

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.

Fancy bullock cart featuring Myanmar traditional culture and folk customs

BULLOCK carts reflect Myanmar's traditional culture as well as folk customs. The fancy bullock cart is one of seven types of traditional bullock carts namely fancy bullock cart, fencing bullock cart, arched roof cart, short rear cart, water-drum cart, mattress cart and wife-kick cart. Of them, the fancy bullock cart is decorated with fancy works and wooden fashioned objects.

The fancy bullock cart can be divided into three types depending on the posts lining the railings which shape the drooping form of posts on both sides of the cart body, the wings of a seagull, and carved rails. The fancy bullock cart is used in donation ceremonies and festivals as well as bullock cart contests. Moreover, the fancy bullock cart is often donated to members of the Sangha for their convenient travel. The fancy bullock cart can accommodate five passengers only because it is just for a show of riding. In the past, novices-to-be were carried by the fancy bullock cart for procession in the village before arriving at the monastery. Although fancy bullock carts were used in various forms in Bagan, Pinya, Inwa and



One of the Myanmar traditional cultures – a decorated fancy bullock cart. PHOTO: ZEYAR HTET (MINBU)

Konbaung eras, later these carts were decorated in conformity with the nature of society.

Currently, varieties of vehicles and motorbikes invented in modern technologies penetrate human society to win the hearts

of users. However, traditional bullock carts are being used in rural areas of Myanmar. Hence, all Myanmar citizens should take pride in their activities of using the fancy bullock carts on a wider scale today as part of con-

serving Myanmar's traditions. As such, all Myanmar people should preserve folk customs of using fancy bullock carts to be handed to new generations for its perpetuation. — Zeyar Htet (Minbu)/TTA

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National Objectives for 76th Anniversary of Union Day 2023

1. To strive for the perpetual existence of national solidarity and perpetuity of the Union through the internal strength
2. To make collaborative efforts of all ethnic nationals to restore perpetual and durable peace
3. To join hands in harmony for ensuring the prosperity and food sufficiency of the nation as two national plans through the Union spirit
4. To help develop all regions and states on equal terms and increase employment opportunities with ensuring the health and fitness of the entire National people
5. To practise the genuine, discipline-flourishing multiparty democratic system through fraternity, solidarity and united endeavours of all ethnic national brethren for building the Union based on democratic and federal systems

Maravijaya Buddha image lifted up to 68.6°

MEMBERS of the Sangha led by Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Mandalay's Bhamo Monastery Abbot Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa and Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academies Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Maha Dhamma Kathika Bahujanahitadhara Shwegyin Nikaya Chairman Shwegyin Sangharaja Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara together with well-wishers led by leading donor State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the ceremony



The lifting of the Maravijaya Buddha image is seen being 54.6° at noon on 28 January 2023.

The conveyance of the Maravijaya Buddha image is seen being 68.6° at midnight on 28 January 2023.

to lift up the Maravijaya Buddha image to be kept on the jewelled throne in Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory on the morning of 26 January.

A steel crane is being used in lifting the Maravijaya Buddha Image on the jewelled throne. The image was lifted up to 68.6° at midnight yesterday. —MNA/TTA



Lifting position is seen being 58.6° at 7 pm on 28 January 2023.

Mottos for 76th Anniversary of Union Day 2023

1. Let's go forward in joining hands among ethnic nationals in unison
2. Let's firmly join hands among national brethren of the Union in unity
3. Energetic harmony and stronger unity represent the souls of the Union

Reciting religious sermons, robe-offering to monks held in Bahan tsp

THE ceremony of reciting religious sermons and robe-offering to monks was held in Bahan Township, Kamayut District of Yangon Region. Members of the Sangha recited Paritta at the Chaukhtet-kyee reclining Buddha image.

Led by U Aung Ko Latt, chairman of Bahan township administration body and members, staff from the General Administration Department, departmental officials, township police members, red cross members, firefighters,

members of the Maternal and Child Welfare Association, members of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and ward administrators offered robes to monks and flowers at pagodas. — Bahan IPRD/KZW

Need to export value-added products to external markets

IT is more beneficial to manufacture and export value-added commodities to external markets in spite of rather shipping raw materials both from aboveground and underground resources ...

(Excerpt from the address delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the SAC meeting 7/2022 held on 16 August 2022)

Basic education students sports festival for 2022-2023 academic year, awarding ceremony, closing ceremony and dinner held

THE basic education students' sports festival for the 2022-2023 academic year, awarding ceremony, closing ceremony and dinner were held on 27 January at Social Zone of Nay Pyi Taw Sports Training Camp.

Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe, Deputy

Ministers U Zaw Win and Dr Zaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Myo Hlaing, the deputy permanent secretaries and officials, coaches of respective sports teams from various states and regions and young athletes (students) attended the event.

Deputy Minister for Education U Zaw Win first honoured the winning medals and records that students from states and regions won. He elaborated that swimming, table tennis, badminton and basketball tournaments will also be added in the upcoming 2023-2024 academic year basic



Union Education Minister Dr Nyunt Pe awards the championship trophy.



education students' sports festival.

Then, on behalf of SAC Chair Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe awarded K5 million each to the sports teams from states and regions that participated in the students' sports festival.

Next, the Union Minister and

the deputy ministers presented awards to winners of the Sepak Takraw, Women's and Men's Volleyball and Women's Football tournaments, respectively.

After closing the festival, the Union minister and attendees enjoyed a celebratory dinner together while young athletes from states and regions performed dances. —MNA/KZL

MoHT Union Minister inspects greening, beautifying works of hotels in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung inspected the greening and beautifying works of hotels in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday.

Then, the Union Minister met general managers and officials of hotels in Nay Pyi Taw at Jasmine Nay Pyi Taw Hotel.

During the meeting, the Union minister said Nay Pyi Taw is stated as the capital city of the country, an administrative city in the Constitution. Therefore, the hotel zones including the recreational sites, tourist destinations,



Union Minister Dr Htay Aung meets hoteliers from Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday.

proper transportation and water systems are established in line

with city characteristics. There are also opportunities to attract

tourists as the city possesses international airport.

Moreover, the hoteliers should participate in shaping Nay Pyi Taw into Green City, Clean City and Smart City. Similarly, the Maravijaya Buddha image is being constructed and the number of local/foreign travellers to Nay Pyi Taw will increase and so the hotels should prepare to offer better services.

Then, the Union minister highlighted the need to create green zones, follow health and safety protocols-HSP and conduct security measures. —MNA/KTZH

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Youth Affairs Committee Festival organized in Mandalay Region



THE Mandalay Region government organized the Youth Affairs Committee Festival at Mandala Thiri Stadium to mark the 76th Anniversary Union Day and welcome the peace talks for the nationwide ceasefire of government yesterday, and was attended by over 25,000 students and youths.

The festival aims to promote the education, health and social sectors of young people, conserve religion, race, culture and literature and develop five strengths and urge the youths to make efforts for the emergence of a modern, developed democratic nation.

First, the Region Chief Minister U Maung Ko, Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko Oo and outstanding students of universities/basic education schools cut the ribbon to launch the ceremony.

Speaking at the event, the region's chief minister said the government set the year 2022 as a peace year and discusses to end the armed conflicts and sustainable eternal peace. The new generations of youths should participate in their respective sectors. The students should sprinkle the peace saplings together with their education to grab peace for everyone.

Then, ethnic students from universities of Mandalay Region discussed the cases that the country can enjoy the fruits of peace and lack of development in regions/states for not having peace. They performed their traditional dances.

Afterwards, the region chief minister observed the booths of respective universities, Myoma Musical Troupe, basic education schools, Anyeint and Satuditha at the event. —MNA/KTZH



The Youth Affairs Committee Festival is in progress, inaugurated by the Mandalay Region chief minister, the central command commander and students yesterday to hail the 76th Anniversary Union Day.

3 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 28 January, total figure reaches at 633,818

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,818** after **three** new cases were reported on 28 January 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,279**, including **eight** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged to **19,490** on 28-1-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. —MNA

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

MoTC DM inspects railway upgrading work in Shan State

DEPUTY Minister of the Ministry of Transport and Communications U Aung Myaing inspected the construction of the new Pin Pat-Naungka railway, upgrading of the Shwenyaung-Ayethaya-Pawmu-Htithain-Yayhewetoo-Taunggyi railway section and stations in Kalaw, Aungban, Shwenyaung and Taunggyi from 26 to 28 January 2023.

The deputy minister exhorted officials to construct the new

Pin Pat-Naungka railway systematically and on time keeping in line with set standards and qualities during his inspection tours.

He also instructed officials from Kalaw, Aungban, Shwenyaung, and Taunggyi stations to ensure cleaning and greening, growing flowering plants at the stations and station yards, and the convenience of passengers. — MNA/KZW



MoTC Deputy Minister U Aung Myaing and party inspect the upgrading work in Shan State.

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, consumer goods, engine accessories, and vehicles confiscated



Seized illegal goods at the warehouse of Yangon International Airport.

A Customs team under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force of Mon State made inspections on 25 January and seized 700 kilogrammes of frozen fish, 315 kilogrammes of peas and eight boxes of Thai-made tempura powder estimated at K4,740,000 ownerless on Mawlamyine road in Paung Township and the action was taken under Customs procedures.

Similarly, an on-duty Customs team inspected at Myanmar Industrial Container Checkpoint on 26 January and confiscated 2,270 kilogrammes of solid bearing and six illegal commodities (approximately K10,615,00) that were not declared in the Import Decla-

ration from a container, and 16,800 diary books (estimated at K4,687,200) from the Yangon International Airport warehouse, totalling K15,302,200.

Furthermore, a combined team from the Customs Department and the Myawady District Illegal Trade Task Force under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force of Kayin State made inspections near Thingannyinaung AK gate and captured 185,000 kilogrammes of corn bags (approximately K74,000,000) from eight vehicles (estimated at K360,000,000), amounting to K434,000,000 in toto. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Supervised by the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force of Yangon

Region, No 2 Traffic Police and Yangon West District unregistered vehicle seizure team inspected and seized a Toyota Mark II car (approximately K35,000,000) on Pyay Road in Mayangon Township.

An inspection team led by the Myanmar Police Force under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force of Sagaing Region inspected on 27 January and nabbed 0.552 tonne of illegal timbers (estimated value of K364,320) and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

A combined team led by the Forest Department of Pyu Township under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force of Bago Region inspected and confiscated 4.5432 tonnes of illegal timbers (estimated value of K681,480) from the Pyukon protection area in Pyu township, Toungoo district and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 22 arrests (at an estimated value of K458,588,000) were made from 25 to 27 January, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/KZW



Confiscated illegal commodities and lorries in Kayin State.

Drugs seized in Panglong, Tachilek townships

DRUGS were seized in Panglong and Tachilek Townships, Myanmar Police Force stated.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a motorbike driven by Aikesai in Ward No 4 in Panglong Township and captured 0.01 kilogramme of heroin at 11:30 am on 27 January.

Afterwards, Police Force searched his house in Naungham village in Loilem Township

and seized 1,400 stimulant tablets.

In addition, at 5:30 pm on 26 January, Shan State Police Force members seized 6,000 stimulant tablets with a suspected Pyaysone Aung (aka) Myo Kyaw near Wamkaung II village in Tachilek Township.

Those offenders are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS



An arrestee is pictured along with seized stimulant pills.

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

Palm oil market price of K2,000 per viss higher than reference price

THE wholesale reference prices for palm oil remained unchanged at K4,440 per viss during two weeks from 16 to 29 January 2023. The wholesale market price was up by K400 these days in Yangon markets.

The wholesale prices stood at K6,000-6,050 per viss on 16 January. Then, the price increased to K6,400-6,450 per viss on 27 January, Ko Aung Win, an edible oil seller at Nyaungpinlay market, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The market price is K2,000 per viss higher than the reference price. On 26 December, the gap narrowed only to K740 per viss, with a delivery order price of K5,100 and reference price of K4,360 per viss.

The market price stayed



Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association sell palm oil at an affordable rate to consumers through the mobile market truck.

below K5,500 per viss for two weeks in mid-December. Yet, the difficulty in withdrawing palm oil from oil tanks in early 2023 pushed up the prices to K6,100 per viss on 9 January and

K6,450 on 24-27 January.

Those traders in possession of palm oil at cheaper prices resold them in January for a good profit when the price rose in the domestic markets.

Palm oil from foreign countries keeps flowing into the domestic markets despite the withdrawal limit of some oil tanks. About 9,091 tonnes on 20 January and 6,300 tonnes on 27 January were brought into the country. More palm oil tankers are to arrive at the end of January, as per the oil market news reports. The edible oil shortage is improbable; however, traders keep the price high in recent days.

The institution issues the wholesale reference price weekly depending on the international price index and foreign exchange rate. These days, the palm oil price was estimated at 3,900 Ringgit per tonne in the Malaysian market. — TWA/EMM

Gold foils to be offered to whole body of Shwedagon Pagoda

THE gold foils will be offered to Shwedagon Pagoda, according to the pagoda board of trustees. The gold foil offering ceremony is held once every five years.

The current gold foil on the pagoda was donated in 2018. The new gold foils will be also offered to the upper receding terrace of the pagoda.

Before December 2022, gold foils were offered to 21 pagodas out of 68 on the upper receding terrace of the pagoda and arrangements are underway to offer gold foils.

It is estimated to use about 2,000 gold foils: six-tical gold plates are used for the banana bud, and three-tical and one-tical gold plates are offered under the parts of the banana bud.

Three types of gold foils such as the gold leaf, gold coating and gold plate are offered to Shwedagon Pagoda. The gold leaf is coated up to 30 lines from the

bottoms of the pagoda with gold coatings at the spreading lotus flower and inverted lotus flower and gold plates at the banana bud, inverted alms bowl and bell.

Officials will also check the strength of the umbrella, pagoda body and lightning protection system.

Donor names of gold plates will be curved once every five years. The construction of scaffolding was conducted in September 2018.

It is announced that 10,000 gold foils made by machine and 14,000 traditional handmade gold foils will be purchased through bidding for gold-foil offering to Shwedagon Pagoda on 16 January. The tender opening for traditional handmade gold foils will be launched at the southern corner of the pagoda at noon on 14 February while the machine-made gold foil tender at 3 pm on the same day. — TWA/KTZH



Gold plates are seen being offered to Shwedagon Pagoda in 2018.

Retailers to apply for metal/gold licence from township GADs

GOLD shop owners in Yangon must apply for the metal and gold licence at respective general administration departments in townships, Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) stated.

Gold retailers need to have two licences which are the business licence issued from the municipal development committee and the metal/gold licence from the General Administration Department.

Some owners began their application process and it aims to curb under-the-counter gold trading without licences.

There are over 10,000 gold retailers in Yangon and almost all outlets have gold licences. — TWA/MKKS



The gold outlet is seen in Yangon.

Taxis' numbers to represent different townships from 1 Feb

ACCORDING to the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee-YRTC, taxis in Yangon Region will have numbers representing respective townships starting from 1 February.

The township identification numbers must be put up on the side of the taxi doors.

In addition, the recommendation letter from the ward administration office, the household census and the sales agreement are no longer needed as before. Instead, the name of the current owner in the car registration book, proof of the licence renewal, business licence part 1 and 2, the citizenship scrutiny card (CSC), address and contact phone number of the vehicle owner and driver, and the driving licence "D" and "E" will be needed to be stored in the computer. — TWA/CT



YRTC to dismiss YBS drivers who run red light over 3 times

YBS drivers who have run the red light over three times will be dismissed, Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC) Vice-Chair U Chit Ko Ko said on 25 January at the awareness and education workshop for drivers 1/2023.

When YBS drivers run the red light, accidents are likely to occur, causing injuries and deaths. YBS drivers will not be allowed to run the red light at all and they will be monitored by YRTC with high-tech CCTV records and action will be taken, according to YRTC.

Vice-Chair U Chit Ko Ko said that effective action will be taken and drivers who violate the rules more than three times will be dismissed. — TWA/MKKS

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Trade activity on Muse border yet to return to normality

TRADE activity at Muse border post has not returned to normalcy in post-Chinese New Year, with only 60 trucks loaded with export and import items flowing in and out of the zone, said U Min Thein, vice-chair of Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

Before the Chinese New Year holidays, about 30 truckloads of rice and broken rice were sent daily to China through the Kyinsankyawt post. The number of trucks has declined to 10 at present.

At present, Myanmar exports rice, broken rice, watermelon, sugarcane, corn, pulses, rubber and fishery products to China through Kyinsankyawt post with 40 trucks, and goods are brought in with 20 trucks. Trade is yet to return to normal.

“The CNY has just finished. So, trade has not returned to normalcy. The truck frequency is still less. The banks have not resumed their service. Moreover, the majority of the traders and employees engaged in the cross-border trade are on vaca-

tion. However, the trade activity commenced with some export items,” U Min Thein elaborated.

Similarly, the Mang Wein border that was reopened in the pre-CNY sees only a small number of trucks, he added.

However, only six-wheel trucks driven by Myanmar drivers are allowed to pass the Mang Wein crossing. Other trucks are still not given the green light.

Additionally, other goods except for agricultural products (watermelon, muskmelon), minerals and fisheries products are allowed to be sent to China through that border. Meanwhile, China gives the go-ahead to the imports of construction goods, electrical appliances, medical devices, industrial equipment, consumer goods, household goods and food products only through that border.

Myanmar primarily conveys goods to China via the Muse border. Nonetheless, traders usually face challenges amid the policy changes in China trig-



Trade activity on the Mang Wein border, which performed the majority of trade, was reinstated on 14 January 2023. Furthermore, Nantaw and Sinphyu border points, major border crossings for people, resumed trade activity on 25 January.

gered by the COVID-19 cases.

China shut down the checkpoints linking to the Muse border in wake of the pandemic. Nantaw and Sinphyu border points were suspended on 1 April 2020 and Mang Wein was closed down on 30 March 2021.

The remaining Kyinsankyawt and Panseng crossings were also restricted on 8 July 2021.

Only the Kyinsankyawt crossing was reopened on 26 November 2021.

Additionally, trade activity on the Mang Wein border,

which performed the majority of trade, was reinstated on 14 January 2023.

Furthermore, Nantaw and Sinphyu border points, major border crossings for people, resumed trade activity on 25 January. — NN/EMM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 28 January 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,275
Octane 95	K2,355
Diesel	K2,490
Premium Diesel	K2,570

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,271,400 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,840,000 per tical

Dollar Price

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,850 to K2,865

The above prices may change from time to time.

Corn price on gradual increase tracking foreign demand

THE price of corn has slowly moved up on the back of demand by foreign trade partners, according to the corn market.

On 2 January 2023, the price was K1,170 per viss. Then, the price climbed to K1,280 per viss, indicating an increase of over K100 per viss in four weeks.

At present, Myanmar ships corn to China, India, Thailand, Viet Nam and the Philippines, according to Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

China is purchasing Myanmar's corn through cross-border trade under the opium substitution programme. Legitimate corn trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 companies have been given the go-ahead for corn exports.

Thailand gives green light to corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposed the maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is im-

ported during the corn season of Thailand.

The directive released on 30 June said that transactions for the exports of agricultural products including corn, rice, bean and oil crops are to be made in dollars instead of Yuan-Kyat/Baht-Kyat. Therefore, 65 per cent of export earnings (US dollars) of the corn have to be exchanged according to the reference rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar (K2,100). Nonetheless, there is a large gap between the regulated rate and the unauthorized rate of the US dollar (over K2,860).

Nonetheless, as per the meeting (66/2022) of the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee, export earnings of some items can be made in Chinese Yuan and Thai Baht in addition to the US dollar.

The CBM notice dated 18 November takes effect on those export items; various pulses (green gram, black gram, chickpea, pigeon pea), edible oil crops (peanut, sesame seeds), corn, rubber, fishery products (fish,

shrimp, crab, eel) and livestock products (live cattle, hides, frozen meat, dried meat).

The traders need to apply for a licence to make Yuan or Baht payments. According to the US dollar policy, 65 per cent of earnings must be exchanged for local currency at the CBM's reference foreign exchange rate, while exporters can use 35 per cent of export earnings or transfer or sell them to Authorized Dealers or others with an over-the-counter rate within 30 days, the CBM announced.

Myanmar exported 2.3 million tonnes of corn to foreign trade in the 2020-2021 financial year. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to China, India and Viet Nam.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons- winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/EMM

OPINION

Avoid negligent acts in using fire in the open season

EVERY citizen needs to take care of systematically using fire and electricity and taking preventive measures against fire at their home not to cause the outbreak of fire in the open season as negligence of anyone in unsystematic use of fire may bring plights to many families.

Most times of fire which broke out in Myanmar were based on negligent acts of users, according to the analyses of relevant departments. It is because as Myanmar is a developing country, most of the people, especially those residing in sub-urban areas, outskirts areas of cities and rural areas, experience the use of firewood fire to cook their daily meals.

Hence, not only local authorities but relevant residents should take care of using fire in their daily routine. They have to take preventive measures such as systematically keeping the stoves, storing fuel away from the stove, controlling children not to use the fire, not using oil lamps and candlelights near walls of houses and fuel and not using fire at harvesting paddy.

Outbreak fire may cause loss of valuable forests and buildings, soil erosion in loss of forests, flooding, the decline of underground water, dryness of springs, death of wildlife animals and loss of pastures.

In fact, the outbreak of fire brings loss to the country, delaying the development of the State. As such, entire people are to follow the directives on preventive measures of fire issued by relevant departments and organizations while contributing to the emergence of a comprehensive fire safety system to be able to protect the nation and the citizens to be free from the danger of fire.

The terrible outbreak of fire destroyed famous markets such as the advanced Yangon's Mingala market in 2016 and Iron Market in Lanmadaw Township in February 2020 and the Yadanabon market in Mandalay in 2018. Most of these fire outbreaks lost billions of kyats. Hence, everybody needs to take lessons from past events of fire breakouts so as to avoid regrettable events in the future.

Everybody is attached to their property and assets. No one wishes to lose their property. It is sorrowful to hear about an outbreak of fire based on negligent acts. Loss cannot be used to rebuild lives. As such, everybody needs to culture the consideration not to face the danger of fire at any time while helping relevant departments and organizations in their functions for prevention of fire in various types including forest fire, fuel fire, damage of electrical cables, arsons, setting fire to farmlands and negligent acts to implement the fire safety plans.

ARTICLE BOOKRACK

Children's immune response to coronavirus fast but doesn't last: Australian research

NEW Australian research revealed on Friday found that while children's immune system could help them avoid severe symptoms from COVID-19 infections, the system is less likely to "form memory" of previous infections, which highlights the importance to vaccinate children.

The study, published in the journal *Clinical Immunology*, is led by the Garvan Institute of Medical Research.

After investigating the T cells and cellular immune responses of the samples, researchers found that different from adults, children's immune systems had

many different naive T cells to fight against SARS-CoV-2 but did not transition into a memory state after they recovered.

"The price that children pay for being so good at getting rid of the virus in the first place is that they don't have the opportunity to develop 'adaptive' memory to protect them the second time they are exposed to the virus," said lead author, professor Tri Phan from the Garvan Institute.

Researchers noted that infants start with an immune system blank slate, which has a much higher proportion of naive T cells.

As they grow up and expose to more viruses, the naive T cells are



Children wearing face masks gather around a table inside their classroom as schools reopened in Singapore on 2 June 2020. PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/AFP/FILE

replaced by memory T cells that are locked into making responses to viruses they have seen before.

T cells are not part of the innate immune system but are part of the adaptive or memory forming part of the immune system, co-author of the study, Associate Professor Philip Britton from the Children's Hospital at Westmead told Xinhua.

"The children in our study had predominantly naive T cells. These are T cells randomly generated by the body to be available to respond to pathogens, but they have not previously been selected out for their ability to respond to a particular pathogen."

Researchers said the findings revealed that COVID-19 infection alone in children does not produce the "kind of" lasting immune response expected, but they anticipate that this could be augmented by vaccines.

"Because children haven't been exposed to many viruses, their immune system is still 'naive'. And because they don't develop memory T cells, they are at risk of getting sick when they become reinfected. With each new infectious episode as they get older, there is a risk of their T cells becoming 'exhausted' and ineffective, like the T cells in older people. This is why we think it's

important to vaccinate children," Phan said.

The findings also point to why some adults can have a kind of immune overreaction to SARS-CoV-2, as Phan explained that memory T cells recognize only what they've seen before — like a familiar part of the coronavirus that is shared with the common cold coronaviruses.

This may lock the immune system into a misdirected response that is not specific to the virus, causing more severe symptoms as the immune system ramps up to try and fix the problem, he added.

SOURCE: Xinhua



Book Title	-	Namyi Kyawkya Gandawun Zagar (Classic Speeches in English)
Writer	-	Pho Hlaing
Publishing House	-	Tet Lu Kyaw
Publishing Date	-	January 2023 (2 nd Edition)
Price	-	K7,000

Namyi Kyawkya Gandawun Zagar (Classic Speeches in English)

NAMYI Kyawkya Gandawun Zagar is a collection of the classic speeches of 15 world-famous personalities the majority of whom are the presidents, the prime ministers and the political leaders. Among them there are two Asians — one is the first prime minister of India called Mr Nehru whereas the other is Dr Ba Maw from Myanmar. (The left extreme one on the cover photo). Dr Ba Maw is the first Myanmar who has become a lecturer of the Faculty of English at Yangon College between 1917 and 1920. During

the British colonial days, he was a famous Myanmar noted for his speeches delivered in English. This book includes both his original English speeches (Part 1 and Part 2) delivered to the meeting of the Burma Constituent Assembly held on 23 February 1940 and Myanmar translation. The title of his speech is "The War and Burma". The introduction of his speech says, "Living under the British government can be likened to a world of black and white". His speech is highly poetic, laying emphasis on rhyme

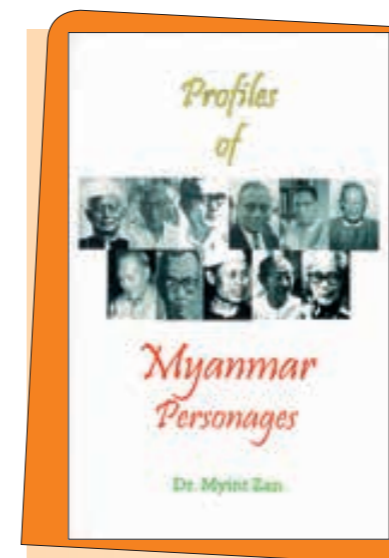
and rhythm. He was also satirical, questioning the credibility of the British government. He gave an analogy of Japan and Germany who were invading their neighbours despite behaving as if they were embracing the policy of non-aggression.

The speeches of world-famous leaders include that of Indian Prime Minister Nehru, the swear-in speech delivered by Abraham Lincoln during his second term, that of John F Kennedy, those of Winston Churchill, that of General Douglas MacArthur, that of President

Franklin Roosevelt delivered at his inauguration, that of Martin Luther King known as I have a dream and that of Patrick Henry etc.

The task of delivering a speech is not a daily routine for people. Nonetheless, people have to speak to an audience at least one or two times throughout their life. As for those taking the leadership role, they will very often be required to deliver speeches. In this age of globalization, the interaction between people from different nations has called for communication in the English Language, which has become the international language.

The writer has, therefore, emphasized the importance of the English language in his foreword to this book. He also pointed out that a good speech requires not only a good topic but also an excellent presentation. To make a good presentation — i.e., to make a speech impressive, the choice of words is to be proper. Easy and clear words are needed to be chosen. The writer gave speeches of Kennedy as good examples. In other words, the speeches should be audience friendly.



Book Title	-	Profiles of Myanmar Personages
Author	-	Dr Myint Zan
Publishing House	-	Gold Press
Publication Date	-	November 2022 (1 st Edition)
Price	-	K8,000

Profiles of Myanmar Personages

THIS book is a collection of articles published in the past few decades in various journals, magazines and newspapers by the author Dr Myint Zan, a retired Professor of Law.

Aspects of the life and work of 11 Myanmar personages are profiled here. The sequence of the personages discussed is chronologically based on their dates of birth.

U Pe Maung Tin (Myanmar Professor, scholar), U Myint Thein (3rd Chief Justice of Union of Burma), Saya Zaw Gyi (poet and scholar), U Thant (third Secretary-General of the United

Nations), Saya Minthuwan (poet and scholar), Maung Htin (satirist and scholar), General Ne Win, *Oway U Nyo Mya* (journalist), U (General) Aung San (with a brief comparison of the good life that he had lived with philosopher Ronald Dworkin's idea of 'living well') *Ludu Daw Amar* (writer and literati) Dagon Taryar (poet and literati) are discussed.

Among the 'subjects', the author discusses the longest one is on General Ne Win (pages 121 to 197) with 108 footnotes. The second longest is the Chapter dealing with a single poem by *Saya Zaw Gyi*. The poem that

Saya Zaw Gyi composed in October 1984 is juxtaposed with two other poems by the Persian (Sufi) poet Rumi and English (Anglican) poet George Herbert. These poets flourished in the 13th centuries and late 16th to early 17th centuries respectively. The Chapter on *Saya Zaw Gyi*'s 'religious poem' juxtaposing with those of two poems of two other poets is the most scholarly of the articles in the book.

All of the personages discussed with the exception of Maung Htin, U Aung San and Dagon Taryar have two or more separate articles. There are four

separate articles discussing the poetry and personage of *Saya Minthuwan*. A few poems by *Zaw Gyi*, *Minthuwan* and *Dagon Taryar* are translated into English by the author (on pages 25, 58, 60, 61, 89, 92, 98, 99, 104, 105, 219 and 233). In most of the translated poems the original poems in Burmese are reproduced. The English translation of *Minthuwan*'s 'Rose Petals' နှင်းဆီပွင့် poem by three different persons is reproduced in pages 108 to 109 of the book.

Four articles about four personages namely *Zaw Gyi*, *Maung Htin*, *Ne Win*, *Ludu Daw Amar* have both source and explanatory footnotes. Almost certainly, most readers will skip the elaborate footnotes of *Dr Myint Zan*. Still, if one is research-oriented and has scholarly inclinations it may be beneficial to read them.

Dr Myint Zan obviously likes and admires almost all (bar one) of the personages that he profiled. He had researched and published about them in the past few decades. He is to be complimented for his dedication, and hard work as well as his exemplary research and writing skills.

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Large telescope observation assistants, common but crucial

“ATTENTION! The clouds are coming!” Before 5 o’clock in an early morning of January, observation assistant Si Zhiyu called the attention of his group members when his stereo blared out an alarm indicating that clouds were blocking the view of the Large Sky Area Multi-Object Fibre Spectroscopic Telescope (LAMOST), a leading optical telescope project in China.

Under the guidance of the astronomer on duty, the observation assistants closed the dome of the telescope.

In the Xinglong Observatory

of the National Astronomical Observatories, Chinese Academy of Sciences, the arrival of dawn before the sunrise means that the LAMOST will end its observations and close the dome.

The mission of the LAMOST is to study the structure of the Milky Way by observing the spectrum of stars.

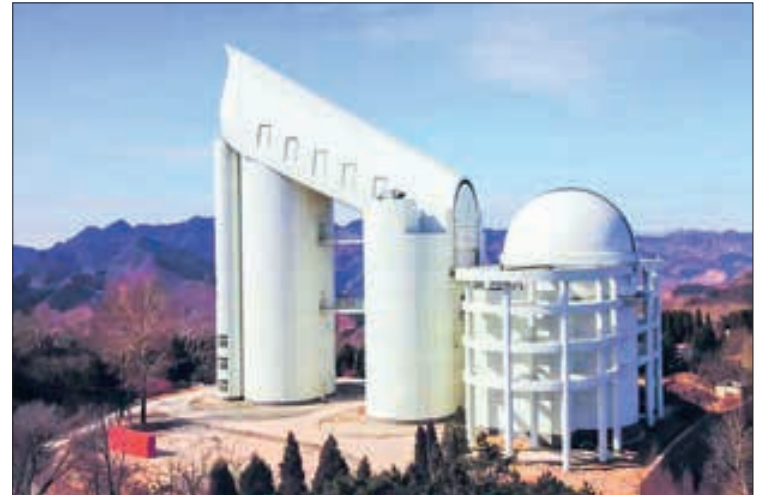
To successfully collect the observation data, the LAMOST only operates at night.

Si Zhiyu is a local of Xinglong county, north China’s Hebei Province. As one of leaders of the observation assistant group,

he has more than 10 years of observation experience.

The observation assistant is the most fundamental position in telescope observation. Their responsibility is to obtain the original data of stars, and to timely discover and report any failures the telescope may experience. There are nine observation assistants in total working for the LAMOST.

Winter has the least humidity and the longest night of the year, thus it is the best season for astronomical observation. —Xinhua



The Large Sky Area Multi-Object Fibre Spectroscopic Telescope (LAMOST). PHOTO: THE NATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORIES, CAS

Indigenous land rights help protect Brazil’s forests



A Guarani Indigenous child swings in a hammock at the Kyringue Arandua Indigenous land, in the municipality of Marica, Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil, 29 July 2022. PHOTO: AFP

TERRITORIES in Brazil’s fragmented Atlantic Forest where Indigenous peoples enjoy secure land rights have seen measurably less deforestation than similar areas in which land tenure is weak or non-existent, researchers reported Thursday.

The findings, published in the journal PNAS Nexus, are the first to quantify the benefits of enhanced Indigenous land rights for Brazil’s tropical rainforests, and add to a growing body of peer-reviewed literature highlighting more broadly the advantages of

Indigenous stewardship.

“Even in highly developed and heavily deforested areas, granting land tenure to Indigenous peoples significantly improved forest outcomes,” including less tree loss and more reforestation, lead author Rayna Benzeev, a researcher at the University of Colorado Boulder, told AFP.

“Each year after tenure was formalised, there was, on average, a 0.77 per cent increase in forest cover compared to untenured lands,” she added. “That can add up over decades.” The Atlantic Forest — Brazil’s second-largest rainforest after the Amazon, stretching along 3,000 kilometres (1,860 miles) of coastline — has been decimated by centuries of urbanization, agriculture, logging and mining. It is home to 70 per cent of the country’s population, including Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.—AFP

Activists slam appointment of UAE oil boss to lead climate talks

HUNDREDS of campaign groups on Thursday condemned the appointment of an oil boss to lead UN climate talks in the United Arab Emirates, saying it threatened the meeting’s “legitimacy”.

The UAE named Sultan Al Jaber, chief executive of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), to head the crucial COP28 climate meeting in No-

vember, sparking an outcry from activists.

He is the first CEO to take the role at the UN summit.

NGOs and civil society organizations from around the world said in an open letter Thursday the “decision threatens the legitimacy and efficacy of COP28. “This is no cause for celebration,” it added in the letter

to UN chief Antonio Guterres and Simon Stiell, executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), under which all climate negotiations are held.

“If we have any hope of addressing the climate crisis, every COP must be free from the polluting influence of the fossil fuel industry,” the letter added.—AFP

India to get more than 100 cheetahs from S Africa

SOUTH Africa said Thursday that it had reached a deal to transfer more than 100 cheetahs to India as part of an ambitious project to reintroduce the spotted cats in the south Asian country.

The environment ministry said an initial batch of 12 cheetahs would be flown to India next month, after eight cheetahs arrived from Namibia last September.

“The plan is to translocate a further 12 annually for the next eight to 10 years” to help establish a “viable and secure cheetah population,” the ministry said in a statement.

India was once home to the Asiatic cheetah but the animal was declared extinct there by 1952, primarily because of habitat loss and deaths at the hands of hunters seeking their distinctive spotted hides.

Efforts to reintroduce the animals gathered pace in 2020 when India’s Supreme Court ruled that African cheetahs, a different subspecies, could be brought into the country at a “carefully chosen location” on an experimental basis.

Negotiations for the deal with South Africa were long in the making, with the first cheetahs initially expected to be flown to India last August. They have been living in quarantine in the meantime.

“The cheetahs in quarantine... are all still doing well,” said Adrian Tordiffe, a veterinary wildlife specialist at the University of Pretoria who is involved in the project.

Officials said the previous transfer from Namibia marked the first intercontinental relocation of cheetahs, the planet’s fastest land animal.—AFP



The cheetah is the world’s fastest land animal and Africa’s most endangered big cat PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ AFP/ FILE

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Cambodia welcomes back Chinese travellers

CAMBODIA on Friday welcomed the arrival of Chinese travellers after the world's second-largest economy optimized its COVID-19 strategy early this month, officials said.

A Ruili Airlines flight, carrying more than 100 passengers from Kunming in southwestern China's Yunnan Province, landed in Sihanoukville in southwestern Cambodia on Friday morning, receiving a warm welcome from local authorities.

Speaking to reporters at the welcoming event, Hor Sarun, secretary of state for Cambodia's Ministry of Tourism, said Cambodia is ready to welcome all Chinese people and tourists.



Tourists visit the Wat Phnom historic site in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, January 2019 **PHOTO: XINHUA/PHEARUM**

"There is neither COVID-19 restriction, nor COVID-19 test on Chinese travellers, and they

are free to travel everywhere in Cambodia," he said.

Chea Aun, secretary of state

for the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation, said he expected the number of Chinese tourists to Cambodia to reach the pre-pandemic level within a couple of years.

"We hope that the number of Chinese travellers to Cambodia and other countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will again increase sharply," he said.

China was the largest source of foreign tourists to Cambodia in the pre-pandemic era, a report from the Ministry of Tourism said, adding that the kingdom received 2.36 million Chinese tourists in 2019, generating about 1.8 billion US dollars in revenue. —Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

S Africa records outbreak of African swine fever

SOUTH Africa has reported an outbreak of African swine fever in a farm in Gauteng Province, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development said Friday.

"The source of the infection on the farm has not yet been identified, but it is believed that the infection was already on the farm from mid-December. This outbreak on a farm with good biosecurity measures in place again illustrates that the virus is highly contagious," the department said in a statement.

The department said they have put the farm under quarantine and are investigating and tracing properties that could have had direct or indirect contact with the affected farm.

They have also placed farms in Gauteng, North West and Free State provinces under precautionary quarantine for African swine fever detection, according to the department.

"The African swine fever negative status of these farms will be confirmed before precautionary quarantine can be lifted," it said, urging all pig farmers to only buy pigs directly from known healthy herds and to prevent contact between their pigs and other pigs or wildlife. —Xinhua

In Brazil's Amazon, malnourished Yanomami children get needed care



This handout picture released by the Brazilian Presidency press office shows Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva visiting the Yanomami Indigenous Health House (Casai) in the Boa Vista rural area, Roraima state, Brazil, on 21 January 2023. **PHOTO: RICARDO STUCKERT / AFP**

In a hospital in Brazil's Amazon, half a dozen Yanomami children are dozing in blue hammocks. Some are suffering from pneumonia, others from malaria. Some even have snake bites. All of them are underfed.

Cases of malnutrition and malaria in the region have skyrocketed in recent weeks, prompting the new leftist government of President Lula Inacio Lula da Silva to declare a health emergency.

Of the nearly 60 Indigenous children being treated at the San Antonio children's hospital in Boa Vista, in the northern state of Roraima, three-quarters of them are Yanomami, and eight of those are

in intensive care, according to official data.

The vast majority of children are suffering from "moderate to severe malnutrition," complicated by other ailments including pneumonia, malaria and the stomach flu, pediatrician Eugenio Patricio tells AFP. "These patients, due to malnutrition, don't have enough in the tank to fight infections. So the consequences are far more serious, and some end up in intensive care," he adds. The San Antonio hospital is the only one in the state — located on the country's northern border with Venezuela and Guyana — that can treat children under the age of 12. —AFP

France to probe microplastic pellet pollution on Atlantic beaches

FRENCH prosecutors said on Friday they would investigate the appearance of vast quantities of tiny toxic plastic pellets along the Atlantic coast that endanger marine life and the human food chain. The criminal probe will follow several legal complaints about the pellet invasion lodged by local authorities and the central government in Paris, Camille Miansoni, chief prosecutor in the western city of Brest, told AFP.

The microscopic pellets, called nurdles, are the building blocks for most of the world's plastic production, from car bumpers to salad bowls.

They are usually packed in bags of 25 kilogrammes (55 pounds) for transport, each containing around a million nurdles, which are sometimes called "Mermaids' Tears".

But they can easily spill into the ocean when a cargo ship



Dozens of volunteers look for plastic beads, also called nurdles or 'mermaid's tears,' on a beach in Pornic, France, on 21 January 2023. **PHOTO: LOIC VENANCE/AFP**

sinks or loses a container. Environmentalists also suspect that factories sometimes dump them into the sea. Fish and birds often

mistake them for food and, once ingested, the tiny granules can make their way into the diet of humans. —AFP

Laos logs 238 dengue cases so far this year

LAOS has so far registered 238 dengue cases in 2023, according to figures from the Lao Ministry of Health.

According to a report issued Friday by the Centre of Information and Education for Health under the Lao Ministry of Health, the country recorded 32,364 cases of dengue fever in 2022, a significant increase from 1,400 cases in 2021.

The ministry has vowed to continue developing the capacity and knowledge of doctors and nurses, aiming to guarantee the quality of healthcare services in the battle against dengue fever. —Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Philippines to extend e-visa for Asian tourism market



Tourists from China are welcomed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1 in Pasay City, the Philippines, 24 January 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

PHILIPPINE President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Thursday ordered government agencies to work on the extension of e-visa for travellers from major tourism markets in Asia, includ-

ing China, to boost the recovery of the sector.

The Presidential Communications Office said Marcos issued the directive during a meeting with a private-sector

tourism advisory council that had recommended the inclusion of Indian nationals under the visa-upon-arrival program and the extension of e-visa to Chinese, Indian, South Korean and Japanese citizens.

The government is collaborating on developing the technical plans, including various “connectivity matters”.

As a key economic driver, the tourism industry’s contribution to the Philippines’ gross domestic product stood at 12.7 per cent in 2019.

Over 1.74 million Chinese tourists visited the Southeast Asian country in 2019. The Philippines has set a target for 2023 to lure some 4.8 million international visitors, with the Chinese tourist market remaining on its priority list.—Xinhua

Tunisia milk market ‘collapsing’ as feed prices soar

A Tunisian farmer attaches a machine to a cow’s udder and sets the pump whirring, but he only expects to fetch less than half the normal amount of milk amid soaring fodder prices.

Mohamed Gharsallaoui said he has been forced to sell four cows in recent months to cover forage costs for the 20 that remain on his farm — but still struggles to feed them enough.

“Why have the cows stopped producing so much? Because they don’t get the full amount of food,” the 65-year-old said. “We can only give them half the amount they used to get.”

The North African country’s farming union says the price of cattle feed has risen by up to 40 per cent in the past year due to the impact of the war in Ukraine on imported fodder ingredients.

The dairy sector’s woes have been exacerbated by years of drought, drying up reservoirs and making it harder for farmers to grow their own fodder.

At his farm in El-Battan west of the capital, Gharsallaoui

showed AFP a dwindling stock of feed and a pile of invoices for hay, barley and straw, which he is struggling to pay.

A 50-kilogramme (110-pound) sack of corn/soya supplement has multiplied eightfold in price in the past 10 years, he said.

As a result, cows that used to produce 30 litres (63 pints) a day now only provide 12, he added.

“All these costs are shouldered by the farmer,” said the father of four, flicking through a wad of unpaid bills.

Having built his business over the decades, starting with a single cow, Gharsallaoui said it was hard to see the herd shrink.

“These cows used to be my family’s main income,” he said. “Now four of my kids are working elsewhere to try to earn money to feed the herd.”—AFP



This picture taken on 12 January 2023 shows a view of carts filled with milk packages at a supermarket in Tunisia’s capital Tunis, where rationing is imposed to limit customers to two packets of milk per person amidst a shortage of coffee, milk, pasta, and sugar. PHOTO: FETHI BELAID / AFP

UK dismisses economic ‘gloom’, eyes Brexit boost

BRITAIN’S finance minister on Friday dismissed “gloom” over its recession-threatened economy and vowed to tap into Brexit opportunities and tackle rampant inflation to boost growth during a cost-of-living crisis.

Jeremy Hunt laid out the Conservative government’s growth plan in London’s City finance district, following recent criticism from the business community — and insisted that the nation was not in decline.

“Declinism about Britain was wrong in the past — and it is wrong today,” Hunt said.

“Some of the gloom is based on statistics that do not reflect the whole picture.”

The Bank of England and the UK government’s own fiscal watchdog, however, believe that the economy has already entered recession on fallout

from rampant consumer price inflation.

The finance chief outlined how Britain would benefit from “freedoms” as a result of its exit two years ago from the European Union, after voting to leave in 2016.

“Like every G7 country, our growth was slower in the years after the financial crisis than the years before it. But since 2010, the UK has grown faster than France, Japan and Italy.

“Since the Brexit referendum, we have grown at about the same rate as Germany.”

He added: “If we look further ahead, the case for declinism becomes weaker still. The UK is poised to play a leading role in Europe and across the world in the growth sectors which will define this century.”—AFP



The Bank of England and the UK government’s own fiscal watchdog, however, believe that the economy has already entered recession on fallout from rampant consumer price inflation. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE

New US home sales fall in 2022 on higher mortgage rates

SALES of new US homes exceeded expectations in December but slumped for all of 2022, according to government data released Thursday, as higher mortgage rates weighed on potential buyers.

The interest-sensitive real estate sector has been hit as the central bank lifted the benchmark lending rate seven times last year, in hopes of cooling demand and lowering surging inflation.

Sales of new single-family houses ticked up 2.3 per cent in December to an annual rate of 616,000, seasonally adjusted, said the Commerce Department.

This was better than analysts expected and the comparison came against November’s revised rate of 602,000, which had been adjusted significantly lower. For all of 2022, an estimated 644,000 new homes were sold — a 16.4 per cent plunge from 2021, the report said. But new properties make up a very small portion of overall home sales.—AFP

S Korean LG Electronics logs record-high revenue in 2022

SOUTH Korean tech company LG Electronics logged its record-high revenue last year due to record sales of home appliances and automotive parts, the company said Friday.

Consolidated revenue grew 12.9 per cent over the year to 83.47 trillion won (67.7 billion US dollars) in 2022, keeping a record-breaking trend for the second consecutive year.

The company said the revenue growth was driven by strong demand for premium home appliances



This file photo provided by LG Electronics Inc. on 13 July 2021, shows the company's new indoor-outdoor delivery robot. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/LG

and auto parts.

Operating profit declined 12.5 per cent to 3.55 trillion won (2.9 billion dollars) last year on stiffer competition leading to higher costs, but net income jumped 31.7 per cent to 1.86 trillion won (1.5 billion dollars). LG's home appliance unit posted record revenue of 29.9 trillion won (24.3 billion dollars) in 2022, up 10.3 per cent from the previous year. The revenue continued to expand for the seventh successive year.

The unit's operating

profit tumbled 48.9 per cent to 1.13 trillion won (916.8 million dollars) on higher logistics costs and increased marketing investments. Revenue by the vehicle component business soared 29.1 per cent to 8.65 trillion won (7 billion dollars), accounting for over 10 per cent of the company's total revenue for the first time.

The business's operating profit stood at 169.6 billion won (137.6 million dollars) last year on steady improvements in the automotive industry. — Xinhua

Chevron defends buybacks as it posts \$35.5 bln in 2022 profit

CHEVRON defended its new \$75 billion share repurchase programme from White House criticism Friday, as it reported record profits of \$35.5 billion in 2022.

The oil giant, which also raised its dividend in Wednesday's buyback announcement, aims for stock purchases in a "steady, consistent way" through the ups and downs on the commodity price cycle, Chief Executive Mike Wirth said on a conference call with analysts.

US President Joe Biden has repeatedly criticized Chevron and fellow petroleum behemoth ExxonMobil over share buybacks, arguing the companies should steer extra cash into new oil and gas investments, in an effort to lower prices for consumers. On Wednesday, White House spokesman Abdullah Hasan blasted the announcement as a \$75 billion giveaway "to executives and wealthy shareholders" at a time when the company has "claimed" to

be working to boost output, he said on Twitter.

Asked about political backlash to the announcement, Wirth said the issue has been "a touch overblown". "We weren't trying to be splashy," Wirth said. "We're just trying to indicate the confidence we have in our cash generation."

In all, Chevron returned \$11.25 billion to shareholders, repurchasing nearly 70 million shares, it said in an earnings release. — AFP

UK airline Flybe ceases trading, cancels all flights

BRITISH airline Flybe said Saturday it had ceased trading and all flights had been cancelled.

"We are sad to announce that Flybe has been placed into administration," the airline tweeted. "Flybe has now ceased trading. All Flybe flights from & to the UK are cancelled & will not be rescheduled," it said.

The UK Civil Aviation Authority advised passengers booked with Flybe not to go to the airport.

"It is always sad to see an airline enter adminis-



Flybe had only returned to the skies in April after it crashed into bankruptcy as the coronavirus crisis erupted. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

tration and we know that Flybe's decision to stop trading will be distressing for all of its employees and customers," CAA consumer director Paul Smith said

in a statement.

"We urge passengers planning to fly with this airline not to go to the airport as all Flybe flights are cancelled." — AFP

Court reduces spying sentence for Ikea France ex-boss

A French appeals court on Friday cut the sentence of a former Ikea France chief convicted in 2021 of setting up an illegal system to spy on staff and job applicants.

Jean-Louis Baillot was originally handed a suspended two-year prison term and ordered to pay 50,000 euros (\$54,000 at the current rate). He was accused of setting up an elaborate system to monitor staff and prospective staff at the Swedish furniture giant's French operations over several years, using



Ikea France was accused of running a 'mass surveillance' system. PHOTO: AFP

private detectives as well as police sources.

Baillot and Ikea

France were originally found guilty of "receiving personal data by fraudu-

lent means" with prosecutors accusing them of illicitly carrying out "mass surveillance".

But in its decision Friday the appeals court in Versailles, west of Paris, cut the prison term for Baillot, who ran Ikea France from 1996 to 2002, to a suspended four months, and the fine to 20,000 euros.

Baillot, who had denied any wrongdoing during the trial, said he was "shocked" by the original verdict. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC DANANG VOY.NO. (2304S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SITC DANANG VOY.NO. (2304S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-1-2023 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.

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Japan to uphold apology if S Korea settles wartime labour issue



South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol attends a ceremony marking Korean Liberation Day from Japanese colonial rule, in Seoul on 15 August 2022. **PHOTO: POOL/KYODO/FILE**

JAPAN plans to make clear it will maintain an apology to its neighbours over past aggressions, as part of efforts to improve its ties with South Korea, if Seoul finalizes a solution to a wartime labour issue, a government source said Saturday.

Tokyo is considering show-

ing its remorse based on past statements, such as by then Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in 1995, as the two countries apparently enter the final stage of talks on the issue following a recent proposal by South Korea.

Seoul said this month it was considering having a South Ko-

rean foundation compensate lawsuit plaintiffs instead of two Japanese corporate defendants over alleged forced labour during Japan's colonial rule. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol vowed to work for an "early settlement" of the wartime labor issue when they met in November in Cambodia, the first official in-person talks between the leaders of the two countries in almost three years. Japan has maintained that all issues stemming from the 1910-1945 colonization of the Korean Peninsula were settled "completely and finally" under a bilateral agreement signed in 1965. Tokyo-Seoul ties reached their lowest point in years over the wartime labour issue and others during the tenure of former South Korean President Moon Jae In, replaced by Yoon in May.—Kyodo

Two Indian military jets crash, one pilot killed

TWO Indian Air Force fighter jets crashed Saturday, killing one pilot and injuring two others, in an apparent mid-air collision while on exercises south of the capital New Delhi.

The crash is the latest in a string of military aircraft accidents at a time when the government is trying to mod-

ernize its armed forces and meet India's complex security challenges.

It involved a Russian-made Sukhoi Su-30, carrying two pilots, and a French-built Mirage 2000, operated by a third, and was reported by witnesses to police at around 10:00 am (0430 GMT).—AFP



Rescuers inspect the wreckage of a crashed aircraft in Rajasthan. **PHOTO: RAJASTHAN STATE DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE (SDRF)/AFP**

Peruvian Congress rejects bill calling for early elections

PERU'S Congress on Friday rejected a bill to bring forward general elections from 2026 to December 2023, as protests continued across the country.

Hernando Guerra, president of the legislative constitution commission, pre-

sented the bill and explained that it would allow "enough time" to make corresponding electoral reforms, but failed to gain a congressional consensus broad enough.

Failing to get 87 votes needed to pass a proposal, the bill garnered 49 votes in

favor, with 33 against and 25 abstentions.

The bill was presented amid a nation-wide political unrest following the ouster and arrest of former President Pedro Castillo on 7 December and the swearing-in of vice President Dina Bolu-

arte to take the place of Castillo.

Opposing Boluarte to hold the presidency till 2026, the bill aims to shorten her term of office to 30 April 2024, and Congress' term to 28 April of the same year.—Xinhua

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Putin blasts 'neo-Nazis' in Ukraine on Holocaust Remembrance Day

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Friday repeated a claim that neo-Nazis were committing crimes in Ukraine -- an allegation Moscow has used to justify its military intervention -- as the world marked Holocaust Remembrance Day.

"Forgetting the lessons of history leads to the repetition of terrible tragedies," Putin said.

"This is evidenced by the crimes against civilians, ethnic cleansing and punitive actions organised by neo-Nazis in Ukraine. It is against that evil that our soldiers are bravely fighting," he said in a statement.



One of the goals of the operation was the "de-Nazification" of Ukraine, Putin said, when he announced nearly one year ago he had ordered Russian troops towards Kyiv. Russian soldiers outside the rebel stronghold of Donetsk **PHOTO: DMITRY SEREBRYAKOV/AFP/FILE**

Supporters of Putin's military operation allege Ukraine's

treatment of Russian speakers in the country is comparable

with the actions of Nazi Germany.

One of the goals of the operation was the "de-Nazification" of Ukraine, Putin said, when he announced nearly one year ago he had ordered Russian troops towards Kyiv.

The claims have been contested by the Ukrainian government and the country's Jewish community.

The Soviet Union's victory over Hitler's army -- long a symbol of patriotic pride for Russians -- has taken centre stage since the beginning of the military intervention. —AFP

EU signals irritation at SAfrica's Russia ties

A top EU official visiting South Africa expressed irritation on Friday at the country's close ties with Russia amid Moscow's war on Ukraine. A continental powerhouse, South Africa has refused to condemn the invasion of Ukraine and this month announced it will host joint maritime drills with Russia and China in February. In Pretoria for talks with his local counterpart, the European Union's top diplomat Josep Borrell said the planned naval exercises were "not the best thing". All countries were free to develop their own foreign policy, he said, adding he understood "the desire" of some countries "to spare Russia for one reason or another".—AFP

Iran condemns deadly armed attack on Azerbaijan embassy in Tehran

THE Iranian foreign ministry condemned an armed attack on Azerbaijan's embassy in the Iranian capital Tehran, in which one was killed and two others injured.

The ministry's spokesman Nasser Kanaani expressed "deep" sympathy to the assassinated embassy member's family as well as the Azerbaijani government, according to a statement published on the ministry's website. He added the assailant has been arrested by police and security forces and is being interrogated.

Kanaani gave the assurance that at the order of the Iranian

political and security authorities, the attack is under investigation with high priority and sensitivity.

Mohammad Shahriari, the caretaker chairman of Tehran Province's criminal court, said initial investigations showed that personal issues have been behind the attack, the official news agency IRNA reported.

Shahriari said the attacker claimed that his wife went to the embassy in April 2022 and had never returned home, and the assailant had gone to the embassy on numerous occasions looking for his wife but had never received any response.

Shahriari added the attack-

er said he had believed that his wife was in the embassy, but did not want to meet him.

On Friday morning, the assailant went to the embassy with a Kalashnikov rifle and started shooting, killing one employee and injuring two others, according to Tehran police Chief Hossein Rahimi.

The assailant had entered the embassy with his two young children, he added.

Azerbaijan's foreign ministry identified the victim as a guard, who had served as the head of security at the embassy, saying the Friday attack also wounded two people.—Xinhua



Police stay guard in front of the Azerbaijan embassy in Tehran on 27 January 2023, following an attack. PHOTO: AFP

High-profile murder trial shines light on Argentine discrimination



The 2020 murder of Fernando Baez sparked protests in several cities around Argentina with eight young rugby players facing life in prison if convicted. PHOTO: TELAM/AFP

THE shocking story of a teenager beaten to death by eight young rugby players has opened old wounds and shed light on class,

race and gender discrimination in Argentine society.

Eight friends, now age 21 to 23, are facing life in prison if

convicted of the premeditated murder of Fernando Baez three years ago in a popular seaside resort.

The trial is under way in Dolores, 200 kilometres (125 miles) south of Buenos Aires, and has gripped the nation, as did the original murder that sparked protests in several cities.

In the early hours of 18 January 2020, a fight broke out in a nightclub in Villa Gesell, a resort city popular with young people.

After those involved were evicted from the club, their quarrel continued in the street, but Baez, then 18, became isolated from his friends and surrounded by the eight defendants, who beat him so severely that he died of his injuries.—AFP

EU justice ministers discuss cooperation in fighting cross-border crime

JUDICIAL cooperation in the fight against organized crime topped the agenda of an informal meeting of the European Union (EU) member states' justice and home affairs ministers here on Friday.

"Organized crime has never posed such a threat to the EU and its citizens as it does

today," Sweden's Minister for Justice Gunnar Strommer said in a press release.

"This is particularly true in Sweden. Effective judicial cooperation is therefore crucial as we step up the fight against cross-border crime." At the meeting, the EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation

(Eurojust) presented its work to support the coordination of cross-border criminal investigations by national authorities. The ministers discussed the important role of Eurojust and a new instrument for the transfer of proceedings and how this contributes to the fight against organized crime.—Xinhua

Memphis releases deadly police beating video

THE US city of Memphis on Friday released distressing footage of the fatal police beating of a 29-year-old Black man, seen calling for his mother as the blows rain down in an assault that has sparked calls for protests -- and fears of possible unrest.

Five Memphis officers, also all Black, were charged with second-degree murder in the beating of Tyre Nichols, who died in hospital on 10 January three days after being stopped on suspicion of reckless driving. The lengthy video footage from police bodycams and a street surveillance cam-

era shows a group of officers detaining Nichols, attempting to take him down with the use of a Taser; then giving chase as he evades them.

Subsequent segments -- the footage runs about an hour in total, and is audio-only in parts -- show Nichols crying out for his mother, and moaning as officers repeatedly kick and punch him. In one extremely graphic video, officers are seen aiming several kicks at Nichols' face. After pulling him up, they deliver five punches to his face. When he falls to the ground they aim two more kicks at his face.—AFP



Protesters rally against the fatal police assault of Tyre Nichols, in Lafayette Square near the White House in Washington, DC, on 27 January 2023. The US city of Memphis released 27 January 2023 graphic video footage depicting the fatal police assault of a 29-year-old Black man, as cities nationwide braced for a night of protests against police brutality. PHOTO: PEDRO UGARTE / AFP

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SPORT

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Yangon United trounce Kachin United 3-0 in friendly match

YANGON United celebrated a 3-0 victory over Kachin United in their friendly match played at Yangon United Sports Complex in Yangon yesterday. The winning goals were found by Sylla and Sa Aung Pyae Ko during the match. The match went 45 minutes each as it was recognized as a test match. The first half was dominated by Yangon United with a heading goal of Sylla in 28 minutes when Zarni Htet crossed the ball from the right wing. In the second half, Yangon United made more substitutions with star players.

The second leading goal was scored by Sa Aung Pyae Ko heading to the net with an assist of Zaw Win Thein's free kick. The team vies for more goals, and in 67 minutes, Yan Lin Aung paved the ball to the goal area from the right wing, and the opponent's goalkeeper tried to wipe it out. However, his effort was in vain and favoured his own goal. At the final whistle, Yangon United made a big 3-0 win over Kachin United. — KZL



A Yangon United player (bluish green) attempts to clear the ball against his opponent during the friendly match against Rakhine United at Yangon United Sports Complex in Yangon on 28 January 2023. PHOTO: YUFC

Caicedo makes public plea to Brighton for Arsenal move

MOISES Caicedo has pleaded with Brighton to accept a club record transfer fee amid interest from Arsenal in the midfielder.

The Premier League leaders have reportedly seen a £60 million (\$74 million) bid turned down for the Ecuadorian international.

"I am proud to be able to bring in a record transfer fee for Brighton which would allow them to reinvest it and help the club continue to be successful," Caicedo tweeted on Friday.

"The fans have taken me into their hearts and they will always be in my heart so I hope they can understand why I want to take up this magnificent opportunity." Brighton manager Roberto De Zerbi is determined to keep the 21-year-old at least until the end of the season.

"He's a good guy. He's fo-



Moises Caicedo has pleaded to Brighton to let him join Arsenal. PHOTO: AFP

cused only on Brighton. I hope he can stay with us until the end of the season because in my opinion, it's the best solution for him, for us," De Zerbi told reporters on Friday.

"I spoke with him Wednesday and I told him my opinion. I think it's always difficult to

change during a season. For our way, it's important for him to stay another four months with us."

Brighton have already sold Belgium forward Leandro Trossard to Arsenal for £27 million during the current January transfer window.—AFP

Pedri earns subdued Barca nervy derby win at Girona

BARCELONA midfielder Pedri Gonzalez earned his side a tense 1-0 Catalan derby victory at Girona on Saturday, opening a six-point gap ahead of Real Madrid at the top of La Liga.

With Carlo Ancelotti's side hosting high-flying Real Sociedad on Sunday, Barca put their rivals under pressure to get a result and keep up with them in the title race.

Pedri netted the only goal from close range after an hour at an icy Montilivi on his 100th appearance for Barcelona, after replacing the injured Ousmane Dembele. The French forward limped off in the first half, pulling up after a sprint and asking to be replaced, a blow for Barcelona considering his superb recent form.

Barca coach Xavi Hernandez rotated in defence, handing

Eric Garcia a rare start, along with Marcos Alonso, who extended his contract until 2024 on Friday.

The league leaders were still without suspended Polish striker Robert Lewandowski, missing his final game after a three-match ban.

Girona created the first chance after just three minutes, Rodrigo Riquelme's smooth through ball feeding Yan Couto, whose shot was blocked.

Dembele also had an effort deflected away at the other end after Ansu Fati won the ball from goalkeeper Paulo Gazzaniga. The French winger, who fired Barcelona into the Copa del Rey semi-finals against Real Sociedad midweek, was forced off injured after 25 minutes with Pedri replacing him.—AFP