

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.

Video message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to 21st Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference and Symposium

8 December 2022

Esteemed officials, guests, Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners and relevant professionals to today's 21st Myanmar Traditional Medicine

Practitioners Conference and Symposium,

Since the year 2000, in the cool season like this, yearly Myanmar tradition-

al medicine practitioners conference and symposium have been held and reached up to this 21st conference and symposium with happy and friendly

participation, exchange of knowledge and sharing of experiences among the practitioners and relevant professionals.

SEE PAGE-3

Manufacturing of traditional medicine contributes to the development of MSME businesses as well as supports an increase in the GDP of the State: Vice-Senior General



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the 21st Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference in Nay Pyi Taw on 8 December 2022.

THE 21st Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference was opened in conjunction

with the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Symposium at the Myanmar International Convention

Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Members of the State Ad-

ministration Council Daw Aye Nu Sein and U Moungh Har, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet

Khaing Win, Director-General Dr Su Su Dwe of the Traditional

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INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Coordination meeting on Myanmar-China tourism promotion held

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NATIONAL

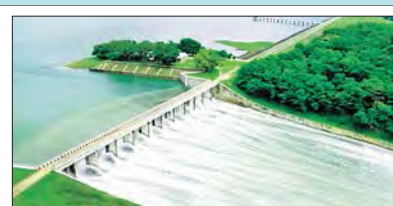
MoBA Union Minister receives Thai Ambassador to Myanmar

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

YESC chooses load shed with power rotation system to balance dam water

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Newly harvested monsoon paddy price declines in Dec first week

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This meeting aims to revive the Chinese tourism market, which is one of the world's largest outbound tourism markets, in order to increase the number of international travellers including China. — MNA/KZL

Video message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to 21st Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference and Symposium

FROM PAGE-1

Following the tradition of yearly participation without fail by generations of practitioners, most of them throughout the country will participate and discuss the all-round development of Myanmar's traditional medicine sector this year too. I would like to greet all of you and I wish all of you to be in both physical and mental well-being.

Since Myanmar dynasties such as Tagaung, Sri Ksetra, Bagan, Inwa, Pinya and Konbaung, Myanmar traditional medicine has developed. It is trustfully utilized by all Myanmar native generations including all ethnic groups. Myanmar people relying on Myanmar traditional medicine had good health and longevity so that they could protect their own nation. Myanmar's traditional medicine is composed of four kinds of Naya and it is very compatible with Myanmar's environmental conditions. Unlike medicines from other countries, it has a long history as a competent medicine with a reputation.

Esteemed traditional medicine practitioners and attendees,

I am very happy to see such a symbol of unity among traditional medicine practitioners. Unity is a great strength for any organization. I believe that Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners are people who value unity. In fact, those practitioners are the people who possess professional skills that are both meritorious and rewarding. They are the professionals the country can be proud of and rely on and are also dependable persons. Myanmar's traditional medicine physicians are respected for being the individuals who have inherited and preserved Myanmar's traditional medicine, which is a key part of the heritage passed down from generation to generation by our ancestors.

At this year's conference, Myanmar traditional practitioners and delegates of the conference aim to achieve all-round development in Myanmar's traditional medicine sector and quality development of Myanmar Traditional Medicine, to raise the quality and moral dignity of Myanmar's traditional practitioners, to further develop Myanmar's traditional medicine, and traditional medicine production technologies, to cooperate with related professionals experts and organizations at home and abroad. With good discussions, consultations and intentions, I believe that the conference



and symposium will produce fruitful results. In addition, the experiences of Myanmar's Traditional Medicine therapies and academic ideas will be exchanged so it is a precious and noble traditional medicine heritage from senior professionals and their successors leading to brighter future for these successors.

Nowadays, western-style medicine has been developing, however, it can be seen that those people in different countries of the world still rely on their natural traditional medicines and use them for treatment.

The State Administration Council is aiming at the health and fitness of the entire nation and is setting up a forward process to carry out the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic prevention activities with momentum and effectiveness.

Now, the Covid-19 pandemic in the world is still existing. The disease will not be eliminated in a short period of time and the genetic variants of the virus are always changing. Therefore, attempts are being made to produce traditional medicines internationally as well as in Myanmar for prevention and treatment against Covid-19.

I'd like to praise officials and all ethnic national people for their efforts to eliminate the disease in a short period of time although the country suffered from the severe infection of the pandemic, while the government is placing an emphasis to arrange prevention and treatment against the pandemic.

To produce traditional medicines that can prevent and treat Covid-19 and seasonal flu, the research is being done on Vi-tha-ma fever medicine which was mentioned in the treatise of traditional medicine of Ma-dha-wani-dan and the main content is bitter traditional medicine, Say-Khar-Gyi. Firstly, the quality tests were done. The tests were followed by immediate and short-term toxicological tests ensuring its safety and efficacy in human subjects. And the clinical trials are done in healthy voluntary human subjects followed by clinical trials on Covid-19 patients with normal signs and symptoms. These successful clinical trial outputs will be followed by the production of this traditional medicine soon. In addition, the standard operating procedures and guidelines for the prevention and treatment of Covid-19 are being established for traditional medicine practitioners. Moreover, guidelines were adopted for the prevention and treatment of those practitioners to fight against Covid-19. I'd like to urge all to strive for effective treatment of ethnic national brethren with the use of local traditional medicines.

Esteemed officials and traditional medicine practitioners,

Those are the historical records of Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners who took care of the health of the people with the use of traditional medicines in successive eras. Therefore, developing the standards of Myanmar traditional medicinal prod-

ucts in accordance with international standards will enable effective Myanmar traditional medicinal products to penetrate internationally, and all Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners have to work together in unity to carry out scientific research on Myanmar traditional medicine.

Subtle and profound Myanmar traditional medicine, traditional medicine treatises and remedies need to be organized systemically. Therefore, I would also like to further encourage that collective effort among Myanmar Traditional practitioners is needed to develop our Traditional Medicine as a national heritage medicine. In addition, it is necessary to preserve the traditional heritage of our traditional medicine as a national culture.

At this time, the Government is taking special measures to promote the development of traditional medicine in Myanmar, and Myanmar Traditional Medicine Council has been established. One of the many responsibilities of the council, I would like to emphasize the maintenance and discipline of traditional medical ethics for traditional medical professionals.

The Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference and Traditional Medicine Symposium play an important role in the all-round development of Myanmar Traditional Medicine. In this conference and symposium, the Ministry of Health, Department of Traditional Medicine, University of Traditional Medicine, professionals and representatives from related ministries, Myanmar Traditional Medicine Council, Myanmar Traditional Medicine Association, and representatives of traditional medicine practitioners from all over Myanmar, Traditional Medicine Advisory Group, Myanmar Traditional Medicine Manufacturers and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association etc., will have good discussions and consultations leading to fruitful outcomes of the conference and symposium.

Therefore, in this 21st Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference and the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Symposium, delegates will be engaged in friendly, open discussions and consultations in unity, submitting proposals to provide more public health services through traditional medicine and I send this message in honour of the 21st Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference and Symposium.

Thank you all.

Manufacturing of traditional medicine contributes to the development of MSME businesses as well as supports ...



Vice-Senior General Soe Win views round the exhibits at the event.

FROM PAGE-1

Medicine Department and traditional medicine practitioner U Than Nyunt formally unveiled the conference and the symposium.

Patron of the Leading Organizing Committee for the conference and symposium SAC Vice Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win pressed the button to open the conference and the symposium.

Then, the video message sent by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the conference and the symposium was presented.

(The full text of the video message of the Senior General is reported separately on page 1.)

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General said the existence of Myanmar traditional medicine as a national medical education in successive eras, and the preservation of the traditional medicine in the compilation of medical treatises on palm leaves and folded papers in Tagaung, Sri Ksetra, Bagan, Pinya, Inwa and Konbaung eras.

The Vice-Senior General continued that the Myanmar traditional medicine conference and symposium have been held for the 21st time since 2000. Traditional medicine research

is conducted annually and its findings are presented at the paper-reading session of the conference and the symposium for improvement of the medical science. The Vice-Senior General urged new-generation traditional medicine practitioners to systematically conduct research for further development of the science. Manufacturing of traditional medicine contributes to the development of MSME businesses as well as supports an increase in the GDP of the

State.

Next, a video clip was presented on the endeavours of the Traditional Medicine Department. The Vice-Senior General and party posed for documentary photos together with traditional medicine practitioners, traditional medicine producers, delegates and officials.

After the ceremony, the Vice-Senior General viewed round the booths of traditional medicines displayed by relevant regions and states.

The conference and the symposium followed under the leadership of Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win.

In the evening, the Vice-Senior General hosted a dinner in honour of the delegates to the conference and the staff of the Fine Arts Department presented traditional dances and songs. After the dinner, the Vice-Senior General presented gifts to the staff of the Fine Arts Department who entertained performances.— MNA



Vice-Senior General Soe Win hosts the dinner to honour the conference delegates.

Advanced Accounting and Auditing Training School inaugurated to mark Diamond Jubilee Independence Day

AN opening ceremony of the Advanced Accounting and Auditing Training School was held at 9 am yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

State Administration Council member U Sai Lone Seng, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister

for Construction U Myo Thant, Union Auditor-General U Tin Oo, deputy ministers from respective ministries, the deputy auditor-general, departmental heads and guests invited by the Myanmar Association of Certified Public Accountants attended the event.

The SAC member, Union ministers and the Union au-

ditor-general ceremonially inaugurated the school and took documentary photos with attendees.

Union Auditor-General U Tin Oo said that the Government Accounting and Auditing School was opened in Yangon under the guidance and supervision of the State Auditor-General, who was appointed under the Constitu-

tion of the Union of Myanmar in 1948.

It moved to Nay Pyi Taw in 2009 and conducted accounting and admin skill courses and statistics courses for government employees to train and produce more accounting skilful personnel and competent ethical accountants who can contribute to the country's economic

development. It also aimed to expand accounting and auditing courses for both the state-owned and private sectors.

Then, Permanent Secretary of the Union Auditor-General Office Daw Khaing Khaing Aung shared information about the training school, the current courses and future plans to extend the courses. — MNA/KZL

SAC member MoHA Union Minister receives Thai ambassador

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut, a member of the State Administration Council, received the delegation led by Mr Mongkol Visitstump, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the parlour of the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

They cordially exchanged views on the rule of law be-

tween the two countries, combatting transnational crimes, prevention and suppression of human trafficking, drug control, capacity-building of the Myanmar Police Force and bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing and Deputy Minister and Chief of Myanmar Police Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet also attended the meeting. — MNA/MKKS



SAC member Union Minister Lt-Gen Soe Htut receives Thai Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visitstump yesterday.

MoFA, MoIC Union Ministers meet staff who will serve at Myanmar embassies, permanent representative offices, consulates-general



UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing addressed the meeting with staff officers and employees who will serve at Myanmar embassies, permanent representative offices, and consulates-general yesterday.

In his remark, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin highlighted the role of staff of the ministry as protectors of the country's sovereignty in the front-line by diplomatic channels as mentioned in the saying: Diplomacy is the first line of defence for not losing the sovereignty of the country and for promoting the

international cooperation.

He also said the ministry systematically selected and assigned the staff who will serve the duties upholding the national interest of the country.

Therefore, the staff should follow the five main diplomatic functions – Representation, Protection, Negotiation, Reporting and Promotion.

He also called on the staff to be loyal to national politics, sovereignty and ministry in serving duties representing the nation.

Then, Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing stressed three points: to be all with the diplomat, be a good diplomat and keep yourself fit for duty. — MNA/KTZH

21st Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference and Symposium held

THE 21st Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference and Symposium on Myanmar Traditional Medicine Science were held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Chairman of the Leading Committee on Organizing the 21st Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference and Symposium on Myanmar Traditional Medicine Science Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win chaired the conference, and Sub-committee Chairman Director-General of the Traditional Medicine Department Dr Su Su Dwe, Chairman of the Advisory Board on Traditional Medicine Professor

Dr U Meik, Myanmar Traditional Medicine Council Patron U Myint Lwin and Vice-Chairman U Paw Nyein acted as panelists.

The Union minister delivered the opening speech.

Afterwards, Representative Daw Ar Sa Mi from Kachin State and Representative U Saw Hla Htoo Kyaw from Mon State submitted their proposals and conference representatives from Mandalay Region and Magway Region seconded the proposals.

In the afternoon, Chairman of the Working Committee on Organizing the 21st Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference and Symposium on Myanmar Traditional

Medicine Science Deputy Minister Dr Aye Tun chaired the second session of the conference, and Director-General Dr Su Su Dwe, Myanmar Traditional Medicine Council Chairman U Myint Oo, MTMC Patron U Myint Lwin, Vice Chairman of the Advisory Board on Traditional Medicine U Than Nyunt and ABTM member U Wa Tun acted as panellists.

Then, Representative U Zaw Lin from Shan State, Representative U Han Nyein from Bago Region, and Representative U Thaik Tun from Magway Region put forward their proposals and representatives from Yangon Region, Chin State and Rakhine State seconded the proposals.



Next, the video message to the conference and symposium by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing was put on record.

The conference approved the instructions in the opening speech of Patron of the Leading

Committee on Organizing the 21st Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference and Symposium on Myanmar Traditional Medicine Science SAC Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win as work guidelines. — MNA/CT

MoBA Union Minister receives Thai Ambassador to Myanmar



UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung received Mr Mongkol Visitsump, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Border Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

They cordially discussed stability, peace and development of border areas, the development of human resources for ethnic youths and the progress of the socioeconomic development of locals in border areas, the implementation of long-term development projects carried out in collaboration between the Ministry of Border Affairs and the Mae Fah Luang Foundation of Thailand in Tachilek Township and Pinlaung Township and further cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Phyo Thant, the permanent secretary, the director-general and officials. — MNA/MKKS

Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung meets Thai Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visitsump yesterday.

MoIC Union Minister receives Thai Ambassador

UNION Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing of the Ministry of International Cooperation received Mr Mongkol Visitsump, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at 4 pm on 8 December 2022 at the Ministry of International Cooperation in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union minister extended congratulations to the ambassador on his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. During the meeting, both sides discussed matters relat-

ed to further enhancement of traditional bonds of friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand as well as on continued cooperation between the two countries in regional and multilateral fora on the basis of mutual understanding and support. — MNA



MoIP Union Minister receives acting UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Myanmar

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing met Mr Ramanathan Balakrishnan, acting UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Myanmar and party at the ministry's meeting hall at 10 am yesterday.

Both parties discussed and exchanged views concerning friendly cooperation with UN agencies, arrangement of entry visas and accommodation for foreign employees from UN agencies, the collaboration of UN agencies over humanitarian activities in Myanmar, support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for taking a census in Myanmar and measures for further cooperation.

Deputy Ministers U Htay Hlaing and Dr Myo Thant, and officials were also present at the meeting. — MNA/CT

MoEP Union Minister discusses projects with Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom

THE Ministry of Electric Power organized a meeting on projects with the Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

First, Union Minister U Thaung Han said the meeting is a result of longstanding Myanmar-Russia relations to cooperate with Rosatom and negotiate regarding the needs on the ground.

The Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Electric Power signed "Road Map on Cooperation in the field of the use of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes for 2022-2023" with Rosatom on 6 September during the 7th Eastern Economic Forum-EEF which was held in Russia between 5 and 8 September.

Moreover, the Electric Power Planning Department of the ministry made an agreement on feasibility studies for the Russia-Myanmar Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Project on 21 November with Rosatom Energy Projects, a Joint Stock Company while an MoU assessment study agreement on 22 November during the visit to Russia for ATOM-EXPO-2022.

The ministry also discussed with Rosatom company to make private investments in projects such as expanding the investment, constructing the power plant, developing small hydropower plants and renewable energy and wind energy project.

The country also invites to cooperate in technical support, construction operations and the investment sector. Discussions are being made to conduct a feasibility study for the thermal power plant project and study the potential locations. Moreover, field studies were also carried out for proper locations to establish wind power plants and small hydropower plants, he added.

At noon, the Union minister discussed matters related to small hydropower projects, renewable wind power projects, thermal power projects and lithium battery factories for electric vehicles in Myanmar with respective project groups. — MNA/KTZH



Imposters, fraudsters pry into customers' data on mobile phone



Notice of KBZ bank.

THE local private banks released statements on their Facebook pages as the swindlers ask for the data of customers from mobile phones by pretending as bank staff.

Similarly, AYA Bank announced that there might be fraudsters who will steal personal data using various ways online/offline. Therefore, customers should keep their bank cards, PIN, account number, username, passwords, OTP, iBanking and mBanking and should not share these numbers with others. The customers should contact the call centre at 01 2317777 or the nearest banks for any loss of cards, passbooks and cheques. – TWA/KTZH

Taxes levied in H2 of FY2021-2022 amount to K3,069 billion

A 2021-2022 annual report of the Internal Revenue Department mentioned that various kinds of taxes accumulated K3,069 billion in the six months of the 2021-2022 financial year.

From October 2021 to March 2022, the government raised K3,069 billion—K1,424.6 billion in income tax, K998.1 billion in commercial tax, K574.9 billion in specific goods tax and K53.1 billion in stamp duty. It is known that income tax is 46 per cent of the total tax revenue.

Total revenues were collected at K4,745.732 billion in the 2020-2021 financial year and over K3,379 billion in the 2019-2020FY, the information unit under the Central Statistical Organization quoted the Internal Revenue Department as stating. — TWA/CT



The Internal Revenue Department (Yangon).

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UNCAC AT 20 : UNITING THE WORLD AGAINST CORRUPTION”

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YESC chooses load shed with power rotation system to balance dam water

THE Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation announced that it adopted a power rotation system across the nation as the power is generated with an equal amount of dam water.

The YESC also said they arrange to provide power for 24 hours to hospitals, universities, pagodas and important departments and they also apologized to the public for facing difficulties in their daily life as they carry out load shed to prevent system breakdown while the national power system is unstable due to the failures of power grids and generators.

The EPC staff are also making efforts to supply electricity to the people systematically and carry out maintenance in a timely manner.

They also reply to the



Water is distributed by Salin Dam.

questions of the public from the YESC Call Centre and Facebook Page, and offer 24 hours services at 01-2302285, 01-2302286, 01-2302287, 01-2302288, 01-2302289, hotline number 1717 and Facebook pages of respective townships, according to YESC. — TWA/KTZH

Save the global people from corruption

CORRUPTION is a root cause to destroy society and society participants. Such an act is powerful to destroy the positions of anyone by luring everybody into the naughty nature of morality.

In fact, act of corruption is a common enemy of global people as well as all living beings. Hence, they all need to fight against the persons who commit corruption. At the same time, local authorities should raise public awareness for enabling all people young and old to understand the consequences of corruption, its exploitation

International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) which falls on 9 December 2022 seeks to highlight the crucial link between anti-corruption and peace, security, and development. At its core is the notion that tackling this crime is the right and responsibility of everyone, and that only through cooperation and the involvement of each and every person and institution can we overcome the negative impact of this crime.

Corruption is similar to a spark or a flame which triggers dissatisfaction among the people in the society and it likes pushing the society into a deteriorated ravine. It is because corruption is a tool to collapse the structure of society as well as families. Corruption not only follows conflict but is also frequently one of its root causes. It fuels conflict and inhibits peace processes by undermining the rule of law, worsening poverty, facilitating the illicit use of resources, and providing financing for armed conflict.

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Actually, fighting corruption is designed to save the global people from the deterioration of the society and lives of the corruption victims. Only when the society participants avoid corruption acts will they be free from the lives of corruption victims.

IN THE early part of the night, some words come from the bedroom.

“Show us again, Grandad!” Two young voices shout in unison.

“Well... I shouldn’t. It’s a secret, you see,” says Ah Ba Saw. Glassy-eyed, he speaks slowly, running the words together, and holds a finger to his lips.

“Aw... please!” says Su Lay. Six years old, she’s the youngest and most curious. Zaw, who is eight, says nothing, but his big eyes are fixed on Ah Ba Saw’s arm. Both children are meant to be in bed, ready for school tomorrow.

“OK, just this once,” says Ah Ba Saw. “But don’t tell your dad. You know he doesn’t like it.”

Ah Ba Saw pulls the shirt back from his right arm to show a long, pale line of pink skin.

“Now, did I tell you where I was when the lion attacked me?”

“Lion?” says Zaw, looking confused. “But you said it was a bear.”

Ko Kyaw Kha doesn’t get home until 11:30 pm, his eyes are burning from lack of sleep. He’s been working extra hours at the warehouse to help pay the bills. Costs keep rising and being a single dad to Su Lay and Zaw means there’s no one to share the costs with him.

The world today faces some of its greatest challenges in many generations – challenges which threaten prosperity and stability for people across the globe. The plague of corruption is intertwined in most of them. Hence, relevant governments should prioritize anti-corruption measures in all sectors of the nation to be able to save the victims of corruption.

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The room looks as if there’s been a break-in: toys, cushions, pizza boxes, and chocolate wrappers everywhere. Ko Kyaw Kha starts to clear up. He takes a cold slice of fruit cake from one of the boxes and eats it in a couple of bites. He finds the remote under one of the chairs and turns the TV off. As if by magic, Ah Ba Saw’s eyes open. “Took your time,” he says.

“Have you been drinking?” asks Ko Kyaw Kha. He hates asking Ah Ba Saw to babysit, but no one else was available at short notice.

Ah Ba Saw gives him a look. “Stop it,” he says.

When Ko Kyaw Kha goes upstairs to check on the children, Zaw is asleep, but Su Lay’s wide awake. “Bad dreams?” he asks, strumming her dark hair. She nods. “A lion attacked Grandpa,” she says. “It hurt his arm.”

Downstairs, Ko Kyaw Kha finds his father standing in the hall.

“I phoned for a taxi,” says Ah Ba Saw.

Ko Kyaw Kha picks up his wallet to pay for the fare, but Ah Ba Saw puts a hand on his arm. “Keep it.”

“Thanks for helping out.”

“Right.”

Ko Kyaw Kha smells the whisky on his father.

“You’ve got to stop telling the kids those scar stories, Dad. And you can’t come here and drink.”

“Ah, it’s just a tipple. And they

The Scar in A Boast

By Yin New Ko

love my adventure stories,” says Ah Ba Saw.

“Su Lay’s been having bad dreams. Again. You scare her. And Zaw. Why do you have to show them that thing anyway?”

“That ‘thing’, as you call it, is part of me, part of this family’s history.”

“Why can’t we just leave it behind, Dad?”

“You were late.”

“The bus didn’t come. I walked. You could have come to get me,” says Ah Ba Saw.

“You were late. So, we started our journey late...”

“You were speeding. You were angry.” “She was angry with you. Remember?”

“That’s not true,” says Ah Ba Saw, thinking, why do we do this? He can feel the old wounds opening.

Just at that moment, Ah Ba Saw’s mobile rings.

“Taxi’s here,” he says, opening the door, pulling his collar up against the rain, and walking

down the footpath towards the waiting car. He doesn’t wave or look back.

Ko Kyaw Kha shuts the door and goes to the kitchen, cleaning up and making himself a fried egg. He can’t sleep, not now. He takes the fried egg with a slice of bread through to the living room and watches a late-night film. He wakes up at around three with a stiff neck and his head filled with images of his mother. He can see her in the front of the car, turning to smile at him. He hears her voice, like an echo inside of him. Outside, he can see the rain falling.

Sitting on the living room floor, Ko Kyaw Kha looks through old family photo albums. There are plenty of pictures of Su Lay and Zaw when they were growing up, of him and Ma Thu Zar when times were good – before she left him for a new life and a new husband. He doesn’t see his father in many of them. He makes a cup of coffee and then looks at one

of the older albums. Black-and-white photos of Ah Ba Saw and his mother in their 20s. Some pictures of the three of them: Mum, Dad and him. He’s never smiling. Was I such a difficult child? Ko Kyaw Kha wonders. It’s what his father always tells him.

Everyone thought that Ko Kyaw Kha would follow his father in the family law firm. But he didn’t. He became a joiner. He loved the feel and smell of wood, of the tools, and the way they produced something tangible. And with each year that passed, he and Ah Ba Saw had less and less to say to one another. Their only connection now was the children. But his experience told Ko Kyaw Kha not to trust Ah Ba Saw around the kids.

He was 14 years old when it happened. His father was driving, tight-mouthed, and in a bad mood. His mother was in the passenger seat beside him, trying to calm things down as she always did. Their car sped past a caravan as it came to a corner. A lorry had been coming the other way. The distance closed far too fast. He could hear his mother scream.

Ko Kyaw Kha suffered whiplash and bruising from the seat belt. His father’s arm was cut open by the impact. And his mother? A shattered windscreen and an empty seat. She died instantly, the police said.

If only I hadn’t been delayed, thinks Ko Kyaw Kha, as he always does, maybe we wouldn’t have been speeding. He looks at a photo of his mother and him, in which Ko Kyaw Kha is probably Su Lay’s age, tucked up in bed, his mother reading him a story. Outside, he hears bird-song and the first traffic of a new day. He vows to himself things will be different.

Later that day, the warehouse manager calls Ko Kyaw Kha to ask if he can work another night shift. He says no. One job is enough. Somehow, they will manage. He finishes work at the joinery firm early and picks up the kids from the after-school club. He cooks some instant noodles for tea, which the children both love. Afterwards, they play a game on the console together, Su Lay and Zaw laughing and fighting good-naturedly. Then they sit and watch a game show on TV. Afterwards, as they get ready for bed, Ko Kyaw Kha tells the children that he has a special story to tell them tonight.

“Is it about lions?” asks Su Lay.

“Nope,” says Ko Kyaw Kha. “Nor bears. It’s about your grandmother,” he adds. And he thinks how she must have ached with love for her son, just as he does now for his two beautiful children. Su Lay releases a heavy sigh but Zaw is smiling.

Reference: Spotlight 2022



MYANMAR Daily Weather Report

(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Thursday 8 December 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30) hrs M.S.T today, the Cyclonic Storm” MANDOUS” over Southwest Bay of Bengal has moved West-Northwestwards. It is centered at about (640) Nautical miles West-Southwest of Coco Island, (740) Nautical miles West-Southwest of Hainggyigyun (Myanmar), (190) Nautical miles East-Northeast of Jaffna (Sri Lanka) and (245) Nautical miles Southeast of Chennai (India). Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 9 December 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and isolated in Bago Region and Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (35) mph. Wave height will be about (8-10) feet off and along Myanmar Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 December 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 December 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR Mandalay and Neighbouring Area for 9 December 2022: Partly cloudy.

Care home nurses still require help to recover from Covid trauma: Research

ACCORDING to University of East Anglia research, those on the front lines of the Covid pandemic require mental health treatment to help them recover from or manage the stress and trauma they experienced.

A new report published today investigates the impact of the pandemic on nurses working in care homes.

It shows how care home nurses were unprepared for the situation they found themselves in, and that this impacted their mental health and wellbeing.

The research team say that these frontline workers need a mental health and wellbeing strategy to help promote recovery from the symptoms of trauma and mor-

al distress that they faced during the pandemic.

Lead researcher Diane Bunn, from UEA’s School of Health Sciences, said: “Our work shows that care home nurses were completely unprepared for the extraordinary situation they found themselves in during the Covid-19 pandemic, and that this has impacted their mental health and wellbeing.

“They had to manage a highly infectious new disease, associated with high mortality, in residents already living with complex clinical conditions.

“They did this alongside staff shortages, constantly changing and conflicting guidelines and with minimal external professional sup-

port. “Health and social care staff are still very much in a recovery phase. They need time to recover from all that happened during the pandemic and many of them will need counselling and mental health support for some time.

“Supporting care home nurses to recover from the pandemic is essential to maintain a healthy, stable workforce.”

The research team carried out in-depth interviews with care home nurses about their experiences of the pandemic, across homes for older people in England and Scotland. They particularly focused on the nurses’ resilience and mental wellbeing.

“All of the nurses we spoke to described being attentive to the

needs of others, but less attentive to their own needs, which came at personal cost,” said Bunn.

“There are many lessons to be learnt to support their recovery and ensure appropriate policies are in place in preparedness for the next pandemic,” she added.

The study highlights a range of strategies to help nurses accept and recover from their experiences, and suggestions for how to better prepare for future pandemics. These include:

-Bespoke mental health and well-being strategy for care home nurses in the current pandemic recovery period and ensuring that this is ongoing and adaptable for future pandemics and disasters.

- Wider professional and gov-

ernment recognition of the specialist skills required of care home nurses.

- Revisit guidance to better prepare for any future pandemics and disasters on care homes

Involvement of care home nurses in the development of disaster-response policies in care homes.

- Consistency of guidelines, and research-informed methods for effective communication of guidelines.

“Support for care home nurses will likely benefit other care-home workers either directly through wider roll-out, or indirectly through improved wellbeing of nurse leaders,” added Bunn.

SOURCE: ANI



A nurse gives a COVID-19 jab to a care home resident in Wigan. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ OLI SCARFF/AFP

LOCAL BUSINESS

Newly harvested monsoon paddy price declines in Dec first week



Paddies are put into a bag to proceed to the milling process.

THE price of newly harvested monsoon paddy 2022 dipped at the end of the first week of December.

The prices of new monsoon paddy (Thuka variety) gained K1,340,000 per 100 baskets (50 pounds per basket) in the previous days. On 7 December, it slid to K1,320,000 per 100 baskets, according to price data of a rice mill in Kyungon village in Wake-ma Township.

The paddy price was estimated at K1.3 million per 100 baskets in end-November and then, it climbed to K1,340,000 per 100 baskets. At present, the price of the Ayeyapadetha paddy variety was K1,350,000 in mid-November. It rose to K1.41 million per 100 baskets at the end of November.

On 7 December, the price showed a decrease of K10,000 compared to last month's rate.

Nonetheless, the prices of Pawsan paddy hovers gained at K1,675,000 per 100 baskets (52 pounds in a basket) in early December, which soared from K1.6 million. The large rice mill in the delta region shared the small decrease in paddy and rice prices

these days on social media.

It has been three months since the new monsoon paddy entered markets. The majority of the monsoon paddies have been harvested. Stocks of other farmers working on a manageable scale are sold out. At present, the stocks are in possession of only those growers working on a large scale and traders.

The new paddy prices this year reached a record high of last year's price when those traders who kept the stocks resold them.

The traders are not certain about profitability like last year. The current price decline raised concerns of the traders, U Khin Maung Htay, a rice trader from Pyapon Township, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Traders who keep the paddy stocks in their hands are monitoring the prices of low-grade paddy at the harvest of summer paddy. The prices of low-grade rice and broken rice are positively related to the foreign exchange rate and export price.

The Kyat against the US dollar is valued at approximately K2,800 in the first week of December. The export prices are K42,300-43,800 per bag of low-grade rice and K39,200-41,000 per bag of broken rice said a trader involved at Bayintnaung wholesale market.

The rice prices and market conditions of the top exporting countries (India, Thailand and Viet Nam) influenced Myanmar's rice market to a certain extent. The export price of Myanmar's rice is a bit lower than that of India. The old Pawsan rice flooded the Yangon markets in mid-November. The price seemed to increase yet the market slowed down in the first week of December.

The price of new Pawsan rice is K10,000 higher than that recorded in the same period last year. This year, high prices prompted the dealers to ramp up the milling process of paddy. The prices of Pawsan rice from various regions were up by K5,000 respectively. Old Pawsan rice from the Shwebo area is K30,000 higher than the new one. – TWA/EMM

Kyat depreciation against US dollar slows significantly

MYANMAR managed to hold back Kyat depreciation against greenbacks and the Kyat-US Dollar over-the-counter rate has dipped in the local forex market.

In August, a dollar value hit an all-time high of over K4,500 in the grey market. The prevailing exchange rate is K2,820 for buying and K2,850 for selling in the grey market.

However, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) set the reference exchange rate for the US Dollar at K2,100. In order to strengthen the domestic currency in the local forex market, the CBM set the currency trading band at 0.3 per cent for the Kyat to fluctuate between these two specified upper and lower exchange rates for transactions, selling or buying, according to a directive issued by the CBM on 10 August 2022.

Therefore, financial institutions including banks and informal money exchanges are instructed to set a dollar value at K2,100 for buying and K2,106 for selling. However, those rates are not effective in trading for now.

Consequently, the CBM sold dollars at its auction market for the sectors in need, to control the soaring dollar.

A total of \$443.8 million were sold at an auction rate in 2021 as well.

Last September 2021, a dollar value hit a peak



of over K3,000 in the black market, pushing pure gold up to K2.22 million per tical.

Under the guidance of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, the Monitoring and Steering Committee on Gold and Currency Market was formed on 17 December 2021 as gold and currency market stability play a crucial role in the trade facilitation.

The objectives of the committee are inspecting and prosecuting market manipulation, checking if there is compliance with payment rules in the domestic market, and proceeding against those unscrupulous traders who intend to interfere with the free and fair operation of the market under the existing laws, by-laws and regulations in line with the official directives, illegal foreign currency holding, illegal trade and taking legal actions against price manipulators. – NN/EMM

The prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 8 December 2022

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K1,865
Octane 95	K1,960
Diesel	K2,195
Premium Diesel	K2,270

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,102,000 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,668,000 per tical

Dollar Price

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,820 to K2,850

The above prices may change from time to time.

A d v e r t i s e

with us / Hot Line : 09974424848

HEALTH/PANDEMIC
WORLD

E-cigarette maker Juul reaches settlement with 10,000 plaintiffs



Juul is battling to stay afloat after the US Food and Drug Administration found the company had failed to address safety concerns and ordered all its products off the market in the United States. **PHOTO: EVA HAMBACH/AFP**

US e-cigarette manufacturer Juul Labs said on Tuesday it had reached a settlement with about 10,000 plaintiffs in California after the company was accused of marketing its prod-

ucts to teenagers. The vaping giant did not disclose the amount of the settlements, which it said were related to more than 5,000 cases, but said the agreements “represent

a major step toward strengthening Juul Labs’ operations and securing the company’s path forward”. The complaints had been filed for personal injury, with some in consumer class action lawsuits, and others filed by government entities or Native American tribes. Juul is battling to stay afloat after the US Food and Drug Administration found the company had failed to address safety concerns and ordered all its products off the market in the United States. The company has appealed the decision but announced last month it had been forced to lay off around 400 employees and cut its operating budget by up to 40 per cent. Juul said in November it had secured financing from early investors to maintain its operations.— AFP

Depression hits poorest hardest: UK study



About one in four (27 per cent) adults who reported difficulty in affording the rent or mortgage payments had moderate to severe depressive symptoms. **PHOTO: AFP**

BRITONS hardest hit by the cost-of-living crisis are also the worst affected by depression, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said on Tuesday. Households are facing inflation at 40-year highs of 11 per cent, forcing up the cost of food at the same time as energy prices soar on the back of the war in Ukraine. Nearly a quarter (24 per cent) of people who had trouble paying their energy bills over

four weeks to 23 October experienced “moderate to severe depressive symptoms”. That was almost three times higher than those who found it easy to pay (nine per cent), the ONS said in a new report based on answers from nearly 4,300 people aged 16 and over. About one in four (27 per cent) adults who reported difficulty in affording the rent or mortgage payments had moder-

ate to severe depressive symptoms. For those who had no trouble paying, the figure was 15 per cent, it added. In all, one in 16 (16 per cent) of British adults surveyed had moderate to severe depressive symptoms — similar to 2021 but higher than pre-pandemic levels (10 per cent). The study found levels of depression highest among adults who were unable to work because of long-term sickness (59 per cent). Unpaid carers were the next worst affected (37 per cent), followed by disabled adults (35 per cent) and adults in the most deprived parts of England (25 per cent). The figures for young adults aged 16 to 29 were 28 per cent. The UK saw the economy shrink in the third quarter of this year and is already in recession, according to several assessments. The Bank of England has estimated the contraction will last for most of next year.— AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Aussie state launches investigation into Salmonella outbreak linked to 27 infections

AUSTRALIA'S New South Wales Ministry of Health (NSW Health) has launched an investigation into a Salmonella outbreak following a conference with more than 200 people present last week. NSW Health said on Wednesday that 69 attendees from NSW, the Northern Territory and Queensland are known to be unwell with symptoms of food poisoning, of which 27 people have confirmed Salmonella infections. At least 31 of them are so far known to have attended emergency departments. “NSW Health is working closely with the NSW Food Authority to investigate the cause of the outbreak,” said the state’s Executive Director of Public Health Jeremy McNulty.—Xinhua

Over 2.6 mln Somali children vaccinated against polio, measles: UN

THE World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said Wednesday that 2.61 million children in Somalia have been vaccinated against measles and polio. The UN agencies said the nationwide integrated immunization campaign which was rolled out in November amid severe drought targeted children under five years to save them from vaccine-preventable diseases like measles and polio.—Xinhua

Lebanon’s cholera outbreak under control: health minister

LEBANESE caretaker Health Minister Firas Abiad said on Wednesday that the cholera outbreak in Lebanon is under control given the limited number of confirmed daily cases, the National News Agency reported. In the first phase of the vaccination campaign against cholera, 479,582 vaccines have been administered in four governorates, six districts and 80 towns, with 42 per cent going to Lebanese citizens, 46 per cent

to displaced Syrians and six per cent to Palestinians and other nationalities, Abiad told a press conference. A new batch of vaccines are expected to arrive in December for the second phase of the vaccination campaign, which will target 900,000 residents in 295 Lebanese towns and some camps in Tripoli, Dahiye, Baalbek, and the remaining villages of Akkar, he said.—Xinhua



Lebanon has so far confirmed 653 cholera cases, while the cumulative number, including suspected cases, stands at 4,912, with a death toll of 23. **PHOTO: WHO**

World economy faces more pain in 2023 after a gloomy year

THIS was supposed to be the comeback year for the world economy following the Covid pandemic. Instead, 2022 was marked by a new war, record inflation and climate-linked disasters. It was a “polycrisis” year, a term popularised by historian Adam Tooze. Get ready for more gloom in 2023. “The number of crises has increased since the start of the century,”

said Roel Beetsma, professor of macroeconomics at the University of Amsterdam. “Since World War Two we have never seen such a complicated situation,” he told AFP.

After the Covid-induced economic crisis of 2020, consumer prices began to rise in 2021 as countries emerged from lockdowns or other restrictions. Central bankers insisted that high inflation would only be temporary as economies returned to normal. But Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in late February sent energy and food prices soaring.

Many countries are now grappling with cost-of-living crises because wages are not keeping up with inflation, forcing households to make difficult choices in their spending.—AFP

Public Notice

The Group of Ngwe Yi Pale Companies is a company owned by Myanmar nationals and established by the Department of Investment and Companies Administration. The Company is implementing the Crown Cement Factory, Sinshweli Sugar Factories and Mineral Mining Projects (Industry Mineral Raw Material) by legal permits issued by the relevant Ministries. The Company is creating a lot of job opportunities for local people in the area where the projects are being operated by the Company and uplifting the status of socio-economic life of the local people. Similarly our people know that the products produced by Our Company and consumed reliably by the people are high quality locally produced. With intention to defame the Company and to reduce the public reliability, fake news with misinformation were sperad in the website of www.burmacampaign.org.uk on (28.1.2021) and in the website of www.shanhumanrights.org on (13.12.2021). We are a company being implemented economic businesses with the intention of all people living in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar but not as described in the statements made by the aforesaid websites without taking part in any political activities and without any party or personal bias. It is a company that has obtained approvals in accordance with the Directives, the Existing Laws and Orders and is also carrying out the environmental protection activities.

Therefore this is to declare that anyone will be taken into legal action in compliance with applicable laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar if prepared or distributed misinformation with intention of damaging the good dignity of the Ngwe Yi Pale Company Limited or with intention of causing the damage and loss in economic businesses or with intention of reducing the public reliability.

Assigned by	According to Assignment
The Group of Ngwe Yi Pale Companies	Daw Nandar Myint Thein (Sr.8036) (Supreme Court Lawyer) Nandar & Associates Legal Services Co.,Ltd No.(Gagyi-4), 65 th Street Between 34 th x35 th Streets, Chanayetharsan Township, Mandalay. Ph No. 09-450049706, 092035855,02420744843 Email: lawfirmmyanmar@gmail.com

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

AS the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 22nd DECEMBER 2022 (Karin New Year day) and 25th DECEMBER 2022 (Christmas day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CHATTANOOGA VOY.NO. (N061)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHATTANOOGA VOY.NO. (N061)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S INTER ASIA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (186N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (186N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

သတင်းစာ မှာယူလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
09 454 237 515

သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာသံ့ချိန်စီ
ပို့ပေးလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
01 860 4530

Japan sees 1st current account deficit in 9 months in October

JAPAN posted a current account deficit of 64.1 billion yen (\$470 million) in October, its first red ink in nine months, as the yen's recent weakness and rising oil prices inflated import costs, the Finance Ministry said Thursday.

The current account balance, one of the widest gauges of international trade, turned red in the reporting month from a 1.73 trillion yen surplus a year earlier, marking the sharpest drop on record, according to the ministry's preliminary data.

It was Japan's second current account deficit for October since comparable data became available in 1985, following a deficit of 16.2 billion yen logged in 2013.

The country's goods trade deficit stood at 1.88 trillion yen, after imports totalled 10.86 trillion yen, up 56.9 per cent from a year earlier for the 21st straight month of increase.

The values of both exports and imports were the highest on record for a single month, but that of imports surpassed exports by a wide margin amid the yen's slide against the US dollar, according to the ministry.

The yen temporarily fell to the upper 151 level against the dollar in October, a 32-year low. The value of imports was pushed up by surging crude oil, liquefied natural gas and coal prices, driven by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.—Kyodo

Belgian
Christmas
tree growers
grapple with
price spikes

CHRISTMAS tree producers in Belgium are struggling for seasonal cheer as they wrestle with the impact of high energy costs and inflation fuelled by the war in Ukraine.

“We are suffering from the rise in the price of fuel, fertilizer and all the by-products of plastics,” lamented Gerald de Wouters, manager at leading tree grower Greencap, as he stood in the early-morning December fog.

Around him, workers at a vast plantation in southern Belgium were busily felling conifers destined to decorate living rooms around Europe.

But this year Santa Claus is set to put his presents under a more expensive tree as Europe grapples with economic upheaval.—AFP

UK pubs feel
Christmas
pressure as
inflation bites

INSIDE the Mad Hatter pub in central London’s South Bank district, everything is ready: the big tree, the bright lights, the fun Christmas signage. Although the tone may be festive, the mood behind the bar and at similarly adorned pubs nationwide is far less upbeat. December represents a crucial month for the sector, accounting for as much as 10 per cent of annual turnover thanks to Christmas parties — an institution in the UK — and other social gatherings. After the pandemic ruined the festivities — and revenues — over the last two years, pubs, bars and other venues are relying on the coming season to help kickstart their longer-term recoveries.—AFP

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

9th December 2022

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
e-Government Integrated Data Center (e-GIDC) Establishment Project
EDCF Loan Agreement No. MYA-13

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Loan from the Export-Import Bank of Korea from the resources of the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) of the Republic of Korea in the amount of 93,779,000 (ninety three million and seven hundred seventy nine thousand only) US Dollars toward the cost of the e-Government Integrated Data Center (e-GIDC) Establishment Project and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the Procurement of e-Government Integrated Data Center (e-GIDC) Establishment Project.
2. The Project Executing Agency now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the e-Government Integrated Data Center Establishment Project, the project scope of which is including (a) Construction of e-Government Integrated Data Center (e-GIDC) in Nay Pyi Taw, Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in Thanlyin City (b) Development, Customization, and Installation of Software, Hardware, and Network for center operation, (c) Supply and Installation of Equipment for e-GIDC/DRC, (d) Installation of Government Service Network, (e) Trainings, (f) Operation & Maintenance Support.
3. Bidding will be conducted through Competitive Bidding (CB) procedures specified in the Guidelines for Procurement under the EDCF Loans, and will be opened to all eligible bidders that meet the following minimum qualification criteria.
 - (a) The nationality(ies) of the Bidder or all partners constituting the Bidder shall be:
 - 1) Nationals of the Republic of Korea (including juridical persons incorporated in the Republic of Korea in accordance with its laws; hereinafter the same shall apply);
 - 2) Foreign corporations in which nationals of the Republic of Korea hold more than 50% of shares as well as foreign subsidiaries of a foreign corporation of which nationals of the Republic of Korea reserve the management rights and are vested with the business performances; and
 - 3) Consortiums built by nationals of the Republic of Korea with the corporations set up in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Borrower’s country in which nationals of the Republic of Korea hold more than 50% of shares or have the de facto decision-making rights.
 - (b) All pending litigations shall be treated as resolved against the Bidder and so shall in total not represent more than fifty (50) percent of the Bidder’s net worth. In case of Joint Venture Agreement (JVA), each partner shall meet this requirement.
 - (c) A Bidder’s 3-Year (2019-2021) average net worth calculated as the difference between total assets and total liabilities shall be positive. In case of JVA, each partner shall meet this requirement.
 - (d) The average annual turnover of the past three (3) years (2019-2021) shall be equivalent to or greater than seventy-five (75) million US Dollars. In case of JVA, the total of the average annual turnovers of ICT partner(s) and construction partner(s) shall be equivalent to or greater than forty-five (45) and thirty (30) million US Dollars respectively.
 - (e) The Bidder shall demonstrate access to, or availability of, financial resources such as liquid assets, unencumbered real assets, lines of credit, and other financial means, other than any contractual advance payments to meet the cash-flow requirement of ten (10) million US Dollars and the overall cash flow requirements for this Contract and its current works commitment. In case of JVA, availability of financial resources required for each partner shall be set proportionate to each partner’s shareholding ratio inside the JVA.
 - (f) The CB (Corporate Bond / Credit Bureau) credit rating from a reputable rating agency located in the Republic of Korea shall be equivalent to or higher than BBB-, or the CP (Commercial Paper) credit rating shall be equivalent to or higher than A3-. In case of JVA, each partner shall meet this requirement.
 - (g) The Bidder shall have a minimum of five (5) years’ business experience under contracts in the role of contractor or subcontractor in ICT and building construction fields prior to the bid submission deadline. In case of JVA, at least one (1) ICT partner shall have the same years’ business experience in ICT field and at least one (1) construction partner shall also have the same years’ business experience in construction fields respectively. Only successfully completed experience shall be evaluated and it shall be evidenced by the certificates for successful completion issued by the client or the government organizations which are authorized by the government to certify the experiences.
 - (h) The Bidder shall have participated in at least one (1) contract involving the development of S/W solution, installation of ICT equipment, as a contractor in ICT system projects, outside of the country of origin within the latest ten (10) years prior to the issuing date of this Invitation For Bids, for the contract amount of at least one (1) million USD. In case of JVA, at least one (1) ICT partner shall meet this requirement.
 - (i) The Bidder shall have participated in at least one (1) ICT building construction contract, as a contractor, successfully completed in or outside of the country of origin within the latest ten (10) years prior to the issuing date of this Invitation For Bids, for the contract amount of at least twenty (20) million USD. In case of JVA, at least one (1) construction partner shall meet this requirement.
 - (j) The Bidder shall have participated in ICT system projects, as a contractor, successfully completed in or outside of the country of origin within the latest ten (10) years prior to the issuing date of this Invitation For Bids, for the contract amount of at least twenty (20) million USD. In case of JVA, at least one (1) ICT partner shall meet this requirement.
 - (k) The Bidder shall have participated in ICT system projects, which include a cloud platform / system based on SDDC technology as a project scope, as a contractor, successfully completed in or outside of the country of origin within the latest ten (10) years prior to the issuing date of this Invitation For Bids, for the contract amount of at least one (1) million USD. In case of JVA, at least one (1) ICT partner shall meet this requirement.
 - (l) In addition to those listed hereinbefore, the Bidder shall meet the other minimum requirements regarding either the personnel or the construction equipment. The experience and/or resources of any Subcontractor will not contribute to the Bidder’s qualifications and evaluations unless otherwise, as stated in BDS.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the e-Government Division, Information Technology and Cyber Security Department, Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) at the address given below from 10:00 to 16:00 (GMT+6:30) hours in working days.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of 1,000 US. The method of payment will be direct deposit (any bank transaction fees shall be borne by the Bidders) to the following bank account number:

Bank: Myanma Foreign Trade Bank
Account holder: Information Technology and Cyber Security Department
Account number: IDA-06-00033
Swift code: MFTBMMMY
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **16:30 (GMT+6:30) on 6th February 2023**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of 1,000,000 US Dollars. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders’ representatives who choose to attend at the address below at **10:30 (GMT+6:30) on 7th February 2023**.
7. The attention of prospective Bidders is drawn to (i) the fact that they will be required to certify in their bids that all software is either covered by a valid license or was produced by the Bidder and (ii) that violations are considered fraud, which is, among other remedies, punishable by potential blacklisting from participation in future EDCF-financed procurements.

e-Government Division, Information Technology and Cyber Security Department,
Ministry of Transport and Communications
S12 Exchange Building, Ground Floor, Zabu Kyathayay Road, Zabuthiri Township,
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Contact Person: Nwe Ni Soe Yin (Ms.), Project Director
Telephone number: +95 67 421777, +95 67 422435
Facsimile number: +95 67 422447
E-mail address: nwenisoeyin@e-motc.gov.mm

A complete set of bidding documents must be purchased from 10:00 (GMT+6:30) on 12th December 2022 to 13:00 (GMT+6:30) on 3rd January 2023.

GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Japan lower house passes bill to ban malicious donation solicitations



The House of Representatives passes a bill to ban organizations from maliciously soliciting donations, during a plenary session in the parliament in Tokyo on 8 December 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN'S lower house on Thursday passed a bill to ban organizations from maliciously soliciting donations, following controversy

over the fundraising practices of the Unification Church.

After deliberations at the House of Councillors, or upper

house, starting in the afternoon, the bill is likely to be enacted in favour of the ruling bloc and some opposition parties on the

final day of the extraordinary parliamentary session on Saturday.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's government rushed to craft the bill in an apparent bid to curb a plunge in the approval ratings for the Cabinet, triggered by issues surrounding the religious group established by a staunch anti-communist in South Korea in 1954. Some lawyers supporting people who have suffered financial ruin by giving large donations to the Unification Church have criticized the hastily compiled bill for having many deficiencies, saying it may not go far enough in rescuing the group's victims. At a House of Representatives committee meeting on Thursday, Kishida said the government will try to improve its consultation with victims of the Unification Church so that the envisioned law can be "more effective". —Kyodo

US approves \$1.5 bln sale of helicopters to S.Korea

THE United States on Tuesday announced the approval of a \$1.5 billion sale of 18 CH-47F Chinook transport helicopters and other equipment to South Korea.

"The proposed sale will improve the ROK's capability to meet current and future threats by strengthening its Army heavy lift capability," the Defence Security Cooperation Agency said in a statement, using an abbreviation for the Republic of Korea.

"The CH-47F will allow the ROK to conduct missions in support of bilateral operational plans which include, but are not limited to, medical evacuation, search and rescue, parachute drops, and disaster relief," it added.

The State Department approved the possible sale, and the DSCA on Tuesday provided the required notification to Congress, which still needs to sign off on the transaction. — AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Putin says nuclear tensions 'rising' but Moscow won't deploy first



Russian servicemen stand guard at the destroyed part of the Ilyich Iron and Steel Works in Ukraine's port city of Mariupol, on 18 May. **PHOTO: OLGA MALTSEVA/AFP/FILE**

Ukraine conflict. Speaking more than nine months after his forces launched their military operation, Putin warned the conflict could be "lengthy".

Russian forces have missed most of their key military goals since February, raising fears that the battlefield stalemate could see Russia resort to its nuclear arsenal to achieve a breakthrough.

"We have not gone crazy, we are aware of what nuclear weapons are," Putin said Wednesday at a meeting of his human rights council. "We are not going to brandish them like a razor while running around the world." — AFP

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that nuclear tensions were rising, though

he insisted "we have not gone crazy" and Moscow would not be the first to deploy them in the

Ukraine slams India for buying Russian oil

UKRAINE'S foreign minister condemned India's ramping up of Russian oil purchases following Moscow's invasion as "morally inappropriate" in an interview broadcast Tuesday.

A day earlier India's top diplomat had defended the purchases of discounted Russian crude, saying Europe's imports still dwarfed those of his country despite the continent's efforts to reduce its dependence.

But Ukraine's Dmytro

Kuleba told Indian broadcaster NDTV it was "completely wrong" to justify buying oil from Russia "by arguing that Europeans were doing the same". It was "morally inappropriate", he said.

"Because you are buying cheap oil not because of Europeans but because of us, of our suffering, of our tragedy, and because of the war that Russia launched against Ukraine." — AFP



India has increased its purchases of cheap Russian oil six-fold since the invasion in February, to the extent that Moscow is now its top crude supplier, according to local media reports. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP**

US to increase gas exports to UK

THE United States plans to increase gas exports to Britain next year, easing its close ally's reliance on Russian energy, a joint statement said Wednesday.

Washington will seek to ex-

port at least 9-10 billion cubic metres of liquid natural gas over the next year via UK terminals, more than doubling the level in 2021, it added.

"This partnership will bring

down prices for British consumers and help end Europe's dependence on Russian energy once and for all," British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said in the statement. — AFP

Peru president ousted and arrested after bid to dissolve Congress



Dina Boluarte was sworn in as Peru's new president hours after congress removed Pedro Castillo from office. PHOTO: AFP

PERU'S leftist president Pedro Castillo was ousted by lawmakers and arrested Wednesday after trying to dissolve the South American country's Congress in a move widely condemned as an attempted coup.

The dizzying series of events in a country long prone to political upheaval resulted in even more history, with Vice-President Dina Boluarte later becoming Peru's first woman president.

The day of high drama began with Castillo facing his third

impeachment attempt since the former rural school teacher unexpectedly won power from Peru's traditional political elite 18 months ago.

In a televised address, the 53-year-old announced he was dissolving the opposition-dominated Congress, installing a curfew, and would rule by decree for at least nine months.

As criticism poured in over the speech, lawmakers defiantly gathered earlier than planned to debate the impeachment motion and approved it with 101 votes

out of a total of 130 lawmakers.

Castillo left the presidential palace after the vote with the intention of seeking asylum in Mexico's embassy before he was arrested, according to a police report published by local press.

After his arrest was officially announced, a source in the attorney general's office told AFP that Castillo was being investigated for "rebellion." Boluarte took the oath of office within two hours of the impeachment vote, donning the presidential sash in front of Congress.—AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Ex-Guatemalan president gets 16 years for corruption

A Guatemalan court on Wednesday sentenced former president Otto Perez to 16 years in prison, finding him guilty of leading a massive customs fraud scheme while in office.

Perez, who was forced to resign in 2015, was found guilty of racketeering and fraud targeting the customs system, Judge Irma Jeannette Valdes said as she read out the sentence. Perez was sentenced to eight years on each count. His former vice-president Roxana Baldetti received the same sentence. A UN-backed anti-corruption body revealed several scandals in Guatemala before it was shut down in 2019 by then-president Jimmy Morales after it began investigating him. One of its key successes was uncovering a multimillion-dollar scheme to cheat Guatemala's customs duty system, which ultimately led to Perez's resignation.—AFP

155 lightly injured in train collision near Barcelona

MORE than 150 people were lightly injured Wednesday when a train ran into the back of another at a station near Barcelona, the emergency services and Spain's Renfe rail operator said Wednesday.

A spokeswoman for the SEM regional emergency services said the vast majority of those hurt in the collision which occurred just before 8:00 am (0700 GMT) sustained light injuries, while five were in moderate condition.—AFP

Germany foils bizarre coup plot by far-right group

A prince, an ex-MP and former soldiers were arrested Wednesday in raids led by the German police against members of a far-right "terror group" that allegedly planned to attack parliament and overthrow the government.

The group had organized a "council" to take charge after the putsch, as well as a "military arm that would build a new German army", chief federal prosecutor Peter Frank told journalists. "Some members of the terrorist organization also

considered using force to enter the German Bundestag (parliament)," Frank said.

He later told the ARD broadcaster that the group's preparations were "already at an advanced stage", though no concrete date had been set.

"We are sure that it would have come to a strike," he said.

President Frank-Walter Steinmeier told public radio MDR he was "deeply concerned" by the alleged plot, describing it as a "new level".

Around 3,000 officers including elite anti-terror units took part in the early morning raids searching more than 130 properties, in what German media described as one of the country's largest-ever police actions against extremists.

The raids targeted alleged members of the "Citizens of the Reich" (Reichsbuerger) movement, federal prosecutors said in a statement.—AFP



German police staged nationwide raids and arrested 25 people suspected of belonging to a far-right 'terror cell'. PHOTO: NEWS5/AFP

US denounces 'despicable' Afghan public execution, presses Taliban in talks

THE United States on Wednesday said the Taliban's "despicable" public execution in Afghanistan showed a return to the Islamist group's dark past as it pressed on rights during a fresh meeting.

"We've seen despicable videos that have circulated online in recent days," State Depart-

ment spokesman Ned Price told reporters.

"This indicates to us that the Taliban seek a return to their regressive and abusive practices of the 1990s," Price said.

"It would be an affront to the dignity and the human rights of all Afghans," Price said, calling

it a "clear failure by the Taliban to uphold their promises".

The execution was announced just as the US pointman on Afghanistan, Thomas West, met in Abu Dhabi with a Taliban delegation led by their defence minister Mohammad Yaqoob, the son of the group's founder Mullah Omar.—AFP



Taliban security forces stand guard at a checkpoint in Jalalabad on 6 December 2022. PHOTO: SPUTNIK/MIKHAIL METZEL/AFP

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SPORT

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.

Willing to play again for Thai Club: Khin Marlar Tun

KHIN Marlar Tun, one of the team captains of the 2022 Myanmar Women's League champion ISPE team, has revealed that she is willing to play again for the College of Asian Scholars team, a Thai league team after the domestic competition is over.

"The Thai league team Collage of Asian Scholars, where I played, also offered me back. I have the plan to go play. To be honest, I want to go too. I want to go out and play. But we still have to consult with the team officials. I can't say how it will happen then," Myanmar women's football star Khin Marlar Tun said.

Khin Marlar Tun went to the Thai club College of Asian Scholars on a three-month loan contract and won the championship trophy in the Thai Women's League Championship 2022 with the team.

Khin Marlar Tun, a national team player, was an important player for the ISPE team when they won the Myanmar Women's League in 2018.

In winning the championship again, she was not only able to lead the team as a team captain, but she also scored 18 goals for the team and held the title of the top scorer. — KZL



Myanmar women's football star Khin Marlar Tun. PHOTO: MWL

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

Portugal deny Ronaldo reported World Cup walkout threat

THE Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) on Thursday denied Cristiano Ronaldo threatened to abandon the World Cup squad after being benched against Switzerland.

The 37-year-old striker was surprisingly dropped for the last 16 clash on Tuesday, with his replacement Goncalo Ramos netting a hat-trick in the 6-1 victory.

Ronaldo appeared from the bench, but a report from Portuguese publication Record said the striker had previously threatened to leave in a tense conversation with coach Fernando Santos. "The FPF clarifies that at no time did the captain of the Selecao, Cristiano Ronaldo, threaten to leave the national team during the stay in Qatar," said the federation.

"Every day Ronaldo is building up a unique track record at the service of the national team and the country,



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo prepares to enter the pitch during Qatar World Cup round of 16 match against Switzerland. PHOTO: AFP

which must be respected." The FPF said Ronaldo's appearance against Switzerland was a further demonstration of his commitment to the cause.

Ronaldo is the most-capped Portuguese player and the top men's international goalscorer of all time.

Portugal face Morocco on

Saturday in the quarter-finals, where Ramos may again get the nod over Ronaldo.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner did not train with the other substitutes on Wednesday after the game, instead taking part in a gym session alongside the starters against Switzerland. —AFP

England's Sterling to return to Qatar

ENGLAND forward Raheem Sterling is to return to the World Cup in Qatar on Friday after spending time in England following a robbery at his home, England's Football Association said on Thursday.

"Raheem Sterling will return to England's World Cup base in Qatar. The Chelsea forward temporarily left to attend to a family matter but is now expected to rejoin the squad in Al Wakrah on Friday ahead of the quarter-final with France," the FA said in a statement.

Sterling did not feature in England's squad for the 3-0 win against Senegal with Phil Foden and Bukayo Saka playing either side of striker Harry Kane.

It would be a surprise should Sterling be picked to start against France although his return does increase manager Gareth Southgate's options from the bench.

British media reports

had said that Sterling's home was broken into by armed intruders while his family were in the property on Saturday night.

However, Surrey Police later said that no-one was at home at the time of the burglary and no threats of violence were involved.

The police said the house's occupants were away on an 'international trip' and discovered on their return that a number of items of jewellery, including watches, had been stolen. Southgate had been supportive of Sterling's decision to leave the camp and return to England.

"At the moment clearly the priority is for him to be with his family. We're going to support that and leave him to have as much time as he needs," he had said. Sterling has been a key player for England during Southgate's six years in charge. — AFP