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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.

SAC members, Union ministers participate in 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Kachin State Day in Myitkyina



State Administration Council member Jeng Phang Naw Taung reads the message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Kachin State Day in Myitkyina yesterday.

THE ceremony of the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of Kachin State Day was organized on the lawn in front of the Kachin State Government Office yesterday.

It was attended by State Administration Council members Jeng Phang Naw Taung, U Moungh Har, U Sai Lon Seng and U Shwe Kyein, Union Min-

isters Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, U Maung Maung Ohn, U Hla Moe, U Thaung Han, U Aung Naing Oo, Dr Nyunt Pe, U Min Thein Zan, U Myo Thant and U Saw Tun Aung Myint, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Phyo Thant and U Zaw Aye Maung. Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan, the commander of Northern Command and senior military

officers, the advocate-general of Kachin State and ethnic traditional cultural troupes welcomed them with a traditional dance.

First, SAC Member Jeng Phang Naw Taung read out the message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing on

the occasion of the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Kachin State Day.

Then, the state chief minister made a greeting speech and Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung handed over 100 solar home system panels (120 W) to him for the state government.

Afterwards, the SAC mem-

bers, Union ministers, the state chief minister and wife, the commander and wife, senior military officers, the chief justice of Kachin State High Court and wife, state cabinet members and wives, members of peace organizations, guests and other participants took part in the Manaw dance joyfully

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Public Notice for elimination of violence

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

Contestants invited for contests in marking International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

CONTESTS for short stories, articles, poems, songs, photos, computer posters, paintings, cartoons, posters, and computer paintings will be held in commemoration of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking which falls on 26 June 2023.

Invitations have been inserted in the daily newspapers.

Anyone interested in the contests can contact the Anti-Narcotic Police Force via phone number 067-3401748. — MNA/KZW

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of Service Organizations confirmed and appointed

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

Name	Appointment
(a) U Tin Ko Ko Naing	Director-General Social Security Board Ministry of Labour
(b) Dr Aye Aye Han	Rector Myingyan University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education

(2) The State Administration Council has appointed U Kyaw Yin Oo, deputy permanent secretary of the Minister's Office of the Ministry of Immigration and Population, as Director-General of the Department of Population under the same ministry on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Workshop on Myanmar's agriproducts access to Japanese market



The workshop on Myanmar's agriproducts access to the Japanese market is in progress.

A workshop on Myanmar's agriproducts access to the Japanese market was held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

It was organized by the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization of the Ministry of Commerce with the support of the ASEAN-Japan Centre.

Permanent Secretary U Min Min gave an opening speech and Dr Yuka Kubota, senior executive officer, on behalf of the secretary-general of the ASEAN-Japan Centre, greeted the workshop. The director-general and the director of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization explained the

objectives of the project implementation and the holding of the workshop.

Officials discussed potential agricultural products to be exported to the Japanese market. They viewed the booths where eggs, ginger, traditional medicines, vegetables and sesame were displayed. Representatives who grow, produce and export agricultural products to the Japanese market then put forward their experiences and answered the questions raised by attendees. They also discussed the advantages and disadvantages of entering the Japanese market.—MNA/TS

2 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 10 January, total figure rises to 633,726

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,726** after **two** new cases were reported on 10 January 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,165**, including **one** new recoveries.

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

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 health-care workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19

vaccines to 20,413 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 521 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, and 125 people from Taungoo Township in Bago Region, respectively.—MNA



Students from Amarapura Township in Mandalay Region are pictured waiting to get jabbed against COVID-19 on 10 January 2023.

Private sector and individual role – the main driving force for the State in the market economic system

ENCOURAGING MSMEs means encouraging the business centred on the private sector. The country is practising market economy and multiparty democracy. The private sector and individual role are the main driving force for the State in the market economic system.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of the MSME Development Central Committee Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 1/2022 of the central committee on 23 September 2022.)

SAC members, Union ministers participate ...

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at the same venue and took commemorative photos.

Myanmar regained independence on 4 January 1948 and the first session of the Kachin State Council Congress was held in Sitapu Manaw Ground on 10 January. The congress was attended by Myanmar's first president Sao Shwe Thaik who inaugurated the Manaw Pandal together with Prime Minister U Nu and that day was designated as Kachin State Day marking the formation of the Kachin State government. Since then, the commemoration of Kachin State Day has been held every year and it reaches 75 years or diamond jubilee this year.



SAC members, Union ministers, dignitaries and attendees pose for the documentary group photo at the event.



The 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Kachin State Day event is in progress yesterday.

Then, the Honorary Certificate/Award-Giving Ceremony in Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of Kachin State Day was held at the City Hall of Myitkyina.

First, the Kachin State chief minister explained the awarding of honorary titles and certificates and pledged that the Kachin State government

will make concerted efforts for all-round development upholding the Five-point Roadmap and Nine Objectives of the Government urging youths to serve duties for the stability, unity and development of the country as a national task.

Then, Kachin State Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Aung Kyi Lin reported

on the formation of working committees and reviews to select awards in line with the law.

SAC members Jeng Phang Naw Taung, U MOUNG HAR, U Sai Lon Seng and U Shwe Kye-in presented the awards for excellence in management (first) while Union Ministers the awards for excellence in management (second) and

(third), awards for excellence in business (first), (second) and (third) and certificates of honour and the Kachin State chief minister, the commander and deputy ministers the cash prizes and certificates of honour to the students who won in higher and basic education level essay and poem competitions.

At noon, the SAC members and party paid homage

to Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ketumala of the Wuntho Monastery at Ann Taw Shin Monastery of Myitkyina Township and donated rice bags and cooking oil.

Then, they went to St Kolanban Catholic Church in the Aungnan Ward of Myitkyina and cordially met pastors and the bishop and donated fruits and cash to the church. — State IPRD/KTZH



SAC members, Union ministers unveil Nyeinchanthaya swimming pool in commemoration of 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Kachin State Day



SAC members, Union ministers and officials view round the Nyeinchanthaya swimming pool in Myitkyina yesterday.

STATE Administration Council members and Union ministers opened the Nyeinchanthaya swimming pool, which was constructed in commemorating the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Kachin State Day, in Myitkyina.

SAC members Jeng Phang Naw Taung, U MOUNG HAR, U Sai Lon Seng, U Shwe Kyein, and Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, U Maung Maung Ohn, U Hla Moe, U Thaung Han, U Aung Naing Oo, Dr Nyunt Pe, U Min Thein Zan, U Myo Thant, U Saw Tun Aung Myint, Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Phyo Thant and U Zaw Aye Maung, officers from Tatmadaw, the chief justice of Kachin State High Court, ministers of the state government attended the ceremony.

Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan said that Kachin State should be proud to be the first to build and open a new indoor swimming pool out of all regions and states. State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan delivered a speech afterwards. Then, the documents and information regarding the swimming pool were handed over by the Myanmar Maker Home Company, which constructed the swimming pool, to the state minister for social affairs.

Next, SAC members and the state chief minister pressed the button to open the signboard.

The Nyeinchanthaya swimming pool, which was opened yesterday, is a 50-metre-long and 25-metre-wide international-level swimming pool with 10 swimming lanes. — State IPRD/KZW

Monitoring and evaluation workshop held for improved stove distribution project in South Asia, Southeast Asia

IN cooperation with Dry Zone Greening Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and Climate Change Centre (CCC) of the Republic of Korea, monitoring and evaluation workshop for improved cook stoves distribution project in developing countries of South Asia and Southeast Asia (Myanmar) was held under the CCC's plan at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

First, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi said that more than 70 per cent of Myanmar's total population lives in rural areas and uses firewood and charcoal as their main fuel, so the annual firewood demand of rural and urban people is about 17 million cubic tonnes (76 per cent of the total energy).

"The high demand for firewood is a major challenge faced in the implementation of the processes of ensuring the sustain-

ability of forest resources and the conservation of natural forest remnants and combating desertification," he said. "Since 1997, the Dry Zone Greening Department of Tropical Greenery has been able to distribute more than 742,000 improved cook stoves to people free of charge.

"We are cooperating with international organizations to speed up the distribution of improved cook stoves.

"In collaboration with the Climate Change Centre (CCC) of the Republic of Korea, 218,955 stoves were distributed during the two-year period of the project, and more than 385,000 tonnes of carbon emission were reduced," he added. Based on the monitoring and evaluation results during the project, officials need to make efforts to achieve better results, the Union minister urged.

Afterwards, officials explained the status of the project and read the research papers related to the use of improved cook stoves, and the attendees



The monitoring and evaluation workshop for improved cook stoves distribution project in developing countries in South Asia and Southeast Asia is in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

made suggestions.

This project is to reduce the consumption of firewood through the distribution of improved cook stoves and help preserve natural forests. Myanmar joins the United Nations Framework Convention

on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and is eligible to implement the United Nations - Clean Development Mechanism (UN-CDM) project to obtain the first emission reduction certificate - CER.

The deputy ministers, the

permanent secretary, the directors-general, representatives of the Republic of Korea, representatives from the Climate Change Centre (CCC), and related ministries attended the event. — MNA/KZL

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.

SAC members, Union ministers attend dinner to mark 75th Anniversary of Kachin State Day

THE honorary dinner for the 75th Anniversary of Kachin State Day was held on the lawn of the office of the State government yesterday.

SAC members Jeng Phang Naw Taung, U Moungh Har, U Sai Lon Seng, U Shwe Kyein and Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, U Maung Maung Ohn, U Hla Moe, U Thaung Han, U Aung Naing Oo, Dr Nyunt Pe, U Min Thein Zan, U Myo Thant, and U Saw Tun Aung Myint, State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan and wife, the commander of Northern Command and wife, deputy ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers, the chief justice of the Kachin State High Court, state cabinet members, state-level departmental officials and eth-



Ethnic traditional dance troupes entertain at the dinner to honour the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Kachin State Day yesterday.

nic traditional dance troupes attended the dinner.

The state chief minister highlighted that on the anni-

versary of Kachin State Day, national brethren would show their unity and make concerted efforts for the all-round develop-

ment of the nation and Kachin State.

Ethnic traditional dance troupes entertained during the

dinner and SAC members and Union ministers gave them honorary cash awards. —MNA/KZW

MoHT Union Minister attends 3rd Hybrid Seminar on Enhancing Understanding of Service Providers for Japanese Travellers



Union Minister Dr Htay Aung attends the Myanmar-China Tourism Promotion meeting in Yangon yesterday.

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism organized the third Hybrid Seminar on Enhancing the Understanding of Service Providers for Japanese Travellers at Kalaw Hilltop Villa Hotel in Kalaw Township yesterday. The seminar is part of the implementation of the

National Activity Project-2022 by the ministry supported by the ASEAN-Japan Centre.

Union Minister Dr Htay Aung delivered an opening speech online. In his speech, the Union Minister said the providers will offer better services in the

future after understanding the customs, traditions, living styles and nature of Japanese travellers and the ministry will keep working for National Activity 2023 of the ASEAN-Japan Centre.

Then, senior executive officer Dr Yuka Kubota of the ASE-

AN-Japan Centre also made an opening speech and officials of the centre and Japanese tourism experts coordinated the discussion.

The Union minister attended the Myanmar-China Tourism Promotion meeting held in Yangon in the same evening.

At the meeting, the Union minister said the China tourism market is a potential and reliable market for Myanmar. At the discussion with the secretary-general of the Myanmar Promotion Centre based in Chongqing of the People's Republic of China held in Nay Pyi Taw last December, the matters related to China-Myanmar Investment Forum, the China-Myanmar Cultural Tourism Expo and the Lancang-Mekong

Tourism Partnership City Week Programme were discussed, and the ministry and tourism associations were invited to participate in China-Myanmar Cultural Tourism Expo and China-Myanmar Promotion Centre. The country can grab a chance to advertise tourist destinations to entire China areas in addition to Chongqing.

Then, the Yangon Region Economic Affairs minister, the first secretary of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, and the president of the Myanmar Tourism Federation discussed matters related to the participation of cultural tourism expo.

Afterwards, the Union minister concluded the meeting. —MNA/KTZH

Daily newspapers available online

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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.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Weekly market update of dry groceries

THE prices of palm oil, chilli pepper, garlic, onion and potato climbed at Bayintnaung Wholesale Market in Yangon for a week ending 10 January 2023.

Onion

Bayintnaung Wholesale Market saw the entry of 150,000 visses of new onions on 10 January 2023. The prices moved in the range of K1,900 and K2,650 per viss depending on the quality, size and producing areas (Myingyan and Myittha).

On 10 January, the price of onions from the Myittha area hit the highest of K2,200 per viss in the Mandalay market, while those from the Pakokku area also fetched K2,200 per viss with the supply of 60,000 visses. The demand for onions from Myingyan is higher than those from Myittha areas in Yangon markets.

Garlic

The wholesale price of the Kyukok garlic variety was approximately K3,650 per viss on 10 January 2023, while the local garlic from Shan State (Aungban) fetched K4,300-K5,500 per viss.

Potato

Low supply pushed up the prices of potatoes to K2,400 per viss of old Chinese potatoes and K2,100 per viss of new Chinese potatoes, while the prices of Shan potatoes moved in the range between K1,800 and K2,100 per viss.

Chilli pepper

The wholesale prices of chilli peppers were K17,000 per viss of Shan long chilli pepper and K14,000 for the Moehtaung variety. The prices of bell peppers were moved in the range between K17,000 per viss for (Sinphyu and Chinese varieties).

Rice

The new rice price edged up in the domestic market. On 10 January 2023, new low-grade rice was valued at K44,000-K56,000 per bag. The new Pawsan rice prices stood at K63,000-K72,000 per bag.

The old Pawsan rice prices moved in the range between K65,000-K99,000 per bag depending on the producing areas.

Palm oil

The wholesale reference price of palm oil in the Yangon Region this week was up by K70 per viss compared to the last week's price. The reference price for a week from 9 to 15 January 2023 was set at K4,530 per viss.

Consequently, the wholesale prices of palm oil rose to K6,100 per viss on 9 January 2023, indicating an increase of K1,000 within one week. However, the demand was extremely low, making the sellers reduce the price, said a seller at Nyaungpinlay market in Yangon city.

Pulses

The prices of various pulses stood at over K1,645,000 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K1,845,000 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC), K1,770,000 per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) RC, K4,300-K4,500 per viss of chickpea and K2,800-K2,920 per viss of green gram (Kayan Shwe Wah variety) in Yangon markets.—TWA/EMM



Lorries laden with cargoes are seen at the China's Ruili border crossing.

Covid-free certificate needed for inbound travellers from Ruili border

THE Chinese Embassy in Myanmar announced that inbound people from the Ruili border do not need to show a health code, but are required only to show Covid-19 negative test result certificate taken within 48 hours.

The inbound truck drivers can enter the country

by notifying the information about drivers and vehicles to the Customs Department in advance, according to the statement.

China implements the level "B" management and control of the COVID-19 cases and there will no longer be Covid-19 rules and regulations

for inbound people and goods, said the statement.

The traffic crossing resumed at the Ruili crossing of the China-Myanmar border, the Hokho Nanxi River post of the China-Viet Nam border and the Mohan crossing of the China-Laos border on 8 January.—TWA/MKKS

Action taken against 580 YBS buses

ACTION has been taken against 580 YBS buses that failed to follow traffic rules and they will be disallowed



YBS buses are pictured at the Yangon city centre.

to fill CNG, according to YRTC.

By using telematics devices and CCTVs, YRTC is watching the buses whether they run along the designated routes or they exceed the speed limit. The action was taken against the buses that broke traffic rules.

YRTC supervised 20 YBS companies, including 136 YBS lines with 3,500 buses, and YRTC inspection teams en-

sured that YBS buses do not overtake one another and taxis do not stop at YBS bus stops.

YRTC vice-chairman U Chit Ko Ko elaborated that drivers will be selected and sent to Thailand to study Thailand's city bus operation and arrangements are underway for YRTC to become the safe and good transport service for the public in 2023.—TWA/MKKS

New rice price moves up, old rice price hovers unchanged

THE prices of new rice were up by K2,000 per bag on 9 January 2023, yet the old rice prices remained stable.

On 9 January 2023, the prices of new low-grade rice moved in the range between K44,000-K55,000 per bag depending on varieties (Thukha, Pawkywe and rice grown under intercropping system). The prices of

old short-mature rice (90 days) were K52,000-54,000 per bag.

The prices of high-grade Pawsan varieties were K63,000-K72,000 per bag depending on producing areas (Shwebo, Pathein, Myaungmya and Pyapon areas). The prices of paddy stood at K1.56-K1.6 million per 100-basket for the Pawsan variety, K1.62-K1.65 million for

Taungpyan, K1.23-K1.27 million for short matured rice (90 days), K1.17-1.2 million for Nankar and K1.15-K1.17 million for Ngasein.

The new low-grade rice fetches K45,000 per bag amid the rice loading onto the ships and the rise in global rice prices. The demand for old Pawsan rice will continue until the upcoming Thingyan Festival which

falls in April. Moreover, some consumers store the stocks of new Pawsan rice for the whole year. The prevailing price is like a floor price. The price difference between old and new Pawsan rice has been narrow.

The consumers had concerns over the possible rice price volatility in mid-2022. Otherwise, traders are also worried about

a decrease in profit unlike mid-2022. The consumer sentiment over inflation diverges from the profit and loss concerns of the traders. Thus, governance on the market to fix reasonable rice and paddy prices is requisite for the rice market, a market observer pointed out in his interview with the Global New Light of Myanmar.—TWA/EMM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar food processing businesses submit more than 2,200 applications to GACC over one year

A total of 1,242 Myanmar food processing companies and factories submitted over 2,200 applications to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) over one year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

According to GACC Decree 248 and 249, GACC registration is mandatory for food exporters starting from 1 January 2023.

Those individuals executing in 18 commodity groups; edible oil, oilseeds, stuffed pastry products, edible bird's nest and related products, edible grains, grains milling industrial products and malt, fresh and dehydrated vegetables, dried beans, plant species, nuts and seeds, dried fruits, unroasted coffee and cocoa bean, special dietary food excluding milk-based formula, functional

foods, bee products, aquatic products including farm products, animal products and animal feed and livestock animals businesses need to apply for GACC license to place their goods in China's market.

The relevant authorities for the registration with GACC are the Agriculture Department, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Fisheries Department and the Food and Drug Administration.

Between 1 December 2021 and 6 January 2023, 2,233 applications by 1,242 factories have been forwarded to the GACC through the Agriculture Department (2,094 applications), the Fisheries Department (118), the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (12) and the Food and Drug Administration Department (9).

Exporters can directly ac-



A consumer is seen shopping at the retail centre.

cess China International Trade Single Window through <https://cifer.singlewindow.cn> by creating accounts for those food groups which are not listed

on those aforementioned 18 groups.

As of 30 December 2022, 1,772 applications for the commodity groups presented

with recommendations of the competent authorities and submitted in person have been approved by the GACC. - NN/EMM

Myawady-Maesot Friendship Bridge I slated to reopen on 12 Jan



The Myawady-Maesot Friendship Bridge I is seen yet to open.

MYAWADY-MAESOT Friendship Bridge I is scheduled to be reopened on 12 January 2023, traders from the border area said.

According to Thailand's media outlet, a ceremony to reopen the bridge will be convened by Myanmar officials and Thailand counterparts at 9:30 am on 12 January 2023.

In recent days, officials con-

cerned held a meeting regarding the resumption of bridge activity in Tak Province. After a series of negotiations, Thailand's authority notified the people of the reopening of the bridge.

The Immigration Office in Myawady has been issuing border pass document services from 9 January 2023 to go to Maesot.

For a border pass document,

Myawady residents can apply for it by presenting a citizenship scrutiny card, household registration and three pictures of the licence photo size.

That bridge is the major border trading route between Myanmar and Thailand. COVID-19 cases shut down the border crossing on 23 March 2020. The border trade activity is therefore being carried out at Bridge II. Yet the travellers are not allowed to pass the bridge.

Additionally, sending Myanmar migrant workers to Thailand under an MoU system has been implemented via Bridge II, causing some difficulties for the returnees.

To have smooth transport, attempts were made previously to reopen the Bridge I. However, it has been closed down for nearly three years amid coronavirus infections in both countries. It will be reopened soon.

After reopening the bridge, it will bring about job opportunities for locals and freight forwarders.—NN/EMM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 10 January 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K1,995
Octane 95	K2,060
Diesel	K2,255
Premium Diesel	K2,335

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,204,000 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,790,000 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

Help each other develop all regions and states

ALL ethnic national people have been residing together in Myanmar since yore and standing tall among other countries across the world by sharing the future through thick and thin. The Kachin State is home to more than 1.7 million population comprising Kachin ethnics such as Kachin, Htarom, Dalang, Jingphaw, Gawri, Khakhu, Dulan, Lawwaw, Rawang, Larcheid, Zaiwah and Lisu together with Shan ethnics namely Tailay, Tailai, Tailon, Taisa and Taikhamti and Bamar ethnic and other ethnics amicably.

The Kachin State endowed with pleasant scenes and plentiful natural resources has not been enjoying the natural beauties and has not effectively utilized national resources in the development tasks of the state till today because of armed conflicts. Only when the area is peaceful and stable with the prevalence of law and order will it successfully implement the development projects.

All stakeholders in the Kachin State and the entire ethnic national people should harmoniously strive for serving the interests of the nation with a united strength based on the national spirit but anybody or any organization individually cannot achieve success.

As all ethnic national people residing together in the nation, they all have to help each other for undertaking the development of relevant regions and states. If so, all regions and states will improve on equal terms. Consequently, they all will have the chance to march to the goal together.

With regard to the Union based on a democratic system and federalism, entire ethnic national people are living in the Union together through thick and thin under the administrative system the ethnic national people of the Union choose, and they all shall have the right of self-administration under the relevant constitutions of regions and states. If so, a genuine discipline-flourishing multiparty democratic system will come out.

As all ethnic national people residing together in the nation, they all have to help each other for undertaking the development of relevant regions and states. If so, all regions and states will improve on equal terms. Consequently, they all will have the chance to march to the goal together.

What is homestead livestock farming?

IT IS a lifestyle where you have your home plus a farm or operate a farmhouse, to plant and keep animals for the homeowner's basic sustenance needs and create an additional income at the same time. In a country such as Myanmar, where the population density is low and most of the people own land outside of their own primary dwelling in the city, homestead farming may be a profitable lifestyle for many, assuming things are done the right way.

In an era, where the country itself is trying for self-sufficiency in essentials and reducing \$ outflow through non-essential import reductions, home-based livestock farming might kill two birds with one stone, serving both personal as well as the country's agenda.

How do we generate cash flows from livestock farming?

Obviously, homestead farming is supposed to generate income from both plants and animals. Agricultural income or income from the sale of plant produce (fruits and vegetables) may not be substantial to augment one's income unless the land area is sufficiently large. Fruits and vegetables also suf-

fer from short shelf lives. In a country where logistics facilities are below par and cold rooms facilities and electricity is haphazard and irregular, the perishability risk may not be worth taking.

Homestead Farming

By U A C

fer from short shelf lives. In a country where logistics facilities are below par and cold rooms facilities and electricity is haphazard and irregular, the perishability risk may not be worth taking.

With livestock, the revenue can be generated in four distinct ways:

1. Animal produce, such as eggs, milk, etc.
2. Production of offspring
3. Sale of meat.
4. Growth of the animal.

All of the above have significantly fewer perishability risks than fruits and vegetables.

The obvious benefits of livestock farming include having a hedge against inflation, the price of meat and animal produce having a market price

(hence unlikely to get exploited) and the fact that demand or a ready buyer is always there. You will never encounter the problem of not being able to sell your meat or produce.

What animals would be best?

Typical livestock in Myanmar include cows, goats, pigs, chickens, ducks, geese, etc. The choice of your livestock depends on a number of variables:

1. Initial outlay: A couple of breeding-age cows might cost you nearly \$1,000 yet the chicken couple would not set you back by more than \$10. Baby goats and piglets are normally priced at around \$50 per animal.
2. Feed costs: Feed costs also vary depending on the type of growth expectations. Cows

er.

5. Resale Value: With the birds, we are playing the volume game. With the cows, pigs and goats, the resale value of the adults matters a lot in income for the homestead.

What are the dangers that we should watch out?

On the surface, it seems the livestock business is easy and profitable. Clearly, it is not wrong, yet we must understand the risks, just like in any other business. The most critical of them is the risk of dying from diseases. Livestock keeping is profitable as long as the animals do not die. A baby pig cost around \$50. Four months later, the adult pig it has become, can be sold for nearly \$200, provided it does not die during these four months.

The second factor is the season and the weather that surround the homestead. For example, goats especially do not like wet weather conditions. They suffer from all kinds of diseases during the rainy season. That's why most of the goat farming took place in the central belt dry region of Myanmar.

The third is the breeding complications. The vets in Myanmar may not be that well trained to ensure the maximum survival of both the mother and the offspring. The youngsters

also need special feed that needs to be bought.

Another matter to consider is staffing and housing for animals. We need reasonably experienced staff to take good care of the livestock as well as appropriate housing to accommodate them.

Last but not least, we have to realize that animal diseases do spread very quickly and you may lose the entire batch of livestock if diseases strike. It might be worthwhile to consider not keeping just one type of livestock in large numbers in one farm location.

How do we start?

We must first consider the available land size, region and weather in that particular area. Then we work out the initial outlay we can afford considering the type of animal, housing needs and manpower requirements. The key to the whole livestock farming is starting up. You start small, gather experience and expand.

It could be a welcoming and fun family activity for everyone and at the same time, a highly-rewarding small business activity for those who are willing to take the responsibility of caring for the animals seriously.

Rate of scientific breakthroughs slowing over time: study



Thanks to decades of research and innovation, mRNA vaccine technology was ready. With COVID, this technology got its moment and has proven to be extremely safe and effective. **PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/ PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION/AFP**

THE rate of ground-breaking scientific discoveries and technological innovation is slowing down despite an ever-growing amount of knowledge, according to an analysis released Wednesday of millions of research papers and patents.

While previous research has shown downturns in individual disciplines, the study is the first that "emphatically, convincingly documents this decline of disruptiveness across all major fields of science and technology," lead author Michael Park told AFP.

Park, a doctoral student at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management, called disruptive discoveries those that "break away from existing ideas" and "push the whole scientific field into new territory."

A "disruptiveness score"

The researchers gave a "disruptiveness score" to 45 million scientific papers dating from 1945 to 2010, and to 3.9 million US-based patents from 1976 to 2010.

From the start of those time ranges, research papers and patents have been increasingly likely to consolidate or build upon previous knowledge, according to results published in the journal Nature.

The ranking was based on how the papers were cited in other studies five years after publication, assuming that the more disruptive the research was, the less its predecessors would be cited.

The biggest decrease in disruptive research came in physical sciences such as physics and chemistry.

"The nature of research is shifting" as incremental innovations become more common, senior study author Russell Funk said.

Burden of knowledge

One theory for the decline is that all the "low-hanging fruit" of science has already been plucked.

If that were the case, disruptiveness in various scientific fields would have fallen at different speeds, Park said.

But instead "the declines are pretty consistent in their speeds and timing across all major fields," Park said, indicating that the low-hanging fruit theory is not likely to be the culprit.

Instead, the researchers pointed to what has been dubbed "the burden of research," which suggests there is now so much that scientists must learn to master a particular field they have little time left to push boundaries.

This causes scientists and inventors to "focus on a narrow slice of the existing knowledge, leading them to just come up with something more consolidating rather than disruptive," Park said.

SOURCE: AFP

High BP drug holds promise for treating PTSD: Research

ACCORDING to new research, a blood pressure medication that has been used for 50 years may now be useful as a treatment to lessen the frequently fatal symptoms of PTSD, which is becoming more and more common. Clonidine is frequently prescribed for ADHD and high blood pressure. Because clonidine affects the brain's adrenergic receptors, which are probably best recognized for their part in the "fight-or-flight" response, a heightened state of alertness that aids in keeping us safe, it has also been researched in PTSD. These receptors may play a part in the consolidation of traumatic memory and are hypothesized to be active in PTSD.

Promise in PTSD

Clonidine's sister drug guan-



facine, which also activates these receptors, also has been studied in PTSD. Conflicting results from the clinical trials have clonidine, which has shown promise in PTSD, put aside along with guanfacine, which has not. Scientists at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University say it's time for another look at clonidine. They have laboratory evidence that while the two drugs bind to the same receptors, they do different things there, says Qin Wang, MD, PhD, neuropharmacologist and founding director of the Programme for Alzheimer's Therapeutics Discovery at MCG. Their results published in the journal Molecular Psychiatry suggest that clonidine could

provide immediate treatment to the significant number of people emerging from the current pandemic with PTSD, as well as from longer-established causes like wars and other violence.

Large-scale clinical trials of clonidine in PTSD are warranted, the scientists write. Their studies also indicate that other new therapies could be identified by looking at the impact on the activation of a key protein called cofillin by existing drugs.

Large-scale clinical trials

The new studies looked at genetically modified mice as well as neurons that came from human stem cells, which have the capacity to make many cell types.

SOURCE: ANI

SCI/TECH/ENVIRON WORLD

Last 8 years warmest on record globally: EU climate monitor

THE last eight years were the warmest on record even with the cooling influence of a La Nina weather pattern since 2020, the European Union's climate monitoring service said Tuesday.

Average temperatures across 2022 — which saw a cascade of unprecedented natural disasters made more likely and deadly by climate change — make it the fifth warmest year since records began in the 19th century, according to the Copernicus Climate Change Service.

Pakistan and northern India were scorched by a two-month spring heatwave with sustained temperatures well above 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit), followed in Pakistan by flooding that covered a third of the country.

France, Britain, Spain and Italy set new average temper-



This picture taken in Loireauxence, western France on 20 September 2022 shows a bridge over the dried out Loire River bed. This summer was France's second-hottest on record with average temperatures 2.3C above the norm, a slew of large-scale wildfires which ravaged much of the southwest and widespread drought as well as several severe storms. **PHOTO: AFP**

ature records for 2022, with Europe as a whole enduring its second hottest year ever, Copernicus said in an annual report.

Heatwaves across the continent were compounded by severe drought conditions.

European temperatures have increased by more than

twice the global average over the past 30 years, with the region showing the highest rate of increase of any continent on the globe.— AFP

Major hydrogen power test centre starts operation in southwest China

NATIONAL Hydrogen Power Quality Inspection and Testing Centre, an organization dedicated to boosting the development of China's hydrogen fuel-cell vehicle industry, started operation Monday in Chongqing Municipality.

With a total investment of 500 million yuan (73.9 million US dollars), the centre covers an area of 190 mu (around 12.67 hectares) with labs for hydrogen-powered vehicles, hydrogen fuel cells, and power assembly.

It can provide testing services for the whole industrial chain, including hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, critical auto parts, and hydrogen quality.— Xinhua

Indian capital puts curbs on vehicles amid severe air pollution

THE air pollution level in the Indian capital territory New Delhi on Monday became severe, prompting local authorities to put curbs on some vehicles until Friday, local media reported.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the overall air quality index (AQI) turned severe at 444.

"The AQI in Delhi at 8:00 pm (local time) today was recorded at 444," data released by CPCB said. "The air quality is very poor and prominent pollutants are PM 2.5 and PM 10."

Experts say PM 2.5 are fine particles that are 2.5 microns or less in diameter and can travel deep into the respiratory tract, reaching the lungs and entering the bloodstream.

Meanwhile, the local government in view of the worsening air quality in Delhi has decided to impose a temporary ban on plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel vehicles in the national capital from Tuesday.

The BS is the short form of Bharat Stage, a government-instituted emission standard for

four-wheelers. Keeping in view the severe category of Delhi's AQI, health experts have advised residents to stop outdoor activity in the early morning and after sunset times, besides avoiding prolonged or heavy exertion.

As per CPCB, AQI between 0 - 50 is considered "good", between 51 - 100 "satisfactory", between 101 - 200 "moderate", between 201 - 300 "poor", between 301 - 400 "very poor", and between 401 - 500 "severe" and beyond 500 is severe plus emergency.— Xinhua

Historic UK rocket mission ends in failure

AN attempt to launch the first rocket into orbit from UK soil ended in failure on Tuesday, with scientists reporting an "anomaly" as it neared its goal.

A Virgin Orbit Boeing 747 carrying the 70-foot (21-metre) rocket took off from a spaceport in Cornwall, southwest England, at 2202 GMT.

The rocket then detached from the aircraft and ignited as planned at a height of 35,000 feet over the Atlantic Ocean to the south of Ireland at around 2315 GMT.

But in a series of tweets as the rocket was due to enter orbit and discharge its nine satellites, Virgin Orbit said: "We appear to have an anomaly that has prevented us from reaching orbit. We are evaluating the information."

"As we find out more, we're removing our previous tweet about reaching orbit. We'll share more info when we can."

The aircraft returned as planned to a subdued Spaceport Cornwall, a consortium that includes Virgin Orbit and the UK Space Agency, at Corn-

wall Airport Newquay.

The launch was the first from UK soil. UK-produced satellites have previously had to be sent into orbit via foreign spaceports.

Had the mission been successful, the UK would have been one of only nine countries that could launch craft into Earth's orbit.

"Joining that really exclusive club of launch nations is so important because it gives us our own access to space... that we've never had before here in the UK," Spaceport Cornwall chief Melissa Thorpe told BBC television before the launch.

Hundreds of people watched the launch, named "Start Me Up" after the Rolling Stones song.

The satellites were to have a variety of civil and defence functions, from sea monitoring to help countries detect people smugglers to space weather observation.

The number of space bases in Europe has grown in recent years due to the commercialization of space.— AFP

UNEP says ozone layer recovery on track

RECOVERY of the ozone layer could be realized in the next four decades amid rapid phase-out of chemicals that are responsible for depleting this sensitive part of the atmosphere, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said Monday.

Citing an assessment report from a UN-backed panel of experts, the UNEP said that

nearly 99 per cent of banned ozone-depleting substances had been phased out, amid a boost to planetary health and climate resilience.

"The Montreal Protocol has thus succeeded in safeguarding the ozone layer, leading to notable recovery of the ozone layer in the upper stratosphere and decreased human exposure

to harmful ultraviolet rays from the sun," the UNEP said in a statement issued in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.

Megumi Seki, executive secretary of UNEP's Ozone Secretariat, hailed the accelerating recovery of the ozone layer, adding that it will inject vitality into the global response to climate change.— Xinhua

China Covid surge not expected to ‘significantly impact’ Europe: WHO

THE World Health Organization said on Tuesday it did not expect a surge of Covid-19 cases in China to “significantly impact” the situation in Europe.

“The ongoing surge in China is not anticipated to significantly impact the Covid-19 epidemiological situation in the WHO European Region at this time,” Hans Kluge, WHO’s Europe director, told a press conference.

But, he stressed, “we cannot be complacent”.

China’s hospitals have been overwhelmed by an explosion in cases since Beijing began unwinding hardline controls that had torpedoed the economy and sparked nationwide protests.

The WHO’s European re-

gion comprises 53 countries and includes Russia and countries in Central Asia.

The regional director also said it was “not unreasonable for countries to take precautionary measures to protect their populations” but called for such measures “to be rooted in science, to be proportionate and non-discriminatory”.

More than a dozen countries have slapped fresh travel regulations on travellers from China.

A group of European Union experts last week “strongly encouraged” the bloc’s 27 member states to demand Covid tests from people on flights from China and conduct random tests on arrivals.— AFP



A researcher conducts medical tests at a workshop of Youcare Pharmaceutical Group in Beijing during a media tour organized by the State Council Information Office (SCIO) on 10 January 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Big Tech sued by Seattle schools over mental health ‘crisis’

THE public school district in the US city of Seattle has filed a lawsuit against big tech companies for allegedly causing mental harm, depression and anxiety among students.

The complaint, which was filed on Friday, targets Meta-owned Facebook and Instagram, but also Google, Snapchat, YouTube as well as

Chinese-owned TikTok.

Public school officials said they are “holding social media companies accountable for the harm they have wreaked on the social, emotional, and mental health” of students.

“The increase in suicides, attempted suicides, and mental-health related emergency

room visits is no coincidence,” a statement said.

Local and state governments in the United States have increasingly gone out on their own to fight big tech companies as nationwide action remains blocked by a politically divided US congress and successful lobbying by big tech firms.—AFP

Role of traditional Chinese medicine highlighted in COVID-19 treatment protocol

CHINA’S latest diagnosis and treatment protocol for COVID-19 fully reflects the valuable experience of using Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in the treatment of severe and critical cases, according to a health official.

The new protocol introduces targeted TCM treatments for severe cases, and puts forward relatively complete therapeutic TCM solutions for children, said Jia Zhongwu from the national TCM administration at a Monday press conference.

It clarifies the COVID-19 symptoms of child patients at different stages of infection, and gives corresponding TCM



Pharmacists prepare Chinese herbal medicine at the Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital of Sanya City in Sanya, south China’s Hainan province, 20 August 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA

prescriptions and medicine instructions, Jia said.

The 10th edition of the diagnosis and treatment protocol

for COVID-19 was issued on Friday, and it now treats COVID-19 as a conventional Class-B infectious disease. — Xinhua

Urban leafy areas help to protect heart health: study

A new study led by the University of New South Wales (UNSW Sydney) has found that urban reforestation can be a population-level intervention to protect cardiovascular health, especially for people living in houses.

“We find that people living in houses are more likely to benefit from living closer to trees and tree canopies — for their heart in particular,” Xiaoqi Feng, lead author and professor from the UNSW Sydney said on Tuesday. “This could reduce the risk of developing heart attack and heart disease-related mortality.”

After examining over 100,000 Australian adults living in apartments or houses, investigating nearby green space and analyzing 10 years of hospitalization and death data, the researchers concluded that for those living in houses, a 10 per cent increase in total green space was associated with a three-per-cent lower risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) mortality.

Meanwhile, according to their study published in the Heart, Lung and Circulation journal, a 10 per cent increase in tree canopy cover was linked

to reduced risks of all-cause mortality, CVD mortality, and fatal or non-fatal acute myocardial infarction (AMI).

However, not all green space was equally beneficial, as an increase in open grass was followed by a rising risk of fatal or non-fatal AMI in residents of houses. For those living in apartments, green space wasn’t associated with better cardiovascular health outcomes, which made the researchers call for more research in this area.

“One reason is that apartments are normally quite dense and may be even crowded. So you can imagine that if you plant the same number of trees in a low-density area and then a high-density area, the ratio of trees to people changes,” Feng said.

As green space remains important in urban planning, particularly given the challenges posed by climate change and city crowding, Feng believed that people should learn more about the type and quality of green space surrounding every apartment block, in a bid to ensure everyone has the opportunity to benefit from nature. —Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Markets drift as rate fears sap China-fuelled rally



A man walks past a computer screen showing South Korea's benchmark stock index during a ceremony celebrating the New Year's opening of the South Korea stock market at the Korea Exchange in Seoul on 2 January 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Signs that officials are taking a lighter approach to tech firms after a long-running crackdown have also provided support.

However, sentiment is still closely linked to the outlook for US monetary policy as the Federal Reserve battles to bring inflation down from four-decade highs.

A recent run of soft data suggesting the world's top economy is slowing has provided hope the bank will be able to decelerate the pace of rate hikes and avert a recession.

Still, policymakers remain determined to keep lifting borrowing costs until they achieve their goal of two per cent inflation, from the current 7.1 per cent. In the latest salvo, San Francisco Fed boss Mary Daly said rates would likely go above five per cent before the policy board decides to stop lifting, while Atlanta Fed president Raphael Bostic tipped a similar level but added that they would not be changed for "a long time". — AFP

ASIAN and European markets were mixed Tuesday as growing optimism over China's economic reopening was offset by warnings that US interest rates will continue to rise and stay elevated for some time.

After a torrid 2022, equities have enjoyed a broadly strong start to the new year thanks largely to Beijing's decision

to throw off the shackles of its strict zero-Covid policy, which battered the economy.

And while there are concerns about the short-term impact of soaring infections across the country, investors are growing increasingly confident thanks to government pledges of support, including for the troubled property sector.

Japan's Nov household spending falls 1.2%, 1st decline in 6 months

JAPAN'S household spending in November fell a real 1.2 per cent from a year earlier for the first decline in six months, as warm temperatures dented demand for winter-related clothing and goods, the government said Tuesday.

Households of two or more people spent an average of 285,947 yen (\$2,200), the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications said. On a seasonally adjusted basis, spending declined a real 0.9 per cent from October.

By category, spending on clothing and footwear dropped 9.3 per cent, down for the first time in nine months, as warmer-than-usual weather weakened demand for winter clothes such as coats, a ministry official said.

Outlays on furniture and household goods such as futon bedding dropped 5.2 per cent from a year earlier.



People cross a street in downtown Tokyo on 18 November 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Expenditure on food and beverage items including alcohol decreased 2.9 per cent, affected by weakening demand for alcoholic drinks following their price hikes in October, the official said.

Meanwhile, spending on entertainment expanded 7.4 per cent, as the soccer World Cup

in Qatar held in November to December stirred purchases of new televisions and sportswear, according to the official.

On a nominal basis, spending was up 3.2 per cent from a year earlier, up for the eighth straight month, reflecting the impact of inflation. — Kyodo

Bankrupt Sri Lanka says treasury running dry, cuts spending

BANKRUPT Sri Lanka announced on Tuesday sharp government spending cuts and warned it had barely enough revenue to pay public salaries and pensions despite huge tax hikes.

The island nation has defaulted on its \$46 billion public debt and is negotiating an International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout after an unprecedented economic crisis last year brought widespread misery.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe ordered a five per cent reduction in state

spending this week and his administration warned Tuesday that welfare payments for 1.8 million families below the poverty line could be delayed this month.

"The president informed the cabinet yesterday that the economic crisis this year is going to be worse than what we expected," government spokesman Bandula Gunawardana told reporters. Gunawardana said the government expected the economy to contract further this year after shrinking an estimated 8.7 per cent in 2022. — AFP

Philippines' external trade up 3.6% in November

THE Philippines' total external trade in goods rose by 3.6 per cent in November 2022 to 17.88 billion US dollars, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said on Tuesday.

Of the total external trade in November, the agency said 60.3 per cent were imported goods, while the rest were exported goods.

The balance of trade amounted to -3.68 billion dollars, indicating a trade deficit with an annual decrease of 21.9 per cent, the PSA added.

China remained the Philippines' highest supplier of imported goods, and contributed the fourth highest export value in November last year. — Xinhua

Trade through China-Cambodia jointly invested special economic zone up 12% last year

THE value of imports and exports passing through the China-Cambodia jointly invested Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone (SSEZ) reached 2.49 billion US dollars in 2022, a year-on-year increase of 12 per cent, SSEZ General Manager Cao Jianjiang told Xinhua on Tuesday.

Cao said the 11-square-kilometre industrial zone has accommodated 175 companies from China, the United States, Europe, Southeast Asia and other regions, creating nearly 30,000 jobs. "The growth last year clearly reflects the resilience of the zone's development, which has steadily contributed

to Cambodia's socioeconomic development," he said.

Situated in the southwestern coastal province of Preah Sihanouk, the SSEZ is the country's largest industrial zone in terms of size and occupancy.

The Cambodian Ministry of Commerce's Undersecretary of State and Spokesman Penn Sovicheat said the SSEZ is a perfect example of win-win cooperation under the framework of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative. "The SSEZ has provided a lot of jobs to Cambodian workers and served as a role model for the cluster industries and as a base for exports," he told Xinhua. — Xinhua

UK retailers boosted by higher Christmas prices: data



Shoppers, carrying bags, wait for the bus in central London, during the bank holiday sales, on 27 December 2022. PHOTO: AFP

BRITISH retailers won a boost from higher prices over the key Christmas trading period but the volume of goods sold slumped as sky-high inflation hits broader buying, data revealed Tuesday. Revenue jumped almost seven per cent in December from a year earlier largely thanks to surging food prices, according to a survey by the British Retail Consortium (BRC) and financial firm KPMG.

“The rise in sales masked a much larger drop in volumes once inflation is accounted for,” a statement said. December marked

the ninth month in a row of falling volumes.

By contrast, retail revenue rose 3.1 per cent last month compared with December 2021, the data showed. “After an exceptionally challenging year which saw inflation climb and consumer confidence plummet, the uptick in spending over Christmas gave many retailers cause for cheer,” said BRC chief executive Helen Dickinson.

“Retail faces further headwinds in 2023. Cost pressures show little immediate signs of waning, and consumer spending will be further constrained by increasing living costs.”

UK inflation dipped last month to 10.7 per cent but remains close to 40-year highs, forcing consumers to switch to cheaper products.—AFP

Rising costs, labour shortage top concerns for global businesses: survey

LABOUR shortage, staff retention and rising costs are the top three concerns for business owners, according to an international survey published on Tuesday. Rising costs have concerned more than 70 per cent of global businesses in major economies surveyed, said David Price, CEO at Employsure New Zealand, adding this will be a challenging year for many businesses.

Peninsula Group conducted a survey of 79,000 businesses across

New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Ireland and Britain to see what the top priorities and concerns were for employers in 2023.

Growth is the main business goal for 58.6 per cent of employers in all five countries, the survey showed. However, the current recession is having an impact on businesses in Britain and Ireland, with 38.4 per cent and 34.7 per cent respectively listing survival as their main goal for the year.—Xinhua

Malaysia's palm oil stocks fall 4.09% month on month in December

MALAYSIA, the world's second largest palm oil producer, reported lower palm oil stocks last December, official data showed Tuesday. According to the Malaysian Palm Oil Board, Malaysia's palm oil stocks fell 4.09 per cent to 2.19 million tonnes in December 2022 from a month earlier.

Meanwhile, crude palm oil production in the country slipped 3.68 per cent month on month to 1.62 million tonnes. Palm oil exports, on the other hand, dropped by 3.48 per cent month on month to 1.47 million tonnes.

Palm oil imports, however, grew 0.14 per cent month on month to 47,114 tonnes.—Xinhua

Ministry of Energy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (189N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (189N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-1-2023** 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:

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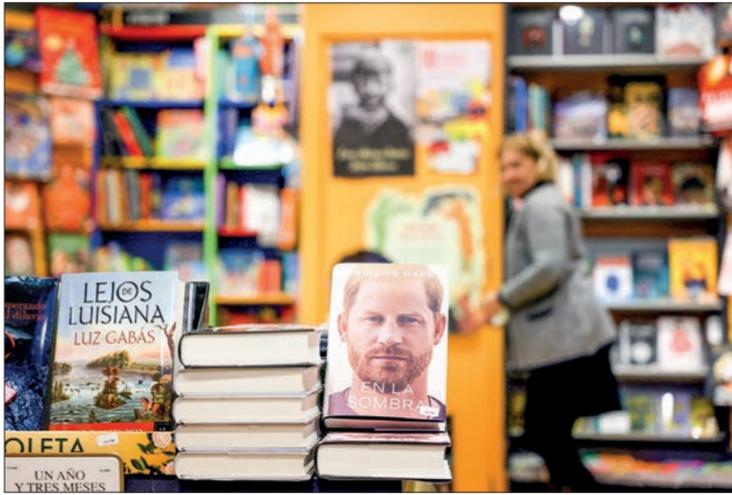
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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

After hype and controversy, Prince Harry's memoir goes on sale



Copies of "En la sombra" (In the shadow), Spanish version of the book "Spare", an autobiography by Britain's Prince Harry, are displayed in a bookstore in Madrid on 10 January 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

AFTER months of anticipation and a blanket publicity blitz, Prince Harry's autobiography "Spare" went on sale Tuesday as royal insiders hit back at his scorching revelations.

The royal family led by King Charles III and his heir, Harry's elder brother William, have maintained a studied silence as painful details from the book and a round of pre-publication TV interviews have piled up.

But palace insiders quoted in the UK press said the Duke of Sussex had crossed a line in attacking Queen Consort Camilla, Charles's second wife following

the death of Princess Diana, William and Harry's mother. "He has been kidnapped by a cult of psychotherapy and (wife) Meghan," one royal source told The Independent newspaper.

"It is impossible for him to return (to Britain) in these circumstances," it said, as other sources accused Harry of betraying both his father and brother.

The book opens with an epigraph drawn from US author William Faulkner — which Harry writes he found on the website BrainyQuote.com. "The past is never dead. It's not even

past," it says, setting the stage for 416 pages of ghost-written prose dominated by Harry's trauma over Diana's death, score-settling with his family and hatred of the British media. Some UK bookshops staged Harry Potter-style midnight openings for the biggest royal publication since the late princess of Wales collaborated with Andrew Morton for "Diana: Her True Story" in 1992.

But there was none of the initial clamour and crowds that greeted the sales of J.K. Rowling's popular adventures of the boy wizard.—AFP

Lula slams far-right 'terrorism' as Brazil clears protest camps

BRAZILIAN security forces cleared protest camps Monday and arrested 1,500 people as President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva condemned "acts of terrorism" after a far-right mob stormed the seat of power, unleashing chaos on the capital.

Hundreds of soldiers and police mobilized to dismantle an improvised camp outside the army's headquarters in Brasilia. There, some 3,000 supporters of ex-president Jair Bolsonaro had set up tents -- used as a base for the sea of protesters who ran riot inside the presidential palace, Congress and Supreme Court for around four hours Sunday.

Lula, who took office on 1 January after a bitterly divi-

sive election win over Bolsonaro, returned to work in the pillaged presidential palace, where AFP reporters saw the wreckage that remained of the previous day's havoc: trashed artwork and offices, shattered windows and doors, broken glass strewn across the floor, and furniture dragged into a reflecting pool.

Lula, the 77-year-old veteran leftist who previously led Brazil from 2003 to 2010, met with the leaders of both houses of Congress and the chief justice of the Supreme Court, and joined them in condemning what many called the South American country's version of the US Capitol riots in Washington two years ago.—AFP



Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (C), Governors, and Supreme Court judges walk from Planalto Palace to the Supreme Court building in Brasilia on 9 January 2023, a day after supporters of Brazil's far-right ex-president Jair Bolsonaro invaded the Congress, presidential palace, and Supreme Court. **PHOTO: AFP**

Psychiatric exam of ex-Japan PM Abe shooter ends, charges to follow

THE psychiatric evaluation of a man accused of fatally shooting former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe ended Tuesday, with prosecutors expected to indict him for murder and firearms control law violations before his detention period ends Friday.

After being arrested for the 8 July shooting in the western city of Nara, Tetsuya Yamagami had been under evaluation since 25 July to determine whether he was mentally fit to be held criminally responsible for his actions, according to sources familiar with the matter.

The Nara District Public Prosecutors Office previously requested the suspect's evaluation period be extended twice. The Nara District Court allowed it to continue until 10 January after his defence filed an appeal on both occasions. On Tuesday,



A police vehicle carrying Tetsuya Yamagami, the man accused of fatally shooting former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe last year, arrives at Nara Nishi Police Station in Nara, western Japan, on 10 January 2023. He was moved there from Osaka Detention House in Osaka as his psychiatric evaluation period ended the same day. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Yamagami was moved from the Osaka Detention House to a police station in Nara near where the former prime minister was attacked. Abe, 67, was shot at

close range by the 42-year-old during a campaign speech outside the Yamato-Saidaiji train station two days ahead of a national election.—Kyodo

Macron's reputation on the line with pension reform push

THE French government is set to announce its proposals for overhauling the pension system on Tuesday, in a potentially explosive reform fraught with danger for President Emmanuel Macron.

With his oft-repeated belief that the French "need to work more", Macron has doggedly insisted since his rise to power in 2017 that the pension system

must be streamlined.

But having called off his first attempt in 2020 in the face of protests and the Covid-19 pandemic, the 45-year-old centrist put the issue at the heart of his successful campaign for a second term in April last year. As well as simplifying the system and removing privileges enjoyed by workers in some sectors of the economy, the

reform will aim to raise the retirement age from its current level of 62 — most likely to 64.

"On the whole, the idea of the reform is not supported by the public, even though some can understand that if we live for longer then we might need to work for longer," Bruno Cautres, a political expert at Sciences Po university in Paris, told AFP.—AFP

Powerful quake hits off Indonesia, rattles islands

A 7.6-magnitude earthquake hit deep under the ocean off Indonesia and East Timor early Tuesday, injuring at least one person after rattling nearby islands, damaging homes and forcing residents to flee in panic.

The epicentre of the quake was 427 kilometres (265 miles) south of the Indonesian island of Ambon at a depth of 95 kilometres, the US Geological Survey reported.

Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) said the tremor was felt on the eastern islands of Timor, the Maluku archipelago and Papua. It reported some aftershocks at a magnitude of 5.5.



This handout picture taken and released on 10 January 2023 by BNPB (National Disaster Management Agency) shows a damaged house after a 7.6-magnitude earthquake hit deep under the ocean off Indonesia and East Timor, in the Tanimbar islands in Maluku. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / BNPB / AFP**

"I was in bed, then I felt a little shake. I woke up and found out that many of my friends felt it too," Hamdi, an Indonesian in Ambon, told AFP.

The country's disaster mitigation agency (BNPB) said at least 15 homes and two schools had been damaged in the Tanimbar Islands.

The strongest jolt was felt in Saumlaki, the archipelago's biggest town with a population of 8,000 people, it said.

"For casualties, the local disaster agency reported one person was injured. The jolt was felt strongly (in Tanimbar) between three to five seconds," BNPB spokesperson Abdul Mu-

hari said in a statement Tuesday.

"People were panicking and fled their homes."

Pictures shared by the agency showed damage to homes in several villages in Southwest Maluku Regency.

In one village, the roofs and walls of several damaged houses had collapsed. Debris and household items were scattered on the ground.

The quake caused light poles to sway and sent residents running out of buildings and onto streets in Tual, a port in the Maluku archipelago, videos posted by users on Twitter showed.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Thai princess, king's eldest child, remains unconscious, palace says

THAILAND'S Princess Bajrakitiyabha, the eldest child of King Maha Vajiralongkorn, remains unconscious in hospital after collapsing in mid-December, the palace has said.

Doctors of the 44-year-old princess believe she developed an infection caused by mycoplasma bacteria and is suffering from heart inflammation resulting in severe cardiac arrhythmia, according to a statement of the Royal Household Bureau issued on Sunday.

The princess is on medicine to restore her heart, lung and kidney functions while her condition is being closely monitored, according to the statement.

Princess Bajrakitiyabha is one of three of King Vajiralongkorn's children who have formal titles, but the 70-year-old king has yet to appoint a royal heir since he assumed the throne in 2016.

The princess has served as the Thai ambassador to Austria, Slovakia and Slovenia, and has also engaged in work with the United Nations on protecting women.—Kyodo

Thai PM joins new party ahead of general election

THAI Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on Monday officially joined the Ruam Thai Sang Chart Party (United Thai Nation Party) to run for this year's general election.

At the party's general assembly held at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre, Prayut was nominated as the party's candidate for prime minister.

"While in office, I know the problems that holding Thailand back. If I have another chance, I will put greater effort solving those problems," Prayut said at the event.

The Ruam Thai Sang Chart Party, founded in March 2021, is led by Pirapan Salirathavibhaga, current secretary-general to the prime minister. According to Thailand's election law, election candidates must have been in a party for at least 90 days from the date of election. If the House of Representatives finishes its term on 23 March as scheduled, the Election Commission will hold the general election within 45 days following the parliament's dissolution.—Xinhua

Japan, US to cooperate over next-generation nuclear reactors

JAPAN and the United States agreed Monday to strengthen bilateral cooperation on developing next-generation nuclear reactors during ministerial talks on energy.

Japanese industry minister Yasutoshi Nishimura and US Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm also agreed during their meeting that Tokyo and Washington will work more closely on securing liquefied natural gas and other energy security matters.

According to a joint statement, Japan and the United States will step up cooperation in developing and constructing next-generation advanced reactors, including small modular reactors, "within each country

and third countries."

The two governments already revealed a plan in October to work together on helping Ghana introduce small nuclear reactor technology.

Speaking to reporters after Monday's talks, Nishimura said the US side reacted positively to the recent change of Japan's policy to boost decarbonization.

The Japanese government said last month in a change from its post-Fukushima crisis nuclear energy policy that it may renew old nuclear reactors if necessary. It will also extend the operation limit of aging nuclear reactors beyond 60 years.

"We will explore opportunities for collaboration (with the

United States) to make full use of existing reactors and create stronger supply chains," said Nishimura, who serves as minister of economy, trade and industry.

The two countries are expected to reaffirm the cooperation when Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and President Joe Biden meet in Washington on Friday.

The statement said the two governments agreed to maintain a consistent regulatory environment for all energy sources in response to the impact of Russia's war on Ukraine.

US authorities have given final regulatory approval for more than doubling its current natural gas export capacity.—Kyodo



Japanese industry minister Yasutoshi Nishimura (2nd from front R) and US Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm (3rd from front L) hold talks in Washington on 9 January 2023. (Photo courtesy of Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry). **PHOTO: KYODO**

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Shan United sign Lin Htet Soe for MNL new season



Midfielder Lin Htet Soe (left) holds the Shan United jersey after signing his contract with the team for the new football season. **PHOTO: SUFC**

DEFENDING Champions of the Myanmar National League, Shan United signed Lin Htet Soe, a rising star from the Yangon Institute of Sports and Physical Education ahead of the Myanmar National League new season, the team's state-

ment said.

The young midfielder was born and raised in Toungoo and has been in Myanmar National League 1 since 2019 along with ISPE FC.

"He got selected as a primary player for the Myanmar

National team to play in the current Mitsubishi cup. The 23-year-old, talented player who can play as a drop forward and attacking midfielder is coming to Champions Shan United team for new challenges," Shan United team officials said.

Two times undefeated Myanmar National League Champions, Shan United will keep strengthening with new and talented players for the sake of defending the championship, officials added.

Upon his arrival, Lin Htet Soe said, "Shan United is playing in AFC Cup and has to defend the championship title. I want to be a part of this process and test how much I will be able to do. Let's say, I want to challenge myself. I will try. I want to improve my current status in life. Step by step," he added. —KZL

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.

Wales boss wants Bale to stay involved in international set-up

WALES manager Rob Page wants Gareth Bale to stay involved in the international set-up after the star forward announced he was hanging up his boots.

Bale, a five-time Champions League winner at Real Madrid, ended a glittering career on Monday after winning 111 caps and scoring 41 goals for his country — both national records for the men's team.

The 33-year-old's decision to quit came after Wales' disappointing performance at the World Cup in Qatar, when Page's team failed to get out of their group and Bale struggled due to a lack of match fitness.

Page revealed Bale contacted him on Sunday to inform him of his decision to retire, and said he was in full agreement with his captain. —AFP



Messi set for first PSG appearance since World Cup as contract talks go on

LIONEL Messi is expected to make his first appearance for Paris Saint-Germain since his World Cup triumph in a Ligue 1 clash at home against Angers on Wednesday, as the Qatar-owned club look to tie the Argentine down to a new contract.

The 35-year-old took part in training with his teammates on Tuesday, a little over three weeks after inspiring Argentina to victory over France on penalties in an epic World Cup final in Qatar.

He was granted a two-week holiday back in his home country following the tournament, before returning to Paris and being

given a guard of honour at PSG's training ground last Wednesday.

The seven-time Ballon d'Or winner, who scored 12 goals in 19 games this season for his club prior to the World Cup, did not take part in PSG's win at third-tier side Chateauroux in the French Cup at the weekend.

But he could start as the Ligue 1 leaders play host to an Angers side who are bottom of the table and have lost their last nine league outings. How Messi approaches the second half of the campaign in France after a career-defining World Cup will be closely observed, with his initial two-year deal in Paris coming to an end.

However, the Qatar-owned club are in talks to extend his contract with coach Christophe Galtier insisting the former Barcelona star is settled in the French capital. —AFP

Paris Saint-Germain's Argentine forward Lionel Messi attends a training session at PSG's training centre Le Camp des Loges in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, outside Paris, on 10 January 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**