, so that we, the citizens, with no fear of whatsoever kind, ready to cast our votes on National Election Day which would probably take place in about August 2023, that was implemented by the State Administration Council.

Rate of scientific breakthroughs slowing over time: study

THE rate of ground-breaking scientific discoveries and technological innovation is slowing down despite an ever-growing amount of knowledge, according to an analysis released Wednesday of millions of research papers and patents.

While previous research has shown downturns in individual disciplines, the study is the first that “emphatically, convincingly documents this decline of disruptiveness across all major fields of science and technology”, lead author Michael Park told AFP.

Park, a doctoral student at the University of Minnesota’s Carlson School of Management, called disruptive discoveries those that “break away from existing ideas” and “push the whole scientific field into new territory”.

A “disruptiveness score”

The researchers gave a “disruptiveness score” to 45 million scientific papers dating from 1945 to 2010, and to 3.9 million US-based patents from 1976 to 2010.

From the start of those time ranges, research papers and patents have been increasingly likely to consolidate or build upon previous knowledge, according to results published in the journal Nature.

The ranking was based on how the papers were cited in other studies five years after publication, assuming that the more disruptive the research was, the less its predecessors would be cited.

The biggest decrease in disruptive research came in physical sciences such as physics and chemistry.

“The nature of research is shifting” as incremental innovations become more common, senior study author Russell Funk said.

Burden of knowledge

One theory for the decline is that all the “low-hanging fruit” of science has already been plucked.

If that were the case, disruptiveness in various scientific fields would have fallen at different speeds, Park said.

But instead “the declines are pretty consistent in their speeds and timing across all major fields,” Park said, indicating that the low-hanging fruit theory is not likely to be the culprit.

Instead, the researchers pointed to what has been dubbed “the burden of research”, which suggests there is now so much

that scientists must learn to master a particular field they have little time left to push boundaries.

This causes scientists and inventors to “focus on a narrow slice of the existing knowledge, leading them to just come up with something more consolidating rather than disruptive,” Park said.

Another reason could be that “there’s increasing pressure in academia to publish, publish, publish, because that’s the metric that academics are assessed on,” he added.

Focus more on quality

The researchers called on universities and funding agencies to focus more on quality, rather than quantity, and consider full subsidies for year-long sabbaticals to allow academics to read and

think more deeply.

“We’re not getting any less innovative as a species,” Park emphasised, pointing to recent breakthroughs such as the use of mRNA technology in Covid-19 vaccines, or the measurement of gravity waves in 2015.

Jerome Lamy, a historian and expert in the sociology of science at France’s CNRS research agency, who was not involved in the research, said it showed that “ultra-specialization” and the pressure to publish had increased over the years.

He blamed a global trend of academics being “forced to slice up their papers” to increase their number of publications, saying it had led to “a dulling of research”.

SOURCE: AFP



Researchers work on a vaccine against COVID-19 at the Copenhagen’s University. PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/ THIBAUT SAVARY/AFP

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 13 January 2023)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and generally fair elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 14 January 2023: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and Kayin, Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3 - 5) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin, Kayah States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 January 2023: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 January 2023: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 January 2023: Generally fair weather.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Yangon Regions.

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Poor quality of watermelon, muskmelon sparks lower price

AS watermelon and muskmelon exported to China do not meet quality requirements, it keeps the price low, said fruit traders engaged in Muse border.

Chinese New Year falls on 22 January 2023. Consequently, the fruit market was expected to be bustling. Yet, poor quality lowered the price and the market is slow moving, said Sai Khin Maung from Khwanyo Fruit Depot.



Watermelons are seen at the Sino-Myanmar border checkpoint.

“Among export items, fruit sales need to stay organized. There is poor quality control and self-control in trade so the market is sluggish. Some harvested the fruits without reaching the maturity stage. Chinese buyers underpriced watermelons due to quality requirements,” he elaborated.

The prices stood at 4.7-4.8 Yuan per kilogramme for 855 watermelon of good quality, 5.1-5.2 Yuan for Taiwan watermelons and 6-6.5 Yuan for muskmelon depending on quality in recent

days.

At present, poor quality brought down the prices to 3.5-4.3 Yuan for 855 watermelons, 3.5-4.5 for Taiwan watermelons and 3.5-5.3 Yuan for muskmelon.

“As some growers sell unripe watermelon, the market is in chaos. Self-discipline and self-control are required in executing a trade to maintain market share,” Ko Soe Moe July from North East Gate Fruit posted on social media on 13 January 2023.

At the end of the last year 2022, the fruits did not fetch a good price due to inferior quality. In the past years, poor quality eroded customers’ trust and lost market share. Quality plays a crucial role in the market so the traders called for the growers to supply watermelons and muskmelons of good quality.

Additionally, Sai Khin Maung added that they will face challenges to earn a strong market share in the post-coronavirus

period.

Myanmar’s watermelon and muskmelon are heavily reliant on the Chinese market. The traders grappled with China’s strict virus policy.

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

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

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

On 8 July 2021, the two-re-

maining cross-border posts Kyinsankyawt and Panseng were suspended. As a result of this, the border trade between Myanmar and China was completely halted.

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

On 8 January 2023, Some Sino-Myanmar border crossings were declared to resume their operations, including Sinphyu, Nantaw and Mang Wein, which is a major border post between Myanmar and China. However, they are yet to be reopened.

At present, Myanmar daily delivers rice, broken rice, rubber, various beans and pulses, fishery products, chilli pepper and other food commodities to China through Kyinsankyawt by 100 trucks and building materials, electrical appliances, household goods and industrial raw materials are imported into the country by 40 trucks.—NN/EMM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 13 January 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)	
Octane 92	K2,095
Octane 95	K2,160
Diesel	K2,365
Premium Diesel	K2,445

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price	
The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,237,200 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,832,000 per tical

Dollar Price	
A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,865 to K2,885

The above prices may change from time to time.

Myanmar’s cross-border trade sees tremendous export in nine months

THE value of Myanmar’s exports to the neighbouring countries through border trade showed a significant increase of US\$735.6 million in the nine months (April-December) of the current Financial Year 2022-2023 compared with that in the corresponding period of 2021.

The export through border trade reached over \$4 billion during the April-December period which soared from \$3.66 billion in the year-ago period, the Ministry of Commerce’s statistics indicated.

Myanmar’s border trade totalled \$6.044 billion this FY. Usually, Myanmar’s exports outperformed imports in border trade, with export worth \$4.4 billion and imports valued 1.643 million.

Smooth transport plays a crucial role in trade. Transport barriers and traffic problems can hinder freight forwarding, and degrade the quality and weight on price. The departments concerned are prioritizing the smooth freight flow. The officials of the border posts are tackling difficulties and trading require-

ments for the supply chain including growers, traders and chambers associations to bolster the exports. The authorities are keeping in touch with the traders for trade facilitation and trade promotion. Those efforts in border trade are contributing to the revenue of the State, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

Myanmar has opened 17 border posts between Myanmar and the neighbouring countries; with China through Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti and Kengtung, with Thailand through Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekee, Tachilek, Mawtaung and Meisei, with Bangladesh through Sittway and Maungtaung, with Laos through Kenglek and with India through Tamu and Reed.

Of the Sino-Myanmar border posts, the Kengtung crossing showed a small decline. Moreover, Myawady, Kawthoung and Mawtaung posts with Thailand also registered a drop while the trade with India via Reed fell sharply. The border trade with Bangladesh through Sittway plunged as well, the trade data

indicated.

The values of border trade stood at over \$1.643 billion at Muse, \$99.69 million at Lweje, \$189.8 million at Chinshwehaw, \$61.185 million at Kampaiti, \$8.54 million at Kengtung, \$113.4 million at Tachilek, \$1.584 billion at Myawady, \$162 million at Kawthoung, \$92 million at Myeik, \$1.956 billion at Hteekee, \$9.68 million at Mawtaung, \$100.58 million at Sittway, \$11.788 million at Maungtaung, \$12.58 million at Tamu. There is no trading record at Reed, Meisei and Kenglek border posts in the past nine months.

Myanmar primarily exports rice, various types of beans, sesame seeds, corn, fruits and vegetables, dried tea leaves, fishery products, natural gas, rubber, gem, animal products and spice to the neighbouring countries, while it imports capital goods such as machinery and motorbikes, raw industrial goods such as CMP raw materials, cement and fertilizers, and consumer goods such as cosmetics, edible vegetable oil and food products.—KK

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HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Tokyo to make child care free for all 2nd children from Oct 2023



With around 50,000 children set to be eligible under Tokyo's new plan, the metropolitan government will set aside 11 billion yen (\$85 million) for the initial fiscal 2023 budget starting April **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE Tokyo Metropolitan government said Thursday it plans to make child care services free for all second-born children living in the capital starting October 2023, as part of an effort to address the rapidly falling birthrate in Japan.

The measure will be applicable for those aged zero to two years without setting conditions, such as being within a certain household income bracket, as the local government aims to provide an incentive for families to have more than one child.

The Tokyo government will

also provide subsidies for healthy women wishing to freeze their eggs for future pregnancies, on the condition that they participate in a study looking into their age and motives for doing so.

Tokyo's latest decision to make child care services free will serve as a supplement to a similar central government program that sets eligibility requirements, such as being at a particular income level, for households to become eligible for subsidies.

With around 50,000 children set to be eligible under Tokyo's

new plan, the metropolitan government will set aside 11 billion yen (\$85 million) for the initial fiscal 2023 budget starting April.

"It should essentially be a state project, but there is not a moment to waste," said Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike. "We will implement bold measures with the resolve to stop the falling birthrate, starting from Tokyo."

The move comes after the metropolitan government announced a plan last week to provide families in the capital with a monthly allowance of around 5,000 yen per child aged through 18 regardless of household income level.

As the government plans to additionally book 126 billion yen for the allowance program, its budget for child care-related measures will total 1.6 trillion yen for the next fiscal year, up some 200 billion yen from the current year. Expenses for egg-freezing, which will also cover financial aid for companies that put a paid leave system in place, will amount to 170 million yen. The government already subsidizes egg-freezing costs for cancer patients. —Kyodo

New York nurses end strike with tentative deals reached

THOUSANDS of nurses from two hospitals in New York City returned to work on Thursday after tentative agreements were reached, according to a statement by the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) which represents more than 42,000 members in the state.

Nurses won enforceable safe staffing ratios at both Montefiore Bronx and Mount Sinai Hospital where nurses went on strike for patient care, said NYSNA on Thursday.

"We are pleased that the Mount Sinai Hospital reached a tentative agreement with NYSNA and the strike is over," said a notice on the website of the Mount Sinai Health System.

Around 7,000 nurses from the two hospitals went on strike from Monday to Wednesday calling for



Nurses from Mount Sinai Hospital strike outside the hospital on 9 January 2023 in the Upper East Side neighbourhood of New York City. **PHOTO: MICHAEL M. SANTIAGO / AFP**

more nurses and enforcement of safe staffing requirements.

Nurses at Wyckoff hospital also reached a tentative deal in the night and withdrew their 10-day strike notice, said NYSNA.

Moreover, Mount Sinai Morningside and Mount Sinai West reached a tentative agreement with the state nursing union on a new contract on Sunday with a strike avoided. —Xinhua

WHO alert on Indian cough syrups blamed for Uzbek deaths

THE World Health Organization has issued an alert warning against the use of two Indian cough syrups blamed for the deaths of at least 20 children in Uzbekistan.

WHO said the products, manufactured by India's Marion Biotech, were "substandard" and that the firm had failed to provide guarantees about their "safety and quality".

The alert, issued on Wednesday, comes after Uzbekistan authorities said last month at least 20 children died after consuming a syrup made by the company under the brand name Doc-1 Max.

India's health ministry subsequently suspended production at the company and Uzbekistan banned the import and sale of Doc-1 Max.

The WHO alert said an analysis of the syrup samples by the quality control laborato-

ries of Uzbekistan found "unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol and/or ethylene glycol as contaminants".

Diethylene glycol and ethylene are toxic to humans when consumed and can prove fatal.

"Both of these products may have marketing authorizations in other countries in the region. They may also have been distributed, through informal markets, to other countries or regions," WHO said.

The products were "unsafe and their use, especially in children, may result in serious injury or death", it said.

Marion Biotech officials could not be reached immediately for comment.

It is the second Indian drugmaker to face a probe by regulators since October, when the WHO linked another firm's medicines to a spate of child deaths in Gambia.—AFP



The alert, issued on Wednesday, comes after Uzbekistan authorities said last month at least 20 children died after consuming a syrup made by the company under the brand name Doc-1 Max. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP**

Variety of healthy eating patterns can lower risk of premature death: Study

A new study found that a variety of healthy eating habits are associated with a lower chance of dying before your time.

They discovered that in comparison to participants with lower scores, those with high scores on adherence to at least one of four healthy eating patterns had a lower risk of passing away during the course of the study from any cause and a lower risk of passing away from cardiovas-

cular disease, cancer, or respiratory disease. The findings are consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for America, which recommend multiple healthy eating patterns.

The study was published online in JAMA Internal Medicine. "The Dietary Guidelines for Americans are intended to provide science-based dietary advice that promotes good health and reduces major chronic diseases. —ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

S Korea hikes interest rates again despite economic worries



A container terminal of South Korea's Hanjin Shipping in the south-eastern port city of Busan, on 3 Feb 2017. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SOUTH Korea lifted interest rates for the tenth time in 18 months as part of its drive to tame inflation, despite growing concerns over an economic slowdown. The move is in line with other central banks who are still battling to rein in prices, which surged last year after Russia's invasion of Ukraine sent the cost of energy and food soaring while China's zero-Covid hit supply chains.

The Bank of Korea (BOK) lifted borrowing costs 25 basis points to 3.50 per cent — the highest since 2008 — the eighth raise since January last year.

The hike was “warranted to ensure price stability, as inflation still remains high and is projected to be above the target level for a considerable time”, the BOK said in a statement.

“The board deems it warranted to maintain the restrictive policy stance with an emphasis on ensuring price stability, as inflation is expected to remain high above the target level, although the domestic economic growth rate has slowed,” it said.

The bank's rate increases were partly driven by a need to keep pace with the US Federal Reserve, prevent foreign capital outflows and stabilize the local won currency, which plunged to a 13-year-low last year before bouncing back.

“Looking ahead, the board sees global economic growth and global financial markets as likely to be affected largely by the pace of global inflation slowdown, monetary policy changes in major countries and US dollar trends.” —AFP

German pawnbrokers offer a quick fix to inflation pain

AT a pawn shop in the west German city of Duisburg, a young woman hands over a mobile phone and in return gets a wad of cash to help make ends meet — for a while.

Soaring prices mean the 120 euros (\$129.20) now in Carrie-Ann's pocket will soon be gone, she says.

“I've got shopping to do, cat food, cigarettes for my mum,” says the 20-year-old, who has registered with a job centre while she seeks new employment.

The rising cost of energy in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine pushed inflation in Germany to a peak of 10.4 per cent in October 2022 — a level not seen in decades.

It is one reason why Schu-



German pawnshops made around 500 million euros in loans in 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

machers pawnshop in Duisburg has seen “at least 25 per cent more clients” than usual, says manager Michael Meiering.

Meiering says he can al-

ready imagine the size of queue that will form by the door when locals get their “annual electricity and heating bills” from the municipality.—AFP

US big-box retailers shudder, shutter amid rocky start of 2023

THE list of US giant retailers feeling post-COVID-19 economic pain continued this week, as Bed Bath & Beyond joined Big Lots, Macy's together with Bloomingdale's and Bluemercury, and Joann Fabric announcing store closures and major cutbacks.

Bed Bath and Beyond (BBB) upped the ante Tuesday by announcing it would close an additional 150 stores by the end of next month on top of 50 already slated for plywood.

In a move that will affect thousands of employees, BBB piggybacked on its 2022 list when “operating losses have

ballooned to 423 per cent year-over-year in the third quarter to 450.9 million US dollars, and its net loss grew by 42.2 per cent to reach about 393 million US dollars,” according to The Hill, an American newspaper and digital media company.

Much like BBB, one of the biggest US chain of domestic merchandise retail stores, discount chain Big Lots announced “an accelerated number of closures this year” during its earnings call last month, The Hill reported this week, adding that inflation slowed consumer spending and would result in big losses.—Xinhua



A woman walks past a Bed Bath & Beyond store in New York, the United States, on 5 Jan 2023. **PHOTO: ZIYU JULIAN ZHU/XINHUA**

Brazil estimates over 301 mln tonnes in grain production for 2022-2023

BRAZILIAN grain production will reach 310.9 million tonnes in the 2022-2023 cycle, a growth of 14.5 per cent compared to the previous period, according to the estimate released Thursday by the state-run National Supply Company (CONAB). CONAB expects the

production of soybeans, Brazil's main export, which is nearing the end of its planting cycle, to total 152.7 million tonnes, 22.2 per cent higher than in 2021-2022.

Regarding the three annual harvests of corn, the total is projected to be 125.06 million tonnes,

an increase of 10.5 per cent in relation to the last cycle.

Meanwhile, CONAB forecasts a 9.3 per cent reduction in the cultivated area of rice, estimated at 1.5 million hectares, with production of 10.4 million tonnes.—AFP

China operates first domestic Boeing 737 MAX flight since 2019

A Boeing 737 MAX took off from southern China on Friday, the first domestic flight using the aircraft model since March 2019 when it was grounded after two deadly crashes. The resumption of flights is a boost for the American manufacturer in one of its most important markets. China was among the first countries to ground the plane after two fatal accidents involving its flight control software in 2018 and 2019, and was the last major Boeing market to rescind the ban. On Friday a China Southern Airlines flight left the city of Guangzhou in the afternoon headed for Zhengzhou, tracking website Flightradar24 showed. A second 737 MAX took off from Guangzhou later in the day, flying to the central city of Wuhan.—AFP

Liberty Steel, hit by high energy costs, pauses some UK output

LIBERTY Steel Group, a division of Indian-British steel giant GFG Alliance, said Thursday it was pausing work at two UK plants as the energy-intensive sector is hit by soaring costs. The group, which has struggled in recent times also owing to fierce competition, hinted that up to 440 jobs could be lost in the move.



Liberty Steel Group, a division of Indian-British steel giant GFG Alliance, said Thursday it was pausing work at two UK plants as the energy-intensive sector is hit by soaring costs. PHOTO: AFP

Despite the injection of £200 million (\$243 million) of shareholder capital over the last two years, production of some steel products has “become unviable in the short term due to high energy costs and imports from countries without the same environmental standards”, the firm said in a statement.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KHDY0332N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KHDY0332N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-1-2023** 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 Myanmar Port Authority Agent For: M/S PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (213W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (213W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-1-2023** 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 Myanmar Port Authority Agent For: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (195W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (195W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-1-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: **2301185** Shipping Agency Department Myanmar Port Authority Agent For: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (161N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (161N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-1-2023** 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 Myanmar Port Authority Agent For: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HF SPIRIT VOY.NO. (2302S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HF SPIRIT VOY.NO. (2302S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-1-2023** 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 Myanmar Port Authority Agent For: M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO.,LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TAY SON 1 VOY.NO. (2312)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TAY SON 1 VOY.NO. (2312)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-1-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** 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 Myanmar Port Authority Agent For: M/S NEW HIGHEST MARINE CO LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V FEDERAL SWIT VOY.NO. (2201)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V FEDERAL SWIT VOY.NO. (2201)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-1-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** 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 Myanmar Port Authority Agent For: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Iraq's premier heads to
Germany for energy talks

Sudani, in power since October, expects to sign a memorandum of understanding with German firm Siemens Energy that would pave the way to the "rehabilitation and maintenance" of Iraq's power grid.

PHOTO: IRAQ PRIME MINISTER' OFFICE/AFP/FILE

IRAQ'S Prime Minister Mohammad Shia al-Sudani left Thursday for Berlin to meet with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and discuss projects to address chronic

power shortages, the premier's office said. Despite its oil riches, Iraq is beset by crumbling infrastructure, endemic corruption and decades of war. Dependent

on its powerful neighbour Iran for much of its energy needs, Baghdad seeks to diversify its sources of gas and electricity supply.

Sudani, in power since October, will be received Friday "with military honours at the Federal Chancellery at 1:00 pm (1200 GMT)", said German government spokesman Steffen Hebestreit. The two leaders are expected to discuss "bilateral and regional issues", he added.

Sudani expects to sign a memorandum of understanding with German firm Siemens Energy that would pave the way to the "rehabilitation and maintenance" of Iraq's power grid, the Iraqi prime minister's press service said in a statement.—AFP

Swedes free to dance
as government rips up
archaic law

OWNERS of Swedish nightclubs and bars will no longer need special permits to allow dancing on the premises, the government said Thursday as it announced its intention to bin a 67-year-old law.

While Swedes, despite their reputation for being subdued, can frequently be found dancing at nightclubs around the country, it does require that the owner of the establishment have a special permit.

The law, which has been the subject of debate for decades, dates back to 1956 when politicians were trying to rein in a surge of dance meets around

the country where unchaperoned youths would consume alcohol and listen to what some at the time considered immoral music and dancing. "This is a long-awaited freedom reform," Justice Minister Gunnar Strommer said in a statement.

"It's not reasonable that the state should regulate people's dancing," he continued, adding that removing the need for a permit would also reduce red tape for businesses.

Sweden's parliament in 2016 agreed it was time to scrap the law, leading the government to examine the matter.—AFP



Swedish restaurant and bar owners will no longer need a permit to allow guests to dance. **PHOTO: JESSICA GOW/TT NEWS AGENCY/AFP**

US and Cuba to renew talks on law
enforcement issues

A high-level US delegation will visit Cuba soon to revive discussions with the communist-ruled island on police and law enforcement issues, the State Department said Thursday. "US and Cuban officials will meet this month... in Havana to discuss topics of

bilateral interest on international law enforcement matters," including transnational crime, a State Department spokesman said on condition of anonymity.

The official did not give dates for the meeting but said the delegation will include officials from

the departments of State, Justice and Homeland Security.

The talks are designed to pursue "constructive discussions... to advance US interests", the spokesman said, but will not come "at the expense of human rights".—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Ukraine says fighting to hold Soledar, but
situation 'difficult'

UKRAINE said Thursday its forces were fighting to retain control of Soledar in the eastern Donetsk region but cautioned it was coming up against "difficult" resistance from Russian troops.

The Kremlin has made capturing the industrial region of Donetsk its primary objective after nearly one year of fighting that has seen its forces capitulate on larger goals like seizing the capital.

"The fiercest and heaviest fighting is continuing today in the area of Soledar," Deputy Defence Minister Ganna Malyar told reporters. "Despite the difficult situation, Ukrainian soldiers are



A BM-21 Grad multiple rocket launcher fires towards Russian positions on the front line near Bakhmut, Donetsk region, on 11 January 2023, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. **PHOTO: SUSANNAH WALDEN / AFP**

fighting stubbornly," she added. Russian mercenary group

Wagner claimed earlier this week its forces had captured

Soledar, but the defence ministry in Moscow said fighting was ongoing and Ukraine denied any full takeover.

Both sides have conceded heavy losses in the fight for Soledar and the nearby larger town of Bakhmut, also key to Russia's aim to wrest all of Donetsk away from Ukraine. The Kremlin on Thursday praised the "heroic" work by Russian forces fighting in Soledar and in other battles.

"Huge work has been done in Soledar; absolutely selfless heroic actions, not only in Soledar, but also in many places," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.—AFP

Top EU officials to
visit Ukraine on 2
February

MORE than a dozen senior EU officials will meet members of the Ukrainian government in Kyiv on 2 February, a day before the EU-Ukraine summit, a European Commission spokeswoman said Thursday. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky meet European Council and European Commission Presidents Charles Michel and Ursula von der Leyen on 3 February to discuss financial and military support for their fight against Russia's invasion.

The Ukrainian presidency had previously announced the summit would take place between the presidents in Kyiv but the European Council has not confirmed the location.—AFP

Leading trio do battle to become Czech president at polls

A billionaire, a general and an academic are favourites going into the first round of the Czech presidential election that begins Friday and concludes on Saturday and is seen by observers as too close to call.

The winner will replace Miloš Zeman, an outspoken political veteran known for enjoying a drink, following a period marked by the country's 2022 EU presidency as the war in Ukraine raged.

The victor will face record inflation and bulging public finance deficits because of the war in Ukraine.

Unless a candidate wins



Candidates in the Czech presidential elections take part in TV debate in Prague. **PHOTO: AFP**

more than 50 per cent in the first round, which is considered unlikely, a second round will pit the top two contenders on 27-28 January.

"If you asked me to place a

bet (on the result), I wouldn't," Metropolitan University Prague analyst Petr Just told AFP.

Populist ex-prime minister Andrej Babis, retired general Petr Pavel and university professor Danuse Nerudova are vying to become only the fourth president since the Czech Republic was founded in 1993 following the Soviet Union's fall.

Business tycoon and former prime minister Babis, 68, is the fifth wealthiest person in the Czech Republic, according to Forbes magazine.

General Pavel, 61, is a former paratrooper who was decorated as a hero of the Serbo-Croatian

war during which he helped to free French troops from a war zone. He went on to be the chief of the general staff and chair of NATO's military committee.

Nerudova, the youngest frontrunner at 44 and a former academic, has a strong focus on social issues and is counting largely on the backing of younger voters. Polls suggest that both Pavel and Nerudova would beat Babis if they faced him in the second round.

The other five candidates — two senators, a far-right lawmaker, a former university rector and an entrepreneur — are trailing behind the top three.— AFP

Mexico deploys National Guard in metro after accidents

THOUSANDS of National Guard members will be deployed in the Mexico City metro following a series of safety incidents, including a crash this month that left one person dead, officials said Thursday.

Safety concerns have shaken public confidence in a transport system used by millions of people in the congested megacity.

From Thursday, around 6,000 members of the National

Guard would be present in the metro, Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum told reporters.

"Their objective is to guarantee the safety of users," she later tweeted, adding that the Guards would be unarmed. The move comes after two metro trains collided in a tunnel Saturday, killing a young woman and injuring dozens.

It was the most serious incident since a section of elevated

track collapsed in May 2021, killing 26 people and injuring dozens.

Other less serious but unusual incidents, including problems with wheels, have been reported in recent months, Sheinbaum said. She denied they were the result of budget cuts, as alleged by critics of the mayor, who is seen as a leading candidate to replace President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador next year.—AFP



National Guardsmen patrolling the Mexico City Metro system on Thursday afternoon. City authorities said a number of "out of the ordinary" events had been happening at Metro facilities over the past few months that warranted the federal police force's patrols. **PHOTO: SCT/TWITTER/AFP**

South Korean police blame deadly Halloween crush on negligence



Mourners pay tributes at a makeshift memorial for the victims of the deadly Halloween crowd surge, outside a subway station in the district of Itaewon in Seoul on 3 November 2022. **PHOTO: JUNG YEON-JE / AFP/FILE**

SOUTH Korean police on Friday blamed negligence and planning failures for last year's Halloween

crowd crush in Seoul that killed more than 150 people.

Scores of young costumed

partygoers, mostly women in their 20s, died in the disaster on 29 October in the capital's popular Itaewon nightlife area.

A special team that spent months combing through evidence and interviewing officials, said at the end of its probe that there had been massive planning and response failures — but stopped short of blaming any top government or national policy agency officials.

"Organizations that are legally obligated to prevent and respond to disasters — police, district offices and Seoul Metro — did not establish safety measures in advance or came up with poor plans," Sohn Jae-han, the team's head, told reporters.—AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Prosecutors indict Abe shooter on charge of murder

PROSECUTORS on Friday indicted a man on charges of murder and violating the firearms control law for fatally shooting former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during an election campaign in the western Japan city of Nara in July. Following mental examinations, the prosecutors in Nara Prefecture concluded that Tetsuya Yamagami, 42, is competent to stand trial. His detention period for the examination expired on Tuesday. —Kyodo

N Korea raps Kishida's visit, warns against NATO influence in Asia

NORTH Korea has criticized Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's ongoing trip to NATO member countries for bringing "security instability" to the Asia-Pacific region, and warned the bloc against expanding its influence in the area, state-run media said Friday.

Japan serves as a guide "introducing NATO, a legacy of the Cold War, into the Asia-Pacific region" and such a behaviour is "sowing the seeds of discord" in the region, the Korean Central News Agency said, quoting an article by Kim Tong Myong, an international politics researcher, released Thursday. —Kyodo



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.

Aung La N Sang to fight against Galvao today in ONE Championship event



PHOTO: ONE Championship

MYANMAR'S MMA icon Aung La N Sang will take on Brazilian fighter Galvao in a catchweight challenge of the ONE Championship event named ONE FIGHT NIGHT 6 which will be held at Impact Arena in Bangkok, Thailand today. Upon his thrilling fight, Aung La N Sang expressed his feeling to ONE Championship officials.

"Galvao is going to be physically strong. He's a jiu-jitsu black belt. He's down to throw power and looping shots as well. I feel like I'm a little bit better than him in the striking department, a little bit cleaner. I think on the ground, I'll do okay against him. But I think my conditioning is better than his," Aung La said.

"If you watch any of my fights, I'm always looking for the

finish. I want to get the finish and I'm going to work hard to get the finish. "Evolution is what I hope the fans see. An evolution to my game, that I can do everything, that I can do it at a high level, and that I'm a fan-friendly fighter – meaning that it's a fight that fans will get to enjoy.

"Fans don't want to see fights [won] by points, they want to see finishes and they want to see great skills, and that's what I feel like I'm gonna bring to the table in this fight. In turn, Brazilian fighter Galvao also said he deserves to win the fight.

"As I said, I've been following Aung La N Sang's career for a long time," Galvao said.

"He's a knockout artist, he kicks really well, but I hope to surprise him. I had very little

time to train for this fight, I think two weeks, but I'm believing in my training and my experience to put on a good fight.

"I haven't fought for a long time, but I know I take down better than him, and I have a better ground game than him. Those are my most dangerous weapons. "But I'm going up to put up a good fight. ONE Championship called me for this, and that's what I'm going to do. I'm going up in the cage to put on a show," the Brazilian fighter added.

If Aung La N Sang wins, he is likely to have the opportunity to challenge again for the middleweight world championship title.

The fight cards will be launched today in Thailand starting at 7:30 am Myanmar Time. — KZL

Joelinton could be dropped by Newcastle after drink-drive charge

NEWCASTLE boss Eddie Howe could drop Brazilian midfielder Joelinton for Sunday's Premier League clash against Fulham after his arrest for drink-driving.

The 26-year-old, who has become a key member of Howe's in-form side, was stopped by police in the early hours of Thursday and later charged with driving while above the prescribed limit for alcohol.

He will appear before magistrates in the city later this month, but is available for Sunday's match.

Asked at his pre-match press conference on Friday whether Joelinton would play against Fulham, Howe replied: "I'm going to have to reflect and analyse on that and I'll make a decision closer

to the game in consultation with him, so I'm not 100 per cent sure.

"My relationship with Joe is very good. I have sat down with him and will do so again. Ultimately, I have to pick the best team to win the game, that's my job, but I also have to take into account the situation around that."

Joelinton signed as a forward for a then club-record £40 million (\$49 million) from German club Hoffenheim in 2019 but struggled to score goals.

But the South American, who scored his side's second goal in their 2-0 League Cup quarter-final win over Leicester on Tuesday, has been a regular this season under Howe, whose side are third in the Premier League.—AFP



Newcastle's Joelinton has been charged with drink-driving. PHOTO: AFP/FILE