

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

## SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends ceremony to commission aeroplanes and helicopters into service to mark Diamond Jubilee Air Force Day

As a gesture of honouring Diamond Jubilee Air Force Day to improve the aviation capability of the State and Tatmadaw, a ceremony to commission aeroplanes and helicopters into services took place at the Flying Training Base in Meiktila Station yesterday morning, attended by State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

At the ceremony, a total of 15 PT-6 aeroplanes including MTX-1A aircraft manufactured on the test by Tatmadaw (Air) in a 75 shape flew over the pavilion to salute the Senior General.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that the Burma Air Force Act was enacted on 15 December 1947 to give birth to Tatmadaw (Air). Now, Tatmadaw (Air) possesses post-fourth generation multipurpose fighters as new strengths in the diamond jubilee anniversary. The mechanical section has been facilitated with aircraft and engine workshops, universal service support centres, and spare part manufacturing workshops to provide regular servicing to the modern fourth-generation fighters at home.

During the 75 years, new-generation pilots operate modern aircraft and multipurpose fighters. Moreover, MTX-1A



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is pictured inside a Sukhoi Su-30 fighter at the event to commission military aircraft and helicopters into service marking Diamond Jubilee Air Force Day in Meiktila on 15 December 2022.

aeroplanes and SR-1 UAVs have been manufactured on the test as part of conducting technological research.

The Senior General noted that it can be seen that Tatmadaw (Air) dutifully served the assignments in national defence duty, peace and tranquillity of the re-

gion, the prevalence of law and order, search and rescue measures, and humanitarian aid. Hence, the Senior General expressed that all members of Tatmadaw (Air) who served and are serving their duties in respective sectors during the 75 years were honoured and put on record.

If newly commissioned aircraft have been added to Tatmadaw (Air), it will have the capability to conduct strategic military operations as well as counterattacks against submarines. So, operations can be conducted in surface, ground, above and underwater dimensions in full swing.

The Senior General praised and honoured all Tatmadaw (Air) families who dutifully served the assignments for the State and Tatmadaw during a 75-year period and urged them to continuously perform their duties well in the future.

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Myanmar workers leave for Thailand under MoU

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#### CURRENT AFFAIRS

Moderate earthquake in Mandalay damages some historic buildings

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#### LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar ships over 140,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh under G-to-G pact

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## Public Notice

1. The State Administration Council awarded Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma, Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma, Agga Maha Thray Sithu, Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu, Maha Thray Sithu, Thray Sithu, Sithu, Thura, Thiri Pyanchi, Zeya Kyaw Htin, Wunna Kyaw Htin, Alinka Kyaw Swa and Theikpa Kyaw Swa titles in 2022 with Order Nos 2/2022, 54/2022, 63/2022, 211/2022, 212/2022, 213/2022, 214/2022, 215/2022, 218/2022, 219/2022, 220/2022 and 221/2022.
2. The honorary titles recipients will be awarded honouring Diamond Jubilee Independence Day and are invited to attend in person or their family member to the honorary titles conferring ceremony.
3. It is here announced that the recipient of titles or one family member on behalf of awardees who will attend the ceremonies must contact Phone Numbers 067-3412715 and 067-3412716 of Sub-Committee on Invitation no later than 20-12-2022.

## CPRCS, CTFMR hold Tripartite Case Review Meeting

THE Committee on Prevention of Recruitment of Child Soldiers (CPRCS) and Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) organized a Tripartite Case Review Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 December.

The meeting was attended by officials of CPRCS and representatives of CTFMR. The two parties discussed lists of suspected minors reported by the CTFMR. — MNA/KTZH

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.

## 13 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 15 December, total figure rises to 633,521

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,521** after **13** new cases were reported on 15 December 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **608,069** including **25** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,488** on 15 December with no new deaths reported from the pandemic.

Daily laboratory examination showed decline of infection to less than one per cent for 30 successive days.

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

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

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

People need to follow the social distancing rule and avoid the crowds as much as possible. While not wearing masks, if they cough and sneeze, they need to cover mouth and noses with elbows in line with the personal hygienic ways. COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. —MNA



MoU workers are seen undergoing the departure process before leaving for Thailand.

## Myanmar workers leave for Thailand under MoU

MYANMAR sent 1,000 workers to Thailand under the MoU system through the Myawady-Mae Sot and Kawthoung-Ranong borders in December.

They are to work at CARA Bakery Co Ltd and a pineapple factory in Thailand, according to the office of the labour at-

taché.

There are 114 overseas employment agencies to officially despatch Myanmar workers to Thailand under the MoU system and as 214,013 demand letters have been received a total of 150,637 Myanmar workers will be recruited. — TWA/MKKS

## Authorities to put up navigational signs along Mandalay-Myinmu-NyaungU waterway of Ayeyawady River



Erected navigational signs in some designated areas.

THE Navigation Department of Region 5 under the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems stated that it has planned to put up 580 navigational signs along the Mandalay-Myinmu-NyaungU waterway of the Ayeyawady River in the first week of January 2023.

To ensure safe travel for ships along the waterway, 380 navigational markings in the water and 200 navigational markings on land will be set up.

There has been some damage to the past navigational markings due to weather changes and river erosion. Currently, the water in the river is low, re-

sulting in the formation of sandbanks and changes in the water course.

The Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems warned that ships sailing along the Mandalay-Myinmu-NyaungU route are required to pay special attention to navigational directions. — TWA/CT

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## Tourism revival can drive great progress in State economy

THE tourism sector that contributes to the economy of the country through various ways and means. Business activities and transport operations in a region thanks to domestic and foreign tourists can accelerate money circulation. Foreign tourist arrivals can increase foreign exchange earnings. The government is striving for more arrivals of international tourists to the nation. If inbound and outbound tourism can be enhanced, the State economy will achieve great progress.

*(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 8/2022 of the State Administration Council on 27 September 2022)*

## SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends ceremony to commission aeroplanes and helicopters into service to mark Diamond Jubilee Air Force Day



The Senior General, his wife and dignitaries watch the demonstration of fighters.

### FROM PAGE-1

Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung spoke words of thanks for the commissioning of the aircraft into Tatmadaw (Air) and Chief of Staff (Air) Lt-Gen Zaw Win Myint announced the commissioning of aircraft and helicopters.

The Commander-in-Chief (Air) presented small-scale aeroplanes to mark the commissioning ceremony to the Senior General.

Next, transport planes, attack helicopters, light transport helicopters, reconnaissance aeroplanes, jet fighters,



The Senior General presents cash awards to the pilots.



The Senior General sprinkles the scented water on a helicopter.



The Senior General views inside the aircraft.

training jet fighters, bombers and multipurpose jet fighters in various formations saluted the Senior General.

Multipurpose jet fighters performed skill demonstrations in the sky. An Su-30 SME fighter flew over the pavilion to salute and showed off its high-performance manoeuvre on the tail slide and flap spin manoeuvres, zoom & dive with 90° manoeuvre, high AOA roll, slow flight, and maximum banking turn & loop for landing manoeuvre.

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# SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends ceremony to commission aeroplanes and helicopters into service to mark Diamond Jubilee Air Force Day



The Senior General views round the display at the ceremony.



The Senior General, his wife and party release 75 birds at the event.

### FROM PAGE-3

The Senior General and party released 75 birds to mark Diamond Jubilee Air Force Day and sprinkled scented water on the commissioned aircraft.

The Senior General spoke words of honour to the pilots in the flying demonstration and presented cash awards to them.

Su-30 SME is the post-fourth generation multipurpose heavy fighter and Tatmadaw (Air) uses it as the first-ever heavy fighter. FTC

2000G aeroplane is a light multipurpose fighter to be used in air-to-air operations, air-to-surface operations, close aviation supporting fire, intercepting, and armed reconnaissance duties. Ka-28 submarine destroyer helicopter can be used in searching and attacking submarines underwater and performing search and rescue duties. FT-7 interceptor fighter and K-8W aeroplane can be used as training jet fighters and light fighters in air-to-air operations, air-

to-surface operations, close aviation supporting fire, intercepting attacks, armed reconnaissance and training. Y-8 can be used as a transport plane to transport VIPs, passengers, cargoes, parachuting, sea reconnaissance, and search and rescue duties.

On the evening of 14 December, the Senior General and party attended the ceremony to open the honorary exhibition to mark the commissioning ceremony, domestic product shops and domestic

foods of airbases and stations and formally opened these exhibitions and shops.

The Senior General also viewed round booths of the exhibition showcasing aviation histories and records, uniforms of Tatmadaw (Air), documentary photos, photos of those who served in Tatmadaw (Air), battle records, avionic equipment, arms and ammunition, photos of gallantry medal winners, documentary photos on commissioning ceremonies, training of officers, other

ranks and substitute-appointed personnel, photos on the progress of Tatmadaw (Air), awarding pilots in successive Commanders-in-Chief (Air), and electronic machinery manufactured by Tatmadaw (Air).

The Senior General, his wife and party signed the record book of Diamond Jubilee Air Force Day and visited souvenir shops, Myanmar traditional food shops and book shops of respective airbases, and personal goods shops. — MNA

## Military parade marks Diamond Jubilee Tatmadaw (Air) Day with Paritta recitation, alms offering ceremonies

THE military parade marked the Diamond Jubilee Tatmadaw (Air) Day at the flying training base in Meiktila yesterday morning, attended by Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung, retired commanders-in-chief (Air), airbase commanders, Tatmadaw members and guests.

The General delivered an address at the parade and took the salute of parade companies.

A ceremony to listen to Paritta recitation was held in conjunction with the dawn meal offering ceremony to mark Diamond Jubilee Tatmadaw (Air) Day at the aircraft production and maintenance base in Meiktila Station.

Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Patron of Sasana Wepulla Pali Tekkatho Pariyatti



Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung addresses the military parade marking Diamond Jubilee Air Force Day yesterday.



Monastery of Yanmyoang ward of Meiktila Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Agga Maha Gan-

thavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Kovida administered the Five Precepts and members of the Sangha recited Paritta.

Alms were donated to members of the Sangha, and the Sasana Wepulla Pali Tekkatho Sayadaw delivered a sermon,

followed by sharing of merits. Later, members of the Sangha were offered dawn meals. — MNA

# SAC Chairman Defence Services C-in-C Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tatmadaw (Air) Day ceremony, commissioning of aeroplanes, helicopters, dinner and variety show



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife and dignitaries attend the dinner and watch the variety show in marking Diamond Jubilee Air Force Day yesterday.

CEREMONIES of the Diamond Jubilee of Tatmadaw (Air) and commissioning of aeroplanes and helicopters into service, the dinner and the variety show were held yesterday at the flying training base in Meiktila, and it was

attended by State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Also present at the dinner were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, retired

commanders-in-chief (Air) and their wives, retired commanders-in-chief (Navy) and their wives, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and wife, the Union-level person-

nel, Union ministers and their wives, officials of Defence Services, the Central Command commander, commanders of airbases and invitees.

Then, the Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief

of Defence Services and party watched the variety show which was performed by Tatmadaw (Air) families to the accompaniment of the Tatmadaw (Air) band at Thura Ohn Khaing hall of the flying training base.—MNA/MKKS

## Semi-final of SAC Chairman's Trophy U-18 women's football tourney held



IN collaboration with the Department of Sports and Physical Education of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Myanmar Football Federation, the SAC Chairman's Trophy U-18 women's football tournament semi-finals to mark Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023, was held at 3 pm yesterday at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw with the aim to raise the standard of Myanmar football and to produce many talented new-generation (female) football players from states and regions.

The Shan State team beat the Ay-

eyawady Region team 4-1 in the semi-final match.

SAC members U Khin Maung Swe, U Sai Lone Seng and U Shwe Kyein, Union ministers, deputy ministers, football fans and officials attended and enjoyed the football match.

The Mandalay Region team will take on the Kachin State team in the second semi-final match of the U-18 women's football tournament at Wunna Theikdi Stadium at 3 pm on 16 December.

Any sports fan can watch for free, officials said. — MNA/KZL

The semi-final match between Team Shan State and Team Ayeyawady Region is in action yesterday.

## MIFER Union Minister receives delegation led by UNOPS Regional Director

UNION Minister Dr Kan Zaw of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations received a delegation led by Mr Sanjay Mathur, Regional Director of Bangkok-based United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They discussed matters relating to further cooperation between Myanmar and UNOPS in the future.

Officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations also attended the meeting.—MNA/MKKS

## MoFA Union Minister receives UNOPS-Asia Region Regional Director



Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin receives UNOPS-Asia Region Regional Director Mr Sanjay Mathur.

UNION Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received Mr Sanjay Mathur, Regional Director of United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Asia Region at 11 am on 15 December 2022 at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the meeting were senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Country Director ad-interim of UNOPS Myanmar in Yangon. During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to existing and further cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and UNOPS.—MNA

## 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rakhine State Day held in Sittway



The 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rakhine State Day celebration is in progress in Sittway yesterday.

THE 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rakhine State Day was celebrated at the U Ottama Hall in Sittway yesterday morning.

It was attended by State Administration Council Member Daw Aye Nu Sein, Rakhine

State Chief Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Min, Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Htin Latt Oo, Deputy Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung, Rakhine state ministers, departmental staff, town elders, members

of ethnic cultural troupes, students, honourable athletes of Rakhine State and guests.

First, ethnic cultural troupes entertained the audience with their traditional cultural dances. SAC Member

Daw Aye Nu Sein read out the message sent by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. Then, the Rakhine State chief minister delivered a speech.

Next, SAC Member Daw Aye Nu Sein, the Rakhine State chief minister, the commander and officials presented the second and third awards for excellence in management, the second award for excellence in agricultural business and the second award for excellence in social affairs to award winners. Then, they continued to present certificates of honour and gave prizes to students who won the essay and painting competitions on Rakhine State Day. Next, Rakhine ethnic cultural troupes performed the song "Pyidaungsu Yae Htawaya Ahla Myar" and took documentary photos.

Afterwards, the photographs of regional development activities in the state were dis-

played in the hall, and the literature and culture gallery was viewed by the party.

Later, SAC Member Daw Aye Nu Sein and members visited the Rakhine State MSME product exhibition booths and sale centres managed by departmental staff and businessmen at the Khine Thazin Park in Sittway, to mark the 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rakhine State Day. They viewed round the various goods and products at the exhibition and coordinated the needs for manufacturing activities to carry out 100 per cent production.

Finally, the party attended the 48<sup>th</sup> Rakhine State Day commemoration fun fairs and sports competitions at the Danyawady Gymnasium of the Rakhine State Sport and Physical Education Department and gave medals and cash awards to first, second and third winners in sports competitions.

— MNA/CT

## Committee on Organizing Diamond Jubilee Independence Day holds third coord meeting

THE Committee on Organizing Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 held its third coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, Committee Chairman Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn said the ceremony to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence Day is the most notable event for the country. The pre-ceremonial programmes and their related events are being held. There would be many tasks to be carried out as the ceremony is drawing near. All should work hard and participate in the discussion for the biggest

ceremony of the country.

Then, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Tin Lwin Oo in his capacity as the Committee Vice-Chairperson reported on the event programmes in detail and Committee Secretary Deputy Minister U Ye Tint and Joint Secretary of Committee Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung and other attendees explained the preparations of floats, dance troupes and other related matters.

The Union minister concluded the meeting after the joint secretary of the committee read out the decisions made at the meeting. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn chairs the third coordination meeting of the Committee on Organizing Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



The UNOPS-Asia Region Regional Director calls on Union Health Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win yesterday.

## MoH Union Minister receives Regional Director of UNOPS

UNION Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win of the Ministry of Health received the delegation led by Mr Sanjay Mathur, Regional Director of the Bangkok-based United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They discussed matters relating to increased cooperation between the Ministry of Health and UNOPS in providing healthcare services, providing healthcare services with policies, objectives and strategies of the Ministry of Health, and fight against AIDS,

STD, TB and malaria with the use of the global fund and access to health fund managed by UNOPS.

Present at the meeting were the deputy minister, the director-general and officials.

—MNA/MKKS

## Qatar National Day celebrated in Yangon

DEPUTY Minister U Kyaw Myo Htut of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the Qatar National Day ceremony held at Lotte Hotel in Yangon at 6 pm yesterday.

First, the ceremony began with the National Anthem of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the National Anthem of the State of Qatar.

Then Charge d’Affaires Dr Rashid Abdulla Al-Kuwarl of the Embassy of the State of Qatar to Myanmar gave a welcoming speech.

Then, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo Htut and Charge d’Affaires of the Embassy of

the State of Qatar to Myanmar Dr Rashid Abdulla Al-Kuwarl cut a cake to mark Qatar National Day.

Afterwards, the deputy minister, the Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy of the State of Qatar posed for the documentary group photo with guests at the reception.

The Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy of the State of Qatar hosted a dinner for the guests.

The ambassadors from foreign embassies in Yangon, the Charge d’Affaires of embassies and guests attended the ceremony. — MNA/KZL



The documentary group photo of the Qatar National Day celebration.

## Myanmar delegation attends International Anti-Corruption Conference



Myanmar delegates are pictured (in the middle row-left photo) attending the International Anti-Corruption Conference in Washington, the US, from 6 to 10 December 2022.

INTERNATIONAL Anti-Corruption Conference 2022 was held at Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, the United States, from 6 to 10 December under the supervision of the Berlin-based Transparency International.

Three Myanmar representatives led by Charge’ de Affaires of the Embassy of Myanmar in Washington U Thet Win, on behalf of the Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission, attended the conference.

National Security Adviser to the President of the United States Mr Jake Sullivan, President of the Republic of Moldova Ms Maia Sandu, US Agency for International Development (USAID) head Ms

Samantha Power, President of Transparency International Ms Delia Ferreira Rubio, Executive Director of Transparency International Mr Gary Kalman, President of the International Anti-Corruption Conference Council Ms Huguette Labelle delivered their opening speeches.

Government representatives from more than 140 countries, World Bank President Ms Dunja Mijatovic, representatives from the United Nations agencies: IMF, UNDP, anti-money laundering bodies/commissions, scholars, researchers, reporters, anti-corruption activists and university students attended the conference.

Addressing self-interest systems, protecting witnesses

of human rights violations and corruption, and conducting financial integrity to achieve sustainable development goals, topics such as fighting corruption through financial transparency and mobilizing youth in the fight against corruption were discussed.

The Myanmar delegation said, “The fight against corruption in Myanmar has been carried out by successive governments throughout the ages.

“It has also signed the United Nations Anti-Corruption Convention and is a member of the ASEAN Anti-Corruption Organization, a regional anti-corruption organization, and is cooperating in anti-corruption activities.” — MNA/KTZH

## Myanmar participates in COMMIT Regional Task Force meeting

THE Myanmar delegation led by Commander of the Anti-Trafficking Police Force of the Myanmar Police Force Police Brig-Gen Myint Htoo joined the online Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking Regional Task Force (COMMIT RTF) meeting hosted by Thailand yesterday.

During the meeting, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand made an opening speech.

Then, Police Brig-Gen Myint Htoo clarified the impacts

and experiences on the issues of new forms of human trafficking that emerged two years ago and the implementation of SPA IV in the Mekong Sub-region, expressing the main reasons for human trafficking cases such as lack of jobs, knowledge and information about job opportunities and also for poverty, credulity, different laws, high demand of illegal workers and weakness in controlling illegal border passing.

He continued that most of the trafficking cases in Myanmar are forced marriage, forced prostitution, forced labour, debt-

based coercion, forced adoption, illegal surrogacy, selling of children and sexual exploitation. There are also cases of gathering victims online. Three countries at least are involved in these cases. Therefore, the COMMIT member countries should conduct protection against these cases to guarantee the tranquility, security and dignity of the countries.

Then, the COMMIT countries discussed the new human-trafficking methods that emerged two years ago, positive lessons while implementing



the SPA IV, the progress in the Transnational Referral Mechanism-TRM and the drafting of SPA V.

The meeting was also joined

by representatives from COMMIT countries – Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam – and COMMIT’s Secretariat. — MNA/KTZH

# OPINION

## Uplift the noble integrity of nurses in healthcare for patients

**N**URSING service is crucial in providing basic healthcare services for people in the health sector. Hence, it needs to recognize the endeavours of health staff loyal to the State at a time when the country urgently requires human resources for health.

Currently, the government is fulfilling the requirements of human resources for the public health sector. In this regard, a total of 53 training schools including two universities of nursing, 27 nursing training schools, 23 midwifery training schools and three related training schools under the Department of Human Resources for Health of the Ministry of Health are producing human resources for health while giving training to 3,652 trainees at present.

Health staff members need to be loyal to the State for providing healthcare services to people as the government put a large amount of investment into turning out skilled human resources for health. Those health staff including nurses and doctors should not abandon patients in any situation, and they have to follow nursing ethics for their professions. They all should preserve fine traditions of warm healthcare services for people to uplift their noble integrity.

Surely, training schools will turn out 1,846 trainees in the nursing-midwifery three-year diploma course, 37 trainees in the bachelor of nursing regular course and 177 trainees in the multiple midwifery diploma two-year course, totalling 2,060. Hence, the Ministry of Health arranges a plan to recruit them as fresher nurses and midwives.

As a reward plan, the government allowed allowances for nurses discharging duties at hospitals under the Medical Services Department and amended outfit and daily allowances for nurses in line with their daily expenses. Moreover, the government raised salaries for matrons as part of the chances for promoted ranks. To modernize nursing knowledge, nurses are arranged to be sent abroad for further studies in nursing science.

Health staff members need to be loyal to the State for providing healthcare services to people as the government put a large amount of investment into turning out skilled human resources for health. Those health staff including nurses and doctors should not abandon patients in any situation, and they have to follow nursing ethics for their professions. They all should preserve fine traditions of warm healthcare services for people to uplift their noble integrity.

# The Snippet About the World Cup

**F**OOTBALL! OK. It is loved from pole to pole. It is the most popular sport in the world. There are billions of fans from the young to the aged. If one makes a query to show the matches which were the most interesting events on earth, he would be surely indicated The World Cup matches as countless numbers of fans have been watching up to now.

Before the World Cup was inaugurated, the football tournament arranged as part of the Summer Olympics was given the most prestige. But in the 1920s, the game was facing a transition to professionalism that was not consistent with the Olympic spirit. Therefore, the government body, FIFA, made plans to organize a World Cup. The decision of arranging the first edition was officially declared on 26 May 1928.

The first official World Cup was played in Uruguay from 3 July to 30 July 1930 with 13 nations, and since then the tournament has been held every fourth year (with exceptions for interruption due to the Second World War). There were, however, unofficial pre-FIFA World Cups already in the late 1800s, at a time when only a few national teams existed. Another unofficial "world cup" arranged before 1930 was Sir Thomas Lipton Trophy held in 1909 and 1911. Besides that, the Summer Olympic football competitions would be a



mark of which the best national teams were before 1930. The Olympic tournaments consisted, however, only of amateur teams – the World Cup became the "real deal".

The 2022 FIFA World Cup kicked off in early November, with more than 30 teams participating. In the tournament's 92-year history, only eight countries have won: Brazil, Italy, France, Germany, Argentina, Spain, Uruguay, and England. This year, Brazil goes in as the big favourite, with odds of 9 to 2. The host nation automatically earns an invite, though Qatar will

need a miracle to cinch the trophy. Their odds of winning are 250 to 1. This is the first time the Cup is being held in the Middle East, during the Northern Hemisphere's winter. Summer temps in Qatar regularly top 100 degrees, so for the safety of both athletes and spectators, organizers pushed the month-long contest out to late November, when the weather is milder.

A committee votes to select the World Cup host country years in advance. Since Qatar's bid was won back in 2010, the Qataris in charge of that bid have been ac-

used of bribing for votes. They wouldn't be the first. Former FIFA official Chuck Blazer admitted to taking bribes for the 1998 World Cup in France and the 2010 tournament in South Africa.

Qatar is the smallest nation ever to host the World Cup in terms of population and land area. Qatar has a population of only 2.6 million, which makes it the smallest nation to host an event of this magnitude. This will be the second time an Asian country has hosted the event, following South Korea and Japan in 2002. Qatar will be the first Arab country to host the FIFA

World Cup. In any case, Qatar will be the first Arab or Muslim nation to host the full event. More than \$220 billion was spent by Qatar on hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup. For comparison, Brazil spent \$20 billion on the 2014 FIFA World Cup and Russia invested \$15 billion in the 2018 FIFA World Cup. Organizers expect the tournament to boost Qatar's economy by \$20 billion. A new airport, metro, and roads were built in Qatar for the finals, as well as seven stadiums. A new stadium, that also hosts nine other matches, will host the World Cup 2022 Final, which is the

centrepiece of the new city.

Uruguay was the first host and winner of the World Cup in 1930. The final match was played out in front of 60,000 spectators. The most recent World Cup final in Moscow in 2018 attracted a crowd of 78,000. Another 1.12 billion tuned in live streaming at home or at their local soccer bar.

No World Cup was held between 1938 and 1950 due to World War II. The 1950 tournament in Brazil featured separate East and West German squads. It wasn't until the 1994 World Cup that Germany took part as a unified team. West Germany won in 1954.

That 1950 Cup was also the first to feature England, despite soccer being an English invention. That year, Team USA beat England 1-0, though some British newspapers reported the result as USA 1, England 10, as editors believed the real score had a typo. Both sides believed it would be an easy win for England, and double-digit goals were expected. This match is considered by many one of the greatest upsets in World Cup history.

US soccer fans balked when their team failed to qualify for the 2018 Cup: The US had not sat out since 1986. This year, the fans are back in, with odds to win of 80 to 1. One of the best players is Timothy

By Yin Nwe Ko

Weah. He was eligible to play for a few countries, including Liberia (where his father, George Weah, is the current president), but chose his native United States. The elder Weah was a soccer star in his own right and was named the 1995 FIFA World Player of the Year.

While the US men have never won a World Cup title, the US women's team has won four, including the previous two tournaments. The first women's World Cup started many decades after the men's, in 1991. That first one was held in China, but the Americans left with the trophy. The American team is so dominant that they have won half of all the World Cups to date. The women play every four years, just like the men, but not on the same schedule. The next women's World Cup will be held in 2023 in Australia and New Zealand.

Budweiser is a major sponsor of this year's Cup. The problem? Public drinking is outlawed in Qatar. In an attempt at compromise, drinks will be sold before and after the matches but not during, and they won't be allowed in stadium seating areas. Tournament organizers tested similar arrangements at a 2019 preliminary match in Qatar. Bus trips from the drinking zone they set up at a separate venue to the soccer stadium where the game was taking place took more

than an hour with traffic.

France could become the first team to claim consecutive World Cups since 1962 when Brazil won it back to back. But the Dutch want to make their own history, having finished in the top four in four previous tournaments, then losing all three of their final matches

Whoever wins, they will not get to keep the 18-karat gold trophy for long. Like hockey's Stanley Cup, the FIFA World Cup — which depicts two figures holding up the Earth — is not reproduced for each tournament. Instead, the previous winning team passes it to the new champs. Another similarity to the Stanley Cup: The current statue is not the original. The first FIFA trophy was stolen right out of its display case at the headquarters of the Brazilian football association in Rio de Janeiro in 1983 and has not been seen again.

The prize money for the tournament has increased massively over the years. The total prize money for the FIFA World Cup 2018 was \$791 million (the winners received \$35 million), which can be compared to \$20 million for the FIFA World Cup in 1982.

So far, the World Cup has eluded the two most famous players on the planet: Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal and Lionel Messi of Argentina. Both are competing this year in their fifth World Cups, but both are also in their mid-30s, which is when most players retire. This could be their last chance to hoist soccer's most important trophy.

Reference: Reader's Digest Nov 2022

## Research finds how antibody therapy impacts COVID vaccines

**M**ANY of us have antibodies against the virus about three years after the pandemic began, thanks to a few infections, doses of the mRNA vaccine, or a round of monoclonal antibody therapy. However, not all immune responses are the same, and our body's reaction to SARS-CoV-2 may differ depending on how our antibodies were initially formed.

A recent study demonstrates the distinct immune response that those who received monoclonal antibodies prior to receiving two doses of an mRNA vaccination produced. The study, which was published in Nature, examines

an effect known as antibody feedback inhibition, which is known to change the body's immune responses to some infections while enhancing its antibody repertoire against a number of others. Evidence suggests that among individuals who have already received monoclonal antibodies, feedback inhibition boosts the protection offered by COVID vaccinations.

"Depending on the virus, feedback inhibition can either enhance immunity or inhibit it," says Michel C. Nussenzweig, who co-led the study with colleagues Theodor Hatzioannou, Paul Bieniasz, and Marina Caskey. "Our results

suggest that pre-existing SARS-CoV-2 antibodies can diversify the antibody response, which may increase the breadth of mRNA vaccines."

### Antibody feedback inhibition

Antibody feedback inhibition was first discovered at the turn of the century by pioneering epidemiologist Theobald Smith, who demonstrated that excess antibodies could inhibit the immune response to diphtheria in guinea pigs. It seemed like a curious twist — why would the same molecule that supposedly protects the animal from disease occasionally

shut the immune system down? We now know that viruses have multiple epitopes — stand-out bits of antigen that antibodies use to identify the virus and latch on to it.

Once the body has produced strong antibodies for one epitope, the immune system moves on and diversifies, instead making antibodies that attach to other parts of the virus. Ideally, this increases the breadth of the immune response — if a virus mutates so that one epitope can no longer be recognized, for example, it might still be vulnerable to antibodies targeting other epitopes. "Antibody feedback can be a very good thing," Nussen-

zweig says. "You end up with a collection of neutralizing antibodies to many different parts of the virus, all of which are helpful." But in other cases, antibody feedback can be more harmful than helpful. HIV and influenza both have a limited number of epitopes — and if one epitope doesn't yield very effective antibodies, a perfect storm may ensue.

SOURCE: ANI

Monoclonal antibody therapies may influence the character of the body's immune response to COVID vaccines. PHOTO: AFP





# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Moderate earthquake in Mandalay damages some historic buildings



The debris from some historic pagodas and buildings in the aftermath of the tremor. (Above photos and the top right photo)

A tremor has struck Mandalay and its surrounding cities, causing damage to historical

sites and buildings.

A moderate earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter

scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about four miles east of TadaU), latitude 21.81° N, longitude 96.03 °E, depth of 63 kilometres, about 15 miles south-southwest of Mandalay seismological observatory, was recorded at 03 hours 16 minutes and 35 seconds MST on 15 December 2022, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

“My bed was shaking early in the morning. I also heard a loud sound. I was frightened. I found out this morning that ancient pagodas in Sagaing, Inwa, and houses in the surrounding cities were damaged,” Ko Htun Lwin Nyein, a resident in Chanmyathazi Township, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Some ancient buildings,



including a lion statue from the Mingun Stupa in Sagaing, were destroyed in the earthquake, said the locals.

Similarly, a historic Buddhist monastery, the Mei Nu Brick Monastery, located in the ancient historical city of Inwa, has some cracks on it in the aftermath of the earthquake.

“An arm of the lion statue in Mingun was broken. The di-

amond orb and the vane of the Myatheindan Pagoda landed on the ground.

The quake left the Ninety-tunnel Pagoda with cracks and minor damage. There was also damage in seven monasteries and houses in Mandalay,” an official from the Mandalay Region Fire Services Department commented. — TWA/CT

## MSMEs notified of loan type, PFIs

SME Development Coordinating Committee notified those micro, small and medium enterprises of types of loans and Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs).

Myanmar Citizens Bank, Kanbawza, Myanma Economic Bank (MEB), Co-operative Bank, Ayeyawady Bank, First Private Bank, United Amara Bank, Nay Pyi Taw Development Bank, SME Development Bank, Myanma Apex Bank and Myanmar Oriental Bank are PFIs for the JICA two-step loan. A maximum mortgaged-backed loan of K50 million can be taken out at an annual interest rate of 5.5 per cent. The loan tenure is set above one to five years. The interest rate is six to 10 per cent for loans with a partial credit guarantee.

Additionally, the MSME loan tenure by MEB is up to five years and the maximum loan amount is K300 million. The interest rate for a loan with immovable prop-

erty collateral is 6.5 per cent per annum, while the rate for a partial credit guarantee loan ranges from seven to nine per cent pa. The rate increases to 8.5 to 11.5 per cent pa for securing loans by machines.

If the collateral is a document concerning the ownership of an immovable property (land or building), it is the Credit Guarantee Insurance (CGI collateral).

This loan scheme has been initiated since 2012 for SME development and financing for business expansion.

As of November 2022, a total of 2,045 entrepreneurs have been granted K364,534.18 million under the JICA Two-Step Loan (MSME), while SMIDB (SME) loan has covered 456 businesspersons (K20,638 million), as per the Committee’s statement.

Furthermore, the MEB (MSME) loan provided K25,977 million to 342 MSMEs. — TWA/

## New monsoon onion price slumps by K400 per viss



New monsoon onions are seen before shipping to the market.

NEW monsoon onion of 240,000 visses (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) entered the Yangon market on 12 December 2022. Nine trucks (over 50,000 visses) of Myingyan onions and 22 trucks (130,000 visses) of Myittha onions had entered. Onions from Myittha and Myingyan area were priced at K3,300-K4,300 per viss and K2,000-K3,800 per viss, depending on varieties.

The prices of onions from the Myittha and Myingyan areas were K3,500-K4,500 per viss and K2,200-K4,200 per viss on 10 December.

The price of those on 12 December was lower than the opening price by K100-K200 per viss. The opening price on 12 December decreased by K400 per viss compared to 10 December.

The highest wholesale price of monsoon onions was K4,700 per viss of big-sized Myittha onions and K4,400 per viss of Myingyan onions. About 100,000 visses of new monsoon onions enter the Yangon market daily, despite the lack of supply of old summer onions since 6 December.

Over 0.9 million new monsoon onions entered the market during the opening days, from 5 to 12 December, and most of them are from the Myittha area. On 8 December, 159,156 visses of new monsoon onions arrived at Pakokku depot and the highest price per viss was K3,500.

A total of 150,000 visses of onions were provided on 12 December and its highest price was only K3,200 per viss, according to the daily price information of the depot.

On 12 December, the highest price of a viss of Myittha Onion in the Mandalay market was K3,600. Monsoon onions weighing 149,720 visses entered the Myingyan Depot and were priced at the highest rate of K3,050 per viss on 12 December. Onion prices in the Yangon market have dropped along with the onion-origin regions, due to a large influx of new rain onions. Thus, the price is expected to fall further along with the low demand in Yangon. As a result, onions are being sold at a lower price than the opening price, an onion trader said. — TWA/CT



AYA Bank staff are seen elaborating on SME Shop Owner Loan to customers.

# LOCAL BUSINESS

## Myanmar ships over 140,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh under G-to-G pact

ACCORDING to the government-to-government pact between Myanmar and Bangladesh, Myanmar has conveyed over 140,000 tonnes of white rice to Bangladesh, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar and Bangladesh inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on rice trade on 8 September this year.

In line with this MoU, Bangladesh has agreed to buy 250,000 tonnes of white rice and 50,000 tonnes of parboiled rice from Myanmar yearly between 2022 and 2027.

In accordance with the MoU, Bangladesh's Directorate General of Food and Myanmar Rice Federation signed a sales contract for 200,000 tonnes of Myanmar's white rice to be exported to Bangladesh. As per the sales contract, Myanmar has exported a total of 143,225 tonnes of white rice by 19 ships to Bang-

ladesh as of 12 December 2022. The remaining will be delivered by the deadline.

As per the MoU between Myanmar and Bangladesh on the rice trade, 48 companies, under the supervision of the Myanmar Rice Federation, are to export 200,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh with Chinese yuan payment between October 2022 and January 2023.

Following the contract, white rice (ATAP) GPCT Broken STX variety will be delivered. The FOB prices were 2,788.56 Yuan per kilo and 2,788.56 Yuan per tonne.

The Export/Import division of the Trade Department issued 42 export licences worth over 534 million Yuan for 41 companies to convey 191,700 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh.

Since 7 September 2017, Myanmar and Bangladesh have engaged in rice trade un-



The photo shows bags of export rice being loaded onto the vessel.

der the government-to-government pact. That MoU stated that Bangladesh has agreed to buy Myanmar's white rice (250,000 tonnes) and parboiled rice

(50,000) tonnes yearly between 2017 and September 2022.

Bangladesh's Directorate General of Food and MRF signed the sales contracts as per the

MoU and Myanmar sent 100,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh each in 2017 for the first time and 2021 for the second time, as per the sales contract. – NN/EMM

## Fuel oil prices jump by K200 per litre within two days

THE prices of fuel oil were up by K200 per litre within two days, according to the fuel oil market.

On 13 December, the prices of fuel oil were K1,795 per litre for Octane 92, K1,885 for Octane 95, K2,130 for diesel and K2,205 for premium diesel.

On 15 December, the prices rose to K1,925 per litre for Octane 92, K2,010 for Octane 95, K2,355 for diesel and K2,435 for premium diesel. The domestic fuel prices are following the increase in price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in southeast Asia, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

Consequently, the prices touched a high of K2,605 per litre for Octane 92, K2,670 for Octane 95, K3,245 for diesel and K3,330 for premium diesel in late August.

The committee is steering the oil sector effectively to ensure adequate supply in the domestic market and price stability for energy consumers.



The total volume of fuel oil that are sold at very cheap rates is equivalent to the amount that the oil importers directly purchased the foreign currency from the CBM. The oil has been distributed at the subsidized rate starting from 22 September.

The committee is issuing the daily reference rate for oil to offer a reasonable price to energy consumers. The reference rate is set on the MOPS' price assessment, shipping cost, profit margin, premium insurance, tax and other general costs. The rates for regions and states other than Yangon are evaluated after adding the transportation cost and the retail reference rates daily cover on the state-run newspapers and are posted on the media and official website and Facebook page of the department on a daily basis

starting from 4 May.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. The domestic fuel price is highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss between the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than that of Myanmar. Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also poses only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. – NN/EMM

### Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 15 December 2022

#### Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K1,925
Octane 95	K2,010
Diesel	K2,355
Premium Diesel	K2,435

All of the prices are based on per litre.

#### Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,107,500 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,695,000 per tical

#### Dollar Price

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,870 to K2,890

The above prices may change from time to time.

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# ECONOMY WORLD

## ADB cuts developing Asia growth projection on China slowdown



Robots operate on a production line at an automotive glass workshop of the Fuyao Glass Industry Group Co Ltd in Fuqing City of Fuzhou southeast China's Fujian Province, 12 Jan 2021. **PHOTO: XINHUA/JIANG KEHONG**

THE Asian Development Bank trimmed its economic growth forecast for developing Asia on Wednesday, with China's pandemic lockdowns, slowing global demand and the Russian invasion of Ukraine seen as limiting the region's prospects.

The Philippines-based lender cut its 2022 forecast to 4.2 per cent, down marginally from a 4.3 per cent projection made in September.

Prospects for 2023 also grew dimmer, it said in a report, which lowered the region's growth forecast to 4.6 per cent from 4.9 per cent.

"Recovery in developing Asia is expected to continue but lose some steam," the ADB said, referring to the 46 developing member economies that as a whole grew 7.0 per cent last year.

Chinese lockdowns, the

Ukraine war and slowing demand from developed economies for manufactured goods were the main causes, it said.

"Multiple risks abound as the three main headwinds could worsen, along with geopolitical risks and climate change," it added.

Surging consumer prices in the United States and other advanced economies could prompt central banks to further tighten interest rates, while the Ukraine conflict could further stoke inflation, it added.

With its tough Covid restrictions and unstable property market, China, Asia's largest economy, is now forecast to grow 3.0 per cent this year and 4.3 per cent in 2023, compared with 3.3 and 4.5 per cent, respectively, in the bank's September forecasts.—AFP

## Rich nations against new biodiversity fund

CREATING a new global fund for biodiversity — a core demand of developing countries at UN talks in Montreal — "would take years" and be less effective than reforming existing financial mechanisms, Canada's environment minister said Tuesday.

Ottawa's position reflects the consensus among developed nations on the thorny issue, which has emerged as a key sticking point in negotiations to hammer out a new global pact for nature at the meeting, known as COP15. Delegates from across the world have gathered for the 7-19 December summit to try to secure a new deal: a 10-year framework aimed at saving Earth's forests, oceans and species before it's too late.

Draft targets include a cor-



Delegates from across the world have gathered for the 7-19 December summit to try to secure a new deal: a 10-year framework aimed at saving Earth's forests, oceans and species before it's too late. This file photo shows fishermen arriving on Wakatobi island in Sulawesi waters off eastern Indonesia. **PHOTO: ADEK BERRY / AFP**

nerstone pledge to protect 30 per cent of the world's land and seas by 2030, eliminating harmful

fishing and agriculture subsidies and tackling invasive species and reducing pesticides.—AFP

## German tax fraud 'mastermind' jailed for eight years

A German court on Tuesday sentenced the alleged mastermind behind a complicated tax scam known as "cum-ex" that cost the government billions of euros to eight years in prison. German

lawyer Hanno Berger, who was on trial in the western city of Bonn since April following his extradition from Switzerland, was convicted of three counts of aggravated tax evasion. The regional

court found that the 72-year-old helped arrange fraudulent transactions at German bank M.M. Warburg between 2007 and 2013 that cost the treasury 278 million euros.—AFP

## US Fed expected to slow pace of rate hikes as inflation eases

US central bankers open the second day of a key policy meeting Wednesday, with mounting anticipation of a smaller hike to its benchmark lending rate as inflation showed signs of easing.

The Federal Reserve has embarked on an all-out campaign to cool demand in the world's biggest economy, raising rates six times this year with interest-sensitive sectors like housing already reeling from tightening policy. But there have been positive signs, with consumer inflation in the United States easing in November, according to government data released Tuesday.

The consumer price index, a key gauge of inflation, logged its smallest annual increase in nearly a year, fuelling optimism that the Fed could soon moderate its efforts.

Households have been squeezed by red-hot prices, with conditions worsened by surging food and energy costs after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and fallout from China's zero-Covid measures.

To make borrowing more expensive, the Fed has raised interest rates six times, including four bumper 0.75-point increases, bringing the rate to between 3.75 per cent and four per cent.—AFP



People shop at a store in Rosemead, California, US, June 2022. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

# Tokyo to require new homes be fitted with solar panels from FY 2025

THE Tokyo metropolitan government said Thursday it will introduce a system requiring newly built homes to be fitted with solar panels from fiscal 2025 in a bid to reduce carbon emissions from the household sector. The first mandate of its kind in Japan comes as a revised ordinance on environmental security to introduce the system was passed Thursday by a majority vote on the final day of a regular Tokyo metropolitan assembly session.

According to the met-

ropolitan government, major housing construction firms will be required to install solar panels on buildings with a total floor area of less than 2,000 square metres.

Home buyers will also be required to cooperate, and those privately contracting the construction of a residence 2,000 square metres or more will be obligated to fit it with solar panels. The system will take effect in April 2025 after residents have been informed and preparations

have been made with relevant businesses.

The metropolitan government estimates that the 980,000 yen (\$7,200) initial cost for installation of the 4-kilowatt panels can be covered within 10 years from electricity sales revenue and can be further reduced down to six years with subsidies it will provide. Subsidies for the initial costs will also be provided to leasing firms to reduce the burden on home buyers, the metropolitan government said.—Kyodo



Sunny days: Visitors inspect solar-powered residential quarters developed by Daiwa House Industry Co. in Sakai, Osaka Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

# S Africa's power utility CEO resigns amid energy crisis



Record power cuts have cost the country hundreds of millions of dollars in lost output. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE head of South Africa's beleaguered state-owned power utility Eskom, Andre de Ruyter, has resigned, the company said on Wednesday,

as the country suffers from a worsening energy crisis. De Ruyter, a former packaging executive who took over as CEO in 2020,

will stay on until the end of March next year to give the firm time to look for a successor, Mpho Makwana, the chairman of Eskom's board said in a statement.

"It has been an honour and privilege to serve Eskom and South Africa. I wish all the hard working people of Eskom well," said De Ruyter.

Scheduled blackouts have burdened Africa's most industrialized economy for years, with Eskom failing to keep pace with demand and maintain its ageing coal power infrastructure.—AFP

# Charges dropped against French company over Egypt spyware

A Paris court ordered charges to be dropped Wednesday against a French company and its managers who were accused of complicity in torture after selling sophisticated spyware to the Egyptian government.

Nexa Technologies and four executives were charged in 2021 over the sale of the Cerebro software to Egypt enabling President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's regime to spy on political opponents.

The Paris appeals

court quashed the charges against chairman Olivier Bohbot and CEO Stephane Salies among others, but did not order the case to be closed, meaning investigating magistrates will continue their enquiries.—AFP

# US charges online influencers for 100 mln stock fraud

EIGHT online influencers were charged with stock fraud by US authorities on Wednesday for illegally pushing stocks on novice traders through social media platforms Twitter and

Discord.

The accusations said that seven of the suspects cultivated hundreds of thousands of followers and urged them to buy up shares and pump up the

price.

All of them had over 100,000 followers on Twitter, and one of them, Edward Constantin, known as @MrZackMorris, over 500,000.—AFP

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NORDPANTHER VOY.NO. (VS186W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORDPANTHER VOY.NO. (VS186W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AYIT** 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 VASI SHIPPING LINE

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK VERACRUZ VOY.NO. (248W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK VERACRUZ VOY.NO. (248W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-12-2022** 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 MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB249A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB249A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-12-2022** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

# GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

### Pope says spend less on Christmas, give to Ukraine

POPE Francis on Wednesday called on people to spend less on Christmas presents and celebrations, and donate the money saved to those in war-ravaged Ukraine.

“It is nice to celebrate Christmas. But let’s lower the level of Christmas spending a bit,” Francis said in his weekly general audience at the Vatican.

“Let’s have a more humble

Christmas, with more humble gifts. Let’s send what we save to the Ukrainian people, who need it,” he said.

Nearly 10 months into the war, hardship from the fighting has compounded as winter sets in and Russia pounds Ukraine’s energy infrastructure. Missile strikes have been crippling — resulting in the periodic loss of electricity, heating, water and

phone service across swathes of Ukraine. The Ukrainians “are suffering so much. They are hungry, cold. So many people are dying because there are no doctors or nurses”, the pope said.

On Tuesday, Ukraine’s Western allies pledged an additional one billion euros (\$1.1 billion) in emergency winter aid to help the country withstand Russia’s onslaught.—AFP



Pope Francis says people should help those suffering at Christmas. PHOTO: FILIPPO MONTEFORTE / AFP

### New Red Cross chief says ready to go to Russia for POWs



THE new head of the International Committee of the Red Cross on Wednesday said she was prepared to go to Moscow to discuss access to prisoners of war (POWs). Mirjana Spoljaric, who took the ICRC reins in October, told reporters in Geneva she had

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) team has led a convoy of buses and private cars carrying more than 1,000 people to Zaporizhzhia on 6 April 2022. PHOTO: ICRC

personally been “speaking with Russian counterparts”.

“I intend to go to Moscow, when the moment is there,” she said. Speaking at ICRC headquarters just days after returning from Ukraine, she said the organization was intent on gaining access to POWs taken by both sides since Russia launched its full-scale invasion last February.

“We are in daily conversations at different levels, because access to prisoners of war is an ongoing engagement,” she said.

“There is never a suspension or an end to that.”

Visiting POWs is core to the ICRC’s mission enshrined in the Geneva Conventions, which define the laws of war. The organization has been repeatedly criticized by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on the ultra-sensitive subject of POW visits. He has accused the organization of not pushing hard enough to gain access to Ukrainian troops captured by Russian forces.—AFP

### Indonesia approves Singapore extradition treaty

INDONESIA’S parliament on Thursday approved an extradition treaty with Singapore that will help Jakarta track down corruption suspects who have taken sanctuary or stored money offshore in the city-state.

The Indonesian government is trying to retrieve billions of dollars in bailout money handed out during financial crises in the late 1990s and 2008 never repaid by suspects Jakarta calls economic criminals believed to be hiding in Singapore.

Indonesian officials have for years complained about what they say is the freedom enjoyed by fugitives in the neighbouring country where they have allegedly pumped hundreds of millions of dollars into banks and property.

Lawmakers passed the bill at a Thursday plenary session



Lawmakers passed the bill at a Thursday plenary session and it is expected to be signed into law by President Joko Widodo. PHOTO: ADEK BERRY/AFP/FILE

and it is expected to be signed into law by President Joko Widodo. “The extradition treaty with Singapore will make it easier for law enforcers to resolve a

crime when the criminals are in Singapore,” Justice and Human Rights Minister Yasonna Laoly told parliament before the vote.—AFP

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

##### Several hundred tourists stranded at Machu Picchu amid protests

HUNDREDS of foreign tourists were stranded Wednesday in Peru’s renowned Machu Picchu region after train service was suspended due to violent protests following the ouster and arrest of ex-president Pedro Castillo. A state of emergency was declared earlier Wednesday as Castillo’s supporters have taken to the streets and set up roadblocks nationwide in protests against new President Dina Boluarte that have left seven people dead and 200 injured.

Officials said nearly 800 tourists of varying nationalities had become stranded since Tuesday. —AFP

##### US House passes short-term government funding bill

THE US House of Representatives on Wednesday adopted a short-term budget bill that extends federal funding at current levels until 23 December in order to avoid paralysis of federal services. Lawmakers voted 224-201 in favour of the bill, which is now headed for the Senate. There is growing urgency to secure the funding, as members of Congress have until midnight Friday to adopt a new budget, otherwise all funding for federal services will be cut and operations across swathes of the government will screech to a halt.—AFP

# Peru declares state of emergency as ousted leader remains in prison



Protests continue for a sixth day in Peru as a court orders ousted leader Pedro Castillo to remain in jail. PHOTO: AFP

PERU declared a nationwide state of emergency Wednesday over violent protests against the ouster and arrest of ex-president Pedro Castillo that have left seven people dead.

Castillo's supporters have taken to the streets and set up roadblocks countrywide in protests that have also left 200 injured as they demand his release and the holding of early elections.

The country plunged into crisis last week when Castillo tried to dissolve Congress and rule by decree, but was quickly

impeached by lawmakers and arrested on his way to seek refuge in the Mexican embassy.

The new President Dina Boluarte has struggled to quell tensions, and has now called for the next election – normally due in 2026 – to be brought forward to December 2023, after an earlier bid to hold them in 2024 failed to halt the protests.

Defence Minister Alberto Otarola announced the new 30-day state of emergency due to “acts of vandalism and violence,” and roadblocks, and said police and the armed forces “would

have control of the whole territory.”

He said the measure involved “the suspension of the freedom of movement and assembly” and could also include a night-time curfew.

**‘Humiliation and mistreatment’**

Last week, a judge ordered Castillo to be held in jail for seven days, and he was meant to be released on Wednesday.

However, prosecutors filed a request late on Tuesday to hold him in pre-trial detention for 18 months.—AFP

# Tunisia awaits languid election for powerless parliament

TUNISIANS are to vote Saturday on a parliament largely stripped of its powers, the final pillar of a hyper-presidential system installed by President Kais Saied after a power grab last year.

Over a decade since the country's revolution that unseated dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, opposition parties have urged a boycott of the poll, which they say is part of a “coup” against the only democracy to have emerged from the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings. The election for the new 161-seat assembly comes after Saied froze its predecessor on 25 July last year, following months of political crisis exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. He later dissolved the body, long dominated by his nemesis the Islamist-inspired Ennahdha party.

Saied on Wednesday defended his decision, saying: “Tu-



The election for the new 161-seat assembly comes after Saied froze its predecessor on last year following months of political crisis. PHOTO: AFP

nisian people wherever I went were all asking to dissolve the parliament.” “The country was on the brink of civil war,” he told US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Washington.

The previous legislature had far-reaching powers, in the mixed presidential-parliamentary system enshrined in the North African country's post-revolt constitution.—AFP

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Fiji opposition challenges election results, calls for calm

FIJI'S opposition leader said Thursday he will challenge the country's election results, after an overnight “anomaly” abruptly halted a tally that showed him holding a very early lead.

Sitiveni Rabuka – a former prime minister and two-time coup leader nicknamed “Rambo”- told AFP his party had a right to “legal redress”, in his first public remarks on the incident.

“We will pursue every avenue available to us to make sure that the people are not denied their right of electing their government,” he said in an interview, saying he would first take his case to the country's electoral commission.—AFP

### Black Colombian army major breaks ranks by wearing natural hair

A Colombian army major, Martha Estrada, has made history by becoming the first Black policewoman to wear her hair unstraightened while on duty, a symbolic advancement in the country's battle against discrimination. Colombian security forces regulations have prevented Black women from wearing their curly hair in a natural style. But Estrada, an aide to the country's first Black vice president, Francia Marquez, caught observers by surprise when she appeared at a promotion ceremony wearing dense curls.—AFP

# Iran sentences Belgian aid worker to 28 years: family

IRANIAN authorities have imposed a 28-year sentence on jailed Belgian aid worker Olivier Vandecasteele, a spokesman for his family said Wednesday.

The 41-year-old was arrested in Iran at the end of February and was at one point being held in Tehran's notorious Evin prison, reportedly suspected of spying.

Belgium and Vandecasteele's family insist he is innocent, effectively held as a hostage in Tehran's efforts to force Belgium to release an Iranian agent convicted of terrorism.

“The family are devastated,” spokesman Olivier Van Steirtegem told AFP, after the Belgian government informed the family of the news. “Can you imagine?

If there's no solution he could stay in prison until 2050. He'll be almost 70,” he said, urging Belgium to find a way to revive a prisoner swap treaty.

Van Steirtegem said that Vandecasteele's family had been invited to meet Belgium's Prime Minister Alexander De Croo and several ministers on Tuesday.—AFP



Nathalie Vandecasteele pictured during a press conference to talk about the situation of Olivier Vandecasteele, Friday 09 December 2022. PHOTO: AFP

Pope says  
spend less on  
Christmas, give  
to Ukraine

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# SPORT

## EU legal advisor backs UEFA in battle with Super League



The European Court of Justice's top legal advisor backed UEFA and FIFA against the proposed Super League. PHOTO: AFP

THE European Court of Justice's top legal advisor said Thursday that football governing bodies UEFA and FIFA had acted within the law when they threatened to expel clubs or players who joined a proposed Super League.

The opinion of Advocate-General Athanasios Rantos is not binding on the court, which is examining a complaint from the company that planned to run the new league, but it will

be influential and taken as a sign of the direction the case is taking.

"EU competition rules do not prohibit FIFA, UEFA, their member federations or their national leagues from issuing threats of sanctions against clubs affiliated to those federations when those clubs participate in a project to set up a new competition," he wrote.

The court's final decision is not expected until early next

year, but the decision will be a relief for the world's biggest football associations and the existing national European leagues wary of allowing some of their richest clubs to break away.

The legal opinion was immediately welcomed by FIFA and the Spanish La Liga as well as lobby groups representing European football clubs, leagues and supporters.

FIFA said it was happy Rantos had said it could "approve any new football competitions", that he had said it could impose sanctions and it "had exclusive rights to market" its international competitions.

FIFA also welcomed his recognition of "the special nature of sport, including the pyramid structure, which preserves the nature of sporting merit and open competitions accessible to all, as well as the principles of promotion and relegation, competitive balance, and financial solidarity."—AFP

### 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.

## Formidable France in familiar territory in World Cup final



France coach Didier Deschamps enjoys the moment with defender Ibrahima Konate after the holders secured a place in Sunday's World Cup final. PHOTO: AFP

THE inspirational leadership of Didier Deschamps and a deep pool of talent have turned France into the most formidable force in international football as they prepare to face Argentina in Sunday's World Cup final.

France arrived in Qatar

aiming to defy the fate of many recent holders, even as a flood of injuries threatened to derail their title defence. The reigning champions had been knocked out in the group stage in four of the past five tournaments, including France themselves in 2002.

But Deschamps' side have, in his own words, "reversed the trend" and after beating Morocco 2-0 in the last four on Wednesday, they have the chance to make history in the final at Lusail Stadium.

No team have retained the trophy since Brazil in 1962, while no reigning champions had even made the final since the Brazilians in 1998. That team lost in Paris to a France side captained by Deschamps, who has been there for almost all of his country's finest moments at major tournaments over a generation. After leading them to glory four years ago, he can become the first coach to win two World Cups since Italy's Vittorio Pozzo in the 1930s. "Deschamps has been to three finals now, and he wins them," French President Emmanuel Macron said after making a flying visit to Qatar for the semi-final.—AFP

## Boris Becker: Tennis superstar snared by financial, personal woes

BORIS Becker became an overnight sensation when he won Wimbledon as an unknown teenager but personal and financial troubles have dogged him since he hung up his racquet.

Becker, 55, was released from prison in London on Wednesday, after serving eight

months of a two-and-a-half-year prison sentence for financial misdemeanours. He was originally required to serve at least 15 months but reportedly received an early release as part of a programme designed to ease pressure on Britain's overcrowded prisons.—AFP



Boris Becker won six Grand Slam singles titles during a glittering career. PHOTO: AFP/FILE