

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.



Recreation at Myeik Archipelago generates physical health and mental peacefulness. **PHOTO: KANU**

Myeik Archipelago eyes booming tourism amid ready for new year

DURING the New Year period, Myanmar travellers are making pilgrimage tours, study tours and trips for recreation like the world travellers and so hotels and motels at Myeik Archipelago are preparing for accommodating local/foreign visitors for the 2022-new year open season. The hotels and tourism en-

trepreneurs are preparing to provide competitive services to local/foreign travellers to visit islands in the Myeik District of the Taninthayi Region that boasts of the natural beauty of the ocean and islands. Moreover, the local COVID-19 infection rate is dropping and the Myeik Archipelago is welcoming visitors while the tourism

industry is in a certain momentum.

There are over 800 islands in Taninthayi Region, over 200 of which are in Myeik Archipelago. The most famous islands such as King Island or Marcus Island, Smart Island or Parpant Island, Thameehla Island, Done Waterfall, Done Nyaung Hmine (CBT), Taung Pan Gyi Island

and Bailey Island are full of the natural scenery of Myeik Archipelago and the foreign tourists are fond of visiting it.

“We have made arrangements for new year’s vacation. We also arrange special prices for those who want to make tours in groups, families, companies, employers and employees. We offer some special

services like beach bonfires, canoeing and mangrove conservation for growing trees in groups. They can go fishing and visit the Salon village to observe their language, tradition and culture, beliefs and lifes styles. Couples can make exotic pre-wedding shoots and anniversary and romantic trips to the islands.

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Five National Objectives of Diamond Jubilee Independence Day

1. To ensure cementing the discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democratic system and build the Union based on democracy and federalism;
2. To utmost strive for ensuring prosperity of the nation and food sufficiency as national work processes;
3. To build a better State and socioeconomic life in accord with the theme "Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal" focusing on interests of the State and ethnic national people;
4. To initiate national solidarity and peace of the Union with a firm vow;
5. To successfully hold the free and fair multiparty democratic general elections and emerge an electoral system in which all ethnic nationals would participate proportionately.

Myeik Archipelago eyes booming ...



A bird's-eye view of the island in Myeik Archipelago. PHOTO: KANU

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Then, there are special packages for the youths to make Adventure Tour and Survival Trips on the Virgin Island.

The hotels of Myeik Archipelago prepare with the best services for peaceful and pleasure trips and are welcoming the local/foreign travellers," said U Kyaw Moe, CEO of Blue Ocean Star Resort & Travel Co Ltd.

The people can observe the coral reef and fish species as well as sea butterflies and hornbills of the Myeik Archipelago and research whales and dolphins. Moreover, they can watch the living styles of sea turtles and seals and get services to learn

about the Mali bird nest and the nature of the grey-rumped swiftlets.

Myeik Archipelago tourism was established in 2014 and it developed in 2019 starting 2015. It accommodated great numbers of visitors during long holidays and there were between 200 and 300 travellers a day. The tourism industry was suspended temporarily due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and visitors started visiting there starting the full moon day of Thadingyut. Taninthayi Region is a place where the beauty of the islands of the country is concentrated and the local/foreign visitors also recognize the attraction of its beach

resorts. The tour to the islands of Myeik District resumed in October 2022 and the community-based tourism, hoteliers, tourist guides, boat drivers and locals are reaping good jobs and business opportunities.

The speed boats and vessels are operating at the islands systematically as per the directives of the departments concerned without affecting the safety of travellers and the natural environment. The islands of Myeik Archipelago with the most beautiful sights and nature of Myanmar's ocean are attracting local/foreign travellers with the best leisure services. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

Statements released on inhumane mine attack of PDF terrorists, subordinates of NUG, CRPH on Pansodan-Dala Cherry 2 ferry

A total of 17 innocent passengers were wounded on 18 December when a mine explosion of PDF terrorists, subordinates of NUG and CRPH occurred on the Cherry ferry 2 heading to

Dala from Pansodan jetty. Myanmar Artists Organization (Central) released statements strongly condemning the attack. — MNA

Myanmar Artists Organization (Central) Statement of condemnation on terrorist act

1st Waxing of Pyatho 1384 ME
22 December 2022

1. On Sunday 18 December 2022, 17 innocent people were wounded in the handmade bomb explosion committed by some terrorists on the Cherry ferry(2) heading to Dala jetty from Pansodan jetty.
2. Myanmar Artists Organization (Central) condemns terrorist groups that committed such an act of terror targeting innocent people.

Myanmar Artists Organization (Central)

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5 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 22 December, total figure rises to 633,590

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,590** after **five** new cases were reported on 22 December 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **608,190** including **eight** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,489** on 22 December with no new deaths reported from the pandemic.

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

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

More physical and active participation of people seen in nation-building tasks

“Nation-rebuilding endeavours cannot be sufficiently carried out only with the government supporters. Today, the concept of physical and active participation in any endeavours, be it nation building or defence, together with the people of the country is becoming more evident day by day.”

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by General Aung San at the All Burma Association of Fire Brigades in June 1947)



Myanmar Traditional Shinbyu, Novitiation Ceremony PHOTO BY THAN NAING OO (NGA-PHE)

Kayin New Year Day ceremony marked in Pantanaw Township

STATE Administration Council member Mahn Nyein Maung attended the 85th Kayin New Year Festival of the 2762 Kayin Era held at Myaynu village of Pantanaw Township in Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

First, vice-chairman Mahn Thein Aung of the township Kayin Literature and Culture Association made an opening speech.

Then, SAC member Mahn Nyein Maung read out the message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony of Kayin New Year Day. He then talked about the discussion for perpetual peace politically by Kayin ethnic armed organizations, socio-economic development through

unity of Kayin ethnics and measures to develop traditions and culture of Kayin people.

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win and the South-West Command commander also made remarks.

Then, the secretary of the township Kayin Literature and Culture Association read out the message sent by the Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs, and the chairman of the association delivered remarks.

At noon, the SAC member went to “Wah Wah Win” Company in Nyaungdon Township and inspected the Delta Queen dairy production farm, fish farms and cold storage processes, animal feed manufacturing processes and natural fertilizer production. — MNA/KTZH



SAC member Mahn Nyein Maung and party inspect manufacturing activities in Pantanaw Township yesterday.

Kayin New Year Festival celebrated in Yangon’s National Races Village



The celebration of Kayin New Year is in progress in Yangon yesterday.

THE Kayin New Year Festival was held at the National Races Village in Thakayta Township of

Yangon Region yesterday.

First, the flag hoisting ceremony was held and the attendees

gave a salute to the flag.

Next, SAC members Jeng Phang Naw Taung and U Saw

Daniel and wife, Union Minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint, the region chief minister and the commander of Yangon Command launched the ceremony by giving nine beats on the Kayin traditional frog drum.

In his greeting speech, SAC member U Saw Daniel said 22 December 2022, 1st Waxing of Pyatho 1384 ME, 2762 Kayin Era is New Year’s Day for Kayin ethnic people. Although the ethnic people residing in Myanmar have different cultures, traditions and customs, they all are national brethren.

As per the long existence of the Kayin people, they possess customs, culture and historic heritages. The traditional festivals of the Kayin people are the new year festival, house-warming festival, new harvest feast and soul-inviting

festival and their traditional Don dance is very active and also famous. Now the festival reached its 85th anniversary for the efforts of Kayin ancestors since 1937.

He then highlighted the activities of SAC implementing the “To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics” mentioned in the nine objectives of SAC and the need to conserve the literature, language and culture.

After the Kayin traditional dance performance, the Minister for Ethnic Affairs gave presents to the guests.

Then, the officials provided cash contributions to Kayin New Year Festival Organizing Committee. — MNA/KTZH

Face-to-face meeting needed for peace issues without external interference

ONLY when all ethnic national brethren hold a face-to-face meeting to solve the peace issues of our country without any interference from the external will it achieve success. Whenever those at home and abroad do not wish to benefit from Myanmar's peace process, our peace talks will not reach the goal we aspire to. Hence, all ethnic national brethren need to notice that they should never follow criticisms leading to destruction for peace.

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

One-Man Show of famous singer Myanmar Pyi Thein Tan “Future of Stars” held to hail Diamond Jubilee Independence Day

THE One-Man Show of famous singer Myanmar Pyi Thein Tan “Future of Stars” was held as a gesture of hailing Diamond Jubilee Independence Day at MICC II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by State Administration Council members U Khin Maung Swe, Daw Aye Nu Sein, U Shwe Kyein, Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Union ministers and wives, deputy ministers, departmental heads, male and female military parachutists, students and invitees.

First, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn said the show is aimed at abandoned children as it should provide these children showing sympathy. The abandoned children aged between 4 and 20 will participate in the entertainment programmes.

Then, singer Myanmar Pyi



The SAC members, Union Ministers and dignitaries watch the show in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Thein Tan and the troupe sang the songs.

After that, Union Minister U Muang Maung Ohn accepted K 48 million cash donation donated by Warm Hand Foundation, Shwe Than Lwin Media Com-

pany Limited, a donor, Thaya Kyinuu Phwal Gems Company Limited, May Thu 27 Real Estate and gave back the certificates of honour.

Then, Myanmar Pyi Thein Tan and 50 abandoned children

performed song entertainments happily. There are abandoned children and poor children for various reasons across the nation and all should cooperate in shaping them into precious smart persons. Therefore, My-

anmar Pyi Thein Tan dubbed the abandoned children as the shining stars in the sky and conducted his one-man show. The show earned over K55.9 million in cash donations. — MNA/KTZH

MoFA Union Minister holds informal consultation with Thai Dy PM

AT the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand Mr Don Pramudwinai,

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar attended the

Informal Consultation held on 22 December 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Union Minister was accompanied by Dr Kan

Zaw, Union Minister of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, and U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for International Cooperation and senior officials.

During the Informal Consultation, the Myanmar delegation cordially exchanged views on matters of Myanmar's cooperation with ASEAN for the implementation of the ASEAN five-point consensus, providing correct information, reflecting the actual situation on the ground, and reiterating Myanmar's position on the recently adopted “ASEAN leaders' review and decision on the implementation of the five-point consensus”.

The Myanmar delegation explained the Myanmar government's efforts in peace talks with Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) with unilateral ceasefire announcement, successful prevention of the COVID-19 pan-

dem and economic recovery, meetings with political parties, Union Election Commission's preparation for free and fair elections in implementation of the five-point consensus.

The Myanmar delegation highlighted the progress of the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar under the five-point consensus with the cooperation of the AHA Centre including the delivery of Phase I life-saving humanitarian assistance and the need for the assessment and planning process for Phase II life-sustaining assistance in Myanmar.

In addition, the Myanmar delegation explained terrorist activities committed by unlawful and terrorist organizations namely so-called NUG, CPRH, and PDF obstructing the Myanmar government's efforts to restore peace and democracy.

SEE PAGE-5



The Informal Consultation between the Myanmar delegation and the Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs is underway yesterday in Bangkok.

MoFA Union Minister holds informal consultation.....

FROM PAGE-4

Due to their terrorist acts and violent attacks, many innocent lives including monks and nuns, civilians, and government staff were sacrificed, and they destroyed many public buildings and infrastructures including schools, hospitals, banks, markets, roads, bridges and transport vehicles. The Myanmar delegation stressed that the violent activities of PDF are in breach of the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and other provisions of International Law, particularly the Geneva Conventions. Therefore, the Myanmar delegation urged ASEAN member states to denounce terrorist activities of NUG and PDF and to discourage any moral, material and financial support to terrorist organizations.

At the sideline of the informal consultation, Myanmar and Thailand delegations cordially exchanged their views on bilateral cooperation encompassing political, economic and socio-cultural matters charting the way forward on future cooperation.—MNA

MYANMAR DELEGATION ARRIVES BACK HOME:



AT the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand Mr Don Pramudwinai, the Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin comprising Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic

Relations Dr Kan Zaw and Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing arrived back in Yangon International Airport yesterday evening after attending the Informal Consultation held in Bangkok yesterday. The delegation was welcomed back by officials. — MNA

Govt, UMFCCI collaborate in driving inclusive economic growth for private sectors

THE government and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) have been collaborating in promoting private sector development and accelerating the growth, Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo of the Ministry of Commerce gave a remark at the 31st Annual General Meeting of UMFCCI held on 22 December.

This event highlighted the farewell to the former executive members (2019-2022) and welcomed those elected members for the 2022-2025 term.

For the 2022-2025 term, the new President of the UMFCCI is U Aye Win, Thuriya Win Company owner, and seven vice presidents: U Thaung Tin (KMD Group), U Ye Min Aung (President of Myanmar Rice Federation), U Aye Tun (Chair of Myanmar Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Association) and businesspeople such as Dr Myo Thet, Dr Win Si Thu, U Mya Han and U San Lin were elected.

Daw Khine Khine Nwe, Secretary of Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, was elected as general secretary of the CEC. Now, 259 new executive members will lead the federation.



Union Commerce Minister U Aung Naing Oo speaks on the occasion of the 31st Annual General Meeting of UMFCCI in Yangon yesterday.

“We have systematically elected the Executive Committee, Central Executive Committee and Management Committee for the next three years on 19 November, U Zaw Min Win (2019-2022) elaborated on the election process.

“The active collaboration with international organizations can be vividly seen. We are actively engaged in the activities led by ASEAN. We take part in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region Economic Forums at present. So, I appreciate

the international activities of the federation. Public-Private partnership plays a pivotal role in the economic development of the State. The UMFCCI has been fostering connectivity in the public-private partnership and strengthening the private sector role as per the economic policies of the State under the different administrations. I notice the participation of youth in the federation. Young entrepreneurs will drive the country’s economic development to keep abreast of the development in

foreign countries. That being so, handing over the tasks and capacity enhancement training are requisite,” the Union minister said.

This year, challenges in banking and currency in circulation adversely affected every business, prompting UMFCCI to take a step to discuss with the Central Bank of Myanmar and Myanmar Banks Association. UMFCCI conducted a series of discussions with those financial institutions, said U Aye Win, former general secretary

of UMFCCI, who also acts as president of UMFCCI for the 2022-2025 tenure.

There were 51 affiliated associations in each region and state in the respective industries in the 2015-2016 term. In 2022, the number increased to 81.

Between 2016 and 2022, trainees were sent to take MA courses under Japanese Grant Aid (JDS), and Master of Business Administration (MBA) courses with the Young Leaders’ Programme (YLP) to establish human resource development. Skilled labour courses and in-house training courses were conducted by the Global MBA Offshore Program by the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce UTCC and UMFCCI for over 9,000 trainees. Moreover, UMFCCI’s Myanmar-Japan Centre also produced hundreds of trainees in business-related courses, U Zaw Min Win, former president of UMFCCI said at the meeting.

Regarding the financial development of UMFCCI, fixed assets increased by 12 per cent till March 2022 from 2016. Financial reserves climb every year. Spending it on good purposes also grew by four folds compared to that of the 2015-2016 Financial Year. — TWA/EMM

The following remarks are made by attendees at the 31st Annual General Meeting of the UMFCCI.

U Nai Aung Than Mon State UMFCCI vice-president 3

ON this occasion, we will hand over the responsibility and tasks to our new members. This event aimed to let the elected individuals take on the role and responsibilities to spur the development of the federation. We must exert our concerted efforts to improve our country. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and its affiliated associations in Mon State are joining hands together. Entrepreneurs and businesspersons across the nation are engaged in



U Nai Aung Than.

the federation so it plays a pivotal role in the country's economic growth. Those elected individuals have to better contribute to the development of the State with selfless services.

U Aung Win, a member of Central Executive Commit-

tee Yaung Ni Oo Company

It is the executive, central executives and the industry peers' candidate selection event, which is the annual general meeting. We have elected CEC members. We will monitor the activities and performances of the new members. There are existing members of the CEC in the teams. I would like to show my genuine appreciation for the good work of the then president in tackling the issues of the affiliated associations, handling the supply chain shortages for the people and fostering strong linkages between the public sec-



U Aung Win.

tor and private businesses. The newly elected president will take on a variety of roles and tasks.

U Myo Han (acting presi- dent) Kawthoung Chamber of Commerce

I feel proud of the trans-



U San Thein.



U Myo Han.

parent activities of the federation to the members. I am also delighted with the future plans of the association for the State and our people. I believe those elected will achieve in balancing strengths and weaknesses.

Last but not least, the participation of women among the



U Thaung Winn.

executive candidates shows women's empowerment in the industry. Genuine efforts towards growth are of the greatest importance.

U San Thein (an executive of UMFCCI)

It is the first-ever year-end meeting of UMFCCI. It is quite interesting with a valuable overview of the one-year performance.

I hope they will promote private sector-led growth.

U Thaung Win (CEC, UM- FCCI)

This is an annual meeting with many businesspersons. This year, the executive member election is the highlight. The candidates have been elected in November. This event will publicly declare the new executive



U Aung Shin.

members.

We explored and invented solutions for business facilitation through this productive meeting. There are much better opportunities than the pandemic-stricken times.

U Aung Shin (President of Myanmar Food Processors and Ex- porters Association)

This is annual general meeting of the UMFCCI. It is also the farewell to former President U Zaw Min Win who served for 30 years at the UMFCCI. We would like to extend a congratulatory message and appreciation to the president for his real efforts. Now, we can see all came together to congratulate his contributions, services and achievements. — TWA/EMM

MoE to revise alternative primary education curricula

STARTING from the 2023-2024 academic year, it is necessary to reform the alternative primary education curriculum in line with the new basic primary education curriculum in order to carry out the new primary-level adjustment pro-

grammes, said Deputy Minister for Education U Zaw Win.

The deputy minister said so at the workshop on alternative primary education curriculum review and update work of the Alternative Education and Lifelong Learning Depart-

ment, held at the meeting hall of the Education Department in No 52 Office, Nay Pyi Taw on 19 December.

Deputy Minister U Zaw Win highlighted that curriculum experts and technical experts were invited to the

workshop to modify the alternative primary education curriculum according to the new basic primary system education curriculum.

In addition, he added that the curriculum of the alternative primary education

programme implemented by the Alternative Education and Lifelong Learning Department of the Ministry of Education needs to be in conformity with the new basic education primary education curriculum (KG+ Grade-5). — TWA/CT

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

169 workers leave for Thailand under MoU via Kawthoung-Ranong border

A total of 169 Myanmar workers left for Thailand under the MoU system through the Kawthoung-Ranong border on 20 December, according to overseas employment agencies.

SMZ Co Ltd, an overseas employment agency (Thai licence holder), sent 134 men and 35 women from Kawthoung to Ranong to work at Southland Resources Co Ltd in Thailand under a two-year contract.

The Kawthoung District Labour Department, Immigra-

tion and Population Department, Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force and relevant organizations made necessary inspections for Myanmar MoU workers.

There are 114 overseas employment agencies (Thai licence holders) 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



MoU workers are seen departing for Thailand.

FDA not to resolve improper online e-submission application of local food industries



THE Department of Food and Drug Administration under the Ministry of Health made an announcement regarding the online e-submission system on 20 December.

In applying for domestic food industries through the online e-submission system, a company can register with its registration number (DICA No) issued by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. If the company is not registered, it can

apply for registration as “Other”, announced the FDA Myanmar.

It has been informed that the FDA Myanmar will not solve the problems arising from the application by the businesses that do not apply by themselves.

It was initially instructed that food producers who want to apply for FDA permission must submit the following information together — completed import recommendation-IR data entry form (Food), foods to be produced (to be submitted by brand, packaging material and packag-

ing size), copy of trademark to be used and trademark registration, the Halal endorsement if the trademark has the Halal mark, the business structure and staff list (Names, Qualification and Post), the business location map, the map of the structure of rooms in the building, the list of equipment used and detailed equipment-specific specifications, a step-by-step explanation of food production and the step-by-step photo description of food production. — TWA/CT

112 Bengalis including 12 children without official documents arrested

A total of 112 Bengalis, including 12 children, without any official documents, were arrested near Kadonlay island in Bogale township, according to the Myanmar police force.

After interrogation, it was learnt that they were on their way from Rakhine State to Malaysia.

The Bogale township Court sentenced 35 persons aged over

18 to five years imprisonment. Thirteen persons under 18 were ordered to be detained at Hnget-Aw-San Youth Training School until they were 20 years old.

The police also arrested 48 Bengalis near Kadonlay island in Bogale township on 31 October and 68 Bengalis near Nyaunhnapin Zone 1 in Hlegu township on 28 November. — TWA/MKKS



MIC calls for investment proposals in eight types of businesses

MYANMAR Investment Commission will prioritize investment activities in eight types of businesses.

Manufacturing of fertilizer, cement, iron and steel, value-added foodstuff, electric vehicle and pharmaceutical and medical supplies, agriculture and live-

stock farming and related industries and public transportation services will be prioritized for investment.

The commission welcomes both foreign direct investment and domestic investments made by Myanmar citizens in those sectors. MIC and the related

ministries will also ensure investment facilitation. Between January and the second week of December 2022, Yangon Region attracted US\$74 million from 53 projects, including 12 operated by Myanmar citizens and 41 wholly foreign-owned enterprises. — TWA/EMM

OPINION

Unite the strength of MSME businesses to support the State economy

THE government is giving encouragement to the development of micro, small, and medium-scale enterprises as part of managing the manufacturing of products as an import-substitute measure and promotion of export volume. It emphasizes the improvement of the manufacturing sector among trading, service and other sectors in the MSMEs.

MSME business plays a key role in the development of the State economy. So, the MSME Development Law and policy were enacted in 2015 and by-law in 2016 in order to create new job opportunities. Although more than 40,000 MSMEs have been registered across the nation, the majority of products do not get good prices in the market due to low quality. Practically, the root cause of low quality depends on outdated machinery and technology and lesser developed human resources.

Anyone should not underestimate domestic raw materials. It is because a lot of these materials are available in relevant regions and these are cheaper ones but high quality to be used in manufacturing. As such, MSME products should be manufactured with the use of domestic raw materials in relevant regions by saving production costs and minimizing loss and waste.

It is important to create good environments for developing MSME businesses and fulfilling other requirements in addition to protecting the domestic market for locally made goods. Moreover, authorities need to levy increased tariffs against imported goods similar to locally made products, effectively suppress and eradicate illegal trade activities and eliminate corruption cases so as to develop MSME businesses.

As now is an opportune time for entrepreneurs to strive for improvement of their businesses to achieve success with new ideas and strength in manufacturing high-quality products to be able to penetrate foreign markets as the government is encouraging MSME businesses for booming the State economy.

Anyone should not underestimate domestic raw materials. It is because a lot of these materials are available in relevant regions and these are cheaper ones but high quality to be used in manufacturing. As such, MSME products should be manufactured with the use of domestic raw materials in relevant regions by saving production costs and minimizing loss and waste.

Up to now, most global countries are relying on MSME businesses to booming their economy. It shows a sound foundation can contribute much to the construction of great buildings. So also, the united strength of MSME businesses will be a reliable strength for the State economy.

■

ARTICLE

The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and their Contributions to the Geology of Myanmar

By **THAN HTUN**
(GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR)

Episode:3

JUST after the retirement of the first GSI Superintendent Thomas Oldham Mr Medicott became Superintendent (and afterwards Director) of the Geological Survey of India in 1876 and served in that capacity until he retired in 1887. His geological work is related almost wholly to India and is published in the Memoirs and Records of the Geological Survey of that country.

Henry Benedict Medicott, FRS (3 August 1829 – 6 April 1905) was an Irish geologist who worked in India. He was born in Loughrea, County Galway, Ireland, the son of the Church of Ireland, Rector of Loughrea, Samuel Medicott (1796-1858). He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin under Thomas Oldham (1816-1875) (as well as in France, Guernsey, and Dublin. He obtained a BA in 1850 with a diploma in honours in the school of Civil Engineering and an MA in 1870. He was an expert in French and was acquainted with the works of French geologists. He joined the Geological Survey of Ireland as a general assistant in October 1851 working under Joseph Beete Jukes (1811-1869) and later with the British Geological Survey in Wiltshire before resigning to join the Geological Survey of India in March 1854.

He is credited with having suggested the name Gondwana. He used the term to describe the stratigraphy of a mostly Permian formation in India. The geologist Edward Suess noted the widespread Glossopteris fossil flora and called all the regions "Gondwana-Land" and included India, Madagascar, and Africa but not Australia. In 1888, shortly after he retired from public service, he was awarded the Wollaston Medal by the Council of Geological Society. From this date, he resided for the most part at Clifton, near Bristol, where he died at the age of 76.

In 1879, H. B. Medicott and W. T. Blanford published a Manual of the Geology of India, chiefly

compiled from the observations of the Geological Survey. The second edition was revised and largely rewritten by R. D. Oldham, Superintendent, Geological Survey of India. The abridgement of significant geological information extracted from this manual could be described as follows: -

Volcanoes

The Indian empire can boast of one volcano, which is at present dormant but has been in active eruption within the century. Barren island in the Bay of Bengal is not only a perfect model of a volcano but is classical in the history of geological controversy. It has been repeatedly referred to and described by geological writers, but the earlier references were all more or less inaccurate, and it is only within the last few years that a careful description of it has been given by Mr F. R. Mallet.

Barren Island

The volcano of Barren Island has an irregularly circular form about two miles in diameter, composed of an outer rim, rising to a height of 700 to 1,000 feet above the sea and surrounding a slightly elliptical amphitheatre, whose larger axis runs north-east and south-west with a length of 9 furlongs. From the centre of this a cone of remarkably regular rise to a height of 1,015 feet above the sea. The depression, where the slope of this cone and the inner slope of the amphitheatre meet, has a maximum elevation of 300 feet above the sea, and is almost entirely occupied by three distinct lava streams. In 1789, when Blair saw the island, the sea did not penetrate the amphitheatre, which had all been filled up to above sea level. The volcano was then in active eruption, throwing out blocks and scoria, and it may be that it had been visited at some earlier period, before the hollow was completely filled up, and that the only record left of this visit is to be found in the erroneous description

which was at one time current in text-books.

At the time of Blair's visit, there appears to have been no lava stream in the gap where the outer rim is breached, but in 1832 the lava was there and still hot that the water in contact with it was boiling. Since that period the flow was cooled down and the temperature of the water which percolates beneath the lava and issues as a spring on the seashore has steadily diminished at each visit, till it was no more than 110°F in 1886. It seems certain, therefore, that this lava flow was poured out later than 1789 and probably within the present century.

Nacondam Island

Seventy-five miles north-north-east of Barren Island lies the island of Narcondam, indubitably of volcanic origin like the former, but composed almost, if not quite, entirely of hornblende andesite lava with little or no volcanic ash. It is not certain whether this volcano ever had a crater, as it may have been of the so-called endogenous type, formed by the quiet extrusion of lavas unaccompanied by any crater-forming materials. The complete obliteration of the crater, if there ever was one, is in itself an indication of the period for which the volcano has been extinct, and in any case, the deep ravines, with which its sides are scored, are an equally eloquent testimony of the time during which subaerial denudation has been uninterruptedly at work so that this volcano has probably been longer extinct than either of the two that follow.

Puppa (Poppa) Volcano

About 50 miles north-north-west of Yenangyaung and 25 to 30 miles east-south-east of Pagan, both large towns on the Irawadi, the extinct volcano of Puppa (Poppa) rises to a height of about 3,000 feet above the undulating country composed of Pliocene sands and gravels. The mountain has preserved its original form to some extent, but the crater has been greatly broken down by denudation, and the rim completely cut

away at one point, where the drainage from the interior has made itself a means of exit. The peak consists of breccia, but lava flows, mostly trachytic, from the lower slopes and the surface around the base of the volcano. Among these flows are some very beautiful porphyries with crystals of pyroxene.

The horizontal beds of gravel and sand around the base of the volcano contain fossil wood and ferruginous concretions and apparently belong to the Pliocene fossil wood group. They are capped by the lava flows, contain pumice and volcanic fragments, and, in one place, a bed of ash breccia was found interstratify with them. It appears highly probable, therefore, that the volcano was active in Pliocene times, but it may have continued to emit lava and scoria at a later period.

Mud volcanoes

Associated with true volcanoes in name at least, even if, as is held by many geologists, in nothing else than a name, are mud volcanoes, of which two principal groups are known, in Burma on the east, and Baluchistan on the west, of India, respectively.

Of the Burman ones, the best known are those of Minbu on the Irawadi and those of the islands of Rami and Cheduba on the Arakan coast. A few others are reported, but they are small and isolated and consist only of temporary outbursts.

The Ramri mud volcanoes are more interesting than the others since they alone, so far as are known, are subject to paroxysmal eruptions of great violence, and from them alone stones have been ejected and flames emitted. Some of the principal phenomena may be briefly described here. There are about a dozen or rather more vents in Ramri island itself, more than half that number in Chiduba, and a few in the other neighbouring islands. Near Kyauk-Pyu in Ramri, six occur in a line, within a distance of about a mile and a half long the summit of a low broad ridge.

Many of the vents consist of

Henry Benedict Medicott



H. B. Medicott: Source: Wikipedia

truncated cones, built up of the dried mud ejected by outbursts of gas. The crater, filled with more or less liquid or viscid mud through which the gas escapes, occupies the top of the conical hillock. The majority, however, of the Ramri mud volcanoes consist of mounds, composed on the surface of angular fragments of rock and having scattered over them a few small mud cones with craters at the top, varying in height from a few inches to ten feet. When gas ceases to be omitted from a vent, the mud is rapidly washed away by rain and there remains a low mound, composed of angular fragments of rocks which were ejected together with the mud, and the repetition of a similar process accounts for the

formation of the mounds.

Besides the gas and mud, a small quantity of petroleum is usually discharged from the vents. The gas consists mainly of marsh gas (light carburetted hydrogen), probably mixed with some of the more volatile hydrocarbons usually associated with petroleum. The mud is simply the grey shale or clay of the Tertiary rocks, mixed with water containing some salt in solution.

Gneissose Granite

Gneissose rocks are largely developed in the hill ranges which run southwards from the eastern termination of the Himalayas to the east of Burma and Tenasserim, but very little is known of their

constitution. More or less granitoid gneiss, hornblende gneiss, crystalline limestone, quartzite, and schists of various kinds are found. In many places, the gneiss becomes true granite, and much of the area is occupied by a rock that has been described by various observers as an eruptive granite. These gneissic formations are known to be metalliferous in several places. Tin occurs in abundance in Tenasserim and the Malay Peninsula, lead and silver mines - one of them at least, the famous Bawduen-gyee (Bawdwin Gyi), of very large dimensions and highly productive - exist in the Shan States north-east of Ava, while the valuable and productive ruby mines of Mogouk (Mogok) and the less important ones near the capital are situated in the same series of metamorphic rocks.

Carboniferous of Tenasserim

In Tenasserim the only other region where marine deposits of the Carboniferous age are known to exist, there is a great accumulation of pseudo-porphyratic sedimentary beds known as the Mergui Group, whose principal feature is derived from embedded fragments of feldspar. The rock in its normal form is earthy, but highly indurated, passing into slaty masses without the conspicuous feldspar fragments on the one hand, and on the other into grits and conglomerates. Resting on these grits, are dark-coloured earthy beds, finely laminated, with hard quartzose grits. They have only been noticed hitherto near Mergui, and nothing is known of their relations.

The beds of the last group in the Tenasserim valley are succeeded by the Maulmain groups of hard sandstones, often in thin and massive layers, with thin earthy partings, sometimes in a fine lamina, the prevailing colour is a reddish tint, and some of the layers are calcareous. Some of the more soft and earthy beds contain marine fossils. Over these sandstones occur grey shale beds, also

sometimes calcareous and fossiliferous, with occasional beds of dark sandstone, then come 150 to 200 feet of fine soft sandstone, thinly bedded, with grey and pinkish shaly layers intercalated and upon these again, hard thick limestone. The fossils found appeared to be of Carboniferous age, Spirifer and Productus being the commonest forms, but the species have not been determined, and it is rare to obtain specimens in a state suitable for identification.

The thickness of these beds is estimated at about 5,000 feet, exclusive of the limestone, which is itself 1,100 feet thick near Maulmain. Near Maulmain the limestone is extremely conspicuous, and forms large hills and ranges, extending far to the south-south-east up the valley of the Attaran and Zami. The same rock occurs east of the Salwin, but does not extend far into Martaban, and is wanting in the Sittaung valley. Farther up the Salwin, however, in Karen-ri, and elsewhere beyond the British frontier, large tracts of limestone occur, probably belonging to the Carboniferous series. Limestone is said to abound in the Mergui archipelago, and may very probably be, in parts at least, identical to that found near Maulmain.

Rocks of the Arakan Yoma

In the Arakan range neither is the case, the rocks of the main range consist of rather hard sandstones and shales, greatly squeezed, contorted, and broken, traversed by numerous small veins of quartz, often slaty, and sometimes schistose, but there is a marked, deficiency of any conspicuous strata. The few bands of limestone which occur are thin, isolated, and as a rule unfossiliferous. The rocks on the western, or Arakan, side of the range seem, on the whole, less altered than those on the eastern, or Pegu, slope, and unaltered nummulitic rocks appear, on both sides throughout a great part of the area, although not continuously on the outer spurs.

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Poor quality watermelon pushes down export price to China



Watermelons are seen ready to export to China.

MYanmar's watermelon is offered at a low price in export to China owing to inferior quality, said Sai Khin Maung from Khwar Nyo Fruit Trading Depot.

"It sounds reasonable. We sell the fruits at Wang Ding depot. Quality deterioration of fruits occurs due to insufficient operational activities such as han-

dling, transportation and storage along the supply chains," Sai Khin Maung elaborated.

Additionally, traders must evaluate market demand and cost estimation, he added.

"Wang Ding depot is the initial stage in watermelon exports. Excess supply without doing any calculation on market demand

and cost makes the market calm down. Furthermore, pesticide and fertilizer use affect fruit quality. Traders are supposed to closely observe the market to ensure profitability. They were so shocked after deducting transport costs, taxes and cultivation costs. Traders had better not take a risk unless they are sure about

30 per cent profit. Regardless of profitability, the charges, taxes and levies are inevitable", Sai Khin Maung said.

The prevailing prices stand at 1.2 Yuan for 855N watermelon, 2.5 Yuan for Taiwan watermelon and 1.5-2 Yuan for seedless watermelon depending on quality.

Approximately 70 truckloads of watermelon and muskmelons are to be conveyed to China per day.

Myanmar's watermelon and muskmelon are heavily reliant on the Chinese market. The traders grappled with China's strict virus policy.

Last year, the COVID-19 restrictions hindered Myanmar's watermelon and muskmelon exports to China. Chinese Customs Regulation increased delay. Long delays of trucks caused harm to watermelon quality and only one in five trucks heading to China remained undamaged with quality watermelons.

The traders are observing delivery time, price and profitability as they are perishable fruit,

while they are trying to explore new markets besides China.

On 1 April, Nantaw and Sinphyu border posts were suspended in the wake of COVID-19 impacts. China has closed down the major border crossing Mang Wein from 30 March 2021 following the COVID-19 cases in Myanmar.

On 8 July 2021, the two-remaining cross-border posts Kyinsankyawt and Panseng were suspended. As a result of this, the border trade between Myanmar and China was completely halted.

Among Sino-Myanmar land borders, the Kyinsankyawt post resumed operations on 26 November on a trial run.

At present, Myanmar daily delivers rice, broken rice, rubber, various beans and pulses, fishery products, chilli pepper and other food commodities to China through Kyinsankyawt by 100 trucks and building materials, electrical appliances, household goods and industrial raw materials are imported into the country by 40 trucks. — NN/EMM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 22 December 2022

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K1,925
Octane 95	K1,995
Diesel	K2,300
Premium Diesel	K2,390

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,139,500 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,688,000 per tical

Dollar Price

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,820 to K2,840

The above prices may change from time to time.

Thailand remains Myanmar's top trading partner among regional countries in 7 months

THE bilateral trade with neighbouring Thailand, Myanmar's major trading partner among ASEAN, accounts for US\$3.467 billion in the seven months (April-October) of the current financial year 2022-2023 by sea and border channels, the statistics issued by the Central Statistical Organization under the Ministry of Planning and Finance indicated.

The ministry reported that exports surpassed imports in trade with Thailand, with exports reaching over \$2.2 billion and imports valued at over \$1.26 billion.

Thailand has been Myanmar's largest trade partner among the regional countries, followed by Singapore and Malaysia.

Myanmar's bilateral trade with Thailand was registered at \$2.97 billion in the 2021-2022 mini-budget period, \$5.277 billion in the 2020-2021FY,

Thailand accounted for 18.48 per cent of total trade in 2016-2017FY with an estimated trade value of US\$4.6 billion, 19.17 per cent in 2017-2018FY with a trade value of \$5.57 billion, 40.38 per cent in 2018-2019FY with \$5.46 billion and over 40 per cent in 2019-2020FY with \$5.117

billion respectively.

Exports of natural gas from the Taninthayi Region contributed to the enormous increase in border trade with Thailand in the previous years. Last year, corn exports to Thailand also rose significantly as well, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

Myanmar primarily exports natural gas, fishery products, coal, tin concentrate (SN 71.58 per cent), coconut (fresh and dry), beans, corn, bamboo shoots, sesame seeds, garment, footwear, plywood and veneer, broken rice and other commodities to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, and consumer goods such as cosmetics, edible vegetable oil and food products from the neighbouring country.

Myanmar is carrying out border trade with the neighbouring country Thailand through Tachilek, Myawady, Myeik, Mawtaung, Hteek-hee, Kawthoung and Meisei border areas respectively.

Apart from its main trade partner China, Myanmar's external trade was mostly carried out with regional trade partners. — KK

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ARTICLE/SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and their Contributions ...

FROM PAGE-9

The crushed, hardened, and somewhat altered rocks of the Arakan Yoma were originally separated by Mr Theobald from the newer-looking nummulitic under the name of axials and considered as comprising the oldest Tertiary beds and their immediate predecessors in the series. Although there is a well-marked difference between the nummulitic beds and the axials, there is no distinct break between them. The remainder of the rocks forming the Arakan Yoma, excluding those of Cretaceous age, are either unfossiliferous or the

few organisms which have been detected, mostly the indistinct remains of plants and Mollusca, are insufficient to afford any trustworthy indication of age. They have been classed by Mr Theobald as Negrais rocks, the name being derived from Cape Negrais, the southwestern point of Pegu, and the extreme southern termination of the Arakan Yoma.

Irawadi Delta

Compared with the Gangetic and Indus deltas, those of the Irawadi and other Burmese rivers convey an idea of imperfection and backwardness, as though

the latter were of more modern growth than the former, and had made less progress towards the formation of a great fertile plain. The Salwin cannot be said to have any delta at all, and in the Irawadi delta, elevated tracts, both of rock and of the older alluvium deposits, occur in the neighbourhood of the sea. Considering the size of the river, the Sittaung delta, if the alluvial plain extending northward beyond Taung-Ngu (Taugoo) is included, is proportionally more extensive than that of the Irawadi, but still, the broad Gulf of Martaban extends into the very mouth of the Sittaung river. The Irawadi delta extends

from the Rangoon River to the Bassein river, and the head of the delta may be placed near Myanaung. The first important distributary -that forms the head of the Bassein river- leaves the main river a little above Henzada, but water overflows in floods some miles above Myanaung, and finds its way to the sea by the Myit-Ma-Kha Khyaung, the origin of the Rangoon River. The alluvial plain and delta of the lower Irawadi consist mainly of clay very similar to that found in the Gangetic plain, but containing much less lime, and consequently poor in Kankar. The colour is generally yellowish brown, sometimes

reddish, owing to the presence of peroxide of iron. The proportion of sand varies and is greater on the whole than in the Gangetic alluvium. A few thin layers of sand occur interstratified with the clay, and a band of dark blue or carbonaceous clay, a few inches in thickness, has been noticed in several localities.

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'Big challenges': choosing a nuclear career in Japan



The 2011 Fukushima disaster made working in the nuclear industry unappealing, but a new government push to revive the sector could start to shift the narrative. **PHOTO: INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)/AFP/FILE**

THE 2011 Fukushima disaster made working in the nuclear industry unappealing for many Japanese students, but a new

government push to revive the sector could start to shift the narrative. It's a welcome development for some young profes-

sionals, who have experienced the stigma sometimes associated with their job.

Chisato, who declined to give her family name, studied chemistry and radiation biology as a student, looking for a deeper understanding of the Fukushima disaster than what she read in anxiety-inducing media reports.

"I just wanted to know the facts, in a neutral way -- especially about the effects of nuclear radiation on the human body," the 28-year-old told AFP at a recent international conference for young nuclear professionals.

Still, when she applied for a job in 2017 at the operator of the stricken Fukushima plant, she was "surprised" when the interviewers asked what her parents thought of the role.—AFP

Wicked winter storm threatens US holiday travel chaos

A "once-in-a-generation" winter storm was threatening on Wednesday to wreak havoc with holiday travel plans for millions of Americans.

The National Weather Service (NWS) warned that the storm would produce "a multitude of weather hazards", including blizzards and life-threatening wind chill, across the northern,

central and eastern parts of the country.

Airlines told holiday travellers to brace for delays and cancellations as an Arctic cold front grips the northern Plains on Wednesday, sweeps through the Midwest and heads towards the East Coast on Friday just before Christmas.

"This will not be your aver-

age cold front as temperatures could drop 20 or more degrees within a few hours," the NWS said, bringing "record-breaking frigid temperatures" to the Gulf Coast and eastern United States by Friday.

It said the Great Lakes region could expect more than a foot (30.5 centimetres) of snow.—AFP

Chile's ALMA observatory resumes work after cyberattack

THE ALMA telescope in the Chilean Andes has resumed operations nearly two months after shuttering due to a cyber-attack, the observatory said Wednesday.

ALMA, the world's most powerful telescope for observing molecular gas and dust, studies the building blocks of stars, planetary systems, galaxies and life itself, according to the European Southern

Observatory (ESO), its co-operator.

The 29 October attack on ALMA's computer systems affected various critical operational servers and computers, the observatory said in a statement on its provisional website.

"To resume science observations was our top priority following the attack," ALMA director Sean Dougherty told AFP on Wednesday.—AFP



The 29 October attack on ALMA's computer systems affected various critical operational servers and computers. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Europe's new Vega-C rocket lost shortly after lift-off

EUROPE'S new Vega-C rocket was lost shortly after lift-off from French Guiana overnight with two satellites on board, in the latest blow to European space efforts.

The failure on Tuesday night threatens to ground the Vega-C, which would leave Europe without a short-term way to launch satellites into orbit after delays to the Ariane 6 rocket and cancelled Russian cooperation over the Ukraine war.—AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Putin inaugurates key Siberian gas field for China exports

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin on Wednesday inaugurated the Kovykta natural gas field in eastern Siberia that will allow Russia to increase its exports to China amid soaring tensions between Moscow and the West.

“We are launching the unique Kovykta gas field, the largest in Eastern Siberia. Its recoverable reserves are 1.8 trillion cubic metres of gas,” Putin said during a televised ceremony, taking part by video-link.

He said the launch of the field will “give a serious boost to the socio-economic development” of Russia’s eastern regions.

“The Kovykta gas field has been put into service,” said the CEO of Russian energy giant Gazprom, Alexei Miller, after Putin gave the green light for the inauguration.

Bringing Kovykta into production comes as Russian gas



Sinopec employees inspect gas pipes in Puyang, Henan province. **PHOTO: TONG JIANG/FOR CHINA DAILY**

exports to Europe decreased following soaring tensions since the beginning of Moscow’s offensive in Ukraine.

Russia does not have pipelines to transport gas from its Western Siberian and Arctic gas fields that have served Europe to China -- but around a decade

ago began efforts to develop new fields and build the Power of Siberia pipeline to deliver to the rapidly expanding market.

The first Power of Siberia pipeline went into operation and began to ship gas from eastern Siberia to China at the end of 2019.— AFP

Tokyo Games cost US\$13 bln, 20% more than organizers reported



Photo taken 8 Aug 2021 shows the National Stadium ahead of the Tokyo Olympic closing ceremony. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE cost of hosting last year’s Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics totalled 1.7 trillion yen (\$12.9 billion), a report released by Japan’s audit board showed Wednesday, around 20 per cent more than the amount calculated by the organizing committee earlier this year.

A revision to the central government’s share of costs accounted for the discrepancy, with the Board of Audit of Ja-

pan adding around 280 billion yen in games-related expenses not included in the organizing committee’s final report in June.

Amid ambiguity in what could be classified as an Olympic-related expense, the board, which made its own evaluation, stressed the need for the state to provide the necessary information to clarify its total expenses when running large-scale international events.

The games’ organizing committee reported in June that the total cost of hosting last year’s Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics was set to total 1.42 trillion yen.

The organizers were to cover 640 billion yen of the total, with the metropolitan government paying 597 billion yen and the central government 187 billion yen, it had said. According to the board, the final report reflected an agreement made between the three parties in 2017 to include the construction of new permanent facilities and operational expenses in the games’ total costs, but exclude administrative expenses such as anti-doping measures. However, after examining the central government’s share of the costs, the board concluded that a total of 280 billion yen spent on athlete training facilities, anti-doping measures, and subsidies to local governments for venue renovations should also be included in its total.—Kyodo

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

US widens trade complaint against Canada over dairy

THE United States announced Tuesday it is broadening its challenge of Canada’s dairy import policies, which Washington says denies US producers and exporters “full benefits of market access.”

The statement by US Trade Representative Katherine Tai comes months after the US asked for dispute settlement consultations under the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement, saying in May that changes to the dairy quota system Ottawa unveiled did not resolve long-standing concerns. Canada’s policies limit a large share of American dairy exports – including milk, butter, yogurt and ice cream – to Canadian processors under a system known as tariff rate quotas (TRQs). But on Tuesday, Tai added that the US is requesting new dispute settlement consultations with Canada under the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement over the TRQs system.—AFP

Germany drops antitrust probe into Google news product

GERMANY’S antitrust regulator said Wednesday it had shelved an investigation into Google’s News Showcase service, after the tech giant made “important adjustments” to ease competition concerns.

The decision comes after Google earlier this year made a major concession by offering to exclude “Google News Showcase” content from its general search results. “Google has responded to our concerns and implemented important adjustments to the benefit of publishers,” said Andreas Mundt, president of Germany’s Federal Cartel Office.—AFP

N Zealand’s amended cow burp tax plans still stink, say farmers

NEW Zealand’s government on Wednesday outlined changes to controversial plans to tax the farts and burps of livestock, but a leading farmers group said it was still opposed to the emissions reduction scheme.

New Zealand is planning a “world first” levy on emissions of methane and nitrous oxide, produced by the nation’s six million cows and 26 million sheep as a step towards tackling climate change. Under the pro-

posed scheme, farmers would have to pay for gas emissions from their animals.

The plans have caused uproar in New Zealand’s agricultural community and sparked nationwide protests.

Farmers have demanded Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern’s centre-left government ditch the tax, which they warn will make food more costly and could put livelihoods at risk.—AFP



Cows waiting to be milked on a dairy farm near Cambridge in New Zealand’s Waikato region. **PHOTO: AFP**

France fines Microsoft 60 million euros over advertising cookies



The fine on Microsoft is the largest the French regulator has imposed in 2022. PHOTO: AFP

FRANCE'S privacy watchdog said Thursday it has fined US tech giant Microsoft 60 million euros (\$64 million) for foisting advertising cookies on users.

In the largest fine imposed in 2022, the National Commission for Technology and Freedoms (CNIL) said Microsoft's

search engine Bing had not set up a system allowing users to refuse cookies as simply as accepting them. The French regulator said that after investigations it found that "when users visited this site, cookies were deposited on their terminal without their consent, while these cookies were

used, among others, for advertising purposes."

It also "observed that there was no button allowing to refuse the deposit of cookies as easily as accepting it."

The CNIL said the fine was justified in part because of the profits the company made from advertising profits indirectly generated from the data collected via cookies — tiny data files that track online browsing. Bing offered a button for the user to immediately accept all cookies, but two clicks were needed to refuse them, it said. The company has been given three months to rectify the issue, with a potential further penalty of 60,000 euros per day overdue.—AFP

Winter bonuses at Japanese firms see sharpest increase in 40 yrs

THE average winter bonus at large Japanese companies marked the sharpest increase of 8.92 per cent from a year earlier to 894,179 yen (\$6,800) since the current calculation method was adopted in 1981, the country's most powerful business lobby said Thursday.

The Japan Business Federation, known as Keidanren, said the average winter bonus was the third highest, reflecting the recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, but it did not reach the level of the pre-pandemic year of 2019.

Of the 18 industries in the survey covering 162 major firms, average bonuses rose in 16 sectors this winter:



The average winter bonus in the nonmanufacturing sector increased 16.86 per cent from last year to 832,082 yen, larger than the 7.29 per cent rise to 915,724 yen among manufacturers. PHOTO: KYODO

The average winter bonus in the nonmanufacturing sector increased 16.86 per cent from last year to 832,082 yen, larger than the 7.29 per cent rise to 915,724 yen among manufacturers.—Kyodo

Trump paid US\$1 mln in tax while in office but nothing in 2020

DONALD Trump paid \$1.1 million in federal taxes in the middle two years of his presidency, according to a report being scrutinized by lawmakers Wednesday — but almost nothing for the rest of his time in the White House. The seven-figure sum the former Republican president shelled out in 2018 and 2019 dwarfs his \$750 bill in 2017

— and he paid nothing at all as his losses mounted in 2020, the year of his failed re-election bid. The figures, released late Tuesday in a report by the US Congress Joint Committee on Taxation, showed that the 76-year-old billionaire mostly claimed enormous deficits from 2015 to 2020. But his reported income skyrocketed in 2018 and

2019, heightening feverish speculation around his finances as Congress prepares to make public his tax returns in the coming days. The former reality TV star registered capital gains from asset sales of \$22 million in 2018 and \$9 million the following year — part of an overall taxable income of \$28 million.—AFP

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE NO.44, COMPLEX, NAY PYI TAW MYANMAR

Tender No : MOGE-C001/22
Date : 23-12-2022

FAX : +95 67 3411125/3411178

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Bids are invited by the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. 44, Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar for the DIRECTIONAL DRILLING AND MUD ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR PYALO NW 3-1 IN ONSHORE BLOCK RSF-9 which particulars are attached to this invitation Documents related to these Bids are also attached.

The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications and Commercial Quotation with Original Bid Bond in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to addressed to the Managing Director, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 12:00 hours on 5-1-2023.

Managing Director
Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB250A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB250A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-12-2022** 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
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

Notice for Change of Registration Distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official registration distributor has been changed for the following pesticides distributed by Evogro Co., Ltd. to Wi Sar Ra International Co., Ltd.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number	Registration distributors	
					Old	New
1	Evo Spartan 3.6 EC	Abamectin 1.8% + Lambda-cyhalothrin 1.8% EC	Provisional	P2018-2671	Evogro Co., Ltd.	Wi Sar Ra International Co; Ltd.

Wi Sar Ra International Co., Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

Address - Wi Sar Ra International Co., Ltd. - No. (33), Shwe Padauk Yeik Mon, Bayint Naung Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon Region, The Republic of Union of Myanmar.

Ads Call 09251022355, 09974424848

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Israel's Netanyahu forms new government



Benjamin Netanyahu has already served a total of 15 years as Israel's prime minister in two earlier terms. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

VETERAN leader Benjamin Netanyahu announced that he had formed a new Israeli government on Wednesday, returning to power as the head of the most right-wing coalition in Israel's history.

Following his 1 November election win, Netanyahu secured a mandate to form a government backed by ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties and an extreme-right bloc.

That result left him poised to end Israel's unprecedented era of political

gridlock that forced five elections in less than four years, and replace the ideologically disparate coalition that ousted him in 2021.

Netanyahu, who is fighting corruption allegations in court, has already served as premier longer than anyone in Israeli history, including a 1996 to 1999 stint and a record 12-year tenure from 2009 to 2021.

His mandate to conclude coalition talks had been set to expire at midnight.—AFP

Russian lawmakers back long jail terms for 'saboteurs'

RUSSIAN lawmakers approved new legislation Wednesday that could see "saboteurs" handed long jail terms, pointing to emerging terror threats — including from foreigners — amid the Ukraine conflict.

Moscow this year has introduced a raft of legislative action to quash any perceived threats at home against the Kremlin's nearly 10-month intervention in Ukraine.

The lower house of parliament said in a statement that lawmakers had approved in its third and final reading a package of measures aimed at "protecting our country and citizens from terrorist and sabotage threats".

"The Russian Federation is conducting a special military operation and at the same time accepting refugees and

remains open for the entry and exit of foreign citizens," Duma speaker Vyacheslav Volodin was cited as saying in the statement, explaining the need

for the laws.

"The punishment for saboteurs will be as severe as possible," he said, according to the statement.—AFP



The new legislation approved by Russian lawmakers that could see 'saboteurs' handed long jail terms will need to be approved by the upper House of Parliament and signed by President Vladimir Putin. **PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA**

War-torn Ukraine's leader gives historic address to US Congress

UKRAINE'S president thanked "every American family" in an emotional but defiant address to the US Congress Wednesday aimed at countering growing scepticism over US military aid as Kyiv's war with Russia drags into the new year.

It was Volodymyr Zelensky's first overseas trip since Moscow launched the full-scale invasion on 24 February, a ruthless offensive that has upended the global economy and led to widespread destruction and death. "On this special Christmastime, I want to

thank you, all of you. I thank every American family which cherishes the warmth of its home and wishes the same warmth to other people," he told lawmakers who had given him a lengthy standing ovation as he walked into the House chamber.—AFP

WORLD: TOP STORIES

Georgia's ailing ex-leader Saakashvili appears gaunt in court

GEORGIA'S ailing ex-president Mikheil Saakashvili on Thursday looked frail as he appeared by video link at a court that will consider deferring his sentence of abuse of office over poor health.

Gaunt, hollow-cheeked and his hands trembling, Saakashvili was connected from hospital by video link. The footage was aired live from court by the independent Pirveli TV station.

The 55-year-old was transferred from prison to hospital last year after refusing food for 50 days to protest his jailing, which rights groups say is politically motivated.

Doctors who examined Saakashvili in person have said he is facing life-threatening complications stemming from his detention conditions.—AFP

French billionaire Bolloré completes sale of African ports

FRENCH billionaire Vincent Bolloré's holding company said Wednesday it had finalized the sale of its African ports and logistics business to the MSC shipping group for 5.7 billion euros (\$6.05 billion).

Bolloré Africa Logistics is present in 47 African countries and runs port operations in countries from Ivory Coast to Cameroon and Nigeria, according to its website.—AFP

Japan, India to stage 1st joint fighter jet drill in Jan near Tokyo

JAPAN said Thursday it will hold its first-ever joint fighter jet drill with India in January near Tokyo, as the countries have been strengthening security ties amid China's growing maritime assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region. The plan for joint air combat training was first agreed between foreign and defence ministers of the two nations during their inaugural "two-plus-two" security talks in New Delhi in November 2019.

But it has been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic that began in early 2020, according to the Air Self-Defence Force.

From the Japanese ASDF, four F-2 and four F-15 fighters are



Japan and the US on 8 Jun 2022 carried out a joint air patrol in the Asia-Pacific region in response to recent missile launches by North Korea. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

set to join the drill slated for 11 days through 26 Jan at Hyakuri

Air Base in Ibaraki Prefecture, northeast of Tokyo.—Kyodo

NEWS IN
BRIEF

UK's Guardian newspaper hit by suspected ransomware attack

UK newspaper The Guardian said on Wednesday it had been hit by a "serious IT incident", a suspected ransomware attack, although its website was largely unaffected.

The incident, which hit parts of the newspaper group's technology infrastructure, began late Tuesday.

There has been some disruption to "behind-the-scenes services", while staff have been asked to work from home while the problem is resolved, the Guardian said. "Online publishing is largely unaffected, with stories continuing to be written and published to the Guardian website and app," the newspaper added.—AFP

Spain votes on trans rights bill that has split the left

LAWMAKERS vote Thursday on a transgender rights bill that allows anyone 16 and over to change gender on their ID card, legislation that has sparked divisions within Spain's left-wing government and its feminist movement.

The draft bill effectively simplifies the procedure for changing gender on a person's national identity card, allowing them to request the change based on a simple statement.—AFP

Chile president says planning to open embassy in Palestinian territories

PRESIDENT Gabriel Boric of Chile, whose country has the largest Palestinian population outside of the Middle East, said Wednesday that he planned to open an embassy "in Palestine". The announcement by the leftist president, who began his four-year term in March 2022, came at a Christmas ceremony for Chile's Palestinian community, estimated to be more than 300,000 strong. "One of the decisions we have taken as a government, I think we have not yet made it public...

is that we will raise the level of our official representation in Palestine," Boric said. "We will open an embassy under our government."

Chile in 1998 opened a representative office to the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah, and in 2011 recognized Palestine as a state and supported its entrance to UNESCO.

Palestinians began immigrating to Chile in large numbers during the 20th century, when the area was still part of the Ottoman Empire.—AFP



People shout slogans and hold Palestinian flags during a demonstration in Lyon, central eastern France to show their support for the Palestinian people. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE

Fiji deploys military as PM refuses to concede poll defeat



Election Commission officials prepare to open the ballot boxes for counting during Fiji's general election in the capital city Suva on 14 December 2022. PHOTO: SAEED KHAN / AFP

FIJI'S long-time prime minister said on Thursday the military had been deployed to maintain "law and order", as the former coup leader refused to concede defeat after a close election.

Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, who has led Fiji since coming to power in a 2006 military putsch, cited unsubstantiated re-

ports of post-vote ethnic violence as the reason for the deployment.

"So long as it is our responsibility to serve in government, we will fulfil our duty to every Fijian's safety," he said in his first public comments since the December 14 election.

That vote looks set to end Bainimarama's long rule, with

an opposition coalition cobbled together by another former coup leader, Sitiveni Rabuka, securing enough seats for a parliamentary majority.

However, Bainimarama has refused to concede defeat and his allies have delayed the parliament sitting to nominate Rabuka as the next prime minister.—AFP

Belgium court to rule on MEP's detention in graft case

A Belgian court will decide on Thursday whether to keep a Greek MEP in jail pending trial on corruption charges in a graft scandal linked to Qatar that has rocked the European Parliament.

Eva Kaili, a 44-year-old former newsreader who was booted from her post as parliamentary vice-president after police raids earlier this month, has become the face of the case.

One of Kaili's lawyers, Michalis Dimitrakopoulos, told reporters in Brussels that she feels miserable, "very troubled" and betrayed by her boyfriend and co-accused Francesco Giorgi.

"Things are difficult, but we have very strong legal arguments to set her free," he said, arguing that Kaili is "not a flight risk and not in a position to destroy evidence".

She was arrested on 9 December as Belgian police, searching a number of addresses, found



Eva Kaili is currently being detained pending trial on corruption charges. PHOTO: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT/AFP

1.5 million euros (\$1.6 million) in cash. Kaili was charged shortly afterwards, and has been in detention since.

Another three suspects — her partner; the head of an NGO allegedly used to funnel money; and a former MEP-turned-lobbyist, all of them Italian — were also arrested.

All four are charged with "criminal organization, corruption and money laundering".

A Belgian judge authorized Kaili's arrest and detention on grounds that she was allegedly caught red-handed with cash, meaning her usual parliamentary immunity could not be invoked.—AFP

Russian lawmakers back long jail terms for 'saboteurs'

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SPORT

African team can reach 2026 World Cup final - CAF boss Motsepe



an expanded 48-team 2026 World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico — up from five in Qatar. Morocco made history in Qatar by becoming the first African representatives to reach the semi-finals.

The Atlas Lions stunned Belgium in the group stage, then eliminated two more powerful European sides, Spain and Portugal, in the knockout stage before losing to France in the semi-finals. "There are at least 10 African nations that can compete at the highest level and win the World Cup," added Motsepe.

He also hailed Cameroon and Tunisia for shock group victories over five-time World Cup winners Brazil and twice champions France respectively.

"We should be proud of what Cameroon and Tunisia achieved. These and other African countries must learn from Morocco," said the CAF president.

The shock victories were not enough to get Cameroon and Tunisia past the first round, but Senegal did make the last 16 before being eliminated after a heavy loss to England.—AFP

Morocco made history in Qatar by becoming the first African representatives to reach the semi-finals. **PHOTO: AFP**

AFRICAN football boss Patrice Motsepe told a press conference in Johannesburg on Wednesday he believes a team from the continent can reach the 2026 World Cup final.

"Morocco opened the door by reaching the semi-finals this month and I am confident an Af-

rican nation will go further at the next World Cup," said the South African billionaire.

"The main objective of CAF (Confederation of African Football) is for an African nation to win the World Cup and that goal is within reach." There will be nine or 10 African qualifiers for

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.

MFF Inter-Academy Football Tournament 2022 to kickstart in Mandalay

THE MFF Inter-Academy Football Tournament 2022 will be held at the Myanmar Football Academy (Mandalay) training grounds in Mandalay from 23 to 28 December.

The tournament will be divided into two sections: U-14 & U-15 tournaments, and U-12 & U-13 tournaments.

The U-12 & U-13 tournament will feature five teams.

Yangon Academy, Mandalay Academy and Pathein Academy will participate in Group A, and Tatmadaw Academy A and B teams will compete in Group B.

Meanwhile, six teams are representing the U-14 & U-15 Tournament.

Yangon Academy A, Yangon Academy B, and Pathein Academy A are placed in Group A of the tourney while Pathein



Young players take training hard for the upcoming MFF Inter-Academy Football Tournament to be held in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MFF**

Academy B, Mandalay Academy A, and Mandalay Academy B are

falling in Group B. The MFF Inter-Academy

Football Tournament 2022 will start today and the tourney will

run at the rate of four matches per day. — KZL