

# 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 final match and awarding for men's football tournament of Basic Education Students Sports Festival for 2022-23 academic year

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended to watch the final match of the men's football tournament of the Basic Education Students Sports Festival for the 2022-23 academic year and awarded prizes to the relevant teams at the prize awarding ceremony at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The Senior General and party watched the final match between the Yangon Region team and Ayeyawady Region team in the men's football tournament.

As it was the final match, both teams posed pressure on each other starting from the match. The player (No 10) of the Ayeyawady Region team scored an opening goal by showing off his brilliant skills to his team in the leading role. Afterwards, both teams penetrated each other but the results remained unchanged.

In the second half, the Yangon Region team equalized the result in the 53<sup>rd</sup> minute but the Ayeyawady Region team scored the second goal in the 64<sup>th</sup> minute. At the final whistle, the Ayeyawady Region team clinched the title with a 2-1 win over the Yangon Region team.

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State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing awards the championship trophy to the Ayeyawady Region team on 27 January 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw.

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## National Objectives for 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day 2023

1. To strive for the perpetual existence of national solidarity and perpetuity of the Union through the internal strength
2. To make collaborative efforts of all ethnic nationals to restore perpetual and durable peace
3. To join hands in harmony for ensuring the prosperity and food sufficiency of the nation as two national plans through the Union spirit
4. To help develop all regions and states on equal terms and increase employment opportunities with ensuring the health and fitness of the entire National people
5. To practise the genuine, discipline-flourishing multiparty democratic system through fraternity, solidarity and united endeavours of all ethnic national brethren for building the Union based on democratic and federal systems

## Mottos for 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day 2023

1. Let's go forward in joining hands among ethnic nationals in unison
2. Let's firmly join hands among national brethren of the Union in unity
3. Energetic harmony and stronger unity represent the souls of the Union

## No new case of COVID-19 reported on 27 January, total figure stands at 633,815

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases recorded **633,815** after **no** new case was reported on 27 January 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,271**, including **two** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged to **19,490** on 27-1-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. —MNA

# Maravijaya Buddha image lifted up to 51.2°

MEMBERS of the Sangha led by Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Mandalay's Bhamo Monastery Abbot Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa and Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academies Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Maha Dhamma Kathika Bahujanahitadhara Shwegyin Nikaya Chairman Shwegyin Sangharaja Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara together with well-wishers led by leading donor State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the ceremony



The conveyance of the Maravijaya Buddha image is seen being 51.2° at midnight on 27 January 2023.

to lift up the Maravijaya Buddha image to be kept on the jewelled throne in Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory on the morning of 26 January.

A steel crane is being used in lifting the Maravijaya Buddha Image on the jewelled throne. The image was lifted up to 51.2° to be kept on the jewelled throne at midnight yesterday. —MNA/TTA



Lifting position is seen being 45.9° at 7 pm on 27 January 2023.



The lifting of the Maravijaya Buddha image is seen being 38.3° at noon on 27 January 2023.

# Encouragement needed for emergence of good human resources

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

*(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 8/2022 of the Union government on 1 November 2022)*

## SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends final match and awarding for men's football tournament of Basic Education Students Sports Festival for 2022-23 academic year



The Senior General and dignitaries watch the final match of the men's football touney of the Basic Education Students Sports Festival for the 2022-2023 Academic Year yesterday.

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Next, SAC member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun presented individual medals, prizes and cash awards to the joint third-prize-winning Shan State team, SAC member General Mya Tun Oo, the joint third-prize-winning Mandalay Region team and Council Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, the second-prize-winning Yangon Region team.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win presented individual medals to players of the first-prize-winning Ayeyawady Region team.

The Senior General presented cash awards and the championship trophy to the first-prize-winning Ayeyawady Region team.

After the prize-awarding ceremony, the Senior General



Vice-Senior General Soe Win presents medals to first prize winners.



General Mya Tun Oo gives cash awards.

cordially greeted the athletes. The Senior General also gave K5 million each to all contending teams from regions and states which participated in the basic

education students sports festival for the 2022-23 academic year.

The festival was held from 17 January to yesterday.

If outstanding students from the sports festival are selected for training, they will have the chance to take part in the ASEAN University Games with

better sports skills when those basic education students attend the universities and more selected national players will come out. —MNA/TTA

### Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

# If production charges decline, prices of commodities will decrease: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the Union government meeting 1/2023 in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 January 2023.

ALL ministries are to systematically supervise information security, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Union government meeting 1/2023 at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his speech, the Senior General explained political changes based on vote rigging in the 2020 multiparty general election, terror acts committed by CRPH, NUG and PDF terrorists on innocent people and public service personnel, controlling of the government over political instability triggered by political controversy under the law, and economic growth.

**Encouragement of domestic production helps develop the State economy to some extent**

The Senior General went on to say that after the assumption of the State's responsibilities, the government encouraged domestic manufacturing processes based on agriculture and livestock farms for the improvement of the State economy. Hence, the State economy

improves to some extent. Arrangements should be made for supplying inputs and raw materials for the manufacturing sector at cheap prices as well as adequate strength of human resources. If production charges decline, prices of commodities will decrease.

Respective regions and states have to try to ensure food sufficiency. Micro, small and medium-scale enterprises play a key role in the domestic manufacturing sector based on agriculture and livestock farms.

**International relations**

Myanmar has been exercising an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy till today. The political instability of Myanmar is triggered by the political controversy of some foreign countries over Myanmar, interference of some countries in the internal affairs of Myanmar and instigation in Myanmar's politics.

**Education promotion for the people**

Myanmar still faces many requirements in the development of the education sector, according to the statistics.

The majority of people over 25 years old are in middle school education. Hence, it is necessary to reform the education sector without fail.

In respect of the health and education sectors, the Senior General said: "The second point is related to the health sector. The outbreak of Covid-19 brought a large volume of loss to us. In the past, Myanmar had 70 years of life expectancy. Our country's life expectancy is the lowest among neighbouring countries. Even Laos' life expectancy is higher than ours and Bangladesh's is also higher as well. It depends on various kinds of calculations. Whatever it may be, our people must have a higher life expectancy and they must be healthy. In this regard, they have to embrace good food supplies for the first point. As for the second point, they must have to enjoy the proper accommodation. To be able to enjoy them, they must have job opportunities. If we cannot create such chances for them, they will face terrible weakness in the health sector. Even though vaccination is given to them, it is impossible. We experienced Covid-19

breaking out amid vaccination. So, only when we can uplift the lifestyle will people have a high standard of the health sector. To do so, we have to initiate a booming economy. And, we have to encourage higher education qualifications for them. So, we have to implement the KG+9 scheme for school education. If so, those persons will have the qualification to join the vocational training at least. So, we will open the technical, agriculture and livestock breeding schools in respective districts. First, we will establish 50 schools. They must have been educated. We dare to put investment in the education sector and afford to give investment. Then, we will open similar schools in all districts and major cities. We have to carry on the tasks for these schools."

**Requirements for electrification to develop the country**

The Senior General highlighted that the government set a plan to sufficiently generate electricity in 2025. Only when electricity can be generated sufficiently will manufacturing and public transport be

implemented. If electricity can be used in the transport sector, fuel consumption will be lessened as well as foreign currencies reduced. All regions and states need to supply sufficient water for consumption and cultivation to the people. Efforts must be made for the development of agriculture and livestock farms to ensure food sufficiency.

**Development of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area**

The Senior General underscored that Nay Pyi Taw, the administrative city, can be seen with great development within 17 years. It is necessary to shape Nay Pyi Taw to be a green city, clean city and smart city. Ministries are to strive for the development of Nay Pyi Taw in accord with the capital characteristics.

Union ministers reported on their respective sectors.

In conclusion, the Senior General praised the government of the State Administration Council for its endeavours in nation-building tasks within two years period. All ministries are to systematically supervise information security, he added.

— MNA/TTA

# Grand ceremony to enshrine religious objects into reliquary in the centre of jewelled throne of Maravijaya Buddha image

A ceremony to enshrine religious objects into the reliquary in the centre of the jewelled throne of the Maravijaya Buddha image took place in the precinct of Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday morning.

The ceremony was attended by members of the Sangha led by Presiding Nayaka of Mingala Zeyon Pali Tekkatho Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi, Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and devotees.

Leading donor the Senior General paid homage to the members of Sangha led by Pali Sayadaw at the briefing hall.

Then, the Senior General and party enshrined the horo-



Presiding Nayaka of Mingala Zeyon Pali Tekkatho Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi, SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and devotees attend, the grand ceremony yesterday. (above and below photos)



scope chart of the Buddha, precious jewellery and international silver coins donated by devotees, well-wishers and donors into the reliquary in the centre of the jewelled throne of the Buddha image keeping in line with the customs and sprinkled fragrant powder

on the religious objects.

After reciting the Gathas to launch the ceremony, the Senior General and party listened to the Buddha sermons recited by the Sayadaws.

During the specific period, the Pali Sayadaw and the

Senior General put the golden boxes containing the horoscope chart of the Buddha, precious jewellery and international silver coins donated by devotees, well-wishers and donors and stone inscriptions into the designated reliquaries in the

centre of the jewelled throne of the Buddha image following the customs.

The Pali Sayadaw and the Senior General sprinkled scented water on the reliquaries.

Then, the Sayadaws recited Zeya Mingala Gathas and the

master of ceremony read out the merit-sharing messages and they all shared merits.

The enshrining ceremony was successfully marked with grand ceremonial gold and silver confetti. — MNA/KTZH

## MoTC Union Minister receives Vice-President of Russia-Myanmar Friendship and Cooperation Association

SAC Member Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San received the delegation led by Vice-President Mr Anatoly Bulochnikov of the Russia-Myanmar Friendship and Cooperation Association yesterday afternoon at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union Minister highlighted the occasion of the diamond jubilee diplomatic relations

between Russia and Myanmar and discussed cooperation and potential businesses in the Myanmar and Russian transport sectors, expansion of direct flights between the two countries, investment of building digital infrastructures, cybersecurity, electric trains and electric vehicles (EVs), potential investment for inland water transport, coastal vessels and human resources develop-

ment in a friendly manner.

The meeting was attended by the deputy minister, departmental heads, representatives and officials of the Russia-Myanmar Friendship and Cooperation Association. — MNA/TS

The Vice-President of the Russia-Myanmar Friendship and Cooperation Association calls on Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San yesterday.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### Five Myanmar seamen missing in ship sinking in Nagasaki Sea: ME



Rescue operation is underway in Nagasaki Sea.

IN the sinking of a cargo ship off the coast of Nagasaki in southwestern Japan, two out of eight Myanmar nationals lost their lives, one survived and the other five are still missing, according to the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo on 27 January.

At around 2:30 am on 25 January, a foreign cargo ship named Jin Tian with Myanmar sailors sank in the sea off the coast of Nagasaki in southwestern Japan.

On learning that there are 22 sailors, including eight Myanmar nationals on the ship, the Myanmar Embassy contacted relevant responsible organizations in Tokyo.

Currently, 13 sailors have been found. Among them, three

are Myanmar nationals, two have lost their lives and one is alive. The remaining five Myanmar sailors are still missing reportedly so rescue operations are still ongoing.

On 26 January, the Myanmar Embassy contacted the Myanmar sailor who was saved and provided him with the necessary things.

The news of the missing Myanmar sailors is being monitored as well as support needed would be provided for Myanmar sailors who survive. The Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo announced that consular matters are also processed and further information will continue to be updated in a timely manner. — TWA/KZW

### Nantaw, Sinphyu border posts in Muse reopened

AFTER the re-opening of the Nantaw and Sinphyu gates in Muse of Shan State, Myanmar-China border, border passbooks were being issued to those who will cross the border to the other side, according to local people.

Following the announcement of re-opening from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, Myanmar resumed the border crossings on the morning of 25 January.

Individuals from Muse and Namhkam townships who hold the household registration form must apply for the border passbook themselves. It is known that most of the residents who wanted to pass through the border applied the previous day.

The applicants have to bring their citizenship scrutiny cards-CSCs, associate CSCs, naturalized CSCs, originals and copies of household registration forms. Those who will enter China through border crossings need to carry along their border passbooks and the CSC as well.

Entry and exit of people will be mainly handled at the Nantaw-Kyalgaung crossing point in Muse, and small vehicles will be permitted to pass through the Sinphyu-Kyalgaung border. In addition, private access for six-wheel trucks is allowed at the Mang Wein-Kyalgaung border and, tow trucks and truckloads with eight-wheel and above are receiving regular admission at the Kyin-sankyawt-Wang Deng crossing.

To enter China from Myanmar, it is necessary to have a medical examination record of no Covid infection within 48 hours, and if found to be infected, one will have to stay in quarantine at their own expense. Reopened Muse Nantaw and Sinphyu border posts were closed for years by the border authorities of the two countries during the Covid-19 pandemic, except for immigration.

Through China-Myanmar land borders, Myanmar exports crops such as banana, sugarcane, watermelon, mango and mangosteen, and imports construction materials, home appliances and online goods from China. — TWA/CT

### Sugar price hits new peak despite fall in jaggery price



Pictures show sugar and jaggery found in the markets.

THE prices of dry groceries will be inflated in early 2023 in Yangon markets and sugar is among those commodities. Meanwhile, jaggery prices declined, Ko Phyo, a trader who sends goods to regions outside Yangon, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The domestic sugar mills will run until April 2023. However, the price hit a fresh new peak. The price rose to K2,700-2,750 per viss on 26 January 2023.

Nonetheless, jaggery prices moved in the range between K2,500 and K3,200 per viss depending on producing areas and quality. The prices reached a record high of K3,700 per viss produced from NyaungU and K3,750 per viss from the Yes-

agyo area in 2022.

Although sugarcane production rate and sugar outputs go regular, sugar is exported to foreign markets beyond self-sufficiency. The demand of those exporters elevated sugar prices. The prevailing price might be the lowest rate in 2023, a sugar trader shared his opinion with the GNLM.

There are around 450,000 sugarcane acres every year in Myanmar, with estimated sugar production of 500,000 tonnes. The annual domestic consumption is about 450,000 tonnes. The remaining was sent to the foreign market in 2022. This year, it will be exported to external markets as well.

A lack of old sugar stocks

pushed up the sugar price in 2023, a buyer pointed out.

When new sugar is supplied to the domestic market, the price is rapidly going up. Nevertheless, the jaggery price dipped when the new jaggery season was approaching.

Sugar price was below K1,000 per viss in mid-2019 amid the bulk supply of locally produced sugar and a large volume of imported sugar.

Approximately 600,000 tonnes of sugar illegally imported from the Myawady border and sugar that were brought from Brazil, Thailand, India and other countries for re-export were stranded in the country after re-export was banned. — TWA/EMM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Around 160,000-tonne sugarcane to be exported to China under opium substitution

MYANMAR will deliver about 160,000 tonnes of sugarcane, which was cultivated as opium substitution, to China via the Chinshwehaw border, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Shwe Aung Yadana Co Ltd and Evershine Lashio Co Ltd have been exporting sugarcane to China through the Chinshwehaw post. Those two companies will handle that export this year's sugarcane season as well.

At present, two companies daily send 300 truckloads of sugarcane to China.

Sugarcane is cultivated in Kunlong, Hsenwi and Lashio townships in northern Shan State as an alternate crop replacing poppies. They are conveyed to Nanhwa sugar mill in

Yunnan province, China through Chinshwehaw.

Earlier, a driver substitution system from a sugarcane depot in Chinshwehaw and short-haul driver service was practised in sugarcane exports to the sugar mills in China under the opium substitution programme.

Following the successful negotiations between the two countries regarding trade facilitation, Myanmar truck drivers can directly transport the sugarcane to the mill in China with a border pass. Sugarcane exports under opium substitution, therefore, go smoothly from the Chinshwehaw border.

Myanmar has exported 87,882 tonnes of sugarcane worth \$4.454 million to China

via the Chinshwehaw border in the 2022-2023FY so far.

Last FY2019-2020, the country pocketed \$14.528 million from 290,576 tonnes of sugarcane. As per the statistics provided by the Agriculture Department in Lashio District, Myanmar's sugarcane sowing acres under opium substitution were recorded the highest in 2021-2022 with 11,433 acres and 325,118 tonnes of sugarcane production.

Those sugarcanes were harvested in early December. The export is conducted between December and the first week of March.

Sugarcane is commonly found in the upper Sagaing Region, followed by the northern Shan State. It is also found in



A worker cuts sugarcanes on a field in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

the western and eastern Bago Region, Yangon Region and Mandalay Region.

Approximately, 450,000 acres of sugarcane covers across the country this year, with an annual production of 450,000 tonnes of sugar. Sugar was conveyed to China and Vietnam in the past years beyond self-sufficiency. Now, it is only

shipped to Vietnam, according to Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane Related Products Association.

The sugarcane is grown in December-January. It can be harvested from November to February of the following years. The sugarcane growing rotation cycle lasts four years in Myanmar. — NN/EMM

Myanmar ships US\$680 mln worth of 1.8 mln tonnes of rice in ten months



Export rice bags are seen being loaded onto the vessel.

MYANMAR has conveyed over 1.8 million tonnes of rice and broken rice at an estimated value of US\$680 million between 1 April 2022 and 25 January 2023, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The export values were recorded at \$82 million from 250,947 tonnes in April 2022, \$51 million from 153,507 tonnes in May, \$50 million from 146,094 tonnes in June, \$66 million from 182,550

tonnes in July, \$53 million from 156,893 tonnes in August, \$37 million from 93,792 tonnes in September, \$65 million from 163,189 tonnes in October, \$106 million from 264,038 tonnes, \$90 million from 228,445 tonnes in December and \$79 million from 196,700 tonnes in January 2023, totalling \$679 million from 1,836,154 tonnes in ten months in the current financial year 2022-2023.

The export volume hit the

lowest in September and the highest in November.

Myanmar has been exerting concerted efforts to grow 10 per cent yearly in the rice export sector. To raise foreign income, it has been prioritizing the exportation of high-grade rice and boosting export volume, MRF stated.

Myanmar bagged over \$700 million from approximately 2 million tonnes of rice export in the 2020-2021FY. — NN/EMM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 27 January 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Octane 92      | K2,265 |
| Octane 95      | K2,345 |
| Diesel         | K2,445 |
| Premium Diesel | K2,525 |

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

|                                                     |                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA | K2,265,500 per tical |
| High-purity gold in the gold market                 | K2,838,000 per tical |

Dollar Price

|                                                |                  |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar | K2,100           |
| A US dollar in the forex market                | K2,850 to K2,865 |

The above prices may change from time to time.

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# OPINION

## Try hard to develop the economy of the nation and its nationals

**C**URRENTLY, the government is placing an emphasis on the development of the State economy with might and main. In fact, the development of the economy is a task which must be undertaken by setting standards and norms as well as rules.

Economic growth comprises the improvement of living standards, the confidence of people in individuals, and entitlements of choosing options. As for the most exact way, the human development index is the best for measuring economic development. HDI also consists of literacy rate and life expectancy which may affect productivity and lead to economic growth.

Qualification of the government of a country can be analyzed depending on its capacity to develop economic status and social security. It is because economic development can help the creation of chances in implementing education, health, employment, environmental conservation and so on while contributing to increasing the incomes of every citizen on a yearly basis.

Operating the businesses must emphasize manufacturing and distribution of products, trading, and use of commodities and

services in relevant areas. Not only businesspersons but relevant organizations operating businesses as well as government organizations are also parts of the economic arena in countries.

All global countries are marching towards their relevant goals which may be a target to develop the society with economic growth. But their economic systems are varied but these conform with the nature of their countries. Only when they can choose the best economic systems for their countries will these improve the socioeconomic status of the peoples they targeted.

An economic system is based on the results of culture, education, technological development, history, social society, political trend and legal systems, geographical conditions, and ecosystems for natural resources of relevant

countries. Hence, governments need to initiate the best economic system for their countries without derailment from the target.

The economy can be measured with consumer spending, exchange rate, Gross Domestic Product per capita, Gross National Product, stock market, interest rate, government debts, inflation rate, unemployment rate, and balance of trade. Hence, economists should analyze the economic status of any country so as to help the country enjoy good results of economic growth.

Only when the State economy as well as the private sector improves will the country and its citizens have high socioeconomic status. To have such a result, all the people including the government need to change their mindsets and firmly adopted the decisions to develop the nation and the nationals with relentless efforts. If so, the country will grasp the economically powerful might one day.

# A bright moment of kidney healthy fungus

By Saya Norm

**I**T WAS a beautiful summer in May. The snowline in the Tibetan plateau has retreated to the peaks of its steep valley. Nomads, a tribe of Tibet who has spent the winter at the bottom of high hills have begun to herd their yaks and goats to higher pastures. In winter those places were covered with snow and ice, forming scorching white land. Now the first shoots of green have replaced those areas. The landscape is still bleak and forbidding. There were wolves and lightning strikes.

Yushu is a prefecture in this area. Although larger than Syria, its population is fewer than 400,000 people. About 95 per cent are Tibetans. Summer is the time for their Himalayan gold rush,

a fungus called *Ophiocordyceps sinensis* (once called *cordyceps sinensis*). They will spend a frenzied month scouring the hill for what they called yartsa Gumbu. In Chinese its name is Dongchong Xiaocao, literally (winter insect summer grass) for that is what it resembles. In practice, it is a butterfly larva, hijacked by a fungus.

In summer the airborne spores of a fungus known as *Ophiocordyceps sinensis* invade the caterpillar (larvae) of various species of ghost moth, a large pale insect that flits over the pastures at dusk. After grubs thus infect and bury themselves in the soil to hibernate, they die: when winter comes, they freeze. The warmth of the spring activates the fungus,

which grows to fill the caterpillar's entire body, leaving only the outer skin. The spindly brown shoot of it emerges from the caterpillar's head and pushes its way through the soil into daylight. At an early stage, the caterpillar is so tiny, just four or five centimetres, and often so widely separated from others that the keenest of eyes are needed to spot it.

*Cordyceps sinensis* has many purported beliefs, ranging from preventing cancer to curing back pain. But what makes it so prized is its supposed ability to improve sex lives: often described as a Himalayan Viagra. Chinese believe that it is good for treating erectile dysfunction and (in women as well) low libido. They see a good sex life as evidence of over-

all health. However, there is no mention of it in Chinese medicinal works before the 17th century by the standards of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), that is relatively recent. The colonies, a British newspaper, told its reader in 1876: it is reputed to possess strengthening and renovating qualities: but on account of its scarcity, it is only used in the place of the emperor or by the highest mandarins.

The fungus revival began in 1993 at the world Athletics championship in Stuttgart, Germany. A team of little-known Chinese runners took the gold medals in the women's 1,500-metre, 3,000-metre and 10,000-metre races. Then, a month later, the same team won these races at China's national games in Beijing, setting world records in all categories. The "secret weapon," of the team's success, said their coach, Majunyen, was a combination of intense high-altitude training on the Tibetan plateau, turtle blood, ginseng and a tonic made of caterpillar fungus. It was the beginning of the popularity of *cordyceps*. And then in 2003 outbreak of SARS, an often deadly respiratory disease gave the fungus a further publicity boost. TCM doctors claimed it had helped some patients to recover more rapidly than they would have with western medicine alone.

With increasing popularity, the price of *cordyceps sinensis* rose more than 17-fold to nearly

US\$25,000 per kilogramme in 1998. Relating to that the income of fungus searchers in Tibet's rural areas had increased. Previously their incomes were among the lowest in China. Herders live hand to mouth. In the 1990s when the price of fungus began to soar and an explosion of demand, almost entirely from non-Tibetan parts of China transformed the economy of the natives of the Tibetan plateau. In 2013, those rural areas harvested more than 50 tonnes of fungus, pricing around \$1.2 billion, equivalent to nearly half its earnings from tourism. The highest yield of *cordyceps* is from China but Bhutan, Nepal, Korea, Japan, Viet Nam and Thailand also produce the fungus. A small amount of natural *cordyceps* is harvested in Kachin mountain range of PutaO and known as Sheepadee locally.

Growing mostly at high altitudes with low oxygen concentration and an imbalance of the supply-demand chain, *cordyceps sinensis* is rare and expensive. Thus, *cordyceps militaris* is substituted in place of *cordyceps sinensis*. The latter is more plentiful than the former and easy to grow in artificial conditions. That is why it is cheaper. And medicinal properties of these two caterpillar fungi are very similar. Although there are about 300 *cordyceps* species, the above two are prominent for medicinal use. The demand for *cordyceps* increases yearly so natural product only is

not sufficient. To fulfil the yearly requirement, science researchers



A small amount of natural *cordyceps* is harvested in Kachin mountain range of PutaO and known as Sheepadee locally.

tried to produce the caterpillar fungus artificially using biotechnology. Finally, they succeeded and produced a large amount of non-natural *cordyceps* called Cs-4 strain in China. After testing its therapeutic actions and toxicity with lab animals, the strain was approved to use as a medicine by China's department of health.

Although the artificially produced Cs-4 strain of *Cordyceps* is much cheaper than the natural one, its price is still higher than the western medicines and other natural drugs. Is *cordyceps* reliable for human health? Yes, there are so many health benefits of *cordyceps*, and all are backed by science. According to many

scientific studies, *cordyceps* (natural or artificial) boost exercise performance. It has anti-ageing properties. Because of its potential anti-tumour effects, it can be used as an adjunct therapy in cancer treatment. It helps to manage type 2 diabetes. It has good natural contents for heart health. *Cordyceps* is a good fighter of inflammation. It also increases immune function. The most interesting medicinal property of *cordyceps* is revitalizing the kidney. In many countries including China, *cordyceps* is used as supportive therapy for various kidney diseases. Researchers found that *Cordyceps* was able to successfully decrease blood creatinine,

by improved clearance. And it reduces protein excretion in urine. Supplementing with *cordyceps* helped increase haemoglobin.

Most kidney diseases are life-threatening. There is no comparable drug in western medicine to treat directly the weak and failing kidneys. Because of its anti-diabetic property, *cordyceps* is most useful for diabetes-related kidney disease. Now natural or Cs-4 strains of *cordyceps* is available as capsules or tablet in Myanmar. You can choose local or imported products as you wish. For those kidney patients, it is a bright moment of kidney healthy fungus.



Because of its anti-diabetic property, *cordyceps* is most useful for diabetes-related kidney disease.

## Japan decides to ease medical rules on COVID-19 on 8 May: PM Kishida

**J**APAN formally decided Friday to downgrade the legal status of the novel coronavirus on 8 May to the same category as common infectious diseases, such as seasonal influenza, to ease COVID-19 prevention rules, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said.

In a major policy shift in its response to the three-year-long pandemic, the Japanese government would be able to relax existing intensive COVID-19 measures,

including limiting the movements of infected people and their close contacts.

The reclassification of COVID-19 to Class 5 came after a panel of experts under the health ministry agreed on the plan earlier in the day.

The imminent downgrade would pave the way for a normalization of social and economic activities in Japan, possibly enabling non-residents to enter the country

without PCR tests or quarantining.

In Japan, COVID-19 is currently designated as a special category equivalent to or stricter than Class 2, which covers infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, under the law.

The first COVID-19 case was confirmed in Japan in January 2020, after the virus was detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019.

Kishida said his administration plans to continue shouldering medical costs, including its vaccination program, for the time being and will gradually review the ongoing medical service system.

While Kishida, who took office in October 2021, has been keen to revise rules on wearing protective face masks, he said that mask-wearing, indoors or outdoors, would be left to individuals.

There has never been a mask

mandate in Japan, but mask-wearing has become a daily custom among citizens for around three years.

Since May 2022, the government has been proposing that face masks be taken off in certain circumstances, but even during the harsh summer months last year, many Japanese people wore masks almost everywhere.

"We will take necessary steps to curb the spread of COVID-19 so

that we can return to normal life at home, school and work, and in all areas of the community," Kishida said.

The scheduled date of 8 May is the first business day after the end of Japan's Golden Week holidays this year. It is about 10 days before Japan hosts the Group of Seven summit in Hiroshima for three days through 21 May.

SOURCE: Kyodo



People disembark from a train at Shibuya station in Tokyo. PHOTO: AFP

# Earth’s inner core rotating slower than surface, study suggests

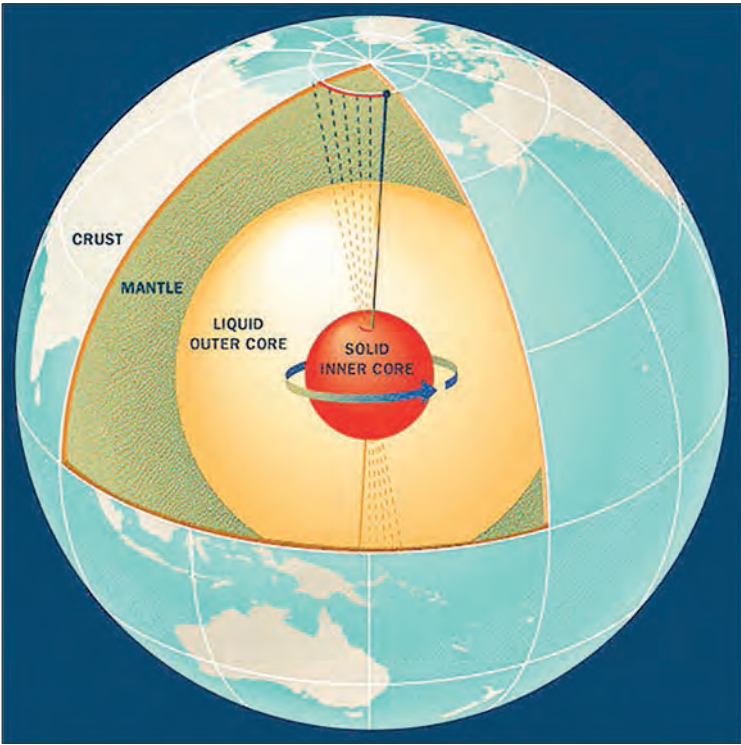
EARTH’S inner core, a hot iron ball the size of Pluto, has stopped spinning faster than the planet’s surface and might now be rotating slower than it, research suggested on Monday.

Roughly 5,000 kilometres (3,100 miles) below the surface we live on, this “planet within the planet” can spin independently because it floats in the liquid metal outer core.

Exactly how the inner core rotates has been a matter of debate between scientists -- and the latest research is expected to prove controversial.

What little is known about the inner core comes from measuring the tiny differences in seismic waves — created by earthquakes or sometimes nuclear explosions — as they pass through the middle of the Earth.

Seeking to track the inner core’s movements, new research published in the journal Nature Geoscience analyzed seismic waves from repeating earthquakes over the last six decades.



The solid inner core is situated about 3,200 miles below the Earth’s crust and is separated from the semi-solid mantle by the liquid outer core, which allows the inner core to rotate at a different speed from the rotation of the Earth itself. With a radius of almost 2,200 miles, Earth’s core is about the size of Mars. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ NASA**

“We believe the inner core rotates, relative to the Earth’s surface, back and forth, like a swing,” the study’s authors, Xiaodong Song and Yi Yang of

China’s Peking University, told AFP. “One cycle of the swing is about seven decades,” the authors said.—AFP

# Climate tipping points in Amazon, Tibet ‘linked’: scientists

CLIMATE extremes in the Amazon rainforest are directly affecting those in the Tibetan Plateau, scientists said Thursday, warning that the Himalayan region crucial for the water security of millions was close to a potentially disastrous “tipping point”.

Planet-heating pollution from human activities is raising

global temperatures and scientists have said this is pushing crucial ecosystems and whole regions towards often irreversible changes.

Vulnerable areas include melting polar ice sheets that could cause metres of sea-level rise, as well as the Amazon basin, where tropical forests are at risk



The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau (QTP) plays a significant role in global climate change and biodiversity conservation. Climate-driven changes in the Amazon basin have knock-on effects on Tibetan Plateau 20,000 kilometres (12,500 miles) away, scientists say. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

of turning into savannah.

But can one tipping point have a domino effect on another region? Recent research suggests this is already happening.

Climate-driven changes in the Amazon basin have knock-on effects on the Tibetan Plateau 20,000 kilometres (12,500 miles) away, scientists in China, Europe and Israel reported in Nature Climate Change earlier this month. “We’ve been surprised to see how strongly climate extremes in the Amazon are connected to climate extremes in Tibet,” said co-author Jurgen Kurths from Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.

The researchers used global near-surface temperature data over the last 40 years to map out a pathway of climate links. They stretched from South America to Southern Africa, on to the Middle East and finally into the Tibetan Plateau.—AFP

# New vessel deployed in fight to save near-extinct Mexico porpoise

CONSERVATIONISTS have deployed a new vessel in the fight to save the world’s rarest marine mammal from extinction due to illegal fishing in Mexico’s Gulf of California.

The ship’s arrival comes at a “critical time” for the vaquita porpoise, which counts Leonardo DiCaprio among its celebrity defenders, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society said Wednesday.

A joint effort by the marine wildlife group, the Mexican navy and other partners known as “Operation Miracle” has reduced illegal fishing activity that threatens the vaquita by more than 70 per cent in the past year, it said.

“This is encouraging news,

but we always have to do better,” said Sea Shepherd chairman Pritam Singh, who welcomed officials and the media onboard the Seahorse, escorted by naval vessels, for a presentation this week.

“We chose and refitted the Seahorse specifically for its design and capacity, both of which will dramatically increase our effectiveness and ability to protect the vaquita in 2023,” he added. Known as “the panda of the sea” for the distinctive black circles around its eyes, the vaquita has been decimated by gillnets used to catch totoaba, a large fish whose swim bladder is prized in China thanks to its supposed medicinal properties.—AFP



The Seahorse vessel has been deployed by the Sea Shepherd conservationist group to help save the endangered vaquita porpoise in Mexico’s Gulf of California. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN  
BRIEF

Venice recruits next generation in flooding fight

AS rising waters fuel fears that Venice may one day be entirely submerged, local children are being educated on how to protect the lagoon, a fragile ecosystem threatened by climate change.

On Torcello, an island located in the northern part of the lagoon, around 40 five-year-olds this week attended an outdoor lesson on the shores damaged by the waves from motorboats speeding to and from Venice.

As part of an initiative from UNESCO, the UN cultural agency, they splashed in the mud, made fish from recycled papier mache, took samples of sea water and drew pictures of the nature around them.

“We want the children to learn to observe nature and the lagoon, to learn to understand it, to love it and learn how better protect it,” said programme coordinator Francesca Santoro.—AFP

# HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

## UK soft drink taxes associated with decreased obesity in girls



There is strong evidence that consumption of sugar sweetened beverages increases the risk of obesity and other serious diseases. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ACCORDING to a new study published 26 January in PLOS Medicine by Nina Rogers of the University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine, UK, and colleagues, the implementation of the two-tier soft drinks industry levy in the UK in 2018 was associated with an eight per cent reduction in obesity among 10-11 year old girls, with the greatest reductions seen in those living in the most deprived areas.

Childhood obesity rates in England have risen in recent decades, with around 10 per cent of 4-5 year old children and 20 per

cent of 10-11 year old children living with obesity in 2020.

There is strong evidence that consumption of sugar sweetened beverages increases the risk of obesity and other serious diseases.

In April 2018, the UK soft drinks industry levy (SDIL) went into effect to incentivize soft drinks makers to reduce the sugar content of drinks.

In the new study, researchers used annual repeat cross-sectional data on more than one million children in state-maintained English pri-

mary schools.

Students aged 4-5 and 10-11 were followed over time between September 2013 and November 2019. The researchers compared the obesity levels 19 months following the SDIL with predicted obesity levels had the SDIL not happened, controlling for each child's sex and the level of deprivation of their school area.

In 10-11 year old girls, there was an absolute reduction in the obesity rate of 1.6 percentage points (95 per cent CI 1.1-2.1), which equates to an eight per cent relative reduction in obesity rates.

The greatest reductions were seen in girls in the most deprived quintiles, with an absolute reduction of 2.4 percentage points (95 per cent CI 1.6-3.2) in obesity prevalence in the most deprived quintile.

In 10-11 year old boys, there was no overall change in obesity rates, and no obvious pattern of changes in relation to deprivation, though a 1.6 per cent (95 per cent CI 0.7-2.5) absolute increase in obesity rate was observed in the least deprived quintile (equivalent to a 10.1 per cent relative increase).—ANI

## Study finds most US children use potentially toxic makeup products



The majority of youngsters in the United States use makeup and body products that may contain carcinogens and other harmful substances. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ AFP**

ACCORDING to a study conducted by scientists at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health and Earthjustice,

the majority of youngsters in the United States use makeup and body products that may contain carcinogens and other harmful

substances.

The findings were published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, a peer-reviewed journal.

According to the report, which was based on more than 200 surveys, 79 per cent of parents claim their children aged 12 and under use makeup and body items marketed to youngsters, such as glitter, face paint, and lip gloss. Prior research has shown that these products often have toxic chemicals, like lead, asbestos, PFAS, phthalates, and formaldehyde in them. Toxic chemicals found in children's makeup and body products (CMBP), like heavy metals, are especially harmful to infants and children. — ANI

## Spain to end obligatory use of masks on public transport, remain in hospitals

THE mandatory use of facemasks to protect from COVID-19 on public transport in Spain will end on Feb. 8, the country's Minister for Health Carolina Darias said on Thursday.

However, facemasks will remain obligatory in hospitals, health centers and pharmacies.

"We have a very stable situation from an epidemiological point of view," Darias told the press.

It is the latest move towards a return to normal life in Spain after the COVID-19 pandemic. The obligatory use of facemasks in most indoor settings ended on April 20, 2022.

According to data published by the Spanish Health Ministry on Jan. 20, the 14-day index of COVID-19 cases in over 60s in Spain is 97.60 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, continuing the trend of a gradual reduction in infection rates.—Xinhua



People purchase face masks during the Mobile World Congress (MWC) in Barcelona, Spain, March 3, 2022. **PHOTO: GUSTAVO VALIENTE/XINHUA**

## China sees travel surge as Spring Festival holiday concludes

WITH the Spring Festival holiday drawing to an end, China's highways, railways and airports are seeing a surge of people returning from family reunions and festival celebrations.

The country saw more than 43.56 million passenger trips on Thursday, the sixth day of the seven-day holiday, a rise of 23.4 per cent from Wednesday, according to the Ministry of Transport. The volume was 85.9 per cent higher than the same period in 2022, but still 46.9 per cent lower than the pre-pandemic level in 2019.

Of the total, nearly 10.29 million were train trips, up 54.3 per cent year on year, and the number of road trips increased by 101.8 per cent to 30.72 million. Thursday also saw a 58.3 per cent rise in air trips and a 98.9 percent hike in waterway trips.

The first day of the first lunar month is the Spring Festival, and spending the turn of the new year with loved ones is a ritual for Chinese people. This year's Spring Festival fell on 22 January.

In the past two years, most Chinese people stayed put during the festival amid virus curbs, but the country's shift in COVID-19 response has brought about a dramatic change.

The demand for travel surges after China's recent downgrading of COVID-19 management from Class A to Class B. Under Class B management, travellers no longer need to present health codes and negative nucleic acid test results or undergo temperature checks when entering railway stations and airports. — Xinhua

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Philippines economy grows 7.6% despite inflation threat

THE Philippines' economic growth beat expectations last year, fuelled by strong consumer spending despite rising consumer prices, officials said Thursday.

Gross domestic product expanded 7.6 per cent in 2022, the state statistics agency said in a briefing, faster than the pandemic-blighted 5.7 per cent output in 2021.

The reading topped the government's target of 6.5-7.5 per cent growth.

"There was so much pent-

up demand... and that significantly improved economic activities," Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said in a briefing.

"We are confident that we will remain in our high growth trajectory," he added.

Growth in the last three months of the year also beat expectations, expanding 7.2 per cent against a 6.6 per cent median estimate in a Bloomberg survey of economists.

"The improvements in labour market conditions, in-

creased tourism, revenge and holiday spending, and resumption of face-to-face classes supported growth in the quarter," Balisacan said.

Agricultural production, however, grew just half a per cent last year, barely contributing to the overall output.

Consumer spending weathered rising inflation as pent-up demand to spend in restaurants and entertainment as well as more jobs fuelled domestic demand, Balisacan said.—AFP



This photo taken on 18 May 2011, shows the main control room of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, in Bataan. **PHOTO: JAY DIRECTO/AFP/FILE**

## Cyprus workers strike over stalled cost-of-living talks

A general strike Thursday paralyzed Cyprus for three hours, affecting schools, hospitals, government services and the private sector, as labour unions demand wages be adjusted to decades-high inflation rates.

The rare strike was called following an impasse in talks with employers and the government over the reinstatement of the inflation-linked Cost of Living Allowance (CoLA), which trade unions say is necessary to protect employee salaries as prices soar.

The unions, representing more than 70,000 employees in the public and private sector, declared a three-hour strike from midday (1000 GMT) and staged protests across Cyprus.

"The message today should be resounding through the mass participation of workers, emphasizing the importance of collective bargaining rights," said Sotiroula Charalambous, head of the PEO trade union federation.

Schools closed early, hospital emergency wards operated

with skeleton staff, government departments shut down and public transport stopped.

The strike also affected more than 20 flights and around 4,000 passengers at the island's international airports in Larnaca and Paphos.

Inflation rates in 2022 rose 8.1 per cent year-on-year when measured using the Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) yardstick preferred by the European Central Bank, representing a 40-year high.

Following a financial crisis in 2013, unions and employers agreed on CoLA payment at 50 per cent of the rise in the consumer price index, in a transitional agreement renewed until the end of 2022.

Trade unions want the restoration of the allowance in full, which they argue is necessary to protect employee salaries.

Employers say the CoLA system is antiquated, and after two years of a pandemic and a subsequent cost-of-living crisis, they are in no position to meet such pay demands.—AFP



Trade unions in Cyprus say the Cost of Living Allowance is necessary to protect employee salaries as prices soar. **PHOTO: AFP**

## US companies in multiple industries eager to expand in China: trade group leader

HUNDREDS of US companies across multiple industries are eager to expand their businesses in the Chinese market, the head of a major US trade group has said.

"I know of hundreds of com-

panies that very much want to expand in China," following the optimization of China's pandemic response measures and increased interactions between senior government officials of the two countries, Craig Allen,

president of the US-China Business Council, said during a recent interview with Xinhua.

He added that the companies involve consumer goods, food and agriculture, energy, travel, financial services, as well as manufacturing, especially the chemical industry.

Allen said those industries are overall very competent, bringing confidence to companies that, in turn, are "forcefully" expecting to gain a stronger foothold in China in the foreseeable future. "I think that many of our companies are very positive and constructive and ambitious." He expects the Chinese economy to register a higher growth rate in the first half of this year than the latter half of last year, as a result of so much domestic demand during the Spring Festival holiday season.—Xinhua



General view of the Starbucks Reserve Roastery outlet in Shanghai on 6 December 2017. **PHOTO: AFP /FILE**

## Lula urges EU-South America regional trade deal before China talks

BRAZILIAN President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Wednesday called for the South American trade bloc Mercosur to urgently seal a free trade agreement with the European Union before negotiating with China.

Lula made the comments in Uruguay, which has been pursuing its own commercial deal with Beijing, despite opposition from Mercosur -- made up of Brazil, Argentina, Uru-

guay and Paraguay.

The EU reached a trade agreement in 2019 with Mercosur following 20 years of negotiations, but the deal has not yet been ratified.

"It is urgent and extremely important for Mercosur to reach an agreement with the EU," Lula said in Montevideo, where he met with President Luis Lacalle Pou.

"We will step up our discussions with the EU and sign

this agreement so that we can then discuss a deal between China and Mercosur," he added.

The EU-Mercosur deal has generated a wave of criticism in Europe, particularly among the agriculture and ecological sectors.

Negotiated by the European Commission, it needs to be ratified individually by all 27 EU members states before it comes into effect.—AFP

# Confectionery firm turns vegan to avoid Brexit checks



Pecan Deluxe Candy scrapped butter and eggs from its products in favour of plant-based alternatives that require no checks at the EU border. **PHOTO: AFP**

FOLLOWING Brexit, confectioner Pecan Deluxe Candy soon discovered that British operations were plagued by costly new red tape on exports of animal-derived products. Its solution? Go vegan. The US-owned firm — which provides food

brands with sweet confection like cake toppings and cookie dough — scrapped butter and eggs in favour of plant-based alternatives that require no checks at the EU border. Bosses decided in October to ditch dairy at

their facility in the northern English village of Sherburn-in-Elmet near Leeds to boost flagging exports to their main market in Europe. “We decided to take action because ... we weren’t just going to lie down and take it,” Graham Kingston, managing director of the Pecan Delux Candy Europe, told AFP. The UK left the European Union’s single market and customs union two years ago, forcing exporters of animal-based foodstuffs to submit veterinary certification and other costly paperwork. The extra red tape has heaped costs and time on companies, further straining supply chains.—AFP

# Nissan recalls 520,000 cars over fault in engine part

NISSAN Motor Co on Friday filed with the Japanese government a recall of over 520,000 cars, including Suzuki-badged vehicles, due to a fault in an electric engine part that can cause them to catch fire. The Japanese automaker is recalling a combined 527,491 units of its X-Trail sports utility vehicle and Serena minivan, as well as “Landy” minivans supplied to Suzuki Motor Corp, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism said. Nissan received a total of 3,963 reports of problems caused by a faulty electric motor in the vehicles’ “idling stop” system, a feature that can automatically switch off the engine when stationary.

There have been five incidents where cars have caught fire and six cases in which the vehicles were partially burnt, the ministry said. Of the cars subject to the recall, 277,462 cars manufactured between September 2010 and June

2017 could potentially catch fire in a worst-case scenario, the ministry said. In the affected vehicles, the bearings inside the electric motor were not properly sealed, exposing them to dirt and other substances, according to the ministry.—Kyodo



Nissan Motor Co's X-Trail sports utility vehicle. **PHOTO: THE MINISTRY OF LAND, INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT AND TOURISM /KYODO**

## Notice for change of distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official distributor – Vanida Myanmar Co.,Ltd., to AGRICO LTD has been changed for the following pesticides manufactured by United Phosphorus Ltd.,(UPL Limited), India.

| No. | Trade Name | Active Ingredients | Registration Type | Registration No. |
|-----|------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1.  | Mallet     | Imazethapyr 24% SL | Full              | F 2018 - 1711    |

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

Vanida Myanmar Co.,Ltd.  
No.4, Thiri Myaing Street, Htauk Kyant (Southern), Mingalardon Township, Yangon  
09 -774539646, 09-789261955

## Notice for change of distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official distributor – Agro Power Co.,Ltd. to AGRICO LTD has been changed for the following pesticides manufactured by United Phosphorus Ltd.,(UPL Limited), India.

| No. | Trade Name | Active Ingredients           | Registration Type | Registration No. |
|-----|------------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1.  | Kris       | Bispyribac sodium 400 g/l SC | Provisional       | P 2019 - 4499    |

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

Agro Power Co.,Ltd.  
No.570, Thumana St, 16/4 Qtr, Thingangyun Township, Yangon.  
09 – 444461516, 09-783928133

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MITRA BHUM VOY.NO. (136W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MITRA BHUM VOY.NO. (136W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-1-2023** 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  
Myanma Port Authority  
Agent For:  
**M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANGKA VOY.NO. (451S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANGKA VOY.NO. (451S/N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-1-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AYIT** 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 LINES**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HANSA SIEGBURG VOY.NO. (301W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HANSA SIEGBURG VOY.NO. (301W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-1-2023** 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  
Myanma Port Authority  
Agent For:  
**M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD**

GLOBAL  
AFFAIRS

## WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

## Japan's foreign worker population hits record 1.82 million

A record 1.82 million foreigners were working in Japan as of the end of October last year, government data showed Friday, in a 5.5 per cent rise from the year before driven primarily by labour shortages as well as foreign students and permanent residents finding employment.

But while the figures continue a string of consecutive new annual highs recorded since 2013, the year-on-year increase was far below the 13.6 per cent rise in 2019 on account of the coronavirus's ongoing effects.

A labour ministry official noted that growth has dulled since the start of the pandemic in 2020.

Of the 1,822,725 foreigners in Japan's workforce, Vietnamese nationals accounted for 25.4



File photo shows people taking an exam to qualify for a visa to work in the construction industry in August 2020 in Shizuoka Prefecture.

**PHOTO: KYODO**

per cent, the largest proportion, or 462,384 people. They were followed by Chinese nationals at 21.2 per cent and 385,848 people, and Filipinos at 11.3 per cent and

206,050 people.

Amid a scarcity of labour, a new high of 298,790 workplaces employed foreign workers, an increase of 4.8 per cent. Businesses

with fewer than 30 workers were the most likely to hire foreign staff, accounting for 61.4 per cent of employers.

By residency status, holders of specialist and engineer visas were up 21.7 per cent to 479,949 people. Working holders of visas such as permanent residents and spouses of Japanese nationals were up 2.6 per cent to 595,207 people. Among the decreases was a 2.4 per cent fall in technical interns to 343,254 people, the second consecutive year of lower numbers. Intake to the controversial programme, which offers labourers from specific countries work in exchange for skill development, was temporarily impeded by Japan's strict coronavirus border controls.—Kyodo

## Thai ruling party names deputy PM as main election candidate

THAILAND'S ruling party on Friday named Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan as its candidate to be premier in the kingdom's upcoming general election.

The army-backed Palang Pracharath Party (PPRP) gave the 77-year-old former army chief the nod as unofficial campaigning gathers momentum — although no polling date has yet been announced.

Prawit will run against incumbent Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha, who earlier this month announced he would lead the campaign for the recently created Ruam Thai Sang Chart — in English, the United Thai Nation party.—AFP

## RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

## Ukraine could boycott Paris Olympics if Russian athletes take part

UKRAINE'S sports minister warned on Thursday his country could boycott the 2024 Paris Olympics if Russian and Belarusian athletes are allowed to take part. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) said on Wednesday it was seeking a "pathway" for Russians to take part in the Games despite the invasion of Ukraine. Ukraine's sports minister Vadym Goutzeit said such a move was "unacceptable". "Our position remains unchanged — as long as the war continues in Ukraine, Russian and Belarusian athletes should not be in international competitions," Goutzeit wrote on Facebook.

"If we are not heard, I do not exclude the possibility that we will boycott and refuse to participate



This handout illustration released on 15 December 2021 by Paris 2024 Olympic Committee shows Paris Olympics opening ceremony on 26 July 2024 which will take part on the River Seine, in a departure from long-held tradition **PHOTO: AFP**

in the Olympics." Russia and its ally Belarus have been sidelined from most Olympic sports since Russian forces invaded Ukraine last February. Ignoring calls from Ukraine to ban Russian and Bela-

rusian athletes from next year's summer Olympics, the IOC said Wednesday that a way to allow competitors from those countries to take part as neutrals should be "further explored".—AFP

## 'Be ready': UN refugee chief warns more will flee Ukraine fighting

WITH Russian forces pushing in eastern Ukraine, the UN's Refugee Agency chief told AFP Thursday that Kyiv and European governments should prepare for a possible wave of people fleeing the fighting.

And he said that, despite repeated offers of assistance, Russia was still only granting the agency limited access to Ukrainians there.

"I cannot make military predictions — this is not my expertise," the High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said in the Ukraine capital.

"But one thing I can say is, of course any exacerbation of war risks causing further displacement, one way or another, and we need to be ready for that.—AFP



A Ukrainian man arrives at the Zahony border crossing between Ukraine and Hungary on 23 February 2022. **PHOTO: ATTILA KISBENDEK/AFP/FILE**

## Japan adds targets for Russia sanctions over war in Ukraine

JAPAN decided Friday to add 36 individuals and 52 organizations linked to Russia to its list of sanctions imposed over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, as the

war shows few signs of ending, threatening security in Europe and Asia.

The sanctions, including asset freezes and bans on exports

by Japanese firms, target politicians, military officers, businesspeople, companies in Russia and regions in eastern and southern Ukraine, and others.—Kyodo

# India showcases military might in Republic Day parade

INDIA showcased its military might with tanks and flyovers by roaring fighter jets in the heart of New Delhi on 26 January to mark its annual Republic Day.

The yearly parade is a tightly choreographed spectacle of motorbike stunts, traditional dance and camel-mounted soldiers at a time when the emergent Asian power faces onerous security challenges.

Republic Day marks the adoption of India's post-independence constitution and 26 January event is the latest of several ceremonies commemorating 75 years since the end of British colonial rule last August.

For the first time the parade was held in the revamped colonial-era boulevard that hosts India's most important government buildings, follow-



Indian armed forces ICV BMP II (Sarath) tanks take part in India's 74th Republic Day parade in New Delhi on 26 January 2023. PHOTO: AFP

ing years of renovations at the direction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nationalist government.

"We will move together to fulfil the dreams of the heroes of

our freedom movement," Modi wrote on Twitter to mark the occasion.

India has benefitted in recent years from an increasing economic heft and diplomatic clout that has raised its position in global affairs.

However, Modi's government is grappling with the urgent task of overhauling its outdated armed forces.

Its military establishment is also fretting over a growing assertiveness by China along its vast Himalayan frontier, which in 2019 sparked a lingering diplomatic freeze after a deadly high-altitude confrontation between troops of both countries.

India unveiled its first locally built aircraft carrier last year as part of government efforts to build an indigenous defence industry and reduce reliance on Russia, historically its most important arms supplier.— AFP

# In a first, German parliament spotlights Nazis' LGBTQ victims



The German parliament will for the first time on Friday focus its annual Holocaust memorial commemorations on people persecuted and killed for their sexual or gender identity. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

THE German parliament will for the first time on Friday focus its annual Holocaust memorial commemorations on people persecuted and killed for their sexual or gender identity.

Campaigners worked for two decades to establish an official ceremony for LGBTQ victims of the Nazis, saying their experience had long been forgotten or marginalized.

"This group is important to me because it still suffers from discrimination and hostility," Baerbel Bas, president of the Bundestag lower house, told AFP. Germany has officially marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day — the anniversary of Auschwitz's liberation — since 1996 with a solemn ceremony at the Bundestag and commemorations across the country.—AFP

## WORLD: TOP HEADLINE

### All eyes on turnout as Tunisia votes again after boycott

TUNISIANS are to vote again on Sunday in elections for a parliament stripped of its powers, the final pillar of President Kais Saied's remake of politics in the birthplace of the Arab Spring.

The second-round vote comes as the North African country grapples with a grave economic crisis and deep political divisions over Saied's July 2021 power grab.

Some 262 candidates, including just 34 women, are running for 131 seats in an election whose first round last month saw just 11.2 per cent of registered voters take part.

That was the lowest turnout of any national vote since the 2011 revolt that overthrew dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and triggered copycat uprisings across the Arab world.

The final round comes 18 months after Saied sacked the government and suspended parliament, later moving to seize control of the judiciary and pushing through a constitution last July that gave his office almost unlimited executive power.—AFP

# DR Congo-Rwanda tensions hold up Doha peace summit

QATAR is battling to host a peace meeting between the presidents of rivals DR Congo and Rwanda, even though a summit this week was called off amid rising tensions, diplomats say.

With a rebellion in eastern DR Congo already complicating relations, Rwandan forces this week opened fire at a Congolese fighter jet that they said had vio-

lated Rwandan airspace.

Qatar had planned a meeting of Rwanda's Paul Kagame and DR Congo's Felix Tshisekedi on Monday and a deal to ease tensions was ready, but Tshisekedi refused to attend, diplomats said.

"The intended signing meeting between the presidents of Rwanda and DR Congo has been

postponed until further notice," a Qatar foreign ministry source told AFP.

"Qatar is optimistic that the meeting will take place at a time to be determined."

The source said DR Congo had requested "facilitation" in an "official letter" and "both parties agreed to initiate it in Doha."—AFP



Tshisekedi, left, and Kagame pictured at talks in Rubavu, Rwanda, in June 2021. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



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.

Dyche set to take charge at Everton: reports



Sean Dyche is reportedly set to become Everton's new manager.

PHOTO: AFP

PREMIER League strugglers Everton are set to hire former Burnley manager Sean Dyche to replace the sacked Frank Lampard, according to reports on Friday. Dyche has emerged as the

leading candidate for the Everton job after Marcelo Bielsa reportedly turned down the chance to take charge at Goodison Park.

Bielsa flew into London for talks with the Everton hierarchy on Thursday, but reports suggest the former Leeds boss did not believe the squad left by Lampard was compatible with his demand for a high-tempo style of play.

Dyche, sacked by Burnley last April before the club's relegation from the Premier League, could be appointed within the next 24 hours. Everton owner Farhad Moshiri is believed to want a new manager in place this weekend, with the team's next match not until 4 February against Premier League leaders Arsenal at Goodison.—AFP

Man City face Arsenal showdown, Liverpool eye revenge in FA Cup

MANCHESTER City and Arsenal take a break from an intense Premier League title race this weekend — only to face each other in a heavyweight FA Cup clash at the Etihad. Holders Liverpool will look to avenge their chastening recent defeat at Brighton, while Harry Kane could become Tottenham's all-time top scorer. AFP Sport picks out some of the highlights ahead of this weekend's FA Cup fourth-round ties. Man. City aim to halt Arsenal's momentum Unexpectedly trailing in Arsenal's wake in the Premier League, Manchester City have the chance to slow the leaders'



Manchester City and Arsenal take a break from an intense Premier League title race this weekend — only to face each other in a heavyweight FA Cup clash at the Etihad. PHOTO: AFP

momentum in their first meeting this season. City are five points behind Arsenal, who have a game in hand, but the champions still

have to play the Gunners twice in the league, making their FA Cup showdown a tantalising appetiser ahead of the main course.—AFP

Intermediary person to handle transfer matters : MFF

TO ensure transparency in transfer matters and to ensure that players are not harmed, the World Football Federation has guided member countries to implement the Intermediary Licence, and the Myanmar Football Federation has implemented the Intermediary Licence since 2018.

Intermediary Licence is a recognized licence for an intermediary person who acts as an official intermediary between the player and the club in the case of internal or external transfer of the relevant FIFA member country.

There were three MFF Intermediary Licence applicants recognized by the Myanmar Football Federation to act as an intermediary person officially between the player and the club in domestic and international transfer cases for the 2023 football season. Clubs can handle transfer matters through them.

According to the MFF Regulations on working with intermediaries, Intermediary Persons will only be allowed to receive the player's basic gross income for the entire duration of the relevant employment con-

tract in handling transfer matters.

The term of the MFF Intermediary Licence is set for one year and if they want to continue, they need to pay the specified licence fee and renew the licence. Only those who get the right to act as an Intermediary Person will be legally allowed to carry out domestic and international player transfer activities with the MFF Intermediary Licence issued by the Myanmar Football Federation.

There were four MFF Intermediary Licence holders for the 2018-19 term, no applicants for the 2020-2022 term, and three applicants for the 2023 term.

The three recipients of the MFF Intermediary Licence for 2023 are Nigerian citizen Mr Mba Vitus Onyekachi (extended), Ghanaian Mr Stephen Mensah and Myanmar national U Pyae Phyoo Han.

FIFA also announced in January 2023 that as an Intermediary Person of a FIFA member country, they can contact and apply for a FIFA-recognized agent licence through the relevant member country's football federation. — KZL