

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Saturday, 17 December 2022

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.

Chaungwa bridge project completes 76% ensuring beach tourism development, socioeconomic progress

THE construction of the Chaungwa Bridge, which will connect Ngayokkaung Town and Kywaychaing village in Ngaputaw Township, Patheingyi District, Ayeyawady Region, is now 76 per cent complete.

When completed, the bridge will ensure the beach tourism development and the socioeconomic lives of residents.

Construction of 120 feet long bridge started on 1 March 2020 using bored piles for the foundation, RC concrete for the bridge body and PC girder/RC slab for the upper body part of the bridge. The width of the bridge is a total of 24 feet. The waterway clearance of the bridge is 78.744 feet in width and 40 feet in height.

“We construct the bridge crossing the Chaungwa River on the Ngayokkaung-Goyangyi Island Road. Upon completion, it will benefit over 40,000 residents of Kywaychaing, Nathaphu, Natmaw, Yaykyaw, Thephyu, Kanchayoo, Kwinbat, Moetahmyin and Sabagyi villages. Locals can easily get the Ngayokkaung station hospital for health services. Local products can be also easily transported and so the bridge will be a key route for the region and locals,” said an official of Special Bridge Task Force 16 of the Ministry of Construction.



An aerial view of the Chaungwa Bridge under construction in Ngaputaw Township of Patheingyi District in Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: KANU**

Domestic and international travellers can visit Goyangyi Island more easily than before in a short time. It can also develop the tourism industry of that re-

gion and create jobs for locals. Moreover, the people can easily go to Pathien using the Ngayokkaung-Sinma-Ngwesaung Road and to Rakhine State via

the Ngayokkaung-Sinma-Ngwesaung-Chaungtha-Shwethaungyan-Makyeabin-Kyaukchun-Gwa Beach Ring Road. Therefore, it can promote the

socioeconomic status of villages in addition to tourism, education, health and social sectors through a better transport system.—Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

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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.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order 80/2022
9th Waning of Nattaw 1384 ME
16 December 2022

Retirement from duty allowed

THE State Administration Council has allowed U Aung Tun Khaing, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, to take retirement from his duty under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By Order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

22 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 16 December, total figure rises to 633,543

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,543** after **22** new cases were reported on 16 December 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **608,089** including **20** 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 31 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

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

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

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tattamadaw, and relevant health-care workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 8,644 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 335 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, and 204 people from Toungoo Township in Bago Region, respectively.

Similarly, on that day healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 476 from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 90 students from seven



A child from Kyonpyaw Township in Ayeyawady Region gets jabbed against COVID-19 on 16 December 2022.

districts in Mandalay Region.

In addition, to assist in the control and prevention of the covid-19 disease, military personnel from various regional commands in collaboration with district and township administrative officials, departmental personnel and members of civil society or-

ganizations (CSOs) conducted educational campaigns such as prevention of COVID-19, wearing of masks in public places and distribution of masks to the locals at schools, markets, streets, city entry points and crowded areas in 44 townships in Yangon Region yesterday. — MNA

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

China re-allows passage of Ruili-Kyalgaung bridge

CHINA reopened the Ruili-Kyalgaung border, which had been closed for more than two years according to the Muse border merchants.

Both Chinese citizens and foreigners who live in the administrative area of Ruili and Kyalgaung must leave when authorities have to carry out disinfection activities. The Yunnan Province

People's Government Foreign Office informed the Myanmar Consulate-General about this.

The Ruili-Kyalgaung bridge was closed in April 2020 to control the spread of COVID-19 infection but was reopened in December this year. Traders on the Muse border are expecting that the Mang Wein post and the Sinphyu checkpoint on the

Myanmar side, which is adjacent to Kyalgaung, will be reopened soon.

Trade is conducted through the Muse border, and it is reported that around 150 trucks are in operation each day.

China has reopened border trade and traffic after the easing of Covid-19 restrictions. — TWA/KZW



Development of MSMEs will revitalize State economy

THE economy of our country is based on agriculture and livestock. Both developed and developing countries mainly carry out SME industries. Hence, efforts are being made for the development of MSMEs so as to resurge State economy.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with entrepreneurs from UMFCCI and MSMEs in Yangon Region on 3 October 2022)

Second semi-final match 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-final (second match) to mark Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 was held at 3 pm yesterday at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw. SAC members Jeng Phang Naw Taung and Dr Banyar Aung Moe, deputy ministers and officials from respective departments and football fans enjoyed the football match.

The Mandalay Region



SAC members and dignitaries watch the semi-final second match of the SAC Chairman's Trophy U-18 women's football tourney in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

team trounced the Kachin State team 6-1 in the second semi-final match.

There will not be any match on 17 December. The Ayeyawady Region team and Kachin State



team will play in the third-place match at 3 pm at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw on 18

December. spectators can watch football matches. Admission is free. — MNA/KZW

Opening ceremony of Kyaiklat public hospital's new 2-storey annexe marks Diamond Jubilee Independent Day



Union Health Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win and dignitaries cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the new two-storey extension building at Kyaiklat public hospital yesterday.

AS a gesture of hailing Diamond Jubilee Independence Day, the opening ceremony of Kyaiklat public hospital's two-storey annexe in Ayeyawady Region was held yesterday morning.

Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win of the Ministry of Health, together with Ayeyawady Region Chief Min-

ister U Tin Maung Win, Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Moe Min Naing, Region Minister for Transport Police Col Tin Zaw Tun, Director-General of the Department of Medical Services Dr Myat Wunna Soe, departmental officials, medical staffs and locals attended the ceremony.

First, the Union minister, the region chief minister, the minister for Security and Border Affairs and the director-general of the Department of Medical Services cut the ribbon to launch the ceremony and Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win and Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win unveiled the signboard of the new two-storey extended building.

Then, the Union minister and party inspected the hospital compound and provided foodstuffs. Then, the Union minister and party met members of the hospital and health staff.

The new building at Kyaiklat public hospital was constructed with spending K397.73 million of government funds to provide needed healthcare services to locals in the township and nearby areas. It is a 50 beds facility including five HDU beds and is being built to expand in the future. — MNA/MKKS

MoIC Union Minister receives UNOPS-Asia Region Regional Director

UNION Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing of the Ministry of International Cooperation received Mr Sanjay Mathur, Regional Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Asia Region based in Bangkok at 10 am on 16 December 2022 at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the meeting

were senior officials of the Ministry of International Cooperation and the Country Director ad-interim of the UNOPS Myanmar in Yangon. During the meeting, they discussed matters to facilitate the process of existing cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and UNOPS. — MNA



Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing receives Mr Sanjay Mathur, UNOPS-Asia Region Regional Director.

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MoI Union Minister inspects practice session of State Orchestra for dinner party of Diamond Jubilee Independence Day

UNION Minister U Maung Maung Ohn of the Ministry of Information enjoyed the practice

session of the State Orchestra, which will perform entertainment at the dinner to mark Di-

amond Jubilee Independence Day, at MRTV on Pyay Road in Yangon yesterday.

First, the Union minister watched the MNSO Overture opening music of the State Orchestra, signing part of songs “Ahit Bal Ka Sa” and “Ahla Thitsar Tayar” composed by pianist Hla Htut and X Conon D Major music section.

Then, the Union minister said Diamond Jubilee Independence Day which falls on 4 January 2023 is a significant day for the country. This is the very first-time performance of the State Orchestra at the dinner party which is one of the grand events. Therefore, the individuals and

the whole troupe should play the musical instruments harmoniously. In addition to individual study and collective practices, the State Orchestra should prepare to start from the costumes.

He then provided cash awards to the members of the orchestra.

Moreover, the Union minister inspected the medals and certificates of honour displayed at the ground floor of MRTV to be presented to the winners of the “Tu Shin Hnwal Pyaw Gita Pwal Taw” Season 2. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views the State Orchestra which is practising for the dinner party of Diamond Jubilee Independence Day.

Myanmar attends 5th COMMIT Inter-Ministerial Meeting-IMM5 virtually

MYANMAR participated in the inter-ministerial meeting of the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking – COMMIT, which was held through the videoconferencing system, at meeting hall 1 of the Myanmar Police Force Headquarters yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet leading departmental representatives, representatives from COMMIT countries — Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam — and officials from the COMMIT Secretariat.

Thailand chaired the meeting and gave an opening speech. At the meeting, member countries discussed the implementation of the Mekong sub-regional work plan - SPA IV, the effects of the work plan SPA



Screenshots of the fifth COMMIT Inter-Ministerial Meeting-IMM5.

IV, and lessons learned. Head of the Transnational Crime Division Police Brig-Gen Aung Htay Myint shared the efforts for the education and protection services given to people from basic strata, teenagers and children, who were easy targets for the trafficking, in collaboration with community-based social organizations, the Social Welfare Department, the Rehabilitation Department,

the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and related associations. As a result of the efforts, 81 cases were solved in the prevention of possible human trafficking, helping 468 men and 372 women, between 2020 and 2021.

Myanmar migrant workers will return to foreign countries even after the outbreak of the

Covid-19 pandemic. Emphasis is being put on ethical recruitment, and legalization of return is being processed in advance. Authorities have urged governments and employers of destination countries to take action in advance for full access to labour rights.

Myanmar also helped Myanmar nationals who were trafficked — six from the Republic of China, and 25 from Cambo-

dia, totalled 31, to commute back to the State within the third quarter of 2022.

Afterwards, Myanmar requested a discussion to take serious action on sharing the technical facilities for the investigation of traffickers on social media, different human trafficking laws and domestic laws in each country, identifying ways to deal with the difficulty of investigating crimes, and enhancing the ethical recruitment activities to decrease the trafficking cases due to lack of employment opportunities.

Finally, they conferred affairs regarding the achievement of the Mekong sub-regional work plan’s objectives with a multi-sectoral approach, the development of the Transnational Referral Mechanism – TRM and the designing of a Mekong sub-regional work plan SPA V. — MNA/CT

Nearly 150 Myanmar workers leave for ROK on 13 Dec

A total of 148 Myanmar workers were legally sent to the Republic of Korea through the Employment Permit System (EPS), according to a statement from Myanmar’s Embassy in Seoul.

Those Myanmar workers are to be engaged in the manufacturing industry and agriculture and livestock businesses, including 126 new workers and 22 experienced workers with re-entry permits.

The labour attaché of the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul welcomed them at the Incheon Airport and directed them on the do’s and don’ts and work etiquette and provided the needs.

Last month, a total of 720 Myanmar workers were recruited in ROK. Those workers are new workers and experienced ones with re-entry permits engaged in manufacturing, construction, agriculture and live-

stock businesses.

More than 37,000 people are expected to take the EPS-TOPIK (Employment Permit System) qualification test which is held from end-September 2022 to mid-2023 in the respective batch.

At present, there are over 50,000 migrant workers legally working in Korea. And more workers are to join them monthly.

The first batch for the manufacturing job test will be held between 31 October and 29 December. Between 3 January and 3 April 2023, the second batch of entry exams for manufacturing jobs will be held. Those who want to join construction jobs can take the exam between 17 April and 15 May 2023.

Employers in Korea recruit potential candidates among those who passed the EPS-

TOPIK test, according to POEA. At present, the government of South Korea is continuously recruiting new workers and experienced workers.

The minimum wage in South Korea stood at 9,000 Won per hour in 2022. As there are employment protection legislations in South Korea, local people are keen on finding jobs in South Korea, the Ministry of Labour stated.—TWA/EMM

Nepali Ambassador highlights role of direct air connectivity at Lumbini and Beyond event

AMBASSADOR Mr Harishchandra Ghimire emphasized the pivotal role of direct air links from Yangon and Mandalay to Gautam Buddha International Airport, Bhairawaha so that Myanmar Buddhist people can observe a sustainable Lumbini, the birthplace of the Buddha at an "Interaction Programme on Buddhist Pilgrimage to Lumbini and Beyond" held on 11 December 2022 at the embassy premises.

The tourism industry is reviving after mass vaccination against Covid-19. Nepal is an attractive destination for Myanmar people including the role played by the then UN Secretary-General U Thant for the development of Lumbini, Myanmar people of Nepalese Origin (Gurkha) residing across Myanmar and connecting traditions, religions and culture. As nearly 90 per cent of Myan-

mar people are Buddhist, they want to visit Lumbini at least one time in their life. Nepal is a perfect blend of nature, culture and adventure in the world. The young generation will like it, the ambassador continued.

He stated that financial incentives were provided by the Government of Nepal to the airline companies for making direct flights to Bhairahawa. Nepalese Embassy is ready to cooperate and coordinate for business delegations and their business contract on direct air connectivity, tourism and trade promotion, he highlighted.

The embassy is planning more promotional programs such as the exchange of delegations, cooperation between universities and establishment of sister city relations.

After the opening remarks, Ambassador Mr Ghimire introduced Lumbini and surround-



The late former UN Secretary-General U Thant took a key role in the development of Lumbini.



ing Buddhist pilgrimage sites through a PowerPoint presentation. Explaining the possible tour packages to Lumbini and beyond involving trekking, mountaineering, jungle safari and zip-line, paragliding and bungee jumping, he urged the travel and tour companies to explore the business opportunities in this sector partnering with Nepalese counterparts.

U Maung Maung Myint, Chairman of the Bodhgaya Committee shared his opinion that it would be easy for pilgrims if Kyat is allowed to be paid for visa fees amid the dollar crunch in the domestic forex market.

"We were eager to expand networking and consider Lumbini as a lucrative destination. We viewed supply and demand conditions to run a commercial flight or chartered flight. The rigorous advertisement regarding different sacred Buddhist places in Nepal, promotions of tourism sites, adventure tourism, and collaboration between travel and tour companies in both countries will contribute to enhancing existing Nepal-Myanmar tourism relations," Cho Mar Nwe, Head of Sales Department of Myanmar Airways International said.

The representatives from travel and tour companies also shared their experiences and raised concerns such as visa issues, Covid-19 related health protocols and other matters.

Present at the event were Sagar Ghimire, president of All Myanmar Gurkha Hindu Religious Association, Mr.

Nanda Ram Neupane, Patron of Myanmar Nepal Friendship Association and All Myanmar Gurkha Hindu Religious Association, Mr Devendra Naulakha, President of Non-Resident Nepali Association, Myanmar, Mr Mange Ram Agarwal, President of Myanmar-Nepal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, U Maung Maung Myint, Chairman of Bodhgaya Committee, Cho Mar Nwe, Head of Sales Department of Myanmar Airways International, representatives from travels and tours companies and the media outlets.

In the programme, a vote of thanks was delivered by Second Secretary Ms Ganga Sundas and the programme was conducted by Third Secretary Mr Prashant Thakur of the Nepalese Embassy to Myanmar.

About 200,000 Gurkha are living in Myanmar, primarily in Mandalay and the majority of them return to Nepal during festivals and occasions. They are good sources of potential travellers.

In 2018, before the pandemic, about 50,000 pilgrims and tourists visited Nepal from Myanmar. — KK/GNLM



The "Interaction Programme on Buddhist Pilgrimage to Lumbini and Beyond" was held on 11 December 2022 at the Nepalese Embassy in Yangon.

Japan extends job offer letters for Myanmar workers

THE Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo, Japan, said on 15 December that it had received 243 job demand letters to recruit more than 622 Myanmar workers (men and women).

Overseas employment agencies (licensed) in Myanmar will send Myanmar migrant workers. Job demand letters were addressed to the Ministry of Labour via the embassy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The embassy reviewed doc-

uments on whether job-calling factories and companies were officially established in Japan or not. The inspection was done by the embassy from 1 to 15 December and findings and information over demand letters were reported back to MoL through MoFA.

The embassy informed 224 demand letters between 1 and 15 November, and 186 demand letters between 15 and 30 November, to the Ministry of For-

eign Affairs.

Myanmar nationals working in Japan are over 4,500 men and 5,100 women. Most apprentices are assigned to construction sites, garment factories, the agricultural sector, the food industry, industries and the manufacturing industry. Skilled workers are mostly recruited by elder care services, the food industry and the agricultural sector, according to employment agencies. — TWA/CT



A construction site in Japan.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Price gaps for high-grade Pawsan paddies hit K100,000 per 100 baskets



Rice bags are stockpiled at a warehouse.

THERE is a price difference of K100,000 between high-grade Pawsan paddy from the Shwebo area and those from the delta region.

On 12 December, newly harvested Pawsan paddy from the delta region (Wakema) was valued at K1,665,000 per 100 baskets

(52 pounds in a basket), while the prices of Pawsan paddy from Shwebo areas moved in the range between K1,550,000-K1,700,000 per 100 baskets, according to NGO Pawsan Paddy Planters and Producers Association in Shwebo area.

Meanwhile, the price of old

Shwebo Pawsan paddy hit the lowest of K2,500,000 and the highest of K2,630,000 per 100 baskets.

Around 333,942 acres of Pawsan paddy plantations are expected in the Shwebo area in 2023.

The new Pawsan rice in Shwebo fetched K55,000-65,000 per bag, whereas the old Pawsan rice was worth K85,000-94,000 per bag on 12 December 2022.

Old Pawsan rice from Shwebo areas touched a minimum of K70,000 per bag and a maximum of K98,000 per bag in the Yangon markets on 12 December 2022. Meanwhile, new Pawsan rice from the delta regions (Myaungmya, Patheingyi, Bogale and Mawgyun) were priced at K54,000-62,000 per bag and old ones were K63,000-68,000 per bag, according to Bayintnaung Wholesale Market's data.

In early January 2022, the price gaps for new Pawsan rice from Shwebo and delta regions were not that different, with K43,000 for Pawsan rice from the Shwebo area and K45,000 for Myaungmya and Patheingyi areas.

When Pawsan rice prices were rocketing in Yangon markets, the price of Shwebo Pawsan rice surged to around K100,000 per bag. Meanwhile, the prices of Pawsan rice from delta regions (Patheingyi, Myaungmya) were only K70,000 per bag.

Experimental plantation of Shwebo Pawsan paddy was initiated in Bonlon village, Kyauktan Township, Yangon Region in the 1997-1998 Financial Year. Then, it earned a reputation as Shwebo Pawsan among consumers, according to an article published on 24 June 2019 by a Weekly Agriculture Journal.

The rice prices significant-

ly soared in Yangon markets from mid-2022. Consequently, the prices of monsoon paddies (low-grade paddy and Pawsan paddy) are K500,000 higher than those of the year-ago period.

As a result of this, new Pawsan rice prices have also increased by K10,000 from the same period of the previous year.

Those traders working on a large scale keep the stocks in hand due to the low moisture content of the rice in summer. Therefore, the demand usually tends to rise in the mid-summer.

Shwebo Pawsan rice is also likely to flood the Yangon markets and they are always stored at warehouses in Yangon Port.

The prices of Shwebo Pawsan rice were exorbitantly high in August 2022, there were speculations about possible rice stocks (100,000 bags) in the Yangon market.—TWA/EMM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 16 December 2022

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K1,935
Octane 95	K2,015
Diesel	K2,445
Premium Diesel	K2,525

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,093,500 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,680,000 per tical

Dollar Price

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,835 to K2,855

The above prices may change from time to time.

Plans underway to establish five charging stations, set tax rate for electric vehicles



Battery electric cars (BEVs) are seen being charged at the charging station in the foreign country.

FIVE charging stations for electric vehicles will be built in Yangon Region and proper tax rate will be collected, said Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win of the Ministry of Planning and Finance during the third coordination meeting of the Steering Committee on National Development of Electric Vehicles and Related Industries and Working Committee on Supervision of Special Relief of Electric Vehicles and Related Industries.

Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay

said the discussions were held with the officials of relevant departments and companies to launch the pilot project. Regarding the tax for overnight stay, car parking, commodities, signboard and land rental collected by the Yangon City Development Committee, the committee will arrange to exempt or reduce the rate from 2022 to 2025, 2016 to 2030 and 2031 to 2052.

The deputy minister said, "The working committee will

negotiate for special relief of electric vehicles and its related industries in accordance with the polities. The measures will be carried out with three phases – (1) tax, (2) fee and (3) other benefits. The relevant ministry, departments and develop committees should discuss the ways for special relief."

The supervisory committee will create good economic atmosphere for electric vehicle parts export/import and installation, draft assistance programmes for special benefits promoting the use of EVs, non-budget sectors and other management sectors. It will also report to the steering committee regarding the incentives to ensure the greater use of electric cars and lure the public interest. It will compile the separate record of work processes which are not included in framework of working committee for unusual programmes to save the fees for road, bridges and car parking fees.—TWA/KTZH

A d v e r t i s e

with us / Hot Line :

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LOCAL BUSINESS

YRIC green-lights one domestic business, one foreign enterprise on 14 Dec

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) endorsed one domestic project and one foreign enterprise in the manufacturing sector, with an estimated capital of over K4.08 billion and US\$0.50 million at a meeting 12/2022 held on 14 December at the YRIC office in Yankin Township.

Those two businesses are expected to create 295 jobs.

Moreover, the meeting discussed the general issues of 16 companies and gave the go-ahead for capital expansion of \$2.483 million by four companies.

The manufacturing sector has attracted the most foreign investments in Yangon Region, with enterprises engaging in the production of pharmaceuticals,

vehicles, container boxes, and garments on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis.

To date, foreign investments from China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, India, China Taipei, Malaysia, the British Virgin Islands and Seychelles are arriving in the region.

To simplify the verification of investment projects, the Myanmar Investment Law allows the region and state Investment Committees to grant permissions for local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or \$5 million.

Myanmar attracted foreign direct investments of \$1.459 billion from 58 enterprises dur-

ing the April-November period of the current financial year 2022-2023. Singapore is the top source of FDI in Myanmar so far. Fourteen Singapore-listed enterprises pumped in foreign investments of \$1.154 billion into Myanmar in the past eight months. Hong Kong SAR stood as the second largest investor this FY with an estimated capital of over \$164.9 million by 12 enterprises and the existing ones. China is ranked third in the investment line-up with more than \$94 million from 26 businesses and the existing ones, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Two enterprises from the Republic of Korea also pumped \$5.4 million into Myanmar, with

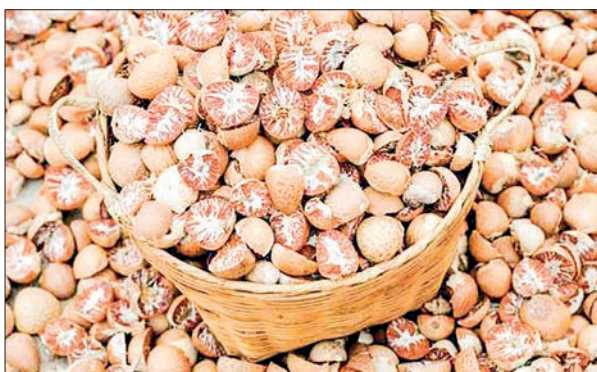


YRIC manages approval for investments in projects in Yangon Region with attraction of local and foreign investments.

the existing ones. One enterprise each from Belize, China Taipei, the UK and Japan also made investments in the past eight months respectively. The

existing enterprises from India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Switzerland and Seychelles also increased their investments. – KK

Myanmar ships over 1,000 tonnes of areca nut to Bangladesh in H1



Myanmar shipped 1,096.500 tonnes of areca nuts to Bangladesh in the first half of the current financial year 2022-2023.

MYANMAR shipped 1,096.500 tonnes of areca nuts to Bangladesh in the first half of the current financial year 2022-2023, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The country delivered 890.345 tonnes of areca nuts during the six months 2021-2022 mini-budget period. The export volume was up by 206.155 tonnes this FY.

Myanmar's agriculture and livestock businesses are the mainstay of its rural community. The rural people execute areca nut farming as a

family business.

The areca nuts are sent to Bangladesh through the Maungtwaw border.

Fresh supply of newly harvested areca nuts brought down the prices, according to the Mawlamyine areca nut market.

Last August, the price hit K8,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilograms). At present, the price of new areca nut is valued at K3,300 per viss only.

Earlier, dried areca nuts were exported to In-

dia. That export came to a halt amid security threats triggered by political changes along Kalay-Tamu Road, which connects to the border post with India. As a result of this, traders are heavily relying on the domestic demand, traders said.

The farm owners are keen on selling the soft and moist areca nut fruits rather than dried ones. China primarily buys them.

Myanmar's areca nut fruit market has become widespread. The commodity depot of areca nut fruits emerged in the producing states and regions (Rakhine, Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi and Ayeyawady regions).

As a result of this, the dried areca nut production is likely to drop in future and the prices are likely to go up on low inventory and possible foreign demand, traders forecast. — NN/EMM

Sino-Myanmar bilateral trade totals over US\$5 bln in seven months

THE value of trade with Myanmar's main trade partner China through maritime and sea trade channels crossed US\$5 billion in the first seven months (April-October) of the 2022-2023 financial year, comprising exports worth \$1.995 billion and imports valued at \$3.082 billion, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar primarily exports agri-products to China through the five land borders (Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti and Kengtung. However, trade in agricultural

products was frequently stopped on account of China clamping down on illegal trade on land borders. Furthermore, China stepped up border control measures to contain the spread of COVID-19, hindering border trade in the previous years. At present, although China eased coronavirus restrictions, only the Kyinsankyawt crossing out of the Sino-Myanmar land borders linking to the Muse post are reopened.

The value of bilateral trade with China stood at \$4.3 billion in the 2021-2022 mini-budget period,

\$9.82 billion in the 2020-2021FY, \$12 billion in the 2019-2020FY, \$11.36 billion in the 2018-2019FY, \$6 billion in the past mini-budget period, \$11.78 billion in the 2017-2018 financial year and \$10.8 billion in the 2016-2017FY respectively.

Rice, beans and pulses, corn, fruits and vegetables, fishery products, rubber, chilli peppers and other food commodities are exported to China, whereas machinery, plastic raw materials, consumer products and electronic appliances flow into Myanmar. – KK



Trade activities are seen on the Sino-Myanmar border.

OPINION

Pursue knowledge to continue studies on endless subjects

ALL global countries are trying hard to overcome the challenges of the knowledge age in order to modernize themselves. Despite accumulating natural resources, if a country does not have human resources, it will have development. As such, these countries are nurturing new-generation youths to be well-versed as part of upgrading human resources.

Today's youths are new generations to shoulder the State duties for shaping the future nation. Those new generations need to widen their scope. Those youths must have to uplift their capacity whereas senior citizens are responsible for nurturing the youths. Knowledge is endless learning. They have to depend on physical and mental strengths to be able to secure excellent skills.

In shaping the State as a modern nation, it is not enough for applying knowledge alone as well as a skill only. Only when those youths have to apply excellent knowledge and skills can they build a modern society. As such, every youth must strive to become a professional based on knowledge for serving the interests of the people. Some of today's youths are sharpening in learning knowledge. They are keen to taste everything. In fact, accumulating knowledge is very good. But bad acts and things tasting a cup of alcohol or a stimulant tablet are designed to vandalize their development. As such, they have to consider everything without derailment of their attitudes. They have to analyze the nature of friends to polish their images and avoid not tarnishing their images in society. It can be seen that as various kinds of technologies flow into society, many things which can bring misunderstanding and misinformation in the education and cultural sectors. Indeed, all endeavours of those youths must be sake for the nation as well as for their interests. They have to make in-depth studies on cultural heritages and histories. They have to foster nationality, languages, religions and patriotic spirit without narrow-minded attitudes. Those youths have to adore patriotic spirit for the country and the national as well as their religions for further flourishing. Today's universities confer relevant certificates of degrees on deserving youths for their thorough studies. These universities are just a venue to nurture the youths with excellent ideologies to become qualified good citizens with the capability of improving the future of the country. As such, those youths must know that there remain various subjects of knowledge which are endless for learning in society, so they have to continue further studies on endless subjects.

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THE ongoing soccer tournament of the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar is going to cease soon. It takes just a month. It rocks the world with sentiment – joy or sorrow. Those who win feel joyous and those who lose feel sorrowful. Fans all over the world, near or far, also share the same sentiments with the players on the pitch in the stadiums.

To host the tournament, seven new stadiums have been built along with other infrastructures such as a subway, an airport, motorways and housing facilities that eventually transform Qatar into a footballing paradise. An array of skyscrapers gets anyone amazed by the spectacular views not to blink.

But there is a blemish hidden on the flip side. The grand and splendid facades of stadiums actually belie the tragic events wherein 6,500 migrant workers died while building them. Much to our dismay and shock, this horrifying news has recently appeared out of blue. The workplace accidents snubbed out their lives in exchange for one month-long tournament to be enjoyed by others – the elite and wealthy. The sadness felt by the deceased's families, relatives and loved ones lasts forever. Furthermore, their living conditions and social securities are at stake as their sole breadwinners are no more.

Being prone to many physical hazards, the construction industry is categorized as a high-risk level group among other businesses. It needs a workforce with specific trade skills and attentive awareness of job hazards not to compromise on safety. Most of the time, migrant workers are overlooked in their competencies and capabilities and compelled to work without proper training. The spreadsheets of the training matrix may have gone void and not been updated. Unskilled with new tasks in unfamiliar workplaces, migrant workers are easily exposed to job hazards.

Sorrow in silence

By Chit Ko Pe



Qatar built seven stadiums for the World Cup finals as well as a new airport, metro system, series of roads and about 100 new hotels. In February 2021, the Guardian said 6,500 migrant workers from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka had died in Qatar since it won its World Cup bid. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Geographically located in a desert, most parts of the Middle East including Qatar have an all-year-round dry climate with temperatures as high as 113 degrees Fahrenheit in summer. The workers are not allowed to work outdoors between 10:00 am and 03:30 pm from June to mid-September. Under extreme heat, workers are at risk of getting heat stress that can lead to heat stroke, heat exhaustion, heat cramps, or heat rashes straining the cardiovascular system. It is followed by heart attacks and other complications or at worst by loss of life succumbing to heat stress.

I myself personally experienced such a scorching heat during my one-year overseas job stint in the UAE and Bahrain in 2007-2008. Even another meteorological hazard – a sandstorm – did not spare me from being caught in it along with others amid a group safety patrol at the workplace in Bahrain then. Loose sand and dirt from a dry surface are blown off en masse in a sandstorm. Seeking an impromptu refuge in a nearby structure was a hurdle too. Everyone in the group was thickly

covered with white sand particles looking like zombies in the daytime. One might inhale them in the absence of a protective means over a nose and a mouth. Repetitive spells can lead to a life-threatening condition whereby the lung starts to malfunction with low blood oxygen levels. Such natural disasters persist in open spaces unlike in enclosed venues – factories and offices. Extra care is needed to fend off such meteorological hazards in addition to common physical hazards found in construction workplaces. A life claimed is too much in any workplace accident. Not to mention, the death figure of 6,500 is a hellish situation no one dares spare the thought. The history of Rome's ancient Colosseum stadium flashes across my mind with a scary note of 400,000 people's lives claimed in its construction time, AD 70-72. Today's modernized age possesses a cutting edge in advanced technologies taking a prime position for further development as well as effective prevention of any ills or harms at jobs. It needs harmonized action by humans. Kindness is the one to be demonstrated towards others. Thunderous applause overwhelms the stadiums in Qatar. It passes the boundary of Qatar and reaches all parts of the world via media at the same time. But there is a crying sound that no one hears and is hidden underneath thunderous applause. It is sorrow in silence, still felt by loved ones for those who perished in action at the very stadiums.

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Study explains surprise surge in methane during pandemic lockdown

A MYSTERIOUS surge in planet-heating atmospheric methane in 2020 despite Covid lockdowns that reduced many human-caused sources can be explained by a greater release from nature and, surprisingly, reduced air pollution, scientists said Wednesday.

Methane stays in the atmosphere only a fraction as long as carbon dioxide, but is far more efficient at trapping heat and is responsible for roughly 30 per cent of the global rise in temperatures to date.

Released from the oil and gas, waste and agriculture sectors, as well as through biological processes in wetlands, the powerful greenhouse gas is a key target for efforts to curb global warming. But a new study published in the journal Nature suggests that cutting methane may be even more of a challenge — and more urgent — than is currently understood.

Researchers in China, France, the US and Norway found that efforts to reduce CO2 emissions and air pollution will affect the atmospheric process that scrubs methane from the air. That means the planet-heating gas will linger longer and accumulate faster. If the world is to meet the challenge of keeping warming to under 2 degrees Celsius since the pre-industrial era, “we will have to act even more quickly and even more strongly to reduce methane”, said Philippe Ciais who co-led the research at France's Laboratory for the Sciences of Climate and Environment (LSCE). The researchers focused on the mystery of the concentrations of methane in the atmosphere in 2020, which had their biggest increase on record even as Covid-19 lockdowns saw carbon dioxide emissions fall.

methane did indeed fall slightly in 2020. Then they used ecosystem models to estimate that warmer and wetter conditions over parts of the northern hemisphere caused a surge in emissions from wetlands. That confirms other research and is worrying because the more methane released, the more warming, potentially creating a feedback loop largely outside of human control. But that is only half of the story, the researchers found.

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'Bad news'

What they found is potentially two pieces of “bad news” for climate change, said co-author Marielle Saunoy of (LSCE). Firstly, they looked at inventories to assess fossil fuel and agricultural methane emissions and found that human sources of

methane did indeed fall slightly in 2020. Then they used ecosystem models to estimate that warmer and wetter conditions over parts of the northern hemisphere caused a surge in emissions from wetlands. That confirms other research and is worrying because the more methane released, the more warming, potentially creating a feedback loop largely outside of human control. But that is only half of the story, the researchers found.

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Lockdowns cut air pollution from transport in 2020, but that helped methane concentrations to build up researchers said. PHOTO: AFP

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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ARTICLE WEATHER REPORT

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 16 December 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30 hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining East Equatorial Indian Ocean still persists. Weather is cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and South Bay and a few cloud over the North Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 17 December 2022: Weather will be generally fair in Chin State and partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at time in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) mph. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (4-7) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 December 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 December 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 December 2022: Partly cloudy.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Regions.

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Tiny meteorite may have caused leak from Soyuz capsule

RUSSIAN and NASA engineers were assessing a coolant leak on Thursday from a Soyuz crew capsule docked with the International Space Station (ISS) that may have been caused by a micrometeorite strike.

Dramatic NASA TV images showed white particles resembling snowflakes streaming out of the rear of the vessel for hours.

The coolant leak forced

the last-minute cancellation of a spacewalk by two Russian cosmonauts on Wednesday and could potentially impact a return flight to Earth by three crew members.

Russia's space corporation Roscosmos and the US space agency said the leak on the Soyuz MS-22 spacecraft did not pose any danger to the astronauts and cosmonauts aboard the ISS.

"The crew members aboard the space station are safe, and were not in any danger during the leak," NASA said.

It said ground teams were evaluating "potential impacts to the integrity of the Soyuz spacecraft."

"NASA and Roscosmos will continue to work together to determine the next course of action," NASA said. The TASS news agency quoted Sergei Krikalev, a former cosmonaut who heads the crewed space flight programme for Roscosmos, as saying that the leak may have been caused by a tiny meteorite striking Soyuz MS-22.

"The cause of the leak may be a micrometeorite entering the radiator," TASS quoted Krikalev as saying. "Possible consequences are changes in the temperature regime." "No other changes in the telemetric parameters of either the Soyuz spacecraft or the (ISS) station on the Russian or American segments have been detected," Krikalev said.—AFP



The leak on the Soyuz MS-22 spacecraft did not pose any danger to the astronauts and cosmonauts aboard the ISS. **PHOTO: NASA**

US backs fund for sustainable safaris in Africa

THE United States is committing support to promote sustainable safaris in Africa, hoping to prevent environmental destruction as the tourism sector recovers, officials said Thursday.

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) made the announcement at a three-day summit that brought nearly 50 African leaders in Washington. The nascent Africa Conservation and Communities Tourism Fund, led by investors and conservationists, aims to raise \$75 million to fund safari operators across the continent.

USAID said it was committing \$2.5 million to reduce risks and jumpstart the fund, which it estimated would benefit 44,000 people.

The fund will work with safari operators in Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia.

A notice on the project earlier this year by advisors Impact

Align said that ecotourism operators had been devastated by Covid-19, which shut down international travel.

"The fate of millions of acres of wildlands and wildlife hangs in the balance," it said.

"If operators fail to financially recover, once protected wildlands will be at high risk of destruction which would worsen

planetary health, exacerbate climate change and deprive local communities of employment and management opportunities."

The United States during the summit has laid out some \$55 billion in funding over the next several years including to improve health infrastructure, promote green energy and stave off hunger.—AFP



A wild giraffe grazes next to a quarantine area for elephant calves at Reteti Elephant Sanctuary in drought-hit Samburu, Kenya in October 2022. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Japan starts alert system for quakes off northern Pacific coast



A poster for the newly introduced quake alert system that warns against powerful earthquakes in the Japan and Chishima trenches is displayed in the city of Aomori on Friday. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE Japanese government implemented Friday a new alert system in seven coastal prefectures from Chiba to Hokkaido to warn against subsequent earthquakes should a quake of magnitude 7.0 or larger strike in either of two deep-sea trenches in the Pacific Ocean where massive temblors are feared.

The warnings are designed to encourage evacuation preparedness against additional earthquakes arising in the Japan and Chishima trenches off the country's northern Pacific coast.

The government estimates an M9.0 quake in either trench could trigger huge tsunami, producing waves of up to 30 metres in parts of Hokkaido and Iwate prefectures in the country's north.

The M9.0 earthquake in

March 2011 that occurred along the Japan Trench was a subsequent earthquake, striking two days after an M7.3 quake in the same vicinity.

The system will be in effect in 182 municipalities in Hokkaido, Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima, Ibaraki and Chiba prefectures that span the country's northernmost point down to the border with Tokyo.

Under the alerts, residents would be requested to take actions including preparing to evacuate at short notice, securing warm clothing and confirming where their nearest evacuation center is. The Japan Meteorological Agency would issue the alert up to about two hours after an M7.0 or stronger quake strikes. If no subsequent quakes occur, the alert would lifted a week later.—Kyodo

16 killed, over dozen missing in campsite landslide in Malaysia

AT least 16 people were killed and over a dozen were still missing on Friday after a landslide swept through a campsite near Genting Highland in Malaysia's Selangor state.

Authorities believe 94 people were at the site of Father's Organic Farm some 50 kilometres north of Kuala Lumpur when the landslide occurred 30 metres above a slope and spread through an acre of land early Friday morning.

According to the police, of the 94 people, 61 were found safe, while 17 were unaccounted for as of 1 pm.

Sin Chew Daily reported that 23 teachers from an elementary school, who were on

a self-organized holiday there with their families, were among those at the campsite.

The head of the school's parent-teacher association was quoted by the daily as saying they were visiting the site on a three-day trip and were to leave Friday morning.

One of the holidaymakers, Leong Jim Meng, 57, told The Star English daily the campers were asleep when the landslide occurred at around 2 am.

"It was too dark to see what was going on. We were trapped when the earth covered our tent. I managed to free myself and headed to the car park to call the authorities," Leong told the daily.—Kyodo

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Thai princess, king's eldest child, hospitalized with heart condition

THE eldest child of Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn has been hospitalized after she collapsed due to a heart problem, but her condition has stabilized to some extent, the royal palace said Thursday.

Princess Bajrakitiyabha, who has drawn attention as the likely successor to the king, lost consciousness Wednesday evening while training her dog for a canine competition organized by the Royal Thai Army in

Nakhon Ratchasima, a province in northeastern Thailand, the palace said in a statement.

The 44-year-old princess was treated at a local hospital before being flown by helicopter to one in Bangkok, where she is now undergoing treatment, the palace said. It did not provide further details.

Princess Bajrakitiyabha is one of three children of King Vajiralongkorn who have formal titles, but the 70-year-old king

has yet to appoint the royal heir since he took the throne in 2016.

The princess has served as the Thai ambassador to Austria, Slovakia and Slovenia, and has also engaged in work with the United Nations on protecting women.

She currently serves as a public prosecutor and is involved in humanitarian assistance projects, especially on promoting women's rights in the criminal justice system.—Kyodo



Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn (left) is accompanied by Queen Suthida (right) and Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol (centre) as he presides over the annual royal ploughing ceremony near the Grand Palace in Bangkok in May 2019. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Spanish cabinet approves paid 'menstrual leave'



Annually, thousands of Moroccan seasonal workers go to Spain to harvest strawberries and secure additional income. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP

SPAIN'S cabinet on Tuesday approved a bill that grants paid medical leave for women who suffer from severe period pain, becoming the first European country to advance such legislation. Menstrual leave is currently offered only in a small number of countries across the globe, among them South Korea and Indonesia.

But the proposed legislation must still be approved by the Spanish parliament, with a vote

not expected for months.

It was not clear whether Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's minority coalition government, which has made women's rights a priority, has enough support in the assembly to pass it.

The Spanish bill entitles workers experiencing period pain to as much time off as they need, with the state social security system -- not employers -- picking up the tab for the sick

leave.

As with paid leave for other health reasons, a doctor must approve the temporary medical incapacity.

Equality Minister Irene Montero said the law will recognize a health problem that has been largely swept under the carpet until now.

"Periods will no longer be taboo," she told a news conference after the cabinet approved the bill.

"We will be the first country in Europe to introduce a temporary sick leave that is fully financed by the state for painful and incapacitating periods," she added.

"No more going to work with pain, no more taking pills before arriving at work and having to hide the fact we're in pain that makes us unable to work."

Montero belongs to the far-left Podemos party, Sanchez's junior coalition partner which has been the driving force behind the law.—AFP

'Contaminated' spinach causes hallucinations in Australia

HEALTH authorities in Australia have said nine people in Sydney suffered "toxic reactions" — including hallucinations — from a batch of spinach thought to contain an "accidental contaminant".

New South Wales Health said people from four different

households needed medical attention following "possible food-related toxic reactions" caused by tainted Riviera Farms spinach bought at wholesale giant Costco.

Health officials say initial investigations suggest the reactions were caused by the pres-

ence of "an accidental contaminant in the food product".

The health authority warned of "severe" possible symptoms associated with consuming the spinach, including delirium or confusion, hallucinations, rapid heartbeat and blurred vision.—AFP

UK govt admits antibiotic shortage

THE UK government on Thursday admitted there were serious shortages of antibiotics to treat bacterial infections in children, despite more than a week of denials.

"Serious shortage protocols" had been issued for three types of oral solutions used in paediatrics — Phenoxy-methylpenicillin, which is also known as penicillin V.

It comes after at least 19 children died in the United Kingdom from severe cases of Group A Streptococcus (Strep A) infection, and shortages of other types of antibiotics in Europe and North America.

Family doctors and parents have reported difficulty finding antibiotics to treat Strep A, which typically causes a sore throat and fever and flu-like symptoms.

Pharmacies have been out of stock and some outlets say they are being charged up to £19 (\$24) for a box, when the price is normally just a few pounds.

They say they are losing thousands of pounds a week as they can only recoup a fraction of the cost from the state-run National Health Service (NHS).

The UK competition regulator on Wednesday announced a probe into drug companies for putting up prices as demand soars.

On the penicillin shortages, health minister Will Quince acknowledged that increased demand had left some pharmacists unable to meet prescriptions.

"These Serious Shortage Protocols will allow pharmacists to supply an alternative form of penicillin, which will make things easier for them, patients, and GPs," he added.

Quince said the situation was "temporary" and "localized" because of the high numbers of Strep A and Scarlet Fever cases.

The government was working with manufacturers and wholesalers to speed up supplies, he added.—AFP



A local pharmacy in UK. PHOTO: ISABEL INFANTES/AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

S Korean government warns of economic slump for 7th month



A fresh seafood stall in a street market in Seoul. **PHOTO: AFP**

SOUTH Korea's monthly economic report on Friday warned of an economic slump for the seventh successive month with high inflation and sluggish export, according to the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

The report, called the Green Book, showed worries about an economic slowdown as the domestic demand recovery

slowed gradually while export and economic sentiment continued to falter amid the still high inflation.

The ministry noted that uncertainty lasted over the global economy due to global inflation and geopolitical risks in Europe despite lower volatility in the global financial market, caused by expectations for slower inter-

est rate hikes.

The country's consumer prices gained 5.0 per cent in November from a year earlier, staying above five per cent for the seventh consecutive month.

Export dropped 14.0 per cent in November from a year earlier, after skidding 5.7 per cent in the previous month.

Sentiment among consumers over economic situations slipped 2.3 points over the month to 86.5 in November.

Retail sale, which reflects private consumption, and production in the services industry shrank for the second straight month in October on a monthly basis.

Credit card spending increased 6.4 per cent in November from a year earlier, after expanding 10.1 per cent in October.

Revenue among department stores added 1.1 per cent in November on a yearly basis, down from a 7.0 per cent gain in the previous month. —Xinhua

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

EU adopts global minimum 15% tax on multinationals

THE European Union on Thursday adopted a plan for a global minimum 15 percent tax on multinational businesses, after leaders gave final approval following months of wrangling.

The landmark agreement between nearly 140 countries is intended to stop governments racing to cut taxes to lure the world's richest firms to their territory.

"Today the European Union has taken a crucial step towards tax fairness and social justice," EU economy commissioner Paolo Gentiloni said.

"Minimum taxation is key to addressing the challenges a globalised economy creates."—AFP

Norway central bank announces smaller rate hike

NORWAY'S central bank on Thursday announced an interest rate hike that continued a move toward smaller increases, as the institution hinted that borrowing costs could again moderately rise next year. Central banks across the world have increased rates to curb soaring inflation, caused by global supply chain bottlenecks and the Ukraine war. This is the fifth consecutive rate hike but the second of 0.25 percent, lower than the initial 0.5 percentage point increases.

Norway's move came a day after the US Federal Reserve raised rates by a half percentage point and ahead of similar moves expected by the European Central Bank and Bank of England later on Thursday.—AFP

Germany to dodge recession in 2023: institute



An employee of Uniper Energy Storage walks through the above-ground facilities of a natural gas storage facility in Bierwang, Germany, 10 June 2022. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

GERMANY will not fall into recession due to relief measures that have lowered energy costs, an institute forecast Thursday, the latest indication an economic shock will be milder than feared.

The German government and a string of think tanks previously predicted Europe's top economy will contract in 2023 after Russia's invasion of

Ukraine stoked energy prices, sending inflation soaring.

But the influential IfW Kiel institute now expects gross domestic product to expand next year by 0.3 per cent, an improvement from their earlier forecast of a drop of 0.7 per cent.

"Energy prices for businesses and consumers have risen less sharply than expected, partly as a result of govern-

ment interventions," said the institute.

The centrepiece of government efforts is a 200-billion-euro (\$212-billion) support package, including a cap on gas prices for businesses and households.

Energy costs skyrocketed after Russia sharply reduced crucial gas supplies as tensions soared over its invasion of Ukraine.

The IfW Kiel's Stefan Kooths said the economy could "breathe a sigh of relief" but warned that "no one should sit back in the face of massive risks, least of all economic policymakers".

The energy crisis was still a heavy burden, with German economic output expected to be four per cent lower at the end of 2022 and 2023 than it otherwise would have been, the institute said.

Other leading groups are starting to sound more optimistic about Germany's economic prospects.—AFP

Fire breaks out at historic Panama Canal lock

A small fire broke out Thursday in machines that operate the historic Miraflores Lock on the Panama Canal, which delayed the crossing of some ships but did not shut down interoceanic navigation.

The fire started in a tunnel where the machinery of the lock is housed, but the other locks continued working normally, said the Panama Canal Authority. "A fire outbreak was recorded in one of the machinery tunnels in the upper chamber of the Miraflores locks," the

Authority said in a statement.

"No injuries were reported. However, the transit of ships through this lock has been temporarily suspended as a security measure," it added.

The locks are huge concrete chambers that are filled with, then emptied of, millions of litres of water to raise or lower ships as they pass through the Canal linking the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Five per cent of all global trade moves through the strategic waterway.—AFP



The Panama Canal (PC) is essential to global trade, wherein an estimate of over \$270 billion worth of cargo crosses the canal each year. **PHOTO: AFP**

Google rivals join forces in online maps

GOOGLE rivals on Thursday unveiled a project to make freely available data sets for map features to be built into online offerings.

Alphabet-owned Google dominates online mapping, selling its services to other companies or platforms and using location and navigation capabilities to enhance its

other offerings, including online advertising.

Meta, Microsoft, TomTom and Amazon Web Services have now introduced what they call the Overture Maps Foundation, the goal of which is to make comprehensive mapping data openly available for use by whoever may need it, the nonprofit Linux Founda-

tion said in a release.

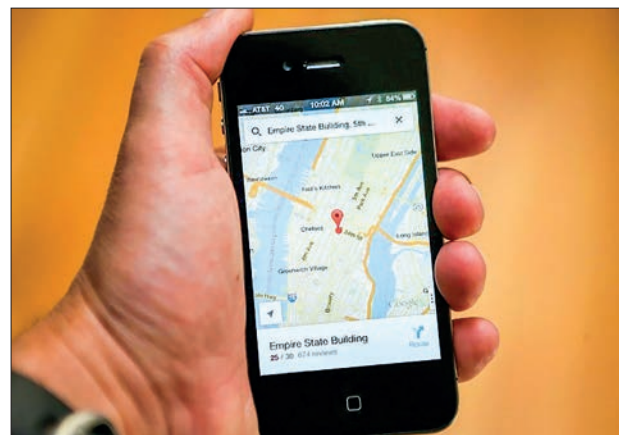
“Mapping the physical environment and every community in the world, even as they grow and change, is a massively complex challenge that no one organization can manage,” said Linux Foundation executive director Jim Zemlin.

“Industry needs to

come together to do this for the benefit of all.”

Google was notably absent from the list of companies teaming up in Overture, which said its goal is to expand membership to speed up progress.

The coalition expected to release its first mapping datasets by the middle of next year.—AFP



A new foundation unveiled by the nonprofit Linux Foundation brings together tech titans such as Amazon Microsoft and Meta to make open source data sets for building mapping capabilities into apps or other internet offerings. **PHOTO: AFP**

German rail readies sale of logistics unit

GERMAN rail operator Deutsche Bahn said on Thursday it was preparing to spin off its logistics subsidiary Schenker to return its focus to its core business.

The company said in a statement that its super-

visory board had given the green light to executives to “review and prepare the possible sale of up to 100 per cent of shares” in Schenker.

It said decisions on how and when to start the sell-off would be made at

a later date.

Proceeds from any deal would be retained by Deutsche Bahn and used to service debt — estimated at 30.5 billion euros (\$32.5 billion) at the end of June — while allowing it to “focus on the core

business”.

An updated strategy set out in 2019 includes encouraging more passenger and cargo transport on the “environmentally friendly rails” and developing Germany’s railway infrastructure.—AFP

French prosecutors raid GE site in tax fraud probe

PROSECUTORS searched the industrial site of US conglomerate GE in eastern France on Thursday as part of an inquiry into claims it avoided millions of euros in taxes by transferring profits abroad.

The National Financial Prosecutors’ Office confirmed the raid in Belfort. GE officials declined to comment.

Tensions between unions and GE man-

agement have run high in recent years as the company cut hundreds of French jobs on slumping demand for gas turbines and other power-generation equipment. The tax inquiry was opened after the head of France’s Communist Party, Fabien Roussel, told authorities in July 2019 of his “suspicions of tax optimisation and fraud” by the company.—AFP



Employees of the General Electric (GE) company arrive for an inter-union general meeting in Belfort, eastern France, on 7 October 2019. **PHOTO: SEBASTIEN BOZON / AFP / FILE**

Notify to know by Public

Board of Directors of MYANMAR ANNAWA SWANARSHIN GROUP (S) Company Limited is reelected and organized by Majority Vote at the Board of Directors meeting held on (4-11-2022). It is confirmed once again at the meeting of Board of Director's meeting held on (12-11-2022). Therefore, Names of the Organized Board of Director's are as follows -

- (1) U Min Thiha Htoo (Chairman)
- (2) Daw Sandar Aung (Vice Chairman)
- (3) Daw Cherry Trivedi (Chief Executive Officer)
- (4) U Myint Than (Member)
- (5) Daw Mya Kay Khaing (Secretary)

Therefore, It is notified to know by Public that any matter to contact relating to this Company, Please communicate to Company Office Phone No. 09-958988431 and 09-971625478.

By the instruction of Board of Directors.

U Myint Than (Sr.4592)
Advocate
No.(20/22), Alanpya Pagoda Street,
Mingalar Taung Nyunt Township
Phone: 09-428058044

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (006E/W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (006E/W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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 TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KHDY0329N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KHDY0329N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-12-2022** 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 PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR PENIDA VOY.NO. (129N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR PENIDA VOY.NO. (129N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Ukraine war providing lessons for future conflicts



Drones and satellite imagery have changed the rules of the battlefield.

PHOTO: AFP

RUSSIA invaded Ukraine hoping for a quick victory over Kyiv's forces, but is instead locked in a grinding, protracted war that has failed to achieve Moscow's main aims.

The United States and other countries imposed punishing sanctions on Russia, leaving it increasingly isolated, and are providing a steady stream of weapons and other equipment that have been instrumental in Ukrainian victories over Moscow's forces.

How the war in Ukraine has played out — both on the world stage and the battlefield — serves as a cautionary tale on the potential dangers of launching such an invasion, and offers other lessons as well. General Mark Milley, the top US military officer, said the war was providing “lessons learned” for Washington and Europe, as well as for Taiwan and China. “One of the things people are learning is that war on paper is a whole lot different than real war,” he said. “There’s

a lot of friction and fog and death in combat,” Milley added, predicting that shortfalls in fighting experience and training would hamper a Chinese invasion of Taiwan, which Beijing claims as part of its territory.

Logistics

Russia has an extensive nuclear arsenal and has hinted at the use of such weapons during the Ukraine war, but this has not led to battlefield successes — something US Undersecretary of Defence for Policy Colin Kahl said he hopes China will note. “The fact that Russia has nuclear weapons has not ensured that Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has been successful on the ground, let alone as a strategic matter. And I think that’s an important lesson for Beijing to take,” Kahl said. Russia’s “aggression against Ukraine has been a catastrophic strategic disaster for Vladimir Putin. It’s hard for me to believe that Xi Jinping would want China to have a similar reaction from the international community,” he said.—AFP

Deadly Russian shelling cuts off Kherson power

RUSSIAN forces bombarded Kherson on Thursday, killing two people and depriving the Ukrainian city of electricity as the European Union announced its latest slew of sanctions against Moscow and an 18-billion-euro aid package for Kyiv.

Moscow-allied officials in the Russian-occupied city of Donetsk, meanwhile, said they have come under some of the heaviest shelling in years from Ukrainian forces, leaving one person dead.

Despite Russia’s retreat from the southern port city in November, Kherson remains within reach of Moscow’s weaponry and under constant threat.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russian forces had attacked Kherson 16 times on Thursday alone.

The International Committee of the Red Cross confirmed that a Ukrainian Red Cross worker had been killed by the strikes and urged that humanitarian “personnel and property” be spared.—AFP



Much of Ukraine is struggling without heat or power after Moscow started targeting electricity and water systems nearly two months ago. PHOTO: AFP

WORLD: TOP STORIES

US citizens trapped in Tigray, detained in Addis Ababa



Fighting between government forces and rebels has left Tigray cut off from the outside world for two years. PHOTO: EDUARDO SOTERAS / AFP/FILE

US citizens trapped in war-torn Tigray are being detained and interrogated by Ethiopian authorities while trying to leave the country, interviews with fleeing people and family members show.

Leaked emails by US officials say that the Ethiopian government, citing national security grounds, insisted on holding and questioning US citizens from Tigray — a stance, they say, that caused Washington to abort

plans to airlift Americans from the region last year.

The lucky few to escape the region, cut off from the outside world for two years as government forces battled Tigrayan rebels, told AFP they had been singled out and interrogated when attempting to leave.

Gebremedhn Gebrehiwot, an American citizen who made it out of Tigray earlier this year, said he was pulled aside and questioned at Addis Ababa’s international airport while trying to board a flight home.

“I had all the documents, there was no reason to stop me,” the San Diego-based deacon told AFP. He believed his “typically Tigrayan” name was the reason he was detained. After a 90-minute wait, he was finally allowed to leave.—AFP

Huge crowds rally to support Istanbul’s banned mayor

TENS of thousands of Turks swarmed a central Istanbul square on Thursday in solidarity with the city’s opposition mayor after he was banned from politics ahead of next year’s presidential election.

A criminal court on Wednesday sentenced Ekrem Imamoglu to more than two years in prison and barred him from holding office for the same length of time for “insulting a public official” in 2019. Imamoglu will continue to serve as mayor of Türkiye’s largest city while his appeal is heard in a case linked to a hugely contested election in which his initial victory was annulled.

The case could be fast-tracked for a quick hearing and destroy any bid by Imamoglu to run in the June presidential campaign.

The US State Department said it was “deeply troubled and disappointed” by the potential removal of one of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s biggest rivals from the political scene.

Germany called it “a heavy blow to democracy” while France urged Turkey to “reverse its slide away from the rule of law, democracy and respect for fundamental rights”.

“This sentence is disproportionate and confirms the systemic lack of independence of the judiciary and the undue political pressure on judges and prosecutors in Türkiye,” a European Union said in a statement.—AFP

NEWS IN
BRIEF

Ousted Peru leader ordered detained for 18 months amid protests

PERU'S Supreme Court on Thursday ordered ousted president Pedro Castillo to remain in detention for another 18 months after his arrest last week, which has sparked deadly unrest in the South American nation. Castillo was removed from office and detained after he tried to dissolve the legislature and announced he would rule by decree, in what opponents say was a bid to dodge an impeachment vote amid several corruption probes. The leftist former schoolteacher stands accused of rebellion and conspiracy and could be jailed for up to 10 years if found guilty, according to public prosecutor Alcides Diaz.—AFP

Fire outside France's Lyon kills 10, including five children

FIVE children including a three-year-old were among 10 people killed when a fire broke out in a seven-storey apartment building in a suburb of the French city of Lyon, the government said Friday.

Fourteen people were injured, including four who required emergency treatment, after the fire erupted in Vaulx-en-Velin in the northern outskirts of Lyon, in eastern France, the local authorities said.—AFP

Varadkar to become Irish PM for second time



Ireland's deputy premier Leo Varadkar takes over as prime minister on Saturday under a coalition deal. PHOTO: AFP

LEO Varadkar takes over for the second time as Ireland's prime minister this weekend, in a handover of power between the two main political partners in the three-party governing coalition.

Varadkar, who is mixed race, openly gay and is still one of Ireland's youngest ever leaders even in his second stint in the role, steps up from deputy premier on Saturday.

The rotation between 43-year-old Varadkar's Fine Gael and current premier Micheal Martin's Fianna Fail parties is unprecedented in

Irish history. The centre-right parties were forged from opposing sides in the Irish Civil War in the early 20th century.

They agreed to the rotating premierships as part of a coalition with Ireland's Greens following 2020 elections.

Varadkar was seen as a fresh face when he took the helm of governing Fine Gael in 2017. But after two-and-a-half years as Taoiseach (prime minister in Irish), a misfire at the polls in 2020 and controversies as deputy premier, his critics claim he has lost his shine.—AFP

Japan vows to obtain enemy base strike capability to address threats

JAPAN decided Friday to acquire the capability to strike enemy bases as well as to double defence spending in a dramatic shift in its postwar security policy maintained under the nation's war-renouncing Constitution.

With the security environment surrounding Japan becoming unstable in the face of threats from China and North Korea, Tokyo, which has rejected warfare for the past 77 years, will be able to directly attack another country's territory in case of an emergency.

Obtaining the ability to deter attacks from outside forces, called a "counterstrike capability", was stipulated in the government's three key defense documents, including the National Security Strategy, updated by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's Cabinet.

Critics note that the Constitution only allows Japan to act in self-defence, but the NSS said the nation needs to have the ability to "make effective counterstrikes in an opponent's territory as a bare minimum self-defence measure."



Japan's constitution limits military spending to nominally defensive capabilities. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

The NSS mentioned that Japan is facing the "most severe and complicated security environment" since World War II, while the government has pledged to maintain its commitment to the "exclusively self-defence-oriented policy" and "not to become a military power".

In its first revision since 2013, the long-term security policy guidelines said that missile defence alone is insufficient to deal with the "significant rein-

forcement of missile forces" of countries such as China and North Korea.

To fundamentally beef up its defence capacity, the nation set a target of boosting its annual defence budget to two per cent of gross domestic product in fiscal 2027, which ends in March 2028.

Japan has long capped its annual defence budget at around one per cent of GDP, or a little more than 5 trillion yen (\$36 billion). —Kyodo

N Korea successfully tests solid-fuel motor for ICBM development

NORTH Korea said Friday it has successfully test-fired a "high-thrust solid-fuel motor" with 140 tonnes of thrust, according to state media, as the country seeks to develop an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of being launched with a shorter preparation time.

The test, conducted Thursday by the Academy of Defence

Science at the Sohae Satellite Launching Ground, was the first of its kind in the country and leader Kim Jong Un guided the launch on the spot, the official Korean Central News Agency said. Solid-fuelled ballistic missiles can be made ready for launch more quickly than liquid-fuelled missiles. Kim praised the academy for "having successfully solved

another important problem in carrying out the five priority tasks" in the strategic weapon field under a five-year plan set out last year, KCNA said.

The development of a solid-fuel ICBM is included in the five-year plan. While "offering warm encouragement" to scientists and technicians of the academy, Kim expressed expectations that "another new-type strategic weapon would be made in the shortest span of time", the report said. North Korea is believed to have deployed short-range ballistic missiles equipped with a solid-fuel engine.

As for longer-range missiles, including the "Hwasong-17" ICBM, which could potentially travel over 15,000 kilometres and reach the US mainland, North Korea is thought to be concerned they could come under attack while liquid fuel is being injected to prepare for launch.—AFP



North Korea conducts a static firing test of high-thrust solid-fuel motor at the Sohae Satellite Launching Ground in Dongchang-ri in the country's northwest on 15 Dec 2022. PHOTO: KCNA/KYODO

Japan vows to obtain enemy base strike capability to address threats

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SPORT

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Myanmar-Thailand Lethwei Championship to be held on 18 Dec

WITH the sponsorship of Canal+, Myanmar-Thailand Myanmar traditional boxing Championship named “The Great Lethwei” will be held with the main bout of Shu Kalein Mee (Myanmar) vs To To (Thailand) on 18 December.

There will be a total of eight bouts and the main bout features 71-75 kilo (middleweight) class.

The co-main event will see Pak Kyaw Lin Naing vs Thet Win Aung fight under the 63.5-67 kilo (welterweight) class.

In the 54-57 kilo (featherweight) class, Saw Kedo will take on Thar Thar and Narga Min will face Aung Htet Oo.

In the 57-60 kilo (lightweight) class, Naing Aung Shin will fight against Saw Nga Mauk, while Kyel Sin Htun will battle with Aung Gyi in the 63.5-67 kilo (welterweight) class.

In the other 57-60 kilo (lightweight) class fight, Shwe Tun Yon will fight against Aung Paing.

Next, in the 63.5-67 kilo



The main bout between Myanmar’s Shu Kalein Mee and Thailand’s To To.

(welterweight) class bout, Aphoe Thway will face Htet Naing Aung.

The Great Lethwei Traditional Boxing Tournament 2022

will be held at 2 pm on 28 December and will be broadcast live on CANAL+ Sports 1 TV channel and CANAL+ application. — Bala Soe/KZL

Over 200 athletes participate in MTF President’s Cup Tennis Tourney

MORE than 200 tennis players participated in the Myanmar Tennis Federation President’s Cup Tennis Tournament at Theinbyu Tennis Court, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon on 16 December.

The tournament features Men’s Double (first class), Men’s Double (second class), Women’s Double, and over 60 years old doubles competitions.

Tennis players from Yangon Region, Mandalay Region, Bago Region, and Kachin State are participating in the tour-



Tennis players compete in the Men’s Double event of the Myanmar Tennis Federation President’s Cup Tennis Tournament at Theinbyu Tennis Court in Yangon on 16 December 2022. PHOTO: BALA SOE

nament.

The Myanmar Tennis Federation President’s Cup Tennis

Tournament will be held until 18 December, officials said. — Bala Soe/KZL

Santos quits as Portugal coach after World Cup shock

FERNANDO Santos quit as coach of Portugal on Thursday following the team’s shock World Cup quarter-final loss to Morocco, the Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) announced.

An agreement was reached “to end the journey of great success that began in September 2014”, said the FPF who added that it “will now launch the process to choose the next national

coach”. The 68-year-old Santos had been adamant that he would not be forced out of the job he has held for eight years despite Saturday’s 1-0 defeat to the history-making Moroccans in Qatar.

He accepted, however, that not everyone agreed with his decisions during the World Cup which included dropping Cristiano Ronaldo to the bench in the later matches.—AFP

FIFA to ‘revisit’ plan to scrap four-team groups: Infantino

FIFA looks set to revise plans to introduce three-team groups for the 2026 World Cup, world football chief Gianni Infantino said on Friday.

FIFA had previously indicated that the 2026 finals, which will expand to 48 teams from 32, would see countries divided into 16 groups of three during the first round.

Under that format, the top two teams in each group would advance to a 32-team knockout tournament. However, FIFA

president Infantino said the thrilling success of the existing first-round format at the Qatar World Cup—where teams were divided into traditional groups of four—had prompted a rethink. Several groups in Qatar went down to the wire, with qualification hanging in the balance until the final whistle. “The groups of four have been absolutely incredible until the last minute of the last match,” Infantino told a press conference in Doha.—AFP



FIFA president Gianni Infantino says plans to scrap four-team groups at the 2026 World Cup will be revisited. PHOTO: AFP/FILE