

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

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

## Assigned staff should not be involved in bribery cases in illegal trade measures: Vice-Senior General



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win presides over the meeting 1/2023 of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 January 2023.

**I**T is necessary to continuously raise public awareness on the disadvantages of illegal trade, said Chairman of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at a meeting 1/2023 of the steering committee at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking at the meeting, the Vice-Senior General said

commodities in illegal trade worth approximately K65.056 billion were seized in 4,232 cases from January to December 2022, compared to approximately K8.459 billion in 2,240 cases in the same period of 2021.

Illegal trade is caused by government policy, supply and demand, transparency and trade, and customs environment, according to the transnational alliance to combat illicit trade, he added.

The government often

changed exercising the necessary policies to systematically control spending on foreign exchange. Especially, trade policies were changed in order to reduce the import of unnecessary goods. In this regard, according to the trade bulletin 10/2022 related to the export and import process issued by the Department of Trade, the number of applications for import licences declined at the Myawady border trade zone in December 2022 due to the plan to allow the

importation based on incomes from export or other earnings at the Myanmar-Thai border trade.

The Vice-Senior General continued to say that supply and demand depend on the market, and it is difficult to control them, urging responsible departments to strive for gaining progress in transparency, trade and customs measures.

Hence, the Nay Pyi Taw Council, region and state illegal trade eradication special task forces are to eradicate illegal

trade under the law and enforce the people to follow the law as much as they can. Their acts of combating illegal trade should not cause misunderstanding among the people.

It is necessary to reduce the unofficial gates which accepted the passing of illegal trade through bribes. If necessary, more official posts and entrances must be opened. Legal border trade camps must give a smooth process for trade,

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# ASEAN-QAA FORUM 2023: Myanmar Chapter held at YUFL



The ASEAN-QAA Forum 2023 is in progress in Yangon yesterday.

THE opening ceremony of collaboration between the Language took place at the ASEAN-QAA FORUM 2023: ASEAN-QA Association and multimedia room of YUFL yesterday morning. Students of Myanmar Chapter held in Yangon University of Foreign

YUFL performed traditional dances.

The ceremony was held with a hybrid system. The rector of the University of Distance, on behalf of the director-general of the Higher Education Department, and the rector of YUFL delivered the opening speeches from the multimedia room of YUFL. The chair of the ASEAN-QA Association and the executive director of the ASEAN Universities Network also delivered greeting speeches via zoom video. Then, Union Minister Dr Charlie Than of the Ministry of Industry expressed the keynote opening speech via video message.

The two-day event, which will be held under the theme

of 'Re-Imaging Quality Assurance in ASEAN Higher Education towards Sustainability', will include panel discussions, open forums and paper-reading sessions in which teachers present at the event can participate in person.

Invitees, special guests, officials from UMFCCI, rectors, pro-rectors, and teachers from the universities under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Health, Quality Assurance's member teachers and officials attended the meeting. —Yangon University of Foreign Language/KZW

## 14 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 18 January, total figure rises to 633,777

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,777** after **14** new cases were reported on 18 January 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,229**, including **seven** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country reached **19,490** on 18-1-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic.

The country has vaccinated **30,867,882** people aged 18 and above for COVID-19 vaccines and **6,806,437** people aged under 18 till 17 January 2023.

### Status of COVID-19 vaccination (as of 17 January 2023)

People aged 18 and above who received vaccines	30,867,882
People under 18 years old who received vaccines	6,806,437

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

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

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

People need to follow the social distancing rule and avoid the crowds as much as possible. While not wearing masks, if they cough and sneeze, they need to cover mouth and noses with elbows in line with the personal hygienic ways.

COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page [moh.gov.mm](http://moh.gov.mm) of the Ministry of Health.—Ministry of Health

## Covid-19 vaccines, syringes delivered to regions, states

PREVENTION and control of Covid-19 being a key part of treatment activities, military doctors, health workers and social groups are actively working in cooperation for nationwide vaccination. Military aeroplanes, helicopters and cold chain delivery logistic vehicles are delivering Covid-19 vaccines and syringes to various regions and states.

Altogether 8,459 Myancopharm vaccines, 10,416 Sinopharm vaccines, and 101,175

syringes have been delivered to Sittway in Rakhine State, 3,127 Myancopharm vaccines 2,873 Sinopharm vaccines, and 32,000 syringes to Thandwe, 1,160 Sinopharm vaccines and 2,500 syringes to Kalay in Sagaing Region, 6,781 Myancopharm vaccines, 7,097 Sinopharm vaccines and 70,390 syringes to Lashio in Shan State (North), 804 Myancopharm vaccines, 836 Sinopharm vaccines and 8,200 syringes to Loikaw by military aeroplanes. — MNA/KZW



Vaccines and syringes are received at Lashio airport.

## Daily newspapers available online

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



## Implementation of two national visions for prosperity and food sufficiency in the nation

THE government is implementing two national visions for prosperity of the nation and sufficiency of food. Some 70 per cent of the population are engaged in agriculture, and the country is striving for development of the State economy based on agriculture and livestock farms. Hence, the government prioritizes the food sufficiency, nutrition and food safety for all citizens.

*(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of Myanmar Rice Conference-2022 on 6 October 2022.)*

## Assigned staff should not be involved in bribery cases ...

### FROM PAGE-1

and on the other hand, severe action must be taken against those who use illegal routes and posts for tax avoidance. To do so, an emphasis must be placed on enforcing rule of law along border regions.

The Vice-Senior General pointed out noticeable points that assigned staff should not be involved in bribery cases in illegal trade measures. The Vice-Senior General said

he has often told all to be free from bribes in all meetings and warned the staff not to take any money and bribes in illegal trade. If not, the Vice-Senior General clearly warned all to take severe action against those staff as an example. Likewise, it is necessary to continuously raise public awareness of the disadvantages of illegal trade.

In checking illegal trade, arms and ammunition and narcotic drugs were seized in

addition to illegal commodities. Drug producers change the distribution of drugs in the form of foodstuffs targeting the youths. Hence, parents and family members need to know whether the foodstuffs they consume are normal or not.

The staff members assigned to arresting the illegal commodities are to dutifully serve their duties free from bribes for levying taxes deserved by the State. Region and state special task

forces and relevant departments are to go on their adopted plans to combat illegal trade.

Secretary of the steering committee Deputy Minister U Nyunt Aung reported on accomplishments over the minutes of the meeting 5/2022 and undertakings of the steering committee. Officials reported on letters sent to the coordination meeting 1/2023 of the steering committee.

Steering committee vice-chairman Union Minister

U Win Shein and members Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing and officials presented reports on their sectors in eradicating illegal trade. The leader of the steering committee office task force sought approval for the 1/2023 meeting decision (draft).

Before concluding the meeting, the Vice-Senior General coordinated the discussions. — MNA/TTA

## MoI staff who participated in Diamond Jubilee Independence Day celebration honoured

THE ceremony to honour the staff of the Ministry of Information at the Ministry of Information took place in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and wife Daw Khin Swe Win, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint and wife Daw Win Yi, the permanent secretary and wife, directors-general and staff attended the ceremony.

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn delivered the opening speech. In his speech, he said that the ceremony was a special programme held in honour of the staff who participated in the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day celebration. It was necessary to record and honour the staff who provided compre-



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn speaks on the occasion of honouring the MoI staff yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

hensive support from all sides for the success of the Independence Day celebrations.

After that, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint gave certificates of honour to 165 staff who partic-

ipated in the military demonstration and two staff each from the Minister's office, MRTV, IPRD, Printing and Publishing Department, News and Periodicals Enterprise accepted.

Then, the Union Minister gave K30,000 each to 272 staff who participated in various sectors.

The first, second, third and special prize winners in

the Karaoke song contest were presented with prizes by the Union minister and officials.

Finally, raffle were opened for the staff who were present at the ceremony. — MNA/KZW

## Fuel prices set for week-long high in domestic market

THE prices of fuel oil in the domestic market have been on an upward trend for a week, according to the statistics released by the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil on a daily basis.

From 12 January 2023, the prices have been moving on-

wards. The prices stayed elevated at K2,155 per litre of Octane 92, K2,255 for Octane 95, K2,435 for diesel and K2,515 for premium diesel on 18 January 2023.

The volatile price affected the taxi drivers. The taxi drivers are struggling to pay for the hire of the taxi to the owners to keep

the taxis.

"It is hard for the taxi driver to raise the fare to the passengers. Meanwhile, other Octane-fueled taxi drivers cannot push the price up as there is a competitive market with gas-fuelled taxi drivers. The CNG drivers have a problem with long queues but the

gas price is cheaper. So, they can offer a more affordable rate to the passengers, a taxi driver Ko Win Htut told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The committee issues the wholesale reference prices for Yangon, Mandalay and other regions and states daily.

Actions will be taken against those retailers of fuel stations under the Essential Supplies and Services Law if they are found overcharging rather than the set reference rate, price manipulation and excess storage for price gouging, the committee notified. — TWA/EMM



# MoRAC Union Minister receives Thai Ambassador



Union Minister U Ko Ko receives the Thai ambassador yesterday.

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko received a delegation led by Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mongkol Visitstump at the Union minister's guest hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union minister talked about the matters related to the main activities of the ministry; propagation of Theravada Buddha Sasana and conservation of Myanmar cultural heritages, willingness for Myanmar-Thai cooperation for culture exchange, archaeological and museum-related activities between universities and invitations to Thai people/monks to study at International Theravada

Buddhist Missionary University.

Then, the Thai ambassador said he will attend the Traditional Dance Festival of Mekong-Lancang to be held in Myanmar on 19 January and the country will also participate in similar festivals held in Myanmar. Such cooperation can enhance the bilateral relations, he added, saying cooperation should also be made to hold festivals and conduct tourism development programmes as COVID-19 has been controlled.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Ministers U Aye Tun (Religious Affairs) and Dr Moe Zaw Tun (Culture) and deputy permanent secretaries. —MNA/KTZH

## COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

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

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, and relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 2,325 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 22,820 people from

seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

Similarly, on that day healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 1,369 students from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 664 students from An Township in Rakhine State, and 26,231 students from seven districts in Mandalay Region.

Deputy commanders and officials from relevant commands visited and encouraged such services and coordinated the requirements. —MNA



A student from Pathein Township in Ayeyawady Region gets jabbed against COVID-19 on 18 January 2023.

## SAC-conferred honorary titles presented



The Kachin State chief minister presents the Sithu title.

THE State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister conferred honorary titles on recipients individually on 1 and 2 January in marking the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day.

For those who were unable to attend the conferring cere-

mony on their own and on their behalf for various reasons, the chief ministers of respective regions and states, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, the military command commanders and officials visited and handed over honorary titles and medals to family members at their

residences.

Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan and officials visited the family home of Colonel (retd) Lafai Khun Naw in Myitkyina and daughter Daw Lafai Nand Dui received the Sithu title on her father's behalf. —MNA/TS

### Corrigendum

PLEASE read this correction "Nephew U Hein Htut Naung receives the Wunna Kyaw Htin title on behalf of Ambassador U Thurein Thant Zin." for the caption of the below left photo on the page 4 news item "SAC-conferred ..." of The GNLM (18/1/23).

Please read as "... on behalf of Ambassador U Thurein Thant Zin, ..." instead of "... on behalf of former ambassador U Thurein Thant Zin, ..." in the fifth column of the same news item.

Errors are regretted.



# MoL Union Minister receives Thai Ambassador

UNION Minister for Labour Dr Pwint San received Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mr Mongkol Viststump and a delegation at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The Union minister discussed with the Thai ambassador the matter of difficulties and rights of Myanmar migrant workers. There will be support for sending workers and it will be carried out through the MoU system between the two countries, he added.

Matters in connexion with the consultation between the two governments through the labour attaché, reducing visa fees for workers despatched under the MoU system, Memorandum of

Understanding on Labour Cooperation, signing the extension certificate for the agreement on the employment of workers, despatching MoU workers via airline, renewing passports for Myanmar migrant workers who completed four years of the MoU system in Thailand, issuing certificates of identity (CIs) to undocumented Myanmar workers and issuing temporary work permits (pink cards) to undocumented Myanmar workers in Thailand were also discussed at the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister U Win Shein, Permanent Secretary U Nyunt Win, the directors-general and officials. — MNA/TS



The Thai ambassador calls on Union Minister Dr Pwint San in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

# Deputy Information Minister makes inspections in Shan State



Deputy Minister U Ye Tint meets the IPRD and MRTV staff in Taunggyi.

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint inspected the library of Information and Public Relations Department and

met with the staff in Tonetar Township of Shan State on 17 January.

Then, he went to the basic

education high school of Tonetar township to check the arrangements of the school family day festival and met with the

headmistress, teachers and town elders and donated cash.

He also inspected the libraries of IPRD, IPRD offices, and MRTV retransmission stations in Mongpyin, Kunhing, Kholam and Namhsam townships and gave proper instructions to the department staff.

The Deputy Minister attended the talk show for youths jointly organized by IPRD, Basic Education Department and the Sports and Physical Education Department at No (1) Basic Education School in Loilem Township yesterday. Speaking at the event, he said the government is focusing on the education sector and it should make efforts to complete KG+9 and reduce dropout rates. The Head of the State also urged to mentor the youths to be the ones with proper knowledge

and critical thinking skills and five noble strengths. The cooperation of parents and teachers can make better education of children.

Then, the Deputy Minister and Assistant Director of the District Sports and Physical Education Department handed over the sports materials for the youths provided by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs.

At noon, he went to Shan State IPRD to inspect the Community Centre.

Then, he met with the state department head, staff, district department head, and department heads of Hopong and Metmung districts, in charge of the retransmission station and Sub-Printing House (Taunggyi) and left the necessary instructions. —MNA/KTZH

## 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.

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.





## CURRENT AFFAIRS



The picture shows bags of onions that will be delivered to commodity depots.

### Over 200,000 visses of regional onions arrive at Yangon market

THE arrival of 210,000 visses of onions from various regions at the Yangon market on 18 January 2023 brought down the price of onions.

On that day, Myingyan onion was priced at the wholesale rate of K1,600-K1,800 per viss and Myittha onion at K2,000-K2,200 per viss, according to the market data.

The prices of Myingyan and Myittha onions were K1,900-K2,400 per viss and K2,350-K2,650 per viss respectively on 9 January and declined to K1,700-K1,900 per viss and K1,800-K2,000 per viss on 13 January.

Within 14 opening days of the commodity depot until 18 January 2023, the Yangon market received the supply of 2.5 million visses of onion from various regions. Likewise, a total of 492,000 visses of old summer onion and new monsoon onion entered the market between 1 and 5 December 2022.

It is reported that the old summer onion has not entered

the Yangon market since 6 December 2022. From that date to the end of the month, within 22 opening days of the commodity depot, 3,510,000 visses of new monsoon onion poured in from all over the country, according to the daily onion arrivals listed in the daily commodity prices. From 6 December 2022 to 18 January 2023, around six million visses of monsoon onion entered the Yangon market.

A viss of onion from the Yaw region cost only K1,650 at the highest in the Pakokku market on 18 January. Similarly, over 80,000 visses of onion entered the Myingyan market on 17 January with the highest price K1,850 per viss.

The market price of Myittha onion in the Mandalay market was K2,200 per viss at its highest on 18 January. Three types of Myittha onion except for the large size to be exported to Viet Nam were sold out at K1,900, K2,100 and K2,200 per viss respectively in the Kyaukse market on 17 January. — TWA/CT

### Myanmar Embassy in Thailand provides aid to families of dead and injured Myanmar workers in blast of oil tanker in Thailand

THE Myanmar Embassy in Thailand provided necessary aid to the families of seven Myanmar workers who died in the blast in the oil tanker and two injured workers in Thailand.

Some 30 workers welded oil pipelines of tanker Smooth Sea C22 which is under maintenance at the dockyard in the tributary of the Mekong River in Samut Songkhram province of Thailand at 10 am on 17 January. In that case, a blast happened in welding due to the residue of oil in the pipelines.

In the incident, the dead body of a Myanmar worker was found in search. On the morning of 18 January, the bodies of six more Myanmar workers and one Thai worker were found, according to the Myanmar Embassy in Thai-



Officials from Thailand and Myanmar are pictured providing assistance at the incident site.

land.

Myanmar Embassy officials viewed seven dead and two injured Myanmar workers. In meeting with their families, the Embassy officials pledged to coordinate with the Thai Ministry of Labour and employers in order to provide death compensation,

benefits and insurance to those families as quickly as possible.

The Myanmar Embassy on its part presented Baht5,000 each to those families and decided to give necessary aid to two injured Myanmar workers, according to the press release of the embassy. —TWA/TTA

### Mandalay-Mangshi direct flight to be resumed on 21 Jan



A cabin crew of Ruili Airlines is seen attending passengers.

A Mandalay-Mangshi direct flight will be resumed on 21 January and will operate three days a week.

Ruili Airlines has temporarily suspended flights due to the Covid-19 pandemic and will launch weekly flights on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays starting from 21 January.

The flight will leave from Mangshi at 5 pm and arrive in Mandalay at 6:10 pm. It will leave from Mandalay at 7:10 pm and arrive in Mangshi at 8:10 pm.

— TWA/MKKS

### Over 1,500 fire outbreaks occur across Myanmar in 2022

THERE were 1,507 fire outbreaks all over the nation in 2022 and the death toll was 96, stated the Myanmar Fire Services Department.

According to statistics from the Myanmar Fire Services Department, there were 139 injuries in fire outbreaks

in 2022. A total of 224 cases of fire outbreak occurred in the Yangon region – the most in the country – and seven people were killed and 22 wounded.

There were 2,107 fire outbreaks across the nation causing a loss of over K33 billion with 105 casualties and 151

injuries. A total of 2,139 fire outbreaks caused a loss of over K6 billion with 75 deaths and 220 being wounded in 2020.

The main causes of fire are stove fire and negligence, according to the Department of Fire Services. —TWA/MKKS



Fire brigade members are pictured putting out the fire in Bago Region in 2022.



# LOCAL BUSINESS

## Kyat weakens to K2,850 against US Dollar on 18 Jan

KYAT stopped falling against greenbacks and the Kyat-US Dollar counter rate has dipped to K2,850 in the local forex market.

During 12-15 January 2023, the hard currency was around K2,900 in the unauthorized market. Thereafter, the rate slid again following the meeting of the governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) with the money changers (non-bank financial institutions) on 16 January 2023. As they are highly involved in the foreign exchange business, the governor directed them to keep the CBM posted on any market manipulation that destructs price stability. Consequently, the exchange rate decreased a bit.

The CBM set the reference exchange rate at K2,100 against the US dollar, showing a large price difference of K700 compared to the unauthorized market rate. However, there is no way to set the new price, as per



The CBM set the reference exchange rate at K2,100 against the US dollar, showing a large price difference of K700 compared to the unauthorized market rate.

the notification released on 15 January.

Some unscrupulous people were allegedly spreading fraud-

ulent news to manipulate the market and attempt to make the dollar gain, stating that changing reference prices and repaying

financing for the fuel oil companies, according to the statement.

The CBM injected liquidity into the banking sector. Approx-

imately US\$108 million will be sold within 45 days in the market through foreign salary transfers.

CBM has set the currency trading band at 0.3 per cent for the Kyat to fluctuate between these two specified upper and lower exchange rates for transactions, selling or buying, according to a directive issued by the CBM on 10 August 2022.

Therefore, financial institutions including banks and informal money changer are instructed to set a dollar value at K2,100 for buying and K2,106 for selling. However, those rates are not effective in trading for now.

Last August, a dollar value hit an all-time high of over K4,500 in the grey market.

Consequently, the CBM sold dollars at its auction market for the sectors in need, to control the soaring dollar. A total of \$443.8 million were sold at an auction rate in 2021 as well. —NN/EMM

## Rubber price hits K1,300 per pound in domestic market

THE price of rubber touched around K1,300 per pound, according to the rubber market in Mon State.

The price of rubber hit K1,600 per pound in the third week of September. The prices gradually declined. The prevailing prices stood at K1,280 per pound of sundried local 3 and K1,300 per pound of Ribbed Smoked Sheet Local 3.

Global demand for rubber, rubber production of the Southeast Asian nations and the market supply weigh on the rubber

price condition of Myanmar.

The rubber price in Mon State, a major rubber production state in Myanmar, is positively related to those factors as well, the traders elaborated.

Rubber is commonly produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber season data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with

348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres.

Myanmar's rubber production is annually estimated at 300,000 tonnes. Seventy per cent of rubber produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries.

Myanmar bagged more than US\$449 million in revenue in rubber exports in the previous financial year 2020-2021. —NN/EMM



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## Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 18 January 2023

### Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,155
Octane 95	K2,215
Diesel	K2,435
Premium Diesel	K2,515

All of the prices are based on per litre.

### Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,247,800 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,775,000 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.

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# OPINION

## Analyze ourselves to choose options for destiny

**WE** ALL should interrogate ourselves on what is our objective or how to march towards the goal. And, we have to ask ourselves how to overcome challenges en route to the goal. These are not complete questions for all. We have to consider when we reach the goal how we can manage ourselves in destiny and how to control our minds as well as our concepts. We should always interrogate ourselves before doing something. Most people are thinking if they conquered something or reached their destiny, they would do something based on their concepts and experiences. If so, their aspirations are similar to inappropriate acts as a monkey trying to pull out a piece of jaggery from the bottleneck as well as a man trying to equalize a circle with a square.

As from the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day which is common sense for all Myanmar citizens, we all have to accelerate our steps leading to destiny. If we all try our best, we can reach a brighter destiny in a short time. Otherwise, destiny will still be dim. Options are placed in front of all citizens. They are responsible for choosing the best option to launch marching to destiny.

self-criticism should not be lenient. If so, they will see the actual situation. If so, applying empowerment will never bring regrets to their lives. It is important for all to build a modernized nation. Hence, everybody needs to stand off of their own accord to hold up the individual concepts to be harmonized with all and embrace an unchangeable promise as well as the pledge even though their positions, ages and designation unexpectedly change. If we all steadfastly march to our destiny without changing attitudes, pledges and mindsets based on patience, tolerance, solidarity and bilateral understanding without counting pains and gains, our destiny will not be far from here. Whenever we all are in unison, we will face the easy process of modernizing the nation. As from the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day which is common sense for all Myanmar citizens, we all have to accelerate our steps leading to destiny. If we all try our best, we can reach a brighter destiny in a short time. Otherwise, destiny will still be dim. Options are placed in front of all citizens. They are responsible for choosing the best option to launch marching to destiny.

On the other hand, everybody including authorized persons should review themselves before doing something. They should consider whether they correctly deploy their authority in relevant sectors. Their self-criticism should not be lenient. If so, they will see the actual situation. If so, applying empowerment will never bring regrets to their lives. It is important for all to build a modernized nation. Hence, everybody needs to stand off of their own accord to hold up the individual concepts to be harmonized with all and embrace an unchangeable promise as well as the pledge even though their positions, ages and designation unexpectedly change. If we all steadfastly march to our destiny without changing attitudes, pledges and mindsets based on patience, tolerance, solidarity and bilateral understanding without counting pains and gains, our destiny will not be far from here. Whenever we all are in unison, we will face the easy process of modernizing the nation. As from the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day which is common sense for all Myanmar citizens, we all have to accelerate our steps leading to destiny. If we all try our best, we can reach a brighter destiny in a short time. Otherwise, destiny will still be dim. Options are placed in front of all citizens. They are responsible for choosing the best option to launch marching to destiny.

# Significant terms and their meanings in international law and diplomacy

## SERIES FOUR (Alphabetical order)

By U KHIN MAUNG (A retired diplomat)

### B

property being distributed for the benefit of his creditors.

**Bankrupt** as an adjective is a term meaning "unable to pay one's debts"

#### beau geste (Fr): (n)

Beau geste means a gracious gesture. It also means a gesture noble in form but meaningless in substance. The plural of beau geste is beaux gestes or beau gestes. [French: beau, noble + geste, gesture.]

#### balance of power diplomacy: (n)

Balance of Power Diplomacy means Diplomacy based on the manipulation of the power equation between states to create an equilibrium in the relations between states in the international system.

#### balance of terror: (n)

Balance of Terror is international stability that is based on the ability of key powers in the international community to inflict massive destruction on each other if a war breaks out.

#### bankrupt: (n & adj)

Bankrupt as a noun means a person judged by a law court to be unable to pay his debts in full, his

#### bicameral (Lat): (adj)

Bicameral means "composed of or based on two legislative chambers or branches: e.g., a bicameral legislature"

#### Bilateral (adj) diplomacy

Bilateral Diplomacy is used to refer to diplomacy which covers the relationship between two states.

#### bill of lading: (n)

Bill of lading means a document issued by a carrier to a shipper; listing and specifying the term of delivery.

#### Bipolar (adj) world

Bipolar World means an international system that is shaped and Controlled by two dominant states.



Within the international society, law and diplomacy have always been complementary and interdependent. PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/FREEPIK

#### bis [Lat]: (adj)

Bis is used to refer to both or belonging to both or twice or akin to.

#### Blank (adj) endorsement

Blank endorsement is the endorsement of a negotiable instrument by merely writing one's signature on the back. The effect is to make the instrument payable to the bearer.

#### blockade: (n)

Blockade, in international law, is used to refer to the prevention by a belligerent of access to the ports of the enemy.

The announcement of a blockade, if not supported by an adequate naval force, is called a paper blockade, and may be disregarded by neutrals.

#### body (n) corporate

Body corporate is a variant of the corporation that emphasizes the entity and the members that

make it up rather than the abstract notion (corporation).

#### bon voyage (Fr) (inj)

Bon voyage is used to express farewell and good wishes to a departing traveller. [French: bon, good + voyage, journey.]

#### buffer (n) state

Buffer state means a small state between two greater states which is being used to prevent direct clashes between the latter.

#### Reference:

- (1) Black's Law Dictionary by Bryan A. Garner
- (2) အသက်တစ်ရာ မနေရ။ အမှတ်တံဆိပ်က တွေ့ရတတ်သည်။
- (3) Law and Customs in Burma and the Burmese Family
- (4) Dr Maung Maung, B.L (Rangoon)
- (5) J.S.D (Yale), LL. D (Utrecht), of Lincoln's Inn
- (6) Barrister-at-law

# Study reveals most long covid symptoms resolve within a year after mild infection

**A**CCORDING to a comprehensive study published in The BMJ, most symptoms or diseases that occur after mild Covid-19 infection last for several months but recover to normal within a year.

In particular, vaccinated people were at lower risk of breathing difficulties - the most common effect to develop after mild infection - compared with unvaccinated people. These findings suggest that, although the long covid phenomenon has been feared and discussed since the beginning of the pandemic, the vast majority of mild disease cases do not suffer serious or chronic long term illness, say the researchers.

Long covid is defined as symptoms persisting or new symptoms

appearing more than four weeks after initial infection. In March 2022, an estimated 1.5 million people in the UK (2.4 per cent of the population) reported long covid symptoms, mainly fatigue, shortness of breath, loss of smell, loss of taste, and difficulty concentrating.

But the clinical effects of long covid one year after mild infection and their association with age, sex, covid-19 variants, and vaccination status are still unclear.

#### Health of uninfected individuals

To address this, researchers compared the health of uninfected individuals with those who had recovered from mild covid-19 for a year after infection.

They used electronic records

of a large public healthcare organisation in Israel, in which almost two million members were tested for covid-19 between 1 March 2020 and 1 October 2021. Over 70 long covid conditions were analyzed in a group of infected and matched uninfected members (average age 25 years; 51 per cent female).

They compared conditions in unvaccinated people, with and without covid-19 infection, controlling for age, sex and covid-19 variants, during early (30-180 days) and late (180-360 days) time periods after infection. Conditions in vaccinated versus unvaccinated people with covid-19 were also compared over the same time periods.

To ensure only mild disease was assessed, they excluded pa-

tients admitted to hospital with more serious illness. Other potentially influential factors, such as alcohol intake, smoking status, socioeconomic level, and a range of pre-existing chronic conditions were also taken into account.

#### Increased risks of several conditions

Covid-19 infection was significantly associated with increased risks of several conditions including loss of smell and taste, concentration and memory impairment, breathing difficulties, weakness, palpitations, streptococcal tonsillitis and dizziness in both early and late time periods, while hair loss, chest pain, cough, muscle aches and pains and respiratory disorders resolved in the late period.



A person (right) who recovered from Covid-19 donates plasma. PHOTO: STR/AFP

For example, compared with non-infected people, mild covid-19 infection was associated with a 4.5-fold higher risk of smell and taste loss (an additional 20 people per 10,000) in the early period and an almost 3-fold higher risk (11 per 10,000 people) in the late period. The overall burden of conditions after infection across the 12-month study period was highest for weakness (an additional 136 people per 10,000) and breathing difficulties (107 per 10,000). When conditions were assessed by age, breathing difficulties were the most common, appearing in five of the six age groups but remaining persistent throughout the first year post-infection in the 19-40, 41-60, and over 60 years age groups.

SOURCE: ANI

**Myanmar Daily Weather Report**  
(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 18 January, 2023)

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 19 January 2023:** Weather will be generally fair in Naypyitaw, Lower Sagaing, Magway, Bago Regions and Southern Shan, Chin, 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 - 7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Kachin, (Northern and Southern)Shan, Kayah States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 January 2023:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 January 2023:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 January 2023:** Generally fair weather.

**The Global New Light of Myanmar**  
www.gnlm.com.mm

သတင်းစာ ဂျပန် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာစံပြန်ဆို ပြန်ဆိုပြီး ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

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## ENVIRON WORLD

### Out of Nile, into tile: Young Egyptians battle plastic plague

ENTREPRENEURIAL young Egyptians are helping combat their country's huge plastic waste problem by recycling junk-food wrappers, water bottles and similar garbage that usually ends up in landfills or the Nile.

At a factory on the outskirts of Cairo, run by their startup TileGreen, noisy machines gobble up huge amounts of plastic scraps of all colours, shred them and turn them into a thick liquid.

The sludge — made from all kinds of plastic, even single-use shopping bags — is then moulded into dark, compact bricks that are used as outdoor pavers for walkways and garages.

"They're twice as strong

as concrete," boasts co-founder Khaled Raafat, 24, slamming one onto the floor for emphasis.

Each tile takes about "125 plastic bags out of the environment", says his business partner Amr Shalan, 26, raising his voice above the din of the machines. Raafat said the company uses even low-grade plastics and products "made of many different layers of plastic and aluminium that are nearly impossible to separate and recycle sustainably".

Egypt, the Arab world's most populous country, is also the biggest plastic polluter in the Middle East and Africa, according to a multinational study reported by Science magazine.—AFP



The plastic is shredded, liquefied and pressed into outdoor pavers for walkways and garages. **PHOTO: AFP**

### Acquittal of Fukushima operator ex-bosses upheld

TOKYO'S High Court on Wednesday upheld the acquittal of three former executives from the operator of the Fukushima nuclear plant, again clearing them of professional negligence over the 2011 disaster.

The decision was announced by activists supporting the prosecution of the three men, following the appeal hearing in the only criminal trial to arise from the world's worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl.

The court declined to comment on the verdict while the session was ongoing.

A massive tsunami swamped the Fukushima Daiichi plant on Japan's northeastern coast in March 2011 after a 9.0-magnitude undersea earthquake, the strongest in the country's recorded history. The tsunami left 18,500 people dead or missing, but no one was recorded as having been directly killed by the nuclear accident, which forced evacuations and left parts of the surrounding area uninhabitable.—AFP

### Moving house: Arctic mining town's move divides residents

EACH time he boasts about the colossal relocation of his town centre in the Swedish Arctic, Kiruna mayor Gunnar Selberg gets a dressing-down from a very dissatisfied resident: his wife.

"I tell her, 'Can you imagine? To be part of that! We're building a new city while the old one is being destroyed,'" he tells AFP, as he shows off a large mock-up of the construction project in the new town hall lobby.

"She gets mad at me. She's disappointed. She thinks it's sad. She doesn't even want to see the old city. It makes her feel bad."

The town of Kiruna, home to Europe's biggest underground mine, is slowly moving its town centre three kilometres (1.8 miles) to allow the iron ore mine to expand. As mining operations have progressed ever deeper underground over the years, the stability of the ground under the Lapland town has weakened, increasing the risk of collapse in parts.

But just like the mayor and



The new town hall was the first building opened in the new town centre. **PHOTO: AFP**

his wife, the move has divided the town's 18,000 inhabitants.

Kiruna was founded at the beginning of the 20th century, when the LKAB mining company was established to unearth an enormous iron ore deposit, some 200 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle. Last week LKAB announced the discovery of Europe's largest known deposit of rare earth elements, just north of the town.

#### A hard sell

Its new town centre was officially inaugurated in September 2022. The relocation process first began 15 years ago, and is expected to continue for another 20 to 30 years — or maybe even twice as long if the mine expands even deeper in the future.

The bill for the move, estimated at around three billion euros (\$3.2 billion), is partially footed by LKAB.—AFP

### Two thirds of reef sharks and rays risk extinction: study

NEARLY two thirds of the sharks and rays that live among the world's corals are threatened with extinction, according to new research published Tuesday, with a warning this could further imperil precious reefs.

Coral reefs, which harbour at least a quarter of all marine animals and plants, are gravely menaced by an array of human threats, including overfishing, pollution and climate change.

Shark and ray species — from apex predators to filter feeders — play an important role in these delicate ecosystems that "cannot be filled by other species", said Samantha Sherman, of Simon Fraser University in Canada and the wildlife group TRAFFIC International. But they are under grave threat globally, according to the study in the journal Nature Communications, which assessed extinction vulnerability data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature

(IUCN) to look at 134 species of sharks and rays linked to reefs. The authors found 59 per cent of coral reef shark and ray species are threatened with extinction, an extinction risk almost double that of sharks and rays in general.

Among these, five shark species are listed as critically

endangered, as well as nine ray species — all so-called "rhino rays" that look more like sharks than stingrays.

#### Keeping reefs healthier

"It was a bit surprising just how high the threat level is for these species," Sherman told AFP.—AFP



The authors found 59 per cent of coral reef shark and ray species are threatened with extinction, an extinction risk almost double that of sharks and rays in general. **PHOTO: JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA/AFP/FILE**



# HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

## Japan govt to discuss downgrading COVID-19 classification

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and some members of his Cabinet will discuss later in the week whether to reclassify the novel coronavirus to the same category as common infectious diseases such as seasonal influenza, government sources said Wednesday.

By downgrading the disease's category to Class 5 from the current Class 2, the government could relax restrictive measures and reduce medical expense support. Other government sources have said the

government is leaning toward reclassifying the coronavirus to Class 5 in spring as COVID-19 has become less deadly and calls are growing to further spur economic activities. Even if COVID-19 is reclassified to Class 5, the government will continue to shoulder medical expenses for treating the disease and vaccination costs as a transitional measure, the sources said. The government may drop its recommendation to wear face masks indoors if the virus is reclassified to the lower category, the sources added.

The government no longer asks people to wear face masks outdoors, but the majority of the Japanese public continues to wear them in outdoor areas.

The country is currently witnessing its eighth wave of infections and a record number of daily deaths from COVID-19.

An expert panel under the health ministry urged the government last week to take a "gradual" approach to a downgrade of COVID-19's category while sustaining robust coronavirus measures.—Kyodo



People walk under a strong sun in Tokyo's Ginza shopping area on Tuesday, wearing face masks amid continued worries about the novel coronavirus. PHOTO: KYODO

## Pfizer to sell more drugs at cost to poor nations



Photo taken on 7 November 2019 shows the booth of Pfizer Inc. during the second China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, east China. PHOTO: XINHUA/FAN PEISHEN/FILE

US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer announced on Tuesday that it will greatly expand the number of medicines and vaccines it sells on a not-for-profit basis to the world's poorest countries.

Pfizer, in an announcement at the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, said it will begin offering at cost to 45 low-in-

come nations the full slate of products for which it has global rights. In May, the drug giant had begun offering 23 of its patented drugs to poor countries on a not-for-profit basis. Pfizer said it will now include off-patent medicines, bringing the total number of products on offer to around 500. The move is part of an ini-

tative known as "An Accord for a Healthier World" announced at Davos last year.

"We launched the Accord to help reduce the glaring health equity gap that exists in our world," Pfizer chairman and CEO Albert Bourla said in a statement.

Bourla said he hoped the latest move "will help us to achieve and even expedite our vision of a world where all people have access to the medicines and vaccines they need to live longer and healthier lives".

Pfizer said the expansion will help address the "disease burden and unmet patient needs" of 1.2 billion people living in 45 lower-income countries.

"The Accord portfolio offering now includes both patented and off-patent medicines and vaccines that treat or prevent many of the greatest infectious and non-communicable disease threats faced today in lower-income countries," Pfizer said.—AFP

## Childcare woes, costs and competition turn Chinese off parenting

WEARY parents in China say the difficulties of juggling work and childcare in a costly and ultra-competitive society with little help from the state are at the root of the country's dwindling birth rate.

Beijing reported Tuesday that the population shrank last

year for the first time in over half a century, deepening a demographic crisis that experts warn could stymie economic growth and pile pressure on public coffers. Local authorities across China have unveiled a series of measures to encourage child-bearing, including monthly stipends of several

hundred yuan for new parents and one-off "birth bonuses".

But those already with kids told AFP that balancing work in China's cut-throat corporate world with a desire to give their offspring the best in life was dissuading many from having multiple children.—AFP

## Mexico sees "slight rise" in COVID-19 deaths, hospitalizations: authorities

MEXICO has registered 12 straight weeks of an increase in COVID-19 cases, with a "slight rise" in deaths and hospitalizations, Undersecretary of Prevention and Health Promotion Hugo Lopez-Gatell said Tuesday.

There was a "big contrast" between the number of infections and the number of deaths, he stressed, thanks to a nationwide vaccination campaign against COVID-19 launched at the end of 2020.

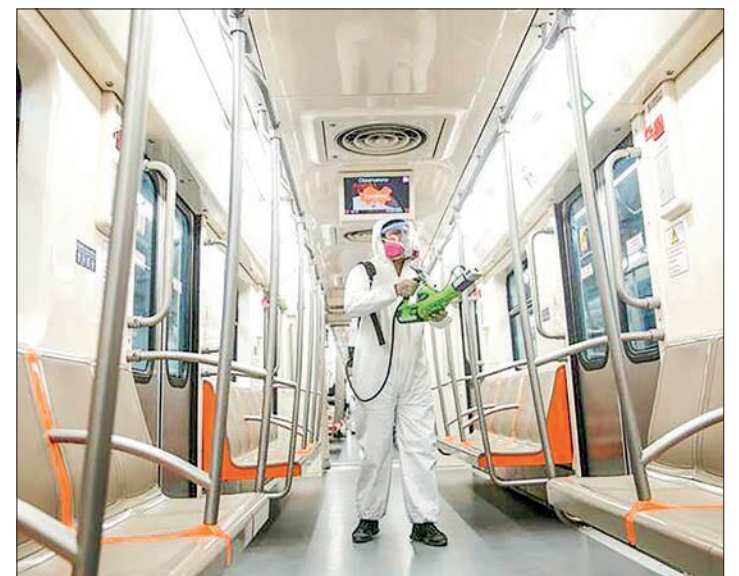
"The good news throughout this recent wave and the previous one is that there is a big contrast between the increase in cases and the slight rise in hospitalizations and

deaths," Lopez-Gatell told the media.

Immunization makes the disease less severe, he said, noting hospital occupancy in general is at eight per cent, but just three per cent for beds with ventilators or for COVID-19 patients with severe symptoms.

According to the latest data, some 84 per cent of the population is vaccinated in Mexico as the country experiences its sixth wave of infections.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, Mexico has logged 7,314,891 COVID-19 cases and 331,595 deaths from the disease, according to official figures.—Xinhua



A staff member disinfects a subway train in Mexico City, Mexico, 19 March 2020. PHOTO: CANEDO/XINHUA/FILE



# ECONOMY WORLD

## Global economic recession likely in 2023: WEF survey

TWO-THIRDS of chief economists from private and public sectors expect a global recession in 2023, according to a survey released on Monday at the annual World Economic Forum (WEF) in Switzerland.

The surveyed economists anticipate further monetary tightening in the United States and Europe this year, and they see geopolitical tensions continuing to shape the global economy.

Some 18 per cent of the respondents, more than twice the number in the previous survey in September 2022, considered a world recession “extremely likely”.



A street vendor holds up a pineapple at a market in Ariana, near the capital Tunis, on 2 April 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

ly”. Only a third of them viewed it as unlikely this year.

The WEF’s survey, “Chief Economists Outlook”, was based on 22 responses from a group of senior economists drawn from international agencies, including the International Monetary Fund, investment banks, multinationals and reinsurance groups.

According to a WEF statement on the survey, there was a strong consensus that the prospects for growth in 2023 are bleak, especially in Europe and the United States.

All the chief economists surveyed expect weak or very weak growth in 2023 in Europe,

while 91 per cent expect weak or very weak growth in the United States. This marks a deterioration since the last statement when the corresponding figures were 86 per cent for Europe and 64 per cent for the United States.”

The current high inflation, low growth, high debt and high fragmentation environment reduces incentives for the investments needed to get back to growth and raise living standards for the world’s most vulnerable,” WEF Managing Director Saadia Zahidi said in the statement.—AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Italy ends 2022 with record-high inflation rate

PRICES in Italy rose to record levels in 2022, the government’s statistics entity ISTAT said on Tuesday.

For the year as a whole, prices were an average of 8.1 per cent higher than a year earlier, the highest level in Italy since the introduction of the euro currency in 1999. In 2021, the year-on-year increase was just 1.9 per cent.

The increase in prices was even more dramatic at the end of the year: in December, prices were 11.6 per cent higher than in December 2021, and in the two previous months the year-on-year increase was 11.8 per cent. ISTAT said the main factor driving up prices was higher energy costs stemming from the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.—Xinhua

#### Yellen heads to Africa as US seeks closer ties amid China inroads

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is heading for an 11-day trip to Africa starting this week, aimed at deepening economic ties on the continent where China has become a key player.

Yellen’s travel to Senegal, Zambia and South Africa from Wednesday onwards comes after a detour to Switzerland where she is set to meet Chinese Vice-Premier Liu He on macroeconomic issues.—AFP

## China’s economy to see significant improvement in 2023: vice-premier

THE Chinese economy will see a significant improvement this year, and its growth will most likely return to its normal trend, Chinese Vice-Premier Liu He said Tuesday at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2023.

Over the past 10 years, China’s gross domestic product grew from 54 trillion to 121 trillion yuan; average life expectancy rose from 74.8 to 78.2 years; and contribution to global growth reached around 36 per cent, Liu said, underlining that there are five things that China always bears in mind in making such achievements.

First, China must always take economic development as the primary and central task.

Second, China must always make establishing a socialist market economy the direc-



Photo taken on 24 June 2019 shows the Dayaowan container terminal in Dalian, northeast China’s Liaoning Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA/YANG QING/FILE**

tion of its reform. Third, China must always promote all-round opening-up. Fourth, China must always uphold the rule of law. Fifth, China must pursue innovation-driven development.

The above five points are

the important experience China has learned and gained since it started its reform and opening-up, Liu said, pledging that his country will stick to them and never waver in its commitment.—Xinhua

## German investor morale soars as outlook brightens

GERMAN investor confidence soared in January to its highest level since the start of the war in Ukraine, a key survey said Tuesday, as lower energy prices and cooling inflation boost the economic outlook.

The ZEW institute’s economic expectations jumped by 40.2 points to 16.9 points in January, taking the monthly indica-

tor back into positive territory for the first time since February 2022.

The increase — which dwarfed analyst predictions — is the latest signal that an expected slowdown in Europe’s top economy will be less painful than initially feared.

Falling energy prices and support measures unveiled by

the German government have eased concerns about a cost-of-living squeeze, while China’s relaxation of Covid restrictions has lifted German exporters.

“The earnings expectations of the export-oriented and energy-intensive sectors have gone up significantly,” said ZEW president Achim Wambach.—AFP



A man walks past tanks of German chemicals giant BASF at the company’s headquarters in Ludwigshafen, western Germany, on 26 February 2019. **PHOTO: UWE ANSPACH/DPA/AFP/FILE**



## China-N Korea trade in 2022 recovers to 37% of pre-pandemic levels

CHINA'S trade with North Korea in 2022 recovered to roughly 37 per cent of the pre-pandemic levels of 2019, government data showed Wednesday, with a freight train operation resumed between border cities despite the North keeping its borders shut to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

In 2022, the total value of China's trade with North Korea jumped 3.2-fold from the previous year to \$1,027.72 million.

In 2021, bilateral trade had plummeted around 90 per cent from 2019 to the lowest level since Kim Jong Un became the nation's supreme leader following the death of his fa-

ther and predecessor, Kim Jong Il, in December 2011.

Pyongyang stopped land transportation to and from China in September 2020.

A freight train service between China's Dandong and the North's Sinuiju resumed in January last year but was suspended three months later amid a

COVID-19 outbreak in the Chinese border city. The operation fully restarted last September.

China is North Korea's closest and most influential ally in economic terms. While the freight train service was suspended, Pyongyang apparently imported goods from China by ship only. — Kyodo



File photo taken in Dandong, China, in December 2022, shows a freight train bound for North Korea on the Sino-Korean Friendship Bridge that links the Chinese city and North Korea's Sinuiju. **PHOTO: KYODO**

## Uber resumes services in Tanzania

RIDE-HAILING giant Uber has resumed its services in Tanzania, it said on Wednesday, settling a fare dispute with the government.

Uber suspended services in the East African country last April after the government introduced legislation capping maximum commission from drivers at 15 per cent from the previous 33 per cent.

Uber said the new regulations made it difficult to continue operating while the government defended them as maintaining competition and ensuring affordable taxis.

After months of negotiations, Tanzania's transport regulator last month allowed ride-hailing companies to charge up to 25 per cent commission and a 3.5-per cent booking fee.—AFP



The San Francisco-based company, founded in 2009, arrived in Tanzania in 2016. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Macau jails 'junket king' Alvin Chau for 18 years

MACAU'S former "junket king" Alvin Chau was sentenced on Wednesday to 18 years in jail for running an illegal gambling empire, ending a criminal trial that shocked the casino hub and toppled one of its highest-profile gaming tycoons.

The 48-year-old founder of Suncity Group pioneered the junket industry that brought high rollers from mainland China to Macau, the only place in the country where casinos operate legally.

At its peak during the 2010s, junkets contributed the bulk of gaming revenue for the former Portuguese colony, which boasted a pre-pandemic casino industry bigger than Las Vegas.—AFP

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (009E/W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-1-2023** 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 TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (252W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (252W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-1-2023** 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 SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE., LTD.**

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M.V OCEAN 19 VOY.NO. (JD2222)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OCEAN 19 VOY.NO. (JD2222)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-1-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **SPW-7** 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**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V RHINE CONFIDANTE VOY.NO. (V.103499)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RHINE CONFIDANTE VOY.NO. (V.103499)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-1-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** 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 CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD**



# GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

### 16 killed as helicopter crashes near kindergarten outside Kyiv

SIXTEEN people, including two children and Ukraine's interior minister, were killed when a helicopter crashed near a kindergarten outside the capital Kyiv, officials said Wednesday.

"In total, 16 people are currently known to have died," the head of national police, Igor Klymenko, said. Among the dead are several top officials of the interior ministry including Interior Minister Denys Monastyrsky, he said.

In a video that circulated online from the aftermath of the incident, cries could be heard at the scene which was consumed by a fire.

"In the city of Brovary, a

helicopter fell near a kindergarten and a residential building," the head of the Kyiv regional administration, Oleksiy Kuleba, said on Telegram.

"At the time of the tragedy, children and employees were in the kindergarten," he added. "There are casualties."

He said that medics and police were working at the scene.

The town of Brovary is located some 20 kilometres (12 miles) northeast of Kyiv.

Russian and Ukrainian forces fought for control of Brovary in the early stages of Moscow's invasion until Russia's troops withdrew in early April.—AFP



The site where a helicopter crashed near a kindergarten outside the capital Kyiv. **PHOTO: AFP**

### Staff shortages dent Hong Kong air hub reboot hopes

REGIONAL airlines are struggling to ramp up flights to Hong Kong because of staff shortages at the airport, slowing the city's plan to recapture its travel hub status, industry insiders have told AFP.

Hong Kong, which calls itself Asia's World City, once had one of the globe's busiest — and best-connected — airports.

That evaporated during the coronavirus pandemic as authorities imposed more than two years of travel curbs and quarantine rules.

The business hub has begun reopening with leader John Lee proclaiming in November that "Hong Kong is back".

But around 20 regional Asian airlines have been unable to restart or increase services to the city despite months of negotiations with ground handling services, five airline executives told AFP, asking not to be named.



Around 20 regional Asian airlines have been unable to restart or increase services to Hong Kong despite months of negotiations with ground handling services, five airline executives told AFP, asking not to be named. **PHOTO: AFP**

The executives complained that ground handling companies were upping fees by 30 to 100 per cent and prioritizing parent companies or mostly Chinese airlines that they have close, or direct, business ties to. Some warned it was becoming difficult to convince their headquarters to

keep a presence in Hong Kong. "What an irony to say 'Hong Kong is back'," one of those interviewed told AFP.

"How can Hong Kong continue to be 'Asia's World City' if everyone other than the few big companies can never come back?"—AFP

### Serial rapist sacked from London police force

A British police officer who admitted being a serial rapist was formally sacked on Tuesday, as the government called on forces across the country to root out the criminal and corrupt in their ranks.

David Carrick's guilty plea to 24 counts of rape against 12 women and a string of other sex offences over two decades has caused widespread shock, undermining public faith in the police.

It has also piled pressure on his force, the Metropolitan Police in London, that is already reeling from the kidnap, rape and murder of a young women by another of its officers two years ago.—AFP

## RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

### At least seven die in Russia blast bordering Ukraine

AN accidental grenade blast in a Russian region bordering Ukraine has led to at least seven deaths, the Interfax news agency reported Tuesday.

"Four dead have been found among the missing. The number of victims has increased to seven people," the emergency services told Interfax. It added that the search for four more people was continuing.—AFP

### Ukraine centre stage as Davos returns

THE war in Ukraine is set to take the spotlight Tuesday as global business and political A-listers huddle in the Swiss Alpine village of Davos with the ambitious aim of uniting a "fragmented" world.

Military planes, troops and police have been deployed to guard the exclusive mountain resort as government leaders, CEOs, activists and celebrities gathered for the annual gabfest of the World Economic Forum.

The WEF has returned to its traditional wintry date after three years of Covid disruptions that forced the Swiss founda-



The forum is taking place under the theme of 'cooperation in a fragmented world'. **PHOTO: AFP**

tion to hold virtual meetings and delay its in-person meeting last year until May.

The week-long forum is taking place under the theme of "cooperation in a fragmented world" as the planet faces a perfect storm of crises — Russia's invasion of Ukraine, soaring inflation, the spectre of recession and climate catastrophes.

"We couldn't meet at a more challenging time. We are confronted with so many crises simultaneously," said the WEF's founder, German economist Klaus Schwab.—AFP



# As more unrest looms, Peru leader calls for calm

WITH Peru's capital bracing for two days of anti-government protests starting Wednesday, President Dina Boluarte called on the demonstrators flooding into Lima to gather "peacefully and calmly" — even as they demand her resignation.

The South American country has been rocked by over five weeks of deadly protests since the ouster and arrest of her predecessor Pedro Castillo in early December.

Thousands of protesters from rural areas are descending on Lima this week to keep up pressure against the government, often defying a state of emergency declared to try to maintain order.

With tensions mounting, many poor and Indigenous demonstrators were already making

their presence felt Tuesday in the capital, where police used smoke canisters against marchers who gathered ahead of the larger mobilizations.

"We know they want to take Lima, given everything that is coming out on social media, on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday and Thursday)," Boluarte said in a speech at Peru's Constitutional Court.

"I call on them to take Lima, yes, but peacefully and calmly. I am waiting for them in the seat of government to discuss their social agendas."

Convoys of demonstrators were still on their way.

Hundreds of members of the Indigenous Aymara community boarded buses Tuesday from Ilave city in the Puno region, on the border with Bolivia.—AFP



People say goodbye to demonstrators as they head off to Lima to protest against the government of Peruvian President Dina Boluarte in the city of Ilave, Puno, southern Peru on 17 January 2023. PHOTO: ULRIKE KOLTERMANN/AFP

# 8 January: Bringing Brazil's rioters to account



A page from the Brazilian newspaper O Globo featuring the faces of rioters who stormed key buildings in the capital Brasilia on 8 January 2023. PHOTO: AFP

BRAZIL has faced a herculean task in processing hundreds of people detained in the country's biggest-ever once-off roundup of suspects following violent riots

in the capital on 8 January.

More than 1,000 will likely face charges for the invasion of the presidential palace, Congress and Supreme Court

a week after the inauguration of leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

A prosecutor involved in the case has described the process to AFP on condition of anonymity, as he does not have authorization to speak on the record.

### The detainees

More than 2,000 people were arrested immediately after the riots by backers of far-right ex-president Jair Bolsonaro.

Of these, about 300 were detained at the scene of the crime but the majority were rounded up at an encampment of Bolsonaro supporters some eight kilometres (five miles) away, where they had returned after taking part in the uprising.—AFP

## WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

### French-German ties under strain as they mark 60-year friendship

RUSSIA'S invasion of Ukraine and a changing world order are straining ties between France and Germany as they prepare to celebrate 60 years since a post-World War II treaty sealed their reconciliation.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz is expected in Paris on 22 January to meet President Emmanuel Macron before the pair lead a joint cabinet meeting to mark the Elysee Treaty signed on 22 January 1963.—AFP

### Qantas flight lands safely in Sydney after mid-air mayday

AMBULANCE services scrambled at Sydney airport on Wednesday to meet an incoming Qantas plane that issued a mid-air mayday alert with engine trouble before landing safely. The flight — QF144 — was carrying 145 passengers from Auckland, New Zealand, a statement from Qantas said. The Boeing 737-800 plane landed without incident on the runway at Sydney airport, said an AFP reporter at the scene, and will now be inspected by engineers.—AFP

# Film on Israel's 1948 war shows Palestinian agony: director

JORDANIAN film "Farha", vehemently criticized in Israel, is based on true events and represents "only a drop in the ocean" of Palestinian suffering, director Darin J Sallam told AFP.

Released last month on Netflix, "Farha" depicts atrocities against Palestinians during the

1948 conflict following Israel's creation, which Palestinians call the Nakba, or "catastrophe".

The Arabic-language film tells the story of a Palestinian teenager, Farha, whose village comes under attack by Israeli forces. Her father hides her and, through a crack in a door, she

witnesses the execution a family of Palestinian civilians, including two girls.—AFP

A mural depicts what Palestinians call the 'Nakba' or 'catastrophe', the creation of Israel in 1948, with over 760,000 Palestinians pushed into exile or driven from their homes. PHOTO: AFP/FILE







## 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 U-22 team to compete in SEA Games, intl tourneys this year



A Myanmar team striker (white) passes the ball through the opponents during the 31st SEA Games football tournament. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE Myanmar U-22 team will compete in the SEA Games, Asian Games and other international tournaments this year, football officials stated.

The Myanmar U-22 team will compete in international competitions starting in May, and the first competition will be the 32nd Cambodia SEA Games.

The Myanmar U-22 team will compete in the 32nd SEA Games in May 2024 Asian Cup U-23 Qualifiers in September, the 19th Asian Games in October, and ASEAN U-22 Championship in December.

The 19th Asian Games were originally scheduled to be held in 2022, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, they were postponed to 2023, the same year as the SEA Games.

Popov, the former head coach of the Myanmar U-22 team, parted ways in early December, leaving the position of head coach vacant, and the training camp will begin only after a new coach is appointed.

The Myanmar U-22 team will take time to prepare for success in the SEA Games. The team will also make pre-tournament international warm-ups. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Myanmar wins one gold, two silvers in Thailand Master Championship and All Thailand Table Tennis Championship

MYANMAR athletes won one gold and two silver medals in the Thailand Master Championship and All Thailand Table Tennis Championship held in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 13 to 16 January.

Five athletes from the Myanmar Table Tennis Federation in the senior division and one in the junior division participated in the championship.

In the competition, Ko

Kyi Myint from Myanmar won two silvers in the over 40 categories and one gold medal in over 50 categories of the senior championship and individual freestyle.

“Since registering to compete in this competition, regular training has been carried out. Countries such as Thailand, China, Germany and France also come to compete. The main players are from Thailand.

“In the Over 50 final, I

won the gold medal by defeating a Thai player 3-0. What I want to say to the young athlete is to keep trying until you get a game point in any competition. It’s hurt to lose by one point,” said senior player Ko Kyi Myint.

A total of 125 freelance players, 85 players in the Over 40 competitions and 65 players in the Over 50 competitions competed in the tournament.

The victorious Myanmar table tennis team returned by flight yesterday morning and was welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon) principal U Aung Naing Swe, president of the Myanmar Table Tennis Federation U Kyaw Kyaw, executive members and athletes. — Bala Soe/KZL



Myanmar senior table tennis player Ko Kyi Myint was seen with trophies as he won one gold and two silver medals in the Thailand Master Championship and All Thailand Table Tennis Championship held in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 13 to 16 January. **PHOTO: BALA SOE**