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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.

Sarpay Beikman accepts eight entries for National Literary Award

The literary award management committee office at Sarpay Beikman stated it has accepted eight nominated books printed for the first time in 2022 for national literary awards.

The committee received books such as “articles on environmental conservation” written by writer Saya Aung Kyi Nyunt (Tekkatho), “success for the youths” by Saya Than Soe Aung, “Bawa Tahsit Choe Pyo Khin Rattha Poems” by Saya U Toe (Tekkathila), “Shin Than Chin Essay” by Saya Myo Chit, “Mway May Yin Khwin Pyan Yauk Lar The Nannsin Padamyar Nga Mauk” by Saya Ko Lay (DSA), “Taung Tan Pyar Thoe Alwan” and “Eikmet Lun Nel Myay” by Sayama Mya Chuu Ein and “Thi Thi and Kyi Kyi” by Saya Chit Swe Myint on 6 January.

The officials urged the writers, publishers and producers to send the first-time printed books in 2022 to be selected for the national literary award to the committee.

The committee accepted four books of each title and announced them on the PPD website and registered under 19 genres of national literary awards. —TWA/KTZH

53 invested businesses create more than 35,000 job opportunities for local people



Skilled workers at fish processing to store fish in cold storage.

ACCORDING to the office of the Yangon Region government, 53 invested businesses entering Yangon Region created more than 35,000 job opportunities for local people.

From January to the third week of December 2022, a total of 35,792 local workers were employed in Yangon Region

through both foreign and domestic investments.

Service and manufacturing industries include in that investment. Myanmar citizens invested more than K19.396 billion in 12 new businesses whereas foreign investors put their investments worth US\$74.462 million in 41 new businesses.

The local businesses with investments are operating production of bags, garment products through CMP system, plastic bags, value-added bran products, manufacturing of bags and sandals in CMP system, instant food manufacturing, value-added fish and shrimp products and thread

production in CMP system.

In addition to these investments, the amount of investment of the currently operating businesses and the increasing of the workforce, Yangon Region Investment Committee approves increase of invested amounts and number of labours under the law. —TWA/KZW

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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.

Commemorative booths, foodstuff booths, decorated floats attracts largest number of visitors in final day

THE 75th Anniversary (Diamond) Jubilee Independence Day commemorative booths, traditional food booths of ethnic nationals and decorated floats were exhibited for the fifth and final day in the Tabaung Ground near Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Those booths were crowded with visitors from regions and states as yesterday was the final day for the exhibition. The visitors purchased traditional foods of ethnic national, clothes, handiworks and rare traditional medicines as well as souvenirs.

Visitors enjoyed songs and music presented by relevant ethnic cultural troupes and martial arts presentation in front of the decorated floats representing regions and states.



Visitors enjoy traditional dance of ethnic cultural troupes at commemorative booths, traditional foodstuff booths and decorated floats in Nay Pyi Taw on 8 January. **PHOTOS: KO KO HTEIN**

Booths of ministries and regions and states including domestic foodstuff booths sold

more than K50 million worth of traditional foods and more than K10 million worth of souvenirs

of ethnics, domestic products and traditional costumes on a daily basis, and stocks run out.

News and Periodicals Enterprise informed the people about reading daily newspapers online whereas Sarpay Beikman mobile book shop sells fiction and non-fiction books to the visitors. Artistes from the Fine Arts Department and ethnic choral dance troupes performed entertainment to the people at night.

For the time being, members of Myanmar Police Force together with the Tatmadaw members and health staff give security and health services to the visitors.

In the afternoon, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Tin Oo Lwin and deputy ministers and council members viewed round the booths and decorated floats which were exhibited from 4 to 8 January.—Aung Ye Thein, Aye Aye Thant/TTA



Students visit booth of Ministry of Health.



Booth of Sagaing Region.



Medical team provide healthcare to visitors.

4 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 8 January, total figure rises to 633,717

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,717** after **four** new cases were reported on 8 January 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **608,354**, including **eight** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged to **19,490** on 8-1-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic.

The country has vaccinated **30,856,554** people aged 18 and above for COVID-19 vaccines and **6,801,033** people aged under 18 till 7 January 2023.—MNA

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increasing of death rate based on the disease.

Cooperate in promotion of socio-economic lives of farmers and the farming sector

THE government has been fulfilling the need for agricultural water supply tasks constantly for the development of the agriculture sector, farmers are required to cooperate in promotion of socio-economic lives of farmers and the farming sector in line with the term participatory irrigation management.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting on the enhancement of the agriculture sector and socioeconomic life of farmers by Participatory Irrigation Management on 26 August 2022)

SAC members, Union ministers open airport park to hail Diamond Jubilee Kachin State Day

AS a gesture of hailing the Diamond Jubilee Kachin State Day celebration that falls on 10 January 2023, members of the State Administrative Council and Union Ministers opened the Nantao Airport Park in Myitkyina yesterday morning.

Firstly, the airport park was opened by SAC members U Sai Lon Seng, U Moug Har and U Shwe Kyein, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and U Hla Moe and Northern Command Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko Maung. SAC member Jeng Phang Naw Taung and State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan unveiled the signboard of the park. After that, they visited the airport park.

The Kachin State Government will open the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee Kachin State Day with traditional Manaw dance at Myitkyina City on 9 January. And Myanmar Traditional Lethwei event will be held marking the state day. On 10 January, the Kachin State Day will be observed with the message reading ceremony on Diamond Jubilee Kachin State



Day, departmental booths along with traditional Manaw dance, domestic product booths and sport competitions. A ceremony to present honorary medals and records to the recipients will be held for their excellent performance in the development of the state. The opening ceremony of the 10-lane swimming pool will be held on a grand scale. — State IPRD/KZW

The opening of Airport Park in progress in Myitkyina on 8 January.



SAC members, Union ministers and officials pose for documentary photo together with ethnic national people at opening of airport park on 8 January.

Buffets for elephants at Palin Kanthayar Elephant Camp provided 553 times during Covid-19 period



Elephants from Palin Kanthayar elephant camp are fed with buffets feedstuff.

OFFICIALS from the Palin Kanthayar Elephant Camp on the bank of the Ayeyawady River near NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, said that elephant lovers from all over Myanmar have been contacting them online to give feed feedstuff buffets to the elephants during the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the Covid-19 epidemic, elephant lovers from all over Myanmar have been donating elephant feed buffet online to the Palin Kanthayar Elephant Camp, under Myanma Timber Enterprise of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

During the pandemic, there has been an increase in the number of people feeding the elephant with buffet, and the number of elephant feed buffets has increased to 553 times, and there are also advance connections online to feed more elephants, according to elephant camp officials.

There are up to 22 elephant camps open in the regions and states of Myanmar, and if you want to donate the elephant feed buffet, you can contact the names and pages of the elephant camps to donate, officials said. People feed sugarcane, Napier grass, banana, pumpkin, watermelon, cucumber, mango, coconut, corn, seasonal fruits as elephant feeds and donate K30,000 to K50,000 if they feed the elephants a buffet. If donors are unable to come to the elephant camp, they can donate through the elephant camp pages by dialing 09-793820532 of assistant manager in charge of the camp.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been 553 elephant feed buffets as elephant camps have been opened for the development of ecotourism. U Saw Wah Wah, ranger of the elephant camp, said that feedstuff is not difficult for the elephants in the camps.—Ko Kyemon/KZL

SAC member inspects sites chosen for SPEI, University of Computer Studies in Myitkyina



MEMBER of the State Administration Council Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Union Ministers and Chief Minister of Kachin State yesterday inspected the sites allocated for the Sports and Physical Education Institute and the University of Computer Studies that will be built in Myitkyina.

The SAC member accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and U Min Thein Zan, and Kachin State Chief Min-

ister U Khet Htein Nan visited the Pitawng Field in Mawphaung Village and inspected the sites for SPEI and the university in Myitkyina, and coordinated the necessary matters.

In addition, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, and Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan looked into progress of building a 10-lane swimming pool in Myitkyina's Thida Ward. They also inspected the construction of a Futsal court near the swimming pool and the conditions for the upgrading Nyeinchan Thayar football ground.—MNA/KZL

SAC member Jeng Phang Naw Taung hears report on plans to build SPEI and Computer University in Myitkyina on 8 January.

Report to Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

1. Myanmar National Human Rights Commission receives complaint letters on violations of the human rights of citizens and also urges the departments concerned to resolve the cases by reviewing, inspecting and negotiating regarding the complaints.
2. If a citizen faces a violation of a citizen's fundamental rights mentioned in the Constitution, universal declaration of human rights and agreements on international human rights that the government ratified, he or she can report to the Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission at No 27, 6.5th-Mile, Pyay Road, Hline Township Yangon, with letters or in person or via Fax 01-654678 and website: www.mnhrc.org.mm for individuals, others or groups.
3. Human rights violation includes violations of child rights, women's rights and rights of persons with disabilities and if there are such violations of the rights of child, disabled and women across the nation, the people can report to the commission by themselves or an accountable person can report on behalf of them.
4. Complaint letters must be attached to the following document;
 - (a) Complainants' name, address and contact number (phone, Fax and e-mail if they have one)
 - (b) Fully documents covering what kind of violation of fundamental rights they face including pieces of evidence
 - (c) They must sign on pact proving the complaint is correct
 - (d) Copy of ID card
5. Currently, it is found out that the copy of ID cards is not included in complaint letters to the commission and so it is here urged the people to attach a copy of ID cards in their complaint letters to the commission without fail.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
27 December 2022

Illegal timbers, wild animals, foodstuff, battery, vehicle confiscated



Container of RBD Palm Olein labelling Prawn Hornet seized in Bago Region with truck on 6 January.

THE on-duty teams under the supervision of the Customs Department conducted inspections on 6 January.

Officials seized five kinds of goods including 600 12V 12Ah batteries worth K19.6 million which did not declare in the Import Declaration from a container at Asia World container checkpoint. The action was taken under the customs procedures.

Similarly, an on-duty teams under the supervision of the Customs Department in Bago Region conducted inspections near Shwe Thanlwin toll gate in Bago Township. Officials seized 1,080 litres of RBD Palm

Olein labelling Prawn Hornet estimated worth K2.88 million which did not declare in the Import Declaration and a lorry worth K50 million carrying that RBD Palm Olein heading from Myawady to Yangon and the action was taken under the customs procedures. A combined inspection team under the management of the Bago Region Forest Department seized 5.3008 tonnes of illegal teak, Kanyin and ironwood timbers estimated worth K1,792,040 in Thayawady and Toungoo districts and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, a combined

inspection team under the management of the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized 0.355 tonne of illegal teak estimated worth K390,500 and 120 heads of nine species of wild animals and birds estimated worth K1.18 million and a vehicle worth K12 million at 16th-mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint and the action was taken under the customs procedure

Hence, eight cases at an estimated value of K87,842,540 were made on 6 January 2023, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee.—MNA/KZL

2022-2023 FY sees imports of industrial raw materials worth over US\$ 2 billion more than last FY



IN the 2022-2023 financial year, more than US\$2 billion worth of industrial raw materials were imported rather than that of the previous FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the period from 1 April to 16 December of the 2022-2023 FY, the import of industrial raw materials amounted to \$5.765 billion, and private enterprises accounted for more than 98 per cent of imports.

In the previous 2021-2022 FY, the amount of industrial raw material import was only

\$3.73 billion, indicating the increased import value of \$2.035 billion this year.

During the period, private companies imported the value of \$5.677 billion, exceeding over \$2 billion rather than that of the previous year.

In addition, the import value from state-owned enterprises was more than \$87 million, exceeding \$34 million surplus than the previous year.

In the eight and a half months of the current financial year, the total imported value was over \$12 billion, surpassing over \$2.5 billion than the previous year. During the period, the import of industrial raw materials was about 50 per cent of the total import amount.—TWA/CT

Containers arriving at the port are being loaded by vehicle.

Seized items during illegal trade eradication to be auctioned off

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, the seized items at the border and at sea are being auctioned off through a bidding system.

Among the items to be auctioned off are alcohol, pieces of plastic, Mattress Accessories, Leather Pieces, Us TV, Reconditioned Copier, Phone Battery, Oxygen Concentrator, Lubrizol, guitar string, engine oil, various mobile phone handsets and general goods are included in the statement.

Tender applications will be sold in office hour at Logistics Division of the Customs Department (Warehouse) on Express Strand Road, Sawyanpaing (West) Ward, Ahlon Township, Yangon Region, starting from 10 am on 7 January.

Interested persons must submit the allocation forms attached to the auction lists in addition to K5,000. Those who have purchased the auction forms will be allowed to check the auctioned items from 10 am to 4 pm from 1 to 3 February.—TWA/KZL

Trade volumes of Myawady Trade Zone, Chinshwehaw Trade Camp amounted to US\$34.249 million

ACCORDING to the statistics of the Ministry of Commerce, the trade volume worth US\$34.249 million was handled by the Myawady trade zone and Chinshwehaw trade camp.

During the period between 17 and 23 December, exports from Myawady Trade Zone earned US\$7.48 million and imports reached US\$18.675 million, amounting to the trade value of US\$25.723 million.

Compared to the beginning of December, exports showed a deficit of US\$8.821 million and imports exceeded by US\$2.365 million, indicating a decrease of US\$6.456 million in the total trade volume. The reason for the decrease in exports was that the value of fishery products and other products increased, but the agricultural produce and the industrial finished goods dropped.

During the same period, the Chinshwehaw trade cap exported US\$5.860 million worth products, and its imports were valued at US\$3.578 million. The value of trade volume was US\$9.438 million. Compared to the same duration of the previous year, the exports and imports were exceeded by US\$ 5.359 million and US\$3.167 million respectively. An increase of US\$8.526 million was seen in the total trade value.

The exports in groundnut, peanut, dried eastern gooseberry, corn, rice, broken rice, dried tea, raw rubber, black sesame, sugarcane, millet and kidney bean exceeded and the imports in the consumer goods decreased. However, the trade value was higher than the same period last year due to the rise in the import of investment and industrial equipment.—TWA/CT

30 buses to run during the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda' Festival



A pilgrimage vehicle paid toll gate fee during pagoda festival of Mann Shwesettaw last year.

A total of 30 buses will be operated during the Buddha Pujaniya festival of Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda to facilitate transportation of pilgrims, according to Minbu District Private Bus Lines Supervisory Committee.

During the Buddha Pujaniya festival in Minbu township, Magway Region, passenger buses will be operated starting from 25 January. It is reported that there will be a shuttle operation from North Hlecock roundabout terminal in Minbu township from 6 am to 6 pm.

Mini buses with 12-15 seats of Aung Mann

bus line using Starex and Vongo vehicles, arranged by Minbu District Private Bus Lines Supervisory Committee, will be run with 10 buses on Minbu-Shwesettaw route and 20 more buses pm the up and down Minbu to Shwesettaw route.

If there will be not enough vehicle, the bus line will add more buses. Bus fare will be set K12,000 for the round trip and K1,000 for up and K500 for down route during the festival.

Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Festival will be held from 25 January to 17 April (1st Myanmar New Year).—TWA/MKKS



Officials inspect inbound and outbound cargo vehicles for carrying illegal goods at Pantawpyin Outpost in Alethankyaw of Maungtaw on 17 May 2022.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Gap in commodity opening and selling prices emerges in markets

ALTHOUGH there is a daily notification of the opening prices of the commodities traded in the commodity depots, a shortage or an abundance of goods has led to price changes in the market time after time, some buyers said.

As for onions, commodity depots in the Bayintnaung Market set the opening price at 7 am depending on different origin regions. Depots from some regions often opened more than one price for onion based on its quality. The opening price for potatoes is announced around 10 am.

Customers arrive at the Bayintnaung Market before 7 am every day, the opening time of commodity depots. They speculate the situation of opening prices based on the inventory information of some depots. They pre-order the desired amount of goods on days when the opening prices may increase due to the low availability of goods. Only

then, can buyers get the goods when they are in short supply. When commodity depots are overstocked, dealers purchase commodities only after the declaration of opening prices.

Brokers sell the commodities, based on the depot opening price, at a higher price owing to high demand and low stock of goods, and at a lower price for bad quality goods and excess goods. Some retail shops in the market can get unpopular commodities at a low price, through the credit system. Thus, associated people have to inquire about the price changes in the market in addition to the opening prices of commodity depots.

Dealers from Yangon have to check the actual purchase price in regions besides the daily opening prices so that they can adjust the selling prices with other dealers.

The supply of onion and chilli

pepper to the border and some major cities in the delta region has decreased. Thus, direct exports from the origin regions have emerged, resulting in a lower

price of commodities due to the lack of brokerage fees.

Commodity depots in regions set their opening prices depending on that of the Bayint-

naung Market before. Nowadays, brokerage house owners evaluate their opening price by monitoring the market price in other regions as well.—TWA/CT



Bags of onions are being unloaded truck at a depot in the Bayintnaung Market.

Thai mango enters NyaungU market in bulk

MANGOES from Thailand have been arriving at the Manisithu market in NyaungU, Mandalay Region, said Daw Win Mar, a pickled mango dealer.

“Thailand mangoes are entering the market the whole year. Now, they are abundantly entering the market. The Thailand mango price has slightly dropped after Myanmar mango tree has blossomed. One bag of mango containing six visses costs K6,000. However, one

mango bag fetched K8,000 in summer. The mango is julienned, and it is sold at K2,000 per viss. The mango juliennes need to be mixed only with salt,” Daw Kay Thi explained.

Local mangoes of Myanmar are in great business only at the beginning of the season and it is valued at only K2,000-K2,500 per basket. Dealers store mangoes in glazed earthen pots, wooden boxes with plastic packing and large bamboo baskets. When

fresh mangoes were scarce, pickled mangoes are started to enter the market. They were priced at K1,200 per viss at the start and now (old) pickled mangoes fetched the price of K1,400 per viss.

Imported mangoes from Thailand are not as good as local mangoes, but since they can survive the whole year, they have an advantage in the market, explained the pickled mango makers.—Ko Kyemon/CT



Mango juliennes are being produced to make them as pickled mango products.

Public Notice

1. The Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to effectively curb corruption.
2. The ACC used SMS on the mobile phone to ask the public who seek services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via Short Code No “1111” for feedbacks, including the Public Feedback Programme-PFP.
3. According to the PFP, the right replies of the citizens via Short Code No “1111” will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.
4. Therefore, the public should make a reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at Short Code No “1111” and such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

*Anti-Corruption Commission
Answer “1111” to fight against corruption
Answer “1111” to improve services
Let’s work together to eliminate corruption towards prosperity*

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LOCAL BUSINESS

MIC bags 59 foreign projects worth \$1.46 bln in nine months

THE Myanmar Investment Commission gave green light to 59 foreign projects from eight countries in (April-December) of the current financial year 2022-2023. The country attracted capital of US\$1.46 billion this FY, including the expansion of capital by the existing enterprises, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Those enterprises are engaged in agriculture, manufacturing, power, real estate and service sectors respectively.

Singapore is the top source of FDI this FY, with 14 Singapore-listed enterprises pumping FDI of US\$1.154 billion into Myanmar. Hong Kong SAR stands as the second largest investor this FY with an estimated capital of over \$165 million drawn from



The Directorate of Investment and Company Administration manages flow of foreign investment and Myanmar citizen investment into Myanmar.

12 projects. China is ranked third in the investment line-up with more than \$95.626 million from 27 projects.

Two from the Republic of Korea put investments into

Myanmar, while one enterprise each from Belize, Japan, China (Taipei) and the UK also made investments in the past nine months respectively. The existing enterprises from Bang-

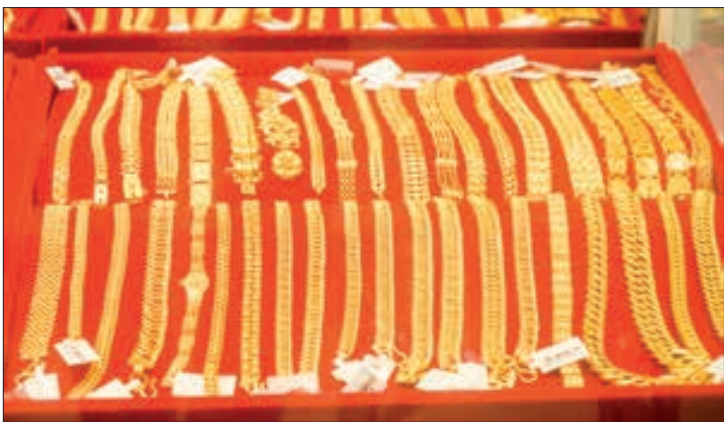
ladesh, Japan, Seychelles, China (Taipei), China, Hong Kong SAR, the Republic of Korea, India, Thailand, the UK, Thailand, Switzerland and Samoa also increased investments.

Myanmar drew FDI of \$647 million in the 2021-2022 mini-budget period (October to March), DICA's statistics indicated. The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations has been inviting responsible businesses to benefit the country.

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) ensures the approval of responsible businesses by assessing environmental and social impacts. The commission is working together with the relevant departments to screen the projects as well.

From 1 February 2021, Thilawa SEZ has recorded capital expansions of \$100 million from one new enterprise and the existing enterprises so far. The majority of them put investments into cement and pharmaceutical manufacturing.—KK

YGEA's reference price edges up to K2.2 mln per tical following global gold spot price



Ornaments in various designs made of gold being put on display.

YANGON Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) raised its reference price of pure gold to K2.2 million per tical as gold spot price climbed in international markets.

When the gold spot price was US\$1,823 per ounce at the end of 2022, YGEA set the pure gold price at K2,147,500 per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme).

At present, the gold spot price rallied to \$1,864 per ounce. Therefore, YGEA raised the reference price to K2,196,000 per tical.

The gold spot price was up by \$40 per ounce within days, whereas the YGEA added K50,000 to the reference price.

Despite the YGEA's reference price, the price of pure

gold hit K2,747,000 per tical in the domestic markets.

There is a gap of over K550,000 per tical between the YGEA's reference price and market price.

YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate of K2,100, with some addition. The dollar was exchanged at K2,850 in the black market.

Myanma Gems Enterprise (MGE) sold the gold at K2.5 million per tical despite the large gap.

On 4 January, as a celebration of the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day, new designs of 1 tical and 0.5 tical gold coins have been on sale at the respective shops

in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay of the MGE from 5 January 2023, along with other old coins.

Pure gold is offered at K2.5 million per tical. The gold coin amounted to K2.58 million per tical, including making charges of K80,000. The final price of gold is K1.292 million per 0.5 tical with making charges of K42,000. For 0.25 tical, the market value is K647,000 including making charges of K22,000.

The price of gold in the domestic market is positively related to the global gold spot prices and dollar exchange rate.

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

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

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

5,000 companies fail to submit AR in 2022: DICA

A total of 5,000 companies have been struck off the register in the past eleven months as they fail to submit annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

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

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

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

All registered companies need to submit 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 the law.

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

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

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

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

OPINION

Open hearts and widen scopes for winning greater success

EVERYBODY wishes to be wealthy and to enjoy success in all things they do. Nobody in the secular world regardless of race and religion does avoid acts of greed because they wish to have more and more possessions.

Indeed, if they wish to have possession, they need to double or triple the efforts with industry for the improvement of their businesses or some works which can earn income for them. Actually, most of the persons do not understand the best way to gain wealth. However, the persons achieving success in their work or businesses have the best way what they need to do.

All the global people should try to know what are do and what are don'ts for the ways to have wealth. If so, the best ways for possessing prosperity are expressed. The first important point for all, everybody needs to reduce supplementary acts which are not required in the work process. The second important one is not to waste time and everything must be done immediately. The third one is to give the best service to customers.

The three important points are very useful for all people whether they are businesspersons or not. Only when they can reduce unnecessary processes will they cut valuable time and cost. If so, they can save their budgets. Moreover, making immediate efforts can bring great gifts to all. In all aspects, delays in working can lead to the degradation of livelihoods. If so, anyone cannot easily earn income which is important for the running of the family. Moreover, the best service, directly and indirectly, attracts new partners and customers as well as increases incomes and prosperity.

Apart from aforesaid three important points, an invaluable instruction for achieving success in all things they do is to pour out greater endeavours than others in relevant arenas. They have to open their hearts and widen their scopes to be able to embrace knowledge and skills to be applied in their respective sectors. If they can do so, they can see their success in the future.

All in all, everybody wishing to possess wealth and prosperity needs to analyze themselves as well as their opponents on a daily basis. After knowing weak and strong points, they have to make decisions on how to improve themselves, how to handle their businesses for gaining greater profits than others and how to lay down better plans if they wish to see the best future.

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

By THAN HTUN (GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR)

Episode:4

DR William King (1833-1900) was a British geologist who studied civil engineering at Queen's College, Galway, and at Queen's University before joining the Geological Survey of India on 4 March 1857. He succeeded H.B. Medicott in April 1887, as Director of, the Geological Survey of India. He was then already 54 years old, but the Government of India, relaxing the retiring age rule, granted him six extensions year by year and thus retained his services until 20th July 1894. At the time of his retirement, he was 60 years old and had put in a recorded service of 37 years. He was succeeded by Carl Griesbach as a Director. During his Directorship, no important change took place in the cadre of the Department, and the number of geological officers varied from 12 to 14 in the graded category. During this period the Department lost six Officers, three by retirement, one by resignation, and two by death, and their places were filled by six new appointments. The outgoing Officers included C.A. Hackett, F. R. Mallet, R. B. Foote, P. Lake, F. Fedden, and E. J. Jones.

The Officers recruited during this period included Parvati Nath Dutta, Thomas Henry Holland, William Bruce Dallas Edwards, and Frederic Herbert Smith. Besides the above Officers, Dr H. Warth, also known as Hugo Sigmund Freiderich, was transferred in September 1890 to the Department from the Forest School, Dehra Dun. Ten months later, in July 1891, he went to Madras as the Superintendent of the Museum, subsequently returning to the Survey in December 1893.

Regarding the Madras field, the work of C. A. Oldham King and Foote led to the mapping of the Cuddapah and Kurnool basins, and their subdivision into stages, and the discovery of the Upper Gondwanas of Guntur and Ongole. On A. C. Oldham's death in 1868, King was appointed Deputy Superintendent for Madras and he continued with Foote the mapping of the Southern Mahratta country and adjacent districts. Foote recognized two principal elements in

the gneissic rocks, viz., of granitoid and schistose nature, arranged in great bands traceable for miles with a general N. N. W. - S. S. E. strike. The schist bands he was later (1886) to separate from the gneissic complex as Dharwars. King continued his investigations on the coal measures of Chota Nagpur and Chhattisgarh until 1890. King and Foote discovered stone implements over a wide extent of the country to the west and north of Madras city. Similar finds were later made by Ball and Theobald in other parts of India and Burma. A number of economic investigations in Burma were also included in the programme of the Survey during that period. Between 1888 and 1891 Noetling investigated the oilfields of Yenangyaung and demarcated the oil-bearing zones. He also investigated the iron ores, ruby, and tourmaline occurrences in the Shan States, coal in Chindwin, and amber and jade deposits in Upper Burma. Between 1888 and 1892 Hughes examined the tin deposits in Tenasserim, which finally proved to be quite promising. Bose and Datta also worked in the Tenasserim valley in 1892 and 1893, where they found large supplies of coal.

Amber mines

Fritz Noetling, a palaeontologist, reported the amber mines and jade mines in Upper Burma, and significant points could be extracted as follows:-

The amber mines which were examined by me are situated about 5 miles to the southwest of the village of Maingkhwan on a low isolated hill, which rises abruptly from the surrounding plains. There is no doubt that this hill, which has an elongated shape, is the main axis running N. E. - S. W., formed part of a formerly wider extended river terrace, which has, however, been considerably denuded and worn away during the process of time. It is therefore a priori not improbable that amber may be found also at other localities in that part of the country near the Nangotiemaw hill. I was subsequently informed that the amber mines proper - that

is to say, those which at present produce the amber - are situated west of, and are close to, a village called Lalaung.

In terms of geology, the strata in which the amber is found belong to the Tertiary formation, probably to the Lower Miocene. The exact



William King: Source: Geological Survey of India

age cannot be stated yet, as no fossils have so far been discovered. The amber-bearing beds consist of soft, blue clay, which is superficially discoloured brown, the discolouring being apparently due to the disintegrating action of organic acids formed by the extremely rich vegetation; it may therefore be expected that the brown portion of clay forms only a thin covering of thickness on the exposed parts of the blue clay. It might further be anticipated that the amber found in this clay, would be of inferior quality to that which is extracted from the blue clay. The experimental shafts sunk by me have proved that both these views are correct.

It may be well to keep in mind that amber is nothing but a kind of resin that has been produced in exactly the same way as the resin is produced by trees nowadays, only that the amber-producing trees - pine trees very probably - were extremely rich in resin, and that the process of production

The colour of the amber varies from light yellow to dark brown, in all shades and various degrees of transparency, the most common colour is a dark reddish-brown, which may very well be compared with the colour of dark Madeira wine. Specimens of this kind are nearly always flawed and contain streaks of minute fragments of wood. Transparent pieces are of a reddish colour. The colour most valued by the natives is honey-yellow; larger pieces of this kind are rare. The milky-white, cloudy-coloured variety, such as is at present particularly appreciated in Europe, does not occur in the Burma amber.

The amber is extracted in the most primitive fashion. No surface indications reveal the presence of a pocket of amber; the selection of a spot where mining operations are going to be started is perfectly accidental. Having selected a spot, a man digs a square hole of about 1.5 feet by two feet by means of a rude tool, which resembles the Burmese taywin, that is to say, a short chisel-shaped iron affixed to a heavy wooden club-shaped handle. It is perfectly clear that under this system of extraction, the output solely depends on luck; one man may find a large quantity, while another works for weeks without getting more than a few pieces.

Although I have no doubt that amber is found in large quantities either at Lalaung or elsewhere, it may safely be said that it will never form an article of export to Europe unless the fashion changes. The two qualities which are against it finding a market at home are, its colour; second, is fluorescence. There is, however, no doubt that the very moment the Burmese amber, which in its physical qualities is similar to the amber produced by smelting the refuse of European amber, would appear on the market as a serious competitor to Europe amber, the firm would at once take up the manufacture of artificial amber. In conclusion, I would recommend that experiments on a large scale should be carried out either at Lalaung or elsewhere with a view to ascertain

whether there exists a sufficient quantity of amber to pay a more systematic mode of working.

Jade mines

Two different groups of mines may be distinguished, which we may call the pit and quarry mines, respectively. The pit mines are situated along the bank of the Uru river, beginning at about Sankha village and extending for a distance of about 40 miles further down. The quarry mines near Tawmaw village are situated about eight miles to the west of Sankha village on the top of a plateau rising to about 1,600 feet above the level of the Uru River.

Although it is quite probable the mineral which is commonly called jade and which forms the object of an extensive industry in the Mogaung sub-division is different from the jade proper, I may be allowed to use the old name fill chemical and microscopical analysis will have revealed the true nature of this mineral. The Tawmaw mines afford the best opportunity for the study of the geological condition under which the jade is found. It here forms a vein of considerable thickness in an igneous rock of blackish-green colour. The jade is purely white crypto-crystalline mineral much resembling the finest marble, containing here and there green specks of various sizes, which form the jade proper. The jade vein is separated from the black rock by a band of a soft and highly decomposed argillaceous mineral. The strike of the vein is approximately north to south, and the dip at about an angle of 20°, varying considerably towards the east.

It is difficult to determine the age of these igneous rocks. Before Sankha is reached a similar rock may be seen breaking through Tertiary sandstones, but unfortunately, the relationship of the Tawmaw trap to the surrounding strata cannot be observed owing to the denseness of the jungle.

The jade extracted from the pit mines is found in the shape of boulders, which are undoubtedly derived from localities hitherto unknown, in the neighbourhood

of the Uru river. It is probable that this kind of jade, which has undergone a considerable amount of wearing much harder and therefore of better quality, than the jade extracted from the quarry mines, which has hitherto only laid open the outcrop of the vein; but there is no doubt that once the mining operations have reached a greater depth, where the jade has no longer been subjected to the superficial disintegration, a material will be found which, if not better, will at least be equal to the jade extracted from the pit-mine.

There are at least 500 men engaged every season in working the quarry mines at Tawmaw. The mining operations are carried on in the rudest fashion. No blasting powder being available, the rock is heated by large fires and having again cooled down, is broken into pieces by means of enormous iron hammers. The operation in the pit mines is less difficult as the alluvial gravel in which the jade boulders are found does not require the tedious process of heating the rock. The miner simply digs a pit and selects the boulders from the

stuff dug out of the pit; good pieces of jade are sometimes found in the laterite, which forms beds of varying thickness along the Uru. These pieces have superficially undergone a certain discolouring in such a way that the original green or white is changed under the influence of the hydrated oxide of iron into a dark red colour. Specimens of this kind are generally known as "red jade".

There is no doubt that the jade mines, especially the jade vein of Tawmaw, form a most valuable property; and there is further no doubt that, besides the Tawmaw jade vein, others will be discovered sooner or later, as we know now that jade is intimately associated with a dark igneous rock (trap). As the country abounds in rocks of this kind, it may fairly be expected that a closer examination of these rocks, perhaps some extensive prospecting operation, will result in the discovery of other jade mines.

References: Record of the Geological Survey of India, 1892. Volume XXV.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 8 January 2023)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and a few cloud elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 9 January 2023: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be generally fair in Sagaing, Magway, Bago and Yangon regions and Eastern Shan and Kayah states and partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 - 6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 January 2023: Partly cloudy.

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

US proposes stricter air quality standards for soot

THE US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed stricter standards on Friday for microscopic particles responsible for harmful air pollution.

The EPA proposal, which will be subject to public comment and hearings before it would take effect, would toughen the national air quality standard for fine particles, also known as soot.

Fine particle pollution can

be caused by a number of sources including construction sites, smokestacks, wildfires, power plants and vehicles.

It causes respiratory illnesses such as asthma, heart attacks and disproportionately affects low-income and communities of color in the United States.

The EPA proposal would strengthen the air quality standard for fine particles from an annual average level of 12

micrograms per cubic meter to between nine and 10 micrograms per cubic meter. “Our work to deliver clean, breathable air for everyone is a top priority at EPA,” agency chief Michael Regan said in a statement.

“This proposal will help ensure that all communities, especially the most vulnerable among us, are protected from exposure to harmful pollution.”—AFP



Industrial smokestacks directly emit particle pollution, but they also emit sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, which react in the atmosphere to form fine particle pollution. **PHOTO: US EPA/AFP**

France suffered record heat, rain shortfall in 2022: weather office



Near-bare slopes at the Luchon-Superbagnères ski resort in southwestern France on 5 January 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

FRANCE experienced its hottest average temperature and lowest levels of rainfall on re-

cord in 2022, the national weather office said on Friday.

The average temperature

for the year was 14.5 degrees Celsius (58.1 Fahrenheit), “very far above 2020 which held the previous record” of 14.07 degrees Celsius, Meteo France said in a statement.

The heat was “a symptom of climate change,” it added.

The country also suffered a “record rainfall deficit” of 25 per cent below the long-term average, the lowest since 1989, the weather office added.

Like much of western Europe, France experienced a punishing summer of record temperatures and forest fires that led to a renewed focus on climate change.—AFP

Water conservancy ruins found in ancient capital in central China

THE ancient capital Luoyang site in today’s Henan Province has recently discovered over 80 meters of water channels dating back to the Wei and Jin dynasties (220-420). It indicates the mature techniques of building water conservancy facilities and the dynasties’ capability of water resource utilization and environmental upgrade back then.

The excavation on the Qianqiu Gate site of the ancient palace started in 2021, and the researchers later found the large-scale underground water channels beneath the gate site’s square.

So far, four water chan-

nels have been discovered, all stone culverts running side by side from southwest to northeast. The channels were confirmed to be built together and follow a unified construction planning.

Such water conservancy facilities with large-scale layouts and delicate designs are the first to be spotted during the excavation work on the Luoyang ancient city. Luoyang city site, located in today’s Luoyang in Henan, has a history of over 1,500 years, while for about 600 years in its vast history, it served as the capital city for many dynasties in ancient China.—Xinhua

Animal rights activists blast Paris’ Moulin Rouge over snake act

ANIMAL rights activists have launched a campaign against Paris institution the Moulin Rouge, complaining that the storied cabaret is immersing non-aquatic snakes in water on stage.

The daily show at the Moulin Rouge includes a sequence with a dancer playing with large pythons in a pool of water.

“The snakes have no business being there,” said Amandine Sanvisens, co-founder of the PAZ animal rights group, which has launched a petition against the act.

“Throughout the scene, the snake is trying to keep its head out of the water. This isn’t the

right environment for reptiles,” added Sanvisens, who demonstrated outside the Moulin Rouge in late December.

The cabaret founded in 1889 told the Parisien newspaper last month: “We have never mistreated and will never mistreat animals.” It claimed it used “a species of aquatic python, equally at home in the water as on land” in the show.

But Alice Georges, a keeper at exotic pet shop Ferme Tropicale de Paris, said she had spotted reticulated pythons and Indian pythons in videos of the act posted online.

“These aren’t aquatic snakes. What they’re being



The Moulin Rouge first opened in 1889. **PHOTO: AFP**

forced to endure is horrible,” she said.

Paris city hall told AFP the

show does not fall under its jurisdiction.

Meanwhile the Moulin

Rouge appears to sit in a loophole in a 2021 law that forbids using wild animals in nightclubs or on TV from this year and bans owning them from 2028.

Hailed by President Emmanuel Macron’s camp at the time as an animal rights coup, the law has both sparked a backlash from circus owners and been criticised by animal rights groups for not going far enough on issues like hunting, industrial farming or bull-fighting.

“The law hasn’t managed to cover every case and will have to be improved,” said Loic Dombrevail, an MP who co-wrote the original text.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Scanners for avocados and your brain: Highlights from CES 2023



The iSyncWave headset performs brain scans and is touted as being able to diagnose cognitive disorders. **PHOTO: AFP**

AT the annual CES tech show in Las Vegas, hundreds of start-ups presented products aimed at improving health, education and work, increasing productivity and helping to save the planet.

Here are some highlights from the 2023 edition of the popular gadget fest, which ends on Sunday:

Brain-scanning cap

Like the Sorting Hat in the “Harry Potter” book series, the iSyncWave sits atop your head, does a quick analysis of you, and reads out its results.

But this gadget isn't magic.

Developed by iMediSync, the headset performs an electroencephalogram (EEG) and

uses artificial intelligence to predict potential risks of cognitive issues, including Alzheimer's disease, within 10 minutes.

The South Korean company believes its headset could drastically reduce the financial cost and time needed to do such diagnostic tests.

The device could also possibly be used one day to perform certain therapies for neurodegenerative diseases.

Ripe and ready

The start-up OneThird, which aims to fight food waste, presented its infrared device that “scans” avocados — for which ripeness seems to be a roll of the dice.

All one has to do is hold an avocado under the scan-

ner, then algorithms determine whether it is “not yet ripe,” “ripe” or “overripe,” presenting a color-coded response on a mobile app.

The device is also touted as a way of preventing supermarket customers from squeezing avocado after avocado, which can make them spoil quicker.

The company takes its name from the fact that one third of global food products go to waste.

Coding without coding

As computers increase in complexity by the day, many startups are facilitating communication with tech, especially for people who don't know how to code.

At the Tactigon booth, Nadia Giuliani stands behind a small robot, grabs two connected joysticks and claps her hands saying “clap.”

The device imitates her immediately by clapping. She can also use it to teach dance moves to the robot.

“We are now using voice commands and gestures because we need to have a more natural interface with the digital world,” says Massimiliano Bellino, boss of Tactigon parent company Next Industries.—AFP

Thailand to benefit from China's optimized COVID-19 strategy: expert

CHINA'S optimized COVID-19 strategy will help boost Thailand's economic recovery amid a gloomy global economic outlook, a Thai expert said.

The return of Chinese tourists will bolster the tourism industry and related businesses such as accommodation, transportation, food and beverage, and retail, Kevalin Wangpichayasuk, assistant managing director of Kasikorn Research Center, said in a recent written interview with Xinhua.

It was estimated that in the pre-COVID-19 era, the consumption of Chinese tourists accounted for more than 3 per cent of Thailand's nominal GDP, she added.

The Thai government expects about 300,000 Chinese tourists to visit Thailand in the first three months of this year. It also sets a target of approximately 5 million Chinese tourists in 2023, equivalent to 45 per cent of Chinese arrivals in 2019.

Kevalin noted that she does not expect a major return of Chinese tourists until the second half of this year, or as soon as the second quarter of this year, due to visa processing time and gradual resumption of international flights, among others.

In addition to tourism, increased economic activities with China are bound to promote trade and investment between the two countries, she said.—Xinhua



The Thai government expects about 300,000 Chinese tourists to visit Thailand in the first three months of this year. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

COVID-19 deaths in Japan top 60,000 since start of pandemic

JAPAN'S cumulative total of COVID-19 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic exceeded 60,000 on Sunday, a tally showed, in the midst of the eighth wave of coronavirus infections.

Compared with the total topping 50,000 on 1 December, Sunday's figure highlights the increased pace of deaths at 10,000 in just around a month.

After the number since Japan confirmed its first domestic case of COVID-19 in January 2020 eclipsed the 20,000 mark last February, 10,000 deaths were reported every three months until December, according to the Kyodo



People wearing protective face masks are seen at Asakusa district in Tokyo, Japan on 25 March 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

News tally. Japan posted a record of 498 daily COVID-19 deaths on Thursday.—Kyodo

Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg discourage travel to Covid-hit China

GERMANY, Belgium and Luxembourg on Saturday discouraged non-essential trips to China, the world's most populous nation, as it struggles with a surge in Covid cases after relaxing strict virus restrictions.

“We currently discourage non-essential trips to China. The reason is a peak in Covid infections and an overwhelmed health system,” the German foreign ministry said on Twitter.

Neighbouring Belgium and Luxembourg were swift to follow suit. “Luxembourg is aligning itself with the German travel

advisory and is currently advising against non-essential travel to China,” the country's foreign ministry said in a statement.

Belgium's foreign ministry said on its website that “since December, China has been experiencing its biggest wave of infections due to the end of the zero-Covid policy”.

“In view of the risk of hospital overcrowding and, consequently, the risk of not being able to be treated quickly in the event of an emergency, non-essential travel is not recommended for the time being.”—AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Vessels along Yangtze River Economic Belt see record high shore power usage

OVER 780,000 transportation ships from the 11 provincial-level regions along the Yangtze River Economic Belt used shore power of more than 74.9 million kWh in 2022, with both the number of vessels and the shore power usage reaching a record high, said the administration of navigational affairs on the Yangtze River under the Ministry of Transport.

As a major measure to better protect the Yangtze River's ecosystems and promote eco-friendly shipping, more and more transportation ships are encouraged to use shore electricity while at the dock. Over the years, more than 10,000 transportation vessels



A worker prepares charging piles for the electric cargo ship "Zhongtiandianyun 001" in Changzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, 7 May 2020. PHOTO: JI CHUNPENG/XINHUA

have been upgraded to adopt standard power-receiving equipment connected to the shore power system.

In 2023, the traffic and transport authorities plan to accelerate the upgrading of shore power facilities at ports and aboard and to further promote the construction and application of smart shore power, said the administration.

China started the Yangtze River Economic Belt initiative in early 2016, aiming to turn the region into a golden economic belt featuring a more beautiful ecology, smoother transport, a more coordinated economy, a better-integrated market, and more scientific mechanisms.—Xinhua

US services activity shrinks for first time since May 2020

THE dominant US services sector contracted for the first time in more than two years in December, survey data showed on Friday, as business activity slumped.

The Institute for Supply Management's services index dipped below a key 50-per cent threshold, indicating a contraction and surprising economists.

The sector accounts for two-thirds of the world's largest economy and has held up in spite of a forceful campaign by the Federal Reserve to cool demand and rein in surging inflation — but the higher interest rates now appear to be biting.

The ISM services index "ended a 30-month period of



US services sector contracted for the first time in more than two years in December, survey data showed on Friday, as business activity slumped. PHOTO: ROBYN BECK/AFP

growth, contracting for the first time since two straight months of sub-50 per cent readings in April and May 2020," said ISM survey chair Anthony Nieves.

The December reading came in at 49.6 per cent, with the business activity index and new orders index both plunging.—AFP

Eurozone inflation falls for second month

THE eurozone's annual inflation rate fell for a second month in a row, to 9.2 per cent in December, driven by easing energy prices, official data showed Friday, bringing some relief to Europe in the new year.

Boosted by the slowdown in the rate of energy cost rises, inflation fell last month from 10.1 per cent in November, according to EU statistics agency Eurostat.

It is the first time the rate is

in single digits since September.

Consumer prices had reached a record 10.6 per cent in October, caused by sky-high energy prices buffeted by Russia's war in Ukraine. That is five times higher than the European Central Bank's target.

Analysts had expected the inflation rate in the single currency area to drop again but the fall was larger than predicted by Bloomberg and FactSet, which

foresaw 9.5 per cent and 9.7 per cent respectively.

Energy costs rose 25.7 per cent in December compared to 34.9 per cent a month earlier. Food and drink costs also rose.

"All told, the early 2023 data releases confirm that the more apocalyptic scenarios envisaged a few months ago will be averted," Andrew Kenningham, chief Europe economist at Capital Economics said in a note.—AFP

Bangladesh's largest cattle show kicks off in Dhaka

THE largest show of Bangladesh's dairy farm industry "Dhaka Cattle Expo 2023" kicked off here on Friday to highlight investment opportunities and advanced technology in the dairy and livestock sectors of the country.

Organized by the Bangladesh Cattle Farmers' Association, or BCFA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and the Directorate of Youth Development of the Bangladeshi government, the two-day exhibition was attended by a large number of dairy farms, clients, and visitors.

The salient features of the cattle show are breed contests and international breed dis-

plays. It also provides opportunities for animal purchasing.

On the sidelines of the 2-day show, cultural and traditional programs are also being held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC), also known as the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center which is located at Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla, a busy commercial and central neighbourhood.

The organizers said the exhibition aimed at enhancing the knowledge of farms and farmers, and skills by adopting modern techniques for value addition, which in turn will contribute to the country's national GDP or gross domestic product.—Xinhua



Farmers present a bull at "Dhaka Cattle Expo 2023" in Bangladeshi capital Dhaka on 6 January 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

Auto industry races into metaverse at CES

ALLOWING the driver of an autonomous vehicle to watch a movie, a dealer to sell automobiles from a “virtual” car lot, or an engineer to simulate how a new part fits: the auto industry is getting a tantalizing taste of the metaverse at the huge CES technology show.

One gadget on display in Las Vegas is an in-car television system, developed by French parts maker Valeo, that needs no remote. To change the channel, drivers or passengers wearing a headset make a simple swipe in



French company Valeo demonstrates the use of a virtual reality headset at the 2023 CES technology show in Las Vegas, Nevada. PHOTO: AFP

the air with their hand, and sensors in the car detect the movement.

For users who dislike the feel of a full headset, sensors on a vehicle’s exte-

rior make it possible to integrate actual pedestrians or landscapes into virtual reality (VR) images, said Ghaya Khemiri, who leads the Valeo project.

And if sensors detect that a person is feeling stressed, the system can offer soothing images to promote relaxation.

At Valeo, “we’re doing a lot of work on electric and autonomous cars, and work a lot on sensors,” Khemiri said. “We had asked ourselves what we could offer (with them) for users’ pleasure.”—AFP

Research begins to generate electricity from snow in Japan

RESEARCH has started in a northeastern Japanese city to generate electricity from unwanted snow with the aim of securing a renewable energy source to cover potential power shortages.

The city of Aomori,

which sees heavy snow every year, started a trial in a swimming pool at an abandoned elementary school in December to explore the feasibility of producing energy by utilizing the temperature difference between stored

snow and the surrounding air.

In the joint project, local IT startup Forte Co. and the University of Electro-Communications in Tokyo are looking to power a turbine with energy produced when liquid

cooled by stored snow is then vaporized by the heat of the surrounding air.

Electricity generation using stored snow has recently drawn attention as an environmentally friendly, low-cost and safe power source.—Kyodo

Ministry of Energy

Invitation for Letter of Expression of Interest for renovation, construction of new facilities and long-term leasing and BOT of the new Petrochemical Complex (Thanbayakan)

1. The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar aims to increase the domestic supply of refined petroleum products and further expand the Petrochemical Complex (Thanbayakan) through major technological developments with additional investments, whilst incorporating necessary environmental management policies and plans. With the primary intention to meet the aforementioned strategic goal, The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is currently seeking a qualified investor organizations to renovate the existing complex, construct a new refinery and operate the Petrochemical Complex (Thanbayakan) project. The main objectives of the project are as follows:

- To satisfy the growing domestic demands of petroleum products by increasing the production of exceptional petroleum commodities.
- To expand the business with respect to economic feasibility and profitability, whilst considering competitive-advantages.
- To conduct environmentally friendly production of petroleum products by utilizing environmentally friendly and energy saving-means.

The investor Company will be expected to undertake crude oil refinery rehabilitation, construction of new facilities, trading and additionally, to work towards further expansion of refinery based petrochemical related industries, including the construction of a new refinery through competitive advantages.

The investor Company will be granted all required Permits and Necessary Licenses with regards to the Petrochemical Complex (Thanbayakan) Project, in accordance with the existing Myanmar laws and regulations and any modifications thereof.

2. The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar hereby announces an Invitation for Expression of Interest to both local and foreign investors for Petrochemical complex (Thanbayakan).

3. The interested parties are cordially invited to submit the Letter of Expression of Interest- LoEI, along with additional documents stating the Constitution of the Company, Certificate of Incorporation, Audited Financial Statement or Financial Report for the last three years (if Consortium, Audited Financial Statement or Financial Report of the leading member of the Consortium), Company’s Organizational Structure with consisting Experts and Professionals and other related documents. A single set of Original Hard Copy, (3) Sets of Hard Copies attached with the Soft Copy of the aforementioned documents are required to be submitted in person to the following address not later than (12:00) PM of 8-3-2023.

Director General
Oil and Gas Planning Department
Ministry of Energy
Office No.6, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone: 0673411046

4. With regards to the documents required for the preparation of the Letter of Expression of Interest, an explanation session will be arranged at the Oil and Gas Planning Department, Office No.6, Nay Pyi Taw on 9-2-2023 at (14:00) PM.

5. The potential bidders, who intend to compete for the operation of the Petrochemical refinery (Thanbayakan) are required to hold exceptional track records, in addition to possessing related and required technical knowledge and competency, financial capability, experience, and expertise on the operation of the refinery.

6. The potential bidders will be placed through a pre-qualification assessment round and will be evaluated as per the requirements listed in paragraph 5.

7. Once the names of the successful companies of the pre-qualification assessment are released, these parties will be expected to travel to the refinery and conduct a Feasibility Study and submit a Feasibility Study Report consisting of the following headings:

- Crude Oil Source
- Crude Oil transportation route
- Refinery capacity
- Revamping Plan for existing Refinery
- Set up plan for new refinery
- Other necessary matters in order to proceed the Request for Proposal

8. The interested parties can contact the following addresses for any inquiries.

- (1) Director General
Oil and Gas Planning Department
Ministry of Energy
Office No.6, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone: 067 3411046
- (2) Managing Director
Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise
Ministry of Energy
Office No.44, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone: 067 3 411059

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GREEN PACIFIC VOY.NO. (0UVS1E1N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GREEN PACIFIC VOY.NO. (0UVS1E1N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-1-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA CGM ASIA SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2301S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2301S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-1-2023** 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 X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (23001N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (23001N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-1-2023** 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 X-PRESS FEEDERS LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC JAKARTA VOY.NO. (2228S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC JAKARTA VOY.NO. (2228S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-1-2023** 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

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Little respite in fighting as Ukraine marks Orthodox Christmas

UKRAINIANS and Russians marked Orthodox Christmas on Saturday, as the 36-hour ceasefire ordered by Russian President Vladimir Putin ran its course with little sign the fighting had eased.

War-scarred cities in eastern Ukraine saw no significant let-up in the combat. AFP journalists in the town of Chasiv Yar south of the frontline city of Bakhmut heard heavy artillery fire throughout much of Saturday morning.

The Russian defence ministry insisted its forces were observing the unilateral ceasefire, which ended at 11:00 pm in Kyiv (2100 GMT). But they also said they had repelled attacks in eastern Ukraine and killed dozens of Ukrainian soldiers Friday.



People dressed in traditional costumes singing Christmas carols. Members of the Christmas den carol take part in the Orthodox celebration of Christmas. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ukrainian authorities said only three people had been killed on Friday.

In Moscow, the 70-year-old

Putin stood alone at a service at a Kremlin church, the Cathedral of the Annunciation, to mark Orthodox Christmas.—AFP

Christmas in a bomb shelter for Orthodox Ukrainians

AS artillery boomed outside and fighter jets flew overhead, Orthodox Christians in a battered eastern Ukrainian town held a Christmas service in a basement shelter on Saturday, vowing not to let war ruin the holiday.

Nearly all the congregants and all but one choir singer had already fled Chasiv Yar for safer territory, leaving just nine people to attend the service in a residential building that partially collapsed from shelling in November.

“Christ was born in a cave. You and I are also in a cave,” Priest Oleg Kruchinin told the group, gesturing to the basement lined with exposed wires and pipes and lit with an exposed bulb.

“This probably has a special meaning: Do not lose heart, do not give up... Because the Lord was born in a cave, and we also celebrate Christmas in cramped conditions.”

Chasiv Yar is situated 10 kilometres (six miles) south of Bakhmut, the hottest point on the front line, and has lived under the constant threat of bombardment for many weeks.

For the first nine months of the war, the town’s Orthodox Christians worshipped in a white-brick church with golden domes, even though the building had no underground shelter.

But two weeks ago, a missile landed in the churchyard and shattered its windows, forcing them to relocate.—AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Iranian held in Germany suspected of chemical terror plot

AN Iranian man has been arrested in western Germany suspected of preparing an “Islamist attack” using cyanide and ricin, police and prosecutors said Sunday.

Munster police and the Dusseldorf prosecutors’ office said in a press release that officers searched a residence in the town of Castrop-Rauxel for “toxic substances” intended to carry out an attack.

The 32-year-old Iranian was “suspected of having pre-

pared a serious act of violence threatening the security of the state by obtaining cyanide and ricin with a view to committing an Islamist attack”, said investigators.

Another person was arrested during the operation and taken into custody, they added.

The main suspect will be presented in the coming days to an investigating judge ahead of possible pre-trial detention, they said.—AFP



A police officer in Berlin, Germany on 30 April 2020. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ODD ANDERSEN/AFP/FILE**

Prosecutors closer to murder indictment 6 months after Abe shooting

SIX months after the assassination of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, prosecutors are moving closer to indicting the man accused of the fatal shooting that brought to light links between politicians and the controversial Unification Church.

Abe, 67, was shot at close range by Tetsuya Yamagami during a campaign speech on 8 July, two days ahead of a national election.

Following an examination to determine whether he is mentally fit to stand trial, the prosecutors have apparently judged that Yamagami, 42, is competent to be tried and are likely to indict him on charges of murder and violating the firearms control law by 13 January when his detention period ends, according to investigative sources.

Following his arrest, Yamagami told investigators that he held a grudge against the Unification Church over donations made by his mother



Japanese Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Minister Keiko Nagaoka speaks to reporters following a meeting with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, in Tokyo, Japan, on 17 October 2022. Kishida instructed Nagaoka to launch an investigation into the Unification Church, a religious group that has come under the spotlight in Japan for its links with the ruling party and the huge donations it has encouraged followers to make. **PHOTO: KYODO**

totaling around 100 million yen (\$750,000).

Born into a prominent political family, Abe served as a secretary for his father, former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, before being elected to the House of Representatives in 1993.

He became the longest-serving leader of the country, acting

as prime minister from 2006 to 2007 and again from 2012 to 2020, before stepping down due to health problems.

Some people in Japan have expressed sympathy for Yamagami and welcomed the exposure of the links between politicians and the religious organization.—Kyodo

Thousands of Filipinos march in reverence of Catholic icon

TENS of thousands of Catholic faithful walked through the streets of Manila early Sunday in reverence of a historic statue of Jesus Christ, which is believed to have miraculous powers.

The “walk of faith”, which church officials estimated attracted more than 80,000 people, began after a midnight mass for the so-called Black

Nazarene statue.

Many Filipinos believe touching or getting close to the statue can lead to the healing of otherwise incurable ailments and other good fortune.

Evangeline Rugas, 59, was among the worshippers attending the open-air mass where a replica of the icon has been on display.

She was “praying for a

miracle” for her five-year-old nephew who suffers from seizures and cannot walk.

“Nothing is impossible for the Black Nazarene,” Rugas told AFP as she sat on a plastic sheet laid on the ground.

The original wooden statue was brought to the Philippines in the early 1600s when the nation was a Spanish colony. —AFP



Roman Catholic devotees carrying miniature statues of the Black Nazarene and candles, walk along a street dubbed “walk of faith” as they celebrate the annual feast of the Black Nazarene in Manila on 8 January 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Maduro hosts Colombia’s Petro for ‘very fruitful’ talks



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro (R) and his Colombian counterpart Gustavo Petro (L) met in Caracas on 7 January 2023. PHOTO: AFP

COLOMBIA’S President Gustavo Petro made a surprise trip to meet his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolas Maduro on Saturday — their second face-to-face after the thawing of a years-long diplomatic freeze.

The two leaders held talks for about three hours in Caracas at the Miraflores presidential palace, where Petro — Co-

lombia’s first leftist president — arrived around midday.

The summit came just days after the final reopening of the South American neighbors’ shared border, closed in a spat over Maduro’s disputed 2018 reelection. Since taking office in August, Petro’s government has worked to mend diplomatic ties with Caracas.

Venezuela has also served as a key facilitator for Petro as he seeks to fulfill a campaign promise of establishing “total peace” with the armed groups still active in Colombia, some of which operate along the two countries’ porous border.

At the end of 2022, Petro seemed to have made major progress on that front, announcing a bilateral ceasefire with five armed groups that would last from 1 January to 30 June.

But one of the groups, the ELN, said just three days later that it had not entered into any such deal, and the government conceded later that nothing had been signed.

A joint statement released after the Maduro-Petro meeting Saturday said that Venezuela “will support the Colombian government in its goal to maintain the bilateral ceasefire.” —AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Harry’s memoirs expose deepening feud with future king William

The latest revelations by Prince Harry have shone a glaring light on his fractured relationship with his elder brother William, with whom he was once close.

While heir-to-the-throne William has not reacted publicly, UK media assessed that their feud had become so bitter it was unclear how the brothers could ever reconcile. —AFP

Migrants, drugs on agenda as Biden heads to Mexico

US President Joe Biden will seek Mexico’s help tackling illegal flows of migrants and drugs, particularly deadly opioids, during a visit beginning Sunday for a North American leaders’ summit.

Aiming to tame criticism over what he has called a “broken” immigration system, Biden will stop off in Texas for his first trip to a border overwhelmed by record numbers of migrants and asylum-seekers.

The issue is almost certain to top the agenda when Biden meets Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on Monday, a day before Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau joins them for the so-called “Three Amigos” summit.

Another priority for Biden is stepping up joint efforts to fight trafficking of fentanyl and other drugs behind an addiction crisis in the United States. —AFP

US, Japan launch task force to tackle forced labour in supply chains

THE United States and Japan on Friday agreed to accelerate efforts to address forced labor and other human rights violations in supply chains through the launch of a task force between the governments of the two countries.

The task force, to be co-chaired by the Office of the US Trade Representative and Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, is expected to serve as a platform for information sharing between

the two countries and facilitate dialogue with businesses. US Trade Representative Katherine Tai welcomed the signing of a memorandum regarding the issue, calling it a “concrete outcome” of the two countries’ partnership on trade.

Japan’s trade minister Yasutoshi Nishimura said at the signing ceremony that human rights violations in supply chains are “absolutely intolerable” and that he hopes the task force will help Japan and

US companies more actively engage in efforts to uphold human rights through increased “predictability” for business. —Kyodo

US Trade Representative Katherine Tai (L) and Japanese trade minister Yasutoshi Nishimura pose for photos after signing a memorandum to address human rights violations in supply chains at the White House in Washington on 6 January 2023. PHOTO: KYODO



Little respite in fighting as Ukraine marks Orthodox Christmas



SPORT

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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



Myanmar defender Zaw Min Tun is seen after arriving at the Penang Club of Malaysia. PHOTO: PENANG FC

Defender Zaw Min Tun plans to move to Malaysian club

DEFENDER Zaw Min Tun will move to Malaysian club Penang under a one-season contract, according to the football officials.

Zaw Min Tun moved to Thai League-1 club Chon Buri last year, but after the first round, he parted ways and moved to the Malaysian club.

Zaw Min Tun started moving to foreign clubs in 2019 and only played in Thai clubs, but

this will be the first time in a Malaysian club.

The Malaysian Super League club Penang had a bad result last season and is making great preparations for the new season.

The defending star played for Thai League-1 club Chon Buri in the 2019 season, Thai League-1 club Sukhothai in the 2020-2021 season, Thai League-2

club Trat in the 2021-2022 season, and Thai League-1 club Chon Buri in the first round of the 2022-2023 season.

As he decided to move to the Malaysian club, two Myanmar players will play in the Malaysian Super League next season, and forward Hein Htet Aung is also playing in the Selangor FC.—Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Premier League Newcastle, Forest, Bournemouth dumped out of FA Cup

PREMIER LEAGUE high-flyers Newcastle suffered a shock FA Cup exit against third tier Sheffield Wednesday, while top-flight strugglers Nottingham Forest and Bournemouth were also dumped out by lower-league opposition on Saturday.

Elsewhere on a hectic day of third round action, Harry Kane moved closer to becoming Tottenham's all-time record goalscorer as he netted in the 1-0 win against Portsmouth.

Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney, the Hollywood actors who co-own Wrexham, led the celebrations on social media after their non-league side's surprise 4-3 victory at second tier Coventry.

But it was Wednesday who stole the show with their impressive 2-1 victory at Hillsborough against a Newcastle team sitting in third place in the Premier League. Eddie Howe's side were



Nottingham Forest striker Emmanuel Dennis shoots at goal against Blackpool. PHOTO: AFP

unbeaten in their previous 15 games in all competitions, but Wednesday, currently second in League One, have now gone undefeated in 10 successive matches after Josh Windass's double stunned the Magpies.

Wednesday went ahead in

the 52nd minute when Windass, who looked in an offside position, diverted Dennis Adeniran's ball across from close-range.

Windass scored his second 13 minutes later, coolly converting after being put through by Michael Smith.—AFP

Davis stops Garcia to retain 'regular' WBA lightweight world title

AMERICAN Gervonta Davis took his record to 28-0 with 26 knockouts on Saturday when he stopped previously unbeaten Hector Luis Garcia in a World Boxing Association lightweight fight.

Davis retained his WBA "regular" world title in the division, in which American Devin Haney is recognized as the WBA's "super" world

champion. Unbeaten Haney also holds the WBC, IBF and WBO belts, which he defended with a dominant victory over Australian George Kambosos in Melbourne in October. Saturday's bout at the Capital One arena in Washington saw Dominican Garcia push Davis in the early going. But Davis began to assert himself in the middle rounds.—AFP



Gervonta Davis punches Hector Luis Garcia in their WBA World Lightweight Championship bout at Capital One Arena on 7 January 2023 in Washington, DC. PHOTO: PATRICK SMITH / AFP