

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.

Salaries cannot be raised without the development of the State economy: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing chairs and addresses the Union government meeting 8/2022 in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 November 2022.

RELEVANT ministries need to try to identify the needs of foreign countries and seek foreign markets so as to improve the State economy, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Union government meeting 8/2022 at the SAC Chairman's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Number of districts extend-

ed for effectively carrying out administrative measures

In his speech, the Senior General said the number of districts' formation was extended to effectively carry out administration. Extended districts were combined with essential departments and officials for ensuring regional development and peace and stability.

Needs for development of MSME for enhancement of

State economy

MSME plays a key role in the enhancement of the State economy.

Policies have been laid down for MSME development. Efforts must be made for the development of MSMEs in regions and states.

Manufacturing with domestic raw materials will have greater benefit

MSME industries account-

ing for 99 per cent emphasize manufacturing for domestic measures. Using domestic raw materials will have greater benefits. It primarily needs materials, investments, inputs and human resources. If MSMEs use agricultural and livestock raw materials at home, it will save spending on foreign exchange. District cities need to make for the accomplishment of industries and manufacturing to con-

tribute to the development of the domestic economy.

Disbursement of loans from the State and paying back debts to the State

The government postponed the period of paying back debts to the State. Only when the State has a circulation of money will the businesses improve. So, borrowers need to pay back debts to the State in time.

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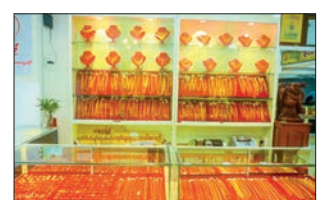
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Law Amending the National Education Law

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

6. The duties and obligations of the commission shall be as follows:-
- to advise on the implementation of the education system and education policies, and education projects
 - to advise on education management measures, research and development measures
 - to encourage and advise on further improvement of internal and international cooperation measures and international relations
 - to contribute and advise on the enhancement of the socio-economic life of teachers and educational staff
 - to encourage and to give advice for the emergence of good quality management systems at schools
- (c) Sections 7 and 10 shall be nullified.
5. Sub-Section (c) shall be added behind Sub-Section (b) of Section 18 of the National Education Law as follows:-
- “(c) the children between the aged 10 and 14 who missed the chance of learning or did not complete learning of primary level education for various reasons shall learn the primary alternative education.”
6. Section 26 of the National Education Law shall be substituted as follows:-
- “26. The schools implementing the higher education shall lead to the independent academic and management system.”
7. Section 27 of the National Education Law shall be nullified.
8. In Section 28 of the National Education Law-
- Sub-Section (c) shall be substituted as follows:-
- “(c) the University Council shall take responsibility for the development of the university in accordance with the university charter
- the word “education” mentioned in Section (d) shall be substituted with the word “subject”.
9. The word “commission” mentioned in Sections 39 and 40 of the National Education Law shall be substituted with the word “the ministry”.
10. The word “formed by the commission” mentioned in Sub-Section (a) of Section 41 of the National Education Law shall be nullified.
11. Sub-Section (b) of Section 43 of the National Education Law shall be substituted as follows:-
- “(b) Myanmar language shall be used as the classroom language at the basic education level.”
12. Section 44 of the National Education Law shall be substituted as follows:-
- “44. Learning ethnic literature and languages in regions and states shall be undertaken at the basic education primary level under the relevant region or state government.”
13. Sub-Section (f) of Section 49 of the National Education Law shall be nullified.
14. Section 54 of the National Education Law shall be substituted as follows:-
- “54. At all levels of education –
- shall have an education qualification guarantee plan.
 - shall comprise the internal qualification assessment process and the external qualification assessment process to assess the development of education qualification and standards.
 - the ministry shall set the ways of assessments for ensuring firmness of qualification.”
15. Section 55 of the National Education Law shall be substituted as follows:-
- “55. The National Education Standard and Qualification Guarantee Assessment Committee shall conduct its functions in accordance with the criteria of the ministry mentioned in Sub-Section (c) of Section 54.
16. In Section 56 of the National Education Law –
- Sub-Section (a) shall be substituted as follows:-
- “(a) the ministry and relevant ministries shall manage relevant higher education schools under this law and other laws related to the education.”
- Sub-Section (c) shall be added, behind Sub-Section (b) as follows:-
- “(c) the ministry and relevant ministries shall assess the vision of the national education and implementation of the education policies.”
17. In Section 57 of the National Education Law –
- Sub-Section (c) shall be nullified.
 - Sub-Section (d) shall be substituted as follows:-
- “(d) it shall be allowed to form the university council in accord with the charters of relevant universities in order to develop all remaining higher education schools, except higher education schools mentioned in the Sub-Section (b).”

TO BE CONTINUED

Organization Registration Law

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

- If the registration board decides to grant the extension when the domestic organization produces evidence of having paid the registration fees within the prescribed period at the concerned Myanmar Economic Bank, the registration board shall issue the renewed registration certificate.
 - In the event of not withdrawing the renewed registration certificate or in the event of inability to produce evidence proving having paid the registration extension fees, the renewal shall be deemed null and void already.
15. [a] The domestic organization holding the registration certificate issued by the Union Registration Board shall pay the registration fees amounting to K100,000 for registration extension.
- [b] The domestic organization holding the registration certificate issued by the Region or State Registration Board shall pay the registration fees amounting to K50,000 for registration extension.
- [c] The domestic organization holding the registration certificate issued by the Self-Administered Division or Self-Administered Zone or the District Registration Board shall pay the registration fees amounting to K30,000 for registration extension.
- [d] The domestic organization holding the registration certificate issued by the Township Registration Board shall pay the registration fees amounting to K10,000 for registration extension.
16. [a] The domestic organization applying for the extension of the registration certificate can, upon receipt of a reply by the concerned registration body rejecting renewal, make amendments and additions, giving clarifications for the renewal rejecting reasons and submit the application within 30 days from the date of receipt of the reply.
- [b] if the concerned registration body decides not to grant the registration extension to the application submitted as per Sub-Section [a], the decision thus made shall be final and conclusive.
- [c] if the concerned registration body decides not to grant the registration extension, the domestic organization which has been denied the extension shall have no right to register with whatsoever registration body.

Chapter 5

Registration of International Non-Governmental Organizations

17. For an International Non-Governmental Organization to obtain the registration certificate, either the chief of the concerned INGO or the person-in-charge of the INGO or the executive committee member of the INGO assigned with the duties to submit the application with the power of attorney delegated shall submit the application to the Union Registration Board, mentioning the following particulars:
- name of the organization
 - the background history of the organization
 - the name of the chief of the organization in the country where it is based

TO BE CONTINUED

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of Service Organizations transferred and confirmed

- The State Administration Council has transferred and appointed Daw Khine Khine Aung, Director-General of the Department of Inspection under the Union Auditor-General Office, as Director-General of the Staff Office of the Union Auditor-General Office from the date she assumes charge of her duties.
- The State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of the following persons as Heads of the Service Organizations shown against each of their names on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Zaw Naing Win	Director-General Department of International Affairs Ministry of Defence
(b) U Myo Zaw Zaw	Director-General Department of Internal Affairs Ministry of Defence

“Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal”

IN line with the theme “Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal” our government will build a better nation and improve the socio-economic conditions to serve the interests of the State and ethnic national people. In line with the theme “The Strength of the Nation Lies Within”, I would like to conclude by calling for unity and cooperation.

(The excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on the Occasion of the Eighteen Months of the Assumption of State Duties by the State Administration Council on 1 August 2022.)

Salaries cannot be raised without the development ...

FROM PAGE-1

Only when the State regains debts will it be able to disburse them to others again.

Needs of providing inputs to manufacturing, agriculture and livestock farms

Manufacturing, agriculture and livestock farms need inputs such as electricity, fuel, fertilizers, pesticides and animal feeds. Only when they get adequate inputs will they be able to produce products in a smooth manner.

Needs for sufficient human resources

Arrangements are being made to teach agriculture, livestock and technical subjects to students at basic education schools to produce human resources. Then, qualified ones can join universities and institutes related to agriculture, livestock and technical institutes. Hence, relevant ministries and region and state authorities need to systematically manage human resources.

MSME aims to enhance manufacturing and import-substituting and increase the volume of export goods. If domestic production is on the rise, imported goods will be reduced. High-quality agriculture and livestock products will be export goods.

Reducing the import of fuel and cooking oil can lessen spending on foreign exchange

Ministries need to collectively implement the reduction of fuel consumption. Import of cooking oil must be reduced whereas domestic cooking oil production must be increased. If fuel and cooking oil import volume can be reduced, spending on the foreign exchange will be down.

Needs of manufacturing paper for the State

Manufacturing paper with the use of bamboo will be much beneficial. Regions and States need to extract bamboo in a systematic manner. As the State needs to arrange a sufficient volume of paper at home, it needs to invite investment of private sector and foreign investments.

Ministries efficiently spend the State budget

The ministries engaged in businesses must make efforts for minimizing loss in operations. The State needs to encourage private businesses not to decline the competitive capability of private businesses. So, it is necessary to provide assistance to the private sector.

With regard to two national processes for the prosperity of the State and sufficiency of food, the Senior General said: I have proclaimed my policy: the State must be prosperous and sufficient in food. According to the per-acre yield, rice is in surplus. We continuously send

MSME aims to enhance manufacturing and import-substituting and increase the volume of export goods. If domestic production is on the rise, imported goods will be reduced. High-quality agriculture and livestock products will be export goods.

beans to foreign countries and oil crops as well. So, we have the potential to do more than this. On 33 million acres of cultivable lands, if we grow crops in double or mix-cropping functions, we would have a greater per-acre yield. As policies, I told all not to expand sown acreage. It should not reduce sown acreage. If necessary, anyone can reclaim new farmlands. Anyone should not touch the cultivable lands. We will have to get a high per-acre yield, double cropping. If so, our country will have greater income. It is sure. So, relevant ministries and chief ministers need to consider it to prioritize food sufficiency and to earn

income for the State through exportation. To build the State with prosperity, it needs to have financial and mental convenience as well as the rule of law. If so, the State will be prosperous. If not, we will face worries. Despite wealth, if the country is unsafe, all will serve sentry. We have to think about when our property will be robbed. It is the best anticipation for the State with prosperity and food sufficiency. So, region and state chief ministers and Union ministers have to implement respective sectors for food sufficiency. We need to implement the rule of law and much manufacturing for the prosperity of the State so

as to enable the people to have income and prosperity. If so, our government will be dutiful. If not, the government will not be dutiful. Our efforts are being recorded for criticism of forthcoming governments. We also criticize the two previous governments. Some of them happened in the periods of SLORC and SPDC. So, if we do not want criticism, we have to implement the tasks successfully. It is my clarification for all. In detail, there are many facts and it is not easy to complete. So, I instruct the ministers to emphasize them.”

Union ministers reported on respective sectors.

In his conclusion, the Senior General explained matters related to holding the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day on 4 January 2023. He said that salaries cannot be raised without the development of the State economy. As such, ministerial officials need to strive for the development of the nation and earn the deserved incomes.

Departmental officials need to cooperate with the people in beautifying the towns and villages. Security troops emphasize the prevalence of law and order and peace and stability in the region. Relevant ministries need to try to identify the needs of foreign countries and seek foreign markets so as to improve the State economy. — MNA

Medical University admission applications available for students who passed university entrance exam 2022 from socially disadvantaged areas and six self-administered zones

STUDENTS who have passed the university entrance exam 2022 from socially disadvantaged areas and six self-administered zones (Naga, Danu, PaO, Palaung, Kokang, and Wa) or students who attend Grades 8, 9, and 10 in the regions with total matriculation marks of 420

for six subjects can apply for Medical University admission application under the Department of Human Resources for Health, Ministry of Health, the report said.

Health applications must be sent directly to the Human Resources for Health Department

as these applications are due on 25 November 2022.

Detailed information can be accessed on the Ministry of Health Facebook page and website at www.moh.gov.mm and the Department of Human Resources for Health website at www.hrh.gov.mm. — MNA

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Working Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism holds 1/2022 meeting



The meeting 1/2022 of the Working Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE Working Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism holds its first meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, Working Group Chairperson Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe discussed the measure, ongoing work plans and cooperation of departments concerned regarding the 11 Action Plans to be implemented by the country.

Then, the working group vice-chair, members and officials reported on the implementation of four facts out of 11 to be completed in November – to report on the improvements in

understanding of money laundering risk in major sectors, prioritize onsite and offsite inspections to gem, gold dealers and real estate sectors on a risk basis, demonstrate the implementation of the regulations related to hundi providers including registration and supervision and conduct awareness-raising campaigns to inform reporting entities of their obligations related to PF TFS and supervise them for compliance with their obligations.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Governors of CBM, members of the Anti-Corruption Commission and officials of the departments concerned. – MNA

China demand boosts new export item beeswax prices

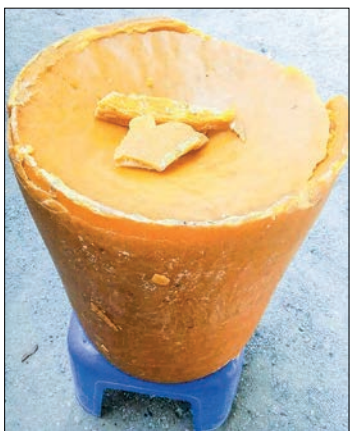
THE beeswax, a new export item of Mandalay this year, fetches good prices due to high demand from China, said U Soe Win Myint, owner of Soe Win Myint Wholesale Centre in Mandalay.

The honey production period is in Tazaungmone and the bees build nests on the hills and forests across the nation. Besides the production of honey, the people produce beeswax from honeycombs and it gets K10,000 per viss in the market because of high

demand from China.

“We produce beeswax using the honeycombs which is the waste of bee nests after honey production. The beeswax market emerges in Mandalay in 2022. This year, honey makers can make extra income. Beeswax is used in producing the Myanmar traditional medicine, balm. We don’t know how they are used in China. Although China didn’t buy a large amount of beeswax in previous years, they purchase as much as they can this year. It can be exported as a new export item,” he explained.

There are two kinds of beekeeping – bees that make beehives naturally and bees that are farmed. The beeswax from natural bees is priced at K10,000 per viss and the beeswax from the farm is K7,000 per viss. Natural beeswax gets higher prices in the market, it is learnt. – Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM



The beeswax from natural bees is priced at K10,000 per viss and the beeswax from the farm is K7,000 per viss.

12 Myanmar trainees join Training Course on Combatting Cybercrime by Yunnan Police Officer Academy



Leaders of Training Course on Combatting Cybercrime, Myanmar.

THE Chinese Embassy in Myanmar on Tuesday released a statement that 12 Myanmar trainees of the Ministry of Home Affairs joined the Training Course on Combatting Cybercrime in Myanmar conducted by the Yunnan Police Officer Academy.

The training course was launched online on 31 October under the management of the Ministry of Commerce of China.

In his speech, Chinese commercial attaché of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar Mr Tan Shufu said cybercrimes affect the stability of the economy, so-

cial and image of the country and are such a big challenge faced by the countries. The China-Myanmar border measures over 2,000 kilometres and so it should cooperate in combating cybercrime more and more.

The training course will last for five days and contribute the lessons such as analyzing the patterns of cybercrime and law enforcement cooperation in combatting international cybercrimes.

On 7 June, Myanmar Police Force and Royal Thai Police organized the first working

committee meeting on Myanmar-Thai cooperation in combatting transnational crimes in Bangkok.

The meeting discussed the cooperation work of the two countries’ police, especially in arms and ammunition smuggling, transnational crimes, protection of lives and prosperity of people living in border areas, human resource development, training courses for police and MoU between the two police forces, and signed six agreements for further cooperation works. — TWA/GNLM

Myanmar imports pharmaceuticals worth over US\$13 million in Oct 2nd week

A total of 1,480 tonnes of pharmaceuticals, with an estimated value of over US\$13 million, were imported from foreign countries in the second week of October, according to the trad data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar brought in 980 tonnes of medicines worth \$12.706 million by sea and 500 tonnes of medicine worth \$1.003 via the border posts between 8 and 14 October. They are primarily imported from China and Thailand.

Myanmar imported medicines from China, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Bangladesh, Germany, Singapore, Slovakia and Spain through maritime trade.

China is the main exporter of pharmaceuticals to Myanmar with 900 tonnes, followed by India

(250), Thailand (100), Pakistan and Indonesia (50 each), the ROK (30), Bangladesh (20), Germany (20), Singapore (20), Slovakia (20) and Spain (20).

Eighteen types of imported pharmaceuticals are granted for Customs tariff exemption, according to the notification (19/2022) of the Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS) division under the Myanmar Customs Department, dated 19 October.

They are Aspirin, Paracetamol, Chlorpheniramine maleate, Diazepam, Mebendazole, Gentamicin, Metronidazole, Propranolol, Oral Rehydration Salt, Chlorpromazine, Salbutamol, Intravenous Glucose, Rifampicin, Ethambutol, Isoniazid, Frusemide, Digoxin and Prednisolone. — TWA/GNLM

FDA Myanmar to accept applications of IHC online starting 9 Nov

THE Department of Food and Drug Administration (FDA Myanmar) under the Ministry of Health has issued announcement No 18/2022. The announcement says that import health certification (IHC) applications will be accepted through the E-Submission system as a pilot project commencing 2 November.

It is reported that the applications will be received in the E-Submission system (fully online) beginning on 9 November and the FDA Myanmar will continue to accept IHC applications under the previous system up to 8 November.

After the submission of samples for which IHC via the E-Submission system is applied, the FDA Myanmar will send a notification to pay the fees within 24 hours through the system. If the payment is not made within the specified time, the case file will be automatically cancelled by the system, according to the notification of the FDA Myanmar.

In addition, the notification mentions that the FDA will not continue to examine the samples concerning the auto-cancelled cases and will not allow the withdrawal of the samples for them and that the new cases and samples will have to be submitted.

The proceeded inspection and withdrawal of samples regarding the auto-cancelled cases were not allowed, and new applications and samples will have to be re-submitted. — TWA/GNLM



The undated picture shows the container ship "SITC Venus".

China's RCEP regional new waterway to run through Yangon Port

CHINA has opened the Beibu Gulf Port-RCEP regional waterway which will make a brief stopover at the Yangon Port, and four cargo ships will run weekly, according to the announcement of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar.

It was mentioned in the announcement that the successful arrival of the "SITC Venus" cargo ship at the Qinzhou port zone in Beibu Gulf Port, Guangxi Province, on 28 October was the successful opening of the Beibu Gulf Port-Myanmar direct waterway.

Many reviews were released after the opening of the new waterway that another proper waterway was supposedly introduced between the Beibu Gulf Port and the RCEP

region. The waterway will run with four cargo ships weekly. The ports of arrival are as follows: Qinzhou-Nansha-Shekou-Khlan-Yangon-Belawan-Khlan-Nansha-Shekou-Hai Phong-Qinzhou.

The disclosure of the new waterway will densify the international maritime network between Beibu Gulf Port and RCEP region, contribute to more convenient export-import channels for goods, and reduce a lot of logistic and storage costs of businesses.

Export goods will reach Yangon, Myanmar, 12 days after the departure from the Qinzhou Port via the new waterway and the length of time the journey takes will be reduced by 40 per cent, according to the statement. — TWA/GNLM



A container trailer head truck is seen to transport the imported medicines.

Agriculture Dept encourages private companies to conduct contract farming for summer paddy, winter green gram

THE Department of Agriculture has invited private companies that are affiliated with the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF), Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association (MPBMSMA) and the Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association (MFSPEA) to participate in the contract farming system in the coming summer paddy season and winter green gram season of the financial year 2022-2023.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will provide K230 billion loans to those farmers engaged in con-

tract farming on 850,000 acres of summer paddy and 500,000 acres of winter green gram through contract farming groups.

The State will provide payment-in-kind (seeds, fertilizer, diesel) instead of cash and the summer paddy growers will be entitled to receive K200,000 worth of payment-in-kind per acre of summer paddy and K120,000 worth of payment-in-kind per acre of winter green gram. A total of K230 million will be granted for the contract farmers, with K170 billion for 850,000 acres of summer paddy and K60 billion for 500,000 acres of winter green gram. At harvest time,

those crops will be purchased at the prevailing market price in line with the standard quality.

Rather than individuals, farmers' groups, cooperatives, agricultural input companies and buyers are part of this scheme. Both those farmers who fail to repay Agri loans and those who have repaid loans can join this. Those who have not repaid the loans need to pay at least 25 per cent of their loans when they sell their crops. This contract farming scheme also aims to help the farmers get financing and repay their loans.

Contract farming is implemented under an agreement

between the farmers and sponsor companies. It is a system whereby companies have to provide quality input and technical assistance and farmers can get access to financing without needing a loan for the necessary capital investment. It also ensures a strong market for crops and avoids low pricing at harvest time. Otherwise, it helps farmers create a sustainable market with the market price.

It is a win-win situation for both the contract farmers and the companies. The private entrepreneurs can buy the crops in one place and secure the Agri output in the markets, coupled

with price stability, according to the statement released by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

For further details, those enthusiastic can contact the contact numbers 01-218266, 01-2301128 of MRF, 01-2314828, 01-2314836 of MPBMSMA, and 09-795411370, 09-5012662 of MFSPEA, the statement mentioned.

There are 45,109 acres of green gram in Kyauktan, Thongwa, Kayan, Thanlyin, Htantabin and Kawhmu areas in the Yangon Region, with Thongwa Township placed first with 29,741 acres. — TWA/GNLM

PJ passports and OWIC cards for Myanmar citizens in Thailand to be issued within one day

MYANMAR citizens who want to make new PJ passports will get OWIC cards within the day commencing on 7 November, announced the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand on 31 October.

A technological software package has been installed in the Myanmar Embassy for Myanmar citizens who will be making new PJ passports. For the passport and the OWIC card, new passport applicants must show a payment receipt for 1,050 Baht through the Bangkok Bank account number 101-3-481922.

Applicants need to complete the form: names of family members, addresses, phone numbers, and the name of the company they work for in Thailand. Furthermore, new passports will have to be taken out from the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok and the OWIC cards from the Temporary Data Collection Centre-TDCC office in Mahachai within a week. A factory representative can collectively extract the cards for its workers by showing the list of factory workers at the TDCC office.

According to the announcement of the Ministry of Labour issued on 6 September, Myanmar citizens who are going to work in foreign countries will be able to travel to foreign countries through airports and land borders only if they have OWIC cards issued by the Ministry of Labour. — TWA/GNLM

A sample passport with a PJ (passport for job) type.



81 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 1 November, total figure rises to 631,797

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **631,797** after **81** new cases were reported on 1 November 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **605,873** have recovered from disease. Death toll reaches **19,483** after one death.

According to the study of people who had COVID-19 and people who died of COVID-19 from 28-1-2022 to 15-10-2022, it has been found that 90.4 per cent of Covid patients and 80.9 per cent of Covid deaths are not vaccinated at all or fully vaccinated, respectively.

Status of COVID-19 injection	COVID-19 Patient	Death with COVID-19
People have no vaccination and have not been fully inoculated.	90.4%	80.9%

According to the international study, it is found that people who have been vaccinated do not suffer severely from the disease, need not to be hospitalized and are unlikely to die. If they have received booster shots, the death rates can be reduced more. Therefore, it is a must for people aged five and above to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

The Ministry of Health is giving free vaccinations to all people aged five and above. Booster shots of vaccine are being given to students between the ages of 12 and 18 and people aged 18 and over. Therefore, people should contact local health centres and village/ward administration offices to receive vaccinations. The information about COVID-19 disease can be seen on the Ministry of Health official website www.moh.gov.mm. —MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, animal food, consumer goods, industrial materials, jade products and vehicles confiscated

ON 28 October, an on-duty team carrying out routine inspection work under the management of the Customs Department captured K1,428,000 worth of seven items of goods including aluminium materials without import licences from a container at Asia World Port Terminal Container Checkpoint. The action is taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, under the management of the Kachin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force a combined team composing members of the Tatmadaw and Bhamo Township Customs Department confiscated 397.3 kilogrammes of illegal jade bracelets and jade beads worth K63,568,000 from two vehicles (estimated value of K6 million) at the 5-Mile Checkpoint of Bhamo township. The action is taken under the Customs Procedures.

Moreover, a total of 2.7633

tonnes of illegal timbers worth K193,431 were captured in the Thaboung township of Patheingyi district. The action is taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, on 31 October, a combined team led by Yangon International Airport Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted a surprise inspection of the suitcases and seized K35,672,700 worth of cosmetics without of-



Confiscated illegal timbers in Bago Region.

ficial documents. The action is taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 1 November, at the Kawkaik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint 60 bags of animal food worth K1.5 million without official documents were captured from a vehicle heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action is taken under the Customs Procedures.



Seized items at Yangon International Airport.



Officials check illegal goods at the Mayanchaung checkpoint.

Also, at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint of Mon State, a combined team confiscated 60 cartons of spray paint worth K1,920,000 that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a Dongfeng Tractor Head and a trailer (estimated value of K120 million). The action is taken under the Customs Procedures.

A combined team captured

a total of 5.3130 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K1,027,116 in the Yenwe forest reserve in Kyauktaga township of Nyaunglebin district. The action is taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 12 arrests (approximately K231,309,247) were made on 28, 30, 31 October and 1 November, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

YGEA requests gold shops to sell pure gold at K2,530,000 per tical

YANGON Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) has called for the gold shops in Yangon Region to sell pure gold at K2,530,000 per tical, according to its notification released on 30 October 2022.

The YGEA issues reference prices on a daily basis and it was set at K1,935,000 per tical when the global gold spot price was US\$1,643 per ounce on the morning on 31 October.

However, the market price of the precious yellow metal is around K2.6 million per tical, showing a big gap between the price set by the YGEA and the market price.

YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank

of Myanmar's reference exchange rate of K2,100. Meanwhile, a dollar is exchanged at around K3,000 in the black market.

That is why there is a large gap between YGEA's price and the market price based on the black market dollar rate.

The soaring dollar exchanging at over K4,500 pushed up the pure gold price to a record-high of K3.7 million per tical in late August.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation sold three visses of gold ingots each in Yangon and Mandalay under the auction system on 6 October. A tical of gold fetched approximately K2.5

million.

Additionally, the ministry has been selling gold coins in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw.

With an aim at reducing gold price, Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) sold approximately 1,277 ticals of gold bullion supplied by the executive members and the members of the YGEA at K2.5 million per tical on 12 and 13 September.

On 7 October, Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association also sold seven visses of gold — ten ticals to each individual in a bid to reduce the gold price. A gold bar weighs 10 ticals.

The price of pure gold was K2,540,000 per tical then. More-



The YGEA issues reference prices on a daily basis and it was set at K1,935,000 per tical when the global gold spot price was US\$1,643 per ounce on the morning on 31 October.

over, MGEA continued to sell them depending on the supply of gold bars by gold refineries, traders, shops and members. — NN/GNLM

Palm oil wholesale reference price continues to rise



At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July in order to offer palm oil at a subsidized rate.

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market is still rising at K4,225 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) this week, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transportation cost, tariff and banking service, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

The reference prices

of palm oil in the Yangon market were set at K4,225 per viss for this week from 31 October to 7 November, and K4,175 per viss for the previous week ending 30 October. The reference price this week was up by over K50 per viss.

Despite the reference price, the current market price is rocketing.

If those retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Special Goods Tax Law, MoC released a statement.

The Ministry of Commerce is striving for consumers not to worry over the supply of edible oil. The ministry is also trying to secure edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer reasonable prices to the consumers and maintain price stability.

At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July in order to offer palm oil at a subsidized rate. They sell palm oil at K4,400 per viss to consumers directly. However, there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell palm oil at a reference rate depending on the volume quota.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at 1 million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar-Thailand border trade surges by \$365.7 mln as of 21 Oct

THE value of Myanmar's bilateral trade with the neighbouring country Thailand through land borders registered a significant increase of US\$365.7 million between 1 April and 21 October of the current financial year 2022-2023 as against a year-ago period, the statistics issued by the Ministry of Commerce indicated.

The ministry reported that exports surpassed imports in trade with Thailand in nearly seven months, with exports reaching over \$1.98 billion and imports valued at over \$934.33 million, totalling \$2.9 billion. During the corresponding period last year, Myanmar-Thailand border trade amounted to \$2.55 billion.

There are seven border posts between Myanmar and Thailand-Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Hteekhee, Myeik, Mawtaung and Maese. Except for Tachilek and Hteekhee border posts, the trade through Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik and Mawtaung declined against that of last year. The value of border trade stood at \$87.07 million via

Tachilek, \$1.267 billion via Myawady, \$112 million via Kawthoung, \$61.136 million via Myeik, \$1.38 billion via Hteekhee and \$5.615 million via Mawtaung. The Maese border post has not seen trade yet.

Myanmar exports corn to Thailand through the Myawady and Tachilek land border. Thailand gives green light to corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August.

The use of Baht-Kyat in bilateral transactions also resulted in trade facilitation. Nonetheless, the directive released on 30 June said that transactions for the exports of agricultural products including corn, rice, bean and oil crops are to be made in dollars instead of Yuan-Kyat/Baht-Kyat direct payment for border trade settlement.

Therefore, the export earnings of the corn have to be exchanged for the US dollar according to the reference rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar — K2,100. Nonetheless, there is a large gap between the regulated rate and the unauthorized rate

of the US dollar.

Additionally, exports of natural gas through Hteekhee in the Taninthayi Region contributed to the enormous increase in border trade with Thailand.

Moreover, the changes in import policy inflated the commodity prices, along with Kyat weakening against the foreign currencies in the local forex market. Starting from 1 May of the current financial year 2022-2023, food products and commodity prices are no longer exempt from import licences. Yet, a red tape could spark the smuggling of goods and it could result in revenue loss for the State, said a trader involved in Myawady cross-border trade. Myanmar primarily exports natural gas, fishery products, coal, tin concentrate (SN 71.58 per cent), coconut (fresh and dry), beans, and bamboo shoots to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, and consumer goods such as cosmetics and food products from the neighbouring country. — KK/GNLM

OPINION

Help develop agriculture and livestock farms

AS AGRICULTURE and livestock farms are the most basic for the State economy, an emphasis is being placed on manufacturing the goods made of agricultural and livestock products. Not only businesspersons but people from all strata have the chance to engage in businesses at different levels. Micro, small and medium-scale enterprises are being operated for manufacturing, trading, services and others. People have the chance to operate their businesses on a manageable scale. Some of them can expand their

work establishments to manage MSME industries. MSMEs and cottage industries are the basic strata for the gradually booming regional economy and then the State economy.

The operation of businesses and industries will help decline the prices of commodities. Hiking prices are based on high production charges and an imbalance of supply and demand in the market. High price harms the security of the State as well as peace and stability.

Myanmar emphasizes the sufficiency of agricultural produce and livestock products. These are the main factors to ensure the food sufficiency of the country. A surplus of food can be exported for earning income for the State. Myanmar pockets foreign exchange in earning income in the export of rice to the international market. Rural people are engaged in the cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, pulses and beans and oil crops through

Both agriculture and livestock farming works are reliable for the improvement of the State economy and meeting the local demand. Value-added products in livestock farms will help earn increased incomes. As these will be a factor to develop the State economy as well as conserve the natural environment as much as they can, all farmers need to make the best efforts for the improvement of the agriculture sector without fail.

mix-cropping and double-cropping patterns. Double and triple cropping systems help increase agricultural production. Moreover, cultivable lands must be efficiently utilized for the growing of quality strains of crops. If efforts can be made to increase agricultural production, these will be raw agricultural produce for MSME industries.

The manufacturing sector can be operated with the use of domestic raw materials. If businesspersons can produce an adequate volume of consumer products at home, it can reduce the import of goods from abroad.

On the other hand, livestock breeding farms have adequate feedstuffs as well as vast pasturelands. Hence, systematic livestock farms can help export their products to earn foreign exchange. Particularly, efforts should be made to successfully operate livestock farms in Nay Pyi Taw Council in order to meet the local demand.

Both agriculture and livestock farming works are reliable for the improvement of the State economy and meeting the local demand. Value-added products in livestock farms will help earn increased incomes. As these will be a factor to develop the State economy as well as conserve the natural environment as much as they can, all farmers need to make the best efforts for the improvement of the agriculture sector without fail.

alibi (Lat): (v & n)

Alibi is a specific legal term referring to the defence of having been at a place other than the scene of a crime.

In recent years *alibi* meaning “elsewhere” has been used as an adverb. E.g., “He proved himself alibi”. However, this usage should be eschewed. Although “elsewhere” is the original Latin meaning of *alibi* (originally a locative of Latin *alius* “other”) in English it has long served only as a noun.

ambassador at large: (n)

Ambassador at large is used to refer to an ambassador who is not assigned to a specific country.

The plural of *ambassador at large* is ambassadors at large.

amicus curiae [Lat]: (n); friend of the court: (n)

By the term *amicus curiae*, it is meant “one who, not as (a party), but, first, as any stranger might, for the assistance of the court, give information of some

Significant terms and their meanings in international law and diplomacy

SERIES THREE (Alphabetical order)

U KHIN MAUNG (A retired diplomat)

matter of law in regard to which the court is doubtful or mistaken, rather than one who gives a highly partisan account of facts”.

Friend of the court, as an equivalent of *amicus curiae*, is primarily journalistic; it appears in many newspapers and journals with a general appeal.

The plural of *amicus curiae* is *amici curiae*.

amigo (Sp): (n)

Amigo means “a friend”. its plural is *amigos*.

apéritif (Fr): (n)

Apéritif means an alcoholic drink taken as an appetizer before a meal.

a priori (Lat): a posteriori (Lat): (adj & adv)

A priori means “deductively reasoning from the general to the particular”. E.g. “The boys have

walked a long way so they must be tired”

(Medieval Latin *à priori*: à, from + *priori*, former).

A posteriori means “inductively reasoning from the particular to the general or from known effects to their inferred causes”. E.g. “The boys are tired so they must have walked a long way”

(Medieval Latin: Latin *a*, from + Latin *posteriori*, ablative of *posterior*, later).

These terms are best left to philosophical contexts.

apropos (Fr): (adj, adv & prep)

Apropos means “being at once opportune and to the point. [French *à propos*: à, to (from Latin *ad*)-. *Ad* + *propos*, purpose (from Latin *propositum*, from *proponere*, *proposit-*, to intend.)]

arbitration: (n); mediation:

(n) *Arbitration* means “settlement of a dispute by the decision of a person or persons chosen and accepted as judges or umpires”.

The results of arbitration are binding – that is, the parties to the arbitrator’s decision are bound by it.

On the contrary, in mediation, the mediator merely tries to help two disputing parties reach

a mutually agreeable solution. However, the parties are not bound by a mediator’s decisions. *Compulsory arbitration* means that where the law steps in and requires arbitration whether or not it was contemplated by the disputing parties.

asylum: (n)

By the term *asylum*, it is meant that protection from arrest or extradition given by one country to refugees from another.

attaché: (n)

Attaché is used to refer to senior officers from the Naval, Army and Air or other agencies attached to an embassy for specialized services.

Attaché also means the most junior rank of diplomatic officials in an embassy.

audience: (n)

Audience in diplomatic terminology is used to refer to the privilege to present oneself at a royal court or palace for a formal

call on the Head of State.

aurevoir (Fr): (inj)

Aurevoir is used to express farewell.

[French: *au*, till the + *revoir*, seeing again]

avantgarde (Fr): (n & adj)

Avantgarde means a group active in the invention and application of new techniques in a given field, especially in the arts.

[French, from Old French, vanguard.]

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- (6) Barrister-at-law.

Daily use of Cholesterol-lowering medicine related to a decrease in COVID-19 severity, risk of mortality

Statin users had a 37% lower risk of dying from COVID-19 than those who didn’t use statins. In addition, regular statin users were significantly less likely to be discharged to hospice, be admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) or develop blood clots. They also had shorter hospital stays and spent less time on a ventilator.

A RESEARCH of over 38,000 people found that commonly used cholesterol-lowering statins may decrease the risk of mortality and the severity of COVID-19 disease.

“While there is no ‘magic bullet’ to help patients who are very ill with COVID-19, statins decrease inflammation, which may help reduce the severity of the disease,” said Ettore Crimi, M.D., MBA, lead author of the study and professor of anesthesiology and critical care medicine, University of Central Florida, Orlando. “Results of our study clearly showed regular statin use is associated with reduced risk of

death and improved outcomes in hospitalized COVID-19 patients.”

The retrospective study

The retrospective study is one of the most extensive of regular statin use in patients with COVID-19. Researchers analyzed the electronic medical records of 38,875 patients hospitalized for COVID-19 at 185 hospitals in the United States between 1 Jan. and 30 Sept 2020. Of those patients, 30 per cent regularly used statins to treat high cholesterol. Statin users had a 37 per cent lower risk of dying from COVID-19 than those who didn’t use statins. In addition, regular statin users were significantly less likely to be dis-

charged to hospice, be admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) or develop blood clots. They also had shorter hospital stays and spent less time on a ventilator.

While COVID-19 itself causes inflammation, in some cases the immune system creates further inflammation by responding too aggressively to the infection. This extreme reaction causes much of the damage to the body, including difficulty breathing and damage to the lungs, kidneys, heart, brain and vascular system. The anti-inflammatory actions of statins “cool the process” so that the disease is not as severe, Dr Crimi said.

One in four Americans over

the age of 40 take statins to lower their cholesterol and reduce their risk of heart attack, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases, according to the American Heart Association, making them one of the most commonly prescribed drugs.

The importance of evaluating medications

“This research illustrates the importance of evaluating medications that could be repurposed to help patients in ways other than their intended use,” said Dr Crimi. “Our results suggest statins could be an additional cost-effective solution against COVID-19 disease severity and

should be studied further.”

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS

Founded in 1905, the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) is an educational, research and scientific society with more than 55,000 members organized to raise and maintain the standards of the medical practice of anesthesiology. ASA is committed to ensuring physician anesthesiologists evaluate and supervise the medical care of patients before, during and after surgery to provide the highest quality and safest care every patient deserves.

SOURCE: AFP



Atorvastatin, sold under the brand name Lipitor among others, is a statin medication used to prevent cardiovascular disease in those at high risk and to treat abnormal lipid levels. For the prevention of cardiovascular disease, statins are a first-line treatment. It is taken by mouth. Statins are among the most widely prescribed drugs in Canada and the US. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PAUL J. RICHARDS/AFP

ENVIRON WORLD

Growing concern over unseasonal warm spell in Europe



Warm October weather has seen many flock to the beach -- such as here at Hossegor, southwestern France -- but environmentalists see more evidence of climate change. **PHOTO: AFP**

OCTOBER morning temperatures topping 30 Celsius (86 Fahrenheit) in Spain may have brought cheer to the tourists, but they are provoking concern among environmentalists.

The mercury has been rising well above the norm across vast swathes of Europe, from Spain to as far north as Sweden.

After a summer marked by repeated heatwaves across much of the continent, Europe is experiencing exceptional temperatures even as it heads into the start of autumn — a sign of

accelerating climate change.

“The month has not yet ended but we can already say practically without fear of contradiction that it will be the hottest (in Spain) since 1961,” when records began to be collated, said Ruben del Campo of Spain’s meteorological service Aemet.

If extrapolated data from historical reconstructions is taken into account, he added, this past month will have been Spain’s warmest October for fully a century.

“One, two days above 30 de-

grees is normal” for Spain, said del Campo. “But so many days, no. These are summer temperatures, whereas we are already heading into autumn.”

On Friday morning, the northern resort of San Sebastian saw the temperature hit 30.3 Celsius at 8:30 am (0630 GMT) — well above the seasonal average.

With forest fires declared in recent days in the Basque region, of which San Sebastian is a part, authorities have banned barbecues and fireworks to keep risks to a minimum.

The unseasonal warm spell has brought a new word into the Spanish lexicon — “verono” — an amalgam of verano (summer) and otono (autumn).

And it has left del Campo highlighting a “notable acceleration” in climate change over the past decade, exposing Spain to increasing creeping desertification. According to the Climate Central think tank, the Spanish cities of Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia and Zaragoza are all in the top 10 European cities most affected by global warming on the evidence of the past 12 months.—AFP

French government slams ‘eco-terrorism’ as water protesters dig in

FRENCH protesters on Monday defied a massive police presence to try to stop an agriculture water storage project, as the government vowed to prevent any encampment while denouncing vandalism and “eco-terrorism”.

Clashes with security forces marked the launch of the protest Saturday near Sainte-Soline in the western Deux-Sevres department, where officials said 4,000 people had turned out and six were arrested.

A group of 400 farmers is hoping to build a network of 16 giant retention basins for

groundwater pumped out during the winter, which can then be used for irrigation in summers that have experienced severe drought in recent years.

But climate activists and local opponents see a “water grab” by intensive farmers that will deprive smaller producers of access by disrupting natural groundwater recharge.

One farmer has allowed the protesters to set up camp on his land adjacent one of the basins, where watchtowers and fences are being built to create a “village of Gauls”, a reference to the popular “Asterix” comic books.—AFP



The Sainte-Soline water reserve is the second of 16 such installations. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Ardern in a flap as wren rocks N. Zealand’s bird beauty contest

A tiny mountain-dwelling wren was the surprise winner Monday of New Zealand’s controversial bird of the year competition, which even had Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern in a flap.

The piwauwau rock wren punched above its 20-gramme weight, flying under the radar to win the annual contest ahead of popular fellow native contenders, the little penguin and the kea.

Fans of the wren set up a Facebook page to help the outsider soar up the final rankings when the fortnight-long poll closed Monday.

“It’s not the size, it’s the underbird you vote for that counts,” wrote one supporter.

The annual competition ruffled voters’ feathers in years past after a native bat was allowed to enter, then won, the 2021 title.

There was also outcry this year after the flightless kakapo — a twice previous winner

dubbed the world’s fattest parrot — was barred from running to give others a chance.—AFP



The ever-popular kakapo (pictured with former prime minister Helen Clark) was barred from this year’s competition to give other birds a chance. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

For water-stressed Iraq, wells threaten race to the bottom

IRAQ has long drilled the desert for oil, but now climate stress, drought and reduced river flows are forcing it to dig ever deeper for a more precious resource: water.

The war-scarred nation and major crude exporter is one of the world’s five countries most impacted by key effects of the climate crisis, says the United Nations.

Compounding the water stress, upstream dams, mainly in Türkiye, have vastly reduced the flow of the Tigris and Euphrates, the once mighty rivers that gave birth to Mesopotamian civilisation.

One of Iraq’s millions of hardscrabble farmers bearing the brunt of this ecological crisis is Jabar al-Fatlawi, 50, a father of five with a rough beard and wearing a white robe.

Like his father before him, he has grown wheat and rice in the southern province of Najaf — but not this year, he said, blaming the “severe water shortage”.

To help him keep alive at least his date palms and livestock, he has paid local authorities to dig a well on his dusty patch of land near the town of Al-Mishkhab.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Severe COVID-19 patients at greater risk of post-infection symptoms: ECDC

INDIVIDUALS who are severely affected by COVID-19 may be at higher risk of post-infection symptoms, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) said on Monday.

In its latest report, ECDC said that “post-COVID-19 symptoms appear to be more prevalent among patients from hospital settings when compared to community settings”.

According to the report, a wide range of physical and psychological symptoms have been

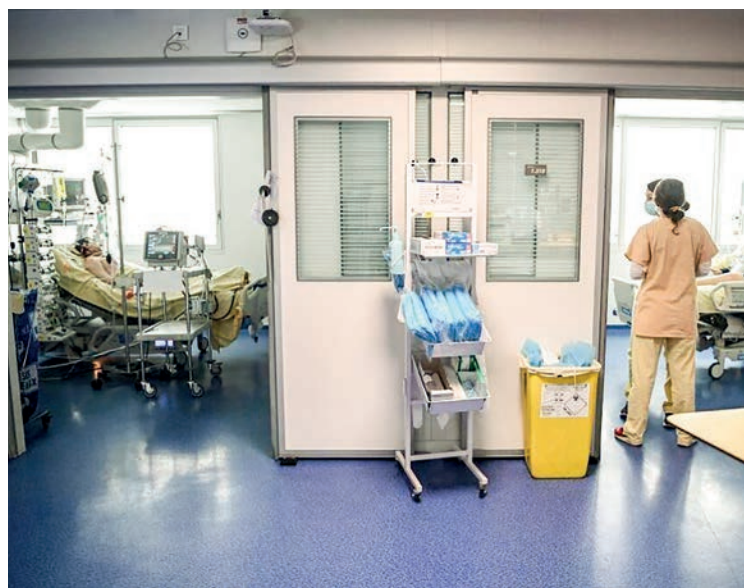
reported by individuals at least 12 weeks following a SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Five post-COVID-19 symptoms — fatigue, shortness of breath, depression, headache and dizziness — were found to be more prevalent among patients from hospital settings than those from community settings.

The report is based on studies conducted in the European Union (EU)/European Economic Area (EEA), the United Kingdom, United States, Canada,

Australia and New Zealand.

It may assist policymakers and public health authorities in estimating the burden of post-COVID-19 condition, and support the planning of rehabilitation services during the post-acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, ECDC also emphasized that estimates regarding the prevalence of symptoms must be interpreted with caution, as most of the studies lacked comparisons with groups of non-infected people. —Xinhua



Medical staff tend to COVID-19 patients at the Georges Pompidou European Hospital in Paris in April. **PHOTO: ANNE-CHRISTINE POUJOLAT, AFP**

China's factory activity slows in Oct with recovery in sight



Staff members work in a factory manufacturing fire robots in Tangshan, north China's Hebei Province, 6 Dec 2017. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

DESPITE China's manufacturing sector seeing a contraction of activities in October amid the impact of COVID-19, firms expect the sector to heat up in the near term.

The purchasing managers' index (PMI) for China's manufacturing sector came in at 49.2 in October, down from 50.1 in September, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed Mon-

day. A reading above 50 indicates expansion, while a reading below reflects contraction.

Sporadic and scattered COVID-19 outbreaks weighed on the October reading, the bureau's senior statistician Zhao Qinghe said.

Another cause for the decline is a contraction in energy-intensive industries, with the sub-reading coming in at 48.8, down from 50.6 in September, Zhao added. Of the 21 industries surveyed, 11 reported PMIs in the expansion zone, indicating a generally sound business climate for manufacturers. The PMI for large enterprises remained in the expansion zone at 50.1 in October, down from 51.1 the previous month. The sub-reading for production and new orders stood at 49.6 and 48.1, respectively. —Xinhua

Cholera could become “endemic” if Lebanon fails to curb spread: health minister

LEBANESE caretaker Health Minister Firass Abiad warned on Sunday that cholera could become “endemic” in Lebanon if the country fails to curb the spread of its infection, the National News Agency reported.

Making the remarks during a visit to public hospitals in the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon, Abiad urged Lebanon to grasp the “golden opportunity” to stop the transmission, as “the epidemic is still in its infancy and

can be stopped”.

The health ministry has been monitoring preparedness work in securing enough hospital beds for a possible surge in cholera inpatients, Abia added.

He warned that the epidemic would not only impact Lebanon's health sector but also agri-products exports and tourism.

Cholera is an acute diarrhoeal disease that can kill within hours if left untreated, and the

supply of safe water and sanitation is critical to the prevention and control of its transmission, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The WHO published a fact sheet on cholera in March, saying a cholera-endemic area is an area where confirmed cholera cases were detected during the last three years with evidence of local transmission, meaning the cases are not imported from elsewhere. —Xinhua

Australia hosts meetings for world experts to join forces against avian, swine diseases

WORLD-LEADING experts on infectious animal diseases are gathered in Australia for World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) meetings.

National science agency the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) is hosting expert network meetings of the WOAH at its Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP) this week.

Co-hosted with the federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the meetings bring animal disease policymakers together with more than 50 leading international experts on avian and swine diseases.

Trevor Drew, director of the ACDP, said the meetings were particularly important ahead of an expected spike in avian influenza cases later this year.

“While Australia is cur-

rently free of highly pathogenic avian influenza and African swine fever, both pose significant risks to our poultry and pig industries respectively,” he said in a media release on Tuesday.

“By collaborating and sharing knowledge on these and other emerging pathogens with our neighbours, we can help improve the region's preparedness against emerging infectious diseases and reduce the risk on our own shores.”

Meetings will take place over five days at the ACDP — the same facility where the CSIRO has conducted its SARS-CoV-2 research.

Attendees include Australia's Chief Veterinary Officer Mark Schipp, who said Australia was proud to host for the first time. Schipp said transboundary animal diseases such as African swine fever and avian influenza “know no borders”. —Xinhua



This file photo shows a man collecting eggs in a farm in Danzhai in China's southwestern Guizhou province. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ECONOMY WORLD

Italy surprise GDP jump comes as new PM Meloni prepares budget

ITALY posted better-than-expected quarterly growth on Monday, a surprise bump for new Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni that staves off — for now — an expected recession in Europe's third-largest economy.

In its third quarter, gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 0.5 per cent over the second quarter, compared to the slight decline that had been anticipated by the previous government of Mario Draghi.

That rise — according to preliminary estimates by national statistics institute Istat — outpaced the Eurozone average of a rise of 0.2 per cent and the 0.3 per cent Germany published Friday.

Nicola Nobile of Oxford Economics told AFP it was due to a surge in “household consumption, especially in services such as tourism”.

“But like other countries in the eurozone, Italy should enter a recession this winter in a context of rising interest rates and inflation,” he said.

Regardless, the quarterly surprise comes at the right time for Meloni, leader of the post-fascist Brothers of Italy party, whose first budget is due before the European Commission by the end of November.—AFP



A bookstore employee explains safety instructions to a customer in Rome on 20 April 2020 after the Italian government decides the re-opening of certain commercial activities amid a lockdown aimed at curbing the spread of the COVID-19 disease. **PHOTO: ANDREAS SOLARO / AFP**

Brazil's financial market raises inflation forecast to 5.61%

BRAZIL'S financial market raised its inflation forecast for 2022 to 5.61 per cent, after 17 straight weeks of lowering its projections, the Central Bank of Brazil said on Monday.

According to the bank's weekly focus survey of the country's leading financial institutions, analysts raised projected inflation from 5.60 to 5.61 per cent, but kept their 2023 forecast unchanged at 4.94 per cent.

The central bank's infla-

tion target for this year is 3.5 per cent, with a margin of error of 1.5 percentage points.

Analysts' economic growth forecast for 2022 held steady at 2.76 per cent, but for 2023, it rose for the fifth consecutive week to 0.64 per cent.

Analysts estimate the benchmark interest rate, currently at 13.75 per cent annually, will remain unchanged until the end of the year, but drop to 11.25 per cent in 2023.—Xinhua

Japan PM Kishida to meet Toyota chief over decarbonizing auto sector

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will meet with Toyota Motor Corp. President Akio Toyoda on Wednesday to discuss promoting decarbonization in the auto industry, the government said.

Kishida sees green transformation as a critical component of his vision for a “new capitalism”, and has pledged to step up efforts to achieve a carbon neutral society by 2050.

The Kishida administration plans to consider in tandem with the private sector how the auto industry can lead the world in decarbonization, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno, the top government spokesman, said at a news conference on Tuesday.

In June, the Japan Business Federation, or Keidanren, the country's most powerful business lobby, set up a committee on the auto-related mobility industry in a bid to make the sector in Japan globally competitive.

Kishida, who visited Toyota's electric vehicle factory in Toyota in the central prefecture of Aichi in June, has expressed eagerness to establish a framework to exchange views between government officials and auto industry executives.

During the meeting on



Toyota Motor Corp. President Akio Toyoda speaks at a press conference in Tokyo on 14 Dec 2021, about investment plans for electric vehicles. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

Wednesday with Toyoda, along with Keidanren head Masakazu Tokura and other private-sector leaders, Kishida also plans to call for raising wages in the auto industry, government sources said.

With Japanese households confronting rising prices without wage growth, Kishida has been keen to implement measures

such as tax breaks to get companies to hike salaries.

Toyota, one of the biggest carmakers in the world, has a strong influence in setting the direction of the country's spring wage negotiations between management and labour unions, called “shunto”, every year.—Kyodo

Free firewood becomes hot commodity in Greece amid energy crisis

FACING a winter of energy shortages, people across Greece are resorting to cheaper heating sources, such as firewood. Responding to growing demand — which tends to push up prices — several local councils across the country have stepped in to distribute firewood free of charge to the needy.

In Greece's mountainous regions, such programmes have already been running for years. But in urban centres, this is a new initiative.

In Glyfada, a suburb south of Athens, the programme was launched in early 2021 after a February snowstorm left tonnes of downed trees and fallen branches on the streets, Anna Kafka, head of the municipality's civil protec-



Residents in the southern Athens suburb of Glyfada collect firewood offered by the local council on 20 October 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

tion department, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Those interested can submit an application and once that is processed they can take as much

as they can fit into the trunk of their car. This year, as the energy crisis intensifies, the municipality has seen an increase in applications.—Xinhua

Sony ups FY 2022 net profit outlook on weaker yen, strong music sales

SONY Group Corp on Tuesday raised its net profit forecast for the year through March to 840 billion yen (\$5.66 billion), expecting sales in its music, games and film businesses to benefit from the weaker yen but warned of the risks from a global slowdown.

The Japanese electronics and entertainment giant had estimated in July a net profit of 800 billion yen. It also raised its sales outlook to 11.6 trillion yen from 11.5 trillion yen and its operating profit to 1.16 trillion yen from 1.11 trillion yen for the current business year ending next March.

The latest net profit, sales and operating profit outlooks represent a fall of 4.8 per cent, a rise of 16.9 per cent and a decline of 3.5 per cent, respectively,



Sony said the weak yen had boosted profits in several sectors. **PHOTO: AFP**

ly, from the previous business year.

Sony said sales in the music segment are expected to rise due to favorable foreign exchange rates and a robust music streaming business. It said that sales in the games sector have also benefitted from the rise in prices of the PlayStation 5 game consoles in September.

The company put its

assumed exchange rate for the US dollar at roughly 140 yen and around 138 yen for the euro for the current fiscal year 2022, up from 112.3 yen and 130.5 yen in fiscal 2021, respectively.

A weaker yen increases the value of Sony's overseas earnings when repatriated, although it inflates import costs for raw materials and components.—Kyodo

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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Daw La Min May, H.G.P

For International Automotive Oversight Bureau (Michigan-based non-profit corporation),
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,

Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Imm@kcyangon.com

Dated 2nd November 2022

သတင်းစာ ဖာယူလီပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
09 454 237 515

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA RIA VOY.NO. (KRIA0521N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA RIA VOY. NO. (KRIA0521N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-11-2022** 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Engagement Announcement

Mr Zaw Myint and Mrs Yin Yin Shwe are happy to announce that their son, Mr Paing Zaw Myint, is engaged to Ms Su Sundi Thein, the daughter of Mr Po Thein and Mrs War War Myint.

The engagement ceremony was held on 30 October 2022, in the presence of family and friends. The newly engaged couple extends their gratitude to those who attended and blessed their engagement.

Yangon-Mandalay Expressway Announcement

1. All expressway users of passenger cars, trucks, and private cars should be aware and precautionary of the following traffic rules and regulations for traffic safety.

- (1) Speed Limit Warning: Private Cars: 100 Km/h, Passengers (Express cars): 90 Km/h, Truck Cars: 60 Km/h
- (2) Wear and fasten seat belt all the time when driving
- (3) Drive in the Right side (Lane) of road
- (4) Stop or Rest only at the designated Rest Camps
- (5) All motorcycles and tractors (trolley) are not allowed

2. If the expressway users violate to comply the above rules, penalty will be taken according to the expressway law, traffic law and other existing laws.

Yangon-Mandalay Expressway Maintenance Unit,
Department Of Highways, NPT

Notice for Change of distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official distributor have been changed to Bentz Jaz Myanmar Co., Ltd. for the following insecticides.

No.	Trade name	Active ingredient	Manufacturer	Former Distributor	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Xterm Termite Bait	Bistrifluron 1% w/w	Sumitomo Chemical (Asia Pacific) Pte. Ltd.	Sumitomo Chemical Singapore Pte. Ltd.	Provisional	2015-1417

Bentz Jaz Myanmar Co., Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, 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.

Bentz Jaz Myanmar Co., Ltd. No (46/A), U Lun Maung Street, 7 ward, 7 miles, Mayangone Township, Yangon.

အမှားပြင်ဆင်ချက်

(၁၉-၁၀-၂၀၂၂) ရက်နေ့တွင် The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတွင် ပါရှိသော အမှားသိစေရန် ကြေညာခြင်း ကြော်ငြာတွင် မမြဲမြံလှိုင်၏ ဖခင်အမည်မှန်မှာ ဦးတင်မြင့် (ခ)လင်မင်တိုက် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။



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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Norway raises military readiness, no direct threat: PM

NORWAY, a NATO member that shares a border with Russia in the Arctic, will raise its military readiness, its prime minister said on Monday, stressing however that no direct threat had been detected. “The military will as of tomorrow raise its preparedness in Norway”, Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store told reporters.

“We currently have no reason to believe that Russia wants to involve Norway or any other country directly in the war, but the war in Ukraine means it is necessary for all NATO countries to be increasingly on their guard”, he added.

Norway has overtaken Russia as Europe’s main natural gas supplier following Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine.

The Scandinavian country has already raised security around its strategic sites after mysterious drone flights were observed near its offshore oil and gas platforms and the suspected sabotage of Nord Stream’s Baltic Sea pipelines.—AFP



A Norwegian soldiers uses a Hellfire missile during exercise Joint Viking in Finnmark 2017. **PHOTO: JONNY KARLSEN/ARMED FORCES OF NORWAY/FILE**

Moscow protests Western bid to ‘recruit’ Russian diplomats

MOSCOW on Monday summoned the Dutch ambassador to “protest strongly” against Western efforts to “recruit” Russian diplomats in the Netherlands, the foreign ministry said. Ambassador Gilles Besschoor Plug was called in to hear Moscow “protest strongly against an attempt to recruit

the military attache of Russia’s embassy in The Hague on 20 October by a representative of the British intelligence services,” the ministry said.

“Such provocative actions are unacceptable... and hinder the normal operation of Russian establishments abroad,” it added.—AFP

Russia wants Kyiv to vow no military use of grain corridor

RUSSIA said Monday it wanted “commitments” from Ukraine not to use the grain exports corridor for military purposes, after an attack on its Crimea fleet led to Moscow suspending its involvement in a foodstuffs export deal.

“There cannot be a question of guaranteeing the safety of any object in this area until Ukraine makes additional commitments not to use this route for military purposes,” the Russian defence ministry said on Telegram.

It also called on the United Nations to “get guarantees from Ukraine that it would not use the humanitarian corridor and Ukrainian ports designated for exports of agricultural products for hostile acts against Russia”.—AFP

Biden threatens tax hit for ‘war profiteering’ oil giants

US President Joe Biden said Monday he plans to seek tax penalties for oil companies unless they invest their record profits in lowering consumer costs and boosting production, criticizing their “war profiteering”.

His comments came days after oil giants ExxonMobil and Chevron reported bumper earnings, reflecting how a surge in crude prices after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has boosted the industry.

Natural gas costs have also risen, due to Europe’s mobilization to offset lost imports from Russia.

“Their profits are a windfall of war,” Biden told reporters on Monday, referring to energy businesses’ earnings.

Biden said companies have a “responsibility to act” beyond the narrow self-inter-



Exxon reported income of \$17.9 billion for the three months through June, more than three times what it earned in the same quarter a year ago. **PHOTO: JUSTIN SULLIVAN /AFP**

est of executive shareholders, and to help consumers by raising production and their refining capacity.

If businesses do not act to lower prices, “they’re going to pay a higher tax on their excess profits and face other

restrictions,” Biden said, adding that officials will work with Congress to look into the issue.

While oil and gas prices have recently cooled, they are still much higher than before Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine in February.—AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINE

Pacific nuclear legacy overshadows US talks in Marshall Islands

MARSHALL Islands officials say they are ready to resume talks with the United States this week on renewing a long-standing economic and security deal, provided Washington addresses grievances stemming from the testing of nuclear weapons on the Pacific archipelago more than 70 years ago.

The United States detonated 67 nuclear bombs in the Marshall Islands between 1946-58, and the health and environmental impacts are still felt on the islands and atolls that lie between Hawaii and the Philippines.

US special envoy Joseph Yun is scheduled to land in the capital Majuro on Thursday to resume negotiations on extending the 20-year Compact of Free Association, part of which expires in 2023.

Marshall Islands negotiators first want the United States to pay more of the compensation awarded by the interna-



The huge dome built over the top of a crater left by one of the 43 nuclear tests over Runit Island in Enewetak in the Marshall Islands. **PHOTO: AFP**

tional Nuclear Claims Tribunal, which around \$270 million has totalling just over \$3 billion, of been paid so far.—AFP

Francis' first visit to Bahrain to cement ties with Islam

POPE Francis will become the first pontiff in history to visit Bahrain, in a trip this week that is hoped will cement ties with Islam but is also marked by accusations of human rights abuses in the Gulf state.

The Thursday-to-Sunday visit — the 39th international trip of Francis' papacy — comes three years after his historic trip to the United Arab Emirates in 2019, where he signed a Muslim-Christian

manifesto for peace.

But some human rights groups now hope Francis will press Bahrain's Sunni leader, King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, to halt repression against Shiite Muslims, though the rights record of neighbour Qatar has drawn more attention in recent months ahead of the World Cup.

The Argentine pontiff, 85, has made outreach to Muslim communities a priority during his papacy, visiting Middle

Eastern countries including Egypt in 2017 and Iraq last year while pledging interfaith dialogue with leading Muslim clerics.

On Friday, Francis plans to meet with Sunni Islam's highest authority, Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb, the grand imam of Cairo's prestigious Al-Azhar mosque and centre of Islamic learning, at Sakhir Palace in the centre of the country. —AFP



A woman walks past a cutout image of Pope Francis displayed at the Sacred Heart Church in the capital Manama, on 7 October 2022, ahead of a visit by the pontiff this week. Before Bahrain established the Gulf's first church in the 1930s, priests would visit from Iraq to perform services for a small Catholic community. Now, its ranks swollen by Asian workers, the community is preparing to welcome the pope. **PHOTO: AFP**

Israelis vote as Netanyahu seeks return to power



Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid casts his vote at a polling station in the coastal city of Tel Aviv. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ISRAELIS were voting Tuesday in their fifth election in less than four years, with the hawkish ex-premier Benjamin Netanyahu campaigning for a comeback

alongside far-right allies.

The latest ballot follows the collapse of the so-called "change" coalition, which united eight disparate parties who

succeeded in ousting Netanyahu last year after a record run as prime minister, but ultimately failed to bring political stability.

Israelis have until 2000 GMT to cast their ballot, after which complex bargaining to build a coalition will get underway.

Caretaker Prime Minister Yair Lapid is seeking to hold onto power, with his centrist Yesh Atid party lagging slightly behind Netanyahu's right-wing Likud in the polls.

Lapid, a former TV anchor, on Tuesday urged the electorate to cast their ballot.

"Go and vote today for the future of our children, for the future of our country. Vote well!" he said at a Tel Aviv polling station. —AFP

Tokyo gov't begins recognizing same-sex partnerships

THE Tokyo metropolitan government's revised ordinance recognizing the partnerships of sexual minorities took effect Tuesday, joining several other prefectural governments in equally treating sexual minority couples in administrative and other public services.

Japan does not legally recognize same-sex marriage, but couples who obtain a certificate

under the so-called Tokyo Partnership Oath System will be able to, for instance, apply for municipal housing and include their children's names on their partnership certificates.

Despite the increase in the number of Japanese municipalities recognizing same-sex partnerships in recent years, Japan remains the only Group of Seven country not to do so at

the national level.

In June, the Osaka District Court dismissed a damages lawsuit claiming the government's denying same-sex couples the right to marry is unconstitutional, while the Sapporo District Court ruled last year the government's failure to amend laws to recognize same-sex marriage violates the right to equality. —Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Algeria hosts first Arab summit since Israel normalization deals

ARAB leaders meet in the Algerian capital on Tuesday for their first summit since a string of normalization deals with Israel that have divided the region. Since the last Arab League summit in 2019, several members of the 22-member bloc -- for decades a forum for strident declarations of support for the Palestinian cause -- have normalized ties with the Jewish state. The United Arab Emirates went first in a historic US-mediated deal that made the country the third Arab state, after Egypt and Jordan, to establish full ties with Israel. —AFP

Filipinos flock to cemeteries for All Saints' Day

FILIPINOS clutching flowers and umbrellas poured into cemeteries across the Catholic-majority Philippines Tuesday to pay tribute to their dead loved ones on All Saints' Day for the first time since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Rain fell as thousands walked or took free motorized tricycle services to tombs scattered across sprawling graveyards in the capital Manila where many poor families live alongside the dead in shanties or mausoleums. —AFP



Couples pose for photos after receiving certificates under the Tokyo Partnership Oath System in Tokyo on 1 Nov 2022, as the Tokyo metropolitan government's revised ordinance recognizing the partnerships of sexual minorities took effect the same day. **PHOTO: KYODO**

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Biden threatens tax hit for 'war profiteering' oil giants
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SPORT



Atthaya Thitikul of Thailand is the new women's world number one. PHOTO: AFP

Thailand's Atthaya Thitikul, 19, becomes women's golf number one

THAI teenager Atthaya Thitikul has become the second-youngest world number one in women's golf history after a stunning debut year on the LPGA Tour.

The 19-year-old, who has triumphed twice on the US-based elite women's tour in 2022 and has 12 other top-10 finishes this season, takes over at the top from South Korea's Ko Jin-young.

Ko had been top of the rankings since January but suffered a

recent wrist injury and withdrew from her home BMW Ladies Championship last month after two poor rounds.

Atthaya is only the second player under 20 to reach number one — New Zealand's Lydia Ko was 17 when she first topped the rankings in 2015. Ko is now world number three.

"It means a lot for my team, my family, my supporters and myself," said Atthaya, who will tee up

as number one for the first time at this week's LPGA Japan Classic. She finished sixth in South Korea two weeks ago.

"It is such an honour to have my name at the top amongst the biggest names of the game.

"It is very special to get to the top but it is much harder to retain it. "I still have a lot to learn from all the legends and current players both on and off the course.—AFP

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

- To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

- To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Qatar Embassy organizes Sporting Event on Sideline of FIFA World Cup 2022

CHARGÉS d'affaires ad interim of the Embassy of the State of Qatar to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Rashid Abdulla Al-Kuwari organized a sporting event on 1 November 2022 at Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel on the sideline of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The event was attended by heads of diplomatic missions in Myanmar besides embassy staff families and honourable guests.

The event was opened by playing the Myanmar national anthem followed by the FIFA World Cup 2022 theme songs.

Officials and youths showed their football skills on

the artificial turf during the event.

"The first World Cup tourney in the Middle East and Arab world will take place in Qatar and kick off in less than 18 days from 20 November 2022 to 18 December which is also Qatar's National Day," said Mr Hanid Sodany, a media official from the Qatar Embassy.

"Since Qatar has won the right to host the World Cup, it immediately started a race against time to fulfil its commitment to the hosting file and to organize an exceptional edition of the Football World Cup. With unique attractions, spectacular, eight state-of-the-



Heads of diplomatic missions in Myanmar besides the Embassy staff families and honourable guests pose for a group photo during the Sporting Event on the Sideline of FIFA World Cup 2022 at Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel on 1 November 2022. PHOTO: QATAR EMBASSY

art stadiums, and a bonus of traditional Arabic hospitality, it promises to host a tournament

like no other," he added.

The event was concluded after the ambassador

had posed for a group photo to mark the football event. — GNLM