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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.

The ordnance depot under the leadership of Tatmadaw during the independence struggle period of Myanmar has grandly stood as a fully grown corps: Vice-Senior General

DESPITE changing warfare ideologies, the important role of the Myanmar military ordnance corps cannot be changed, said Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the ceremony to mark the 75th Anniversary of Myanmar Military Ordnance Corps Day at the Nay Pyi Taw Transit Centre yesterday morning.

“... the ordnance corps has been dutifully serving its assignments till today with the themes: to issue correct materials, correct position, correct time and correct quality. Those members of the ordnance corps actively participated in the public welfare tasks in addition to three primary duties of the Tatmadaw such as rescue and relief works in the cyclone Nargis and other natural disasters.



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win views the exhibits at the event to mark the Diamond Jubilee Myanmar Military Ordnance Corps Day in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 December 2022.

The Vice-Senior General unveiled the signboard of the 75th Anniversary of Myanmar Military Ordnance Corps Day and posed for documentary photos together with attendees.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General said that 1 December 1947 when

the Burma Army Ordnance Depot-BAOD was formed and the day was set as Myanmar Military Ordnance Corps Day.

In taking military measures in successive eras, the corps with high capability of arms and logistics have been maintaining their successes till today. Despite

changing warfare ideologies, the important role of the ordnance corps cannot be changed.

The Vice-Senior General noted that the ordnance corps has been dutifully serving its assignments till today with the themes: to issue correct materials, correct position, correct

time and correct quality. Those members of the ordnance corps actively participated in the public welfare tasks in addition to three primary duties of the Tatmadaw such as rescue and relief works in the cyclone Nargis and other natural disasters.

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Variety Show marking Diamond Jubilee Independence Day successfully completed

THE sixth day of the variety show marking Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 continued at the open-air theatre of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall yesterday evening and civil service staff families, Tatmadaw families, visitors and students watched the show.

At the variety show, the play "Athet Htet Myat Thaw Gon Thake Kha" (Dignity nobler than Life) was performed completely. The play was based on a true history and scripted by U Nan Nyunt Swe (Mandalay).

The Diamond Jubilee Independence Day Variety Show was the largest show to entertain the people who were under



The public audience watch the Variety Show at the open-air theatre of the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall on 1 December 2022.



the pressure of Covid-19.

Artistes from film, theatrical and musical fields performed the show from 26 to 30 November, artistes un-

der the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare on 29 November and artistes from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture

on 30 November entertained the performances respectively at the open-air theatre of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall.

The play "Athet Htet Myat

Thaw Gon Thake Kha" (Dignity nobler than Life) will be performed to the public at the National Theatre in Yangon in 2023, it is learnt. — MNA

Myanmar to celebrate International Anti-Corruption Day

UNDER the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 58/4 adopted on 30 October 2003, The United Nations Convention against Corruption designated 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day.

Myanmar officially ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption on 12

December 2012 and became a signatory to the Convention. Since then, Myanmar, like other signatories, has been celebrating International Anti-Corruption Day every year.

The 19th International Anti-Corruption Day will be held at 10 am on 9 December at the Jade Hall of MICC-I in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA



“အားလုံးပါဝင်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးဖို့ ဆန်းသစ်တီထွင် အဖြေရှာဖို့။ အားလုံးလက်လှမ်းမီညီမျှရေး၊ တီထွင်ဖန်တီးမှု စွမ်းအားဖြင့် ဆောင်ရွက်ပေး”

“Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world”

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နေပြည်တော်

Five oncologists attend European Society of Medical Oncology Asia Annual Congress 2022

A delegation led by five Myanmar oncologists from the Oncology Department, Yangon General Hospital under the Ministry of Health left Yangon for Singapore by flight yesterday to attend the European Society of Medical Oncology Asia Annual Congress 2022

which will be held from 2 to 4 December in Singapore.

European Society of Medical Oncology Asia Annual Congress 2022 brings together oncologists from around the world to discuss the latest findings in cancer treatments.

It is an annual confer-

ence to share progress, and by attending this conference, they can exchange experiences with international medical professionals, and it will greatly support the provision of better healthcare for cancer patients in Myanmar.

— MNA

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.

16 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 1 December, total figure rises to 633,261

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 633,261 after 16 new cases were reported on 1 December 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 607,777 including 17 new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at 19,488 on Tuesday 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.

Daily laboratory examination showed decline of infection to less than 1 per cent for 16 successive days.

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

Ensuring production of raw materials enhances healthy market for finished products

MANUFACTURING based on domestic raw materials will be more firm for the economic development of the region and the State. Only when the production of raw materials is firm will finished products gain progress with a firm market.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with MSME businesspersons from Kayin State on 17 October 2022.)

The ordnance depot under the leadership of Tatmadaw during the independence struggle period of Myanmar has grandly stood as a fully grown corps: Vice-Senior General



The Vice-Senior General presses the button to unveil the signboard to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Myanmar Military Ordnance Corps Day yesterday.

FROM PAGE-1

Members of the ordnance corps were sent to pursue relevant studies for maintaining and servicing modern military ordnances and military equipment in order to keep abreast of international countries in their professions. Moreover, learned subjects and their accumulated knowledge are being shared with officers and other ranks from the ordnance corps and regiments and units from the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) in the training.

The members of the ordnance corps serve to transport and supply arms and ammunition to the soldiers from the battlefields and continuously manufacture necessary military equipment for Tatmadaw members and other marketable products for the people at fair prices.

Tatmadaw factories under the ordnance corps fully meet the demand of the whole Tatmadaw with the high-quality arms and ammunition produced from local factories of the Tatmadaw without relying on foreign-made military



The Vice-Senior General receives the commemorative gift at the event.

equipment. Moreover, surplus production capacity is being operated for manufacturing marketable personal goods at the reasonable prices for the people.

As such, the Vice-Senior General urged them to continuously raise the manufactur-

ing process by ensuring import substitute, increasing productivity and shifting the importer status to the exporter.

As members of the ordnance corps poured out vigorous efforts to meet the assigned missions during the 75 years, the Vice-Senior General

took pride in conferring Zeya Kyawhtin title on three members, gallantry certificates of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services on four members, honorary certificates of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services on 33 members, Excellent Performance Award in Administration Field (Second Class) on two, Excellent Performance Award in Administration Field (Third Class) on one and Excellent Performance Award in Industrial Administration Field (Second Class) on one respectively.

The ordnance depot under the leadership of the Tatmadaw during the independence struggle period of Myanmar has grandly stood as a fully grown corps. The 75-year period proved that officers and other ranks serving at the ordnance corps could steadfastly serve the duties assigned by the State and the Tatmadaw. New generation members of the ordnance corps need to take over the fine traditions and hand them over to the posterities as a valuable legacy. They all have to serve

their assigned duties in line with the adopted slogans and mottos. The Vice-Senior General expressed his wish for the ordnance corps to be a long-lasting term from the Diamond Jubilee Myanmar Military Ordnance Corps Day which falls today.

Director of the Ordnance Services Maj-Gen Win Lwin reported on the brief history of the corps and presented the documentary video on the ordnance corps day. Then, the members of the ordnance corps presented the song in honour of the Diamond Jubilee Myanmar Military Ordnance Corps Day.

The Vice-Senior General accepted the commemorative gift to mark the Diamond Jubilee Myanmar Military Ordnance Corps Day presented by the director.

The Vice-Senior General cordially greeted senior military officers of the Ordnance Corps at the ceremony and visited the exhibition to mark the Diamond Jubilee Myanmar Military Ordnance Corps Day. —MNA

First Myanmar-Russia Joint Anti-Terrorist Committee meeting continues for second day

THE first Myanmar-Russia Joint Anti-Terrorist Committee meeting continued for the second day at Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Present at the meeting were Chief of Staff (Army) Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun of the Myanmar Tatmadaw and senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Russian

Federation and First Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Russian Ground Forces Colonel-General Kim Alexey Rostislavovich and officials.

They frankly exchanged views on cooperation in Myanmar-Russia anti-terrorist measures, signed the approval for the minute of the meeting and exchanged emblems.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks of the



The first Myanmar-Russia Joint Anti-Terrorist Committee holds its second-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Chief of Staff (Army) of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and the First Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Russian Ground

Forces.

The first-day session of the meeting took place at the same venue on the morning of 30 November.

Two Joint Chairs of the committee approved the meet-

ing agenda and posed for documentary photos together with the attendees. They also cordially exchanged views on cooperation in anti-terrorist measures between Myanmar and Russia. — MNA

500-bed Yangon Specialty Hospital performs its 55th kidney transplant operation



The 55th kidney transplant operation is underway on 29 November 2022.

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win discussed with the medical superintendent of the 500-bed Yangon Specialty Hospital, professor/department head of respective subjects, specialists, retired medics and health workers in detail to resume the kidney transplant operation, which was suspended in

February 2020 for the outbreak of COVID-19, to mark Diamond Jubilee Independence Day which falls on 4 January 2023.

On 29 November, the 500-bed Yangon Specialty Hospital successfully resumed the renal transplant operation under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, Medical Services De-

partment and relevant medics. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Director-General of the Medical Services Department Dr Myat Wunna Soe, Rector of Yangon General Hospital (medical superintendent/treatment) Dr Thida Hla and officials watched the operation processes and comforted the patient and

families. The Yangon Region chief minister donated K1 million to the patient and provided K5 million to health workers.

On the morning of 29 November, the medics performed the operation on two sisters—patient Ma Khin Nyo Nyo Htwe and donor Ma Thin Pyae Pyae Moe. It was completed at noon and the kidney recipient and donor were in good condition and under medical care at the intensive care unit.

The operation was conducted by the medical units led by Prof/department head (urine and renal surgery) Prof Dr Kyaw Soe Kyaw of 500-bed Yangon Specialty Hospital, Prof/department head (urine and renal treatment) Prof Dr Win Win Hlaing, Prof/department head (Anesthesia) Prof Dr Mu Mu Naing, Prof/department head

(X-ray) Prof Dr Aung Cho Tun, Deputy Director-General Dr Thida Aung of National Blood Centre (Yangon), Director (Pathology) Dr Swe Sett of National Health Laboratory (Yangon) and veteran retired medics Prof Dr Than Aye, Prof Dr Kyaw Swar Hlaing, Prof Dr Phone Myint, Prof Dr Khin Maung Htay, Prof Dr Kyi Kyi San, skilled nurses, Medical Superintendent Dr Aung Lin Aye of 500-bed Yangon Specialty Hospital and with the cooperation of hospital management committee members.

The hospital was established in 2014 and since then, it conducted 54 kidney transplant operations: four times in 2014 while 10 in 2015 and 2016 respectively, nine times each in 2017 and 2018, 10 times in 2019, two times in February 2020 and the last one is the 55th operation. — MNA

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MoEP Union Minister receives Deputy CEO and party from Russian Federation

UNION Minister for Electric Power U Thaung Han received Deputy Chief Executive Officer Mr Nikolaychuk Vsevolod and party of SITES-Centre JSC company from the Russian Federation at the meeting hall of the ministry yesterday morning.

At the meeting, they discussed matters relating to solar energy and small hydro-power sectors and investment

and cooperation for the development of the electric power sector of Myanmar.

Present at the meeting were the deputy minister, the directors-general, the managing directors from the Ministry of Electric Power and officials from the Myanmar-Russia Friendship and Cooperation Association. —MNA



Union Minister U Thaung Han holds talks with Deputy Chief Executive Officer Mr Nikolaychuk Vsevolod in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MoH Union Minister attends 2022 World AIDS Day in Nay Pyi Taw



The 2022 World AIDS Day is held in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 December 2022.

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win attended the 2022 World AIDS Day ceremony yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Speaking at the event, the

Union minister said that World AIDS Day is celebrated on 1 December by the entire people actively aiming to make efforts to eradicate the disease from

public health issues.

The theme of this year's World AIDS Day is "Equalize", a prompt for all of us to work for the proven practical actions

needed to address inequalities and help end AIDS.

There were more than 270,000 people living with HIV in Myanmar, with an estimated HIV prevalence rate of 0.64 per cent by the end of 2021. The new cases were highest in 2000 with 30,000 patients and it dropped to 11,000 in 2021.

The activities to eradicate HIV/AIDS are being implemented in accordance with the new strategic plan for HIV/AIDS like Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and conducted between July 2020 and December 2021 in Yangon Region.

For achieving better results, the PrEP processes will be continued for gay men in Yangon, Mandalay regions, Mon, Shan (South) states and Ayeyawady Region starting in 2023 and as a pilot project for

those who inject drugs into a vein will be in Waingmaw Township of Kachin State and Lashio Township of Shan State (North).

He continued that the self-testing pilot project was also launched between September and December 2021 in Yangon and Mandalay Region. The Ministry mainly provides the needed fund for the fight against HIV/AIDS and the World Fund also supports it. The ministry provided \$16 million of the State Budget to buy ART medical supplies for the 2022-2023FY.

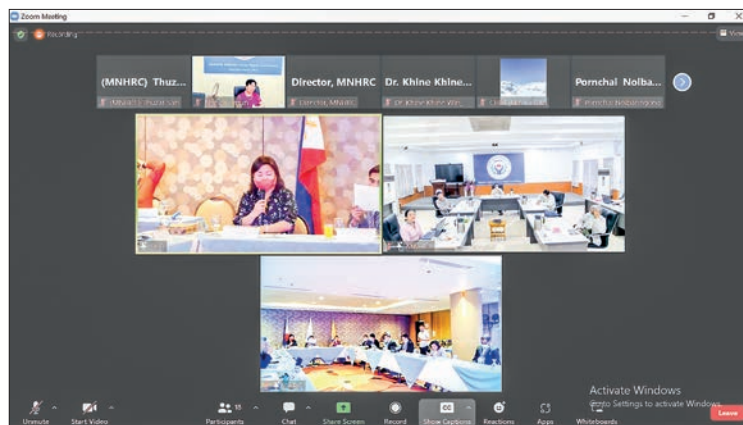
Then, the Union minister, the deputy minister and officials presented awards to winners of the essay competition, painting and cartoon contests marking World AIDS Day, and viewed round the booths. —MNA

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission joins 19th Annual Meeting of Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF)

THE Philippines hosted the 19th Annual Meeting of Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF) on 28 and 29 November in a hybrid format.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman U Hla Myint, Vice Chairperson Dr Nanda Hmun and relevant officials including the commission members joined virtually and the national human rights institution representatives of forum member countries, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Timor-Leste attended the meeting in person.

During the meeting, the representatives from Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines discussed the role of national human rights commissions in preventing the stateless and protecting the human rights of stateless people, activities of each human right commission after the first working group meeting of forum and progresses, implementation of forum member countries under five prioritized issues of Strategic Plan 2022-2026 of the forum, cooperation between SEANF and AICHR and work plans with the collaboration of SEANF,



Plan International and ANNI. Then, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Member U Paw Lwin Sein coordinated the

discussion under the topic of activities of MNHRC after the first working group meeting and major progress followed by Deputy

Director-General of the MNHRC office Dr Khine Khine Win, the implementations concerning the issue "promoting and protecting human rights in business" from the SEANF Strategic Plan 2022-2026.

Then, MNHRC Chairman made proper suggestions regarding the implementation of the SEANF Strategic Plan 2022-2026. After the meeting, the Philippines Human Rights Commission handed over the 2023 Chairmanship to the Thai Human Rights Commission. —MNA



CURRENT AFFAIRS



The opening of the 45th Aung Bar Lay Lottery is in process.

Tickets worth over K3,900 million sold in 45th Aung Bar Lay lottery

LOTTERY tickets worth more than K3,900 million were sold for the 45th Aung Bar Lay Lottery in November and sales increased over the previous month, according to a statement from the Aung Bar Lay Branch of the Internal Revenue Department.

Over 3.9 million tickets were sold in November earning approximately K3,911 million. It has been announced that more than K2,700 million, 70 per cent of the sales, will be distributed as lottery prizes. Lottery ticket sales in October amounted to over K3,700 million.

The prizes include one K500 million prize, one K100 million prize and K50 million, K20 million,

K10 million, K5 million, K2 million and K1 million prizes. In addition, Wai Wai Sar Sar Padetha's prizes are K300,000, K200,000, K100,000, K50,000 and K10,000. K1 million, K300,000, K200,000 and K100,000 prizes from the confiscated prizes will also be awarded.

The Aung Bar Lay Branch has had a declining sales rate – just over 2 million ticket sales – since 2021. Now, the sales rate has been increasing. According to the lottery agents, Yangon Region, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Region, Rakhine State and Bago Region are the areas with the biggest sales of Aung Bar Lat Lottery. — TWA/GNLM

Japan offers 186 demand letters to over 500 Myanmar migrant workers

THE Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo released a statement on 30 November saying Japanese companies have offered 186 demand letters for 545 Myanmar migrant workers.

The migrant workers will be despatched by the licensed overseas employment agencies of Myanmar and the demand letters are sent by the Ministry of Labour to the embassy through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Therefore, the embassy verified the demand letters whether the labour supervision companies and recruitment factories/companies are officially established in Japan.

The embassy conducted the verification processes from 16 to 30 November and the findings on the letters were sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Between 1 and 15 November, the embassy also reviewed 224 demand letters and sent back their findings to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

There were only 3,000 Myanmar workers in Japan between November 2020 and 21 February 2021 and 105 local recruitment agencies despatched 9,627 workers between March and 22 November 2022, according to data from the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation.

There are over 4,500 male workers and over 5,100 female workers in Japan. The Japanese government offers jobs for trained workers in construction, garment, agriculture, breeding, food processing, industries, and manufacturing and for workers skilled in 14 types of jobs such as caregiving, food industry and breeding sectors, according to the recruitment agencies. — TWA/GNLM



Crayfishes are seen in the shrimp farming business.

Loan maturity date for livestock sector extended for one year

UNDER the COVID-19 Fund, the loan maturity date for businesses in livestock sectors including state-owned businesses, and fish and shrimp farming businesses was extended for one year on 30 November 2022.

Among the responsibilities of the committee to remedy the economic impacts caused by COVID-19, the one-year loans were disbursed to the businesses engaged in the livestock sector with a one per cent interest rate from the COVID-19 Fund to mitigate the economic impacts of the coronavirus on businesses on 16 November 2021.

Those 325 entities

that took out the loans worth K7.6 billion from the COVID-19 Fund as of 31 October 2022 were due.

The businesses are still stricken by the coronavirus impacts so the maturity date is extended one year for the domestic businesses to have currency in circulation under the SAC's guidance, a statement said.

The committee's notice stated that actions will be further taken if the loans are not repaid before the due date in compliance with the existing law. Thus, those entities need to repay the loans during the extended period according to the loan agreement. — TWA/GNLM

Early cultivation of monsoon onions reduces unemployment

EARLY cultivation of monsoon onion in some areas in August this year reduced unemployment.

From mid-2022, the prices of onions started to rise. The wholesale prices of onion hit fresh peaks at K3,800 per viss in August and K4,800 per viss in November. The prices this year reached a record high earlier than usual.

The onion seeds that month were priced at K40,000 per pyi (eight condensed milk cans). About two to three pyi of seeds are required for cultivation per acre. The onion seedlings can be grown after 20 days from the seeds. Those



Farm workers are piling harvested onions in Kyaukpadaung Township.

onions from the Myittha area can be harvested after two and a half to three months, Ko Khin Maung Myint, a grower from Nyaungpinthar, told the Global New Light of

Myanmar (GNLM). Onion cultivation can create jobs for around 70 workers per acre. A daily wage in the previous years was K4,000. This year, it increased to

K5,000. With 100 labours, the onion harvest can be finished in one morning. Then, they are transported to the warehouses after trimming the tops in the afternoon. The yield

rate per acre is estimated at 4,000-6,000 viss.

At harvest time, each worker is given about seven visses of onions per acre as the wage. It is not related to the onion prices. The workers received the onions instead of the wages. The cultivation time this year is four months earlier than usual. It creates jobs for residents during the rainy season when there is a lack of employment opportunities, said a grower.

The wholesale prices stood at K4,000-K4,900 per viss of old summer onions from the Myingyan area, K3,600-K4,400 per viss of monsoon new

onions from the Myingyan area and K3,600-K4,600 per viss of new onion from Myittha area on 1 December 2022.

Those growers of monsoon onions received the highest price just like that of summer onions in 2022.

The monsoon onion growers create jobs and reap a handsome profit on account of favourable weather. The price this year is K2,000 higher than that of the previous years.

From mid-2022, growers of the new monsoon paddy, new monsoon onions and new chilli peppers do a roaring business. — TWA/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Black gram price sinks below K1.7 mln per tonne



Black gram on the hand palm is being assessed for quality.

THE price of black gram weakened below K1.7 million per tonne in the beans and pulses market.

On 8 November, the black gram fetched up to K1.81 million per tonne. The prevailing market price declined to K1,690,000 per tonne on 30 November. The figures indicated a drastic decrease of K120,000 per tonne within four weeks.

The market is calming down due to the harvest season of the main buyer India.

Furthermore, the fluctuation of black gram prices is related to the Kyat-dollar exchange rate. At present, a US dollar is exchanged for around K2,900.

In late August, the dollar against Kyat peaked at K4,500 in the black market. Following that, the black gram price reached a record high of K2.1 million per tonne.

Myanmar bagged over US\$790 million from more than one million tonnes of pulses exports in the past eight months

in the current financial year, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Myanmar conveyed over 1,005,709.901 tonnes of various beans and pulses worth \$791.591 million to foreign trade partners between 1 April and 18 November 2022 in the current financial year 2022-2023. The country shipped 855,484.626 tonnes of pulses and beans valued at \$689.303 million to foreign markets by sea, and over 150,225.275 tonnes valued at \$102.288 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders.

Myanmar exported over two million tonnes of various pulses worth \$1.57 billion to foreign trade partners last financial year 2020-2021. The country shipped 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and beans valued at \$966.4 million to foreign markets through the sea route, and 786,920 tonnes worth \$604.3 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders.

Myanmar primarily exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas. Of them, black gram and pigeon peas are mainly sent to India while green grams are shipped to China and Europe.

India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black gram and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2022, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from

the 2021-2022 financial year to the 2025-2026FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver pulses to India under that annual quota.

Myanmar yearly produces approximately 400,000 tonnes of black gram and about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas. Myanmar is the top producer of the black gram that is primarily demanded by India, while pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are cultivated in Australia and African countries besides Myanmar. —NN/GNLM



CB Bank resumes cash withdrawal service of MPU Debit cards through ATM

ALL MPU Debit card holders of CB Bank can withdraw cash from its ATM, the CB Bank released a statement.

The MPU debit card holders can withdraw K300,000 per day from an ATM starting from 1 December. The withdrawal limit per week from the ATM is K500,000.

The CB Bank fills up cash in real time to facilitate the money withdrawal of its customers. If the customers find any inconvenience in withdrawing cash from the ATM, they can make a complaint about it through the CB Banks's contact number +951

231 7770.

At present, customers allegedly received fake calls with international numbers claiming the bank accounts will be closed for suspicious transactions and that they need to verify the accounts.

The bank is not related to those bank scams. The customers are notified of the contact centre's number 01-2317770. The staff of the bank will not ask for an OTP number and password in any situation, it is notified.

There are over 240 branches of the CB Bank across the country. — NN/GNLM

54 container ships scheduled to arrive at Yangon Port in Dec

A total of 54 container ships carrying many containers are slated to enter Yangon Port in December, according to Myanmar Port Authority.

This month, nine cargo ships run by Sealand Maersk Asia, seven each by New Golden Sea (Cosco) and Samudera Shipping Line, five by MSC Line, four by SITC Line, three each by Ever Green Line, IAL, PIL, RCL and X-Press Feeder, two each by Bay Line, BLPL and T12 Container Line and one by Land and Sea Line will enter Yangon Port, totalling 54 cargo ships.

Last November, 51 cargo ships arrived at Yangon Port. Therefore, the number of cargo ships increased by three from last month's number.

Yangon Port handled a total of 620 cargo ships this year, according to Myanmar Port Authority.

The number of cargo ships entering Yangon Port stands at 49 in January, 48

in February, 50 in March, 52 in April, 54 in May, 53 in June, 49 in July, 55 each in August and September, 50 in October and 51 in November respectively.

From May 2021, the arrival of ships at terminals in Yangon has increased again. To fulfil the seaborne trade requirements, three new cargo ships by Maersk Line Myanmar (Sealand Maersk) started to run in 2021.

Myanma Port Authority and Yangon inner terminals are providing services to ensure the fast and reliable cargo handling and withdrawal of the containers. Earlier, the larger ships had draft problems preventing their sailing on the Yangon River. The draft extension is up to 10 metres with the new navigation channel accessing the inner Yangon River and the international ocean liners can access the inner port for now. — NN/GNLM

A d v e r t i s e

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OPINION

Raise momentum in combatting trafficking in persons

TRAFFICKING in persons is a modern slavery system which exploits humans without sympathy. The least developed countries are suffering from the bad consequences of trafficking in persons. Currently, as the problem of trafficking in persons is related to transnational crimes, global countries are striving for the prevention of these cases in various ways and means.

Myanmar, which joined the United Nations as a member in 1948, signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on 15 November 2000 and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children on 30 March 2004.

It is necessary to attract travellers to relevant regions, build infrastructures for the tourism industry, create new tourist destinations, take information about the tourism market online on time and provide services to travellers online. If so, the tourism industry of Myanmar will have developed to some extent. To do so, all the people including businesspersons from the tourism industry need to participate in the tasks to boom tourism services.

At present, Myanmar set anti-trafficking in persons as a national duty in 1997 by adopting three strategies and four tactics. Furthermore, Myanmar is implementing the Bohol Trafficking in Persons Work Plan (2017-2020) in cooperation with relevant organizations in the ASEAN region.

As part of efforts to raise public awareness about the danger of trafficking in persons, the State-owned media such as daily newspapers and TV programmes feature teleplays and songs. Moreover, pamphlets on trafficking in persons are distributed to the people whereas mobile phone operators send SMS to the customers. Basic education school lessons are inserted with the subject "life skills". The authorities concerned released hotlines to the people via media for giving information about trafficked victims in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay so as to timely save them. In addition, the migrant workers' aid centres are opened for sharing information with those workers and their families.

As modern technologies play a key role in implementing the work plan of anti-trafficking in persons, the entire people should join hands with the government and law enforcement organizations to harmoniously participate in the work process of exchanging information about trafficking in persons and conducting the investigation in exposing the cases of human trafficking in order to lessen these cases in the country.

Moreover, Myanmar participates in the implementation of the Greater Mekong Sub-region six countries' cooperation in the anti-trafficking in persons project as well as enhances its efforts in cooperation mechanism to prevent trafficking in persons by signing the memoranda of understanding on bilateral cooperation in combatting trafficking in persons with China, Thailand, Laos and India.

In addition, the government of Myanmar joins the transnational crimes including trafficking in persons as of 2004 in cooperation with Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal in the BOMSTEC arena and takes part in the Bali Action Plan of the Asia-Pacific region.

Anguish of Technical Intern Trainees - Debts before Coming to Japan

By Suzuka YOSHIDA

JAPAN has been suffering from a chronic labour shortage in recent years. Even if companies/factories are lucky enough to recruit young people in their 20s and 30s, workers tend to quit easily. Putting out recruitment advertisements and asking for help at Hello Work is not effective. As a result, some Japanese companies, particularly local factories, have begun to think about recruiting foreign workers to become their labour force. Companies that seek unskilled labour that require no special skills have a stronger desire to do so, and such companies often request Technical Intern Trainees (TIT). This is because companies are allowed to employ TIT as labour for three years by law. Therefore, the largest number of foreigners working in Japan are TIT.

Companies hire foreign workers due to lack of human resources

Technical Intern Training Programme was launched with the aim of allowing foreigners to learn skills while earning wages in Japan and become human resources who will contribute to the development of their home countries. Originally, hiring workers does not meet the purpose, but Japanese companies with labour shortages often use it as a system to hire them as workers.

The matching between companies and TIT is done between the despatching agencies and the supervising agency that takes care of them in Japan, and some companies often hope to attend the interview.



Students taking an education before going to Japan. The above photo shows an educational scene at Arborfield, a despatching agency in Myanmar. However, some despatching agencies receive the full amount of fees that the government allows, but send them without any prior training.

Despatching agencies should always pool human resources so that they can meet demand, and prepare for interviews while providing Japanese language programmes and pre-education such as how to write a resume and say greetings. This system is designed as the Japanese government requires N4 level Japanese in law.

Despatching agencies are involved in all processes from registration of TIT applicants to despatching them out including Japanese language education, training in basic manners, taking demands from Japanese companies, matching companies with applicants, and obtaining the visa. Entrusting the educational curriculum to the despatching agencies is a uniquely Japanese method. Furthermore, in some cases, prior to that, local brokers recruit young people who wish to work abroad and transfer them to despatching agencies. In these cases, brokers need commissions for workers.

TIT come to Japan for the purpose of earning money

On the other hand, the purpose of TITs coming to Japan is to earn money. They should send money back to their home country while keeping their living expenses in Japan as low as possible because TITs have to fulfil their responsibilities as the breadwinner, such as

paying their parents' living expenses and their siblings' school fees and rebuilding their house.

Before coming to Japan, TITs sign a contract with the Supervising agency that takes care of them agreeing on working conditions (wages, deductible taxes, housing cost, etc.), but after coming to Japan, they often ask for more salary. According to a survey conducted by the Immigration Services Agency of Japan titled "Survey on Expenses Paid by Technical Intern Trainees," 21 per cent of respondents answered that the salary was lower than expected before coming to Japan. When asked why they felt "less than expected," 63 per cent of the respondents answered that "overtime and holiday work is less than expected." Approximately 33 per cent of respondents answered that they did not know that insurance premiums and taxes would be deducted. On the contrary, about 79 per cent of TITs answered that the amount of salary they actually received was "as expected" or "more than expected," so it seems that TITs do not worry about the gap between reality and expectations in most cases.

The gap between their expectations and reality was caused by a lack of prior explanations to TITs and partly caused by some companies being stingy with their wages. Even if the conditions are bad, TITs must be satisfied because they have signed a contract with the supervising agency before coming to Japan. Also, TITs have the right to ask for a wage increase once a year when they renew their contract, but it seems that they can't even wait for that.

In the worst case, however, a business owner was arrested for letting workers work from early morning to the midnight for low wages. In that case, it is necessary for the supervising agency to properly realize the situation and stand in the position of TITs.

Myanmar youth borrows money more than 1.7 times GDP per capita before coming to Japan

So why would TITs want more money right away?

The answer to that question can be found in the "Fact-Finding Survey on Payment Expenses by Technical Intern Trainees" conducted by the Immigration Services Agency. The subjects of this survey were all TITs including those from Myanmar and were interviewed directly by Immigration Services Agency officials.

According to the survey, 85 per cent of TITs paid some kind of fee to the despatching agency in their home country before coming to Japan. The average value is 521,065 JP yen (see table).

Fees paid to the despatching agency. Source: Immigration Services Agency

	Total payment cost * Converted at 1 \$ = ¥139	Ratio GDP per capita In FY 2021	GDP per capita In FY 2021
Viet Nam	\$4,720 (¥656,014)	127.8%	\$3,694.02
China	\$4,160 (¥578,326)	33.1%	\$12,556.33
Cambodia	\$4,112 (¥571,560)	258.5%	\$1,590.96
Myanmar	\$2,068 (¥287,405)	174.2%	\$1,187.24
Indonesia	\$1,665 (¥231,412)	38.8%	\$4,291.81
Philippines	\$678 (¥94,191)	19.1%	\$3,548.83
Whole	\$3,749 (¥521,065)		

* is a country that pays despatching agencies more than its GDP per capita.

As long as it fits within the GDP per capita, it's fine, but some countries pay more than double the GDP per capita. Cambodian TITs should pay more than 2.5 times of GDP per capita, and Myanmar does 1.74 times.

In addition, TITs sometimes pay brokers to sign contracts with despatching agencies. According to this survey, about 11 per cent



Not many despatching agencies have training facilities to teach jobs on the ground. The above photo shows a training centre in Arborfield, a despatching agency that teaches how to work at height.

of TITs paid an additional fee to brokers (the intermediary) in their home country before coming to Japan, and that average amount was 2,413 US dollars (335,378 JP yen). Since the payment is made to both the despatching agency and brokers, for example, in a case Myanmar pays both the prescribed fee of \$2,800 to the despatching agency and the cost to brokers (\$2,413 on average), it will be \$5,213. The rate of intermediary fees varies from country to country, so it is not certain, but it can be said that TITs are imposed to pay a considerable burden to pay both broker and despatching agency.

"Despatch fee + pre-education fee + security deposit/penalty" needs to be paid to the despatching agency.

Expenses paid by TITs include dispatch fees, pre-education fees, security deposits, and penalties (in a case TIT retired jobs in the mid of the contract). In addition, although not included in the survey items, living expenses (accommodation, meals, etc.) while receiving pre-education must also be paid. They should borrow money from relatives or illegal moneylenders to prepare the money. As mentioned above, TIT has to work overseas to support their family financially, but it is putting the cart before the horse because it means shouldering debt.

Since 2022, the Japanese currency has depreciated rapidly and has decreased by 60-70 per cent (against the US dollar), so there is no doubt that their remittances to their home countries are decreasing. That trend has been accelerated by the spread of COVID-19. It is natural for them to think that the amount promised in the contract is insufficient.

Believing malicious information, disappearing, and illegal activities

Some TITs have applied for refugee status even though they came to Japan on work visas, and others have disappeared as soon as their work permits were extended to one year. Former TITs often urge new TITs to disappear on SNS, saying that there are better jobs to get more salaries for them. This is because if you introduce them to a company, you will receive some referral fee from both the company and TIT.

Since the political change in Myanmar in February last year, there have been an increasing number of cases of cancellations due to suspicion that Myanmar TIT might apply for refugee status. Perhaps, for this reason, the number of Myanmar workers has remained flat over the past two years, while the number of Indonesian has increased. It sounds like the lives of workers in foreign countries and the politics of their home countries are directly connected.

Resource: Immigration Services Agency

<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/content/001377366.pdf>

<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/content/001362001.pdf>

Mental counselling soothes hearts amid epidemic

AS THE COVID-19 epidemic has flared up in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou recently, Jiang Lin, a local psychological counsellor, is very busy with his duties.

Jiang leads a team of mental health workers in Haizhu District, which was hit by the recent outbreak. The district has set up a mental health hotline, assigning over 400 social workers to offer services around the clock. Over 6,000 people have been served.

"Working at the grassroots level has helped me better understand the needs of the residents," said Jiang, who heads the psychological department of a local health centre.

As the fight against the epidemic intensified, Jiang was joined by a group of psychological counsellors recruited by the Guangzhou Psychological Consultant Association to provide professional services on the phone and in quarantined areas.

"For my job, it is especially important to listen," Jiang said.

In early November, Jiang received a call from an anxious parent whose third-grade daughter refused to take online classes. After comforting the parent, Jiang had a talk with the daughter.

"I asked how she felt, but she remained silent at first," Jiang recalled. He was patient and shared his own experience with the child and showed his understanding of the situation, and gradually, she opened up to him.

Jiang later learned that the child grew disgruntled as her parents were too strict and cut her time for watching videos and playing. With Jiang's help, the parent and daughter achieved a better understanding of each other.

In another case, Jiang received a call from a woman whose family members were being treated in the hospital for COVID-19. Having lived alone in her apartment for days, she sounded sullen and unspirited.

Jiang helped her relax and soothe her emotions. "Hope is extremely important. It is even more important during the epidemic," he said. "I tried to let her feel the connections around her, such as love and friendship."

A woman surnamed Xie in Haizhu District, suffered from insomnia for some time due to work pressure during the epidemic. After seeking help from Jiang, she felt her condition improving.

"People need comfort and an outlet for their emotions during special times, and psychological guidance has helped me a lot," she said.

Apart from psychological assistance, Jiang said paying attention to people's actual needs is also important.

"With epidemic prevention and control measures optimized, some problems troubling people are being addressed, which also gives us confidence in effective mental guidance," he said.

SOURCE: Xinhua



Apart from psychological assistance, paying attention to people's actual needs is also important. PHOTO: CHINA DAILY

Safe Mekong Coordination Centre opens in Myanmar's Shan State



The inauguration event of the Safe Mekong Coordination Centre is in progress in Taunggyi on 29 November.

THE opening ceremony of the Safe Mekong Coordination Centre was launched in Taunggyi Township of Shan State on 29

November.

During the ceremony, Police Brig-Gen Win Naing, Joint Secretary of the Central Com-

mittee on Drug Abuse Control and Commander of the Drug Enforcement Division, Dr Zheng Zhihong, Minister Counsellor of

the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar and U Win Zeyar Oo, Deputy Director-General and Vice-Chair of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Body from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivered opening speeches respectively.

The centre established under LMC was developed using a total of K852.77 million (\$499,400) from the LMC Special Fund and from the Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

It was inaugurated to fight drug trafficking along the Mekong River, share information about drug smugglers among China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam, boost technologies exchange and capacity building of anti-drug task forces and ensure

rule of law along the River.

LMC aims at bolstering the economic and social development of the Sub-regional countries, enhancing the well-being of their people, narrowing the development gap among regional countries and supporting ASEAN Community building as well as promoting the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and advancing South-South cooperation.

The Chairmanship of LMC countries changes once every three months and so Myanmar can establish representative offices of member countries to hold meetings and conduct effective measures in tackling the narcotics trade as it launches the Safe Mekong Coordination Centre in the country. — MNA

CBM charges non-bank financial institutions for relocating, opening and closing branch offices

THE Central Bank of Myanmar will charge non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) for relocating the marketing office, opening branches and closing.

In exercising the power conferred by Section 184 of the Financial Institutions Law, relocating the marketing office of the NBFIs will be charged, according to the CBM's directive.

For the relocation of offic-

es including headquarters or opening branches whether it is in the same township or different townships or closure of the business, the NBFIs have to deposit K200,000 to the CBM.

They must present the receipt of the K200,000 payment in line with the directive (9/2021), when they seek permits for relocation, opening new offices or winding up. — TWA/GNLM



The picture shows the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, consumer goods, industrial materials and vehicles confiscated

AN on-duty team under the supervision of the Customs Department conducted inspections on 29 November.

Officials captured K5,838,000 worth of industrial materials without an import licence from a container at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint and 3,200 baby backpacks worth K3.2 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa (MITT). The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

Similarly, a combined on-duty team under the management of the Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force confiscated K2,568,000 worth of foodstuffs and consumer goods without official documents from a Toyota Hi-Ace car (estimated value of K15 million) heading from Myawady to Yangon at the Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an) combined checkpoint and 60 cooking pans (red) worth K2.1 million without official documents from a vehicle heading from Myawady to Yangon at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint on 30 November. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.



Officials check seized illegal commodities.

In addition, a combined team made inspections at the Muse 105th-Mile Trade Zone and impounded K75,700,500 worth of industrial materials without official documents from a Toyota Hi-Ace car (estimated value of K15 million) heading from Myawady to Yangon at the Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an) combined checkpoint and 60 cooking pans (red) worth K2.1 million without official documents from a vehicle heading from Myawady to Yangon at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint on 30 November. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

On 1 December at the Mayanchaung Permanent checkpoint in Mon State, officials seized lady sandals that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a Nissan Diesel Tractor Head and a trailer (approximately

K116,380,000) heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

In addition, a total of 5.2718 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K2,101,400 was nabbed in Bago and Nyaunglebin districts and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 12 arrests (estimated value of K257,887,900) were made on three consecutive days on 29 and 30 November and 1 December, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

COVID-19 devastation highlights world's lack of public health preparedness: Fauci

THE devastation that COVID-19 has inflicted globally is truly historic and highlights the world's overall lack of public health preparedness for an outbreak of this magnitude, U.S. top infectious diseases expert Anthony S. Fauci wrote in a newly-published perspective. Although COVID-19 was "the loudest wake-up call in more than a century to our vulnerability to outbreaks of emerging infectious diseases," Fauci noted, one success of the response was the rapid development, testing and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. The emergence of new infections and the reemergence of old ones are largely the result of human interactions with and encroachment on nature, Fauci wrote in the perspective published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. As human societies expand in a progressively interconnected world and the human-animal



A woman poses in front of a flower display dedicated to frontline healthcare workers during the Covid-19 pandemic in Beijing. **PHOTO: NICOLAS ASFOURI / AFP / FILE**

interface is perturbed, opportunities are created, often aided by climate changes, for unstable infectious agents to emerge, jump species, and in some cases adapt to spread among humans, he wrote.

Fauci stressed the importance of improving capabilities to respond to established infectious diseases like malaria and

tuberculosis while also responding to emerging threats.

Fauci will step down from his positions as director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), chief of NIAID's Laboratory of Immunoregulation and chief medical advisor to U.S. President Joe Biden in December 2022.—AFP

COVID-19 hospitalizations rise in Italy: report



3 April 2021 — Italy has entered a strict three-day lockdown to try to prevent a surge in Covid-19 cases over Easter.

PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ ALBERTO PIZZOLI/AFP/FILE

HOSPITALIZATIONS of COVID-19 patients have surged in Italy, so have admissions to intensive care units (ICU) albeit at a slower rate, a report showed on Wednesday.

According to the Italian Federation of Health and Hospital Agencies (FIASO), overall

COVID-19 hospitalizations in the country grew by 19.5 per cent over the week ending Tuesday.

It was the second consecutive week of double-digit growth, following a 24-per-cent increase a week earlier. Nevertheless, in ICUs the increase was smaller, rising by 9 per cent over the last

week. Notably, FIASO's data showed that the number of unvaccinated individuals hospitalized for COVID-19 is growing faster than that of the vaccinated, with a 28 per cent increase in admissions of unvaccinated patients on regular wards and a 30 per cent increase in the ICUs.

On average, unvaccinated patients hospitalized with COVID-19 infections were around ten years younger than vaccinated individuals hospitalized for the disease, the report said.

The increases came as health officials warned of a potential winter wave of COVID-19 in Italy, the first European country hit hard by the pandemic in 2020.

Last week, the country's National Institute of Health (ISS) said the virus' transmission rate had surpassed 1.0 again, indicating the reach of the virus is increasing, with each recovered patient replaced by more than one new infection.—Xinhua

Beijing reports fewer new HIV/AIDS cases

BEIJING saw a year-on-year drop in new HIV/AIDS cases in the first 10 months of 2022, the municipal health authorities said Thursday.

A total of 1,462 new HIV/AIDS cases were reported in the city from January to October, down 11.61 per cent year on year, the Beijing Municipal Health Commission said.

Sexual transmission was blamed for 96.99 per cent of the new cases in the 10-month period, the commission said.

Beijing currently has 26,013 HIV carriers and AIDS patients. Since the first case in 1985, the capital city had reported a total of 39,018 HIV/AIDS cases as of the end of October, it added. —Xinhua



A visitor learns AIDS prevention know-hows during an AIDS awareness campaign held on the occasion of World AIDS Day at Haidian Hospital in Beijing, capital of China, 1 Dec 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA/REN CHAO**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vice-premier stresses optimizing COVID-19 response

CHINESE Vice-Premier Sun Chunlan on Wednesday underlined the importance of constantly optimizing the country's COVID-19 response. Sun made the remarks at the National Health Commission when listening to experts' opinions and suggestions on improving epidemic containment measures.

Over the past three years, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council have always put people's health and safety first, and effectively dealt with the uncertainties of the COVID-19 situation with a consistent strategy and flexible measures to fight the virus, Sun noted.

She said the country is facing a new situation and new tasks in epidemic prevention and control as the pathogenicity of the Omicron virus weakens, more people are vaccinated and experience in containing the virus is accumulated.—Xinhua

Africa CDC calls for robust community health systems to tackle disease burden

CREATION of an adequately funded, trained and motivated community healthcare workforce is urgent to help African countries deal with a rising burden of diseases, a senior official from the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said on Wednesday. Herilinda Temba, a medical epidemiologist with the Africa CDC, who spoke at a regional workshop held in Kenya's coastal city of Mombasa, stressed that investments in a robust community healthcare system will enhance the continent's capacity to predict, diagnose and treat diseases.—Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

New York, Singapore top 'world's costliest city' survey



Singapore's placing at the top of the index was little surprise. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEW YORK and Singapore are jointly the world's most expensive cities after inflation soared this year, an annual survey showed Thursday.

The pair displaced last year's number one Tel Aviv, which fell to third place this time round in the Worldwide Cost of Living index from London-based Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

The survey revealed "the soaring cost of living in the world's biggest cities as the war in Ukraine and continuing pandemic restrictions disrupt supply chains, particularly for energy and food". New York hit the top

spot for the first time, while Damascus and Tripoli remained the cheapest cities.

Prices rocketed by an average 8.1 per cent in the 172 major cities covered by the EIU survey, conducted between August and September. The survey "also shows the impact of the strong US dollar on our city rankings", it noted.

A total of 50,000 worldwide prices were converted into dollars. The US currency has jumped this year as the Federal Reserve hikes interest rates by large amounts to try and tame decades-high inflation. In addition

to New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco moved into the top ten.

The biggest upward movers were Moscow and St Petersburg, "which shot up by 88 and 70 places respectively as prices soared amid Western sanctions and buoyant energy markets supported the rouble". Upasana Dutt, who headed the research, said "the war in Ukraine, Western sanctions on Russia and China's zero-covid policies have caused supply-chain problems that, combined with rising interest rates and exchange-rate shifts, have resulted in a cost-of-living crisis across the world."—AFP

Kenya's Ruto launches flagship credit scheme for poor



The credit scheme is one of Ruto's key campaign-trail promises. **PHOTO: AFP**

KENYAN President William Ruto on Wednesday launched a low-interest credit scheme to boost financial access for the country's poorest citizens, fulfilling a key campaign promise

made to voters. Ruto, who once sold chickens on the roadside, had painted the 9 August poll as a battle between ordinary "hustlers" and elite political dynasties and had vowed to lift the

lives of Kenyans battling high inflation and unemployment.

The 50-billion-shilling (\$408-million) "hustler fund" will offer personal loans of up to 50,000 shillings to any Kenyan with a cellphone and a mobile money account, with interest charged at eight percent a year.

Ruto said the fund was part of his government's plan "to create opportunities for millions at the bottom of our economic pyramid to work their way up and fulfil their aspirations".

"More affordable credit will promote borrower confidence and inject significant amounts of money into productive activity throughout the economy," he told reporters.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

EU commission recommends funding freeze for Hungary

THE European Commission recommended on Wednesday that 13 billion euros (\$13 billion) in EU funds for Hungary be frozen because Budapest is falling short on its commitments to meet European rule of law.

The EU executive said Hungary had in particular failed to make good on promised reforms to ensure a fair judicial system when it comes to prosecutorial decisions.

EU member states will now have until 19 December to vote on whether to back, reject or change the commission recommendation.—AFP

Venezuela's Maduro calls for 'complete lifting' of oil sanctions

VENEZUELAN President Nicolas Maduro said the easing of an oil embargo on his country by the United States was not enough, and called Wednesday for the total lifting of sanctions.

The United States over the weekend granted energy giant Chevron a licence to resume some oil operations in Venezuela—a step in the "right direction," Maduro told a press conference.

But the move was "not enough for what Venezuela demands, which is the complete lifting" of sanctions against its oil industry, he said.—AFP

Japan starts power saving period amid fear of supply crunch



Japanese winters generally last from December to February. In Tokyo, December temperatures tend to be around 12°C (54°F) in the afternoon and drop to about 5°C (41°F) in the morning and at night. **PHOTO: KYODO**

AN electricity-saving period began in Japan on Thursday, with the government asking people to bundle up indoors and set the heating temperature low, among other steps, for the winter season through March due to power crunch concerns.

It is the first nationwide power saving scheme to span the winter months since 2015, when all of the country's nuclear reactors were offline in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster triggered by a mas-

sive earthquake and tsunami.

The supply of liquefied natural gas used to fuel thermal power plants remains uncertain for resource-poor Japan due to market disruptions stemming from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "We will take all possible measures to secure stable electricity supply," Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura told reporters Wednesday, adding he will persuade countries concerned in an effort to secure LNG supply.—Kyodo

Engineering giant to repay S.Africa over 'criminal conduct' at utility

SWEDISH-SWISS engineering giant ABB, which helped construct a huge power plant near Johannesburg, will pay reparations to South Africa over "criminal conduct" at the struggling power utility Eskom, prosecutors said Thursday.

"ABB has acknowledged liability and taken responsibility for the alleged criminal conduct of its employees involving contracts with Eskom," the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) said in a statement.

It said it had finalized

a settlement agreement with Asea Brown Boveri (ABB) to pay over more 2.5 billion rand (\$144,000) in "punitive reparations" to South Africa.

In 2020, ABB returned 1.6 million rand (\$92,000) it received for the construction of the coal-fired Kusile power station, commissioned by Eskom in 2007.

Construction of the plant, the fourth largest coal-fired generator in the world, has been fraught with allegations of graft.

The NPA said the latest development showed

its determination to "deal with corruption through prosecuting perpetrators and recovering the stolen money."

"This settlement represents a bold and innovative step towards accountability... particularly in the form of restitution for the serious crimes committed at Eskom, during the state capture (corruption) period," said the NPA.

The deal was negotiated with partner countries including Italy, Germany, the United States and Switzerland. —AFP



The Kusile coal-fired power station, one of the biggest in the world, was dogged for years by delays and allegations of corruption, design flaws and cost overruns. PHOTO: AFP

HSBC shuts more UK branches as banking goes online

HSBC on Wednesday announced plans to permanently shut more than a quarter of its remaining bank branches in the UK as customers increasingly switch to making transactions online.

The global bank will from April close 114 branches, it said in a statement, having shut around 150 since last year.

Around 100 staff are expected to lose their jobs following the latest closures, mirroring action being taken by other high-street banks in the UK.

"People are changing



HSBC has announced the closure of more than a quarter of its remaining bank branches in the UK. PHOTO: AFP

the way they bank and footfall in many branches is at an all-time low, with no signs of it returning," said the bank's managing

director of UK distribution, Jackie Uhi.

"Banking remotely is becoming the norm for the vast majority of us."

Consumer watchdog Which? said banks and building societies have closed or have scheduled to close more than 5,200 branches since the start of 2015 -- at the rate of about 54 every month.

By the end of next year, the NatWest Group, which runs NatWest, Royal Bank of Scotland and Ulster Bank, will have shut more than 1,200.

More than 920 Lloyds, Halifax and Bank of Scotland branches — all part of the Lloyds Banking Group — will have gone in the next 12 months. —AFP

German gas giant takes Gazprom to court over supply halts

GERMAN energy giant Uniper said Wednesday it was taking Gazprom to an international tribunal over the Russian company's failure to deliver gas, saying it has so far cost them 11.6 billion euros (\$12 billion).

After Moscow invaded Ukraine, Gazprom steadily dwindled pipeline supplies to Germany in apparent retaliation for Western sanctions on Russia, sending energy prices soaring.

Germany's biggest gas importer, Uniper was left facing bankruptcy, prompting the government to announce it would nationalize the firm over fears its failure could send shockwaves through Europe's top economy. —AFP

Capital spending by Japan firms gains 9.8% in July-Sept

CAPITAL spending by Japanese companies jumped 9.8 per cent in the July-September period from a year earlier, the Finance Ministry said Thursday.

Investment by all nonfinancial sectors for purposes such as building factories and adding equipment totalled 12.0 trillion yen (\$87 billion). —Kyodo

<p>The Global New Light of Myanmar www.gnlm.com.mm</p> <p>ဆောင်းစာ မှာယူလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ် 09 454 237 515</p> <p>ဆောင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာစံချိန်စံညွှန်းနှင့်အညီ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ် 01 860 4530</p> <p>ကြော်ငြာခွင့်များနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအခွင့်အလမ်းများ ကြော်ငြာ ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက ထိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ် ဆွေးနွေးနိုင်ပါတယ် 09 974 424 848</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB247A)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB247A) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-12-2022 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p>Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (157N)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (157N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-12-2022 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p>Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE LTD</p>
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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

French baguettes get UNESCO heritage status

THE French baguette — “250 grammes of magic and perfection,” in the words of President Emmanuel Macron, and one of the abiding symbols of the nation — was given UNESCO heritage status on Wednesday.

The bread sticks, with their crusty exterior and soft middle, have remained a quintessential part of French life long after other stereotypes like berets and strings of garlic have fallen by the wayside. The UN agency granted “intangible cultural heritage status” to the tradition of making the baguette and the lifestyle that surrounds them.

More than six billion are baked every year in France, according to the National Federation of French Bakeries — but the UNESCO status comes at a challenging time for the industry.

France has been losing



This file photo taken on 27 August 2007, shows baguette breads on display at a bakery in Caen, western France, as bread prices in France increase due to higher wheat prices. **PHOTO: MYCHELE DANIAU / AFP**

some 400 artisanal bakeries per year since 1970, from 55,000 (one per 790 residents) to 35,000 today (one per 2,000).

The decline is due to the spread of industrial bakeries and out-of-town supermarkets in rural areas, while urbanites increasingly opt for sourdough,

and swap their ham baguettes for burgers.

Honeycomb and cream

Still, it remains an entirely common sight to see people with a couple of sticks under their arm, ritually chewing off the warm end as they leave the bakery, or “boulangerie”. — AFP

Prince William, Kate, in US for visit overshadowed by new race row

PRINCE William and wife Kate began their first visit to America in eight years Wednesday under the cloud of a fresh racism row after his godmother quit the royal household for repeatedly asking a Black British woman where she was “really” from.

The Prince and Princess of Wales met Boston mayor Michelle Wu and governor-elect Maura Healey at the city hall and then sat courtside at a Boston Celtics versus Miami Heat NBA game as they kickstarted their three-day trip focused on climate change. —AFP

Islamic State group announces death of leader

THE Islamic State jihadist group said Wednesday that its leader Abu Hasan al-Hashimi al-Qurashi has been killed in battle and announced a replacement to head up its remaining sleeper cells.

A spokesman for IS said Hashimi, an Iraqi, was killed “in combat with enemies of God”, without elaborating on the date or circumstances of his death.

The US military’s Central Command (CENTCOM) said Hashimi had been killed in an operation carried out by rebels of the Free Syrian Army in Daraa province in southern Syria in mid-October. Daraa province is mostly controlled by Syrian government forces and rebels who have reached understandings with the regime. In mid-October, Damascus said it had launched a joint operation against IS with former rebels in the south of the province. —AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Ukraine embassy guard in Madrid ‘lightly’ injured by letter bomb



A security cordon has been put in place by the police around the embassy. **PHOTO: AFP**

A security guard at Ukraine’s embassy in Madrid was lightly injured Wednesday while opening a letter bomb addressed

to the Ukrainian ambassador, prompting Kyiv to boost security at its embassies.

The letter, which arrived by

regular post, exploded in the early afternoon as the guard opened it in the embassy garden, said the central government’s representative in Madrid, Mercedes Gonzalez.

The guard was discharged from hospital later Wednesday and returned to work, Ukraine’s ambassador to Spain, Serhii Pohoreltsev, said.

In an interview with Spanish state television, Pohoreltsev appeared to blame Russia: “We are well aware of the terrorist methods of the aggressor country,” he said.

“Russia’s methods and attacks require us to be ready for any kind of incident, provocation or attack,” he added. —AFP

Ukrainian named as new head of Russian occupied Zaporizhzhia plant

A Ukrainian engineer on Wednesday was appointed the new head of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, occupied by Russian forces since the first days of their offensive in Ukraine. Yuri Chernichuk, the plant’s former chief engineer, said he had agreed to take the post because it was “in my opinion the only correct decision”.

His appointment was confirmed by Moscow’s Rosenergoatom, the Russian nuclear operator which has de facto

managed the plant — Europe’s largest — since its occupation by Russian forces.

In a statement on social media, Chernichuk said his priority was to “stay with our people at our plant, in our city and continue to fulfil my professional duty.” He praised the “bravery” of the plant’s staff.

“We have done and are doing everything possible and impossible so that the world does not see a new Fukushima or Chernobyl,” he added. —AFP



This photo taken on 11 September 2022 shows a general view of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in Enerhodar, Zaporizhzhia Oblast, amid the ongoing Russian military action in Ukraine. **PHOTO: STRINGER / AFP**

UN welcomes first shipment of Russian-made fertilizer to Africa

THE United Nations welcomes the first shipment of Russian-made fertilizer previously stranded in European ports and warehouses, said a UN spokesman on Tuesday.

The first shipment of 20,000

tonnes of fertilizer left the Netherlands on a World Food Programme-chartered vessel, MV Greenwich, on Tuesday, destined for Malawi via Mozambique, said Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for UN Secretary-General Anto-

nio Guterres.

It will be the first of a series of shipments of fertilizer destined for a number of other countries on the African continent in the coming months, Dujarric said in a statement. —Xinhua



Former Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison. PHOTO: GETTY/KYODO

Australian parliament censures former PM over secret ministries

AUSTRALIA'S parliament on Wednesday censured former Liberal Prime Minister Scott Morrison, after an inquiry deemed his secret accumulation of multiple ministries during the pandemic "corrosive of trust in government".

While it is symbolic in nature, the move marks the first time a former prime minister has

been censured by parliament. The motion was passed by 86 votes to 50 in the country's lower house.

Morrison, who lost power in a general election in May, secretly had himself appointed to five ministerial roles during the pandemic, becoming joint minister for health, finance, treasury, home affairs and resources.

An investigation into the matter found Morrison's actions were legal, but it ruled that he "fundamentally undermined" responsible government.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Wednesday that the actions were an abuse of power and a trashing of Australia's democracy.

"The fact is that our democ-

racy is precious. There's no room for complacency," Albanese said during the debate ahead of the censure motion.

Morrison has continued to defend his actions, labelling the censure as "political intimidation" and "retribution" in a speech to parliament Wednesday morning ahead of the vote—Kyodo

Chile-Bolivia river row set for UN court ruling

THE International Court of Justice will give its judgement on Thursday on a climate change-fuelled row between Chile and Bolivia over the use of a crucial cross-border river.

Chile took its South American neighbour to the UN's top court in 2016, asking the ICJ to declare the Silala an "international water course" and give it equal rights to the river.

It is the latest in a series of water-sharing disputes between parched Chile and landlocked Bolivia, which have been rowing over access to the Pacific Ocean for nearly 150 years.

The Silala rises in Bolivia's high-altitude wetlands and crosses the border with Chile, flowing for around eight kilometres (five miles). Bolivia however says the waters flow artificially into Chile due to a system of canals built to collect water from springs, and

has demanded its neighbour pay compensation.

Judges at the Hague-based ICJ, which was set up after World War II to rule on disputes between UN member states, will hand down their judgment at 3 pm (1400 GMT).

The court in 2018 sank Bolivia's bid to gain access to the Pacific, which it lost to Chile in the 1879-1884 War of the Pacific.

Former Bolivian president Evo Morales had previously sought to use the river dispute as a bargaining chip in its fight for a route to the ocean.

At the time, Morales threatened to reduce the flow of the Silala into Chile's parched Atacama Desert and impose fees for its use.

Troubled waters

There have long been troubled waters between the two neighbours.—AFP



The Silala water system is the subject of a dispute between Bolivia and Chile at the International Court of Justice. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

At least 19 killed, 24 wounded in north Afghanistan blast

AT least 19 people were killed and 24 others wounded Wednesday by a blast at a madrassa in Afghanistan's northern city of Aybak, a doctor at a local hospital told AFP.

There have been dozens of blasts and attacks targeting civilians since the Taliban returned to power in August last year, most claimed by the local chapter of the Islamic State (IS) group.

The doctor in Aybak, about 200 kilometres (130 miles) north of the capital Kabul, said the casualties were mostly youngsters. "All of them are children and ordinary people," he told AFP, asking not to be named.

A provincial official confirmed the blast at Al Jihad madrassa, an Islamic religious school, but could not provide casualty figures.



At least 19 people were killed and 24 others wounded Wednesday by a blast at a madrassa in Afghanistan's northern city of Aybak. PHOTO: AFP

The Taliban, which frequently plays down casualty figures, said 10 students had died and "many others" were injured.

"Our detective and security

forces are working quickly to identify the perpetrators of this unforgivable crime and punish them for their actions," tweeted Interior Ministry spokesman Abdul Nafay Takor.—AFP

Biden to host Macron for White House state visit

FRANCE'S Emmanuel Macron was set to be hosted by President Joe Biden at the White House Thursday for a state visit mixing sumptuous ceremonies with hard-edged talks on transatlantic trade and how to manage a rising China.

A military honor guard was due to be standing ready at the White House to welcome the French leader, accompanied by his wife, Brigitte, before the two presidents meet in the Oval Office for what are

expected to be substantial discussions as they seek to defuse tensions over what Macron has described as "aggressive" subsidies for US manufacturers. They were to give a joint press conference ahead of winding up the day with a lavish dinner featuring French favorites of wine and cheese -- but in both cases American-made. The two governments have emphasized their historic links -- France is the United States' oldest ally -- as well as their close partnership in

the Western alliance confronting Russia's invasion of Ukraine. However, Macron made clear, in unusually blunt language, that he is not just in Washington to discuss the easy parts of the relationship. At a lunch with lawmakers and business leaders Wednesday, he lashed out at Biden's signature policy called the Inflation Reduction Act, which is set to pour billions of dollars into environmentally friendly industries, with strong backing for US-based manufacturers.—AFP

Australian parliament censures former PM over secret ministries

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SPORT

Best athlete awards selected for 2019 and 2021



Maung Maung (alias) Ar Ti (left), a two-gold medallist of the Philippine SEA Games' Billiard and Snooker event.

UNDER the leadership of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, the Myanmar Sports Media Federation will award the best athletes for 2019 and 2021, according to the Myanmar Sports Media Federation working meeting held on 30 November.

The best awards for 2019 were given to Maung Maung (Ar Ti), who won two gold medals in the Billiards and Snooker

competition of the 2019 Philippine Sea Games, as the Best Athlete Award (male) and to Eindrav Phoo, who won a gold medal in the Philippines Sea Games competition, as the Best Athlete Award (female) for 2019.

The best athlete award (male) award for 2021 was chosen by Pauk Sa, who won a gold medal in the billiards competition at the Vietnam SEA

Games and a silver medal in the snooker doubles competition.

Meanwhile, the best athlete (female) award was jointly chosen by Khaing Wah Phoo and May Honey Aung Lwin, who won the gold medal in the doubles competition and the silver medal in the individual competition at the Viet Nam SEA Games Vovinam competition.

According to the working group meeting of the Myanmar Sports Media Federation, the outstanding awards were selected from the sports of the World Olympic Games, Asian Games, Southeast Asian Games, World Invitational Tournament, Asian Invitational Tournament, Southeast Asian Invitational Tournament and University Student Invitational Tournament for the country.

It is reported that the award ceremony and the kick-off ceremony to pay tribute to senior sports writers will be held in Nay Pyi Taw in the third week of December. — Bala Soe/GNLM

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.

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

England should be 'feared' at World Cup, says Rice

DECLAN Rice believes England should be feared by their World Cup rivals as they gear up for a last-16 showdown with Senegal on Sunday. Gareth Southgate's side beat Wales 3-0 on Tuesday to finish as undefeated Group B winners, underlining their status as one of the leading contenders for the title in Qatar.

England's next test comes against Senegal at the Al Bayt Stadium, where a victory over the Africa Cup of Nations holders would set up a potential quarter-final date with world champions France. While they will face tougher opponents after the group stage — in which they played Iran, the United States and Wales — Rice is adamant that England deserve maximum respect from even the best teams at the World Cup.—AFP



England midfielder Declan Rice speaks to the press in Qatar. PHOTO: AFP

Frappart to make history as first female referee in World Cup



THE Germany-Costa Rica match, one of the last matches of the World Cup Group (E), which is still being held in Qatar, was handled by the famous female referee Stephanie Frappart, chosen by FIFA.

Along with Frappart, Brazil's Neuza Back and Mexico's Karen Diaz Medina served as two assistant referees. The offside monitor VAR expert is Kathryn Nesbitt from the United States. The 38-year-old Frappart was also the fourth official in the Poland-Mexico match. For the first time in the 92 years since the World Cup was held, it was a historic match in which female referees and linesmen were in charge. In the World Cup Group C played on Wednesday, Argentina beat Poland 2-0 while Mexico also won against Saudi Arabia by 2-1. — Htun Htun/GNLM

Referee Frappart and two referee's assistants, Neuza Back and Karen Diaz Medina.

World Cup 2022 Results

Croatia	0-0	Belgium
Canada	1-2	Morocco

