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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.

Efforts must be made for increasing the per-acre yield in order to meet the cotton demand of the Tatmadaw: Senior General

HIGH per-acre yield is based on use of quality strains, preparation for soil to have fertile soil, sufficiency of agricultural water and use of correct agricultural techniques, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on his inspection tour of the Tatmadaw Cotton Cultivation Unit (Pwintbyu) yesterday morning.

Director Maj-Gen Win Lwin of the Directorate of Ordnance reported to the Senior General on brief history of the Tatmadaw Cotton Cultivation Unit (Pwintbyu), its mission and vision, work plans in respective cultivation seasons, functions of the Tatmadaw Cotton Cultivation Unit (Lunkyaw) and sufficient supply of water for cultivated lands.

In his response to the reports, the Senior General said Magway Region is a region of producing cotton. Tatmadaw cotton cultivation units need to grow and produce cotton to meet the demand of Tatmadaw factories. It can be seen that per-acre yield of cotton is still low, so efforts must be made for increasing the per-acre yield in order to meet the cot-



SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects Tatmadaw Cotton Ginning Factory of Tatmadaw Cotton Cultivation Unit (Pwintbyu) on 27 November.

ton demand of the Tatmadaw. The surplus sown acreage must be used in livestock farms and waste from animals must be made as fertilizer. High per-acre

yield is based on use of quality strains, preparation for soil to have fertile soil, sufficiency of agricultural water and use of correct agricultural techniques.

The Senior General stressed the need to grow windbreaks around the farms to green the environs. Efforts must be made practically for achieving success

in assignments.

The Senior General inspected cultivation of cotton plants and production of cotton left necessary instructions.—MNA

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Private and authorities jointly discuss findings in action plans for AML/CFT, ML risks



Chair of AML/CFT Work Committee Daw Than Than Swe speaking at the meeting on anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing at UMFCCI office in Yangon on 27 November.

A meeting on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-terrorism Financing took place in order to actively participate in the fight against money laundering and

the financing of terrorism with the cooperation of the public, including various government departments and businessmen at the Mingala Hall of the UM-

FCCI yesterday morning.

Chair of the AML/CFT Work Committee Daw Than Than Swe, Vice Chair U Kyaw Win Thein, Deputy Governor of the Central

Bank of Myanmar U Zaw Myint Naing and respective officials from Central Bank of Myanmar, General Administration Department, Financial Intelligent Unit,

Financial Supervising Department, Union Auditor-General's Office, Lawyers and Inspection Department, Myanmar Gems Enterprise and the president of UMFCCI, officials from banks, other financial institutions, non-financial institutions and vocational business attended the meeting.

In the meeting, they discussed enhancement of cooperation among businessmen, officials from private sector and the authorities, requirements for timely reporting from relevant organizations, findings in offside and onsite measures discussion on possible loss in money laundering through case studies. —MNA

10 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 27 November, total figure rises to 633,167

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,167** after **10** new cases were reported on 27 November 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **607,681**, including **66** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,488** on Sunday with no new deaths reported from the pandemic.

The country has vaccinated **30,764,729** people aged 18 and above for COVID-19 vaccines and **6,756,476** people aged under 18 years old till 26 November 2022.

Status of COVID-19 vaccination (as of 26 November 2022)

People aged 18 and above who received vaccines	30,764,729
People under 18 years old who received vaccines	6,756,476

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

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs and consumer goods, industrial accessories and vehicles seized

SUPERVISED by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, effective action is being taken against offenders to prevent illicit trade under the law.

An on-duty team under the led by Myanmar Police Force and under the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force of Magway Region made inspection on 24 November. They found a Toyota Alphard without licence worth K10 million at the junction of Natmauk Street and Thinkyaryay Street of Kanhla village in Magway Township and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law. Then, officials seized 10 gallons of crude oil estimated at K30,000 in Hayla Hill area from the Htaukshabin-Htankine-Mann Oil field in Minbu and action was taken under the Public Property Protection Act.

Similarly, under the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force of Bago Region, an on-duty team inspected at the Shwe Thanlwin toll gate on Yangon-Mawlamyine highway on 24 November. They found foodstuffs such as Lactasoy soy milk, Royal-D, Nestle Milo, edible oil made in Thailand, refrigerators and washing machines worth estimated at K10.764 million without official documents and a Nissan vehicle carrying the goods estimated at K30 million and action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 25 November, a combined team consisting of officials from Region Forest Department made



Pieces of teak parquets, cartons of Lactasoy soy milk and foodstuffs seized in Bago Region on 24 and 25 November.

inspection in Kyaukdaga township, Bago district and found 1.5076 tonnes of illegal teak parquet, teak and ironwood lumber estimated at K802,642 and action was taken under the Forest Law.

Furthermore, an on-duty team under the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force of Mandalay Region performed inspection at 16th-mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint on 24 November. They found 8,900 kilogrammes of black sesame estimated at K17.8 million and a Dong Feng Tractor head vehicle estimated at K40 million. On 25 November, the officials found 3,500 pieces of sweaters, long-sleeve shirts and trousers mad in China estimated at K7.25 million from a vehicle at Letpanhla-Sin-

gu temporary checkpoint and a vehicle and a tractor estimated at K40 million. The total worth of seizures amounted to K105.05 million and action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

After that, an on-duty team under the supervision of Customs Department investigated at the airport cargo garage in Yangon International Airport. They found industrial accessories which are not match in the Import Declaration (ID) estimated at K13,361,239 and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Therefore, 16 cases at an estimated value of K170,007,881 were taken action on 24 and 25 November, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. —MNA

The fourth point of the five-point roadmap shapes national causes and political causes

The fourth point of the five-point roadmap was inserted that “Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.” These will shape national causes and political causes. To do so, the peace process must be adopted.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the 7th Anniversary of Signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) on 15 October 2022)

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays homage to Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda, Sekkyapadaung Pagoda, Shinpin Sekkeinde Pagoda, Magway Myathalun Pagoda

STATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo and wife, the Union Ministers, the Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) and wife and senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, visited Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda yesterday morning in Minbu (Sagu) in Minbu District in Magway Region.

Afterwards, the Senior General and wife and the entourage paid homage to Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda, Pada Pagoda and the Lower Foot Print of the Buddha, offering flowers, water and gold foils dedicated to the Lord Buddha. Next, the Senior General donated cash for the all-round renovation of the pagoda.

During his visit, the Senior General provided guidance for the building of a bailey bridge to facilitate the pilgrims coming to pay homage to the Lower Foot Print in Pada Pagoda, constructing a footpath to the pagoda and a small water retaining wall. The Senior General also told the responsible personnel to keep the surrounding areas clean and pleasant and to maintain properly the religious edifices to ensure their sustainability.

Next, the Senior General proceeded to Ahtet Settawya where they offered flowers, water and gold foils to the Lord Buddha. Then, the Senior General presented donations for the all-round renovation of the pagoda. While circumambulating Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda, the Senior General gave directives to the responsible personnel to maintain the Pagoda to ensure its sustainability, and in such doing, the maintenance is, he said, to be conducted in such a manner that would not affect its originality.

On 10 July 2014, families of



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla donate cash to fund of Myathalun Pagoda through an official on 27 November.

the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) led by the Senior General and well-wishers donated a transparent glass cover which is five feet high and three inches thick weighing three tonnes on the lower foot print.

In the afternoon, the Senior General proceeded to Sekkyapadaung Pagoda in Legai Village-tract in Pwintbyu Township. At Shwepyiaye Pagoda, the Senior General observed the renovation of the Dhammayon. Next, he met village elders and discussed the development of their region. Then, he presented K5 million towards the regional development fund.

At Shinpin Sekkeinde Pagoda in Minbu, the Senior General offered flowers and water to the Lord Buddha, and then, presented the donation for the all-round renovation of the pagoda. Next,



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views public area on Kanna (Strand) Street in Magway on 27 November.

he met town elders from Minbu and Sagu. In response to the points raised by local elders, the Senior General pointed out that manufacturing based on agriculture and livestock breeding

shall be encouraged for regional development, that it is necessary to supply sufficient water for cultivation and livestock breeding activities, that arrangements are underway to open the Institute

Afterwards, they proceeded to Kanna (Strand) Street to observe the cleanliness of the public area and provided guidance for the points raised by the responsible personnel.—MNA

of Livestock Breeding in Sagu and that manufacturing ought to be done with the raw materials available within the region.

Additionally, the Senior General emphasized that import substitution industrialization is needed to implement, that consumers' behaviour is needed to change to keep fit and healthy, that people need to make concerted efforts to ensure quality education and that production of educated and trained people is important to effectuate the regional development. He also pointed out the importance of tourism, which can contribute dramatically towards regional development. Afterwards, the Senior General donated K10 million each for regional development and for the construction of the Minbu home for the aged.

Then, the Senior General circumambulated the Pagoda clockwise to pay homage to the Lord Buddha. Later in the evening, the Senior General and party visited Myathalun Pagoda in Magway.

SAC Vice Chairman Dy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win enjoys entertainments of Variety Show to mark Diamond Jubilee Independence Day



SAC Vice Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win watches entertainments of Variety Show to mark Diamond Jubilee Independence Day at open-air theatre of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall on the evening of 27 November.

THE Variety Show to mark the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 continued for the second day at the open-air theatre of the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall yesterday evening, attended by Vice Chairman of the State

Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

Artistes from film, theatrical and music arenas presented songs, dancing, dramas and Anyeint performances.

SAC member and their wives, Union level persons and their wives, Union ministers, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers and their wives, departmental

heads from ministries and departments, officers, staff and families as well as people enjoyed the entertainments.

After the entertainments, the Vice-Senior General presented the flower basket and

cash awards to the artistes who participated in the variety show and cordially greeted them.

The variety show will continue till 30 November, and the entertainment is performed from 6:30 pm to 11 pm. —MNA

Union Construction Minister joins China-ASEAN Construction Cooperation and Development Forum, High Quality Living Environment Exhibition Ceremony

THE China-ASEAN Construction Cooperation and Development Forum and High Quality Living Environment Exhibition were held in Nanning of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the People's Republic of China from 25 to 27 November.

Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant delivered a video keynote speech during the event.

The Union Minister said that by holding this forum, ASEAN-China strategic partnership for peace and prosperity will be implemented to ensure mutual benefit for the ASEAN-China community.

It is a special opportunity for experts and leaders from various sectors in each country to share their experiences



Union Construction Minister U Myo Thant delivers a video keynote speech at China-ASEAN Construction Cooperation and Development Forum and High Quality Living Environment Exhibition which were held in Nanning of China from 25 to 27 November.

and interact with each other regarding the development of the construction sector in order to develop a society with a high standard of living.

By exchanging information such as the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, it is necessary to have the opportunity to participate in a closer

China-ASEAN community and enjoy more learning opportunities for rural-urban and housing development issues, construction activities with less carbon

emission, economic and social development. This forum will be very helpful in improving Myanmar's construction sector and building sustainable communities, he said.

He said that Myanmar is willing to work together with the People's Republic of China and all ASEAN member countries to create a better and brighter society.

Participants will discuss the RCEP policies and opportunities, construction based Internet Public Safety Technology and Urban Safety Smart Infrastructure service, digital construction and building improvement, balance of carbon production and carbon absorption in the construction industry. —MNA

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MoC Union Minister meets members of India-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce

THE India-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce held a meeting at India Centre at the corner of Merchant Street and Shwebontha Street in Yangon yesterday morning.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Commerce U Aung Naing Oo and the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar gave opening speeches. The meeting discussed issues on promoting trade and investment between the two countries, increasing export volume to the Indian market and ensuring swift and smooth trade process, as well as difficulties encountered in conducting trade activities. —MNA



Union Minister for Commerce U Aung Naing Oo gives opening speech at the meeting of India-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce in Yangon on 27 November.

Projects worth over 56 bln USD inked at China-South Asia Exposition



This photo taken on 19 November 2022 shows a view of the International Pavilion of the 6th China-South Asia Exposition in Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan Province. PHOTO: XINHUA/HU CHAO

A total of 169 projects with an investment of over 400 billion yuan (about 56.3 billion US dollars) were signed on 20 November during the sixth China-South Asia Exposition and the 26th China Kunming Import and Export Fair in Kunming of

Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China from 19 to 22 November 2022.

The expo was opened on 19 November in Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province. During the four-day event, held online and offline, representatives from 80

countries, regions, and international organizations participated in discussions on the theme of "New Opportunities for New Development."

On 20 November, the agreements on investments were signed, and the investment

projects focused on 12 key industries in southwest China's Yunnan Province, including green energy, modern agriculture with plateau characteristics, advanced manufacturing, new material and biomedicine, and general health activities.

President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping sent a Letter of Congratulations to the 6th China-South Asia Expo on 19 November.

President Xi noted that as each other's friendly neighbours and development partners, China and South Asian countries are a community with a shared future through thick and thin. In recent years, the two sides have deepened pragmatic cooperation in various fields, and maintained the sound momentum of economic and trade exchanges, with outcomes benefiting the people of China and all South Asian countries. China is ready to work with South Asian countries to

take the China-South Asia Expo as a platform to build common grounds on pursuing common development in solidarity and coordination, to foster new growth drivers for cooperation, to promote the high-quality development of Belt and Road cooperation, so as to help implement the Global Development Initiative, and jointly embrace an even more prosperous and brighter future.

The 6th China-South Asia Expo opened the same day in Kunming, Yunnan Province. With the theme of "New Opportunities for New Development", it is co-hosted by the Ministry of Commerce and the People's Government of Yunnan Province.

Union Minister for Commerce U Aung Naing Oo joined the inauguration ceremony and delivered a speech via videoconferencing, and three companies of Myanmar participated in the expo.—Khin Yadana/Xinhua/Chinese Embassy

Myanmar Veteran Selected Athletes Association holds sixth annual general meeting

IN honour of the country's great sportsmen's hard work for the State and the people, the government has been providing monthly awards from the age of 60 for as long as they live.

Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan said that 223 veteran selected athletes have already been awarded K14.4 million on a monthly basis and the government will continue to provide such kind of entitlement to those who turned 60, said the Union

Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, the chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee at the sixth annual general meeting of the Myanmar Veteran Selected Athletes Association at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township yesterday morning.

In addition, the Union Minister unveiled that it is verifying and supporting the obtaining of degrees and honours awarded by the State. To date, 420 veterans have been received, and

we will continue to verify and support them, he added.

Efforts are being made in all aspects to achieve success in the 32nd Southeast Asian Games to be held in Cambodia in May 2023.

Potential sport events, including Olympic sports events were chosen and coaching and referee courses were conducted to ensure appropriate success in the 33rd Southeast Asian Game, Asian level competitions, and international invitational competitions, opening basic, and ad-

vanced sports courses, he said. He informed that outstanding athletes from various competitions will be admitted and trained in sports and physical education institutes and youth sports training camps according to their age and excellence.

Next, the Union Minister presented K1 million, 250 sport shirts, and 27 track suits to the association, and donors handed over donations to officials. Commemorative gifts were awarded to those who contributed to pub-

lishing the annual magazine of the association.

Copies of magazines published for 2021-2022 were donated to National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon), Universities' Central Library, National Archives Department, National Library and Serpay Beikman Library.

At Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon), the Union minister also met with students and staff and had a dinner together.—MNA

CURRENT AFFAIRS

48 per cent completed for Yangon-Dala River Bridge construction

ACCORDING to the Bridge Department of the Ministry of Construction, 48 per cent of the construction of the Myanmar-Korea friendship Yangon-Dala River Bridge has been completed.

As of the recent completion, building of bored piles and pile cap works of PY1 on the Dala side and PY2 on the Yangon side has been completed.

For the main bridge PY1 on the Dala side, the work on the shaft, which is the mid-water pillar, has been completed up to a height of 24 meters from the bottom of the pillar.

Out of the 14 beams of the bridge on the Dala side, five of them have been installed, so No 6 and 7 beams of the bridge will be installed in December.

By the end of April 2023, the construction of the approach bridge on the Dala side, including the entire construction work, is scheduled to be completed.

For the main bridge PY2 on the Yangon side, the shaft of pier work has been completed from the bottom of the pillar up to a height of eight meters, and the foundation work for the approach bridge along Phoneygi Road has also been completed.

As the seven spans of reinforced concrete floors have been placed, the entire bridge is 48 per cent completed, according to the bridge construction project office.

The construction of the new bridge is estimated to be completed in early 2024, according to the Ministry of

Construction.

The construction project started in May 2019. The project will include two slope bridges and one two-lane approach bridge on the Yangon side.

There is a bridge (A) that turns right along the strand road from Dala and descends to the 20th street, and a bridge (B) that turns right along the strand road from Alon Township and goes up to the main bridge.

In addition, the four-lane main bridge will be formed, and through the main bridge, go up to two-lane Phoneygi Road on the Yangon side, until near Thayettaw Monastery. There are two lanes on Dala side. It is reported that it will be built up to four lanes Bo Min Yaung Road with two return lanes.

The largest and longest bridge over the river in Myanmar is made of bored pile, a type of steel suspension bridge

on a reinforced concrete body, officials said.

The total length of the bridge is 6,128 feet. The length of the main bridge is 2,264 feet. The length of the Yangon side approach bridge is 1,891 feet. Approach bridge width (two lanes) 47 feet; the length of the Dala side approach bridge is 1,972 feet. The width of the approach bridge (four lanes) is 87 feet. Yangon side footbridges width (one way) is 23 feet, and 160 feet high without waterway, and 988 feet wide. The weight of the bridge is 75 tonnes per vehicle.

The Myanmar-Korea Friendship Dala Bridge project is being built at a total cost of USD 188.174 million with a loan of USD 157.833 million from the Republic of Korea Economic Development Cooperation Fund-EDCF Loan and the Myanmar government's contribution of USD30.341 million.—TWA/GNLM



Some parts of the construction of the Yangon-Dala River Bridge.

Paddy price goes up amidst supply of monsoon low-grade paddy

MONSOON low-grade paddy produced in 2022 has entered the market for two months and the prices of paddy significantly inched higher, said a trader.

Thukha paddy price edged up from K1.3 million per 100-basket (a basket contains 50 pounds) at the end of October to K1.34 million in the last week of November, according to a daily price rate posted on Facebook by a rice mill in delta area Wakema Township.

The prices of fast mature Pawsan paddy rose from K1.5 million per 100-basket (a basket contains 52 pounds) in October to K1.6 million at the end of November. The price of the sticky rice crop was set at K2.1 million per 100-basket.

The prevailing price in Wetlet area is a two-fold of that registered in the corresponding period in 2021. If there is an output of 70 baskets per acre, the farmer will earn approximately K900,000. At present, both late mature Pawsan and sticky rice crops generate income of around K1 million per acre.

The farmer can gain a handsome profit of K500,000 to K600,000 per acre after five months of cultivation. The farmers received the highest profit in end-2022 over the past decades.

Those monsoon paddy farmers are probable to reap that profit by 2022. It can weigh on the price of summer paddy somehow. The summer paddy output is expected to increase

by 20 baskets per acre. If it is calculated the summer paddy price with the current market rate, it is estimated at K250,000 per 20 baskets. Additionally, the cost of summer paddy cultivation is higher than that of monsoon paddy.

Acreage of summer paddy is only 10 per cent of monsoon sowing acres. The market price is the driving force for the farmers to ramp up the production. When rice export volume is on the rise, high price of paddy at the harvest time encourages the farmers to expand more sown acreage.

The traders who keep the stocks in hand in the post-harvest period might benefit from the probability of a high price of paddy in mid-2023. That being so, the profit from the rocketing price of rice and broken rice in Yangon markets in mid-2022 also went to those traders who kept the stocks in hands.

The price climbed up during the harvest season of 2022 monsoon paddy. Then, the price of rice also rocketed when the traders put up for sales, posing a burden on the consumers.

Farmers are eager to boost rice cultivation so the export volume is expected to reach the record (3.5 million tonnes) before 2020.

There are around 1.5 million acres of monsoon paddy and 2 million acres of summer paddy across the country, totalling 1.7 million acres.—TWA/GNLM

Palm oil prices head for nine-day fall to K5,550 per viss

THE wholesale price of palm oil started to plunge below K6,000 per viss on 18 November and remained downward trends with K5,550-K5,580 per viss on 26 November.

There is news speculating about old dealers resuming the palm oil imports. Highly competitive market is likely to emerge, said a dealer who sends the goods to regions outside Yangon.

Although it was about

one month that the price was expected to decrease under K6,000 per viss, it started to drop on 18 November. However, the reference wholesale price for Yangon is slightly going up.

The reference prices were K4,330 per viss for a week from 8 to 13 November 2022, K4,350 for a week ending 20 November and K4,380 for a week ending 27 November. Meanwhile, the market prices stood at K6,300 on 8 November and K5,550 on

26 November.

I was surprised by the price decrease of K750 in the wholesale market price while the reference price was up by K50 in November, said an edible oil dealer.

The price gaps between the reference price and the wholesale market price were K1,970 per viss on 8 November and K1,200 on 26 November.

The majority of the retailers have to buy the palm oil at

K1,000 higher than the wholesale reference price. Nonetheless, they do not dare to take a risk to buy large stocks as they face loss from the declining price.

The sellers have concerns as the palm oil usually freezes in the winter. Those oil jerry-can sellers raised the price of K1,000 against those from oil tanks as they said their oil will not freeze.

The price of Malaysian

palm oil dropped to the lowest of 3,850 Malaysian Ringgit per tonne in the third week of November, yet it rebounded to 4,140 Ringgit last week. Prior to the mid-2022, it soared to around 7,000 Ringgit per tonne.

Between 2017 and 2020, palm oil price was around 3,000 Ringgit per tonne. Before 2020, it was valued at less than 3,000 Ringgit per tonne, as per Malaysian palm oil price data.—TWA/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Weak demand of oil millers weighs on prices of peanut amid lack of foreign demand

THE weak demand of oil millers influenced the prices of peanut amid the lack of foreign demand, as per the Mandalay market's report.

On 1 September 2022, the peanut prices moved in the range between K6,800 and K7,200 per viss depending on varieties, whereas the prices declined to K4,700-K5,750 per viss at the present time. The figures reflected a sharp decrease of K1,000-K2,000 per viss over the past two months.

Consequently, peanut oil price decreased to K12,000 per viss in the Mandalay market. Last early September, the peanut price peaked at K15,000 per viss in the markets.

Newly harvested peanuts from Shan State, Sagaing, Wetlet, Aunglan and Myinmu areas are flowing into the Mandalay market.

Last April, world's top palm oil exporter Indonesia, which is one of the main oil suppliers to Myanmar, declared an export ban on cooking oil export to reduce domestic shortage. Consequently, Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce temporarily suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) from 9 May this year in order to have oil self-sufficiency.

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



Harvested peanut plants and threshing of peanut seen in photos.

Singapore tops FDI ranking in Myanmar in past seven months



A Photo shows Directorate of Investment and Company Administration in Yangon.

FOURTEEN Singapore-listed enterprises pumped in foreign investments of US\$1.154 billion into Myanmar in the past seven months (April-Oct) of the current financial year 2022-2023, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration's statistics showed.

Singapore companies mainly put investments into urban development, real estate, power and manufacturing sectors.

Hong Kong SAR stood as the second largest investors this FY with an estimated capital over \$163 million by 11 enterprises and the existing ones. China is ranked third in the investment line-up with more than \$90 million from 22 businesses and the existing ones.

One enterprise each from Belize, China (Taipei), the Republic of Korea and Japan also made investments in the past seven months respectively. The existing enterprises from Chi-

na (Taipei), China, Hong Kong SAR, the Republic of Korea, India, Bangladesh and Seychelles also increased the investments.

Myanmar attracted foreign direct investments of \$1.45 billion from 52 enterprises during April-October period. Majority of the investments brought into the manufacturing sector: Agriculture sector drew \$3.5 million from two projects. Power sector received \$817 million from 10 projects, while one enterprise put \$29 million in the real estate sector and two other foreign enterprises made an investment of \$413.068 million in the service sector respectively. The mining sector earned \$7 million from one project, while one enterprise also put investments of less than a million into the hotels and tourism sector and some capital expansion of the existing businesses are also seen. Additionally, the livestock and fisheries sector saw a capital expansion of \$1.545 million.

Myanmar has drawn foreign direct investment of more than \$647.127 million from 49 enterprises in the past mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022), according to the statistics released by the DICA.

Singapore stood as the largest foreign investor in Myanmar in the previous years, pulling in the FDI of \$1.85 billion in the FY 2019-2020, \$2.4 billion in the FY 2018-2019, \$724.4 million in the mini-budget period (April-September, 2018), \$2.16 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, \$3.8 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, \$4.25 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, \$4.29 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$2.3 billion in the 2013-2014 FY and \$418 million in the 2012-2013 FY respectively.

Additionally, Singapore emerged as the second largest foreign investor in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, after a top investor Japan.—KK/GNLM

Myanmar foreign trade surges to over \$21.46 bln as of 18 Nov

MYANMAR'S external trade between 1 April and 18 November of the current financial year 2022-2023 tremendously edged up to US\$21.468 billion, reflecting a significant increase of \$3.9 billion from the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The figures surged from \$17.55 billion in the corresponding period last year.

Myanmar's export was worth over \$10.427 billion whereas the country's import was valued at \$11 billion over the past seven and a half months.

The border trade was up by \$89.595 million, while the seaborne trade registered a significant rise of \$3.8 billion.

Myanmar exports agricultural produce, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while

it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer goods. The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on reducing trade deficit but export promotion, import substi-

tution and market diversification.

The external trade stood at \$15.5 billion in the past mini-budget 2021-2022 (Oct-March) period and \$29.58 billion in the 2020-2021 FY, as per the Commerce Ministry's statistics.—KK/GNLM

OPINION

Adopt the best strategy and tactics to meet good fortune

If work will start, it needs to consider how to start the work with the best technique as well as how to apply the best technique at the start of the assigned work. It is a simple way of the working process. Practically, every smart work cannot be done in an array. As that is smart work, all the working processes must be systematic with weak points.

To be able to do so, it is necessary to adopt the strategy and the tactic for the implementation of the assigned work. As such,

everybody needs to prepare the strategy and the tactic for the process. In this regard, human resources should be raised to thoroughly understand the strategy and the tactic before implementing the assignments.

Implementation of assigned projects needs strategy and tactics. The strategy mentions the way how to meet the goal as a master plan whereas the tactic describes the detailed explanations of how to do the best implementation of the project to the objectives similar to that of the action plan. Both strategy and tactics are inseparable.

The strategy must be adopted for the assignments as a long-term plan arranged to meet the goal. On the other hand, the strategy paves the way for leading to the relevant visions. The tactic must be implemented to meet the missions assigned as action plans to be able to support the master plan. As such, the tactic must be drawn with detailed techniques and ways under restricted and limited timeframes to reach the goal. The tactic consists of the best ways and techniques, detailed programmes, and the best sources.

Tactics are flexible and to be changed depending on the ways of implementing the strategic plans to achieve greater success. Those who implement the assigned project or plan should not discard the strategy and tactic in their process. While analyzing the strategy, nobody should forget the tactics. Only when they must always review both strategy and tactics will they have the capacity to achieve victory.

The tactics should not derail from the action lines of strategy. In other words, the action plan must be implemented under the guideline of the strategic plan. As such, any organization needs to adopt the most appropriate strategy and tactics for its future fortune. They must prepare the best strategy and tactics before implementing their assignments. The strategy and tactics they adopted must be based on their firm beliefs. If not, no good fortune will wait for them in the future.

Majority of people with prolonged Covid endure stigma, discrimination: Study

Testimonies illustrate profound stigmas experienced by people living with Long Covid, but until now there has been no quantitative assessment of the burden.



Ninety-five percent of people experienced at least one type of stigma at least 'sometimes', and 76% experiencing it 'often' or 'always', according to the results. PHOTO: ILLUSTRATION CREDIT FREEPIK/FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY

ACCORDING to a new study published in the journal PLOS ONE, the majority of persons living with Long Covid suffer some type of stigma directly related to their condition.

An estimated 2.3 million people are living with Long Covid in the UK according to the Office for National Statistics data, and numbers are not decreasing due to limited treatment options and continue high Covid infection rates.

Testimonies illustrate profound stigmas experienced by people living with Long Covid, but until now there has been no quantitative assessment of the burden.

Experiences of stigma

The study was conducted by researchers at the University of Southampton and Brighton and Sussex Medical School and co-

signed by people living with Long Covid (from the charity Long Covid Support).

More than 1100 people took part, including 966 people from the UK, and were asked about their experiences of stigma in three areas: Enacted stigma where individuals were directly treated unfairly due to their health condition; internalised stigma where people felt embarrassed or ashamed of their health condition, and anticipated stigma, which is the individual's expectation they will be treated poorly because of their condition.

Ninety-five per cent of people experienced at least one type of stigma at least 'sometimes', and 76% experiencing it 'often' or 'always', according to the results.

The follow up survey

Dr Marija Pantelic, Lecturer in Public Health at Brighton and Sussex Medical School, who led

the development of the stigma questions in the follow up survey, said: "There have been countless anecdotal reports of the stigma, dismissal and discrimination faced by people living with Long Covid. This study was the first to empirically measure this stigma and estimate prevalence. We were shocked to see just how prevalent it is, but the findings also empower us to do something about it.

"With the stigma questionnaire we developed, we can measure changes over time and the effectiveness of urgently needed anti-stigma interventions."

Stigma and discrimination

In the study, nearly two thirds (63%) of people reported experiences of stigma such as being treated with less respect or people they care about stopping contact with them due to their health condition, while 91% expected to

experience stigma and discrimination, for example they thought many people did not consider Long Covid to be a real illness or they anticipated judgment.

Eighty-six per cent of respondents felt a profound sense of shame related to having Long Covid — they were embarrassed of their illness and felt 'very different' from people without Long Covid.

In the study, 61% of people said they were very careful who they tell about their condition, and about one third (34%) of respondents regretted having told people about it. Overall, the prevalence of experiencing stigma was higher in those who reported having a clinical diagnosis of Long Covid than those without or who were unsure (83% v 69%).

A clinical diagnosis

Nisreen Alwan, Professor of Public Health at the University of Southampton and co-lead author of the study, added: "We were surprised to find that people with a clinical diagnosis of Long Covid were more likely to report stigma than people without a formal diagnosis.

"We are not sure why this is — perhaps because they are more likely to share their health status with others or they have engaged more with health services.

"More research is needed to unpack the potential mechanisms of how and where this stigma is manifested, and who is most likely to stigmatise and be stigmatised."

Claire Hastie from the charity Long Covid Support who also worked on the study, said: "Sadly we see the results of stigma all too often among members of our support group. In addition to the significant health burden of Long Covid, the stigma and discrimination associated with the condition can lead to relationship breakdowns and problems at work. These cause immense additional distress, which itself can compromise healing. It is vital that people with the condition are believed and supported to help their chances of recovery."

"The stigma attached to Long Covid is harming people living with Long Covid and is likely to leave a devastating mark on our society and health service provision," Dr Pantelic added. "We know from decades of research with other long-term conditions such as asthma, depression, and HIV that stigma has dire consequences for public health. Fear of stigma is also likely to drive people away from health services and other support, which over time has detrimental consequences on people's physical and mental health."

SOURCE: ANI

US pandemic death toll higher than in 20 peer countries: study

COVID-19 exacted a higher infection-related and excess all-cause death toll from the United States than from 20 peer countries throughout the pandemic but had less of an impact in the most-vaccinated states in the Delta and Omicron surges, according to a new study.

"Adjusted for population size, the United States had 155,000 to 466,000 more deaths than peer nations in the second half of 2021 and early 2022," the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota reported on Monday, citing the study published in JAMA last week. US per-capita COVID-19

deaths overall and in both state subgroups significantly exceeded those of all peer countries, with 370,298 COVID-19 deaths (112/100,000) during Delta and Omicron (61/100,000 and 51/100,000, respectively).

But COVID-19 death rates were significantly lower in the 10 states with the highest vaccination coverage (73 per cent coverage; 75 deaths/100,000 people) than those in the 10 least-vaccinated states (52 per cent coverage; 146/100,000).

"COVID-19 vaccination rates in peer countries ranged from a low of 64 per cent in Israel to 82 per cent in South Korea. Overall US vaccination coverage was 63 per cent," said

the report.

For the study, researchers from the Brown School of Public Health and the University of Pennsylvania compared the United States overall, the 10 most- and least-vaccinated states, and 20 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries with a population exceeding 5 million and a per-capita gross domestic product higher than 25,000 US dollars in 2021, according to the report.

SOURCE: XINHUA

Broadway in New York City. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 27 November 2022)

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

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure cell over the Eastcentral Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move West-Northwestwards.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL Noon OF THE 28 November 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Mon State, scattered in Bago Region and (Southern and Eastern) Shan and Kayah states and isolated in Rakhine and Kayin states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and (Southern and Eastern)Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states.

SCI/TECH/ENVIRON WORLD

Vehicle pollution zone to cover all of London



London's mayor first introduced the ULEZ (ultra-low emission zone) in April 2019 and expanded it last year. **PHOTO: AFP**

OLDER and more heavily polluting vehicles will have to pay to enter the entire metropolitan area of London from next August, the British capital's mayor said Friday.

Sadiq Khan said the ultra-low emission zone (ULEZ) would be expanded beyond its current confines from August 29, to encompass the entire nine million people of Greater London.

Announcing a parallel expansion of bus services in outer London, he argued that air pol-

lution from older and heavier vehicles was making Londoners "sick from cradle to the grave".

The ULEZ had already proven "transformational", the mayor said, and its extension would mean "five million more people will be able to breathe cleaner air and live healthier lives".

But the plan has prompted a fierce backlash from political opponents and some residents in the capital, who point to a consultation held indicating that a majority of Londoners opposed

extending the zone.

The two-month outreach exercise — held earlier this year by Transport for London (TfL), which runs the capital's various transport systems — heard from 57,913 people, including nearly 12,000 campaigners on either side of the issue.

Although it found 55 per cent of respondents had "some concern" about their local air quality, the consultation also recorded 59 per cent as opposed to the ULEZ being expanded at all.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Where are the mackerel?' Alarm as Bosphorus fish stocks crash

DESPONDENT Sunday anglers watch crestfallen as a trawler winches an enormous net out of the waters of the Bosphorus.

"Clear off!" they shout from the shore, impatient to get their hooks back into the depths of the strait that runs through Istanbul.

"I have been here since 6 am but a trawler came and dropped its nets. That blocked us completely," grumbled Mehmet Dogan, fed-up at only having caught one fish all day, a 40-centimetre (16-inch) bonito.—AFP

Tanzania ends water rationing in Dar es Salaam region

TANZANIA'S Dar es Salaam region authorities on Friday announced an end to a one-month water rationing after rains in upper regions had filled the Ruvu River.

Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Amos Makalla announced the end of water rationing in the region after he had visited the Ruvu River and saw water flowing like before the rationing was announced.—Xinhua

Chile's unique Atacama desert sullied by world's junk

IT may be one of the driest places on Earth — a brutal, alien landscape where life seems impossible.

But Chile's massive Atacama desert is a unique and fragile ecosystem that experts say is being threatened by piles of trash dumped there from around the world.

Mountains of discarded clothing, a graveyard of shoes, and rows upon rows of scrapped tires and cars blight at least three regions of the desert in northern Chile.

"We are no longer just the local backyard, but rather the world's backyard, which is worse," Patricio Ferreira, mayor of the desert town of Alto Hospicio, told AFP.

The Atacama, with its strik-



Kilometres of used cars from Asia have been dumped in Chile's Atacama desert. **PHOTO: AFP**

ing otherworldly beauty and expansive salt flats, has also been transformed by intensive mining for copper and lithium. Carmen Serrano, head of the Endemic Roots environmental NGO, said that most people see the Atacama as nothing more than "bare hills" where they can "extract resource-

es or fill their pockets." **'Lack of global awareness'**

Chile has long been a hub for secondhand and unsold clothing from Europe, Asia, and the United States, which is either sold on throughout Latin America, or ends up in rubbish dumps in the desert.—AFP

Wolves emboldened by parasite more likely to lead pack: study

WOLVES infected with a common parasite are far more likely to become the leader of their pack, according to a new study, suggesting that the brain-dwelling intruder emboldens its host to take more risks.

The single-celled parasite, *Toxoplasma gondii*, only sexually reproduces in cats but can infect all warm-blooded animals.

Between 30-50 per cent of people worldwide are estimated to be infected with the parasite, which remains for life as dormant tissue cysts. However people with a healthy immune system rarely have any symptoms.



Leader of the pack? A parasite may make grey wolves in Yellowstone National Park take more risks, research suggests. **PHOTO: MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS/AFP/FILE**

While some studies have reported an association between people having the parasite in their brain and increased risk-taking, other research has disputed these findings and no definitive link has been proven.

The new study, published in the journal *Communications Biology* on Thursday, took advantage of 26 years' worth of data on grey wolves living in the Yellowstone National Park in the United States to investigate how the parasite could affect their behaviour.

The researchers from the Yellowstone Wolf Project analysed the blood samples of nearly

230 wolves and 62 cougars — the big cats are known spreaders of the parasite.

They found that infected wolves were more likely to foray deeper into cougar territory than uninfected wolves.

Infected wolves were also 11 times more likely to leave their pack than wolves without the parasite, the study said, indicating a higher rate of risk-taking.

And an infected wolf is up to 46 times more likely to become pack leader, the researchers estimated, adding that the role is normally won by more aggressive animals.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Israeli researchers invent invisible face mask to protect against viruses

ISRAELI researchers have developed an invisible face mask that protects users from coronavirus, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), influenza and other respiratory viruses, the Israel Institute of Technology (Technion) said Thursday.

The new mask is a type of invisible air curtain that flows in front of the user's face and is mounted on a hat visor, arising from a lightweight reusable unit which includes a filter, the Technion explained.

The air curtain protects the eyes, nose, and mouth while enabling facial and emotional recognition, as well as

oral communication.

The researchers successfully tested the new technology, showing effective blocking of tiny droplets formed during breathing and speaking, as well as large droplets formed during coughing and sneezing.

Furthermore, when the user is in a contaminated area, the air screen removes sprays from the front of the face in an "erosion" process.

Interviews conducted by the researchers with dozens of subjects in nursing homes, universities, shops and offices clearly showed the benefits of the invisible mask, the Technion said.—Xinhua



Sonovia Ltd. uses nanotechnology to create fabrics that have been shown to be effective against bacterial and fungal infections. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIONAL PHOTO/THE FIRM'S LAB IN RAMAT GAN/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amount of water people consume over their lifespan explored in new study

A research of thousands of people has found a significant difference in the amount of water people consume around the world and throughout their lives, clearly refuting the oft-repeated concept that eight, 8-ounce glasses of water cover the human body's daily needs.

"The science has never supported the old eight glasses thing as an appropriate guideline, if only because it confused total water turnover with water from beverages and a lot of your water comes from the food you eat," says Dale Schoeller, a University of Wisconsin-Madison emeritus professor of nutritional sciences who has been studying water and metabolism for decades.—ANI

Russia reports 6,088 new COVID-19 cases

RUSSIA registered 6,088 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, bringing the nationwide tally to 21,568,846, said the official monitoring and response centre on Saturday.

The centre said the nationwide death toll increased by 53 to 391,789, while the number of recoveries grew by 5,088 to 20,977,854.—Xinhua

PM Modi appreciates efforts of Himachal's health centre in spreading awareness about muscular dystrophy

IN the 95th edition of his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat' on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi talked about "Muscular Dystrophy" and appreciated the efforts of a health centre in Himachal Pradesh's solan in spreading awareness about it.

The Prime Minister said that Muscular Dystrophy is a genetic disease that can occur at any age, in which the muscles of the body begin to weaken.

"The world of medical science has made a lot of progress with the help of research and innovation as well as state-of-the-art technology and equipment, but some diseases, even today, remain a big challenge for us. One such disease is — Muscular Dystrophy!



Muscular dystrophy is a group of conditions that damage and weaken your muscles over time. This damage and weakness are due to the lack of a protein called dystrophin, which is necessary for typical muscle function. **PHOTO: HEALTHLINE MEDIA/ANI**

It is mainly a genetic disease that can occur at any age, in which the muscles of the body begin to weaken. It becomes difficult for the patient to do even his small tasks of daily life. The treatment and care of such pa-

tients require a great sense of service," he said.

Appreciating the efforts of Manav Mandir Hospital, PM Modi said it is a wonderful example of human service true to its name.—ANI

UN chief calls for equalizing availability, quality of HIV treatment

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday called for equalizing availability, quality of HIV treatment, testing and prevention in his message for World AIDS Day, observed on 1 Dec.

On this World AIDS Day, "we are calling out in one voice. Equalize! The 'Equalize' slogan is a call to action. A call to adopt the proven practical actions that will help end AIDS. More availability, quality and suitability of services for HIV

treatment, testing and prevention," said the top UN official.

"Everyone needs respect and to be welcomed. And better sharing of technology to enable equal access to the best HIV science, especially between the global South and North," the UN chief stressed.

The secretary-general added that the world has promised to end AIDS by 2030. "We are off track. To end AIDS, we must end the inequalities that are blocking progress. Today, we

risk millions more new infections and millions more deaths."

Guterres called for more financial resources, better laws, policies and practices to tackle "the stigma and exclusion" faced by people living with HIV, especially marginalized populations.

"The inequalities that perpetuate the AIDS pandemic can and must be overcome. We can end AIDS, if we equalize," Guterres said.

According to the factsheets available on the website of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), there were 38.4 million people globally living with HIV in 2021, and 1.5 million people became newly infected with HIV and 650,000 people died from AIDS-related illnesses last year.

World AIDS Day, designated on 1 December every year since 1988, is an international day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection and mourning those who have died of the disease.—Xinhua



South Africa is battling to curb the spread of HIV/Aids. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ECONOMY WORLD



From 1 March 2022, China expands nationwide pilot program for commercial endowment insurance catering to its aging population. Senior citizens practice Tai Chi in a community in Wuxi, Jiangsu province, on 7 September 2020. **PHOTO: IC/XINHUA**

China's financial sector broadens in wealthier golden years pursuit

INSTEAD of comparing prices of desired products on different e-commerce platforms during the online shopping festival earlier this month, Ding Meng, a 34-year-old white collar worker, purchased commercial endowment insurance after careful study of a variety of choices.

By paying a monthly contribution to the insurer for 10 years, Ding would secure a pension providing a set amount each month

after reaching 60. The longer she lives, the more pension she gets.

"COVID-19 has taught me the lesson that you have to save up for the rainy days," Ding said. "It's never too young to lay your nest eggs."

Ding is not alone in her preemptive move against aging.

The average age at which Chinese respondents start saving for their old age has dropped significantly — from 38 years old

in 2021 to 35 in 2022 — according to a recent survey released by financial services provider Fidelity International and a local peer.

The awareness of resorting to financial products to ready oneself for old-age has been growing particularly fast in China this year, as the country's financial authorities and market players are making nest egg financial services for golden years more available and accessible.—Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britain, Singapore agree to deepen fintech links

THE UK and Singapore on Friday announced an agreement to boost their financial technology sectors, seeking to remove trade barriers and encourage cooperation.

The news marks Britain's latest commercial agreement outside Europe following its departure from the European Union at the start of last year.

Friday's memorandum of understanding "will come into effect next week once formalities have been completed on both sides", the UK government said in a statement after talks in the city state.

The deal extends a 2016 accord, which established a so-called "fintech bridge" of cooperation between regulators and businesses. It also follows a partnership, inked in 2021, to further discuss areas such as sustainable finance, innovation, and in particular the burgeoning fintech industry.

"This (memorandum) will increase the cooperation and sharing of information on emerging trends in the fintech sector," the statement added.

"It will also break down barriers to trade for UK and Singaporean fintechs, boosting growth and investment opportunities."—AFP

UNECA chief urges strong intra-Africa trade to withstand external shocks

ANTONIO Pedro, the acting executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), has emphasized the need to deepen intra-Africa trade to withstand external shocks.

"An Africa that increasingly trades with itself in a diverse range of products is a credible option to build a resilient Africa that can withstand external shocks," Pedro said on Wednesday.

The UNECA chief made the remarks during the meeting of the Executive Council of the African Union (AU) that was held as part of the high-level industrialization-themed continental gathering, the AU Extraordinary Summit on Industrialization and Economic Diversification and AU Extraordinary Session on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), slated for Nov. 20-25 in the Nigerian capital of Niamey.

Pedro said the African continent has suffered more than other regions from the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of the conflict in Ukraine, in large part due to its excessive dependency on imports.—Xinhua

Singapore's manufacturing output declines 0.8% in October

THE Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB) said on Friday that the country's manufacturing output decreased 0.8 per cent year on year in October, compared to the revised 1.6 per cent increase in September.

Excluding biomedical manufacturing, the output increased 1.9 per cent year on year in October, compared to the 2.4 per cent increase in September.

On a seasonally adjusted month-on-month basis, Singapore's manufacturing output increased 0.9 per cent in October. Excluding biomedical manufacturing, output remained unchanged.

As for the performance of different clusters, the electronics cluster's output declined 0.7 per cent year on year in October. Meanwhile, the chemicals

cluster saw its output decrease 9.7 per cent. The biomedical manufacturing cluster's output declined 14.5 per cent.

The precision engineering cluster's output grew 18.6 per cent in October. The transport engineering cluster's output increased 6.3 per cent. The general manufacturing cluster's output remained unchanged year on year in October.—Xinhua

23% of major Japanese firms may raise prices next yr on rising costs

NEARLY a quarter of major companies in Japan are considering raising the prices of their products next year or later due to increasing material costs and a weaker yen, a Kyodo News survey showed Sunday.

Of the 80 companies surveyed, including Toyota Motor Corp, Nintendo Co and Shiseido Co, 23 per cent said they are mulling price hikes on consumer products, while 49 per cent said they were undecided about doing so.

Among multiple answers on why they are thinking of a price hike, many cited the rising costs of materials, followed by an increase in shipping costs and the yen's depreciation.

The survey, conducted from 7 to 21 November on 107 companies, of which 80 firms responded, also found that 15 per cent did not reveal their



Shiseido Co Ltd is a Japan-based company engaged in the manufacture and sale of cosmetics, toiletries, personal care products, barber and beauty products. A Shiseido Co researcher conducts an experiment to identify the smell of stress. **PHOTO: SHISEIDO / VIA KYODO**

decision on whether a price increase is in the works.

The survey results were released as consumer prices in November in Tokyo gained 3.6 per cent from a year earlier, marking the steepest rise since 1982 amid higher energy and

food prices that increasingly squeeze household budgets, according to government data released Friday.

The inflation data for Tokyo is seen as an indication of what to expect nationwide.—Kyodo

Marine economy expo highlights industry trends

REQUIRING only four staffers to breed millions of fish, "Jinghai 001," a large deep-sea intelligent cage, became a hot star at the 2022 China Marine Economy Expo (CMEE) which concluded Saturday in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen.

Equipped with intelligent monitoring, automatic feeding and robots capable of cleaning nets, the 68-meter-long, 68-meter-wide and 40-meter-high smart cage serves as a smart platform for breeding deep-sea aquatic animals, and

has an annual capacity of 1,000 tonnes. "There are 200 sensors in the cage. Also, its 'fish face recognition' system can monitor the number and growth status of fish in real-time," said Pan Xilu, strategy director of Yantai CIMC Raffles Offshore Limited, at the three-day expo. According to Pan, the biggest difficulty with aquaculture lies in its unpredictability and uncontrollability. The stable aquatic data delivered by "Jinghai 001," however, will be of revolutionary significance.—Xinhua

Daiso value retailer aims to increase US stores 10-fold

JAPANESE 100-yen shop operator Daiso Industries Co aims to increase the number of its stores in the United States more than 10-fold in the long-term to 1,000, as soaring inflation has spurred more American consumers to look for high-quality products on a budget.

The value retailer, which has won over customers in Japan during the country's decades-long deflation, currently operates more than 80 US stores in

states such as California and Texas.

The operator said it will add about 30 more outlets in the state of Arizona and elsewhere in the next fiscal year, with plans to eventually bring the total number of its stores in the United States to 1,000.

"We think high-quality, single-price products will catch on overseas, too," a Daiso official said. "We will aggressively go into new areas abroad."

Daiso's plan comes



Photo taken 20 September 2022, shows a Daiso Japanese discount variety shop chain outlet which opened in July in New York's Manhattan. PHOTO: KYODO

as dollar shops become more and more popular in the country where runaway inflation is shrinking consumers' disposable income.—Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KHDY0327N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KHDY0327N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-11-2022** 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 PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

CHANGING THE NAME OF INSECTICIDE TRADING

The foreign manufacture Makro Chemical will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing trading name –

No	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Shwe Dow Sone	Shwe Paung Seven	Fenoxaprop-P-ethyl 13% + Pyrazosulfuron-ethyl 7% + Quinclorac 50% WP	Provisional	P 2020 - 5095

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address: **Golden Key Co., Ltd.** No. 258/262, STRAND ROAD, 11th FLOOR, CLASSIC STRAND CONDO, PABEDAN TOWNSHIP, YANGON, MYANMAR. PH: 01371629

CHANGING THE NAME OF INSECTICIDE TRADING

The foreign manufacture Zhejiang Tide Cropscience Co., Ltd. will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing trading name –

No	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Tide-Nova	Daconil Extra	Chlorothalonil 40% + Thiophanate-methyl 35% WP	Provisional	P 2022 - 4638

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address: **Golden Key Co., Ltd.** No. 258/262, STRAND ROAD, 11th FLOOR, CLASSIC STRAND CONDO, PABEDAN TOWNSHIP, YANGON, MYANMAR. PH: 01371629

NOTICE OF PROHIBITION

My client, **MYANMA AWBA GROUP COMPANY LIMITED** (Reg.no. 146628680-14/03/1995) established in 1995 has been distributing and selling with goodwill the agricultural pesticides, fertilizers and seeds all over the country of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar since then.

Notice of Prohibition is strictly given to the public and any concerned parties NOT to infringe upon the Intellectual Property Rights of the good standing tradename "**MYANMA AWBA GROUP COMPANY LIMITED**" in any means of confusion, whether in identity or in similarity, verbally or in written form, by direct or indirect imitation. Notice of Prohibition is given moreover, by using such confusable names, NOT to transact businesses and conduct any kinds of activities aiming at causing public confusion on this esteemed Company.

Warning is hereby given that whoever not abiding by this Notice of Prohibition shall be dealt with according to the laws.

By an explicit instruction of MYANMA AWBA GROUP COMPANY LIMITED,

U Htain Lin Oo LL.B Advocate (Sr. no. 6361)

No.567, Room(304), MAC Tower, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.

Phone:8376318, 09448200600

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Now comes to our attention that a company in the name of MYANMA AWW GROUP COMPANY LIMITED was established in 2019 by another party with Reg.no.121902869-27/8/2019 of Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration of Myanmar.

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MYANMA AWBA GROUP COMPANY LIMITED

and

MYANMA AWW GROUP COMPANY LIMITED

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Swedes may face “even worse” energy situation next winter: expert



As a consequence of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, Europe is trying to minimize its energy dependency on Russia. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE energy situation will be even worse next winter in Sweden, an expert from the Swedish Energy Agency warned on Saturday.

Swedes, who already experienced exceptionally high

energy prices, can expect even higher prices next winter, reported Dagens Nyheter (DN) newspaper, quoting Anders Wallinder, head of security of supply at the agency.

As a consequence of the

conflict between Russia and Ukraine, Europe is trying to minimize its energy dependency on Russia. Before the conflict, 40 per cent of the natural gas consumed in Europe was imported from Russia. Before winter 2023/2024, Europe will therefore be dependent on liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments from the United States and the Middle East. Besides being considerably more expensive than natural gas, there are practical challenges, such as the fact that the current system is mainly based on import from the east which would have to be replaced by terminals for shipments coming from the other direction, DN reported.

“This will be solved, but it will not be without problems,” Wallinder said.—Xinhua

Russian shelling kills 15 in Kherson as Ukraine battles to restore power

RUSSIAN shelling of the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson killed 15 civilians Friday, officials said, as engineers across the country sought to restore heat, water and power to major cities.

Throughout the country, Russian air strikes in recent weeks have brought Ukraine’s energy infrastructure to its knees as winter approaches and temperatures near freezing, spurring fears of a health crisis and a further exodus.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said more than six million households in the country were still affected by power cuts, two days after targeted Russian strikes on Ukraine’s energy infrastructure.

The country’s national

energy company, Ukrenergo, said late Friday that the grid was still facing a 30 per cent deficit, with its technicians working “around the clock” to restore power. But it said it expected to increase coverage over the weekend, boosted by additional nuclear power.

The attack on Kherson, a key southeastern city recently recaptured by Ukrainian forces, marked the deadliest Russian bombardment in recent days.

A total of “15 residents were killed and 35 injured, including one child, as a result of enemy shelling”, city official Galyna Lugova said. Several “private houses and high-rise buildings” had been damaged, she added.—AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Kishida Cabinet support rate drops to 33.1%, lowest since launch

THE support rate for Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida’s Cabinet has dropped to 33.1 per cent, the lowest since its launch last year, a Kyodo News survey showed Sunday, after three of his ministers were forced out in less than a month.

The approval rating was down from 37.6 per cent in the previous poll conducted in late October, while the disapproval rating rose to 51.6 per cent, exceeding 50 per cent for the first time since Kishida took office in October last year, according

to the two-day nationwide telephone survey conducted from Saturday.

The latest poll showed that 62.4 per cent of survey respondents see Kishida’s sacking of the three ministers as too late, while 26.0 per cent think it was appropriately timed.

It also showed 60.8 per cent approve the government’s plan for Japan to acquire an enemy base strike capability, or a “counterstrike capability,” compared with 35.0 per cent who disapprove.—Kyodo

Obiang wins sixth term as E.Guinea ruler

EQUATORIAL Guinea’s ruler Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo has been re-elected to a sixth term as president with 94.9 per cent of the votes cast, election officials announced on Saturday, putting turnout for the vote at 98 per cent.

Obiang, 80, who seized power in a 1979 coup, is the longest-ruling head of state in the world excluding monarchs. He has never officially been re-elected with less than 93 per cent of the vote.

Electoral commission head Faustino Ndong Esono Eyang confirmed that Obiang would serve another seven years in the top job. The commission said the turnout rate for the election



President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo has been in power for 43 years, longer than any current leader apart from monarchs. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

was 98 per cent. The landslide result was widely expected in the oil-rich and authoritarian Cen-

tral African nation, where the political opposition is extremely weak.—AFP

Indian man burns himself to death in language protest

AN octogenarian man burned himself to death in southern India in protest at what he called New Delhi’s attempts to impose nationwide usage of Hindi, a language mostly spoken in the north, police said Sunday.

Language is an emotive issue in India where hundreds of languages and dialects are spoken, but English serves as the main official medium while state governments use regional languages.

According to the most recent census in 2011, fewer than half of Indian citizens speak Hindi — just under 44 per cent.

But last month a group of parliamentarians headed by the powerful interior minister Amit

Shah reportedly recommended making Hindi the national official language, including for technical education such as medicine and engineering.

Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken

of a “slave mentality” around the use of English, and promoted the use of Indian languages.

But opponents accuse his government of attempting to impose Hindi, causing particular anger in the south.—AFP

Mexico president to 'show muscle' at big political rally

SUPPORTERS of Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador are expected to flood the streets of Mexico City on Sunday in a major show of political strength by the left-wing populist.

The rally comes as presidential hopefuls, including Lopez Obrador's allies, warm up for the race to replace him in 2024.

Two weeks after tens of thousands joined an opposition protest against his proposed electoral reform, Lopez Obrador plans to lead a pro-government march through the heart of the capital.

The aim is to celebrate the government's "transformation of Mexico" four years into his six-year term, Lopez Obrador told reporters.

"I invite all the people, all those who can attend," including government minis-

ters and lawmakers, he said.

It will be the first such march led by a Mexican president in at least four decades, and possibly the biggest pro-government rally since Lopez Obrador took office in 2018, according to experts.

Lopez Obrador wants to "show muscle," Fernando Dworak, a political analyst at the Mexican Autonomous Institute of Technology, said.

"It was a serious mistake by the opposition to believe that the president can be beaten on the streets," he told AFP, referring to the November 13 anti-government protest.

'Oiled machinery'

Lopez Obrador enjoys an approval rating of nearly 60 percent, and few doubt his ability to draw a huge crowd on Sunday, when he plans to give a speech outlining his achievements in office.—AFP



Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador plans to lead a pro-government march through the heart of the capital. PHOTO: AFP/FILE PEDRO PARDO

Kim vows North Korea to have world's most powerful nuclear force

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his country aimed to have the world's most powerful nuclear force as he celebrated the launch of its newest intercontinental ballistic missile at a ceremony with his young daughter, state media reported Sunday.

Kim also handed promotions to more than 100 officials and scientists for their work on the Hwasong-17 — dubbed the "monster missile" by analysts and believed to be capable of reaching the US mainland — just days after Pyongyang test-fired it in one of its most powerful launches yet.

Hailing the new ICBM as "the world's strongest strategic weapon", Kim said North Korean scientists had made a "wonderful leap forward in the development of the technology of mounting nuclear warheads on ballistic missiles", the official Korean Central



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his daughter posed for photos with soldiers and workers who had contributed to the test-firing of a new ICBM. PHOTO: KCNA VIA KNS/AFP

News Agency (KCNA) reported.

Building the nuclear force to protect the dignity and sovereignty of the state and the people "is the greatest and most important revolutionary cause, and its

ultimate goal is to possess the world's most powerful strategic force, the absolute force unprecedented in the century", Kim was quoted as saying in his order promoting the officials. —AFP

London fire service vows reform after damning review

LONDON'S fire service said on Friday it was taking "immediate action", after an independent review concluded it was institutionally misogynistic and racist.

The London Fire Brigade (LFB) promised a "zero tolerance approach to discrimination, harassment and bullying" as details of the report were leaked by the press.

The service said it had accepted around two dozen recommendations from a review led by former senior prosecutor Nazir

Afzal. It conceded that the report had "accounts of shockingly poor behaviour and painful experiences over many years".

The service's response includes launching an external complaints system, and piloting the use of bodycams for when staff meet the public on home fire safety visits.

The review, launched in March last year, is set to be published imminently. But citing a leaked copy, The Sunday Times said it had unearthed a "toxic

culture" inside Britain's largest fire service.

Afzal discovered dozens of examples of racism, bullying and misogyny, the newspaper reported. In one case, a female firefighter's helmet had been filled with urine; in another a black employee found a noose above his locker.

Following the leak late Friday, Afzal himself confirmed on Twitter that he "did find LFB was institutionally misogynist & racist.—Xinhua

Iran's Khamenei says negotiating with US won't end recent 'troubles'

IRAN'S supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Saturday that negotiating with the United States would not put an end to the "troubles" that have rocked the Islamic republic over the past two months.

Iran has seen weeks of demonstrations sparked by the September 16 death in custody of 22-year-old Kurdish-Iranian woman Mahsa Amini. She had been arrested for an alleged breach of the country's strict dress code for women.

Government officials have blamed the "riots" on "foreign enemies" in the West whom they accuse of inciting law-breaking.

"Some tell us in newspapers or on the internet that to put an end to the troubles that started a few weeks ago, all that's needed is to resolve your problem with America and listen to the voice of the nation," Khamenei said.

"Negotiating will not resolve anything," he said, in



Iran's nuclear water reactor of Arak, south of the capital Tehran. PHOTO: ATOMIC ENERGY ORGANIZATION OF IRAN VIA AFP

comments broadcast on state television.

"Our problem with America can only be resolved by letting that country hold us to ransom." Khamenei said that in order to put an end to hostilities, the US wants Iran to abandon its nuclear programme, change its constitution, restrict its influence to inside its borders, and close its defence industries.

"No Iranian can accept such conditions," he said. —AFP

Kim vows North Korea to have world's most powerful nuclear force



SPORT

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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



ISPE team players celebrate the victory as they win the Myanmar Women's League 2022. PHOTO: THAW GYI

ISPE team clinches title in Myanmar Women's League 2022

IN the final week of the 2022 Myanmar Women's League, the 14th Match was played on 27 November in three venues, and ISPE won the championship.

On the last day, the ISPE team defeated the Myawady team by 2-0. Sport and Physical Education Department team beat Taninthayi team by 3-0, and YREO beat Young Lionesses 2-1.

In the final match for the championship, the current champion ISPE defeated Myawady and clinched the title. The ISPE team won the championship with the same score as the Thitsar Arman team, but with a better goal difference.

Since it was the final match for the championship, the ISPE team came out with a full set of strong players, and the Myawady team played the best response because if they won this match, they would get the second place.

Both teams were able to attack each other, but were unable to capitalize on their opportunities, resulting in a goal at the end of the first half.

The goal was scored through a penalty kick by Hsu Pyae Pyae Kyaw near the end of the first half.

The ISPE team, which started to score near the end of the first half, gained morale and forced to play in the second half.

The second goal for the ISPE team was scored in the 49th minute by Hsu Pyae Pyae Kyaw.

After the competition, the ISPE won 10 games in 12 games, one draw, and one loss with a score of 31 points. Next, Thitsar Arman bagged second with 31 points and Myawady team finished third with 26 points.

Sports and Physical Education Department gained 18 points and stood fourth and YREO and Young Lionesses garnered nine points each but Taninthayi team had no point with all losses.

Thitsar Arman missed out on the championship title due to goal difference.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

World Cup 2022 Results

Japan	0-1	Costa Rica
Belgium	0-2	Morocco
Croatia	4-1	Canada



Yoshida rallies Japan after Costa Rica disappointment

JAPAN captain Maya Yoshida urged his team to stick together after their 1-0 loss to Costa Rica on Sunday and believes a place in the knock-out round is still within their reach. Yoshida said the Blue Samurai struggled to come down from the high of beating Germany in their opening game and found it "difficult" to prepare for Costa Rica, who were coming off a 7-0 thrashing by Spain. Japan will likely now need at least a point in their final group game against Spain to progress and Yoshida urged his team-mates to pull off another famous win.

"We didn't have the same mentality as against Germany today, probably — that was our big mistake," Yoshida said, after losing to a Costa Rica side that scored in the 81st minute with

their first shot on target. "It's too easy to say we give up. Our strength is solidarity and unity. Again, we need to stick together and try to get the three points in



Costa Rica's defender #04 Keysher Fuller (R) scores his team's first goal during the Qatar 2022 World Cup Group E football match between Japan and Costa Rica at the Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium in Al-Rayyan, west of Doha on 27 November 2022. PHOTO: GIUSEPPE CACACE / AFP

the next game." Japan looked a shadow of the vibrant side that roared back to stun Germany as they toiled against a defence-minded Costa Rica.—AFP

Brazil confident injured Neymar will be back to lead World Cup bid

BRAZIL are confident that Neymar will return to lead their bid to win a sixth World Cup despite the world's most expensive player suffering an ankle injury in their opening match in Qatar.

The Brazil captain came off late on in Thursday's 2-0 win over Serbia with what was later diagnosed as a sprained ankle and has since been ruled out of their second Group G outing against Switzerland on Monday. Doubts have even been raised in some quarters that he might struggle to feature again at the tournament, which finishes with the final in Doha on 18 December.—AFP



Iranian referee Alireza Faghani (R) gestures to Brazil's forward #10 Neymar during the Qatar 2022 World Cup Group G football match between Brazil and Serbia at the Lusail Stadium in Lusail, north of Doha on 24 November 2022. PHOTO: NELSON ALMEIDA / AFP