

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.

Senior General expresses, "The establishment of a technological university in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area will help the capital of the State to have city characteristics"

THE Nay Pyi Taw Technological University will conduct the master's courses and doctoral courses year after year to turn out the highly qualified human resources for the nation, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of the Nay Pyi Taw Technological University under the Ministry of Science and Technology yesterday morning.

SAC member Admiral Tin Aung San, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw and Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Tin Oo Lwin formally opened the Nay Pyi Taw Technological University.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said the Government Technological College (Nay Pyi Taw) was upgraded to the Nay Pyi Taw Technological University to keep abreast of advanced universities like Yangon Technological University and Mandalay Technological University.

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State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round the mechanical engineering workshop at the Nay Pyi Taw Technological University yesterday.

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Those wishing to enter the legal fold can contact respective townships' Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in addition to reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council has released statements inviting CDM staff, students and youths, who are in border areas and ethnic armed groups, they can contact the nearest reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations if they want to enter the legal fold and the government will guarantee their lives following the rules and regulations.

In order to prevent the unnecessary loss of human resources, the State Administration Council has publicly invited the basic education staff who are absent from duty to resume their duties and those who take part in armed resistance under various names of groups, including PDFs. Meanwhile, 3,156 education workers, who were absent from their duties, another 1,009 people, who want to withdraw the cases that were opened against them, and 231 PDF members have contacted and

returned to the legal fold. Then, they were given back to their parents systematically and the numbers of people who enter the legal fold and those who wish to are rising. Therefore, the government is making efforts to accept more numbers of those people.

The government opens reception centres in border areas for those who would like to return to the legal fold. Moreover, those wishing to return home can contact respective townships' Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. It is guaranteed that they will be able to lead their daily lives peacefully.

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

48 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 12 November, total figure rises to 632,635

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **632,635** after **48** new cases were reported on 12 November 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **606,962** including **68** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,486** on Thursday with no new deaths reported from the pandemic.

According to the research, it is found that people who have been vaccinated do not suffer severely from the disease, need not to be hospitalized and unlikely to die. If they have received booster shot, the death rates can be reduced more.

As such, the people need to follow the new normal way in living with Covid. Hence, all the people above five have to fully receive Covid-19 vaccination inoculated by the Ministry of Health free of charge. Six months after the vaccination, they have to take booster jabs at relevant health centres and ward/village administration offices without fail.

Moreover, they have to wear masks while in closed chambers and public places. They need to often wash hands with soap and water or the hand gel containing alcohol (at least 60 per cent) for 20 seconds.

People need to follow the social distancing rule and avoid the crowds as much as possible. While not wearing masks, if they cough and sneeze, they need to cover mouth and noses with elbows in line with the personal hygienic ways.

Covid-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health.—MNA

Coordination meeting regarding verification of voter lists and number of polling stations in Mandalay Region



The coordination meeting on voter lists and polling stations is in progress in Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: MAUNG AYE CHAN**

THE Union Election Commission (UEC) is continuously conducting the election process that must be prepared to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election and obtain the right to vote freely under the law.

UEC members U Aung Moe Myint, U Aung Saw Win and U Ba Yan Shaung verified the lists of designated voters in Maha Aungmyay District, Thabeikkyin District, Chanayethazan Township, Chanmyathazi Township,

Pyigyidagun Township, Thabeikkyin Township, Mogok Township, Singu Township and Amarapura Township in Amarapura District in Mandalay Region.

In addition to verifying and approving the locations of the designated polling stations, the verification and calculation of polling station equipment to be used in various townships were conducted and coordination meetings were carried out, and the needs and difficulties were

coordinated.

The coordination meeting was held at the Mandalay Region Government Office meeting hall.

The region administrator, head of region Immigration, administrators from respective districts and townships, heads of district and township Immigration, and officials from region, district and township Election Sub-Commissions attended the meeting.— Maung Aye Chan/ GNLM

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

Management must be systematically implemented

THE government adopted future tasks, visions, national goals and political goals. The government is mainly responsible for achieving the goals with the participation of political parties and citizens. Such tasks should not burden the nation while management must be systematically implemented. We all are to move forward and all of the officials concerned are to successfully carry out departmental tasks.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 6/2022 of the Union government on 22 August 2022.)

Senior General expresses, "The establishment of a technological university in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area will help the capital of the State to have city characteristics"



State Administration Council Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the inaugural event of the Nay Pyi Taw Technological University on 12 November 2022.

FROM PAGE-1

The university will conduct six subjects namely four engineering subjects for turning out young engineers in addition to information technology subject and architecture subject. Experienced faculty members and experts will teach students the use of information and communication technology. In the coming years, the university will open an agricultural engineering course.

The university will open the first-year courses for those who passed the matriculation examination in 2022 in the 2022-23 academic year. The Nay Pyi Taw Technological University will conduct master's courses and doctoral courses year after year to turn out highly qualified human resources for the nation.

The Nay Pyi Taw Technological University will be facilitated with Information and Communication Technology and a learning management



The Senior General warmly greets the attending teachers and students at the event.

system-LMS for academic measures, examination and training sectors. Students will be trained to have high skills and techniques.

The establishment of a technological university in

Nay Pyi Taw Council Area will help the capital of the State to have city characteristics and to produce qualified engineers so as to benefit regional development and the socioeconomic development of the people.

The Senior General urged officials and faculty members to serve their duties for the development of the university and students to learn higher education for serving self-interest and regional and nation-

al interests.

The Senior General and party viewed the practical rooms, lecture rooms, library, language lab, computer pools, and civil engineering and mechanical engineering workshops.

The Nay Pyi Taw Technological University is located in Dana Theikdi Ward of Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, and it was upgraded from the Government Technological College (Nay Pyi Taw). Aimed at turning out technologically skilful youths for nation-building tasks, in accord with the guidance of Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the college was upgraded to the university level. It was facilitated with lecture buildings, an assembly hall, academic and management offices, lecture halls, practical rooms, computer pools, a library and an e-library. — MNA

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions



VACCINATION is being carried out in full swing in various regions and states as the vaccination programmes are one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 disease.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tat-

Health staff administer Covid vaccines to locals in Hinthada Township.

madaw, and relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 4,126 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 3,103 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

Similarly, on that day healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 305 students from seven districts in Mandalay Region.

In addition, to assist in the control and prevention of the COVID-19 disease, military

officials from various military commands in collaboration with district and township administrative officials, departmental personnel and members of civil society organizations (CSOs) conducted educational campaigns such as prevention of COVID-19, wearing of masks in public places and distribution of masks to the locals at schools, markets, streets, city entry points and crowded areas in 44 townships in Yangon Region yesterday. — MNA

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, consumer goods, cosmetics, raw chemicals, boats and vehicles confiscated

SUPERVISED by the Sagaing Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, a combined team led by Myanmar Police Force conducted inspections.

Officials captured six unregistered motorbikes worth K1,100,000 in Monywa, Shwebo and Kalay townships on 9 and 10 November. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

In addition, on 10 November, a combined team led by Myanmar Navy seized a total of 7.5322 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K1,129,830 from a motorboat and related things (estimated value of K1,145,000) at the Awwk-itauk coast of Panhtaung island in Kyunsu township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

A combined team led by the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force of Yangon International Ports made inspections and nabbed K9.1 million worth of cosmetics that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Checkpoint. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 11 November, the Ma-yanchaung Permanent Checkpoint in Mon State captured 1,200 kilogrammes of high-density polyethylene worth K2,016,000



Seized illegal goods in Kayin State.

that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a Mitsubishi Fuso Tractor Head and a trailer (approximately K115 million) heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

A combined team led by Tatmadaw captured 49 jerrycans of homemade alcohol worth K1,960,000 and the action was taken under the Chin Special Division Act.

On 11 and 12 November, officials confiscated K3 million worth of pears and consumer goods without official documents from two vehicles at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint and 500 cartons of beer worth K15 million without official documents from a Super Customs car (approximately K12

million) at the Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an) Combined Checkpoint. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Afterwards, a total of 42.4842 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K15,758,544 was seized in Toungoo, Nyaunglebin and Pyay districts on 11 and 12 November and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, an unregistered Hyundai car (estimated value of K5 million) was captured in Pandoing township on 11 November and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Therefore, 22 arrests (estimated value of K182,514,374) were made on four consecutive days from 9 to 12 November, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Drugs worth over K530 mln seized in southern Shan State

A total of over 1.7 million stimulant tablets worth over K530 million was seized in Kunhing Township of Shan State (South), it is learnt.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a Toyota HiAce car driven by Sai Sang Han accompanied by Sai Noi heading from Karli to Mongpyin on the Taunggyi-Tachilek Road at the Takaw Bridge combined checkpoint of Kunhing township at 6 pm on 9 November, according to information. A total of 1.77 million stimulant tablets worth over K530 million were found in the car.

According to interrogation results, stimulant tablets were transported from Kunhing township to Tachilek township. Legal action is taken against them and the Myanmar Police Force is trying to expose those connected with the offenders. — MNA



Two offenders are seen together with seized drugs and a Toyota HiAce.

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15 species of migratory birds sojourn at Inlay Lake



World's endangered aquatic bird species—Great Commonnant.

INLAY Lake, Myanmar's second-largest lake, located between two mountain ranges spanning from south to north is a Ramsar site and various marine animals and bird species live there, and 15 migratory bird species enter the lake starting in October.

The water birds such as three species of gull, four species of ducks, three species of sandpiper, two species of kite and three species of shite wagtail take refuge at Inlay Lake and the endangered duck species also enter

the lake show the progress in the natural environment of the lake. In this month, 271 species of resident birds and 98 birds including water birds and migratory birds are flocking to the lake as also the rare birds such as mallard, ruddy shelduck and Crane.

"We are conducting Inlay Lake conservation works and patrols to protect water birds and migratory birds normally. Then, we also prepare pastures for birds as separate conservation. We are making efforts to

prevent battery fishing as per the plans. Inlay Lake is a place where foreign visitors and bird lovers are most interested. It is the flyway network site and it should be conserved. When migratory birds take refuge there, bird watchers and experts from international countries come there and it supports the basic tourism industry and creates job opportunities for the residents. Therefore, all should participate in the conservation of migratory birds. If they disappear, it can affect the income of locals. The

migratory birds lure the interest of international countries and if we protect and conserve them, it is sure that it can improve the tourism industry of our country," said U Tin Mya Soe, head of the Inlay Lake Wildlife Sanctuary.

In 2021, 27 species of migratory birds entered Inlay Lake in early October and left for the North Pole in March and April. Biodiversity conservation is implemented in Inlay Lake and the lake hosts the second-largest number of migratory birds after Indawgyi Lake.

As there is no forest at Inlay Lake, there are no mammals and is a conservation place for resident birds, migratory birds and marine animals. The lake possesses 13 fish species including *Cyprinus intha* out of 16 resident fish species. The Inlay Lake Ramsar Site receives thousands of birds and the officials conserve the biodiversity and sustainability of the lake not to affect the natural environment.

The Inlay Lake in Nyaungshwe Township of southern Shan State is one of the nine Flyway Network Sites and it is Man and the Biosphere Reserve and so it plays a key role as the International Ramsar Site.

The migratory birds from the North Pole take refuge at new locations during winter to escape from the extreme weather. The migratory birds entering Inlay wildlife sanctuary are from Siberia and 15 migratory bird species enter the lake starting in October this winter. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM



World's endangered duck species—Red-crested Pochard.



Winter migration of bird and duck species begins in Inlay Lake in October 2022. PHOTOS: KANU

China-Myanmar's new freight transport mode kicks off with one bill of lading for 20 checkpoints



The picture shows the Chinshwehaw border checkpoint.

THE Yunnan provincial government launched the China-Myanmar new freight transport model with one bill of lading for 20 land border points, according to the statement released by the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar.

Starting on 3 November, the first-ever bill of lading (BL) endorsement with BL financing of the China-Myanmar multimodal joint transport project was held at the Bank of China (Kunming branch).

This trading system was

started on China-Laos Railway. For the second time, China-Myanmar cross-border trade flow, border crossing, the restriction measures of the pandemic, combined transport from road to rail, bonded zone area with tax incentives for import of raw materials for production of the finished goods and cargo withdrawal permit can be conducted altogether.

One bill of lading system for the combined transport can be used from rail to cross-border road access, covering 370

kilometres long roads and 850 kilometres long railway (totaling a 1,220 kilometres long trip with 20 checkpoints).

With this freight transport mode, the traders have to pass those stages; goods loading, monitoring, Chinese Customs and multimodal transport. The goods are to be loaded to the Lancang-Chinshwehaw border with road access and those goods are to be delivered to bonded zone area through a rail link at the Lancang railway station. —TWA/GNLM

CURRENT AFFAIRS

New monsoon onion, Chinese onion enter markets

ALTHOUGH new monsoon onions enter the market normally in December about 10,000 visses already entered the countryside market before this mid-November and prices were about K1,000 lower than old onions, according to Myingyan and Pakokku markets.

New onions would enter the Yangon market during this month, Ko Kyaw Oo, an onion purchaser at the Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre told the Global

New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Since early November, new monsoon onions have entered the Myingyan market amounting to about 7,000 visses per day and the highest price was K2,800 per viss.

Similarly, about 7,241 visses of onions entered the Pakokku market on 11 November at its highest price of K2800 per viss. New onions that entered the market on 11 November are marketable ones, said a mer-

chant. The broker of the market expressed daily prices and they did not state the old onion prices starting 11 November but new onion prices.

The leftover onion amount is lower in onion-producing areas and the onion volume transported to Yangon is still high. Chinese onions are still entering Mandalay and Yangon markets at lower prices. When the large-sized summer onion fetches K4,600 per viss, the Chinese onion is priced at only K3,000 per viss.

Only the lower amount of old summer onions entered the Yangon market on 11 November and the transactions were slack, Ko Swe Myint, a daily onion and potato purchaser told the GNLM.

The sales of small-sized old onions are on the rise despite medium-sized onions that get K3,500 per viss, said onion seller Ko Thein from Yaytama street.

Only the new monsoon onion and Chinese onion can enter the market starting mid-November.

Prices can be lower than the prices of old summer onions.

There is no demand for new monsoon onions at the border and there will be only transactions for local consumption, so the prices will decline again, said a purchaser.

Onion prices hit a record high and people reduced the consumption rate. In 2021, onion prices including delivery services were only below K1,000 per viss. Later mid-term period of this year, the people halved the amount, said customers and onion sellers in Yangon.

The record high prices of onions affected onion growers who sold in the new season and it only benefited the rich onion growers and traders. However, those who grow the monsoon onion in the early period and Chinese onion importers also reaped healthy profits.

The onion prices become higher as there were demands from Bangladesh in 2019 and Viet Nam in 2022.—TWA/GNLM



New monsoon onions are seen in the market.



The view of the Myaynigon traffic light and its vicinity.

YRTC to control parking of taxis, vehicles at 18 YBS stops in Yangon

PARKING of taxis and other vehicles at 18 bus stops in Yangon will be controlled in a disciplinary manner, according to the coordination meeting on road and traffic safety, research and health in Yangon Region.

Due to the parking of taxis and other vehicles, YBS buses stopped to pick up and drop off passengers only in the middle of the lane, according to field inspections by officials of the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC).

Therefore, disciplinary measures will be taken at 18 bus stops in Yangon: Myanmar Plaza bus stop, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road bus stop, Thamine Junction bus stop, Junction 8 bus stop, Thamine Station Road bus stop, Bayintnaung Junction bus stop, 9-Mile bus stop on Pyay Road, 10-Mile bus stop, Sawbwagyigon bus stop, Danyingon bus stop, New Thiri Mingala Market bus stop, Kyimyindine Night Bazaar bus stop, Yuzana Plaza bus stop on Banya Dala Road, Bogyoke Bazaar bus stop on Bogyoke Aung San Road, Bar Street bus stop on Anawrahta Road, Pansodan bus stop on Mahabandula Road, Botahtaung Pagoda bus stop on Strand Road, Myaynigon bus stop on Bargaya Road.—TWA/GNLM

China nods 32 Myanmar banana companies for import

CHINA greenlighted Myanmar's 32 banana companies for import, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

For legitimate trade, Myanmar's 32 banana companies have registered with the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), according to the Agriculture Department.

The tissue-culture bananas will be exported to China through a legitimate channel.

Since 2007, tissue-culture bananas have been cultivated as opium poppy substitution. It was delivered to China as an alternate crop replacing opium poppies through border trade.

Myanmar pocketed US\$5.868 million from tissue-culture banana exports to China in the first half of the current financial year 2022-2023, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Those bananas have been commonly grown in Waingmaw, Momauk, Shwegu and Mansi

townships in Kachin State and Ngao township in Sagaing Region since 2006. They were sent to China via the Lweje border.

The country primarily delivered tissue-culture bananas to China in the monsoon season via the Kampaiti border.

Myanmar conveyed 1,900 tonnes of tissue-culture bananas

with 76 trucks in the first week of November to China through the Kampaiti border. The export volume increased against that of October.

The harvest season of tissue-culture bananas has commenced in November and exports will rise for sure, the banana growing companies stated.

There are more than 60,000 acres of tissue-culture bananas across Kachin State, the Kachin State government's data showed.

Among those agricultural products registered with the GACC, the products that have a government-to-government agreement grasp a strong market share.—TWA/GNLM



The picture shows a farm of tissue-culture bananas in bloom.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Pure gold price rebounds to over K2.7 million

THE price of pure gold shoots up to K2.7 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) again according to domestic gold markets.

The current market price of pure gold is K2,710,000 per tical in domestic markets.

Domestic gold prices are soaring due to a hike in global gold prices. The current gold price is US\$1,770 per ounce in the global market. The reference price of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) consequently soared up to K2,085,000 per tical.

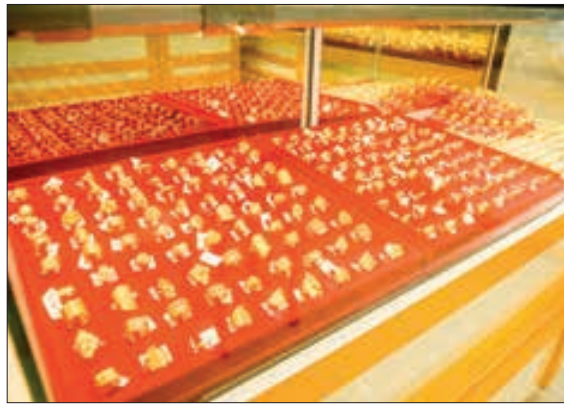
Meantime, the YGEA ref-

erence rate and the external market price of pure gold have a price gap of over K0.6 million per tical.

The reference rate of pure gold is calculated by slightly raising the fixed exchange rate (one dollar = K2,100) by the Central Bank of Myanmar. The current exchange rate in the market is around K3,000 per dollar.

Therefore, there is a large difference between the YGEA fixed price and the market price, depending on the exchange rate in the market.

Thus, the YGEA called for



Jewellery is pictured at the gold outlet in Yangon.



gold shops in Yangon Region to sell pure gold at K2,530,000 per tical, according to its notification released on 30 October

2022.

At the end of August, the currency exchange rate skyrocketed to over K4,500 per

dollar and the pure gold price followed with a record price at over K3.7 million per tical. — NN/GNLM

Pigeon pea prices decline to K1.9 mln while black gram RC below K1.8 mln

IN the Yangon bean market, the pigeon pea price reached over K1.9 million per tonne for one month and it was below K1.9 million on 11 November.

In November, the black gram FAQ/RC was priced at over K1.8 million only on 8 November and it was below K1.8 million on other days, according to daily bean prices of Yangon.

On 11 November, black gram FAQ/RC fetched K1,790,000 per tonne in the Yangon market while K2,115,000 per tonne of SQ/RC and K1,875,000 per tonne of pigeon pea Red/RC. On 12 November, black gram FAQ/RC was priced at K1,790,000 per tonne while K2,118,000 per tonne of SQ/RC and K1,840,000 per tonne of pigeon pea Red/RC

The pigeon pea was K1,175,000 per tonne on 3 January 2022, K1,295,000 on 5 January, K1,360,000 on 10 January and K1,435,000 on 22 January. On 28 July, it was K1,485,000 while K1,580,000 on 4 August, K1,612,000 on 5 August, K1,785,000 on 6 August and K1,895,000 on 10 August showing the soaring prices.

On 29 August, it reached



The photo shows one bean outlet in Yangon.

K1,990,000 while K2,120,000 on 31 August, K2.1 million on 5 September, K2,075,000 on 6 September and K2,130,000 on 27 September. Forty-five days later, the prices reached below K1.9 million.

The unusual fact is that the pigeon pea price between October and 10 November was only between K1.9 and K1.99 million per tonne.

The black gram RC was priced at K1,285,000 per tonne on 3 January 2022. It was over K1.3

million between 6 January and end-January and under K1.3 million by the end of February.

In March, it was over K1.3 million and K1.5 million on 26 March and under K1.5 million from April, May and 4 June.

On 17 June, it was over K1.6 million while over K1.7 million on 30 June and under K1.7 million in July. On 17 August, it was K1,780,000 and K1,800,500 on 11 August, K1.9 million on 27 August and K2.1 million on 31 August.

In 2022, the black gram hit a record high at K2.1 million per tonne and was priced at only K1.8 million in October and early November.

In October, the black gram price was over K1.8 million per tonne and under K1.8 million on 13 October.

Until 12 November, it reached over K1.8 million only on 8 November and under K1.8 million on the other days.

During about 10 months of 2022, the black gram and pi-

geon pea prices soar and decline drastically than the previous years except for 2015. However, by the end of August and September 2022, the prices hit the highest rate and the black gram RC price rose to K800,000 and pigeon pea RC K900,000 than the early period of this year.

On 12 November, the black gram price was about K400,000 and the pigeon pea price was about K700,000 higher than in the same period of 2021.

On 11 November, the export FOB(YGN) prices were \$760-780 per tonne of black gram FAQ, \$900-920 per tonne of SQ and \$825-845 per tonne of pigeon pea.

Myanmar exported two million tonnes of beans and pulses worth \$1.57 billion in the 2020-2021FY, and about 900,000 tonnes worth about \$700 million in the first seven months of the 2022-23FY.

The price changes of black gram and pigeon peas affect the merchants. The new black gram is likely to enter the market after an early period of 2023 and the pigeon pea by the end of the year. — TWA/GNLM

Daily newspapers available online

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OPINION

ARTICLE BOOKRACK

Set aside hatred to prevail over loving-kindness

The current world is full of hatred which triggers social conflicts, armed conflicts, wars and fighting each other among global countries. Whenever the global peoples cannot foster loving-kindness in their souls, the planet Earth will not exist under influence of loving-kindness.

Global history comprises good and bad images of international countries showing the larger part of bad manners with the smaller part of good deeds still assuming their acts right and their talks correct. Although their relevant histories indicate correct wrong-

doings with consequences for the people to pack the burdens of conflict-filled problems, it is believable that no one might ease their restrictions in firmly grasping their attitudes and concepts with hatred against all except themselves.

Actually, those global countries clearly know that hatred never benefits anyone in comparison with the reflection of loving-kindness. Assuming that loving-kindness is a tool to build a peaceful and prosperous society, they do not ease their grasp as they seem if they uphold the loving-kindness, they will face interference or bullying from others.

It is a sorrowful idea. Those holding up such an idea cannot build a peaceful and prosperous society in their countries. So also, whenever those countries join the global community, the planet Earth will not face the influence of loving-kindness for benefiting the global peoples. Currently, it is not a minor problem in the

world. Leaders of all global countries need to review the appearance of hatred and the lack of chance for spreading loving-kindness across the world.

All global peoples including leaders of international countries are responsible for putting out the fire of anger, conflicts, wars and fighting for the sake of posterity. New generations are hoping for enjoying peaceful and prosperous environments. As it is a primary goal, all global countries and peoples need to march into peaceful and prosperous environments. No one should delay the working process.

Every global people may know a proverb which goes: Time and tide wait for no man. So, nobody should delay to combat the hatred among the global people while striving for the flourishing of loving-kindness. Everybody needs to uphold forgiveness over each other. If so, they all may see the results of their efforts soon.

The lifespan of all global peoples is very short. No one can stretch their lifespan to be longer. Such an act is not in line with relevant religions. But they all need to do the act of fostering loving-kindness in line with the relevant religions.

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY'S ARTICLE

Most people have now realized that Myanmar was on the blacklist for all years under President Thein Sein's administration, yet the country's best days of economic growth and prosperity happened under his watch. The country was moved up to the brown list around 2016 and now it is back on the original blacklist. The likely impact of this would be Myanmar nationals and companies having overseas bank accounts and NNCP terrorist groups and their donation collectors, as the banks overseas would now have to conduct more thorough due diligence and KYC (Know Your Customer) checks, prior to accounts opening or transfer transactions.

Moving Up to Level 2

Forced changeover of all

wallet accounts into Level 2 is also in line with eKYC and eID requirements for all digital money accounts. During the implementation period of mobile wallets, the government and the advising international organisations' primary objective was financial inclusion. Both wanted wallets and easier transfers to be available to the most underprivileged. In order to encourage the widespread use of mobile wallets, the account opening requirements and KYC requirements are not set as first priorities. As long as you have a phone number, here comes the digital wallet for you.

As time passes, both CBM and the government realised this created a lot of potential fraud opportunities. The rural population of Myanmar are also easily gullible, so the number of fraud cases kept on increasing every year. Hence, another reason for

KYC requirements now, other than FATF rules.

The process is relatively simple: the customer has to submit a copy of their ID card, front and back, digitally or at the offices of the mobile payment companies/wallet providers. CBM expects the process to be completed within five months. Based on the stratification, the top three wallets KBZ Pay, Wave and OK\$ (in that order) already account for 75 per cent out of the whole country's total of 18 million. CBM is confident that 95 per cent of Level 1 accounts would be successfully upgraded to Level 2 during this

Setting Civil Service Standards

By UAC

period.

One of the concerns expressed by the general public was what would happen to the accounts not converted to Level 2. CBM's estimate of 95 per cent conversion translates into nearly one million dormant accounts, that would not be converted. Obviously, one could reason it out that, if the account holder does not care about his own money, who else would?

These leftovers are not for MFS-licenced holders either. All non-bank wallet providers have to keep security deposits in a trust account with a partner bank, an

equivalent amount of the sum of total wallet accounts balances. The interest earned on these accounts also has to be used for industrial development purposes only (such as conversion from Level 1 to Level 2). From the customer perspective, however, these accounts are non-interest bearing. Even if \$10 is left in each account, the value of the dormant accounts (not converted) would be nearly \$10 million and the sum of all wallet balances would have reached \$240 million.

The Future of Digital Wallets

This ID upload requirement

is just the first of many verification steps for KYC. For bank-owned MFS (Mobile Financial Services) or mobile wallet operators, it is relatively simple, as they are linked to their respective bank accounts. The final consolidation would be for all wallet owners to be matched with their owned registered SIM cards and their ICs, in coordination with the database from the Ministry of Transport and Communications (in charge of telephone SIM card registrations) and Ministry of Immigration (in charge of IC database). Only then, there would be total integration of services

through linkage to the correct beneficial owner of a particular wallet account, that corresponds with his ID and mobile number.

As far back as 2018, CBM has boasted that mobile wallet integration, i.e., the ability to transfer from one wallet provider account to another, just like banks, would take place within 12 months. Yet, four years down the road, the integration is still a WIP. CBM has further promised that it would be completed before the end of 2023, during a recent meeting.

Regardless of how onerous it might be, this KYC improvement is just another bitter pill to swallow, not only for CBM and the government but also for compliance with BIS (Bank of International Settlement) requirement and ASEAN wallet inter-operability obligations, which requires full KYC on all wallet accounts prior to allowing transactions across

borders.

The wallets are here to stay in the country. People have gotten used so much to the ease of operability of the wallets that, we cannot fathom how this simple KYC step would put a wall to the continued popularity of the wallets. In 2021 alone, there were around 700 million wallet transactions amounting to ~\$21 billion, at current exchange rates. This total is nearly one-third of Myanmar's GDP, highlighting the prevalence of transfer payments among citizens and probably the continued domination of the grey economy in daily lives. Based on these two statistics, the average wallet transaction size amounted to \$30 in 2021. The wallets cannot be subdued. Within the first nine months of 2022, the transaction number has reached 680 million with a value total of ~\$18 billion.

SEE PAGE 10

The lifespan of all global peoples is very short. No one can stretch their lifespan to be longer. Such an act is not in line with relevant religions. But they all need to do the act of fostering loving-kindness in line with the relevant religions



Book Title - Oh my, ravishing memories of philanthropic travel (Vol. II)
Author - Maung Yin Hline (Hinthada)
Publishing House - Ko Latt Sarpay
Publication Date - November 2022 (1st Edition)
Price - K6,000

Oh my, ravishing memories of philanthropic travel (Vol. II)

It is the second volume of the author's philanthropic travel. The book gives one the vicarious experiences and pleasure of a philanthropist across Myanmar. Volunteering is a difficult, noble and selfless act indeed. It is not a show-off and profiting activity. The readers will feel the author's genuine efforts, spreading generosity and bringing joy to others through his philanthropies.

Saya Kaung Kyaw (University of Economics) remarked in the preamble that volunteering is a selfless act for the well-being of humanity yet some unscrupulous people tarnished the reputation of certain organizations. Nonetheless, the word "philanthropy" is benevolent Altruism and a noble act. It will not be stained with any disturbances. Afterwards, Saya Maung Yin

Hline (Hinthada) praised both the literary work and philanthropic acts of the author. He wrote in the preamble that the author encouraged the readers to be engaged in charity through the nib and brought them joy through devotion to the interest of others. I would like to say Sadu Sadu for his good deeds.

This book contains 36 articles, including philanthropic

journeys, a trip to Dawei Shin Koe Shin Pagoda, a pilgrimage to Kaylathaba Mountain in Kyaukkyi town for the footprint of the Venerable Sivali Thera and other pilgrimages to Maelan Sandawshin and Sulamuni, and Ramanya philanthropic travel. The religious articles entitled "Be a patriot who devoted his life to the nation, religion, Sasana and race", "Spreading Buddha's teaching and Sasana with the sacred charities", "Working with body and consciousness on a spiritual path", "Come and Join next Tazaungdaing Festival", "Chanting the Dhamma when the market closes" are featured in the book as well.

A piece of writing "Opening your heart and Prayer for rain in the time of drought" reminds people of the intellect to open one's heart. Those intellectuals connecting with heart serve their duties with compassion, kindness and physical and mental strength. If the one enquires about a vulnerable person in need and provides assistance, he or she is blessed. The author put a metaphor to make it rain to end the drought by opening the heart. Otherwise, he kindly notified those divine individuals to donate to the people in need.



Book Title - Overcoming conflicts in different regions and circumstances
Author - Linka Yi Kyaw
Publishing House - Nan Dewi
Publication Date - December 2020
Price - K2,500

Overcoming conflicts in different regions and circumstances

YE Myint Kyaw is a successful fiction and nonfiction novelist under the pen name Linka Yi Kyaw. He retired as a professor and former head of the Pediatric Department at the University of Medicine 1 and a specialist in the Yangon Children's Hospital in 2020. The author has got nine post-graduate diplomas including Diploma in Publishing. He went on scholarship exchange visits and attended meetings in over ten countries. He also acted as chair of the ASEAN Paediatric Federation. The contents of this book are related to his career and position. The title of the book is "Overcoming the conflicts in different regions and administra-

tion", which features a life story of a government doctor under the Tatmadaw government between 2000 and 2011.

Regarding the articles, the author was a naughty and immature man. He reminded himself of not being a child. If he put all his bitter experiences into it, it would be cancelled by Myanmar's Censorship Board at that time. With freedom of expression going on an upward spiral at that moment, I wrote those articles in Pyithu Ayay (the People's Affairs) Journal and Good Health Journal with an aim to impart knowledge to younger generations. I filtered some content regardless of media freedom. I

love democracy. However, I was careful not to write randomly and not to blame all the inconvenient things on the high-level officials in the administration. There was good in the worst, he stated in the preamble. Some might point out that it would be better if written in moderation. I would like to share my experiences with younger people to learn some lessons from them. I aim for nothing but the benefits of reading. I have already passed the age with goals and hopes, he concluded in the preamble.

There are five chapters in the book; KMD-TPK in chapter 1, Phankha Mountain in 2, Not too far away in 3, Phankha land

in 4 and Phankha's dream in 5. The article entitled KMD-TPK highlighted the story of the author when he was serving in the West Yangon General Hospital in Kyimyindine Township. It is only five miles away from the Yangon Children's Hospital so did not receive a large number of patients. Most of the patients were children from poor villages on the other side of Kyimyindine Jetty. When the author's assistant submitted a report to him, they noted KMD-TPK and he asked them what's this acronym. They explained about Kyimyindine-Taphatkan in Myanglish (meaning the other side of Kyimyindine Jetty)

He struggled his life when he served his duties at Magway city which is also called Phankha land. The author put a metaphor that life is like a mountain. That being so, the article is called Phankha Mountain. In that article, the author mentioned how they welcomed the high-level official near the signboard "Welcome to Magway City". He faced difficulties when about 20 acres of castor oil plants were asked to be grown on a 22 acres wide hospital compound. He pointed at other plants when an official asked him if there were castor oil plants. It went well like that when the official did not know that plant, causing laughter.

ARTICLE/ SCI: WORLD

FROM PAGE 9

Both figures would surely surpass those of 2021 at the end of the current calendar year.

One of the Two Certainties in Life Not so Certain Yet

“There are only two certainties in life: death and taxes,” the famous quote says. Yet in Myanmar, the tax system is nothing but certain. A good tax system should follow four basic principles: fairness, certainty, convenience and efficiency. The country still has a lot to catch up on in each of the four principles.

Main Issues

The first issue relates to none of the four principles. It is a cultural issue where people simply are not used to paying taxes. Even though we were taught calculus, trigonometry and advanced mathematics in high school, which 99% of us have no use in life, we were not taught about finance, accounting or taxes. Taxes are not taught in universities either, other than perhaps in accounting, finance and economics courses.

Students have been taught to stand up during the national song and the rising of the national flag, yet, they were definitely not taught that paying taxes is a mandatory civic duty for all citizens. When adults have to pay taxes now, they tend to question what the government would do specifically for them, for paying taxes. They look for direct benefits akin to a business transaction. No one has been taught that it is patriotic and statesmen

like to pay taxes, hence, no one is motivated to pay. No one has been taught why we have to pay taxes, for the sake of our own country!

This issue, however, is not limited to Myanmar alone. Even in the world’s biggest county, our good neighbour China, only two per cent of the population pays taxes. Considering being the world’s second-largest economy, it suggests there might be a significant grey economy within China too, likely conducted via WeChat. That modus operandi even extends to the famous jade market in Mandalay, where the money changed hands via WeChat pay, evading any form of taxes payable to the Myanmar or Chinese government.

This habit of not paying taxes is evidenced in the amount of tax revenues as a percentage of GDP (Gross National Product). In the US, that percentage is 17 per cent. For China, it is 9 per cent. Myanmar government tax revenues as a percentage of GDP varies between five per cent – eight per cent in the past ten years. If the grey economy within the country is to be included, the percentage would be a lot lower. It means, essentially, MoPF (Ministry of Planning and Finance) has two main important tasks; to induce the population to pay taxes and to include a more grey economy in tax assessments.

The second issue is the implications for non-payment of taxes. Maybe the government does not have the resources or competence to track down tax

dodgers. Or maybe the government is holding that offence as a hidden card, in case of wanting to charge or arrest a person on a separate charge, which has insufficient evidence to apprehend that same individual. Without many serious implications, people here got used to the concept of paying only on a need basis, such as when they need white money or when they buy something that needs registration or disclosure, etc.

One of the common complaints from the regular payer of taxes, through pay, as you earn system for middle and high-income earners, has been the fact that the monthly taxes that they had paid are not fully allowed for offset against the white money requirements. The sometimes promotional tax rates between three per cent-10 per cent are also a disincentive for the regular payer of taxes, such as wage earners. The effective tax rates may be a lot higher than three per cent, especially for high-wage earners. So why pay regularly?

Even if the tax dodgers or under-payers or late payers are found, the penalty is normally just 10 per cent of the outstanding tax liability. Even if the tax liability has been outstanding for only a year, that 10 per cent is less than the current borrowing rate of 13 per cent. Financially speaking, it is better to delay paying taxes, rather than go into debt or overdraft in order to pay taxes.

The third issue is related to companies. Currently, there are two tax assessment systems in place for companies and busi-

nesses: The official Assessment System (OAS) and Self Assessment System (SAS). SAS has been applauded by most taxpayers for convenience and fairness, especially for the ability to do online and claim allowable expenses first. The eventual target would be for all companies to be able to file under SAS. At this point of time, only large taxpayers and some medium taxpayers are being able to file under SAS. There come legacy issues related to OAS. Paper-based system means loss of documents sometimes. Frequent change of tax officers in charge is not helping either. The assessment is simply subject to tax officer whims and fancies, which could eventually give rise to under-table payments and corruption. If you happened to dispute the tax officer’s assessments, he or she would put your case under ‘pending’ leading to years incommunicado from either the officer or the income tax department.

The fourth and final issue seems to be systemic. The tax system in Myanmar is a direct descendant of the British system, in which the tax law is principle-based, instead of rule-based, just like the US. Principle-based systems are subject to many interpretations and a lot of interpretations are based upon precedents, decided by courts. With the judicial system in Myanmar very much underdeveloped, especially in relation to commercial cases, precedents are hard to come by as companies rarely challenge the tax department’s decisions. The usual approach

would be to resolve this through ‘negotiations’ with the tax officer concerned.

Typical Complaints

Typical complaints by business taxpayers would include the allowing of expenses in the income statement, not being able to carry forward losses (especially in relation to OAS), preference being given to irregular taxpayers over regular payers, group tax assessments being not available and commercial tax payments being not in line with collections.

The Way Forward

How do we best achieve fairness, certainty, convenience and efficiency in our tax system? MOPF is already on the right track pushing for conversion from OAS to SAS. Maybe due to Covid or a change of government, the process has been slow and hence, the results have not materialized yet. SAS would reduce human-to-human interactions (‘negotiations’). Doing everything online would reduce paperwork and loss of paperwork. Best of all, the responsibility, to be honest, is pushed towards the taxpayer and the responsibility to dispute the tax filed is put back into the hands of the tax officers. Supplement that with financial and tax education across all ages, especially young adults, coupled with continuous training for tax officers, we would have a fair, convenient and efficient system in our country in no time.

■

‘Like the Moon’: Astronauts flock to Spanish isle to train

KNEELING on the edge of a deep crater, astronaut Alexander Gerst uses a chisel to collect a sample of volcanic rock which he carefully puts inside a white plastic bag.

Gerst is not on the Moon, even if it looks like it. He is in the middle of Los Volcanes Natural Park on the island of Lanzarote in Spain’s Canary Islands, off the northwest coast of Africa.

With its blackened lava fields, craters and volcanic tubes, Lanzarote’s geology can



‘If we run into a problem, we have to solve it ourselves,’ says astronaut Alexander Gerst. PHOTO: AFP

be uncannily similar to that of the Moon and Mars – so much so that the European Space Agency (ESA) and NASA have for years been sending astronauts to the island to train. “This place has lavas that are very, very similar to the ones that we find on the Moon,” Gerst, a 46-year-old German astronaut with the ESA, told AFP. He said the island was “a unique training ground”.

Gerst, who has completed two missions on the International Space Station, is one of about

a dozen astronauts who have taken part in the ESA’s Pangaea training course in Lanzarote over the past decade. Named after the ancient supercontinent, Pangaea seeks to give astronauts as well as space engineers and geologists the skills needed for expeditions to other planets.

Trainees learn how to identify rock samples and collect them, do on-the-spot DNA analysis of microorganisms, and communicate their findings back to mission control. —AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Threat multiplier': How climate change affects health

DEADLIER than Covid, or even rivalling cancer? Researchers have been increasingly attempting to calculate the effect climate change will have on health if the world does not act quickly to reduce carbon emissions.

The World Health Organization, which says climate change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity, has called for the issue to be "front and centre" in negotiations at the COP27 summit being held in Egypt.

But quantifying the overall impact is an extremely complicated task, experts told AFP, because global warming affects health in many different ways, from the immediate dangers of rising heat and extreme weather to longer-term food and water



A father, escaping the heat in Shanghai, has his son nap in an air-conditioned Ikea store. Nighttime temperatures are rising, and they can interfere with sleep and health if homes don't cool off. **PHOTO: JOHANNES EISELE/AFP/FILE**

shortages, air pollution and disease.

The WHO estimates that climate change will cause 250,000

extra deaths a year from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress between 2030 and 2050.

That is widely thought to be a "massively conservative estimate" of the true toll, partly because it only comes from four sources, said Jess Beagley, policy lead at the NGO Global Climate and Health Alliance.

"Climate change is a threat multiplier," she told AFP.

"As climate change worsens, we're going to see the biggest threats to human health increase."

Nearly 70 per cent of all deaths worldwide are from diseases that could be made worse by global warming, according to a report this year from the

IPCC, the United Nations' panel of climate experts.

4.2 million more deaths?

Another major health threat comes from food shortages. Nearly 100 million additional people faced severe food insecurity in 2020 compared to 1981-2010, according to a report last month from The Lancet Countdown, a leading effort to quantify climate change's impact on health.

Extreme drought has increased by nearly a third over the last 50 years, it added, putting hundreds of millions at risk of lacking access to fresh water.

And air pollution contributed to 3.3 million deaths in 2020, 1.2 million of which were directly related to fossil fuel emissions, the report found.—AFP

Emirates airline back in profit after Covid losses

EMIRATES has bounced back into the black after its losses during the pandemic, the airline said Thursday (10 November), announcing a US\$1.1 billion profit and a half-year record for the group.

Revenues at the Middle East's biggest carrier surged 131 per cent to 50.1 billion dirhams (S\$19.1 billion) in the first half of the financial year starting in April, compared to a year earlier.

Emirates Group, which includes the airline and air services provider dnata, clocked a record US\$1.2 billion half-year

profit, which reflected "strong turnaround and recovery", after a US\$1.6 billion loss last year.

"Across the group, our operations recovery accelerated as more countries eased and removed travel restrictions," said Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, chairman and chief executive of Emirates airline and group.

"For the coming months, we remain focused on restoring our operations to pre-pandemic levels, and recruiting the right skills for our current and future requirements," he added.—AFP

Cruise ship Majestic Princess with 800 COVID-19 cases docks in Sydney



The ship had just finished a 12-day tour of New Zealand - having dropped anchor in ports around Auckland, Wellington, Dunedin, Bay of Islands, and Fiordland National Park. **PHOTO: MAJESTIC PRINCESS**

A cruise ship named Majestic Princess docked in Sydney on Saturday morning, with at least

800 passengers infected with COVID-19. Speaking at Circular Quay where the vessel stopped,

Marguerite Fitzgerald, president of the cruise operator Carnival Australia, briefed reporters that there were at least 800 cases recorded, while the majority of the infections were among passengers. "Reflective of the increase in community transmissions, we too have seen more guests test positive for COVID-19 on the current voyage of Majestic Princess. This is a result of mass testing of our 3,300 guests," said the president.

Fitzgerald also noted that the company has been assisting guests infected with COVID-19 to access private transport and accommodation to complete their isolation period.—Xinhua



A trial of 162 adults given the Sanofi-GSK booster showed that it triggers a higher production of antibodies against the Omicron BA.1 subvariant than Pfizer's jab. **PHOTO: AFP**

EU watchdog backs Sanofi Covid booster jab

THE EU on Thursday approved a Covid booster vaccine by French drug maker Sanofi and Britain's GSK after it gave positive results against the Omicron variant in trials.

The approval of the "next generation" jab by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) is a shot in the arm for Sanofi and GSK, which have lagged behind rivals in offering a vaccine.

The VidPrevtyn Beta jab could be used as a booster in adults previously given mRNA jabs like those from Pfizer/Bi-

oNTech and Moderna, or viral vector vaccines made by AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson, the EMA said.

"A booster dose of VidPrevtyn Beta is expected to be at least as effective as Comirnaty (Pfizer's vaccine) at restoring protection against Covid-19," the Amsterdam-based EMA said.

A trial of 162 adults given the Sanofi-GSK booster showed that it triggers a higher production of antibodies against the Omicron BA.1 subvariant than Pfizer's jab,

the regulator said.

A second study restored immunity in 627 adults who received other vaccines for their first course of jabs.

Sanofi said it was ready to start its first shipments of the booster in Britain and the EU, in line with advance contracts for 70 million doses.

"Today's approval validates our research in developing a novel solution for the Covid-19 pandemic," Thomas Triomphe, Sanofi executive vice president for vaccines, said.—AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Türkiye seeks Central Asia inroads with Russia distracted

TÜRKIYE on Friday will lead a summit of Central Asian countries, aiming to strengthen economic ties with the region's resource-rich ex-Soviet states while Moscow is distracted by war in Ukraine.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will preside over the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) summit in Uzbekistan's historic city of Samarkand.

Erdogan has for several years been pushing for closer cultural, linguistic and religious ties with several ex-Soviet countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February spooked Moscow's neighbours in Central Asia and spurred Kazakhstan —



The OTS is an interstate bloc, established with the aim of expanding cooperation between Turkic-speaking countries in the fields of politics, economics, science, education, transport, and tourism. Harbour workers unload containers from cargo ship carrying goods imported from all over the world via Türkiye in the Famagusta harbour. **PHOTO: TARIK TINAZAY/AFP/FILE**

geographically the region's largest country — and Uzbekistan, the most populous, to look for

alliances elsewhere: both with China and also Europe.

In a sign of Ankara's de-

termination to gain a foothold here while Moscow focuses on Ukraine, this is Erdogan's third

trip to the region in less than two months.

The OTS group includes Azerbaijan — a former Soviet republic with a Turkic language located in the Caucasus region bordering Türkiye — as well as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in Central Asia.

Turkmenistan, also in Central Asia, and EU member state Hungary are observer members of the group. The group last year dropped its former name, the Turkic Council, in favour of the Organization of Turkic States.

The group could expand further if isolated Turkmenistan becomes a fully-fledged member — an expansion announced by Türkiye's foreign ministry but not confirmed by Ashgabat. —AFP

UK economy contracts in third quarter

BRITAIN'S economy shrank in the third quarter, official data showed Friday, likely confirming it is already in a recession forecast to last some time.

Output shrank 0.2 per cent in the July-September period, following a modest rise in the second quarter, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement.

The Bank of England last week said the UK economy was set to also contract in the current final quarter, meaning the economy was in a recession.

The BoE also warned that Britain's economy could remain in recession until the middle of 2024.

Friday's data comes ahead of a fresh budget announcement from the government of new Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Thursday as he looks to bring much needed political and economic stability to the UK.

As well as recession, Britain is facing a cost-of-living crisis with UK inflation at a four-decade high above 10 per cent.

The country faces a winter of strike action as workers in the public and private sectors demand pay increases to match inflation and shortfalls to wage rises seen in recent years. —AFP



The third-quarter contraction was in part owing to a public holiday to mark the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. **PHOTO: AFP**

Why global companies share continuing passion for China



People visit the Intelligent Industry & Information Technology exhibition area of the fifth China International Import Expo (CIIE) in east China's Shanghai, 5 November 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FANG ZHE**

DESPITE numerous concerns plaguing the global economy, China remains a magnet for businesses around the world, and the China International Import Expo (CIIE) stands as a telling example.

Exhibitors from 145 countries, regions and international organizations, including 284 leading companies from diverse industries, gathered at the fifth CIIE, which concluded on Thursday in Shanghai with a total of 73.5

billion US dollars worth of tentative deals reached for one-year purchases of goods and services.

Clearly, there are compelling reasons to continue investing in the world's second-largest economy, which has a population of 1.4 billion, especially with an expanding middle-income group that's already 400 million strong.

Craig Allen, president of the US-China Business Council, told Xinhua that nearly 200 US companies attended this year's CIIE, and every individual company wanted "a little bit more space" at the venue.

Noting that China has produced approximately 30 per cent of global growth over the past 10 years, Allen said "we naturally are interested in all elements of the Chinese economy and selling into every segment". —Xinhua

Euro gaining ground against dollar

BARGAIN hunting is helping drive the euro's recent surges against the US dollar, though the dollar has structural advantages that are likely to keep it from losing too much ground, a leading Italian business and

management expert has said.

Two recent surges of the euro have put it back on top for now, with trading ending Thursday with a dollar buying just 0.983 euros, the euro's strongest daily finish since

mid-August, when the dollar reached parity with the euro. The US currency has mostly stayed above the value of the euro since then, peaking at 1.043 euros per dollar in late September. —AFP

Chinese shoppers spend billions but Singles Day more muted

CHINESE shoppers flocked to online commerce giants on Friday, snapping up hundreds of billions of yuan in bargains, though an economic malaise took some shine off the annual Singles Day fever.

Sales revenues across platforms operated by tech giants such as Alibaba and JD.com hit around 262 billion yuan (\$36.7 billion) between 8:00 pm on Thursday and 2:00 pm (0600 GMT) on Friday, according to an estimate by research firm Syntun.

Analysts said demand was more muted than in previous years, while consumers told AFP that a lack of spending power and an economy groaning under a hardline zero-Covid policy had dampened desire to spend.

Nonetheless, the combined gross value of products sold since late October "may surpass a trillion yuan" for the first time, Xiaofeng Wang, principal analyst at research firm Forrester, said earlier in a note.

"This year, mer-

chants and platforms are focusing less on sales and more on profit and conversion rates," said tech analyst Liu Xingliang.

"After so many years, it's natural for (Singles Day) to become less popular," he said, adding that a bright spot appeared to be greater interest in livestreamed sales.

"Chinese consumers have become more rational and no longer hoard large amounts of goods like they did in years gone by", economist Song Qinghui told AFP.—AFP



China's shopping sales from the Singles Day holiday could top a record one trillion yuan (\$140 billion). PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

S Korea's auto export, local sale, production keep rising for 3 months

SOUTH Korea's automotive export, local sale and production kept rising for three straight months due to robust demand for eco-friendly vehicles, government data showed Friday.

Car shipment surged 28.5 per cent from a year earlier to 4.92 billion US dollars in October, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy. The number of exported vehicles was 208,544 in October, up 30.2 per cent

from a year earlier.

Export for eco-friendly vehicles spiked 27.1 per cent to 1.45 billion dollars last month, topping 1 billion dollars for the 14th consecutive month.

Demand for locally-made vehicles from North America soared 60.2 per cent to 2.38 billion dollars in October, while shipment to the European Union (EU) member countries increased 12.4 per cent to 743 million dollars. —Xinhua

British Airways allows all crew to wear make-up, accessories

BRITISH Airways will permit all cabin crew to wear make-up and accessories regardless of gender, as the UK airline seeks to become more inclusive, it said Friday.

The change, to start Monday, allows crew to paint their nails or add lip colour, and comes after rival Virgin Atlantic eased dress restrictions.

"We have worked... to create updated guidelines for grooming, beauty and accessories," said a statement from British Airways, owned by air-

line conglomerate IAG.

A BA spokesman said the move related to hairstyles, jewellery and make-up, but stressed there was no physical change to uniform policy.

The carrier was "committed to an inclusive working environment", he added.

Virgin Atlantic in September said its crew could choose which of its uniforms to wear, featuring trousers and skirts, in a new gender identity policy.—AFP

Cryptocurrency platform goes bankrupt

CRISIS-STRUCK cryptocurrency platform FTX has gone bankrupt in the United States and its chief executive Sam Bankman-Fried has resigned, it said Friday.

FTX Group announced in a statement that it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings, adding it has begun an "orderly process to review and monetize assets for the benefit of all global stakeholders".

Chapter 11 is a US mechanism allowing a company to restructure its debts under court su-

pervision while continuing to operate.

It comes at the end of a week in which major cryptocurrencies, including bitcoin, have plunged owing to financial chaos at FTX. The cash-strapped company added that it has appointed John J. Ray as chief executive to replace Bankman-Fried with immediate effect.

"The immediate relief of Chapter 11 is appropriate to provide the FTX Group the opportunity to assess its situation," said Ray in the statement.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (209W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (209W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-11-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (22024N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (22024N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-11-2022** 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 X-PRESS FEEDERS LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC KANTO VOY.NO. (2238S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC KANTO VOY.NO. (2238S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-11-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

China, Singapore vow to enhance pragmatic cooperation



Singapore is an important source of foreign investment for China, and the bilateral trade is expected to achieve a new breakthrough. A container ship sails into the Qingdao Port on 2 June 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINESE Premier Li Keqiang on Friday met Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who is in Phnom Penh for the leaders' meetings on East Asian cooperation.

Li noted that China and Singapore are close neighbours whose bilateral cooperation has been expanding, deepening and producing fruitful results. China is ready for closer high-level exchanges and interactions at

various levels with Singapore, to deepen practical cooperation in priority areas and elevate the bilateral cooperation, he said.

Li pointed out that Singapore is an important source of foreign investment for China, and the bilateral trade is expected to achieve a new breakthrough.

He expressed the hope for the two sides to conclude at an early date the follow-up

negotiations on upgrading the China-Singapore free trade agreement, work together for an earnest implementation of the plan for building the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, make good progress in the Tianjin Eco-City, create flagship projects in bilateral cooperation, earnestly keep the industrial and supply chains safe and smooth, and uphold peace and stability in the region and beyond. —Xinhua

Irish PM says 'opportunity' to end Brexit dispute after UK talks



The deal kept Northern Ireland in the European single market and customs union, stipulating checks on goods moving from the rest of the UK to Northern Ireland. **PHOTO: AFP**

IRISH prime minister Micheal Martin on Friday said there was "a window of opportunity" for Britain and the European Union to resolve a dogged dispute over post-Brexit trade in Northern Ireland.

Speaking after two days of broader talks between UK and Irish leaders in Blackpool, north-

west England, Martin said he had a "positive perspective" following a meeting with new UK counterpart Rishi Sunak.

Martin and Sunak met Thursday as they bid to end the long-running row over the Northern Ireland Protocol which has paralyzed power-sharing government in Belfast and put London

at loggerheads with Brussels and Dublin. "It's my assessment that the window of opportunity now does exist," Martin said as the British-Irish Council summit concluded.

In an apparent sign of renewed commitment to ease the post-Brexit frictions in Northern Ireland, Sunak became the first UK prime minister since 2007 to attend the regular gathering.

"The space now exists to resolve the outstanding issues pertaining to the protocol by negotiation, and obviously that will need momentum," Martin added.

"It will need substantive engagement by the EU and UK government to make that a reality."

The protocol was signed separately from the trade and cooperation deal that cemented the UK's formal departure from the European Union in January 2021. —AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

UN, Russia hold talks on grain, fertilizer exports

UNITED Nations chiefs were holding talks with Russian officials Friday on the Black Sea agreements on exporting grain and fertilizers, eight days before one of the deals is set to expire.

UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths and Rebeca Grynspan, head of UN trade and development agency UNCTAD, were meeting a high-level delegation from Moscow, led by Russian deputy foreign minister Sergei Vershinin.

UN spokeswoman Alessandra Vellucci confirmed the talks were underway at the UN Palais des Nations headquarters in Geneva.

"They will continue ongoing consultations in support of the efforts by (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the full implementation of the two agreements signed on 22 July in Istanbul," she said.

"It is hoped that the discussions will advance progress made in facilitating the unimpeded export of food and fertilizers originating from the Russian Federation to the global markets."

10.2 million tons exported

Two agreements brokered by the UN and Türkiye were signed on 22 July — to allow the export of Ukrainian grain blocked by Russia's war in the country, and the export of Russian food and fertilizers despite Western sanctions imposed on Moscow following its invasion of Ukraine.

The 120-day Black Sea Grain Initiative runs out on 19 November, and the United Nations is seeking to renew the agreements for one year.

Moscow, however, has not yet said whether it will agree to that. —AFP



Farmers load oat in the seeding-machine to sow in a field east of Kyiv. **PHOTO: GENYA SAVILOV/AFP**

Russia bans 200 more Americans from entry

THE Russian Foreign Ministry on Friday barred an additional 200 US citizens from entry in response to repeated anti-Russian sanctions imposed by Washington.

Of the newly blacklisted are officials and their close relatives, heads of companies,

experts and lobbyists involved in the Russophobic campaign and support for Ukraine, the ministry said in a statement.

Now 1,073 US nationals are under Russian sanctions, including a travel ban, according to a full list issued by the ministry. —Xinhua

UN chief calls for greater equality as world population hitting 8 bln

AS the world's population is approaching eight billion, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday gave a review of the mixed implications, urging the world community to seize opportunities and take actions to bridge divides between the global haves and have-nots.

On 15 November the world's population is projected to reach eight billion people, having grown by one billion since 2010, according to a recent policy brief by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

In an op-ed article published Friday by the USA Today newspaper, Guterres called the milestone "a testament to scientific breakthroughs and improvements in nutrition, public health and sanitation".

The eight-billion-strong world could yield enormous opportunities for some of the

poorest countries, where population growth is highest, he said, adding that within a few decades, today's poorest countries could become engines of sustainable, green growth and prosperity across entire regions.

"But as our human family grows larger, it is also growing more divided," the UN chief warned.

He noted that billions of people are struggling, hundreds of millions are facing hunger and even famine, and record numbers are on the move seeking opportunities and relief from debt and hardship, wars and climate disasters. "Unless we bridge the yawning chasm between the global haves and have-nots, we are setting ourselves up for an eight-billion-strong world filled with tensions and mistrust, crisis and conflict," wrote Guterres. —Xinhua



The global population is expected to reach eight billion people by mid-November, and India will be the most populated country. PHOTO: AFP

Chile President creates commission to resolve Indigenous land issues



Chile's President Gabriel Boric announced the creation of a commission to resolve issues of Indigenous land ownership while meeting with Mapuche leaders. PHOTO: AFP

CHILE President Gabriel Boric met with Mapuche Indigenous leaders on Friday and announced the creation of a commission to resolve issues of land ownership in the flashpoint southern Araucania region, which has seen a

spate of recent arson attacks. Araucania is home to groups of Mapuche, the country's largest Indigenous group, who are demanding the restitution of their ancestral land, much of which is currently in the hands of private logging companies.

Boric said a Commission for Peace and Understanding, which will start functioning by March 2023, will weigh domestic and international recommendations about how to resolve violence in Araucania and "look for a solution to the conflict". The Chilean president warned that not everyone would be happy with the verdicts and timelines of the commission. —AFP

Protests wane in Brazil, but diehards stand by Bolsonaro

PROTESTS in deeply polarized Brazil have dwindled since presidential elections nearly two weeks ago but some hard-core supporters of President Jair Bolsonaro remain in the streets.

A retired metalworker, Jose Carlos Flamino, stood at his encampment on Friday near a military barracks in Sao Paulo and vowed to remain "as long as is necessary". He still doesn't

accept that Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, a leftist former president who squeaked out a 50.9 per cent victory over Bolsonaro's 49.1 per cent in the 30 October vote, won fairly and squarely. —AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Japan, China arranging for Kishida-Xi talks, Thailand eyed as venue

JAPAN and China are working to arrange talks between Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and President Xi Jinping, with Thailand envisioned for their venue but Indonesia remaining a possibility, according to sources familiar with the move.

Kishida told reporters early Saturday that Japan is making arrangements with China and South Korea with a view to his holding summit meetings with their respective leaders on the fringes of international gatherings in the days ahead.

If held, a Kishida-Xi meeting would be the first summit talks in roughly three years between the leaders of the two countries.

Kishida made the remarks before departing for a tour of Southeast Asian countries. His first stop is Cambodia, where he will attend a series of gatherings related to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, to be followed by Indonesia and Thailand. —Kyodo

Trump to announce 2024 presidential bid Tuesday, top aide confirms

DONALD Trump will announce next week that he is taking another shot at the presidency with a White House run in 2024, his longtime advisor Jason Miller said Friday.

The divisive former president, who will be 78 when the next election is held, has been hinting at another presidential run while campaigning for Republican candidates ahead of this week's midterm elections, and has said he will make a "very big announcement" on Tuesday.

"President Trump is going to announce on Tuesday that he is running for president," Miller told former Trump aide Steve Bannon on his popular "War Room" podcast. —AFP

UN chief calls for greater equality as world population hitting 8 bln

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NATIONAL SPORTS

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.

Myanmar wins one gold, four bronzes in 6th Eastern Asia (ASEAN) Youth Chess Championship

THE 6th Eastern Asia (ASEAN) Youth Chess Championship is being held in Bangkok, Thailand from 4 to 13 November.

It is reported that Myanmar athletes have won one gold medal and four bronzes medals after the games ended on 12 November.

In the final games of U-16 Standard Individual, a player from Chinese Taipei won the gold medal while Indonesia grabbed the silver medal and Myanmar won the bronze.

In the final matches of U-18 Standard Group, Viet Nam won the gold medal, Thailand earned the silver medal and Myanmar achieved the bronze medal.

Myanmar's Kyaw Myat Aung won the U-18 Rapid Individual contest, while Sai Han Thiha, Kyaw Myat Aung and Paing Zeyya respectively won the U-18 Rapid Group contest and U-18 Blitz Contest.



Sai Han Thiha, Kyaw Myat Aung and Paing Zeyya win the gold medal in the U-18 Rapid Group competition.

Six Myanmar chess players competed in the U-16 Standard Game, U-18 Standard Game, U-18 Rapid Game, and U-18 Blitz Game.

Players from 10 ASEAN countries and Korea, Taipei, Hong Kong and Mongolia participated in the competition. — Bala Soe/GNLM

Ayeyawady Int'l Industrial Port ships export rice to Bangladesh

MYANMAR exports rice to Bangladesh from Yangon port and the Ayeyawady International Industrial Port (AIIP) in Patheingyi Industrial City in the Ayeyawady Region under a G-to-G agreement for 200,000 tonnes of rice. The third ship carrying 2,650 tonnes of rice will leave for Bangladesh soon.

The country directly exported 2,650 tonnes of rice by MV MCL-7 on 2 November, and 2,615 tonnes by MV MCL-21 on 7 November from the AIIP. On 8 November, 50-kilogramme Emahta rice bags were loaded onto MV MCL-12, which will carry 2,650 tonnes of rice

as the third ship direct to Bangladesh.

“We are making procedures to export 2,650 tonnes of rice by MV MCL-12 to Bangladesh. We load 53,000 rice bags onto the ship. There are ample job opportunities as we can export rice from Patheingyi to Bangladesh directly. The regional chief minister also gave instructions to cooperate

with departmental officials and businesspersons so as to develop the economy of the region. The ship will leave soon,” said U Tun Tun, deputy director of the Consumer Affairs Department of Ayeyawady Region.

The Ayeyawady Region, which is described as a rice bowl of Myanmar, possesses about 5.1 million acres of monsoon and summer paddy and produces over 330 million baskets of paddy and about 3.3 tonnes of rice per year. There are 6.4 million population in Ayeyawady with a rice consumption rate of 1 million per year. A total of 1.4 million

tonnes of rice are consumed by 300,000 visitors to Chaungtha, Ngwe Saung and Ngapali beaches and transported to Yangon, Bago and Magway, and it is estimated to export the remaining 900,000 tonnes to earn foreign incomes.

Previously, it cost hugely in exporting rice from Yangon port to Bangladesh due to high transport charges and labour costs from Ayeyawady Region to Yangon. Currently, it can export from Ayeyawady International Industrial Port in Patheingyi directly and so it brings benefits to the State, private business people and residents.

It is also set to increase the export volume between 30,000 and 100,000 tonnes of rice from AIIP in Patheingyi to Bangladesh directly depending on the local production and rice surplus.—Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM



The vessel loaded with 2,615-tonne export rice onboard is seen sailing to Bangladesh from the Ayeyawady International Industrial Port in Patheingyi. PHOTO: KANU