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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

The government arranges to generate electricity from hydropower, solar power as well as small-scale atomic energy to sufficiently supply electricity to the entire people: Vice-Senior General

AS any manufacturing cannot be done without electricity, businesspersons in individuals or groups need to generate electricity from solar, wind power and diesel power on a manageable scale, said State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win at a meeting with regional cabinet members and local authorities for MSME businesses in Yangon Region at the office of Yangon Region government yesterday morning.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein reported on the implementation of industrial zones.

Deputy Minister for Industry U Yin Maung Nyunt and Yangon Region Economic Minister U Myo Myint Aung reported on policy and guidance for MSMEs and the implementation of MSME businesses in the Yangon Region. Departmental officials also presented reports on the issuance of MSME membership cards, loans to those businesspersons, and the building of an industrial zone database.

In his response to the reports, the Vice-Senior General said he met with them to know the progress of implementing



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win looks into the products at the Shwenga fish meal factory in Hlinethaya Township in Yangon yesterday.

the guidance of the Senior General in his meeting with MSME groups on 3 October 2022 and to coordinate necessary measures. MSME businesses grasp 99 per cent of positions in the production of the State economy, playing an important role in the GDP of the country. The Vice-Senior

General explained issuance of loans from the State Economic Promotion Fund as much as possible for manufacturing, trading, inputs and human resources which are basic of MSME businesses, plans of seven ministries to conduct 198 kinds of short- and long-term courses for human

resources development as a learning chance for those who have passed the middle school education, opening of THS, Institute of Agriculture, Institute of Animal Husbandry Science and GTI for those who have passed the matriculation examination, establishment of computer and

technical universities in regions and states in the higher education sector; prioritizing products to ensure import substitute and increase export volume under the policy for manufacturing the finished products with the use of domestic raw materials,

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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.

Public Notice for elimination of violence

1. SO called "CRPH", "NUG" and "PDF" terrorist groups are unlawfully committing killings of monks, teachers, civil servants and general people and looting under the pretext of saying "for the people".
2. Not rendering of encouragement, support and assistance to the "CRPH", "NUG" and "PDF" terrorists that are committing intimidations, killings and destructive activities could be construed as protecting lives and property of general public.
3. Giving information secretly relating to bearing of their arms, ammunition and terrorists to authorities could be tantamount to protecting lives and property of innocent people.

2022-2023 Financial Year Union Supplementary Budget Appropriation Law approved

THE State Administration Council enacted the 2022-2023 Financial Year Union Supplementary Budget Appropriation Law as its Law No 49/2022 on 18 December 2022. The law will be effective from the 2022-2023 financial year. — MNA/ KZW

Field census training opened in Bahan Township

AS the basic voting list is an important process in the multiparty democratic general election to be held in 2023, a township-level field census training course was opened by the Township Population Census Supervision Committee at the hall of the BEHS 1 in Bahan Township on 27 December.

Lt-Col Win Maung Than, a member of the Kamayut District (Working Group) demographic field census supervision committee, spoke on the occasion. He underscored that due to the large volume of work to be completed in a short time it is necessary to pay attention to the accuracy and speed of the work.



The field census training course is in progress.

Township immigration officer U Khin Maung Than, General Administration Department deputy administrator U Myo Lin Aung, assistant education officer U Myo Naing and Planning Department as-

sistant director Daw Aye Myint Soe acted as training coaches. A total of 174 trainees from 22 wards in Bahan Township will participate in the field survey activities from 9 to 31 January 2023. — Bahan IPRD/KZW

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
1. Dr Soe Myint Aye	Rector Sagaing University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
2. Dr Yi Yi Oo	Rector Kyaukse University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
3. Daw Nwe Ni	Director-General Department of Advanced Science and Technology Ministry of Science and Technology
4. Dr Theingi Maung Maung	Director-General Department of Atomic Energy Ministry of Science and Technology
5. Dr Lae Lae Oo	Director-General Department of Monitoring and Evaluation Ministry of Science and Technology
6. Dr Nilar Thein	Rector University of Computer Studies, Thaton Department of Advanced Science and Technology Ministry of Science and Technology

Myanmar Gazette

Duty Assignment of Permanent Secretary/ Director-General

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned U Ye Yint Lwin, Director-General of the Office of the Union Election Commission, to the duties of Permanent Secretary/ Director-General at the same organization concurrently.

Myanmar citizens to decide Myanmar's affairs without external interference

"ENSURING peace and stability in the country is rather difficult as long as foreign involvement exists in our country's internal affairs. Myanmar citizens, themselves are to decide the affairs of Myanmar. It is by no means possible to let other foreign countries interfere or decide. It must be the Myanmar citizens who are to decide the affairs of Myanmar."

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the State Administration Council Meeting 4/2022 held on 12-5-2022)



Union Ethnic People. PHOTO BY SAI TUN NAY HLAING

The government arranges to generate electricity from hydropower, ...

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formation of the MSME agency in Yangon Region, and connection of the agency with 11 relevant ministries, work assessment body, fund scrutiny body to submit reports to the work committee and the central committee.

The Vice-Senior General continued to say that 14 districts need to pay back a large number of agricultural loans to the government. They have to pay back the loan as quickly as possible. Only then, will the government be able to issue more loans to other needy persons and extend the business. So, it is necessary to organize the borrowers to pay back loans and demand the loans under the law.

With regard to the agricultural measures of the region, the Vice-Senior General noted that the number of rainy days and rainfalls in the region were not so different in 2020, 2021 and 2022. But, the main crops paddy and pulses and beans did not meet the target in all townships and per-acre yield did not meet the target either. Hence, they have to



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services C-in-C (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets Yangon Region cabinet members and responsible personnel from districts and townships in Yangon Region yesterday.

strive for increasing the per-acre yield of the existing farmlands instead of expanding the sown acreage. It is necessary to take care of using quality strains of crops, systematic use of fertilizers and inputs, supply of water to have the necessary volume

and applying the correct agricultural techniques. Moreover, officials need to share awareness of GAP with the farmers so as to penetrate Myanmar agricultural produce into the international market.

The Vice-Senior General

expressed his satisfaction with the formation of cooperative societies. As 974 manufacturing cooperative societies, 911 trading cooperative societies and 649 service cooperative societies, totalling 2,534, have been formed to operate businesses, they all need to make concerted efforts to secure greater success.

As Myanmar is a country producing rice as the main crop, the Prime Minister has explained that the farmlands cannot be utilized in other ways. Likewise, the industrial zones were established for manufacturing, not for residential housing. In addition, the country at present does not have sufficient electricity. So, the government arranges generating electricity from hydropower, solar power as well as small-scale atomic energy to sufficiently supply electricity to the entire people. At present, as any manufacturing cannot be done without electricity, businessper-

sons in individuals or in groups need to generate electricity from solar, wind power and diesel power on a manageable scale. So, the agency needs to coordinate necessary measures for them.

The Vice-Senior General underscored that MSMEs are to be operated not for purpose of export but it needs to emphasize domestic use to meet the demands of medium and heavy industries. Only when trade and expo must be joined for MSME businesses will trade arrange the market promotion so as to improve the sales. Hence, the MSME show and contest must be held in conjunction with the trade expo in the future.

In the afternoon, the Vice-Senior General visited the FAME pharmaceutical factory, OK canned and dried noodle factory, Htoo Thit fish/shrimp feedstuff factory, fish meal factory and TOP cashew nut factory in Hlinethaya Township. — MNA



The Vice-Senior General views the production process at the OK noodle factory.

Concerted efforts needed to ensure better enhancement of NCA

ON the occasion of the 7th Anniversary of signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), I myself would like to urge all-

- to make concerted efforts for analyzing the advantages and disadvantages of peace and stability based on experiences along our route for ensuring better essence of NCA,
- to regard the Our Three Main National Causes and deeply follow the commitments of NCA to ensure the success of building the Union based on democracy and federalism,
- to nurture ourselves and our environment to become the persons with mindsets of good citizens endowed with knowledge of national politics and loyalty of citizens,
- to organize and lure remnant organizations to sign the NCA as much as possible so as to post a historical milestone.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking 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)

Semi-finals of SAC Chairman Cup U-25 Inter-Ministerial Men's Football Tourney held

SEMI-FINAL matches of the SAC Chairman Cup U-25 Inter-Ministerial Men's Football Tournament were held at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to mark Diamond Jubilee Independence Day.

SAC Members Jeng Phang Naw Taung and U Shwe Kyein, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, deputy ministers, Tatmadaw officers, departmental officials, Myanmar Football Federation officials, and football fans enjoyed the matches.

The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs team beat the Ministry of Home Affairs team 2-1 at



SAC members and dignitaries watch the semi-final match of the SAC Chairman Cup U-25 Inter-Ministerial Men's Football Tourney in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

3 pm and the Ministry of Planning and Finance team beat the Ministry of Border Affairs team 2-0 at 5 pm. The football tournament will be paused for one day on 29

December.

The third-place match will be played between the Ministry of Home Affairs team and the Ministry of Border Affairs team at 7:30



am on 30 December at Wunna Theikdi Football Stadium.

At 3:00 pm on the same day, the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs team will take on the Min-

istry of Planning and Finance team in the final match. Any sports fans can watch and support the matches for free, officials said. — MNA/KZL

SPTT, 5 PPST-member EAOs hold second-day meeting



The second-day meeting is underway yesterday.

THE second-day meeting between the State Peace Talks Team and the delegation of five

Ethnic Armed Organizations, Peace Process Steering Team-PPST members, took place

at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by State Administration Council Member Union Minister at the Government Office Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee-NSPNC Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and members — SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun and NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung — and NSPNC members Lt-Gen Min Naing, Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein, Lt-Gen Aye Win and Colonel Wunna Aung, and leaders of ethnic armed organizations-EAOs — signatories to the NCA — Patron Phyar Tan Khun Okkar of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO, Vice-Chair Saw Mra Yazar Linn of

the Arakan Liberation Party-ALP, Commander-in-Chief Saw Steel of the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army-DK-BA, Vice-Chair Dr Naw Kapaw Htoo of the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army-KNU/KNLA-PC (Peace Council), Vice-Chair Kyar Phu of the Lahu Democratic Union-LDU and representatives of peace talks.

Attendees mutually discussed plans agreed upon at the previous meeting. The meeting was adjourned after discussing general matters. The third-day meeting will be conducted on 29 December and the common agreements between both sides will be signed. — MNA/CT

Award ceremony for SAC Chairman Cup Inter-Ministerial Sepak Takraw (Men) Tourney held



The award-presentation ceremony of the SAC Chairman Cup Inter-Ministerial Sepak Takraw (Men) Tournament.

IN commemoration of the 2023 Diamond Jubilee Independence Day, the final and third place

matches of the SAC Chairman Cup Inter-Ministerial Sepak Takraw (Men) Tourney was

held at Wunna Theikdi Stadium B in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday with the supervision of the Ministry

of Sports and Youth Affairs.

State Administration Council members Jeng Phang Naw Taung, and U Shwe Kyein, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, deputy ministers, departmental officials, officials from the Myanmar Sepak Takraw Association, and sports fans enjoyed the matches.

In the third-place match of the tourney, the Ministry of Border Affairs team beat the Ministry of Transport and Communications team 2-0.

In the final match, the Ministry of Home Affairs team secured a 2-0 win over the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs team.

When the award ceremony followed, the team of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, which won the fourth prize in the Sepak Takraw (Men) tourney, was presented

with an honorarium of K500,000 by Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Brig-Gen Phyo Thant. Union Minister U Min Thein Zan presented the team of the Ministry of Border Affairs who won the third prize with an honorarium of K1 million.

SAC Member U Shwe Kyein presented an honorary prize of K1.5 million to the team of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, which won the second prize.

SAC Member Jeng Phang Naw Taung awarded an individual medal, an honorarium of K2 million and a trophy to the team of the Ministry of Home Affairs, which won the first prize.

The tourney was held from 19 to 28 December at the Wunna Theikdi Stadium B in Nay Pyi Taw, and 27 national teams from various ministries participated in the competition. — MNA/KZL

Gwa Chaung Bridge in Rakhine State opened marking Diamond Jubilee Independence Day

THE opening ceremony of the Gwa Chaung Bridge constructed on Gwa-Kyaukchun road in Gwa Township of Rakhine State was held to mark Diamond Jubilee Independence Day yesterday. The ceremony was attended by SAC members Admiral Tin Aung San and Daw Aye Nu Sein, Rakhine State Chief Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Min, relevant officials and locals.

First, Admiral Tin Aung San said the Gwa Chaung bridge on Gwa-Kyaukchun road was inaugurated to mark the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day. Transport plays a key role in the development of a region.

Moreover, the government is working hard to ensure proportionate development across the nation. The officials should cooperate in using the public fund

effectively in implementing the projects and also for their sustainability and quality.

Then, SAC member Daw Aye Nu Sein made a remark and Rakhine State Chief Minister reported on regional development programmes, and a local expressed gratitude. After cutting the ribbon to inaugurate the bridge, the SAC members and officials took the commemorative photo.

The Gwa Chaung bridge is an important bridge along the coastal circuit road of Ngayokekaung-Sinma-Ngweaung-Chaungtha-Shwe Thauung Yan-Magyzin-Kyaukchun-Gwa from Ngayokekaung in Ayeyawady region to Gwa in Rakhine state.

The 1399-ft long bridge measures 24 feet in width and has a 3 feet and six inches wide pedestrian walkway on each side. The



The inauguration event of the Gwa Chaung Bridge.

waterway clearance is 20 feet in height and 85 feet in width. It can withstand 75 tonnes of loads.

The foundation of the bridge is a bored pile and the upper part of the bridge is constructed with PC Girder and R.C Girder. The reinforced type bridge has 17 spans.

The bridge construction started on 18 November 2019 using a total of K8,980 million budget of the Union Government and Rakhine State government by the bridge task force 8 of the Bridge Department of the Ministry of

Construction.

At noon on 27 December, the SAC member Admiral Tin Aung San and party met departmental officials and township-elders of Gwa Township at the meeting hall of the township Administrative Department.

During the meeting, Gwa Township Administrator U Zarni Kyaw reported on regional development programmes and other related matters while the state chief minister presented the activities to ensure regional devel-

opment, peace and tranquillity.

Then SAC members Daw Aye Nu Sein and Admiral Tin Aung San gave proper instructions regarding the need to follow the rules and regulations for civil services.

The SAC member Admiral Tin Aung San and party paid homage to Maha Kan Htoo Kan Paw Kat Kyaw Buddha Image at Raza Pabbata Min Taung Pagoda in the evening and donated offertories to Sayadaws. — MNA/KTZH



GTCs opened in Dagon Myothit (South), Kyaukpuyu and Mandalay to mark Diamond Jubilee Independence Day



AS a gesture of hailing Diamond Jubilee Independence Day, the Vocational Education and Training Department of the Ministry of Science and Technology opened Government Technological Colleges in Dagon Myothit (South), Kyaukpuyu and Mandalay simultaneously at 9 am on 28 December.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the directors-general and deputy directors-general, rectors of technological universities and computer science universities, principals and officials of government technological colleges, officials from the Myanmar AGTI Society, lecturers and students attended the opening

ceremony of the Government Technological College in Dagon Myothit (South).

Similarly, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology, district and township-level officials, college principals, lecturers and students were present at the opening ceremony the Government Technological College (Kyaukpuyu).

The Union minister and officials of the Ministry of Science and Technology inspected practical rooms, classrooms, libraries and computer rooms, civil engineering, electrical power engineering and mechanical engineering workshops of the college. — MNA/TS

MoHT Union Minister receives Secretary-General of Myanmar Promotion Centre based in Chongqing, China

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung met the delegation led by the Secretary-General of the Myanmar Promotion Centre based in Chongqing, China at the Ministry's Sapphire Hall on the evening of 27 December.

The meeting started with the Union Minister's greeting the Secretary-General of the Myanmar Promotion Centre, in his discussion, said that the establishment of the Myanmar Promotion Centre was to make Myanmar widely known not only to the people of Chongqing but also to the people of western China and increase China-Myanmar cooperation.

He also said that China would like to extend an invitation to the Ministry and tourism associations, in order to be able to exhibit the China-Myanmar Investment Forum, the China-Myanmar Cultural Tourism

Expo and the Lancang-Mekong Tourism Partnership City Week Programme are scheduled to be held in Chongqing.

The China-Myanmar Cultural Tourism Expo includes plans to directly promote Myanmar's travel destinations online as well. It is also planned to hold this expo regularly every year.

He expressed his belief that Myanmar will be able to attract tourists from Chongqing and it will be more convenient if direct flights exist. As the promotion centre for Myanmar, he said, China would like to cooperate with the ministry on matters related to the promotion of China-Myanmar tourism.

The Union minister responded that Myanmar and the People's Republic of China are cooperating in various sectors, including tourism. He said



preparations are being made, starting from the language, to facilitate the visit of Chinese tourists. The ministry will cooperate with related ministries and tourism associations

to participate in the upcoming events in Chongqing as well.

The Union minister expressed his gratitude to the secretary-general for organizing 50 tourism booths for

Myanmar, as well as for free travel and accommodation. He also suggested that the secretary-general should visit other destinations during his visit to Myanmar. — MNA/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.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Fuel price regains to above K2,000 per litre

THE price of Octane 92 rose again to above K2,000 per litre in the domestic fuel oil market.

On 13 December, the prices declined below K1,795 per litre for Octane 92, K1,885 for Octane 95, K2,130 for diesel and K2,205 for premium diesel. Thereafter, the prices gradually moved up and stood at K2,030 per litre for Octane 92, K2,100 for Octane 95, K2,415 for diesel and K2,495 for premium diesel on 28 December.

The figures showed an increase of K200-K300 per litre within 15 days.

The domestic fuel prices are following the increase in price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in southeast Asia, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

Tracking the MOPS' price index, the prices peaked at K2,605 per litre for Octane 92, K2,670 for Octane 95, K3,245 for diesel and K3,330 for premium diesel in late August

The committee is steering the oil sector effectively not to have a shortage of oil in the domestic market and ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The committee is issuing the daily reference rate for oil to offer a reasonable price to energy consumers. The reference rate is set on the MOPS' price assessment, shipping cost, profit margin, premium insurance and other general costs.

The rates for regions and states other than Yangon are evaluated after adding the transport costs and the retail reference rates daily cover on the state-run newspapers and are posted on the media and official website and Facebook page of the department on a daily basis starting from 4 May.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations whether they are overcharging or not. The authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found over-



The sign is seen displaying fuel prices at the petrol station in Sangyoung Township.

charging rather than the set reference rate.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. The domestic fuel price is highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate

the loss between the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives

government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than that of Myanmar. Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also levies only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. — NN/EMM

Companies registered on MyCO exceed 10,000 in past 11 months: DICA

THE number of companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, reached 10,699 in the past 11 months (January-November) this year, the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) indicated.

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

The figures of registered companies stood at 8,011 in 2021, 15,080 in 2020, 17,380 in 2019 and 8,506 in 2018, as per statistics of the DICA

The previously registered companies had to re-register on the MyCO and a total of 46,377 companies were re-registered on the MyCO between 1 August 2018 and 31 January 2019.

In addition, all registered companies need to file annual returns (AR) on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation) under Section 97 of Myanmar Companies Law 2017. Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously.

All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017

As per DICA's report, over 400 companies are suspended every month for failing to submit AR forms within the

due date.

As a result of this, newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns. The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/EMM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 28 December 2022

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,030
Octane 95	K2,100
Diesel	K2,415
Premium Diesel	K2,495

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,132,000 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,690,000 per tical

Dollar Price

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,830 to K2,850

The above prices may change from time to time.

OPINION

Do the best all things you do with goodwill

EVERYBODY works in relevant sectors for the purposes of earning income, showing skills, giving services, comforting others and so on. Whatever it may be, all things should be done with goodwill.

Somebody carries out the tasks assigned by their superiors. Everybody understands that duty is duty. Nobody should fail to do their assignments. But, most of the persons serve their duties but they do not pour out their goodwill in doing everything. It is because they also hold up a concept of not wholeheartedly doing everything.

All in all, those wishing to enjoy the benefit of the jobs should do everything with goodwill without fail. First of all, it is sure that they will enjoy the pleasure as a reward for carrying out the tasks. It is a great reflection of their healthy hearts. It is invaluable for their individual chronicles whenever they look back the past events. If so, how do you choose the best way to live?

everybody who does things would have a chance to enjoy a good benefit. But, such kind of benefit can be identified as a reflection of the job or advantage from the service or good result from the assignment or benefit from the efforts. If so, it can be said that all doing something with goodwill will bring something special to the doers. As additional rewards, the persons who do the jobs with goodwill will have delightedness and happiness with the accomplishment of the jobs.

All in all, those wishing to enjoy the benefit of the jobs should do everything with goodwill without fail. First of all, it is sure that they will enjoy the pleasure as a reward for carrying out the tasks. It is a great reflection of their healthy hearts. It is invaluable for their individual chronicles whenever they look back the past events. If so, how do you choose the best way to live?

In fact, it is a sorrowful act for them. They do not thoroughly understand that according to Newton's third law of motion, every action has an equal and opposite reaction. Sometimes, somebody says their jobs did not benefit them. Actually, it is just a reflection of their goodwill. The job they never do with goodwill can give the same action to them. If they understand it, they can repair their acts in time to have better results from their jobs.

Nonetheless, everybody should do everything with goodwill without hoping for any good reflection. They should keep a concept in their minds to give services to others in serving their jobs. If so, they will have peace of mind in their heart at first. It is an initial result from their jobs before receiving the actual results. How wonderful!

If the persons hold up genuine goodwill, they will face a smooth process in doing all things because of cleanliness in their minds and appearance. Hence, a conclusion can be made that

ALTHOUGH it is not an easy task to integrate life competencies into practical classroom activities, the theoretical approaches are interesting to be learned. Here are some tips that may be useful and applicable to many teachers who are earnestly interested in modern educational attempts.

Learning to Learn

Learning to learn is all about helping students become better, more independent learners by helping them develop learning skills and strategies, take control of their learning and reflect on and evaluate their progress.

Greg, a researcher, suggests that you introduce students to different learning strategies. In the case of notetaking, for example, this could be a table, a spider diagram, or a note box. Over the course of a few lessons, get students to use each one, in turn, then evaluate which one worked best for them. If you are teaching remotely, you could experiment with different ways of presenting, for example, a new grammar point. Start by presenting live as if you were teaching face-to-face. Then ask students to watch a video that explains the grammar point before coming to class. Finally, get students to read an explanation of the grammar from their coursebook or other materials.

Ask students to choose and discuss which method or methods they found most helpful. You're sure to get a range of an-

swers, but it's not about changing your teaching style, it's about students learning how they can help themselves if they are struggling.

Social Responsibility

The framework defines Social Responsibilities as the rights and duties that come with being a citizen of a particular nation or state and a broader global entity. This may sound like a challenging thing to teach. But once it is broken down into core areas, like understanding personal responsibilities within a group, intercultural awareness, and understanding global issues, it becomes easier to see how this competency can be incorporated into classes.

Will who is also a researcher suggests that you help students keep in touch with current news by dedicating a lesson or part of a lesson to the news. It's important to do this regularly. Find articles from different sources on a news story that you think your students will find interesting. Ask your students to read the article and note down the most important information. You can guide your students by asking questions like "When did it happen?", "Who was involved?" and "Write what happened in less than 20 words". Next, ask students to prepare to tell the class about the

story by selecting and organizing the key information. When they share this information, students can discuss how this issue affects them and how they could make a positive impact on it.

Critical Thinking

We are all aware of the importance of developing our students' critical thinking skills. With mobile phones at their fingertips (or in their pockets), they have more access to information and misinformation than ever before. In this era of "fake news", our young people need to be able to separate reliable sources from unreliable ones, form their opinions and make choices with the best possible information available to them.

Greg, again, suggests using a ranking method to help students examine and evaluate their own opinions and help them be open to changing them. First, offer students a statement to discuss; one that is likely to produce a range of opinions like: "Make-up helps improve our image and, as a result, our self-esteem". Using a topic that you are currently studying in class will help make sure that students are well-informed. Ask students to grade their opinions using a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). If you are teaching in person, you

could even ask them to physically grade their opinion by arranging themselves along a wall.

Next, ask your learners to say why they believe that and to try persuading dissenting classmates to change their views. Finally, get your students to grade their opinions again to see if they have changed. This type of exercise helps students practice evaluating their opinions.

Creative Thinking

Creative thinking is a vital life skill that enables us to imagine, innovate and respond to unexpected or changing situations. A traditional school curriculum does not always leave a lot of space for imagination or divergent thinking, and not all students will be used to thinking creatively in class. Therefore, we must give them a starting point for creative activities. You can use almost anything as a prompt for creative thinking; from images and video to other stories, diagrams or objects.

Emma who is also another researcher suggests using a short story as a prompt. Choose a short story for students to read and respond to. Then adapt it by removing short sections of the story and ask your students to fill the gaps with their creative ideas. For lower-level learners,

you can remove short sections like names, places, and activities. For more advanced students, you can remove longer sections, like descriptions and dialogue. Finally, ask your students to share their stories with the class. You can turn this into a game by asking students to guess what other students might have written. By doing this, you are encouraging students to imagine different ways the story might unfold.

Collaboration

Project work is a fantastic way to develop students' collaborative skills like communication, teamwork, and leadership. It also helps develop other useful skills like doing research, making presentations, and speaking in public. The motivational aspect of project work is particularly important when many students are learning remotely. Getting students to work together, independent of the teacher, avoiding online classes becoming too teacher-focused, and encouraging students to take ownership of their learning.

However, classroom management of projects can be very time-consuming for teachers. The challenge of coming up with an idea, gathering the right materials, to make sure that students are all contributing fairly, can

often make project work seem more like hard work!

The first step of any project is setting clear goals for students. In Will's suggestion, he suggests that we get the students to decide what a successful outcome looks like and write it in the form of a checklist. Then, students plan the stages they need to reach their goal, referring to the checklist.

In the case of making a poster, the stages could be finding pictures, designing the layout, and making the poster. Each of these stages could be broken down into further stages to make the project more manageable.

Communication

Getting teenage students to speak in class can sometimes be a challenge, especially if you're asking them to speak English! Even the most confident student can feel self-conscious in another language, and for very shy students the idea of speaking in front of the class can be overwhelming.

It can also be a battle to keep students from slipping into their first language. Using the student's first language in class has always been a matter of debate, but in this video, Emma suggests that it can be helpful for students to compare the speaking strate-

By Yin Nwe Ko

gies that they use in their first language to the ones they use in English.

Ask students to record a video of themselves doing a role play in their first language. Then get them to record themselves doing the same role-play in English. Ask them to watch their two role plays back, comparing their use of eye contact, body language, and fluency. This allows students to use the skills and confidence they have in their first language to improve their speaking in English.

Studies show that over 60% of face-to-face communication is non-verbal. This is great news for language students because it means that even if they don't understand every word, they can still guess and communicate meaning from things like tone of voice, gestures, and body language.

Moreover, I would like to share my practical experience associated with collaboration and communication here. I have two-year-experience with online classes equipped with Google Classroom since COVID-19 started in our country. Although I did not have a face-to-face situation of education with my students in a classroom, I could manage

them to do the project of essays and letters in the Google Classroom. They could have lectures of mine face-to-face position in Zoom meeting classes but it is not enough for their homework. Google Classrooms have solved this difficulty a lot. They were made to do the weekly projects of essays and letters. At that moment, their endeavours can be seen vividly. They tried to write their essays with the PowerPoint app supported by suitable photos using interesting transitions and animations of the app.

Then they created their works as a video and made the necessary editions to it. Finally, they submitted their effort in Google Classroom. I have to download their videos and watch them weekly. Then I made some reviews on their endeavours and sent them in private comments together with their grades obtained. After several months of their doing projects, I have found that the power of their creations gets smarter and smarter. In other words, the more project they have to do, the more qualification they gain. In a project, they had to read necessary texts they searched for with access to the internet and create an audio-visual essay project. It can also be said that they could gradually integrate their life competencies into their virtual classrooms.

Reference: Teaching Teen 2022

To integrate life competencies into the classroom

Xi Jinping makes important instruction on patriotic health campaigns

ON THE 70th anniversary of the launch of the patriotic health campaigns, Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made an important instruction, and pointed out that, over the past 70 years, under the leadership of the CPC, the patriotic health campaigns have focused on people's health and given priority to prevention, playing an important role in changing the landscape of urban and rural environment and sanitation, effectively responding to major infectious diseases, and

improving the level of social health management. He hoped that the comrades on the national patriotic health and sanitation front would always stay committed to their original aspiration and missions, inherit and carry forward fine traditions, diversify working contents, innovate working methods and make new contributions to the building of a Healthy China.

At present, Xi Jinping stressed, China's COVID-19 epidemic prevention and control is facing new situations and new tasks, and it is necessary to carry out more targeted patriotic health campaigns, and give full play to

the strengths such campaigns can gather in organization and mobilization. People should be guided to actively learn health knowledge, have a command of health skills, develop good personal hygiene habits, practice a civilized and healthy lifestyle, and build a social defence line for epidemic prevention and control with thousands of civilized and healthy small environments, so as to effectively protect people's safety and health, Xi said.

Premier Li Keqiang pointed out that, over the past 70 years, remarkable achievements have been made in such campaigns

with the participation of the people, which have played an important part in protecting people's health, and they are a major project for the people. Li said that Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era must be studied as the guide to implement the decisions and arrangements of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council in carrying out patriotic health campaigns. Prevention must be maintained as the priority, and mechanisms and work methods must be innovated to further improve environment and sanitation in urban and rural areas, and pro-

mote health education, so as to make new contributions to the building of a Healthy China.

Currently, China is optimizing its adjusted COVID-19 prevention and control measures in an orderly manner. We should give full play to our strengths so as to keep all relevant parties motivated in their response to the epidemic in a science-based manner. Governments at all levels should redouble their efforts to ensure people's access to medical services and anti-epidemic materials, so as to protect the people's health and safety.

SOURCE: Xinhua



Staff members pack medicines at a pharmaceutical company in central China's Hunan Province, 19 December 2022. Many pharmaceutical companies in China are working at full capacity to increase the medicine supply as the country continues to optimize COVID-19 epidemic prevention and control measures. PHOTO: XINHUA/CHEN SIHAN

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Kandawgyi to host Vegetable, Fruit and Horticultural Show

THE vegetable, fruit and horticultural show will be held at Maha Myaing Kyun in Kandawgyi nature park in Bahan township from 2 to 8 January 2023 in commemoration of Diamond Jubilee Independence Day.

The exhibition was held from 1993 to 2020 with the aims of promoting the socioeconom-

ic development of fruit, vegetable and flower growers and contributing to the economic development of the nation.

This year's exhibition will be held with cooperation be-

tween the Yangon City Development Committee and the Yangon Region Department of Agriculture under the supervision of the Yangon Region government. — TWA/MKKS

The 18th Mayor Cup Vegetable, Fruit and Horticultural Show and Contest.



A bird's-eye view of shipping containers at an Intl' port.

Myanmar's exports surge to \$11 bln in eight and half months

MYANMAR'S exports amounted to over US\$11 billion in the past eight and half months of the current financial year 2022-2023, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 April and 16 December, the value of exports by the private sector was estimated at \$8.887 billion, while export

earnings by the public sector reached \$2.868 billion, totalling \$11.755 billion.

The values of export were registered at \$2.56 billion for Agri-products, \$18.409 million for livestock, \$520.153 million for fishery products, \$215.623 million for minerals, \$106.851 million for forest products, over \$7.999 bil-

lion for manufactured goods, and \$333.351 million for other goods.

Myanmar's export by sea bagged \$7.694 billion while exports through cross-border trade posts generated earnings of \$4.105 billion. Of the seven export groups, the manufacturing sector performed the best. — TWA/EMM

Pyay Road near the People's Square to be closed on Diamond Jubilee Independence Day

AS the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day ceremony is to be held at the People's Square in Yangon, the section of Pyay Road between the Myaynigon traffic lights and Pyihtaungsu Yeiktha traffic lights will be closed, according to the ceremony holding committee.

It is planned to close the road on 2 and 4 January for

the ceremony and it will be closed until the ceremony is over. Rehearsals for the Independence Day ceremony will also be held on 2 January. The flag-raising ceremony will be held at 4:20 am on 4 January, and the road will be closed until the ceremony is completed, and the detours will be used. — TWA/KZW



The Pyay Road is seen against the Shwedagon and People's Square.

Truck drivers use Htaw Kaw Koe road amid blockage on Myawady-Kawkareik Asia Road

TRUCK drivers have to use Htaw Kaw Koe road as the Myawaddy-Kawkareik Asia Highway Road is still blocked. The Myawady-Kawkareik Asia Highway is being temporarily blocked due to the clashes on

22 December in Kayin State and the explosion of a bridge near the Tawnaw waterfall.

"Not only private cars but also big tractor trucks are being trapped. As it is an earth road and it is uneven, the trucks with

heavy weight are not easy to drive," driver Ko Aung Lwin Oo told the GNLM.

Hundreds of trucks, passenger buses and private cars have to be waiting to travel along the Asia Highway Road.

The vehicles heading to Myawady are being blocked at the Tadakyo Checkpoint and vehicles heading to Kawkareik from Myawady are being blocked at Asia new road junction.

"It is difficult for trucks loaded with goods from Thailand to reach Yangon in time. Therefore, perishable foodstuffs are being sold at low prices," said Ma Wah Wah, a Thai-Myanmar freight owner. — TWA/MKKS

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

UN chief issues global alert on International Day of Epidemic Preparedness

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday issued a global “wake-up call” on the International Day of Epidemic Preparedness, which is observed annually on 27 December.

“The world must come together. COVID-19 was a wake-up call,” Guterres said in his message for the international day.

“The costs have been catastrophic,” he said, noting that since the pandemic struck, millions of lives have been lost, and hundreds of millions fallen ill; economies have been shattered, health systems stretched, and trillions of dollars lost.



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks at an end-of-year press conference at the UN headquarters in New York, on 19 December 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA

Moreover, progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals has been “thrown

off track,” the top UN official said.

“Developing countries were

often left to fend for themselves, shamefully denied the vaccines, tests or treatments they needed to protect their people,” he said.

COVID-19 will not be the last epidemic or pandemic humanity faces, he warned.

“As a global community, we must heed the harsh lessons of COVID-19 and make bold investments in pandemic preparedness, prevention and response,” said the UN chief.

Guterres underscored the need for better surveillance “to detect and monitor viruses with epidemic potential;” resilient health systems supported by universal health coverage; and a “well-trained, well-equipped

and well-paid” health workforce.

“We also need equitable access to vaccines, treatments, diagnostics and life-saving technology for all countries,” Guterres added.

He highlighted the need to “fight the scourge” of misinformation and pseudoscience with science and fact-based information, reminding that a pandemic cannot be fought country by country.

“On this International Day of Epidemic Preparedness, I urge all countries to stand with our efforts to ensure the world is equipped and ready to take on the health challenges to come,” he said.— Xinhua

German hospitals fear wave of insolvencies in 2023: survey

GERMANY'S healthcare sector may face a wave of insolvencies in 2023, the country's Hospital Federation (DKG) warned on Tuesday. “The damage to healthcare will be visible in many regions,” DKG Chairman Gerald Gass said in a statement. “The wave of insolvencies that was predicted several months ago is now rolling in.”

Only six per cent of hospitals in the European Union's (EU) most populous country rate their current economic sit-

uation as “good”, according to an annual survey conducted by the German Hospital Institute (DKI). At the same time, more than one in two hospitals expect their economic situation to deteriorate further in 2023, the survey showed. “The staff situation in hospitals, particularly in nursing, continues to be a cause for concern,” the DKG said. In mid-2022, almost 90 per cent of German hospitals had problems filling vacant nursing positions in general wards.— Xinhua

Ethiopia eyes eliminating cholera ahead of global plan

THE Ethiopian government has reiterated its plan to eliminate cholera in 2028, two years ahead of the global plan.

The statement was made by Minister of Health Lia Tadesse, who highlighted that several cholera outbreaks from 2015 to 2021 resulted in over 105,000 cases and caused thousands of deaths across the country.

The work of preventing and controlling frequent outbreaks is “very difficult and needs high cost”, state-run Ethiopian News Agency quoted Tadesse as saying late Monday.

Noting ongoing “extensive works” by the Ethiopian gov-

ernment and its partners to reduce the disease exposure of communities, Tadesse said the eastern African country envisages eliminating cholera by 2028, two years ahead of the global plan.

The global strategy to end cholera, dubbed “Ending Cholera-A Global Roadmap to 2030”, operationalizes a new global strategy for cholera control at the country level and provides a concrete path toward a world in which cholera is no longer a threat to public health. The initiative aims to support countries in reducing cholera deaths by 90 per cent by the year 2030.— Xinhua

Japan logs record 438 COVID deaths during 8th wave of infections

JAPAN posted a record 438 daily COVID-19 deaths on Tuesday in the midst of the eighth wave of infections.

The number exceeded the previous high of 371 daily deaths marked last Friday.

Japan reported either double digits or around 100-200 COVID-19 deaths a day in November. But the daily figure rose to the 200- to 300-level in December.

By prefecture, Hokkaido reported 38 deaths, followed by 33 in Kanagawa and 26 in Saitama.

Newly confirmed infections in Japan totalled 208,235 on Tuesday, up about 18,000 from a week earlier.

The number of new infections came to 22,063 in Tokyo, 15,443 in Aichi Prefecture and



The Tower of the Sun is lit up in red at Expo'70 Commemorative Park in Suita, Osaka Prefecture, on 26 December 2022, as the western Japan prefecture's COVID-19 alert is raised to the maximum level with hospital beds allotted to COVID patients exceeding 50 per cent of capacity. PHOTO: KYODO

13,962 in Osaka Prefecture.

The number of patients with severe symptoms stood at 582 in

Japan, up 19 from Monday, according to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.— Kyodo

India's 1st COVID-19 nasal vaccine to be rolled out next month

INDIA'S vaccine maker Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) announced the price of newly-developed COVID-19 nasal vaccine iNCOVACC on Tuesday, saying the vaccine would be rolled out from the fourth week of January 2023.

The vaccine would be made available on CoWin, an Indian government's web portal for COVID-19 vaccination registration. Owned and operated by the

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, it displays booking slots of COVID-19 vaccine available in nearby areas.

The nasal vaccine is being described as a booster dose for those aged above 18 years and already receiving two doses of vaccines. “As a needleless vaccination, iNCOVACC will be India's first such booster dose,” the company said.

BBIL had earlier developed

a vaccine named COVAXIN, doses (two per individual) of which were widely administered to Indians and other countries' nationals staying in the country.

The company said the intranasal vaccine would be priced at 325 Indian rupees (3.92 US dollars) at the government-run hospitals or clinics, but at a price tag of 800 Indian rupees (9.65 US dollars) at private hospitals or clinics.— Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan signs new deal with Oman to buy 2.3 mln tonnes of LNG per year

JAPANESE trading houses Mitsui & Co, Itochu Corp and electricity firm Jera Co agreed Tuesday with Oman to purchase about 2.35 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas a year from the Middle East country, the Japanese industry ministry said.

Against the backdrop of energy supply disruptions due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, oil and gas explorer Inpex Corp also announced the same day it has signed a 20-year agreement with Venture Global LNG to purchase one million tonnes per annum of LNG from the United States, one of the world's leading LNG exporters.

Japanese industry minis-

ter Yasutoshi Nishimura, currently on a trip to the Middle East, and Oman ministers met in the country Tuesday and attended a signing ceremony between the Japanese firms and the Oman side.

"It is extremely significant in terms of energy security, as we will be able to a secure, stable supply of LNG both in quantity and quality on a long-term basis," Nishimura said at a press conference.

Mitsui, Itochu and Jera, a joint venture between Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc. and Chubu Electric Power Co, will procure LNG from 2025 for about 10 years, according to the ministry.

Japan imports about 1.9



File photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on 12 November 2021, shows liquefied natural gas tanks of Tokyo Gas Co in Sodegaura in Chiba Prefecture, eastern Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO**

million tons of LNG, or about 2.6 per cent of total LNG imports, from Oman.

Inpex, meanwhile, said it will purchase LNG to be produced at Venture Global LNG's

plant in Louisiana, construction of which is expected to begin in 2023.—Kyodo

After Covid cull, Danish mink farmers find new careers

REINVENTING himself as a brewer at age 62 would never have occurred to Poul Erik Vestergaard, but Denmark's controversial cull of the country's minks over Covid fears forced him to change course.

Authorities ordered the slaughter of the Nordic country's farmed mink population in November 2020 following the discovery of a mutated strain of the coronavirus. After a two-year ban, Denmark will once again allow mink farming from January 2023. But for Vestergaard, his mink-raising days are over.

"The farm can be used for other things. That's my view. It's over now. It just has to go," the veteran farmer tells AFP at a

100-hectare (247-acre) farm that will become a microbrewery.

Most of the some 1,000 farms in the Scandinavian country, once the world's lead-

ing exporter of mink fur, have made the same choice, leaving "ghost farms" across the plains of western Denmark, where the husbandry was focused.—AFP



Poul Erik Vestergaard poses at the site of his former mink farm in Holstebro, Denmark, on 28 November 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

S Korea's business sentiment keeps falling in December

SENTIMENT among South Korean businesses over economic situations kept falling for the fourth consecutive month due to lingering worry about economic uncertainty, central bank data showed Wednesday.

The business survey index (BSI) in all industries retreated

one point from a month earlier to 74 in December, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

It continued to slide since September as concerns mounted over economic downturn, caused by rapid interest rates at home and abroad to counter inflation. The BOK began

to tighten its monetary policy stance in August last year, hiking its policy rate from a record low of 0.50 per cent to 3.25 per cent.

The BSI among manufacturers sank three points over the month to 71 in December, but the index for non-manufacturers was unchanged at 76.—Xinhua

Asian markets fall as China reopening spurs inflation fears

ASIAN markets were mostly lower on Wednesday as China's move to reopen after abandoning its zero-Covid policy revived inflation fears.

China has abruptly reversed tight pandemic restrictions that kept the world's second-largest economy isolated for the past three years.

On Monday, Beijing announced it was ending quarantine measures for overseas arrivals from 8 January, the latest move to loosen its zero-Covid regime, after it dropped mandatory testing and lockdowns earlier this month.

China's scrapping of pandemic restrictions has spurred hopes for its economic revival but also raised fears it will add to inflationary pressure.

Moving to reopen even as the Asian giant battles a massive spike in Covid cases has caused jitters, with the United States and several other countries saying they may restrict travel from China and introduce mandatory PCR tests for arrivals.

"While a full China reopening could provide a much-needed and timely boost to the global economy, it may come with

unwelcome ambiguous strings attached," said Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management.

"The good news is that inflation subsides as China reprises its role as a supplier of low-cost goods globally and supply chain bottlenecks ease," he added.

"Still, the bad news is as growth accelerates through Q1, China's insatiable demand for raw materials and all things energy will push up prices of those commodities, much to the consternation of the Fed and ECB. Indeed, reopening is rekindling some inflationary spirits."

Fresh data last week indicated a slowing of US inflation, but the news was not definitive and eyes will be on how the Federal Reserve moves to balance inflationary concerns alongside the possibility of a recession caused by increased borrowing costs.

"We may get a pivot later on next year from the Federal Reserve where they actually start cutting rates, but that's going to happen when the situation is going to become much more dire than it is now," Matt Maley, chief market strategist for Miller Tabak, said on Bloomberg TV.—AFP

Japan's Nov industrial output falls for 3rd straight month

JAPAN'S industrial output in November fell 0.1 per cent from the previous month, declining for the third straight month, due to weak overseas and domestic demand, government data showed Wednesday.

The basic assessment was downgraded for the second consecutive month, with industrial production described as "weakening", compared with October's assessment that it was "moderately picking up but showing weakness in part".

The seasonally adjusted index of production at

factories and mines stood at 95.2 against the 2015 base of 100, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said in a preliminary report.

In addition to slowing machinery demand in Europe and the United States, demand for equipment in China was low amid restrictions related to coronavirus infections, a ministry official said.

The latest output figure followed a downwardly revised decline of 3.2 per cent in October.

Of the 15 industries covered by the survey, eight logged output falls

and seven showed increases.

By component, production of general-purpose and business oriented machinery marked the biggest contraction of 7.9 per cent from the previous month, led by conveyors and transport cranes, contributing the most to the overall drop.

The production machinery sector also saw a notable fall, down 5.7 per cent from the previous month, with decreased output of semiconductor and flat panel manufacturing equipment, according to the data.—Kyodo



A long exposure picture shows industrial facilities from Fujinoki Tagonoura Minato park in Fuji city, Shizuoka Prefecture on 23 February 2022. PHOTO: AFP

Egypt invites int'l bids for gas, oil exploration at 12 blocks

EGYPT on Tuesday launched a new international bidding round for exploring natural gas and oil at 12 blocks in the Mediterranean and Nile Delta.

The bid, put forward by the Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company (EGAS), comes as part of the Egyptian Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources' strategy to attract more investments to explore gas and oil in promising areas, Egyptian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Tarek El-Molla said in a statement.

El-Molla noted that the

efforts serve Egypt's goal of intensifying research and exploration activities for its natural gas resources in the Mediterranean, in light of the intensive efforts by other Mediterranean countries to increase gas discoveries and production. The minister added that the tender is the third launched through the Egyptian digital portal for exploration and production, which was created by the ministry in 2021 with the aim to attract investments for research and exploration. The portal provides basic information about the proposed bid, in

addition to the basic terms and conditions, agreement form, and procedures for joining the tender. The total investments in Egypt's oil and gas sectors from 2014 to 2020 hit 74 billion US dollars, according to the Egyptian Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources.

Egypt aims to become a regional hub for the trade of oil and liquefied natural gas after major discoveries were made in recent years, including the Zohr gas field in the Mediterranean which holds an estimated 30 trillion cubic feet of gas. — Xinhua

Jobs for Emiratis: UAE pushes work for own citizens

WITH foreign workers making up the vast bulk of private sector jobs in the United Arab Emirates, the Gulf's second-largest economy wants to boost opportunities for its own citizens. The UAE — like other oil-rich Arab Gulf states — has often used the public sector as an employment vehicle for its nationals. But times are changing, said 34-year-old Emirati researcher Khalifa al-Suwaidi, who has himself been looking for a private sector job since quitting a government post in

June. "We've reached a point where we have a diversity among Emiratis in terms of skill sets and expertise," said Suwaidi. "The public sector can no longer accommodate many of those talents". Just 12 per cent of the country's more than nine million residents are UAE nationals, with over 90 per cent of private sector jobs taken by foreigners, according to International Labour Organization figures. Suwaidi, author of a forthcoming book titled "UAE after the Arab Spring",

said he believed some employers overlooked his application because they presumed an Emirati would demand the high wages often paid in lucrative government posts. "The private sector needs to be more accommodating," he said. "I've been applying for jobs for a while to no avail."

The government is now strong-arming private firms into hiring local talent, with the aim of ensuring Emiratis make up 10 per cent of the private sector workforce by 2026.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2217S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2217S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HAIAN BELL VOY.NO. (2256S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HAIAN BELL VOY.NO. (2256S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-12-2022** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BMC ENDORA VOY.NO. (12/22)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BMC ENDORA VOY.NO. (12/22)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **SPW-6** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Pope says ex-pontiff Benedict 'very ill', asks for prayers



(FILES) In this file photo taken and handout on 27 August 2022 by The Vatican Media shows Pope Francis (R) salute Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI (L) as Benedict XVI's aide Georg Gaenswein looks on, as they prepare to meet with new Cardinals following a consistory to create 20 new cardinals in The Vatican. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / VATICAN MEDIA / AFP**

POPE Francis said Wednesday that former pontiff Benedict XVI, 95, whose health has steadily been deteriorating, is "very ill" and called on the faithful to pray for him.

Benedict, who in 2013 became the first pontiff to resign in six centuries, has almost entirely withdrawn from public view. The few photographs that have emerged have shown him to be in increasingly frail health.

"I would like to ask all of you to pray a special prayer for Pope Emeritus Benedict," Francis said at the end of his general audience.

He called on people to "remember him, because he

is very ill, asking the Lord to console and support him".

Benedict had cited his declining physical and mental health back in 2013 in his decision to become the first pope since 1415 to give up the job as head of the worldwide Catholic church.

The German pope emeritus, whose real name is Joseph Ratzinger, has been living a quiet life in a former convent inside the Vatican.

His resignation created an unprecedented situation in which two popes — Benedict and his successor, Pope Francis — have co-existed within the walls of the tiny city state.—AFP

Ransom kidnappings add to S Africa's crime woes

FROM an eight-year-old snatched on her way to school to a wealthy businessman who was abducted and murdered, South Africa is experiencing a surge in kidnappings for money.

During the festive season, police have been warning parents to be vigilant around beaches and shopping malls — potential hotspots for child abduction.

"They should take extra care of their children," said Robert Netshiunda, police spokesman in the southeastern province of KwaZulu-Natal.

"Children go missing and a

crime of kidnapping is a reality," he told AFP. South Africa has long had a reputation for violent crime and is often described as one of the most dangerous countries in the world outside a war zone. But kidnapping for ransom or extortion "is comparatively new", noted Jean-Pierre Smith, a Cape Town municipal security councillor. The phenomenon started to rise in 2016 and is now experiencing explosive growth, according to the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC), a non-profit.—AFP

US digs out from monster storm as death toll passes 50

THE monster storm that killed dozens in the United States over the Christmas weekend continued to inflict misery on New York state and air travellers nationwide Tuesday, as stories emerged of families trapped for days during the "blizzard of the century".

The number of deaths attributed to the winter storm rose to more than 50 after officials confirmed three more fatalities in western New York's Erie County, the epicentre of the crisis.

The police department "expects that number to rise", tweeted Byron Brown, mayor of the lakeside county's biggest city Buffalo — which has been paralyzed for five days by chest-deep snow banks and power outages.

Kathy Hochul, New York state's governor and a Buffalo native, described the storm aftermath as resembling "a war zone".

"Certainly it is the blizzard of the century," Hochul told reporters Monday.

As temperatures plummeted, commuters and some residents fleeing their freezing homes became trapped on highways, unable to be rescued.

The problem was compounded when some areas were

rendered inaccessible to ambulances for dozens of hours and snowplows were unable to perform their job due to the ferocity of the storm — necessitating rescuers being rescued in certain cases.

The family of one 22-year-old Buffalo resident, Anndel Taylor, said she died in her car after getting stuck on her way home from work.

A video sent by Taylor and posted by her sister shows her vehicle covered up to its windows in snow. Emergency responders, who themselves became stuck attempting to rescue her, found

her dead 18 hours later, possibly due to carbon monoxide poisoning, her family in North Carolina told local TV station WSOC-TV.

One father described being trapped in his vehicle on the streets of Buffalo with his four young children for 11 hours before being rescued, according to The New York Times.

Zila Santiago, 30, said he kept his engine running to provide some warmth and fed his children some juice found in his trunk.

They were finally rescued at dawn by a passing snowplow.—AFP



A resident digs out of the snow in Buffalo, New York, on 27 December 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ukraine's agricultural export earnings to fall by 16% this year

UKRAINE'S agricultural export earnings will decrease by 16 per cent this year to 23.3 billion US dollars, the Interfax-Ukraine news agency reported Tuesday, citing an industry body.

The Ukrainian Agribusiness Club said that the supplies of Ukrainian grain abroad decreased sharply in the first months of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, affecting the full-year export figures.

Since the Black Sea grain export deal, which unblocked the supplies of food stuffs via Ukrainian seaports, came into effect on 1 August, Ukraine's agricultural exports have been gradually recovering. In 2022, such items as corn, sunflower oil, wheat, rapeseed and sunflower seeds were the

biggest contributors to Ukraine's agricultural export earnings. Earlier this month, Ukraine's Economy Ministry said the ag-

ricultural sector suffered direct losses of 6.6 billion dollars due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.—Xinhua



Kavo Perdika, a cargo vessel carrying Ukrainian grain, sails on Bosphorus to Marmara sea, in Istanbul, on 2 November 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Kim sets out new goals for North's military, KCNA reports



People watch a television screen showing a news broadcast with file footage of a North Korean missile test, at a railway station in Seoul on 23 December 2022 after North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles according to South Korea's military. **PHOTO: AFP**

KIM Jong Un announced new goals for North Korea's military in a report to party leaders, state media reported Wednesday, hinting that sanctions-busting weapons tests will continue next year.

Kim is currently presiding over a major party meeting in

capital Pyongyang, during which the top leader and other senior party officials outline their policy goals for 2023 in key areas including diplomacy, security and the economy.

Kim "set forth new key goals for bolstering up the self-reliant

defence capability to be pushed ahead with in 2023," the official Korean Central News Agency reported Wednesday, without giving any details.

The report "analyzed and assessed the new challengeable situation created in the Korean peninsula", KCNA said, in an apparent reference to the recent sharp escalation in tensions between North and South.

Kim made clear the "orientation of struggle against the enemy to be adhered to by our Party", KCNA added.

North Korea has conducted a record-breaking number of weapons tests this year, including firing intercontinental ballistic missiles, which it is banned from testing by UN sanctions.

Pyongyang has also ratcheted up tensions with Seoul, including firing artillery into maritime buffer zones and this week sending unmanned drones into South Korea's airspace.—AFP

No plan to dissolve Japan's lower house next year: PM Kishida

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Wednesday that, "for now", he is not planning to dissolve the House of Representatives for a snap election next year, with approval ratings for his Cabinet struggling over several controversies, including one involving a scandal-hit religious group.

Kishida said in an interview with Kyodo News and other media outlets that the lower house election is "possible" before the government carries out planned tax hikes to cover the envisioned expansion of Japan's defence spending in 2024 or later.

Speculation has mounted that Kishida will make further changes to ministerial posts to garner public support, but he denied the possibility of reshuffling his Cabinet before the regular parliamentary session starts in late January, saying, "That is not in my mind." Facing growingly severe security challenges, Kishida has pledged to boost Japan's defence spending to around 43 trillion yen (\$320 billion) in total



Prime Minister Fumio Kishida speaks in an interview on 28 December 2022 in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

over the next five years starting in 2023, bringing the annual spending to two per cent of gross domestic product.

In a bid to achieve the defence expenditure goal, which is on par with NATO members, Kishida said earlier this month that his administration has been eager to hike taxes instead of issuing new government bonds.

In December, the ruling bloc also approved a blueprint to raise corporate, income and tobacco

taxes to fund the higher defence spending, but it postponed deciding when to conduct the measures amid a public backlash to Kishida's tax hike proposal.

The government has said the tax increases would take place "at an appropriate time in 2024 or later." Koichi Hagiuda, policy chief of Kishida's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, has backed such a plan to hold a general election before the implementation of the tax hikes.—Kyodo

Bangladesh opens first metro line in traffic-choked capital



Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (centre L) attends an inauguration ceremony of the metro rail service in Dhaka on 28 December 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

BANGLADESH'S sprawling capital inaugurated its first ever metro rail line on Wednesday as authorities work to ease congestion that has throttled growth and inflamed tempers in the gridlocked metropolis.

Dhaka is one of the world's most densely populated cities, and daily commutes along its car-clogged roads are a source of constant frustration for its 22 million people.

Local researchers say the capital's economy loses upwards of \$3 billion each year in lost work time due to traffic

jams, often worsened by regular street protests and monsoonal downpours.

The new elevated train network has been in development for nearly a decade and is slated to grow to over a hundred stations and six lines criss-crossing the city by 2030.

Wednesday saw the start of operations on a section of the first line connecting a neighbourhood on Dhaka's periphery with the city centre, built with a \$2.8 billion price tag and largely funded by Japanese development funds.—AFP

ADB loan to resolve water, sewage collection woes in south India

THE Indian government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Tuesday signed a 125-million-US dollar loan to develop a climate-resilient sewage collection and treatment, drainage and water supply systems in India's southern state Tamil Nadu, said the Ministry of Finance.

This third and final tranche of the 500 million US dollar-loan will cover Tamil Nadu's three cities, namely Coimbatore, Madurai, and Thoothukudi.

The ADB had approved the programme in 2018 to build priority water supply, sewerage, and drainage infrastructure in strategic industrial corridors across as many as 10 cities in the state.

After signing the loan agreement, Additional Sec-

retary at the Ministry of Finance Rajat Kumar Mishra said the ADB financing will help ensure universal access to basic water and sanitation services, besides improving resilience against floods in the project target areas which are also the industrial hubs of Tamil Nadu.

Officer-in-Charge of ADB's India Resident Mission Hoe Yun Jeong said that through this project the ADB continues to support developing and improving urban services in the state by deploying new approaches such as build and operate modality, automatic meters for bulk water users, and real-time monitoring through supervisory control and data acquisition systems.—Xinhua

Kim sets out new goals for North's military, KCNA reports
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SPORT

At Pele museum, fans proud of ailing football icon's legacy



Visitor pose for a picture next to a wax figure of Brazil's football legend Edson Arantes do Nascimento 'Pele' at the Pele Museum, in Santos, Brazil, on 27 December 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

ON a visit to the Pele Museum in Brazil's seaside city of Santos, Sergio Murillo Junior says he's sad to see the football legend's health deteriorate, but adds "I am proud of the legacy he left us".

For the 53-year-old lawyer, Pele is above all "an example of perseverance and resilience, for

all generations".

The museum in Santos is full of memorabilia from the man dubbed "The King": jerseys and cleats he wore, balls from key matches, and numerous trophies — including the honorary FIFA Golden Ball he received in 2014.

Pele, 82, is battling worsening cancer as well as kidney and

heart problems at a Sao Paulo hospital 80 kilometres (50 miles) inland.

Flores Araujo Hermes, an 82-year-old Peruvian tourist, told AFP he remembered seeing the football legend play in Lima like it was yesterday.

"Chest, shot and goal! Magnificent!" he recalled, sports commentator-style.

"It was the best. People keep comparing him to others, but no one has surpassed him yet," Hermes added.

While known globally as the only player in history to have led his country to three World Cup wins (1958, 1962 and 1970), Pele also had great success with his Santos team, including back-to-back Intercontinental Cup wins in 1962 and 1963. Born in the neighbouring state of Minas Gerais, Pele spent almost all of his career at Santos FC, before a few final seasons in the 1970s with the New York Cosmos. —AFP

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Japan coach Moriyasu staying on after World Cup

JAPAN coach Hajime Moriyasu will stay in his job after leading the Samurai Blue to the last 16 at the World Cup in Qatar, the Japan Football Association said Wednesday.

There had been speculation about his future after a roller-coaster performance by Japan, who again failed to reach the quarter-finals but produced stunning wins against Germany and Spain.

"This is really the happiest job", Moriyasu said of his reappointment.

"It's a job that gives me a chance to compete on a global stage with the pride of being Japanese. That's why I decided to

accept the offer," he said.

It was the fourth time Japan had exited at the first knockout stage and denied them a much-coveted quarter-final debut in their seventh straight World Cup appearance.

Moriyasu becomes the first Japan coach to stay on after a World Cup.

The 54-year-old's new contract will run "until the next World Cup", said Japan Football Association head Kozo Tajima, who lauded Moriyasu for "elevating the international status of Japan's football". After the heartbreak of their exit in Qatar, Moriyasu insisted Japan are on the right path. —AFP



Japan's head coach Hajime Moriyasu (L), defender Maya Yoshida (2nd L) and defender Yuto Nagatomo (R) pose with Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (2nd R) during a the photo call with souvenirs before their meeting at the prime minister's office in Tokyo on 8 December 2022, following the national football team's return from the Qatar 2022 World Cup. **PHOTO: AFP**

Eriksen adamant Man Utd have put Ronaldo era behind them

CHRISTIAN Eriksen said he was "sad" that Cristiano Ronaldo is no longer with Manchester United but insisted that the club can push on without one of the biggest names in

their history.

"We are sad that Ronaldo is not part of it," said Eriksen following United's 3-0 win over Nottingham Forest on Tuesday, their first match since the con-

troversial departure of the Portuguese star. "His legacy and his name at any club is special. For me to be fortunate to play with him in my career was very nice." —AFP