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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.

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepts Credentials of Thai Ambassador to Myanmar

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepted the Credentials of Ambassador-Designate of Thailand to Myanmar Mr Mongkol Visitstump at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the State Administration Council Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They cordially discussed diplomatic relations between the two countries, the promotion of friendly relations and cooperation, the plan to cooperate in further improvement of border trade, investment in the business and tourism industry, and the holding of Myanmar-Thai high-ranking official meetings.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the Thai Ambassador to Myanmar posed for documentary photos.

Also present at the ceremony were Joint Secretary of the Council Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Director-General U Wunna Han of the Protocol Department and officials from the Thai Embassy and the Office of the Military Attaché of Thailand to Myanmar. — MNA



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepts the Credentials of Ambassador-Designate of Thailand to Myanmar Mr Mongkol Visitstump at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the State Administration Council Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw on 7 December 2022.

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MRTV to broadcast “Tu Shin Hnwal Pyaw Gita Pwal Taw” Season 2 (level 2) singing contest live

HAILING Diamond Jubilee Independence Day, the “Tu Shin Hnwal Pyaw Gita Pwal Taw” singing contest Season 2 started at the Myanmar Radio and Television in Pyay Road, Yangon on 2 September. Out of 18, one contest is convened every Friday night. Contests will end on 30 December.

In the contests, Academy

Cho Pyone, Pianist Myo Naing and Singer Khine Wah will act as judges and Wai Hlyan and Thinzar Myint Mo as presenters.

There was a total of 45 contestants in the level-1 contest – three contestants each from Nay Pyi Taw, regions and states. Out of them, 10 contestants qualified for level

2. Out of 10 in level 2, only seven were selected to compete in the “Tu Shin Hnwal Pyaw Gita Pwal Taw” Season 2 (level 2) singing contest. The 15th contest will be held on Friday 9 December and will be broadcast live on MRTV-HD. The programme will also be replayed on 11 December. — MNA/KZW

MRTV to present drama on necklace and hank of yarn trial session by Mahosadha in Nipata theatrical programme

MRTV-HD Channel of Myanmar Radio and Television presents creative performances in the Nipata theatrical programme every Saturday as of 22 October, with an aim for people to have relaxation in enjoying theatrical performances, for youths to know varied events in Buddhism and for theatrical performers to show off their fine arts skills.

The drama on the necklace and hank of yarn trial session by Mahosadha was arranged by

Padamya Kay Khaing with the artistic creation of Art Director Hsan Min to the accompaniment of the orchestra played by Wake-ma Sein Mont Lone and performances of Bond, Nang Khin Hmwe, Hsan Nay Aung, Min Bo, Bei Ou Ma, Thada Theint, Sein Myat Thu, Sanda Lin and theatrical performers. The performance will be shown at about 9 pm on Saturday, 10 December and 6:30 pm on Wednesday, 14 December. — MNA

28 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 7 December, total figure rises to 633,369

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,369** after **28** new cases were reported on 7 December 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **607,901**, including **24** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged to **19,488** on 7-12-2022 with no new death reported from the pandemic.

The country has vaccinated **30,789,212** people aged 18 and above for COVID-19 vaccines and **6,768,916** people aged under 18 till 6 December 2022.

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 fol-

low 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

The poster is vibrant with a mix of yellow, red, and blue. It features several actors in traditional Burmese theatrical costumes. The central figure is a man in a yellow and red outfit. To his right is a woman in a blue and white outfit. Below them are other actors. The text is in Burmese and English. At the top right, it says 'စီစဉ်သူ - ပတ္တမြားကေခိုင် Art Director - San Min'. The main title is 'နိပါတ်တော်စာအုပ်အပန်းဖြူ' (Nipata Theatrical Programme). Below that is 'မဟောသမာ လည်ရွှေနှင့် ချည်ထွေးတရားစီရင်ခန်း' (Mahosadha Laid Hsue and Chit Hsue's Trial Session). At the bottom, it says '၁၀-၁၂-၂၀၂၂ [နေ့နေ့]၊ ည ၉ နာရီ' (10-12-2022 [Daily], 9 PM) and 'ON MRTV HD'. There is also a small logo for MRTV HD.

Necessary to preserve the languages and cultures of ethnic people as well as Myanmar literature, language and culture

THE Senior General urged relevant ministries to provide education, health, economic and transport facilities for ethnic people. Hence, relevant ministries need to cooperate with each other in work processes. It is necessary to preserve the languages and cultures of ethnic people as well as Myanmar literature, language and culture.

[Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the third-day coordination meeting held on 10 August 2022 in regard to matters relating to the activities being carried out by the Union Government].

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win receives Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visitstump of Thailand to Myanmar

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win received Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visitstump of Thailand to Myanmar at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on further promotion of friendly relations between Myanmar and Thailand, exchange of visits between the governments and armed forces of both countries, peace and stability in border areas, eradication of illegal trade and illegal labourers, development of the tourism industry, trade and investment measures, matters related to the Dawei Deep Seaport Project, improvement of border region transport facilities between Myanmar and Thailand and ASEAN affairs.

After the meeting, the



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win receives Mr Mongkol Visitstump, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Vice-Senior General and the Thai Ambassador exchanged commemorative gifts. Also pres-

ent at the meeting together with the Vice-Senior General were Deputy Minister for Foreign Af-

fairs U Kyaw Myo Htut, Permanent Secretary U Chan Aye and officials. The Thai Ambassador

to Myanmar was accompanied by First Secretary Ms Suchanaree Taranatham. — MNA



Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin receives Thai Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visitstump yesterday.

MoFA Union Minister receives Thai Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received Mr Mongkol Visitstump, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at 1 pm on 7 December 2022 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the courtesy call, the Union minister congratulated the ambassador on his appointment as Ambassador Extraor-

dinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. They candidly exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further elevation of the existing friendly bilateral ties, and intensification of mutually beneficial cooperation across areas of common interests, including trade, investment and tourism, as well as closer collaboration in regional and multilateral arenas. — MNA

Vehicle registration increases by over 3 times in 2022 on policy relaxation



Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San attends the 58th Anniversary of the Road Transport Administration Department yesterday.

THE government relaxed vehicle import policies in 2011 and the number of vehicles rose to 7.2 million in 2022 from only 2.3 million in 2011 as the Road Transport Administration Department systematically registered vehi-

cles and driving licences under the prevailing law and bylaw. Member of State Administration Council Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San said that remark during the 58th

Anniversary of the Road Transport Administration Department yesterday. The Union minister said the ministry is implementing road safety activities in Myanmar as the focal department of the Na-

tional Road Safety Council under the lead of NRSC and working with the regional countries and international organizations as per the Global Plan for UN's Decade of Action for Road Safety (2021-2030). Moreover, it is serv-

ing as a focal department of the ASEAN land transport sector. He also appreciated the department's efforts in changing new vehicle licence plates keeping in line with instructions of the Head of State in the SAC government term. He then highlighted the important role of the department in the food, shelter and accommodation, social, economic, health and education sectors of the citizens in addition to communications with ethnic people. Afterwards, the Union minister and the deputy minister awarded 2022 honorary medals of the State Administration Council to senior officials and good civil service awards to winners and certificates of honour and prizes to outstanding staff officers/staff at training courses. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar Special Economic Zone Central Working Committee holds 4th meeting

THE Myanmar Special Economic Zone Central Working Committee held its meeting 4/2022 yesterday at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting, Union Minister for Commerce U Aung Naing Oo, in his capacity of the committee chairman, called on the attendees to accelerate the ongoing work processes of respective SEZs, follow guidelines and provisions of the Special Economic Zone Law in implementing work plans and cooperating with the ministries con-

cerned and SEZ management committees for the development of SEZs. Then, the attendees reported on the implementation of sector-wise matters and the Union minister concluded the meeting. Also present at the meeting were committee members, committee vice-chairs, Thilawa, Kyaukpyu and Dawei SEZs management committee chairs, the permanent secretary, the directors-general and senior officials of relevant departments. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo chairs the fourth meeting of the Myanmar SEZ Central Working Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

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ASEAN Plus Counter-Terrorism Experts' Working Group ADMM-Plus EWG on CT held

THE second Middle Planning Conference of the ASEAN Plus Counter-Terrorism Experts' Working Group, which is co-chaired by Myanmar and Russia, was hosted by Myanmar through video teleconferencing (VTC) from 6 to 7 December.

At the meeting, Maj-Gen Aung Myo Thant of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, who is the co-chairman of the ASEAN Plus Counter-Terrorism Experts' Working Group, and Vice-Admiral Berezovsky D.V., the co-chairman from Russia, delivered opening remarks.

To cooperate with the

ASEAN Plus Counter-Terrorism Experts' Working Group, ASEAN countries and dialogue parties had a friendly and open exchange of views.

Representatives from ASEAN member countries and officials from Russia, China, India and the ASEAN Secretariat participated in the discussion.

Myanmar and Russia are making efforts as the alternate chairpersons of the ASEAN Plus Counter-Terrorism Experts' Working Group from 2021 to 2023 in order to cooperate in regional counter-terrorism measures. — MNA/KZL



Mawlamyine-Yangon and Kawthoung-Mawlamyine flights resume



Passengers are seen at Mawlamyine Airport.

MYANMAR National Airlines (MNA) resumed its domestic flights from Mawlamyine to Yangon and from Kawthoung to Mawlamyine on 5 December after the Mawlamyine-Yangon flight was suspended on 28 May 2021.

The flights will run on Mondays and Fridays. Local people have to pay K147,000 and foreigners have to pay US\$120 for the Mawlamyine-Yangon flight.

Locals will pay K177,000 for the Kawthoung-Mawlamyine trip. At present, there is only the Yangon-Kawthoung-Mawlamyine-Yangon flight and no flight between Yangon and Mawlamyine yet.

Passengers must show their citizenship scrutiny cards and Covid-19 vaccination certificate to buy flight tickets, according to an official of MNA. — Sithu (IPRD)/MKKS



Passengers are pictured embarking the MNA aircraft.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, consumer goods, oil crops and vehicles confiscated

A combined inspection team under the supervision of the Kayin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections on Asia Highway in Myawady township on 5 December.

Officials captured 20,000 kilogrammes of peanut seed bags worth K32 million from two vehicles (estimated value of K80 million) and the action was taken under Customs Procedures.

On 6 December, a combined on-duty team confiscated an unregistered Toyota Wish car (approximately K5 million) at the MaU combined checkpoint in Monywa township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

In addition, a total of 45.2488 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K18,192,548 was impounded in Toungoo, Nyaunglebin, Pyay and Thayawady districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 7 December, an on-duty team at the 16-Mile Kyawtchaw checkpoint seized K28,470,000 worth of clothes that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a vehicle and a trailer (estimated value of K80 million). The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

Therefore, 12 arrests (at an estimated value of K243,662,548)



Officials check confiscated teak logs in Bago Region.



Seized illegal goods in Mandalay Region.

were made on three consecutive days from 5 to 7 December, according to the Illegal Trade

Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar's seaborne trade value grows to \$17 bln in nearly 8 months

MYANMAR'S seaborne trade with international trade partners amounted to US\$17 billion between 1 April and 25 November in the current financial year 2022-2023, which soared from US\$13.28 billion in the corresponding period last FY 2021-2022, reflecting a sharp rise of \$3.8 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

While seaborne exports were valued at over \$7 billion, imports were registered at \$9.96 billion. Both exports and imports by sea have risen as compared to the year-ago period.

Myanmar's seaborne trade generated \$19.8 billion out of an overall trade value of

\$29.5 billion in the previous FY 2020-2021, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Last November, 51 cargo ships from 16 ocean liners arrived at Yangon Port.

Myanmar Port Authorities, the Ministry of Commerce, non-governmental organizations and the departments concerned are joining hands together to ensure the fast and reliable cargo handling and withdrawal of the containers for trade facilitation.

Yangon Port handled a total of 515 cargo ships between January and October 2022, according to Myanmar Port Authority.

From May 2021, the arrival



A container vessel is seen docking at Yangon Port.

of ships at terminals in Yangon has increased. Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thila-

wa Port received larger ships and handled 11,000 more containers and 115,000 more met-

ric tonnes of goods compared to the previous year. —TWA/EMM

Oil price decrease benefits consumers

THE price declines in fuel oil and edible oil passed on the benefits to the consumers, helping them to reduce the cost of living.

On 7 December, fuel price dropped to K,910 per litre of Octane 92, K2,005 for Octane 95 and K2,270 for diesel. On 26 August 2022, the diesel price touched a high of K3,225 per litre. The figures indicated a sharp drop of K4,333 per gallon of diesel and K216,672 per oil tank within three months.

Additionally, the market price of palm oil declined to K5,400-5,430 per viss. On 16 August, the palm oil price hit K9,500 per viss. Therefore, the price was down by K4,000 per viss and K300,000 per 110-viss (tank) in the past three months. The consumers are delighted with the price decrease.

Fuel oil prices influenced commodity prices. As the fuel oil price significantly declined, the dealers are no longer blam-



A deep-fried fritter vendor is seen using palm oil.

ing freight costs to give a reason for the price hike.

Palm oil sales go up on the price decline. However, the price of food that uses palm oil is still high as the sellers earlier stated edible oil price increase affected the food prices, said a consumer.

High commodity prices were attributed to the rocketing palm oil prices and freight rates.

Yet, the shoppers still face price hikes, they stressed.

The slide in the Kyat-US Dollar exchange rate in the first week of December is the main contributing factor to the price decrease in fuel oil prices and edible oil prices. Market observers keep their eyes on those prices to forecast the market prices. —TWA/EMM

The prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 7 December 2022

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K1,910
Octane 95	K2,005
Diesel	K2,270
Premium Diesel	K2,345

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,088,000 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,665,000 per tical

Dollar Price

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

The above prices may change from time to time.

Watermelon and sweet cucumber markets rebound at Myanmar-China border

BORDER traders said that the watermelon and sweet cucumber trade has recovered at the border as China has eased the lockdown in urban areas.

Starting from 5 December 2022, the lockdown imposed in China has been eased and no more Covid tests will be conducted, they said.

"From today, at the fruit marketplace, we have started trading," said a trader based in Muse (105 miles).

Currently, Myanmar is the period when watermelon and sweet cucumber have yielded.

Trade is closed on the Chinese border under the pretext of Covid, and exports are not per-

mitted. Now, the border has been relaxed for exports. In addition, on 2 December 2022, the entrance to the country started to open at the Kyinsankyawt border (A1), traders said. As trading at the market has started to be good the price of watermelon is 1.8 yuan per piece, and sweet cucumbers are getting 3 to 4 yuan, according

to market reports. "We just need the price of watermelon to be good. Watermelons are allowed to move freely in big cities," said a person based in Muse.

In the past, the export of melon and cucumber was limited due to Covid detection in China's urban areas. It is hoped that the trading of Myanmar melons and

cucumbers will improve.

In the financial year 2018-19, Myanmar exported up to 800,000 tonnes of watermelons and 0.15 million tonnes of sweet cucumber. In the 2019-20 financial year, it exported up to 600,000 tonnes of watermelon and 0.14 million tonnes of sweet cucumber. —TPT/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Upward trend persists in old Pawsan rice price despite fresh supply

THE prices of old Pawsan paddy from the Shwebo area continue to gain at K2.63 million per 100 baskets, notwithstanding that newly harvested Pawsan paddies are entering the markets, according to Myanmar Shwebo Pawsan Producers, Planters and Exporters Association.

The new Pawsan paddy fetched K1.63 million per 100 baskets. The figures, therefore, show a price difference of K1 million against the old ones.

Similarly, Shwebo Pawsan rice prices also follow paddy prices. The price of old Shwebo Pawsan rice is estimated at K940,000 per bag, while the new one is valued at K63,000 per bag.

The price of old Pawsan rice

from the Shwebo area peaked at K100,000 per bag in Yangon markets.

Starting from 3 August, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Rice Producers and Planters Association, Myanmar Rice Millers Association, and traders and brokers engaged in Wahdan Rice Wholesale Centre and Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre have been working together to offer fair prices for Shwebo Pawsan at around K75,000 per bag and other rice varieties to the consumers at the Wahdan Wholesale Centre.

The offer prices are K52,000-55,000 per bag of Pawsan from the Ayeyawady area, K55,000-60,000 per bag of Kyapyan, and K35,000-

37,000 per bag of short-mature rice varieties (90 days) at the Wahdan Rice Wholesale Centre.

Each household can buy only one bag. Those traders and retailers are not entitled to buy them.

On 7 December, the rice prices in Yangon markets stood at K98,000 per bag of Pawsan variety produced in the Shwebo area, K63,000 for the one from Dedaye and Pyapon areas, K65,000 for the one from Myaungmya and Patheingyi areas, while the prices of other Pawsan varieties are estimated at 62,000 per bag. New Pawsan fetched K55,000 per bag. The Kyapyan variety is valued at K68,000 per bag, whereas the short-matured rice variety (90

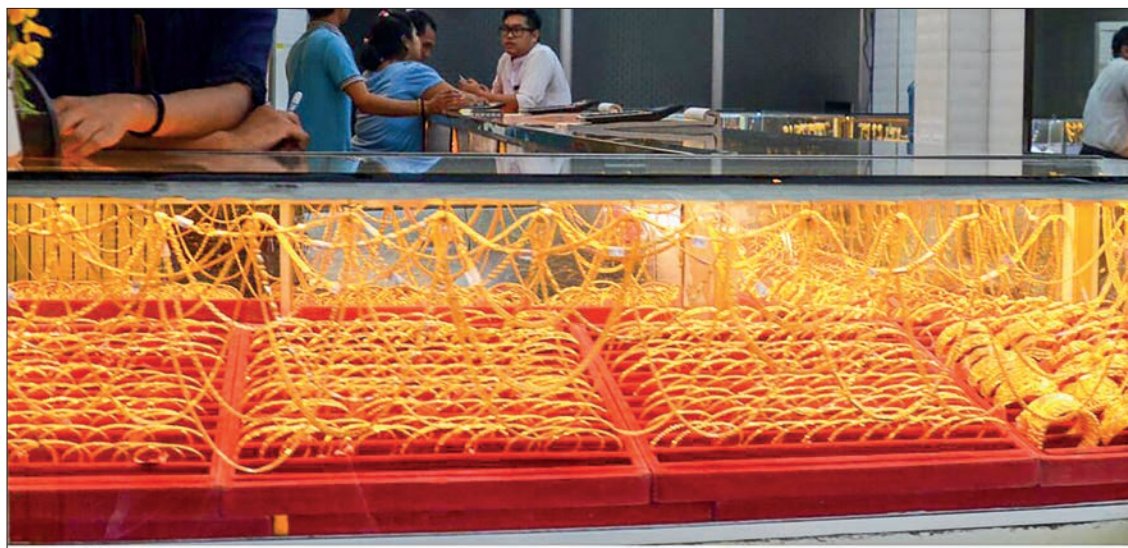


Pawsan rice varieties are displayed at the rice retail outlet.

days) is worth K47,000 per bag. The prices of low-grade rice were K47,000-52,000 per bag depending on varieties (Aemahta, Meedon).

Old rice grown under the intercropping system was priced at K47,000 per bag. —NN/EMM

YGEA reference price retreats tracking global gold spot prices



Gold jewellery is displayed at a retail outlet in Yangon.

THE reference price set by Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) has fallen back to around K2,080,000 per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) following the decline in global gold spot prices.

On 2 December, the global gold spot price rallied to US\$1,800 per ounce. The YGEA's reference price rose to K2,122,000 per tical accordingly.

The gold spot price dipped to \$1,770 per ounce on 7 December, so YGEA scaled down the reference price to K2,088,000 per tical.

Therefore, the figures indicated a decrease of \$30 per ounce in the global gold price and K34,000 per tical in YGEA's reference price.

Despite the reference price, the market price still rocketed to K2,665,000 per tical. There is a price difference of K570,000 per tical between the reference price and the market price.

YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate of K2,100, with some addition. The dollar was exchanged at K2,840 in the market.

Therefore, there is a large gap between the YGEA's price and the market price based on the unauthorized market dollar rate.

Meanwhile, YGEA called for the gold shops in Yangon Region to sell pure gold at

K2,530,000 per tical, according to its notification released on 30 October 2022.

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

In order for the gold price to decline, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been selling gold ingots in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw under the auction system.

With an aim at reducing the gold price, the YGEA and Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association sold gold bullion supplied by the executive members and the members as well. —NN/EMM

4,600 companies fail to submit AR in past 11 months: DICA

A total of 4,600 companies have been struck off the register in the past eleven months as they fail to submit annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

This year, 400 companies each in January, February and March, 300 in April and 500 in May, 400 each in June and July, 55 in August, 400 each in September and October, and 500 in November did not file annual returns on MyCO respectively, according to DICA.

The DICA has notified any registered company which fails to file its AR on MyCO is to be suspended, under 430 (F) of the Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA notification.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018 keeping in line with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies need to file AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

Under Section 266 (A) of

the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000.

If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice.—NN/EMM

OPINION

Walk along the middle path avoiding extremisms

ALL living beings are under the control of the way of the mundane world. Their past events happened under the rules of the mundane world as well as the present processes are also under the way of the mundane world. Surely, the future or fortune of living beings can be shaped in the way of the mundane world.

Everybody faces gain and loss, fame and dishonour, praise and blame, and happiness and suffering on a daily basis. Whenever the persons face gain, fame, praise and happiness, they never see them as the ways of the mundane world. It is because they prefer to enjoy these good things but forget the bad things.

As such, the persons on the middle path will have the chance to analyze both the good and bad impacts of the mundane world and will understand things how to overcome the impacts of eight kinds of the mundane world. That is why everybody should not tremble with anger and fear based on the impacts of the mundane world and should try hard to walk along the middle path without derailment.

The persons on the middle path can analyze both kinds of extremism and their mistakes and they can stay away from these mistakes along the middle path.

If one stands on the middle path, one will have the capacity to face the burden of the way of the mundane world. As both good and bad impacts are triggered by way of the mundane world, everybody should notice themselves suffering from these impacts. No one escapes from eight kinds of the mundane world.

As such, the persons on the middle path will have the chance to analyze both the good and bad impacts of the mundane world and will understand things how to overcome the impacts of eight kinds of the mundane world. That is why everybody should not tremble with anger and fear based on the impacts of the mundane world and should try hard to walk along the middle path without derailment.

ONCE a week, there was a time slot for Physical Education (PE) among other subjects during our primary school days. It was the most preferred time for the school boys who would like to play on a pitch of the school's compound. Whenever a new week started, I was counting down to PE time to enjoy playing with my schoolmates. Despite being a mere 45-minute time, our joy was so overwhelming that it even frequented and sneaked into my dreams at night.

Like PE, another new acronym I do not turn back on nowadays is Toolbox Meeting (TBM). It is daily conducted at construction workplaces before works start. All workers throng at an assembly area and listen to what is preached by personnel responsible for the work. Short is the time with 15 minutes or so, but TBM is so commanding that everyone pays the uppermost attention. Actually, TBM is the job safety briefing.

Legend has it that the words - Toolbox Meeting - originated from an underground mine extraction site in the US some 250 years ago. Some workers were injured or died almost every day there. Casualties kept mounting on. One morning before work, a work-group leader held a meeting with his fellow workers at an open space. There were no seats around, but bare ground only. The toolboxes brought

Gone with the Time

By Chit Ko Pe



The occupational safety and health (OSH) once regarded as an on-job training course has been gradually transformed and emphatically enhanced to the next level of academic qualification such as a bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctoral degree. **ILLUSTRATION: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/FREEPIK**

along with them were used as chairs. Sitting on the toolboxes with great comfort they discussed and exchanged ideas for their work safety. The practice went on and was prevalent over the years with the nickname of Toolbox Meeting rather than a direct expression of a job safety meeting. Presently, the acronym of TBM is well-denoted in safety records and reports in all parts of the world.

Indeed, a recent change in my career from the industry sector to the education sector prompts me to adapt to a new work environment wherein TBM is irrelevant and unrelated. The sight of workers I used to have in my view is now replaced with young foreign students. Gone with the time is hassle-prone workplaces left behind in history, and a new cooler environment with an international university in a foreign land starts a new

chapter of my career. It is time for me to repay back to the community and relay the industry-based knowledge gained over the years to the next generations through teaching and mentoring. Like me, some subject matter experts are seen here as faculty members sharing their experience and expertise entwined with the syllabus. Myanmar nationals bite a small pie on it - two full-fledged faculty staff as well as two doctoral students with a lecturer role on a work-study programme.

The occupational safety and health (OSH) once regarded as an on-job training course has been gradually transformed and emphatically enhanced to the next level of academic qualification such as a bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctoral degree. The certificates earned by the students portray academic credentials and professional recognition as well.

It is heartening to have seen that some European countries have taken initial steps to mainstream pre-work education on OSH into the school curriculum since the 2000s. The European Community OSH 2002-2006 Strategy vividly stated it as a general strategic approach. Their mission is to have a well-rounded workforce generation enlightened with safety and health knowledge from the very young phase of their lives.

Keeping abreast with the time in 2000, the Association of

Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) formally established its own programme called ASEAN-OSH-NET (ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network). It has set its vision on fostering a safe and healthy working environment and bringing about a productive and competitive workforce with a better quality of life. One of its missions is to establish a safety culture in future generations through OSH education for students and school children. The higher educational institutions in the neighbouring countries - Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand - have so far expanded and reinforced with research and coursework programmes on OSH. They integrate effective OSH training, OSH management and OSH awareness into education developing a culture of prevention for youths who will be readily safety-oriented even before entering the work.

Gone with the time, young students of the present generation are given such a good opportunity to learn OSH education and are well positioned for safe undertakings of the work in future.

Gone with the time, I'm pleased to pass the baton to the next generation.

(The author is a lecturer at the Faculty of Public Health, St. Theresa International College, Bangkok, Thailand)

Pandemic treaty plans thrashed out at WHO

NEGOTIATORS are meeting in Geneva this week to thrash out a pandemic treaty aimed at ensuring the flaws that turned Covid-19 into a global crisis could never happen again.

As the third anniversary of the virus emerging rolls around, negotiators are raking over an early concept draft of what might eventually make it into an international agreement on how to handle future pandemics.

"The lessons of the pandemic must not go unlearned," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told the negotiating panel at the start of three days of talks, which conclude on Wednesday.

An intergovernmental negotiating body is paving the way

towards a global agreement that would regulate how nations prepare for and respond to future pandemic threats.

They are huddled in Geneva for their third meeting, refining and going over their ideas so far.

A progress report will be put before WHO member states next year, with the final outcome presented for their consideration in May 2024.

The dense, 32-page early draft "is a true reflection of the aspirations for a different paradigm for strengthening pandemic prevention, preparedness, response and recovery," said Tedros.

The so-called conceptual zero draft contains various notions, some of which will have to

be developed and others thrown out as negotiators hone down the text ahead of the next meeting in February.

The trick will ultimately be finding the balance between something bold and with teeth, and something all countries can agree to.

'Don't blow this opportunity'
"There's a lot of material currently that probably doesn't belong in there," said Pamela Hamamoto, the lead US negotiator.

"There's a lot that needs to change before we're going to sign onto it. That is the same for a lot of member states - probably most," she told reporters.

Hamamoto said Washington

wanted to see transparency fixed into the accord, along with better surveillance and rapid response, plus swift and comprehensive data sharing.

The United States also wants to see more equitable access to medical countermeasures, possibly through regional manufacturing.

"A pretty broadly-held view is that we need to make sure that the process is set up right so... we basically don't blow this opportunity to put together an accord that is going to be meaningful and implementable," Hamamoto said.

The Panel for a Global Public Health Convention, an independent coalition of statespeople and health leaders, said the concep-

tual draft did not go far enough, despite its bright spots.

The panel said more should be done to establish accountability and clear timelines for alert and response to avoid damaging consequences when an outbreak emerges.

Negotiations at 'crossroads'

The medical charity Doctors Without Borders said the negotiations must not overlook the role of clinical trials in any pandemic response.

Mohga Kamal-Yanni, of the NGO coalition People's Vaccine Alliance, said the draft showed negotiations were "at a crossroads".

SOURCE: AFP

ARTICLE WEATHER REPORT



BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the Deep Depression over Southwest Bay of Bengal has moved West-Northwestwards. It is centered at about (570) Nautical miles Southwest of Coco Island, (690) Nautical miles Southwest of Hainggyigyun (Myanmar), (305) Nautical miles East-Southeast of Jaffna (Sri Lanka) and (375) Nautical miles Southeast of Chennai (India). Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 8th December, 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, isolated in Bago and Taninthayi regions and Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be generally fair in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions and Northern Shan State and partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasionally squalls with rough seas will be experienced in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (40) mph. Squall with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (30-35) mph. Wave height will be about (9-11) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and (7-9) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 December 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 December 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 December 2022: Generally fair weather.



South Korean health officials from Bupyeong-gu Office wearing protective gear, spray disinfectants at a shopping district in Incheon amid the new Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

CURRENT AFFAIRS



An undated photo shows a drug store in Yangon.

Over 500 tonnes of pharmaceuticals worth US\$10.5 mln imported by sea

MYANMAR has imported over 500 tonnes of pharmaceutical products worth US\$ 10.5 million via maritime trade, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The products were reportedly imported from Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, the People's Republic of China, Cyprus, Ecuador, Germany, India, Indonesia, the Republic of Ireland, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, the

Netherlands, Pakistan, Spain, the Philippines, Singapore, Portugal, Thailand, the US and Viet Nam during the period from 19 to 25 November.

About 120 tonnes of pharmaceutical products worth \$ 1.371 million were imported from the border trade. More than 100 tonnes were imported from Thailand and over 15 tonnes from the People's Republic of China, it is learnt. — TWA/CT

Real estate agents need registration certificates to run businesses

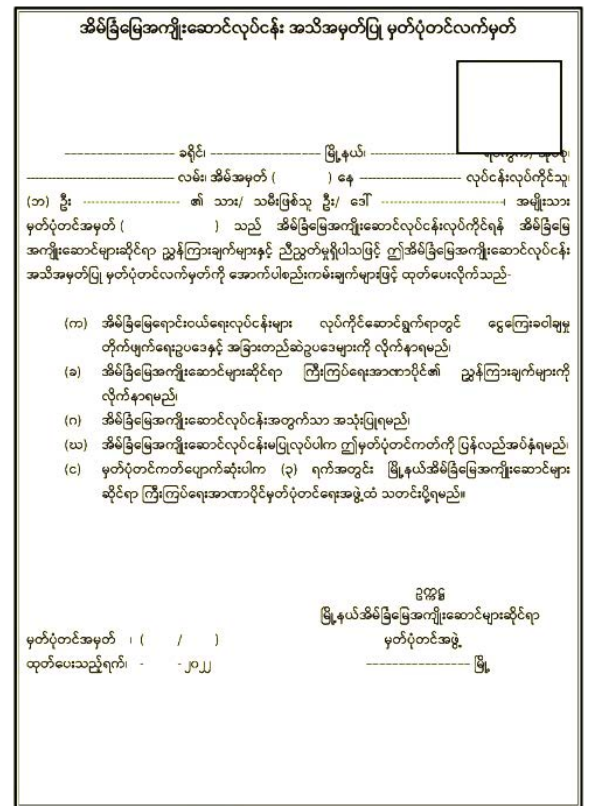
THE Ministry of Home Affairs released a statement saying that property brokers need to have real estate registration certificates to run their businesses. The Central Committee for Anti-Money Laundering issued Notification 1/2022 for real estate agents on 9 November.

The statement said that, aiming to prevent money laundering cases in Nay Pyi Taw, regions and states and self-administered regions, if the agents want to run services of renting and buying properties, they need to register and inform the money laundering cases to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).

Those who run the property agencies are required to register from the township level and they need to get the document as proof of their attendance to the anti-money laundering and terrorist financing training course. They can make registration with the pledge that they will attend the advancing awareness training on bylaws, laws, orders and directives, copies of their bank account and bank statement, it stated.

Moreover, they must record the data of their customers and pay tax under the existing tax law and bylaw.

They must be ready to send their service records if the Financial Intelligence Unit and other relevant organizations ask them for criminal cases. Regarding the remittance, they also need to follow the payment methods set by the authorities. If it fails, it must report to the Financial Intelligence Unit, it added.



A sample of the registration certificate for a real estate agent.

If they are suspected of breaking the Anti-Money Laundering Law, Counter-Terrorism Law and existing laws, their business will be suspended and reported to the FIU. If they fail to follow the directives, they will face legal action under the existing law, it said. — TWA/KTZH

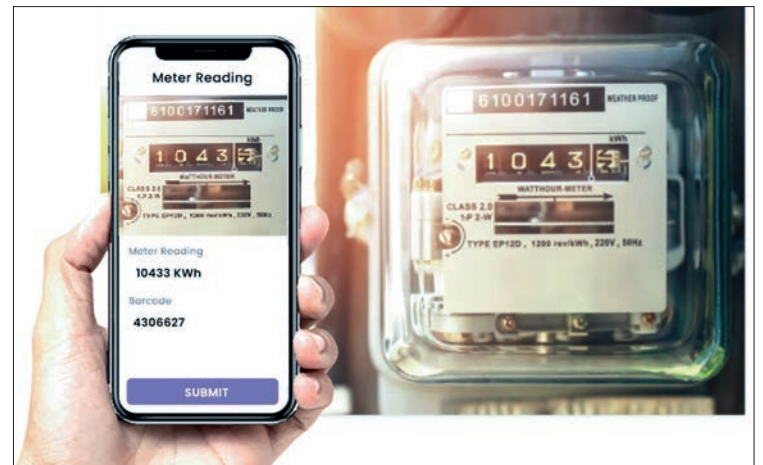
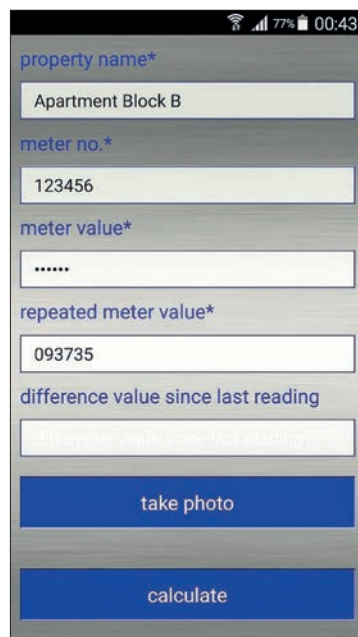
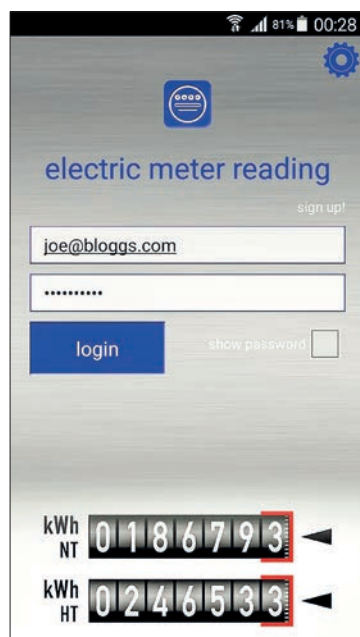
Reading electricity meters on mobile phone available in 5 townships of Yangon

ELECTRICITY meters can be read on mobile phones in five townships of the Yangon Region, according to Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC).

During this FY, the government completes digital meter installation processes using an advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) system in five town-

ships of Yangon and people can read the meter on their phones, YESC stated.

The AMI system will reduce power losses significantly and



A step-by-step guide on meter bill reading from a mobile phone.

people can know their used meter units over their mobile phones using the Me Bill application in a timely manner.

Officials installed AMI system-based 66,189 digital meters in Lanmadaw, Latha, Kyauktada, Pazundaung and Botahtaung townships and it is now 98.66 per

cent completed.

Officials will change the remaining 900 meter boxes. In the past, it allowed only one service wire for each apartment and it caused complex cables on lamp posts. Now, power poles look neat and tidy for using only one larger service wire. — TWA/KTZH

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

China announces nationwide loosening of Covid restrictions



This photo taken on 5 December 2022 shows people shopping at a supermarket in Urumqi, in China's northwestern Xinjiang region, following the easing of Covid-19 restrictions in the city. PHOTO: CNS / AFP

CHINA announced Wednesday a nationwide loosening of Covid restrictions following protests against the hardline strategy that grew into calls for greater political freedoms. Anger over China's zero-Covid policy — which involved mass lockdowns, constant testing and quarantines even for people who are not infected — stoked unrest not seen since the 1989 pro-democracy protests. Under the new guidelines announced by the National Health Commission, the frequency and scope of PCR

testing — long a tedious mainstay of life in zero-Covid China — will be reduced. Lockdowns will also be scaled down and people with non-severe Covid cases can isolate at home instead of centralized government facilities.

And people will no longer be required to show a green health code on their phone to enter public buildings and spaces, except for “nursing homes, medical institutions, kindergartens, middle and high schools”.

The new rules scrap the

forced quarantines for people with no symptoms or with mild cases. “Asymptomatic infected persons and mild cases who are eligible for home isolation are generally isolated at home, or they can voluntarily choose centralized isolation for treatment,” the new rules read.

“Mass PCR testing only carried out in schools, hospitals, nursing homes and high-risk work units; scope and frequency of PCR testing to be further reduced,” they added.—AFP

Up to half a million Australians infected with COVID-19: expert

A leading infectious diseases expert has predicted that up to 500,000 Australians are currently infected with COVID-19.

Peter Collignon, an infectious diseases physician and microbiologist from Australi-

aNational University (ANU) and Canberra Hospital, on Wednesday warned that up to two per cent of the country's population were likely to have coronavirus.

The latest data from the Department of Health revealed

that there were more than 14,000 infections reported per day in the week to 29 November but Collignon said the actual number of cases was likely much higher.

“I would think one or two per cent of people have probably got COVID at this point in time, which is a lot, but the vast majority are reinfections now. Intensive Care Unit (ICU) admissions and ICU ventilations are nowhere near what it was earlier this year,” he told News Corp Australia.

In mid-October, there was a weekly average of 170.3 new coronavirus cases in Australia per one million people. By late November the figure had increased to 554.1 cases per million people.—Xinhua



Overseas passengers arrive at Sydney Airport in Sydney, Australia, on 21 February 2022. PHOTO: HU JINGCHEN/XINHUA

Germany's homegrown cannabis industry awaits legalization

IN the east German countryside, close to Dresden, a former abattoir is now home to the biggest indoor cannabis farm in Europe.

Behind the recently renovated concrete walls, the German startup Demecan has been growing marijuana in accordance with the law for the past year.

The company is one of only a handful in Germany to have a licence for the production of this “green gold”, which has been legal in Germany for medicinal use since 2017.

But the budding industry is eyeing a bigger prize: Chancellor Olaf Scholz's government plans to legalize the drug for

recreational use as soon as 2024, which would leave it with one of the most liberal cannabis policies in Europe.

'Tenfold'

Inside the building, the smell of the plants — lined up in their hundreds under yellow grow lamps — is overwhelming.

“We will have the option to expand the facility to cultivate recreational cannabis,” Demecan's managing director Philipp Goebel tells AFP.

The government coalition, led by Scholz's Social Democrats, has put forward a roadmap for the legalization of cannabis with a target date of 2024.—AFP



In the east German countryside, close to Dresden, a former abattoir is now home to the biggest indoor cannabis farm in Europe. PHOTO: JENS SCHLUETER / AFP

Canada wasted billions in pandemic response: audit

CANADA wasted billions of dollars on unused Covid vaccines and pandemic aid to people who were not eligible for it, says an audit released Tuesday of the government's response to the health crisis.

In reports presented to Parliament, Auditor-General Karen Hogan said the government moved fast to roll out Covid-19 emergency programmes to provide relief and help the economy rebound.

By relying on information provided by applicants and limiting controls in order to expedite the payments, the government had “recognized that there was a risk that some payments would go to ineligible recipients”, Hogan said.

But time is now running out to recoup those overpayments totalling Can\$4.6 billion (US\$3.4 billion) as a 36-month legal deadline looms, she warned.

“We estimated that at least Can\$27.4 billion of payments to individuals and employers should be investigated further,” she added.—AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan's World Cup performance to bring US\$120 mln in economic effects



Japan supporters celebrate in Tokyo's Shibuya area on 2 December 2022, after Japan advanced to the round of 16 by beating Spain 2-1 in a World Cup Group E football match in Doha, Qatar. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN'S memorable performance at the World Cup in Qatar will generate up to 16.3 billion yen (\$120 million) in economic effects, according to a recent think-tank estimate, with the country's wins against giants Germany and Spain igniting renewed interest in the sport.

But the estimate by the Dai-ichi Life Research Institute, taking into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, falls short of the 21.5 billion yen in economic effects forecasted for the previous World Cup in Russia in 2018.

Samurai Blue's hopes of

reaching the quarterfinals of the soccer tournament for the first time were crushed after the team lost to Croatia, the runners-up in 2018, in the World Cup round of 16 on Monday.

"Soccer's popularity had been waning before (the tournament), but the advancement of the team this time is likely to revive interest," said Toshihiro Nagahama, chief economist at the think tank. Nagahama forecasts that soccer-related sales, including sales of team apparel and subscription fees paid to media outlets broadcasting soccer

games, will generate 11.1 billion yen in economic effects, compared with 14.3 billion yen for the previous World Cup.

Food and beverage-related sales, including sports bars and food delivery services, will total 5.2 billion yen compared with 7.2 billion yen for the previous tournament, according to the estimate.

While the pandemic is expected to result in fewer people traveling to watch the matches, users of fee-based media and food delivery services will increase, Nagahama said.—Kyodo

Croatia sets sights on Europe's border-free club

IF Croatia gets approval this week to join the world's largest visa-free area, the massive queues of vehicles at the borders with its European neighbours will become history.

European Union justice ministers meet on Thursday to decide whether to admit Croatia into the passport-free Schengen zone, which enables more than 400 million people to move freely around its 26 member nations.

One of the main sticking points has been questions over Croatia's ability to police what is the 27-nation EU's longest external land border, at a time when migration remains a key challenge for the country.

Zagreb's application in 2016 to join Schengen has also come

at a sensitive time for Europe.

Since 2015, millions of migrants, many from conflict zones, have risked their lives to enter the EU illegally and then the Covid 19 pandemic hit in 2020.

Both prompted Schengen countries to reintroduce certain border controls.

If on Thursday Croatia gets the green light to join Schengen — potentially alongside Bulgaria and Romania — the kilometres-long (miles-long) vehicle queues at the Bregana border crossing with Slovenia will become a thing of the past.

Bregana is one of 73 land crossings with EU neighbours Slovenia and Hungary that would cease to exist.—AFP



Croatia hopes to soon be part of Europe's visa-free zone. **PHOTO: AFP**

Brazil's financial market upgrades 2022 growth forecast to 3.05 pct

BRAZIL'S financial market upgraded the country's economic growth forecasts for this year and the next, from 2.81 percent to 3.05 per cent for 2022, and from 0.70 per cent to 0.75 per cent for 2023, the Central Bank of Brazil said Monday.

According to the bank's weekly survey of the country's leading financial institutions, at the start of the year, analysts were projecting a scant 0.28 per cent growth in gross domestic product (GDP) in 2022.

Financial analysts also raised their inflation forecast, from 5.91 per cent to 5.92 per cent for this year and from 5.02 percent to 5.08 per cent for the next.

Target inflation has been set at 3.50 per cent for 2022 and



Brazil's currency, now trading at 5.23 reals to the US dollar, is projected to trade at 5.25 reals to the dollar at the end of this year and the next. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

3.25 per cent for 2023, in both cases with a margin of tolerance of 1.50 percentage points.

Regarding Brazil's benchmark interest rate, which is cur-

rently at 13.75 per cent annually, analysts expect it to remain unchanged until the end of the year and to gradually decline in 2023 to 11.75 per cent.—Xinhua

Japan's Rapidus, Belgium firm to join hands on advanced chip R&D

NEW Japanese semiconductor producer Rapidus Corp. and a Belgian nanotechnology organization are joining hands in developing advanced chips, industry minister Yasutoshi Nishimura said Tuesday.

Collaboration between the manufacturer, set up by eight major Japanese companies, and

Interuniversity Microelectronics Centre, also known as Imec, will give rise to a global alliance amid intensifying competition in the computer chip-making industry.

Rapidus and Imec will sign a memorandum of cooperation at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry in Tokyo later Tuesday. "Our country, with

Rapidus taking a leading role, aims to establish a design and manufacturing foundation for next-generation chips, and it is extremely significant to cooperate with Imec in the field of semiconductor producing process, including extreme ultraviolet lithography," Nishimura said at a press conference.—Kyodo

Airlines to return to profit in 2023: IATA

AIRLINES are expected to return to profit next year for the first time since 2019 despite slowing global growth as they recover from a Covid-induced crisis, an industry group said Tuesday.

After cutting losses this year, airlines are forecast to make \$4.7 billion in net profits in 2023, according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

This is still far off the \$26.4 billion profit the industry reported in 2019, before Covid prompted countries to enact travel restrictions that have since been eased in most nations. "Resilience has been the hallmark for air-

lines in the Covid-19 crisis," IATA director-general Willie Walsh said in a statement.

"As we look to 2023, the financial recovery will take shape with a first industry profit since 2019. That is a great achievement considering the scale of the financial and economic damage caused by government imposed pandemic restrictions," he said. Governments in numerous countries had to bail out airlines as travel was brought to a halt to slow the spread of the virus, and the industry suffered \$137.7 billion in losses in 2020 at the height of the restrictions.—AFP

Libya tells foreign energy firms it's safe to return

LIBYA'S state energy firm urged its foreign oil and gas partners to resume exploration and production Tuesday assuring them security had begun to improve dramatically after clashes earlier this year.

Rival administrations in east and west have vied for power since March, in a standoff that has hampered Libya's efforts to sharply ramp up output in response to a surge in European demand for non-Russian oil and gas.

"The National Oil Corporation calls (on) the international oil and gas companies with whom it has signed oil and gas exploration and production agreements to lift the



Libya is eager to sharply increase its oil and gas production to take advantage of surging European demand for non-Russian supplies. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

force majeure declared by them," the firm said in a statement. Force majeure is a legal measure allowing companies to free them-

selves from contractual obligations in light of circumstances beyond their control.

NOC said its appeal

followed a "realistic and logical analysis of the security situation, which has begun to improve dramatically."—AFP

Vietnam's VinFast files for US IPO as it targets global market

VIETNAM'S home-grown carmaker VinFast, which plans to sell the first ever Vietnamese car in the United States, said Wednesday it has filed for an initial public offering (IPO) in the country.

Vinfast, which is part of conglomerate Vingroup, owned by Vietnam's richest man Pham Nhat Vuong, will deliver its first electric SUVs to Americans later this month.

On Wednesday, the company said it "intends to list its ordinary

shares on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol 'VFS'.

No decision has been made on the number of shares to be offered and the price range for the proposed offering, it added.

The pivot to the United States is a bold move by chairman Vuong, who started out selling dried noodles in the former Soviet Union before amassing his \$5 billion fortune in a range of sectors including real estate, tourism and education.—AFP



VinFast opened six showrooms in California in July. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2215S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2215S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OSLO TRADER VOY.NO. (247W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OSLO TRADER VOY.NO. (247W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0281-736N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0281-736N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVEREGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V JOSCO TAIZHOU VOY.NO. (V.103417)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V JOSCO TAIZHOU VOY.NO. (V.103417)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Xi travels to Saudi for three days of Mideast outreach

CHINESE President Xi Jinping arrives in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday for three days of meetings with regional leaders likely focused on energy.

The overseas trip is only Xi's third since the coronavirus pandemic began in 2020, and his first to Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest crude oil exporter, since 2016.

It will feature bilateral meetings with Saudi King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the de facto ruler, as well as a summit with the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council and a wider China-Ar-



Chinese President Xi Jinping arrives in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday for three days of meetings: in this 2016 photograph he greets Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Beijing. **PHOTO: POOL/DELA PENA/AFP/FILE**

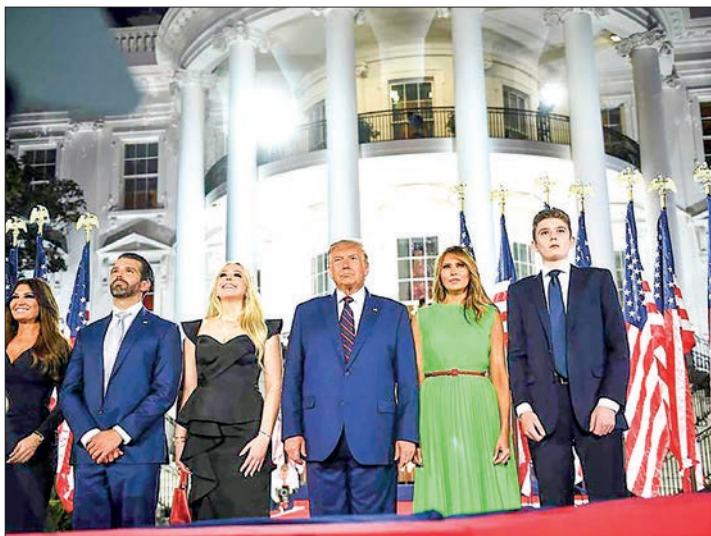
ab summit, Saudi state media reported. Oil markets are expected to be a top agenda item for talks between China, the world's biggest crude consumer, and Saudi Arabia, especially given the turmoil the markets have experienced since Russia invaded Ukraine in February.

The G7 and European Union on Friday agreed to a \$60-per-barrel price cap on Russian oil in an attempt to deny the Kremlin war resources, injecting further uncertainty into the markets. On Sunday, the OPEC+ oil cartel led jointly by Saudi Arabia and Russia opted to keep in place

production cuts of two million barrels per day approved in October.

Saudi and Chinese officials have provided scant information about the agenda, though Ali Shihabi, a Saudi analyst close to the government, said he expected "a number of agreements to be signed". Beyond energy, analysts say leaders from the two countries will likely discuss potential deals — that could see Chinese firms become more deeply involved in mega-projects that are central to Prince Mohammed's vision of diversifying the Saudi economy away from oil.—AFP

Trump Organization convicted of tax fraud in New York



In this file photo taken on 27 August 2020 (R-L) Barron Trump, US First Lady Melania Trump, US President Donald Trump, Tiffany Trump, Donald Trump Jr. and Kimberly Guilfoyle watch fireworks at the conclusion of the final day of the Republican National Convention from the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, DC. **PHOTO: AFP**

DONALD Trump's family business was found guilty of tax fraud by a New York jury Tuesday, dealing a blow to the ex-president as he eyes the White House again.

The Trump Organization and separate entity the Trump Payroll Corp were found guilty on all counts, marking the first time the companies had ever been convicted of crimes.

"This was a case about greed and cheating," said Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, who prosecuted the case.

Trump himself was not charged but the fact the sprawl-

ing real-estate, hotel and golf business that bears his name is now a convicted felon is likely to inflict damage to his reputation as he seeks the Republican nomination for the presidency in 2024. The two entities were convicted of running a 13-year-scheme to defraud and evade taxes by falsifying business records. In all, they were found guilty on 17 counts. Jurors agreed with prosecutors that the Trump Organization — currently run by Trump's two adult sons, Donald Jr and Eric Trump — hid compensation it paid to top executives between 2005 and 2021.—AFP

Hungary scraps petrol price caps amid fuel shortage

HUNGARY on Tuesday abolished petrol price caps after a fuel shortage led to "panic buying" at petrol stations with Hungarian energy giant MOL blaming the price limits.

Hungarian media published images of hundred-metre-long queues at filling stations nationwide on Tuesday, while an AFP photographer saw most pumps out of order at several stations in Budapest.

Prime Minister Viktor Orban's chief of staff, Gergely Gulyas, blamed EU oil sanctions over Russia's invasion of Ukraine for the fuel problems.

"The government will abolish the petrol price cap at the suggestion of MOL' with immediate effect, Gulyas announced.

"What we feared came true: the oil sanction that entered into force on Monday caused perceptible disturbances in Hungary's fuel supply. MOL can't do without

imported gasoline."

An EU embargo on seaborne deliveries of Russian crude oil came into force on Monday.

MOL's executive director

Gyorgy Bacsa told AFP earlier on Thursday that the "supply situation is clearly critical, demand has skyrocketed, consumers are stocking up, and panic buying has begun".—AFP



A worker operates machinery at the Danube Refinery in Szazhalombatta, Hungary, 24 May 2022. MOL Group's Danube Refinery is one of the largest refineries in the Central and Eastern European region with a refining capacity of 165,000 barrels per day. **PHOTO: ATTILA VOLGYI/XINHUA**

Nepal to lift ban on import of vehicles, liquor products

NEPAL'S cabinet on Tuesday decided to lift an eight-month-long ban on the import of some vehicles, liquor products and expensive mobile sets from 16 Dec, a cabinet minister said.

Maheshwor Jung Gahatraj, minister for youth and sports, told Xinhua that a decision to lift the ban was made by the cabinet.

The ban was first imposed in April this year amid depleting foreign exchange reserves over surging imports, targeting luxuries including tobacco, diamonds as well as some vehicles, liquor products and expensive smartphones. In late August, the government relaxed the ban, barring only the entry of target-

ed vehicles, expensive mobile sets and liquor products till 13 Oct, and the ban was extended later till mid-December.

The business community in Nepal has been demanding an end to the import ban, citing business losses and the move's failure to stop the decline in forex reserves.—Xinhua

India at 75: Rising power finding its place on global stage

THREE-QUARTERS of a century after independence, India is a nuclear power about to become the world's most populous country, and its economy has overtaken its former colonizer's to become the globe's fifth biggest.

But New Delhi has challenges to overcome if it is to secure a more central place on the world's diplomatic stage, analysts say.

India wants a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, like the five victors of World War II, including its former colonial power Britain.

A democracy of 1.4 billion people, India stands as a potential counterweight to Xi Jinping's

increasingly assertive China and at the intersection of multiple geopolitical issues.

India is the only country to be a member of both the Shanghai Cooperation Organization driven by Moscow and Beijing, and the US-led Quad initiative of democracies aimed at containing China.

It also co-founded the BRICS grouping that brings it together with Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa to challenge the dominant US- and European-led global governance structures.

For decades, India marginalized itself diplomatically, content with a role within the Non-Aligned Movement, which

professed equal distance from both Cold War superpowers, while India shared close ties with Moscow — still its biggest arms supplier.

Now, a series of heads of government and foreign ministers have visited in recent months.

In the 21st century's changing strategic landscape, India's "ambition to be present, to be heard, to shape and to lead is getting stronger", said Samir Saran, president of New Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation. But he said the question remained: "Are we ready to bear the responsibility of being such an important actor?"—AFP



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) greets Russian President Vladimir Putin before a late 2021 meeting in New Delhi. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Guilty of fraud, Argentina's Kirchner banned from seeking office



Adored and reviled in equal measure by millions of Argentinians, Vice-President Cristina Kirchner was declared guilty of fraud over public works contracts awarded during her time as president between 2007 and 2015. PHOTO: AFP

AN Argentine court on Tuesday sentenced Vice-President Cristina Kirchner to six years in jail for corruption, banning the country's best-known politician from

seeking public office after a trial she dismissed as a political witch hunt.

Adored and reviled in equal measure by millions of Argentinians, the divisive former president was declared guilty of "fraudulent administration" over irregular public works contracts awarded during her time as president between 2007 and 2015. Kirchner wrote on social media that "none of the lies were proven" and that she had been convicted by a "legal mafia".

"I won't be a candidate for anything, not a senator, or a deputy or president of the nation," in 2023 general elections, she wrote on social media after the ruling.

Analysts say it is unlikely that Kirchner will head to jail anytime soon, as she holds congressional immunity through her current role, and still has several avenues for appeal, but the ruling places a giant question mark over her future.—AFP

Analysts say it is unlikely that Kirchner will head to jail anytime soon, as she holds congressional immunity through her current role, and still has several avenues for appeal, but the ruling places a giant question mark over her future.—AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

US, Australia invite Japan to step up troop rotations

THE United States and Australia said Tuesday they would welcome Japanese troops into three-way rotations, vowing a united front in the face of China's rapid military advances. Australia's defence and foreign ministers said they agreed to step up the pace of military interactions with the United States during talks with their counterparts in Washington, after which they will fly to Tokyo. "It's really important that we are doing this from the point of view of providing balance within our region and involving other countries within our region and we look forward to being able to have more engagement with Japan," Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles told a four-way news conference.—AFP

Georgia runoff Senate vote a new test for Biden

VOTERS were going to the polls in the southern US state of Georgia on Tuesday to choose between a pastor and a former American football star in a Senate race with high stakes for Joe Biden's presidency. A victory by incumbent Democratic senator Raphael Warnock would allow his camp to consolidate their paper-thin majority in the chamber and wield greater influence on key committees.—AFP

El Salvador rounds up 185 in major gang crackdown

EL Salvador's security forces have arrested 185 suspected gangsters in a major crackdown on criminal groups spreading fear and violence in a city on the outskirts of the capital, the defence minister said Tuesday.

President Nayib Bukele, who declared a state of emergency in the country earlier this year to quash gang violence, sent 8,500

soldiers and 1,500 police officers to surround the city of Soyapango on Saturday. "Right now we have 185 people who have been arrested," Defence Minister Rene Merino told reporters. The president had announced last month a plan to use troops to surround cities while house-by-house searches are conducted for gang members. Soyapango was first on the list.

Almost 60,000 suspected gang members have been arrested since the launch of the state of emergency in March, which has prompted humanitarian groups to question what they see as heavy-handed tactics. Merino said the police and military cordon surrounding the city of Soyapango would remain "as long as it is necessary".—AFP



Soldiers and police search a house looking for gang members during an operation in Soyapango. PHOTO: AFP



Myanmar tennis players to compete in U-14 int'l youth tennis tourney in Bangladesh

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Tennis Federation, Myanmar tennis athletes will compete in the inter-

A Myanmar youth tennis player trains for upcoming international tournaments. PHOTO: BALA SOE



national youth tennis tournament under the age of 14 to be held in Bangladesh in January 2023.

“The match we will compete in Bangladesh is the U-14 youth tournament. The event is held every year. Qualifiers will be held soon ahead of the international tourney this year. From that selection, two boys and two girls will be sent to compete,” said U Thein Aung, who is in

charge of organizing the youth tennis tournament.

The Myanmar Tennis Federation will select the young players to compete in Bangladesh on 8 and 9 December.

The Tennis Federation President’s Cup will also be held from 16 to 18 December. There will be three categories: A Club, B club and women’s competition.

At present, elite tennis players are training regularly to compete in tournaments by the Myanmar Tennis Federation. A three-day referee training course is also being held from yesterday morning until 9 December to learn about scoring rules, laws, and things that referees must know and follow. —Bala Soe/KZL

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.

Luka Modric: Croatia’s conductor in his last World Cup



Luka Modric will hope to run the midfield for Croatia against Brazil. PHOTO: AFP

LUKA Modric said before arriving in Qatar that this World Cup would likely be his last major tournament and he has again orchestrated another deep run for Croatia.

The veteran midfielder’s side will face their biggest challenge yet when they take on Brazil in the quarter-finals on Friday. The five-time champions

sent out a warning to their fellow title hopefuls with a wonderful first-half display in their 4-1 victory over South Korea in the last 16.

But Croatia, the 2018 World Cup finalists, are likely to pose a far tougher test for the Selecao — seven of their past eight major tournament knockout ties have gone to extra time.

Modric is still the heartbeat of the team and coach Zlatko Dalic has said he expects the 37-year-old to be involved at next year’s Nations League finals.

But the Real Madrid midfielder does not see himself playing at a fifth World Cup, 20 years after his first, in 2026 in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

“I’m aware that I’m of a certain age and that this is my last competition in the Croatian national team,” he told FIFA before the tournament. Modric still toils selflessly in midfield but was clearly fading when he was substituted in extra-time of Croatia’s last-16 win over Japan on penalties. The Balkan nation will be counting on him to dig deep again, though, as he looks to replicate the form that helped Croatia reach the final in Moscow in 2018, where they lost 4-2 to France.—AFP

Belgium star Hazard quits international football

BELGIUM star Eden Hazard announced his retirement from international football on Wednesday, days after the team crashed out of the World Cup in the group stage.

The Real Madrid forward, 31, made the announcement on social media, saying “a page turns today”. “Thank you for your unparalleled support,” he posted on Instagram. “Thank you for all this happiness shared since 2008. I have decided to put an end to my international career. The succession is ready. I will miss you.” The Belgium team tweeted: “All the best, captain.” Hazard, who played as an attacking midfielder or winger, made his Belgium debut in 2008 as a teenager and collected a total of 126 caps, scoring 33 goals.

He was the stand-bearer of Belgium’s much-vaunted “golden generation”, which reached the semi-finals at the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

The team are still ranked second in the world by FIFA but many of their players are in their 30s and they finished third in Group F behind Morocco and Croatia.

Hazard, who was the team’s skipper, made a surprise admission during the tournament in Qatar, saying the team’s best chance to win the World Cup had come and gone.

The forward moved from French club Lille to Chelsea in 2012 and became one of the standout stars in the Premier League, winning the trophy twice. —AFP