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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.

Myanmar pockets US\$190 mln from FDIs in manufacturing sector as of Dec



General view of the 135 mW Kyaukpyu combined cycle power plant – one of the FDI projects. The project will be completed in May 2023.

A TOTAL of 44 foreign enterprises pumped US\$187.426 million into Myanmar’s manufacturing sector in the past nine months (April-December) of the current financial year 2022-2023, including capital expansion by the

existing enterprises, as per the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Myanmar attracted foreign direct investments of \$1.462 billion from 59 enterprises during the April-December period. The

majority of the investments were brought into the manufacturing sector. The agriculture sector drew \$3.5 million from two projects. The power sector received \$817 million from 10 projects, while one enterprise put \$29 million in the real estate sector

and two other foreign enterprises made an investment of \$413.068 million in the service sector respectively. The hotels and tourism sector attracted less than \$1 million. The mining sector received \$7 million from one project, while one enterprise also put

investments of less than a million into the hotels and tourism sector and some capital expansion of the existing businesses is also seen. Additionally, the livestock and fisheries sector saw a capital expansion of \$1.545 million.

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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.

Myanmar pockets US\$190 mln ...

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The manufacturing enterprises and businesses that need a large labour force are prioritized to create job opportunities for the local community. Manufacturing of fertilizer, cement, iron and steel, value-added foodstuff, electric vehicle and pharmaceutical and medical devices, agriculture and livestock farming and its related industries and public transportation services will be prioritized for investment. The commission

welcomes both foreign direct investment and domestic investments made by Myanmar citizens in those sectors. Myanmar Investment Commission and the related ministries will also ensure investment facilitation.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textiles produced on the cutting, making, and packaging (CMP) basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

There are active 541 fac-

tories operated under MGMA. The majority of them are from China, followed by Myanmar and the Republic of Korea.

Myanmar has drawn foreign direct investment of more than \$647.127 million from 49 enterprises in the past mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022). Of them, 40 foreign enterprises put investments in the manufacturing sector, pumping an estimated capital of \$202.667 million. —KK

Appointment of Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Md Monwar Hossain as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in succession to Mr Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury.

Mr Md Monwar Hossain born in Rajshahi on 10 March 1970 earned his degree in medicine from the Chittagong Medical College, Bangladesh in 1996, a Master of Science in Health Policy, Planning and Financing from the University of London in 2005 and PhD in Public Health Communication from the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore in 2017.

He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh in 2001 and served as Assistant Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh from May 2001 to May 2005, as Second Secretary/First Secretary at the Embassy of Bangladesh in Washington DC from August 2006 to May 2008, First Secretary/ Counsellor at the Bangladesh High Commission in Singapore from June 2009 to July 2011 as well as Director-General at the Headquarters in Dhaka from June 2016 to November 2017.

Mr Md Monwar Hossain has been serving as Deputy Permanent Representative/Minister at the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York since November 2017.

He is married and has a son. —MNA

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

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

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, and relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers

gave COVID-19 vaccines to 26,430 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 11,981 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

Similarly, on that day healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 280 students from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 390 students from seven districts in Mandalay Region.—MNA



Students from PyinOoLwin Township in Mandalay Region are seen lining up to get jabbed against COVID-19 on 11 January 2023.

4 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 11 January, total figure rises to 633,730

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,730** after **four** new cases were reported on 11 January 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,197**, including **32** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country reached **19,490** on 11-1-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic.

The country has vaccinated **30,860,136** people aged 18 and above for COVID-19 vaccines and **6,802,795** people aged under 18 till 10 January 2023.

Status of COVID-19 vaccination (as of 10 January 2023)

People aged 18 and above who received vaccines	30,860,136
People under 18 years old who received vaccines	6,802,795

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

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

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

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

COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health.—MNA

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

Government ready to disburse loans to MSME industries

A plan is underway to loan the MSME businesses and development of livestock sector through the remaining fund from the State economic promotion fund. The government is ready to disburse loans to MSMEs under the scheming rules and regulations.

(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 pay tours in Myitkyina, Waingmaw townships

SAC members and Union ministers visited the outstanding places of cultural significance in Myitkyina and Waingmaw townships at 8:30 am yesterday and had a discussion at the Central Committee of the Kachin Artists Association for the advancement and success of the artistic activities of the Kachin people.

First, State Administration Council members Jeng Phang Naw Taung, U Moug Har, U Sai Lon Seng, U Shwe Kyein, and Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, U Maung Maung Ohn, U Hla Moe, U Thaug Han, U Aung Naing Oo, Dr Nyunt Pe, U Min Thein Zan, U Myo Thant and U Saw Tun Aung Myint, Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan, Northern Command Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko Maung, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Phyo Thant and U Zaw Aye Maung, senior Tatmadaw officers, the chief justice of Kachin State High Court, ministers of the state government visited the Shinbin Myatswa Sutaungpyae Pagoda

on Shwe Moe hill near the bank of Ayeyawady River in Minenar Village-tract, Waingmaw Township. They signed the record book of guests and made donations for the renovation of the pagoda, after offering flowers, water and lights to the pagoda.

Afterwards, they visited the Kareinnaw Resort near the Ayeyawady River bank in Manhkrein Ward, Myitkyina, viewed the documentary photos of Founder Duwa Kareinnaw and viewed round the resort.

Next, they had a friendly meeting with the rector, pro-rectors and professors at Myitkyina University. The party inspected the university campus and coordinated with the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs to provide sports equipment for students.

After that, SAC members and officials went to the Manaw field in Sitapur Ward, Myitkyina, and took documentary photos together with the chairman of the Kachin Cultural Association and officials in front of the Manaw Mansion



and in the Manaw field.

Next, they visited the Central Committee of the Kachin Artists Association in the Manaw field and met with Chairman director JZ Daunglwan of the Kachin Artists Association and officials. Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn made a coordination meeting on filming the nat-

ural beauties, traditions and customs of ethnic peoples and stories describing the state's characteristics, in addition to producing a new generation of ethnic artists, and provided grants for the association.

In the afternoon, SAC members and the party left the Nanbao Airport in a special military plane. The state

Chief minister and his wife, the commander and his wife, senior military officers and their wives, the Chief Justice of the State High Court and his wife, State government ministers and their wives, State level departmental staff and ethnic cultural troupes saw them off at the airport.— State IRPD/CT

Mobile teams to handle renewal of PJ passports for Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand



Myanmar nationals are pictured waiting to receive their renewed passports at the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand.

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, the renewal process of PJ (Passport for Job) passports of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand will be conducted by a mobile team.

It is reported that the mobile team from the embassy will be divided into two groups and take turns going to factories with a workforce of 1,000 or more who had to renew their passports.

Therefore, factories and workshops must compile a list of workers whose passports will

expire in 2022/2023 according to the prescribed format, and send it to Daw Khin Malar Win, the officer in charge of the consulate, by 20 January at the latest.

Officials of factories and workshops who submitted the list will be summoned to the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok on 23 January, to draw lots for setting the date under the rotating system. In addition, the passport renewal process for factories with less than 1,000 workers will be held on a rotating basis at the embassy. The passport renewal

process for Myanmar migrant workers who hold PJ is carried out at the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok and the consulate-general office in Chiang Mai.

There are seven types of passports issued for Myanmar citizens — passport for visit-PV, passport for business-PB, passport for education-PE, passport for job-PJ, passport for religious-PR and passport for seaman-PS. It is reported that most of the Myanmar nationals in Thailand are holding PV, PJ and PE passports. — TWA/CT

UEC launches township-level voter lists management system training course



The opening event of the training course on township-level voter lists management system is underway yesterday.

THE opening ceremony of the township-level voter lists management system training course was conducted at Hsinphyushin Hall of Tatmadaw transit centre yesterday.

During the ceremony, Union Election Commission Chairman U Thein Soe said the two pieces of software to be taught at the training are the main software for the

township sub-election commission. The UEC is focusing on the correct voter lists currently. The Hluttaw Election Law also states that the township sub-election commission and ward or village tracts sub-election commissions shall compile the eligible voter lists based on the census collected by the Township Administration Department of the Ministry

of Home Affairs and Township Office of the Ministry of Immigration and Population. Therefore, the relevant departments launched pilot projects to verify the ground population census according to Form 66/6 across the nation.

The township population collected by the pilot projects were also verified with the IVLS

system and sent to relevant immigration/administration departments to check the increasing or decreasing population and amend the data. Based on the monthly population compiled until October 2022, the cross-check procedures were conducted, and arrangements are made to be correct population by cooperating with the immigration/administration departments.

These lists are added to ADMIN and DEO software applications. In ADMIN Software, the township sub-election commissions will receive the data related to their townships from the central level voter lists management system to add to ADMIN software, extract the set files and polling station data and add to the central level system and DEO software. Then, the DEOs have to collect the ward/village-tract polling stations files from DEO software in ADMIN Software and check duplication of voter lists, extract the voting lists from ADMIN software and add them to the central voter lists management system.

In DEO software, the files

from ADMIN software and population will be added to the software and it will divide the population for polling stations, categorize the types of voters, fill the form, check the duplicated data and add voter lists from DEO software to ADMIN software.

The township-level voters' list management system is drafted to conduct the compiling of voters lists with a computer system and is a link between central level, ADMIN and DEO software.

The UEC Chairman also highlighted the major things for voters to hold certain identity cards to cast the vote and to be on the voter lists of respective constituencies, to have Form 66/6 to be in voter lists.

He continued that public awareness programmes are also conducted across the nation.

He then called on the trainees to study the ADMIN and DEO software operations attentively at the training.

A total of 150 assistant directors and staff officers joined the training that will end on 14 January. — MNA/KTZH

Prices of domestic chilli peppers hike again

CHILLI pepper prices rose again at the Bayintnaung Market in Yangon on 9 January 2023, said a chilli pepper brokerage house owner in Seinpan Street.

On that day, the wholesale price per viss of new Panye long chilli pepper was rated at K16,500 and that of new Sinphyukyun bell pepper at K16,000, Moehtaung chilli pepper from various regions at K13,500, Shan long chilli pepper at K14,500 and Chinese bell pepper at K16,000.

The price of Myarni and Panye long chilli peppers processed in cold storage hit the record price of K21,500-K22,000 per viss in mid-November 2022. However, new Myarni and Panye long chilli pepper from the Salin area and Thaeday area entered the Yangon market with K18,000 and K16,000 per viss on 10 December 2022.

The new long chilli pepper price went up by K2,000 per viss on 9 January 2023 from the market price of K13,500-K14,500 per viss on 7 January. New Shan long chilli pepper was introduced in the Yangon market with a price per viss of K17,500 on 25 October 2022. The price dropped to K11,500-K13,000 per viss on 10 November and slightly increased back to K12,000-K13,500 per viss on 6 January. The market price on 9 January was K14,000-K14,500 per viss.

Moehtaung chilli peppers from various

regions were priced at K12,000-K13,000 per viss on 5 December and K12,000-K12,500 per viss on 5 January 2023 respectively, going down from the highest price of K18,000-K19,000 per viss in mid-September 2022. The wholesale price bounced back on 9 January 2023 with the price rate of K13,500-K14,000 per viss.

The Yangon chilli pepper market saw new Chinese bell pepper with a wholesale price per viss of K14,200 on 2 January 2023. The price shot up to K16,000 per viss on 9 January 2023.

The wholesale price of cold storage bell pepper from delta regions and the Sinphyukyun area was set at a high rate of K31,000 per viss in mid-November 2022. New Sinphyukyun bell pepper arrived at the Yangon chilli pepper market with a wholesale price of K28,000-K29,000 per viss on 24 November 2022, and slumped to K13,000 per viss a month later, on 24 December. On 7 January 2023, the bell pepper per viss was valued at K14,000-K15,000 and soared up again to K16,000 on 9 January.

Long chilli pepper, bell pepper and Moehtaung chilli pepper from delta regions can enter the Yangon chilli pepper market before the Thingyan Festival.

These days, the price of chilli pepper has risen again, and a chilli pepper broker said that the new chilli pepper from the delta region can fetch about K10,000 more per viss than the same time last year. — TWA/CT

Tenders to purchase supplies, medicines for district, township hospitals invited



Medical equipment is seen in an emergency ward.

THE Ministry of Health will purchase hospital equipment and medicines needed for district, station and township hospitals in 2023 through a tender system starting this month. The tender system is called for hospitals in Mandalay Region and Mon State.

The tender invitation for the purchase of laboratory equipment, X-ray medicines and medical equipment needed for

hospitals was published in the state-owned newspapers.

The tender for hospitals in Mon State was invited on 5 January and the closing date will be 18 January. The tender for hospitals in Mandalay Region was invited on 9 January and the closing date will be 23 January. Licenced pharmaceutical companies and pharmacies can submit tenders. — TWA/KZW

Some products sold in wayside bazaar gaining high price

THE prices of eggs and bananas that come from Kyaiklat and are sold on the waysides of Yangon are rising, said a resident of Lanmadaw Township.

Prices are rising at a temporary market in Yangon, where vendors from Kyaiklat sold their fresh local produce, said Ma Ni Ni, a buyer, to the GNLM.

Currently, a duck egg costs K330 and the price of a chicken egg ranges from K240 to K250 in the market. A branch of the Pheegyan banana from Kyaiklat rose to K1,500 as well.

In December 2022, mobile market trucks sold eggs and palm oil at a low price, and the chicken

eggs were valued at only K180 per egg, a buyer told the GNLM. The wholesale price of eggs in Kyaiklat hovered around K270 at the beginning of January. However, in the Yangon market, the big size of those eggs is sold at K330-340 and the medium size at K300-320.

The price of food containing eggs has increased due to the high price of eggs. As summer approaches, Pheegyan bananas from the countryside become low in supply and so high in price.

Eggs and bananas are the most common foodstuffs people consume daily. A low-income worker said that they have to spend more on food because the

prices are rising this month. The rising price of chicken and duck feed, less grazing space and decreased egg laying rate caused the rise in egg price, an egg seller commented.

There are only a few sellers in Lanmadaw Township this month due to the low production output, unlike the crowded temporary markets in the rainy season.

At the beginning of the new year of 2023, as the prices of most kitchen foodstuffs that consumers have to buy and consume every day, including eggs, are rising, most food prices will continue to be high. — TWA/CT



Vendors are pictured selling goods on the roadside platform in Lanmadaw Township.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, batteries, car parts, industrial materials, consumer goods, electronics and vehicles confiscated

AN on-duty team under the supervision of the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections at the 16-Mile Kyawtchaw checkpoint on 9 January.

Officials confiscated K29,722,690 worth of foodstuffs, batteries, car parts, industrial materials, consumer goods and electronics from two vehicles (approximately K24 million) heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Similarly, a total of 8.7334 tonnes of illegally sawn hardwood worth K4,366,700 from a vehicle (approximately K30 million) was captured at the 24/5 Milepost on Yangon-Mandalay highway in Hlegu township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, a total of 13.3384 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K859,144 was seized in the Gwa township of Thandwe district and the action was taken under the Forest Law. A total of 28,8318 tonnes of illegal teak and hardwood worth K16,305,628 was

seized in the Phykun forest reserve in Pyu township in Toungoo district and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 6 January, an on-duty team at the Yangon International Airport confiscated K400,000 worth of a DJI mini (3) pro drone (used) without official documents on 9 January and two goods including a transformer DC resistance tester worth K3.36 million that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Airport Warehouse on 10 January. The action was taken under Customs procedures. The Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint seized 60 rolls of linoleum worth K1.8 million without official documents from a vehicle heading from Myawady to Yangon on 10 January. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Therefore, 13 arrests (estimated value of K110,814,162) were made on 9 and 10 January, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Palm oil market value becoming volatile

THE Yangon market saw a price swing in the first week of 2023. The wholesale price of palm oil rose to K6,100 per K5,250 per viss, Ko Aung Win, a seller at Nyaungpinlay market, told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The wholesale prices have been below K6,000 since mid-November 2022. It dropped down to below K5,500 per viss in early December 2022.

Nonetheless, demand outstripped supply, causing a

gradual increase in the markets, said a trader involved at Bayint Naung Wholesale Market.

Moreover, the wholesale reference price for palm oil also increased to K4,470 per viss during the week ending 8 January 2023, which is up by K110 compared to that of the previous week. Meanwhile, the market price was also up by K1,000 per viss in the Yangon market.

The price ranged from K6,120-6,300 per viss in the

wholesale markets of Yangon and Mandalay cities on 8 January 2023.

The palm oil to be imported soon is offered at K5,700-5,900 per viss, yet demand is pretty low. At present, the international oil price and the foreign exchange rate remain unchanged. The price rise is attributed to the supply. Those sellers in possession of palm oil stocks are selling fast with the prevailing market rate when they keep the stocks at a low rate.

The FOB price of palm oil was US\$1,056 per tonne during the 5-12 December period and \$1,019 per tonne for the week ending 8 January 2023.

The entry of oil cargo and withdrawal of palm oil usually weigh on the market price. Those traders who kept the stocks in hands at the lower rate reaped a great profit, a trader said.

There is speculation about the price returning to the regular rate in the domestic market in the second week of January 2023. — TWA/EMM



An edible oil retail outlet is seen at the Iron Market (Thanzay) in Lanmadaw Township.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

Domestic pilgrims flock to Shwedagon Pagoda during public holidays

BETWEEN 30,000 and 50,000 devotees paid homage to the Shwedagon Pagoda during public holidays, according to the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees.

Normally, there are nearly 20,000 visitors daily but there are between 30,000 and 50,000 at weekends and on public holidays.

In addition, a total of between 30,000 and 50,000 pilgrims at weekends and during public holidays flock to the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Visitors to the Shwedagon Pagoda are increasing and include tourists from ASEAN countries, such as Thailand, Viet Nam and Cambodia, China, European countries and some Americans.



International travellers are pictured visiting the Shwedagon Pagoda.

The Shwedagon Pagoda has been closed to visitors during the Covid-19 outbreak but now it is open from 5 am to 8 pm.

The Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees said that the number of domestic worshippers and tourists are gradual-

ly increasing starting from the reopening as the infection of Covid-19 has dwindled. — TWA/MKKS

Myanmar's mineral export bags over \$200 million in past nine months

THE value of Myanmar's mineral exports in the past nine months (April-December) in the current financial year 2022-2023 exceeded US\$200 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the April-December period, the public sector performed mineral exports valued at \$16.151 million whereas the private sector saw mineral exports worth \$206.19 million.

Myanmar earned \$519.76 million from mineral exports in the corresponding period last FY.

Myanmar targets to achieve exports worth \$15.5 billion and imports worth \$14 billion in the 2022-2023 FY, the National Planning Law stated.

The export items are gems and jewellery, gold, jade, pearl, lead, tin, tungsten, silver, copper, zinc, coal and other minerals.

Myanmar's mineral exports amounted to \$288.599 million in the 2021-2022 mini-budget period and \$895.611 million in the 2020-2021 FY. — TWA/EMM

Telematics devices installed on 3,885 YBS vehicles



TELEMATICS devices that will enable YBS drivers to directly inform the Yangon Bus Operator Control Centre of unusual events on their buses have already been installed on YBS's 3,885 vehicles, according to the Yangon Region Transport Committee (YRTC).

More than 4,000 YBS buses are operating across various townships of the Yangon Region. Telematics devices will soon be fitted on the remaining YBS buses.

Within the Yangon Region, 116 YBS passenger lines transport more than 1.3 million passengers every day. — TWA/KZW

A graphic mechanism of the Telematics device.



A gem merchant is seen appraising raw jade stone at the Gem Expo.

Legal action to be taken against gold price manipulators: YGEA



YANGON Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) announced that departments concerned are investigating the cases of speculation in gold and action will be taken against dishonest speculators.

The actual gold price is below K2,700,000 in the gold market on 12 January but traders in the unauthorized market are manipulating the gold price up

and down by spreading various rumours, YGEA stated.

YGEA also requested price manipulators not to spread rumours and not to manipulate the gold price as authorities concerned will take action against those who commit price manipulation. — TWA/MKKS

A Facebook post is seen displaying gold prices.

ရွှေဈေး ဒေါ်လာဈေး update
30 m · 🌐

11, Jan, 2023

#ယနေ့ရွှေဈေးနှုန်း (အကယ်ဒမီ မီးလင်း)

2836000 (Buy)
2841000 (Sell) (5:35 pm)

ပြင်ပပေါက်ဈေး

ကြားသိရသလောက်ပါ

#ဒေါ်လာ ပြင်ပပေါက်ဈေး

2850 (Buy)
2870 (Sell)

သိသမျှတင်ပေးတာပါ

#အရောင်းအဝယ်မလုပ်ပါ

LOCAL BUSINESS

Corn price regains to K1,180 per viss

THE price of corn bounced back to K1,180 per viss on 11 January 2023 in the domestic market.

The price of corn dipped to K1,130 per viss on 17 December 2022.

Strong foreign demand drove up corn prices. At present, Myanmar ships corn to China, Viet Nam and the Philippines, according to Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

China is purchasing Myanmar's corn through cross-border trade under opium substitution programmes. 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 and some companies started exporting as well.

Thailand gives green light to corn imports under zero

tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported 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, the export earnings of the corn have to be exchanged for US dollars 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), making the traders tough financially.

According to a meeting (66/2022) of 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's 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



At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year.

35 per cent of export earnings or transfer or sell them to Authorized Dealers or others with an over-the-counter rate within one month.

Myanmar exported 2.3 million tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the 2020-2021 financial year. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to Chi-

na, 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

Gold price stays elevated at K2.8 mln per tical in domestic market

THE pure gold price rallied to K2.8 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) in the domestic market.

The price gain in the market is attributed to the rise in global gold spot prices.

When the global gold spot price stood at US\$1,823 per ounce, the precious yellow metal fetched a high of K2.707 million per tical. At present, the pure gold price climbed to K2.83 million per tical with the global gold spot price reaching \$1,882 per ounce.

Therefore, Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) raised the reference price to K2,173,500 per tical.

The figures indicated an increase of \$60 per ounce and over K120,000 per tical within two weeks.

However, the reference price set by Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) is only K2,217,200 per tical at present.

Consequently, there is a price difference of over K600,000 per tical between the YGEA's reference price and

the market price.

YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate of K2,100, with some addition, while the US dollar is exchanged at K2,860 in the unofficial forex market.

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

On 4 January, as a celebration of the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day, new designs of 1 tical and 0.5 tical gold coins have been on sale at the respective shops in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay of the MGE from 5 January 2023, along with other old coins.

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



Gold bars are seen in the gold market.

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

The soaring dollar exchange at over K4,500 pushed up the pure gold price to a record-high of K3.7 million per tical in late August 2022.

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

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

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 11 January 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K1,990
Octane 95	K2,060
Diesel	K2,245
Premium Diesel	K2,325

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,217,200 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,830,000 per tical

Dollar Price

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,840 to K2,860

The above prices may change from time to time.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

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OPINION

Join the democratization process for enjoying a better future

THE system of democracy in federalism is defined with important things that all representatives should do everything in accord with the desire of the majority but they have to emphasize the desire of the minority with an open-minded attitude.

If so, the minority will pay respect to the desire of the majority and agree to all things. Consequently, all working processes decided by the majority's desire can be smoothly accomplished. Only when representatives of both majority and minority negotiate their decisions at the Hluttaw can they all see the accomplishments.

Once, some different attitudes over the desires of the majority and minority happened at the highest legislative body of the State, deteriorating the unity among the ethnic nationals. Hence, every citizen needs to comprehensively understand the dos and don'ts of the democratic system by taking lessons from past events.

Currently, the government is implementing the plans based on its experiences to firmly initiate the genuine, disciplined-flourishing multiparty democratic system and to build the Union based on a democratic system and federalism as two political objectives.

The multiparty democratic system will be realized as a political system whereas the governing system is based on democratic and federal administration as an administrative system. Indeed, such an administrative system is based on the anticipation of all ethnic people and citizens. On the other hand, the government has adopted and is implementing the national objectives to ensure the prosperity of the State and food sufficiency.

The federal administrative system must be in accord with the constitution for all management measures including different levels and region-wise executive, judicial and legislative sectors. In this regard, it is necessary to create equal terms of rights for all regions and states as well as self-administered zones and division. To do so, it has been agreed in principle that all regions and states shall formulate the laws.

All work processes must depend on the constitution which is the lifeblood of the

State. Likewise, regions and states have been authorized to undertake their development measures under the framework. So, region and state authorities achieved success by applying the entrusted authority. In so doing, they all have to take care of derailment from the main theme.

Only when the prevalence of law and order is controlled as quickly as possible can the democratic administration be realized. So, all citizens need to widen their scope of democratic ethics for participating in the democratization process of the nation so as to enjoy a better future.

■

FOR centuries, man has been associating with animals for either companions or food. I would not like to mention the second purpose here as I cannot help suffering from their pain on behalf of them when man tries to use them for their food. Then, the companions of man, yes, indeed. I agree with the opinion. Animals are the companions of mankind. Although they do not possess the intellect and are illiterate like men, they have got loyalty to their owners who always nurture and look after them. Therefore, countless stories of animal companions or pets and man have existed in human history. Moreover, many people could not know how pets provide human lives in the following ways.

Keeping one active

If you have a dog, chances are you are walking it at least 30 minutes a day, and likely more—an activity that goes a long way towards keeping you fit. In reality, a British study of dog owners found that, on average, walking a pup added an extra 2,700 steps to their daily total, about 20 more minutes of physical activity per day than non-dog owners get. What is more, most of that walking was done at a “moderate cadence”—enough to get your heart pumping but still carry on a conversation—the minimum intensity Health Canada recommends adults get for 2.5 hours a week.

Walking your pooch for that amount of time benefits your quality of life and could prolong your life. Getting 150 minutes of moderate exercise a week reduces your risk of heart disease by up to 15 per cent, cuts your chances of developing breast, stomach, kidney, and other cancers by up to 20 per cent, and helps prevent and manage diabetes.

In addition, as a bonus, more exercise during the day also seems to set the stage for better nights. According to a survey of 6,500 re-

tired London civil servants, dog owners were more likely to report having an easier time falling asleep at night than non-dog owners. (Unfortunately, perhaps thanks to their nocturnal hijinks, cats seemed to have the opposite effect.)

Boosting one's immune system

According to the so-called hygiene hypothesis, identified in the late 1980s, growing up indoors in disinfected spaces later causes our bodies to overreact to harmless substances, making us more prone to allergies and asthma. Dogs and cats, with their muddy paws, copious dander, and propensity for licking us, introduce more microbial diversity that habituates our immune systems. Research shows that children who live with pets from birth have lower rates of allergies and asthma, and the more animals in the house, the greater the protection. Kids with four or more cats or dogs had half the rate of allergies as non-pet owners.

Even in adulthood, there's new evidence to suggest pets may have a notably positive effect on our guts—with links to both mental and physical health. One pair of researchers at the University of Arizona are studying whether the sharing of bacteria between dogs and their owners can alter our microbiome—the community of microorganisms that dwell inside our bodies—in a way that changes our brain chemistry, alleviating major depression. “We were intrigued by previous research that found that dogs and humans share gut bacteria just by living in the same home, and you get the same amount from your dog as you do from your spouse,” says Dieter Steklis, co-director of the Human-Animal Interaction Research Initiative.

Lowering one's risk of a fatal heart attack

Researchers at the University of Minnesota tracked 4,000 people

halted the commercial import of the small mammals last January after a pet store worker and nearly a dozen hamsters tested positive for the Delta variant.

As part of the city's strict zero-Covid policy, authorities

Pets, Our Idols

By Yin Nwe Ko

—most of them for over a decade—and found that cat owners had a 30 per cent lower risk of dying of a heart attack. Given you don't need to take a cat for walks, what accounts for the lower risk? The researchers hypothesized—and most cat owners would agree—that cats' inherently unbothered nature has a calming effect. And research has shown that, like exercise, spending time with a pet—any pet—lowers stress, an important contributor to heart disease. In fact, Washington State University students showed significantly lower cortisol levels in their saliva after spending just 10 minutes petting a cat or dog. Other studies have shown that human-animal interaction lowers blood pressure and releases the bonding hormone oxytocin, which reduces anxiety and improves cardiovascular function.

Aiding one manage a chronic condition

With their clockwork expectations for feeding, walks, affection, and play, animals do not cut their owners much slack—and that can be a good thing for chronic disease sufferers of all types. The benefits of animals in health care were first noted by Florence Nightingale in 1860 when she wrote that a pet tortoise named Jimmy provided

great comfort to wounded soldiers hospitalized during the Crimean War. In the 1960s, child psychologist Boris Levinson observed that a withdrawn, non-verbal child suddenly began communicating when Levinson's dog, Jingles, was in the room. The field of “pet therapy” was born, and visits from trained therapy animals are now commonplace in hospitals and nursing homes.

But outside of institutional settings, pets can also help people on a more ongoing basis with the daily management of long-term health conditions. According to University of Michigan research scientist Mary Janevic, this is especially true of chronic pain sufferers looking for non-pharmacological interventions.

In 2019, Janevic led a small study of older adults with arthritis, lower back pain, and other conditions, and found that pets not only helped improve mood but compelled their owners to stick to behavioural routines that improved their pain in the long run. These included daily walks, feeding, cleaning, affection, and play. “When it hurts, you don't feel like getting up and doing anything, but it's a use-it-or-lose-it situation,” Janevic says. “When your body becomes deconditioned, weaker muscles lead to more pain.”

dering, ‘Will the pain last forever?’”

Sometimes, Redmon adds, her pets provide vicarious joy. “When I watch my guinea pigs run around their little playpen through all the tunnels, I can see that it makes them happy, and that makes me happy, too.”

Reducing inflammation

Inflammation is how your body responds to a perceived injury or infection, and normally it's a good thing—when a cut becomes red and swollen, for example, it's because an army of white blood cells is swarming in to fight off harmful bacteria. But sometimes your immune system does not switch off

thritus, dementia, heart disease, and cancer.

“Some of the subjects also reported that they felt an increase in their sense of well-being and improved social function,” says psychiatrist and study director Charles Raison. “We don't know for sure whether there was an association between IL-6 levels and mental health, but it may work as a virtuous cycle—having a dog makes you feel better, which makes inflammation drop, and lower levels of inflammation make you happier.”

Improving one's mental health

When Sharmeen Abeysinghe,

Abeysinghe says. “I feel so lifted by her joy, energy, and unconditional love. I've even told my doctor I don't think I need my medication anymore.”

Several studies have shown that pet ownership benefits people with depression, anxiety, PTSD (Posttraumatic Stress Disorder), schizophrenia, and other long-term mental health conditions. Pet owners themselves report that their animal pals provide unconditional emotional support, foster self-acceptance, help them form social bonds, and serve as distractions from upsetting symptoms or episodes.

Your pet might even be a valuable mindfulness coach. “If I'm awake with insomnia at night, my bunny Gus will sit by me and let me stroke him,” says Hina Low, a 30-year-old banking assistant in Toronto who suffers from bipolar disorder. “It's like a meditation exercise. I focus on his soft fur, the warmth of his body, and the feeling of his breathing.”

All in All, to support pets, veterinary medicines and care are the most crucial elements for veterinarians. It helps pet owners in keeping their animals healthy and free from diseases. The medicines help in lowering the pain of suffering animals and therefore treat the animals from sickness or illness. Now that you know more about the magic of shelter pets, go forth and adopt! Not only is it a great choice for you and your new furry friend, but adopting also helps nationwide. Together, the organizations like Greater Good Charities and other Animal Health Care Centers that are now present across the world are working to provide emergency relief grants to shelters for foster recruitment, temporary staffing, medical support, and more so they can keep their doors open and save the lives in their care.

Reference: Reader's Digest (Canada) July & Aug 2022



In addition to all that, Janevic also points out that pets' greatest superpower against chronic suffering is their talent for drawing all the attention and focus. “If you're distracted from the pain, you perceive less pain, and therefore you are in less pain,” she explains.

Kelly Redmon, a Virginia-based therapist who suffers from complex regional pain syndrome, says fostering guinea pigs for a local rescue group has helped her cope with an often excruciating condition. “When I care for my animals, I have to stay present even through a flare-up,” she says. “I can't get caught in a spiral of won-

after the fight is over, and when inflammation becomes chronic, it can silently lay the groundwork for killer diseases like diabetes, heart disease, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

In a small preliminary trial, researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison assigned foster dogs from a local humane society to a group of volunteers aged 50 to 80. After three months with a dog, some blood tests showed a drop of up to 30 per cent in markers of inflammation, including interleukin-6 (IL-6), which has been linked to many inflammatory diseases, including diabetes, rheumatoid ar-

40, left her Toronto job as an early childhood educator in 2019, she was suffering from depression and burnout. “There were some days when I'd just forget to eat,” she says. Her doctor prescribed antidepressants, and she began to feel functional again. Then came the pandemic and multiple lockdowns, causing more stress. Fortunately, Abeysinghe and her husband, who have two children, also decided to adopt a nine-month-old terrier-lab mix named Suki.

“We thought having a dog would give us something to do while we're at home, and she has just transformed our lives,”

Hong Kong to resume hamster imports a year after mass cull

HONG Kong will resume hamster imports later this month, officials said on 5 January, nearly a year after some 2,000 pet rodents were culled at the height of the city's coronavirus outbreak.

The Chinese finance hub

halted the commercial import of the small mammals last January after a pet store worker and nearly a dozen hamsters tested positive for the Delta variant.

As part of the city's strict zero-Covid policy, authorities

also ordered hamster owners to surrender their pets for culling, sparking an outcry from animal activists and many residents.

Hamsters can once again be imported for sale in Hong Kong starting this month, but only if

they test negative for the coronavirus, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department told AFP on Thursday.

Hong Kong's campaign against hamsters took place in the early days of an Omicron outbreak

that ultimately killed around 9,000 people and signalled the collapse of the city's Covid defences.

That outbreak left Hong Kong with one of the highest per capita fatality rates in the world last year, fuelled mostly by elderly

people who had declined to get vaccinated.

The government defended its headline measures, in part citing scientific research that showed Syrian hamsters could get infected with Covid-19 and pass it on

to humans. Critics saw the cull as an illustration of the kind of strict rules that hammered the city's economy, sparked an exodus of residents and left it internationally isolated for more than two years. The import ban,

which initially applied to all small mammals, was narrowed to only hamsters in May.

The city began relaxing its pandemic curbs in September, with mainland China following suit by the end of the year; though in Hong Kong some control measures such as compulsory indoor and outdoor masking remain.

SOURCE: AFP

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Alpine tourists ski amid brown hillsides

BROWN hillsides and slivers of snow — a common sight across Europe's Alps, and a far cry from the winter wonderland tourists had banked on.

While some snow started to fall again early this week, Europe has seen "extreme" warm winter weather in recent days, experts say, with 2023 already posting record January temperatures across the region.

From Austria to France, Italy and Switzerland, slopes have melted away — with temperatures too high even to make artificial snow.

Many lower-lying resorts have had to close, while others are offering reduced services.

"In the last days it's not been cold or wintery... so winter holidaymakers probably don't really feel like skiing," Nazar Nydza, managing director of the Semmering Hirschenkogel Bergbah-



With higher temperatures, it has not always been economically viable to make artificial snow. **PHOTO: AFP**

nen told AFP.

'Anxiety'

Until Monday, it had not snowed for weeks in Semmering, and temperatures had not dropped below minus three degrees Celsius (27 degrees Fahrenheit) in days, meaning it has

not been economically viable to make artificial snow, according to Nydza.

About a third of the slopes were closed in the small resort, which still held a World Cup race at the end of December and lies less than 100 kilometres (60 miles) south of Vienna.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ozone layer healing but imperiled by schemes to curb Sun's heat

THE ozone layer that shields life on Earth from deadly solar radiation is on track to recover within decades, but controversial geoengineering schemes to blunt global warming could reverse that progress, a major scientific assessment warned Monday.

Since the mid-1970s, certain industrial aerosols have led to the depletion of ozone in the stratosphere, 11 to 40 kilometres (7 to 25 miles) above Earth's surface.

In 1987, nearly 200 nations agreed on the Montreal Protocol to reverse damage to the ozone layer by banning chemicals that destroy this naturally occurring stratum of molecules in the atmosphere.—AFP

France pushes forward with plan to speed up renewables

FRENCH MPs on Tuesday moved ahead with a law to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy, as the country's nuclear plants suffer a maintenance crisis and Russia's invasion of Ukraine drives up energy costs.

Having secured rare support from the left, President Emmanuel Macron's minority administration is now a step closer to lowering hurdles to building new solar and wind plants -- including massive offshore wind farms.—AFP

Researchers dig up secrets of 'self-healing' Roman concrete



The Pantheon in Rome features the world's largest unreinforced concrete dome. **PHOTO: AFP**

HOW have Rome's ancient aqueducts and architectural marvels such as the Pantheon, which features the world's largest unreinforced concrete dome, endured the test of time?

Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and other institutions believe they have uncovered the mystery of the durability of

the 2,000-year-old structures — self-healing concrete.

The secret lies in an ingredient of the ancient concrete used by the Romans that the researchers, whose findings are published in the latest edition of the journal *Science Advances*, said has been overlooked in previous studies.

The durability of the con-

crete used by the Romans has most frequently been attributed to the use of volcanic ash from Pozzuoli on the Bay of Naples, which was shipped across the Roman empire for construction.

But the researchers focused their attention on another component of the ancient concrete mix, small white chunks called "lime clasts".

"Ever since I first began working with ancient Roman concrete, I've always been fascinated by these features," said MIT professor of civil and environmental engineering Admir Masic, an author of the study.

"These are not found in modern concrete formulations, so why are they present in these ancient materials?"

The researchers said the lime clasts had been thought to be the result of "sloppy mixing practices" or poor-quality raw materials.

But they are in fact what gives the ancient concrete a "previously unrecognized self-healing capability".—AFP

Fresh cyclone to hit California after historic storms kill at least 17

A major cyclone is set to hit the US state of California with up to seven inches (18 centimetres) of rain on Wednesday, the National Weather Service said, after tens of thousands of people were placed under evacuation orders due to a barrage of storms that killed at least 17 people.

On Tuesday, torrential downpours caused flash flooding, closed key highways, toppled trees and swept away drivers and passengers — including a five-year-old boy who remains

missing in central California.

Around 66,000 homes and businesses in the most populous US state were without power early on Wednesday, according to tracking site Poweroutage.us. The new storm will hit northern California and is forecast to bring several more feet of snow to the Sierra Nevada mountains, the NWS said.

The NWS described an "unrelenting series of atmospheric river events" that is the most powerful storm system since 2005.—AFP



Solar panels that usually soak up California's plentiful sun are being lashed by seemingly endless rain. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

China suspends visa issuance to Japanese, S Korean travellers

CHINA has suspended issuing visas to Japanese and South Korean travellers, its embassies in Tokyo and Seoul said Tuesday, after it threatened to take countermeasures against countries that introduced tighter COVID-19 entry restrictions on visitors from China.

The Chinese Embassy in Tokyo, on its website, said the issuance of ordinary visas for Japanese citizens was being suspended from Tuesday and the timing of its resumption will be notified later.

Japan's Foreign Ministry filed a protest with the Chinese

Embassy over the measure and demanded it be revoked, with a Japanese official criticizing China for being "extremely selfish".

Earlier Tuesday, the Chinese Embassy in Seoul said the issuance of short-term visas for South Korean citizens to China for purposes such as business, tourism, medical treatment and transit has been halted as instructed by the Chinese government.

It said the visa suspension would remain in effect "until discriminatory entry restrictions against China are lifted".

A South Korean Foreign

Ministry official expressed regret over the measure.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a press conference Tuesday in Beijing that China "firmly opposes the discriminatory entry restrictions in disregard of scientific facts" adopted by some countries and is taking reciprocal measures.

The spokesman called on relevant countries not to "engage in political manipulation" and "affect normal personnel exchanges and cooperation" between China and those nations.—Kyodo



Around a dozen countries have slapped fresh travel rules on travellers from China. PHOTO: JULIEN DE ROSA / AFP

Pentagon rescinds Covid-19 vaccine mandate



A US Air Force sergeant receives a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at Osan Air Base in December, 2020 in South Korea. PHOTO: UNITED STATES FORCES KOREA / AFP/FILE

US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin on Tuesday rescinded the Pentagon's Covid-19 vaccine mandate, a move required by Congress over his objections as part of the 2023 defense spending bill.

Austin wrote in a memo scrapping the mandate — un-

der which the Pentagon says more than 8,000 military personnel were discharged for refusing to comply — that he is "deeply proud" of the Defence Department's efforts to combat Covid-19.

"We have improved the health of our service members

and the readiness of the force, and we have provided life-saving assistance to the American people," he wrote.

The memo also said that the department would continue to encourage vaccination, and told commanders that they have "the responsibility and authority to preserve the department's compelling interests in mission accomplishment."

"This responsibility and authority includes the ability to maintain military readiness, unit cohesions, good order and discipline, and the health and safety of a resilient joint force," it adds.

Personnel who were removed from the military solely as a result of the mandate can apply to have the characterizations of their discharges amended, the memo says, but makes no mention of reinstatement.—AFP

COVID restrictions on Chinese travellers unnecessary: Danish health authorities

RESTRICTIONS on Chinese travellers entering Denmark are unnecessary, the Danish Health Ministry said on Monday.

"There is no binding requirement for testing before entering Denmark from China," the Minis-

try said following an assessment of potential COVID-19 measures.

To help prevent infection, free antigen testing is being offered to those arriving in Denmark on direct flights from China. The Danish Epidemic Commis-

sion said on Monday that there is currently "no significant risk of COVID-19 spreading from China to Denmark, or significant risk of the introduction of new virus variants, as there is high population immunity in Denmark."—Xinhua

Avian flu hits US West from wilderness to grocery

EGG shortages and skyrocketing prices at grocery stores continue to impact American consumers as a result of the historic avian flu that is spreading rapidly among wild birds and has triggered the killing of millions of poultry. "We have never seen anything like the enormity of this outbreak," Michael Tincher with the Rocky Mountain Raptor Programme (RMRP) told The Colorado Sun newspaper on Monday. RMRP is a group of a dozen scientists who work toward protecting and saving wild birds of prey.

Colorado's worst-ever avian flu outbreak has now resulted in nearly 6.4 million

poultry deaths and is increasingly crossing over into wild birds and killing bald eagles and other precious raptors, the newspaper reported, adding "wildlife watchers call the event 'the stuff of bad dreams'".

Last week, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defined on its website the recent bird flu as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and warned poultry producers that "wild birds can be infected and show no signs of illness. They can carry the disease to new areas when migrating, potentially exposing domestic poultry to the virus."—Xinhua



US authorities warned poultry producers that "wild birds can be infected and show no signs of illness. Photo taken on 5 April 2022 shows eggs for sale at a supermarket in Millbrae, California, the United States. PHOTO: LI JIANGUO/XINHUA

Canadian mining giant says nearing deal on huge Panama pit



The Canadian mining giant First Quantum Minerals said Tuesday it is close to an agreement with Panama to avert the closure of Central America's largest copper mine. But the government of Panama denied that the two sides were on the verge of reaching a deal, saying key issues remain unre-

Aerial view in December 2022 of the Cobre Panama mine operated by First Quantum Minerals of Canada. **PHOTO: AFP**

solved. The Cobre Panama mine is considered the largest private investment in Panama's history, making up four per cent of its GDP and accounting for 75 per cent of its export revenues. Panama had given the company until mid-December to agree to a new contract under which the amount it pays annually for its mining concession would rise by a factor of 10, to at least \$375 million.

"I don't think we're very far away," First Quantum Minerals CEO Tristan

Pascall said during an analyst call about the ongoing talks with the Panamanian government. The company added in a statement that it is willing to accept and in some cases surpass Panama's demands on money, environmental protection and workplace standards.

But the Panamanian government later said Pascall's remarks "do not reflect the reality of the situation" because the two sides "disagree on certain fundamental issues".—AFP

UK minister to meet N Ireland parties in bid to end deadlock

UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly on Wednesday sits down with Northern Ireland's political leaders in Belfast to try to end a political deadlock caused by wrangling over post-Brexit trading rules.

The visit comes after the UK and Euro-

pean Union said they had agreed on sharing data on trade between Northern Ireland and England, Scotland and Wales, which has been hailed as a breakthrough.

Under the Northern Ireland Protocol, goods heading to the province from mainland Great

Britain need customs checks to ensure they do not enter the European single market via member state Ireland.

But opposition to the rules from the pro-UK Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) has left Northern Ireland without a power-sharing government, imperilling the backbone of a 1998 peace deal.

There are hopes the stand-off can be resolved before the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, which ended three decades of sectarian violence over British rule and created an open border between Northern Ireland and Ireland.—AFP



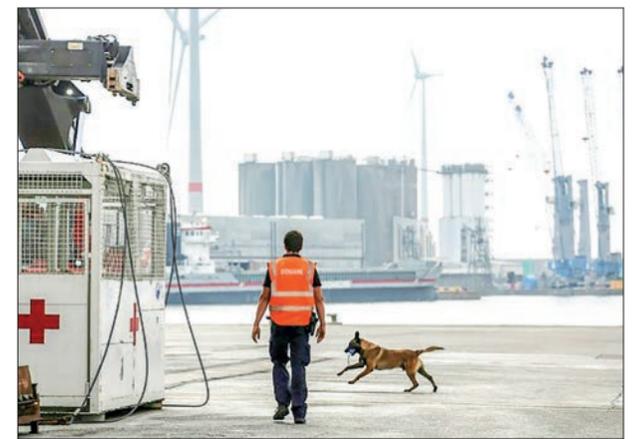
A lorry passes a 'No Irish Sea Border' sign as it is driven away from Larne port, north of Belfast in Northern Ireland, after arriving on a ferry. **PHOTO: AFP**

Record cocaine seizures in Antwerp as Belgium battles drug gangs

Cocaine seizures at the port of Antwerp, the main gateway for illegal drugs into Europe, hit a new record last year, as Belgian and Dutch authorities face off against violent international gangs.

The annual figures for drug busts in Belgium and the Netherlands were released Tuesday, a day after an 11-year-old girl was shot dead in an attack on an Antwerp home that the city's mayor alleged was part of an ongoing "drug war".

Belgium's main container terminal is now seen as the biggest route for illegal drugs into Europe, with 109.9 tonnes seized in 2022 — up from 89.5 tonnes the year before — and an unknown but probably much larg-



Despite some high profile busts in recent months, Belgian and Dutch authorities are struggling to keep pace with soaring illegal cocaine imports. **PHOTO: AFP**

er quantity reaching the market.

Across the Netherlands border, in nearby Rotterdam and Vlissingen, Dutch police battling the same gangs intercepted a further 52.5 tonnes. After Belgium and Spain, the Netherlands is Eu-

rope's third largest drugs gateway.

Belgium's Finance Minister Vincent Van Peteghem, who oversees the customs service, and Dutch secretary of state Aukje de Vries, revealed the figures at an Antwerp news conference.—AFP

Notice for Change of Registration Trade Name and Distributor

Notice is hereby given that official registration trade name and distributor have been changed for the following herbicide distributed by Agri Leading Biotech Company Ltd.

No	Trade Name		Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number	Registration distributors	
	Previous	New				Previous	New
1	Bisdium 20 WP	လယ်ပေါင်းရှင်း	Bispyribac 20% WP	Provisional	P2022-5573	Agri Leading Biotech Company Ltd.	Min Zanaka Agro Co. Ltd

Agri Leading Biotech Company Ltd., invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed within the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

Address: Agri Leading Biotech Company Ltd.
No. 101, Hanthawaddy building, Dekina Thiri Road, M-Gallery, East Naypyitaw, Naypyitaw, Myanmar. Tel:(+95)9955006789

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (272N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (272N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-1-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

Advertise with us/ Hot Line : 09974424848

Uniqlo operator to raise annual salaries in Japan by up to 40%



Undated supplied file photo shows a Uniqlo store in Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO

UNIQLO operator Fast Retailing Co said Wednesday it will raise the annual salaries of its workers in Japan by up to 40 per cent in March in an effort to narrow the remuneration gap with its employees overseas and increase the company's global competitiveness.

Due to the revision of its remuneration system

covering 8,400 full-time employees, the labour cost of the casual clothing chain operator is expected to increase by around 15 per cent.

Starting monthly salaries for university graduates will be increased to 300,000 yen (\$2,300) from the current 255,000 yen, an annual pay hike of about 18 per cent, the

company said.

The monthly salaries of new store managers will be 390,000 yen, up 100,000 yen and an increase of around 36 per cent annually. The annual earnings of other employees will also be increased by up to 40 per cent, according to the company.

The Japanese government has urged companies to raise wages amid rising living costs, and the global clothing giant's move is expected to affect the annual "shunto" spring wage negotiations between management and labour across Japan.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno welcomed Fast Retailing's decision and said he hopes other companies will follow suit and raise wages "to the maximum extent".—Kyodo

BMW doubles all-electric car sales in 2022

SALES of BMW and MINI battery electric vehicles (BEVs) in 2022 more than doubled year-on-year and reached 215,755 units, the BMW Group said on Tuesday. "We are confident we can build on this success in 2023, as we continue to see particularly high order intake for our fully-electric models," BMW AG Board member Pieter Nota said in a statement.

Total car sales, however, fell by 4.8 per cent to just under 2.4 million units last year, despite record sales of the luxury brand Rolls-Royce. Sales of the BMW core brand dropped 5.1 per cent to 2.1 million units.

Sales of BMW and MINI cars in the European home market decreased by 7.5 per cent to 877,369 units last year.

At the same time, 791,985 cars were sold in China, BMW's largest single market.

The carmaker is "optimistic" for the current year. The ramp-up of business with electric vehicles would be continued, aiming to achieve a 15 percent share of BEVs in total sales in 2023, up from less than nine per cent last year.—Xinhua

LVMH shakes up leadership at Dior, Louis Vuitton

FRENCH luxury group LVMH announced a leadership shuffle on Wednesday, naming new chief executives at major brands Christian Dior Couture and Louis Vuitton.

Delphine Arnault, a top executive at Louis Vuitton and daughter of billionaire LVMH boss Bernard Arnault, will become CEO of perfume and fashion house Dior, LVMH

said in a statement.

Bernard Arnault said in a statement that his daughter's appointment is the "continuation of a career of excellence in fashion and leather goods".

Under her direction, he said, the brand was able to "fly from record to record" and her "sharp eye and incomparable experience will be decisive assets in the continued

development of Christian Dior."

She will succeed Pietro Beccari, who will replace Michale Burke as head of Louis Vuitton, the world's leading luxury brand famous for its handbags bedecked with the initials "LV". Bernard Arnault praised Beccari for his "exceptional work" as head of Dior over the past five years.—AFP

TRADEMARK CAUTION

KITZ CORPORATION, a company incorporated under the laws of Japan, which is located at 10-1, Nakase 1-chome, Mihama-ku, Chiba-shi, Chiba, Japan, is the owner of the following trademarks:

Toyo Valve

Reg. Nos. 7991/2016, 20451/2019

In respect of Class 6: Nonferrous metals and their alloys; metal valves [not including machine elements]; metal valves with actuators [not including machine elements]; metal strainers for plumbing purposes; metal junctions for pipes; metal flanges.

In respect of Class 7: Power transmissions and gearing for machines [not for land vehicles]; valves (machine elements not for land vehicles); actuators for valves (not for land vehicles).

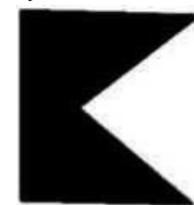
KEEPALLOY

Reg. No. 23416/2019

In respect of Class 6: Valves of alloy (other than parts of machines); junctions of alloy for pipes; flanges of alloy; alloyed iron (unwrought or semi-wrought); alloyed steel (unwrought or semi-wrought); alloys of non-ferrous metals; building materials of alloy; prefabricated building assembly kits of alloy; liquid storage tanks or reservoirs (of alloy); industrial water storage tanks (of alloy); pulleys of alloy (other than for machines); springs (alloy hardware); packaging containers of alloy; stoppers of alloy (for industrial packaging containers); lids and covers of alloy (for industrial packaging containers); keys of alloy (mechanical element); cotter pins of alloy; water tanks of alloy for household purposes.

In respect of Class 7: Valves of alloy (parts of machines); shafts of alloy; spindles or axles of alloy for machines (not for land vehicles); bearings of alloy (machine elements not for land vehicles); shaft couplings of alloy (machine elements not for land vehicles); metalworking machines of alloy; semiconductor manufacturing machines and systems of alloy; non-electric prime movers of alloy, not for land vehicles (other than "water mills" and "wind mills"); parts for non-electric prime movers of alloy for land vehicles; power transmissions and gearing of alloy for machines (not for land vehicles); shock absorbers of alloy (machine elements not for land vehicles); springs of alloy (parts of machines); brakes of alloy (machine elements not for land vehicles).

In respect of Class 11: Water purifying apparatus of alloy; household tap water filters of alloy; taps and faucets of alloy; washers of alloy for water taps; level controlling valves of alloy for tanks; pipe line cocks of alloy (spigots); boilers of alloy (other than parts of machines); gas water heaters of alloy (for household purposes); non-electric cooking heaters of alloy (for household purposes); distillation apparatus (for chemical processing) of alloy; heat exchangers of alloy (other than parts of machines); air-conditioning apparatus of alloy; solar water heaters of alloy; bath tubs of alloy.



Reg. No. 2690/2021

In respect of Class 6: Metal valves; metal strainers for filtering liquid in pipes.

In respect of Class 7: Driven actuators to be mounted on valves for opening and closing valves; not for land vehicles.

In respect of Class 11: Floating control valves for water supply; pressure reducing valves for water supply.

In respect of Class 17: Rubber flexible joints; rubber expansion joints.

KITZ CORPORATION claims the trademark rights and other relevant intellectual property rights for the marks as mentioned above. KITZ CORPORATION reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, LL.B., Advocate (14833)

For KITZ CORPORATION

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Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 12 January 2023

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Brazil seeks arrest of Bolsonaro ally over Brasilia riots

BRAZILIAN authorities seeking to punish the mob that stormed the halls of power in Brasilia issued arrest warrants Tuesday for two former senior officials, one of them a close ally of far right ex-president Jair Bolsonaro.

One of them is Anderson Torres, who used to be Bolsonaro's justice minister and lately served as security chief in the capital.

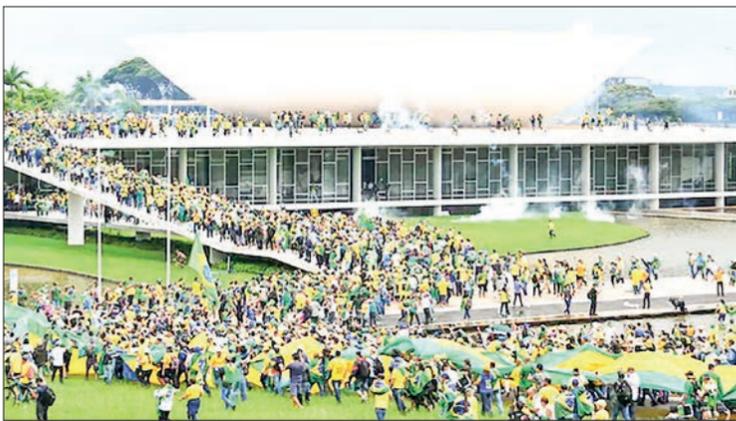
He was fired after Sunday's stunning violence, which was reminiscent of the January 6, 2021

insurrection in Washington, and brought global condemnation.

Anderson's failure to act as thousands of Bolsonaro supporters overran congress, the presidential palace and the supreme court is "potentially criminal", judge Alexandre Moraes of the Supreme Court said.

He also issued an arrest warrant for Fabio Augusto, who led the military police in Brasilia and was also removed from his job after Sunday's mob violence. News reports said he is already in custody.

"Brazilian democracy will not be struck, much less destroyed, by terrorist criminals," the judge wrote in his decision.—AFP



Supporters of Mr Bolsonaro held a demonstration. PHOTO: AFP

British police probe uranium package seized at Heathrow

BRITISH police said Tuesday they had opened an investigation into a package containing uranium that was seized at London's Heathrow Airport.

The package was discovered by border agents during a routine search on December 29, police said.

The package had originated in Pakistan and arrived on a flight from Oman, according to The Sun, which first reported the story. The uranium was found in a shipment of scrap metal and investigators were looking into whether it was the result of "poor handling" in Pakistan, the BBC

reported.

"I want to reassure the public that the amount of contaminated material was extremely small and has been assessed by experts as posing no threat to the public," police commander Richard Smith said in a statement to British media.—AFP

One killed after residential building explodes in Bochum



Rescuers were scouring the rubble with sniffer dogs throughout the night and operations continued on Wednesday morning. PHOTO: FEUERWEHR BOCHUM/BOCHUM FIRE BRIGADE/AFP

AT least one person was killed after a residential building in the German city of Bochum collapsed in its entirety following an explosion on Tuesday evening.

Rescuers were scouring the rubble with sniffer dogs throughout the night and operations continued on Wednesday morning. Debris from the two-and-a-half-storey house was scattered around the street.

The house was home to a family of three. The son and father got away with light injuries, but the mother is presumed dead. The body of a woman was found in the rubble, but firefighters were still trying to get to her on Wednesday morning. The operation was

made difficult due to the further danger of collapse.

"The situation is very dramatic," said Simon Heußen, operations manager with the Bochum fire brigade. Initial reports assume that a gas explosion was the cause of the explosion. Even though the building was not connected to the gas network, the fire brigade reported gas levels in several areas around the building.

Gas pipes have been switched off in the area, affecting twelve homes.

Nearly 200 people were on site, including police, firefighters, employees from the public utility company, technical specialists and rescue dog teams.—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Ukraine's foodstuff exports reach 17 mln tonnes under grain deal

UKRAINE'S foodstuff exports reached 17 million metric tons since August under a deal on the export of grain and fertilizers from Black Sea ports, the Interfax-Ukraine news agency reported Tuesday.

In the past three days, five vessels loaded with 158,500 metric tons of agricultural products departed from Ukraine's ports for Egypt, Sri Lanka and other countries, the agency said, citing the Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority. Currently, 98 ships are waiting for inspection in the Bosphorus, with 21 of them already loaded and 77 heading for loading.—Xinhua



On 22 July, Russia and Ukraine separately signed a document in Istanbul with Türkiye and the United Nations on grain and fertilizer exports from Ukraine and Russia to ensure supplies to global markets amid the Russia-Ukraine armed conflict. An employee oversees unloading of imported fertilizer in Lianyungang Port, Jiangsu province. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/WANG CHUN/FOR CHINA DAILY

Fate of Ukraine's Soledar unclear as Wagner claims control

THE fate of the Ukrainian city of Soledar was unclear on Wednesday, with Russian mercenary group Wagner claiming control of it while also saying "urban battles" were still being fought. Both sides have said the battle for Soledar, known for its salt mines, has been intense and bloody. Its fall would mark a significant victory for Moscow's forces.

Soledar, in the Donetsk region, lies 15 kilometres (nine miles) from the city of Bakhmut, which Russia has been trying to seize for months.

Yevgeny Prigozhin, the head of Russia's controversial

mercenary Wagner group, claimed in the early hours of Wednesday that his fighters seized control of the town.

"Wagner units have taken control of the whole territory of Soledar," Prigozhin alleged on social media.

But the the Kremlin-linked businessman added that "urban battles are being fought in the city centre".

He also said "the number of captives" will be announced Wednesday. He posted a photograph of himself in military attire, surrounded by Wagner fighters, without saying where it was.—AFP

UK, Japan to sign major defence deal allowing troop deployments



Members of the British Army and Ground Self-Defence Force board a GSDF CH-47J Chinook helicopter during their first-ever joint exercise, at Camp Fuji in Oyama, Shizuoka Prefecture, in October 2018. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

THE British and Japanese prime ministers will sign a “hugely significant” new defence deal allowing UK troops to deploy in Japan when the pair meet in London on Wednesday, Downing Street said.

The agreement is the latest sign of London’s growing interest in the Asia-Pacific region, and Tokyo’s efforts to strengthen its alliances to face the challenges posed by China.

The deal creates a legal basis for the deployment of British and Japanese troops on each others’ territory for training and other operations.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s office called it “the most significant defence agreement between the two countries in

more than a century”.

“In the past 12 months, we have written the next chapter of the relationship between the UK and Japan — accelerating, building and deepening our ties,” said Sunak. “This Reciprocal Access Agreement is hugely significant for both our nations — it cements our commitment to the Indo-Pacific and underlines our joint efforts to bolster economic security.” Negotiations on the deal, to be signed at the historic Tower of London, began in 2021.

Japan last January signed a similar accord with Australia, and Tokyo has recently overhauled its defence and security policy to address growing pressure from China.—AFP

Tigray rebels start handing over heavy weapons

TIGRAYAN rebels said Wednesday they have begun handing in their heavy weapons, a key part of a deal signed more than two months ago to end a deadly conflict in northern Ethiopia.

The terms of the 2 November peace agreement include disarming rebel forces, restoring federal authority in Tigray and reopening access and communications to the region, which has been cut off from the outside world since mid-2021. Fighting broke out in November 2020 when Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed deployed the army in a bid to topple Tigrayan leaders who had been challenging his authority for months and whom he accused of attacking federal military bases.

“Tigray has handed over its heavy weapons as part of its commitment to implement-

ing the Pretoria agreement,” Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) spokesman Getachew Reda tweeted Wednesday, referring to the November 2 deal signed in the South African capital.

“We hope and expect this will go a long way in expediting the full implementation of the agreement. We hope and expect!”

There has been no reaction yet from Abiy’s government to his statement, and spokespeople did not respond to AFP requests for comment.

A deal on the implementation of the agreement signed in Nairobi on 12 November said the disarmament of heavy Tigrayan weapons would take place at the same time as the withdrawal of foreign and non-federal forces.—AFP



A peace deal was signed in November between the Ethiopian government and Tigrayan rebels. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Several lightly wounded in knife attack at Paris train station

SEVERAL people were lightly wounded on Wednesday by a man wielding a knife at the busy Gare du Nord station in Paris, French authorities said.

The man was arrested by police at the station — a busy commuter hub which also serves as a departure point for trains to northern France, London and northern Europe — after they opened fire and wounded him, said a police source, who asked not to be named. Police were treating the stabbings as a criminal act, not a terrorist attack, a source close to the case said.

The attacker sustained a life-threatening chest injury as police fired several rounds, the source said.



The Gare du Nord is one of the world’s busiest train stations with 700,000 travellers per day. PHOTO: AFP

An off-duty police officer was the first to act against the attacker, *Le Parisien* daily said. “An individual injured sev-

eral people this morning at the Gare du Nord,” Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin wrote on Twitter.—AFP

Suspects in German museum heist face lengthy sentences

A German court on Tuesday recommended jail sentences of several years for six members of a notorious criminal gang suspected of stealing priceless 18th-century jewels from a state museum.

Insurance experts had said the loot was worth at least 113.8 million euros (\$120 million at the current rate), with German media dubbing it the biggest art

heist in modern history.

Judges at the regional court in the eastern city of Dresden proposed sentences ranging from four years and nine months to six years and nine months for five of the men, with a sixth able to provide an alibi.

The sentencing, which has yet to be finalised, follows discussions between the prosecution and defence lawyers that led to

part of the loot being recovered in mid-December.

The six men are on trial over a brazen night-time raid on Dresden’s Green Vault museum in November 2019. The thieves grabbed 21 pieces of jewellery and other valuables from the collection of the Saxon ruler Augustus the Strong, encrusted with more than 4,300 individual diamonds.—AFP

UK, Japan to sign major defence deal allowing troop deployments

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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.

Aung La N Sang arrives in Thailand to fight ONE Championship challenge

MMA fighter Aung La N Sang has arrived in Thailand to compete in the Catchweight challenge at ONE FIGHT NIGHT 6, which will be held on the morning of 14 January Myanmar time.

Aung La N Sang will fight against Brazilian Galvao as a catchweight challenge in this tournament, and if he wins, he is likely to have the opportunity to challenge again for the middleweight world championship title.

He arrived in Thailand a few days ago and is making final preparations. Aung La was previously scheduled to fight China's Fan Rong, but the opponent changed and he will fight Galvao.

Galvao is a few years away from

the competition, but with experience, he could be a tough opponent for Aung La N Sang.

There will be a total of nine bouts in the ONE's tournament.

The main event in this tourney will be the fight between Superbon from Thailand and Allazov from Belarus as the featherweight world champion.

The competition is intended for fans from the United States and Canada and will be held in Thailand at 7:30 am Myanmar Time. on 14 January, so that those countries can watch it on the night of 13 January. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Former two divisions ONE's Champion Aung La N Sang. PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

Kvitova, Bencic, Collins reach Adelaide quarter-finals

PETRA Kvitova reached the Adelaide International quarter-finals on Wednesday after her opponent retired and was joined in the last eight by Olympic champion Belinda Bencic and Danielle Collins.

Two-time Wimbledon champion Kvitova saved three set points before claiming the opening set 7-6 (8/6) against China's Zheng Qinwen, who then retired with a left thigh injury. It was the fourth win from four matches so far this year for the 32-year-old Czech as she prepares for next week's

Australian Open, where she made the final in 2019.

"Of course this gives me some good confidence," said

the world number 16, who will now play Daria Kasatkina after the fifth seed beat Barbora Krejickova in straight sets.

"Still a few things to improve, of course, as always, but otherwise I'm happy."

American Collins, who

lost to Ashleigh Barty in last year's Australian Open final, defeated Jil Teichmann 6-3, 7-6 (7/2) to also seal a berth in the

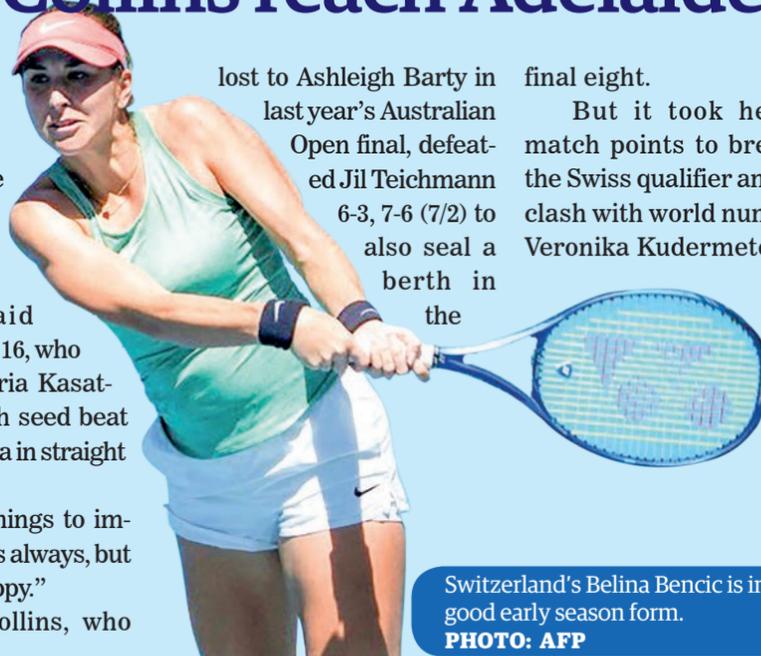
final eight.

But it took her seven match points to break down the Swiss qualifier and set up a clash with world number nine Veronika Kudermetova.

Fellow Swiss Bencic progressed with a straight-sets win over Anna Kalinskaya.

Bencic is now 3-1 for the year, having split her matches at the United Cup before defeating Garbine Muguruza in the opening round at Adelaide.

The world number 13 has dropped only two sets — both to world number one Iga Swiatek — in her last eight matches and is in buoyant mood ahead of the opening Grand Slam of the year.—AFP



Switzerland's Belina Bencic is in good early season form. PHOTO: AFP