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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 Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepts Credentials from Ambassador of Kuwait to Myanmar



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Mr Mubarak M A Aladwani, Ambassador-designate of Kuwait to Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 January 2023.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepted the Credentials of Mr Mubarak M A Aladwani, Ambassador-designate of Kuwait to Myanmar at the Credentials Hall

of the Office of the State Administration Council Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am yesterday.

They frankly discussed the promotion of diplomatic relations between the two countries, exchange of goodwill visits, enhancement of trade, cooperation

in tourism industries between the two countries, and the current political progress of Myanmar.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Myanmar posed for documentary photos.

Also present at the ceremony were Joint Secretary of the Council Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and Director-General U Wunna Han of the Protocol Department. — MNA/TTA

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National Objectives for 76th Anniversary of Union Day 2023

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

Mottos for 76th Anniversary of Union Day 2023

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

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.

CBM revokes forex licence of Imperial Myanmar Finance Co



The picture shows the office of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration-DICA where the foreign exchange licence is granted.

IMPERIAL Myanmar Finance Co Ltd got its money changer license revoked, as per the Central Bank of Myanmar's statement released on 23 January.

Nonbank financial institutions (NBFIs) have to seek a forex licence under a separate company or parent company.

When the CBM conducted

the onsite inspection, the money changer business was found running under the name of Imperial Myanmar Finance Co Ltd which is a registered NBFIs.

According to the policy laid down by the CBM, Imperial Myanmar Finance Co Ltd got its licence revoked on 19 January 2023, as per the CBM's state-

ment.

Additionally, only those business entities that are approved by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration can seek a licence to undertake legitimate transfers. Intending to eradicate the informal money transfer system "hundi" and support authorized inward remittance businesses with licences, the CBM has been granting licences for that. Those businesses need to hold a licence from relevant countries while executing money transfer business.

The CBM has issued licences for 11 companies so far.—TWA/EMM

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions



A local from Taungoo Township in Bago Region gets jabbed against COVID-19 on 24 January 2023.

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 962 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 45 people from Taungoo Township in Bago Region, respectively.

Similarly, on that day healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 2,019 students from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, it is learnt. —MNA



A student from Kangyidaunt Township in Ayeyawady Region gets jabbed against COVID-19 on 24-1-2023.

4 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 24 January, total figure rises to 633,809

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,809** after **four** new cases were reported on 24 January 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,256**, including **1** new recovery.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged to **19,490** on 24-1-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic.— MNA

PR system should be practised for broader representation

THE word federalism is a concept of sharing power and authority with different regions, states, ethnicities and national races. It means integration and sharing. Political parties including ethnic parties represent the people who support them. So, there are different representations and efforts are being made to practise the proportional representation (PR) system to widely represent the parties and ethnic nationals.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the 7th Anniversary of Signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) on 15 October 2022.)

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepts Credentials from Ambassador of Kuwait to Myanmar

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The Senior General accepts Credentials of Kuwaiti Ambassador to Myanmar (left photo) and takes the documentary group photo at the event (right photo).

Ceremony to honour winners in SAC Chairman's Cup Volleyball Tourney held



A ceremony to honour athletes who won medals in the SAC Chairman's Cup Inter-Ministry Volleyball Tournament took place at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Defence yesterday morning.

First, Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo expressed that he was happy and proud that the sportsmen

and sportswomen of his ministry won well-deserved trophies. He encouraged them to continue trying hard to become athletes on the nationally selected teams.

Afterwards, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Soe Min Oo gave the SAC Chairman's cash awards to the men's and women's volleyball teams. Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo also presented honorary awards to them.

Then, warrant officer Khin Maung Toe, chief coach of the Ministry of Defence volleyball team, gave words of thanks on behalf of the athletes who won medals. —MNA/KZW

Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo presents cash awards.

State Peace Talks Team holds talks with RCSS Chair-led peace delegation



The meeting between the State Peace Talks Team and the peace delegation led by the chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

agreed agendas in a frank and open manner.

The meeting was attended by State Administration Council Member Union Minister at the Government Office Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee-NSPNC Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and members — SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung and member Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein, RCSS Chair General Yawd Serk, RCSS's central executive committee members Sao Saung Han, Sao Um Khe and representatives.

Both sides discussed the pending issues from the second meeting to be discussed, amending the basic articles of the Constitution (2008) and the proposals that both parties want to discuss. The first-day meeting was adjourned and the talks will continue on 25 January.—MNA/TS

A meeting between the State Peace Talks Team and the peace delegation from the Restoration Council of Shan

State (RCSS) was held yesterday morning at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

First, SAC Member Union Minister SPTT Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae warmly greeted General Yawd Serk, Chairman

of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) and delegation. Then, the two sides discussed issues according to

MoFA Union Minister receives Ambassador of Kuwait to Myanmar



Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin receives the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Myanmar yesterday.

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received Mr Mubarak M A Aladwani, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Kuwait to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at 11:30 am on 24 January 2023 at the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the call, the Union minister congratulated the Ambassador for being recently appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Kuwait to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. They cordially exchanged views

on matters pertaining to the strengthening of existing bilateral relations between Myanmar and Kuwait, expanding mutually beneficial cooperation including energy and trade sectors, and closer collaboration in regional and international arenas.—MNA

MoIC Union Minister receives Ambassador of Kuwait to Myanmar



Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing receives the Ambassador of Kuwait to Myanmar yesterday.

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing received Mr Mubarak M A Aladwani, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Kuwait to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at noon on 24 January 2023 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the call, the Union minister extended congratulations to the ambassador on his recent appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Kuwait to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. They cordially exchanged views on matters related to the en-

hancement of the existing cooperation between Myanmar and Kuwait particularly in trade, investment and energy sectors as well as on continued collaboration between the two countries in regional and multilateral fora on the basis of mutual understanding and support.—MNA

IPRD celebrates 32nd Anniversary

THE 32nd Anniversary of the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) was held at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, departmental heads, region/state/district IPRD officials and outstanding staff.

During the event, the Union Minister said it will keep carrying out work plans reviewing the good and weak points facing in completed operations of the previous year. There are 435 IPRD offices across the nation and the department is a direct communication hub of media to the public.

The year 2022 is an unusual year for IPRD as it receives significant achievements. It successfully held Youth and Literature Festival commemorating the Diamond Jubilee Union Day in 2022 and Variety Show with the participation of artistes from



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn speaks on the occasion of the 32nd Anniversary of the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) yesterday.



movie, theatrical and music fields marking the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day, Youth and Literary Arts Festival, photo contests and essay competitions marking Diamond Jubilee Independence Day in Nay Pyi Taw.

Moreover, the training course on Digital Library Management System (DLMS) was launched to upgrade into a digital library system last year and

a total of 553 courses including books, journals renting services with a digital system, news report, budget and capacity building were conducted. The staff should make efforts to achieve proper skills through the capacity building training sessions.

The Union minister also added that it needs unity for the activities of the Ministry of Information and the staff should

work in unity. They also should make efforts to apply the media effectively for the public to overcome the challenges with unity and abilities.

Then, the permanent secretary and departmental officials gave awards to the outstanding staff in news reporting, photo shooting, management and other sectors.

Deputy Minister also pre-

sented first, second, third and special awards to district offices for district-level news broadcasting.

Afterwards, the Union minister gave township-level, district-level and region/state-level best performance awards to the respective offices.

The ceremony was concluded after a video clip of IPRD was played.—MNA/KTZH

MoEA Union Minister meets Thai Minister of Social Development and Human Security



Union Minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint meets the Thai Minister of Social Development and Human Security in Bangkok yesterday.

UNION Minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, who is currently in Thailand for the 2nd Ethnic Cultural Exchange Programme, met Mr Chuti Krairiksh, Minister of Social Development and Human Security at 3 pm local time yesterday.

They frankly exchanged views pertaining to the enhancement of existing Thai-Myanmar friendly rela-

tions, the exchange of ethnic traditional cultures and customs, cooperation between the two ministries to ensure mutual benefits for ethnic peoples and the elevation of the socioeconomic development of the nations in the Mekong-Lancang region.

The meeting was attended by U San Ko, Minister for Ethnic Affairs of the Kayin State government, U Saw Martin Luther, Minister for

Ethnic Affairs of the Taninthayi Region government, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Chit Swe and Minister Counsellor U Maw Bala, the director-general and deputy director-general of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs. The permanent secretary of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand, the deputy director-general and officials were also present.—MNA/TS

Working Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism holds meeting

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe delivered an opening speech at a biweekly meeting of the Working Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism held at the Central Bank of Myanmar yesterday morning.

The Myanmar delegation attended the plenary meeting of the Asia-Pacific Joint Group-APJG. At the plenary meeting, the Myanmar delegation answered questions

regarding the progress of the report by Myanmar. The leader and members of the Myanmar delegation presented their replies at the biweekly meeting and the CBM governor and officials made suggestions on the matters that need to be handled in the future.

Member of the Anti-Corruption Commission U Kyaw Win Thein and officials from relevant departments attended the meeting. — MNA/KZW



The Meeting of the Working Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism is in progress yesterday.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Octane 92 price remains unchanged for four consecutive days

THE price of Octane 92 has stayed the same at K2,305 per litre for four straight days from 21 January 2023.

The retail reference price of the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil was K2,305 per litre of Octane 92 during 21-24 January 2023.

It was priced at K2,035 per litre on 12 January and thereafter the price increased. The current price hit K2,305 per litre.

The retail reference prices were K2,305 for Octane 92, K2,385 for Octane 95, K2,480 for high-speed diesel (500 ppm) and K2,560 for HSD (50 ppm and 10 ppm).

The fuel oil prices skyrocketed in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Magway, Patheingyi, Dawei, Monywa, Hpa-an, Mawlamyine, Lashio, Taunggyi, Loikaw, Myittha, Sittway, Hakha and Kengtung cities. The Octane 92 was sold for over K2,000 per litre.

Additionally, the wholesale reference prices were K2,190 for Octane 92, K2,267 for Octane 95, K2,362 for diesel and K2,436 for premium diesel.—TWA/EMM

19 sub-workshops including iron smelting workshop run on trial run without load

OF 22 metal casting sub-workshops, 19 including the iron smelting workshop of the No 2 Steel Factory (Pinpet), the main producer of pig iron from smelting iron ore, have achieved trial tests to run without load, the Ministry of Industry stated.

Efforts are being exerted to test and operate the remaining three sub-workshops in cooperation with experts from Russia, Myanmar and factory staff so that the production will be simultaneously done with the other 19 workshops.

At present, machinery and equipment inspection and repair work for water filter systems in the iron smelting process, construction of power trans-

mission and distribution substation, coal grinding workshop, iron ore drying workshop, iron ore smelting workshop, workshop equipped with automatic fire extinguishing system, No.2 pump workshop, cold water delivery workshop, workshop handling refined raw materials, water treatment workshop with the use of recycled boiler and chemical, waste-to-energy plant, industrial water treatment workshop, oxygen blowing workshop, pig iron casting workshop, high-pressure air blower factory, second-stage water pumping factory, purified water factory, 100-tonne weighbridge scale, iron ore grinding factory for the first stage and other equipment

are fully operated so no-load test can be done.

Thanks to the technical assistance of Russian experts in October 2016, the workshops ran for 72 hours with an automatic control system. Yet, the operations stopped for over 4 years when factories were temporarily suspended. Earlier, the evaluation of machines' capacity was the first priority. The closure of factories wreaked havoc on interactions in participatory workshops in automated systems. For now, fruitful results in computer control systems, device updates and connection activities are seen with the efforts of Myanmar's experts. — TWA/EMM



The footage shows an aerial view of the No 1 Steel Factory (Pinpet).



Some city taxis are seen in Yangon city.

No fine for city taxi registration: YRTC

CITY taxi registration is being done in Yangon without collecting fines according to the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee.

Those who want to renew their licence will have to pay K3,000 for the licence renewal fee, K600 for the driver's card, K3,500 for the card stand and K1,400 for the city taxi number sticker, totalling K8,500.

City taxi registration is done to provide clean and safe services to local and foreign travellers as per city characteristics, according to the YRTC. City taxi registration renewal is being done at Yangon City Taxi Association office on Panglong Road, Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Region. — TWA/KZW

Weekly update of dry groceries in Bayintnaung Market

FROM 18 to 24 January 2023, only minor price changes of onion and potato occurred in the Bayintnaung Market, Yangon and the prices of chilli pepper, Kyukok garlic and chickpea declined. Garlic from Shan State and palm oil prices increased.

Garlic

The wholesale price per viss of Shan garlic went up from K4,600-K5,900 to K5,100-K6,300 on 24 January. However, Kyukok garlic was valued at the wholesale price of only K3,600 per viss.

Potato

There is only a slight change in potatoes in the Yangon market on 24 January. The wholesale price for potatoes from Aungban was set at K1,750-K2,100

per viss. Chinese potato prices ranged from K1,800 to K2,200 per viss depending on quality.

Chilli pepper

The decline in the price of chilli pepper commanded the wholesale price of new Myarni long chilli peppers from the Hinthada area at K11,500-12,000 per viss and that of new Panye long chilli peppers at K11,000 per viss, Mohtaung chilli peppers from Maubin at K11,000 per viss, Mohtaung chilli peppers from various regions at K11,500-K12,000 per viss, new Shan long chilli peppers at K11,000-K13,000 per viss and new Sinphyukyun bell peppers at K16,000-K16,500 per viss respectively.

Palm Oil

From 23 to 29 January, the reference wholesale price of palm oil in the Yangon slot was K4,440 per viss, which is the same price as the previous week.

It is reported that the palm oil price per viss stood above K6,000 in the Yangon oil market due to the difficulties at some oil tanks in the last week of January.

The palm oil was valued at K6,400 per viss in the Nyaungpinlay market in Yangon and K6,450 per viss in Mandalay on 24 January. On 20 January, around nine thousand tonnes of palm oil entered the country. There is no change in the reference price that is published

depending on the change in the exchange rate. Thus, the palm oil price in the external market was still high.

Rice

In the Yangon rice market, where the price has gone up sharply, a large bag of broken rice fetched K40,500-K41,500 and a small bag of broken rice cost K40,000-K41,000. The price per bag of new low-grade Sindhukha rice was K46,000, and that of 90-day rice was valued at K48,000-K49,000 for the new type and K55,000-K60,000 for the old type.

The wholesale price of new Pawsan rice charged K78,000-K84,000 per bag for the Shwebo variety, K65,000-K67,000

per bag for the Patheingyi-Myaungmya variety and K63,000-K65,000 per bag for Pyapon variety.

The wholesale price of old Pawsan rice was set at K95,000-K107,000 per bag for the Shwebo variety, K67,000-K70,000 per bag for Patheingyi-Myaungmya variety and K60,000-K67,000 per bag for Pyapon variety.

Pulses

The market prices on 24 January were K1,686,500 per tonne for black gram FAQ/RC, K1,916,500 per tonne for SQ/RC, K1,827,500 per tonne for pigeon peas (red gram), K2,800-K2,920 per viss for mung bean (Kayan Shwewah) and K4,000-K4,350 per viss for chickpea, respectively. — TWA/CT

LOCAL BUSINESS

Green gram price jumps to over K1.7 mln per tonne on strong demand

THE price of green gram soared above K1.7 million per tonne in the Mandalay market on the back of strong demand by foreign trade partners.

On 3 January 2023, the green gram price hit K1,524,000 per tonne. The price surged to K1,709,000 per tonne on 24 January 2023. The price showed an increase of K185,000 per tonne within three weeks.

The newly harvested green gram started to flow into the market at the end of 2022. China has been purchasing Myanmar's green gram, the Mandalay commodity depot stated.

Myanmar has been preparing to export green gram to European Union countries in 2023, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Ministry of Commerce agreed to export the green grams

for sprouts in 2015.

The steering committee has been holding a series of meetings to call for bids, conduct awareness courses for the farmers and inspect farm-level processing regarding exports of the green grams for bean sprouts.

The Agriculture Department takes charge of farmer and collector inspection and testing, while the Consumers Affairs Department carries out processor inspection and training. Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service (MITS), the authorized organization of the State, was asked to monitor processor level to meet the criteria, food safety and quality standard set by the EU. Those inspectors from MITS are trained by the experts of the Plant Protection Division, the Agriculture Department and the German Development Agency GIZ.

MITS conducted inspections annually, with nine in 2018, 10 in 2019, six each in 2020 and 2021 and five in 2022 respectively.

For Myanmar's bean and pulses exports to the EU, handling and hygiene practices are crucial for bean export to the EU. The inspection undergoes the following stages; purchasing green grams, warehousing, processing and refining green grams, cargo handling for exports, quality control and health and hygiene of the workers.

The MITS undertakes an inspection once at a factory that meets the criteria and standards. If the MITS finds the requirements during inspection, they set a timeframe for the factory manager to fix them. Then, they went on a second in-



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spection tour. They present certificates for those factories that pass the test.

The MITS is ready to implement a processor-level test for those export companies to the EU in 2023.

Myanmar's green gram is primarily shipped to India, China and European countries. It has grasped a strong market share in international markets.—NN/EMM

Rubber price on gradual rise



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

THE price of rubber showed incremental growth in recent days, according to Mon State's rubber market.

The price of rubber hit K1,190 per pound of sundried Local 3 and K1,210 per pound of Ribbed Smoked Sheet on 2 January. The prevailing prices have gradually increased to K1,320 per pound of sundried local 3 and K1,340 per pound of Ribbed Smoked Sheet Local 3.

The figures indicated an increase of K130 per pound within three weeks.

However, the current price has not met the high price of over K1,600 per pound recorded in the rubber tapping sea-

son in the third week of September 2022.

Global demand for rubber, rubber production of the Southeast Asian nations and the market supply are contributing factors to the rubber price condition of Myanmar

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

Rubber is commonly produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber season data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber planta-

tions in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres.

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

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

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 24 January 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,305
Octane 95	K2,385
Diesel	K2,480
Premium Diesel	K2,560

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,285,500 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,812,000 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

Bring good news to the people of Naga Self-Administered Zone

IT IS a piece of good news not only for ethnics residing in Naga Self-Administered Zone but for all ethnic people across the nation, saying that the Head of State on his tour of the Naga region in recent days pledged to complete the construction of the Chindwin Bridge (Htamathi) as well as placing of asphalt on the road to Htamathi before the Naga Traditional New Year Festival to be held in 2025.

Everybody knows the Naga region lags development behind other regions and states. So, their living standard cannot shoulder those from other areas. As they live in hilly regions, they face difficulties in road transportation. If their region is facilitated with smooth transport similar to other regions, they will have a wider scope of knowledge on how to develop their regions.

The Head of State also gave a promise to upgrade the earthen road linking Leshi and Lahe at the foot of Mount Saramati, adding a plan to upgrade the sports ground in Lahe to be a stadium equipped with stands and tracks in the region. Indeed, it is the

sound of the bell rung for all that a plan is underway to improve the sports standard of the Naga region.

Moreover, local authorities need to emphasize the cultivation of tea and coffee to become trademarks of the Naga region in the market in addition to the production of orange and other crops. If local ethnics are dutiful for extended production of crops and products, the Union government is ready to provide assistance for them to have greater development.

Moreover, local authorities need to emphasize the cultivation of tea and coffee to become trademarks of the Naga region in the market in addition to the production of orange and other crops. If local ethnics are dutiful for extended production of crops and products, the Union government is ready to provide assistance for them to have greater development.

as food for the people.

Moreover, local authorities need to emphasize the cultivation of tea and coffee to become trademarks of the Naga region in the market in addition to the production of orange and other crops. If local ethnics are dutiful for extended production of crops and products, the Union government is ready to provide assistance for them to have greater development.

All ethnic nationals of the nation are delighted that the recent trip of the Head of State actually benefits all ethnic people residing in the Naga Self-Administered Zone due to firm pledges to have prospects for greater development of the region.

I JOINED the university in 1973. It was the year I passed the matriculation examination. At that moment, I was over 18. Before that, I had never been to large cities. The atmosphere in the university was absolutely queer and amazing for me. I had some food that I had never had in my small town before. Among them, I remembered one named “Kaw Yay Khaut Hswe” meaning noodles with glue costing 60 pyas which were less than one kyat. It was very delicious. Today, “Kaw Yay Khaut Hswe” costs 1500 kyats which is over 1,500 times more than in 1973. The difference in the time from 1973 to 2022 is about 50 years. It is natural the old prices and the current prices cannot be identical.

Here, there will be a query whether the income of a person has also already risen to the prices of goods or food. In this article, I would not like to mean the comparison of rising prices of goods or food to that of the income of people. Regardless of the situations of the time and the political status of a nation, people from everywhere in the world should follow the good practice by which I have recently read a suggestion written by an author from the United Kingdom. I think you all will agree with his suggestion and obtain a certain useful advantage after you have completely read his article up to the end. It is as follows:-

When I visit the supermarket

it feels like every single item has become more expensive. Even if that's not true across the board, once you get to the till those extra pennies here and there are adding up.

And some staples have jumped up significantly. A recent study by the Office of National Statistics tracked the prices of essentials over a year. Pasta increased by almost 50 per cent, bread by 16 per cent, and rice by 15 per cent.

So how do you combat the creeping cost of your groceries? Well, there are some simple tricks you can try that'll reduce your spending and help you get the best value from your shopping.

Plan what you need to buy

There are a few advantages of thinking ahead before you get to the supermarket. First up, meal planning is a great way to ensure you have enough food in for the whole household for every meal, preventing last-minute dashes to the more expensive corner shop for extras.

While planning, check what you already have so you can use these up and cut out food waste (if you forget, a quick trick is to take a photo of your fridge and cupboards before you go to the shops!). Then your plan can turn into a shopping list. This is a great tool as, if you stick to the list, you'll avoid the “special” offers and treats that tempt you to spend more than you originally planned.

To Beat Rising Prices

By Yin Nwe Ko

And you can take this a step further by shopping online instead of in-store, removing you completely from an environment that's engineered to make you buy extras or certain brands.

Change what you buy

We've all got our favourite brands and supermarkets, and it can be hard to ditch these for cheaper alternatives. But doing this can make a huge difference. Look for own-brand items, which

are often made with similar recipes but cost less.

It's worth at least giving it a go and seeing if you really can tell the difference. You might end up just swapping one or two items, but that's still saving you some cash. I also like to check out the “price per unit” information on the shelf. Often this will be per gramme or litre and you'll be able to see if you can save money by changing to a different size pack or different brand. You'd be surprised just how often the smaller bag is cheaper than the larger “value” options.

Occasionally this can sometimes get a little confusing. For example, you might see bananas in a bag priced per banana versus loose ones priced by weight — that's impossible to compare! And don't forget to check if you can pick up the same items for less elsewhere in the shop. You might find bargain spices in the world food aisle or cheaper toiletries in

the baby section.

Take advantage of discounts and deals

Special offers can be a huge help, but you do have to be careful. Many, such as Buy-One-Get-One-Free (BOGOF), are designed to make us buy more than we need. But if you are certain you're going to use something then bulk buying when they're on offer will bring savings. I tend to do this for non-perishables like toothpaste or

any product that I use every week.

You'll need to check if a discount is a discount too. Often you can find that multi-buy offers only take off a penny or two. And there could be a cheaper alternative on the shelf that's not part of a promotion. Coupons are handy and can be found online and in many supermarket magazines. There are also cashback apps like Shopmium and CheckoutSmart which offer money back when you buy certain products—though only do this if you want to buy what's on offer.

You'll also be able to get more and more special prices via loyalty schemes and apps. Tesco's Clubcard is essential to get their lower prices, while the MyWaitrose scheme offers weekly vouchers via their app (you can also get paper alternatives if that's what you prefer). And I'll always take my trolley on a drive-by of the reduced sections in case I can pick up some yellow sticker bargains. Of course, only buy what you'll eat and check that food can be frozen if you don't think you'll consume it in time (some things have been pre-frozen)

Prevent food waste

Finally, you'll save a decent chunk of cash by avoiding throwing out food. There are two parts to this. On one hand, there's forgoing you've got something and it's gone off before you can use it — so keep an eye on the dates. And the extension of this is throw-

ing out stuff past its date but still perfectly safe to eat.

The distinction here is between use-by and best-before. Use-by dates are all about safety, so you'll see them on things like meat, fish, eggs, and dairy. These dates are important, so eat or freeze items while they are in date (though you might get away with a sniff test on things like milk).

Best-before on the other hand is just a guide to the quality of the product. As long as items have been properly stored they'll be fine to consume after the date — they just might not be at their best. So don't chuck out those packs of crisps, tinned tomatoes, or cans of beer just because they've “expired”.

And remember that the freezer is your friend here. You can freeze more than you'd imagine. From leftovers from last night's dinner and the last slices of bread or cake through to bananas (peel and chop them up first to add to smoothies), wine (put in ice cubes trays and use for cooking), and hard cheese (if you grate this before freezing it's easy to quickly add to pasta and pizzas).

All in all, it is wiser and more convenient to practice the suggestion of beating the rising goods or food prices in spite of not blaming others.

Reference: Reader's Digest UK Aug 2022



Reader's Digest

Global economy facing “turning point” amid challenges



Though challenges still threaten the global economy, attendees voiced hope that a severe recession may be avoided. PHOTO: XINHUA

THE global economy has regained steam after a difficult COVID-19 pandemic, but experts at the World Economic Forum (WEF) say a recovery is far from certain.

Under the theme “Cooperation in a Fragmented World”, the WEF's 2023 annual meeting concluded here on 20 January. The gathering came amid unprecedented global challenges such as high inflation, an energy crisis, climate change and geopolitical conflict.

Growth is on an upward trajectory and could witness a more robust recovery in 2023 through global cooperation and following China's adjusted COVID-19 response measures.

CAUTION STILL NEEDED

The global economic outlook is not as bad as feared a couple of months ago, “but less bad doesn't quite yet mean good”, Kristalina Georgieva, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), told a closing panel at the WEF. “We have to be cautious.”

Georgieva said headline inflation was heading down. China's optimized COVID-19 response is expected to boost global growth, with the IMF forecasting the Chinese economy will reach an estimated 4.4 per cent, far outpacing global growth.

Signs of declining inflation, resilient consumer spending and strong labor markets, among others, suggest that growth could re-

bound in the short term.

“Be careful not to get on the other side of the spectrum, from being too pessimistic to being too optimistic. Stay in the middle of realism that seems to serve the world well,” Georgieva said.

The WEF issued its Global Risks Report 2023, saying that conflict and geo-economic tensions have triggered a series of deeply interconnected global risks, with the cost of living crisis being the most significant short-term risk. At the same time, climate change and climate adaptation are the most considerable long-term concern.

Georgieva said that future growth prospects depend on how supply chain security is managed.

“If we diversify rationally, the

cost of this adjustment would be low — we put it down to 0.2 per cent of GDP. If we trash trade that has been an engine for growth for so many decades, the cost can go up to seven per cent loss of GDP, equating seven trillion US dollars,” she said.

“Labour markets are holding firm so far, but interest rates are yet to bite, and if they bite more severely, then we can see unemployment going up. And it is very different for a consumer to have a cost of living crisis and a job than the cost of living crisis and no job,” Georgieva said. European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde was also cautious about the global economic outlook. “The greatest tragedy in this moment would be

if central banks were to lurch away from a focus on assuring price stability prematurely, and we were to have to fight this battle twice,” said former US Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers. Despite recent signs of improvement, “relief must not become complacency,” Summers noted.

COOPERATION BRINGS OPTIMISM

Attendees at the forum said cooperation would be for global growth. WEF President Borge Brende expressed confidence that “we can shape a more resilient, sustainable and equitable future”, but “the only way to do it is together”.

Source: Xinhua

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Vast iceberg breaks off near UK Antarctic base

A huge iceberg nearly the size of Greater London has broken off the Antarctic ice shelf near a research station, the second such split in two years, researchers announced Monday.

The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) said the formation of the new iceberg — in a natural process called “calving” — was not due to climate change, which is accelerating the loss of sea ice in the Arctic and parts of Antarctica.

The iceberg, measuring 1,550 square kilometres (598 square miles), detached from the 150-metre-thick Brunt Ice Shelf a decade after scientists first spotted massive cracks in the shelf. A similar spectacular separation, involving a 1,270-square-kilometre iceberg, occurred around a year ago.

“This calving event has been expected and is part of the nat-



A handout picture released by British Antarctic Survey (BAS) on 21 February 2018 and taken on 22 November 2017 from the British Antarctic Survey Twin Otter aircraft shows the Larsen C ice shelf. A team of scientists, led by British Antarctic Survey (BAS), is heading to Antarctica to investigate a mysterious marine ecosystem that's been hidden beneath an Antarctic ice shelf for up to 120,000 years. The iceberg known as A68, which is four times of London, calved off from the Larsen C Ice Shelf in July 2017. The scientists will travel by ship to collect samples from the newly exposed seabed. **PHOTO: ALI ROSE / BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY / AFP**

ural behaviour of the Brunt Ice Shelf,” said BAS glaciologist Dominic Hodgson.

“It is not linked to climate change.”

Britain's Halley VI Research Station monitors the state of the vast floating ice shelf daily but is unaffected by the latest rupture.

The mobile research base was relocated inland for safety reasons in 2016-2017 as cracks in the ice threatened to cut it off.

Since then, staff have been deployed there only during the Antarctic summer between November to March, with 21 researchers currently on-site.

They maintain the power supplies and facilities that keep scientific experiments operating remotely through the winter, when it is dark for 24 hours and the temperature falls below minus 50 degrees Celsius (-58 degrees Fahrenheit).—AFP

How three dust specks reveal an asteroid's secrets

THE specks are tiny. No, really tiny. Smaller than the diameter of a hair. But they hold billions of years of history that reveal some of the secrets of asteroids.

The three minute particles from an asteroid called Itokawa show some of these space rocks are vastly older than was thought, and are much tougher.

And that could mean we need bolder ways to prevent catastrophic collisions with Earth, according to research published Tuesday.

The three samples were collected in 2005 from the peanut-shaped Itokawa, some 300 million kilometres (186 million

miles) from Earth.

It took the Japanese spacecraft Hayabusa five years to return them to Earth, along with hundreds of other particles from Itokawa, and scientists have been analyzing them for clues ever since.

Fred Jourdan, professor at Curtin University's School of Earth and Planetary Sciences, wanted to see what the specks could reveal about the age of rubble-pile asteroids like Itokawa.

These form when solid asteroids collide and the resulting fragments assemble into new structures.

Solid asteroids are thought

to have a lifespan of several hundred million years, and are gradually ground down by constant collisions.

But rubble-pile asteroids have a very different structure, composed of rocks, dust, pebbles and a void, and held together by the gravitational pull of their various components.

“It's like a giant space cushion, and cushions are good at absorbing shock,” Jourdan said.

To find out just how good, the team analyzed crystal structures in the samples, looking for deformations caused by the impact that created Itokawa.

—AFP

Sea spiders can regrow body parts, not just limbs: study

SEA spiders can regrow body parts after amputation and not just limbs, according to a study released on Monday that may pave the way for further scientific research into regeneration.

“Nobody had expected this,” said Gerhard Scholtz of Humboldt University in Berlin, senior author of the study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. “We were the first to show that this is possible.”

It is well documented that many different types of arthropods such as centipedes, spiders, and other insects can regrow limbs after a loss.

“Crabs can even automatically get rid of their limbs if they are attacked,” Scholtz said. “They replace it by a new limb.”

What the researchers discovered with their experiments with the tiny eight-legged sea spiders is that they are able to regenerate body parts other than limbs.

For the study, they amputated different hind limbs and posterior parts of 23 immature and adult sea spiders and mon-

itored the results.

There was no regeneration of body parts in the adult sea spiders but some of them are still alive two years later.

The juvenile specimens, on the other hand, experienced a complete or a near-complete regeneration of the missing body parts including the hindgut, anus, musculature, and parts of reproductive organs.

Ninety per cent of the sea spiders survived long-term and 16 of the young ones went on to molt at least once.

Regrowth of the posterior was observed in 14 of the young spiders while none of the adult specimens molted or regenerated.

Regeneration capabilities vary throughout the animal kingdom. Flatworms, for example, can regrow their body just from a few cells. Vertebrates, which include humans, have virtually no regeneration capability with some exceptions such as lizards which can regrow tails. Scholtz said the findings could pave the way for further research in the field.—AFP

UK to offer £600 mln in pollution-cutting support for steelmakers: media

BRITAIN will offer grants to help its two largest steelmakers replace dirty blast furnaces with less carbon-intensive technology, media reported Monday.

The BBC reported that grants worth £600 million (\$744 million) will “likely” be unveiled this week for Chinese-owned

British Steel and Indian-owned Tata Steel UK, to help slash damaging emissions, cut fuel bills and protect thousands of jobs.

The announcement will depend on when the firms accept the offers, The Guardian newspaper noted.

British Steel and Tata Steel

operate Britain's four remaining steel blast furnaces.

However, London reportedly wants the pair to switch to electric arc furnaces, which the BBC reports could recycle the scrap steel Britain produces and be powered by electricity from renewable sources.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD



(FILES) In this file photo taken on 10 February 2021 Sister Andre, Lucile Randon in the registry of birth, the eldest French and European citizen, prays in a wheelchair, on the eve of her 117th birthday, in an EHPAD (Housing Establishment for Dependant Elderly People) in Toulon, southern France, where she has been living since 2009. The world's oldest known person, Lucile Randon, known as Sister Andre, has died aged 118, her spokesman said on 17 January 2023. Randon was born in southern France on 11 February 1904, when World War I was still a decade away. **PHOTO: AFP**

How long can a healthy human live?

THE death of the world's oldest person at the age of 118 has reignited a debate that has divided scientists for centuries: is there a limit on how long a healthy human can live?

After French nun Lucile Randon died last week, Spanish great-grandmother Maria Bran-
yas Morera, 115, has assumed the title of the oldest living person, according to Guinness World Records.

Back in the 18th century, French naturalist Georges-Louis Leclerc, known as the Comte de Buffon, theorized that a person who had not suffered an accident or illness could live for a theoretical maximum of 100 years.

Since then, medical ad-

vancements and improving living conditions have pushed the limit back by a couple of decades.

A new milestone was reached when Frenchwoman Jeanne Calment celebrated her 120th birthday in 1995.

Calment died two years later at the age of 122. She remains the oldest person ever to have lived — that has been verified, at least.

According to the United Nations, there were an estimated 593,000 people aged 100 years or older in 2021, up from 353,000 a decade earlier. The number of centenarians is expected to more than double over the next decade, according to the Statista data agency.—AFP

WHO seeks \$2.5 bln for health emergency responses in 2023

THE World Health Organization on Monday appealed for \$2.54 billion for its work in 2023 to help millions of people facing health emergencies around the world.

The UN health agency said that it was currently responding to an unprecedented number of intersecting health emergencies.

It pointed to the brutal war in Ukraine and the health impacts of conflicts in Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria and Ethiopia, as well as climate change related disasters like the monster floods that hit Pakistan last year and swelling food insecurity across the Sahel and the Horn of Africa.

And all of these emergencies, it stressed, overlap with the massive health system dis-

ruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and outbreaks of other deadly diseases like measles and cholera.

"We're witnessing an unprecedented convergence of crises that demands an unprecedented response," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said as the agency launched its appeal.

"The world cannot look away and hope these crises resolve themselves."

He said the WHO was currently responding to 54 health crises around the world, 11 of which were ranked as the highest-possible level emergency, requiring a broad response.

Jarno Habicht, WHO's rep-

resentative in Ukraine, highlighted that the conflict-ravaged country had seen more than 700 attacks on healthcare, including strikes hitting hospitals and ambulances, since Russia launched its full-scale invasion nearly a year ago.

At the same time, massive attacks on critical infrastructure across Ukraine "means healthcare facilities cannot perform their duties" properly, he said, pointing out that they often are working without electricity, heating or water in "very difficult circumstances".

The many health emergencies are happening as the need for humanitarian aid overall is skyrocketing.—AFP

Nursing federation slams UK recruitment from poorer nations

BRITAIN'S recruitment of nurses from poorer countries as a quick fix for its own underinvestment in the profession is a serious cause of concern, the global nurses' federation said Monday.

The International Council of Nurses said wealthy countries recruiting nursing staff from some of the world's most fragile health systems was extremely hard to justify and perhaps should be stopped entirely.

The ICN said seven or eight wealthy countries — notably Britain, the United States and Canada — were driving around 80 per cent of international nurse migration, to try to address their domestic shortages.

"We are very concerned by some of the examples," ICN chief executive Howard Catton told a press conference organized by the UN correspondents association in Geneva.

He cited talks between Britain and Ghana whereby London will pay Accra £1,000 (\$1,240) per nurse recruited.

"That, in no way, goes anywhere near recognizing the

true value of the training costs of that nurse, or the loss to the Ghanaian health system," he said. When adding in experience in the field, "I'd expect to see £50,000 as a price to compensate for that experience at least — if not more. £1,000 is woefully short."

The ICN said international recruitment focused largely on experienced, specialized nurses, rather than the "myth" that only newly-qualified nurses were being targeted.

"That creates a serious deficit in expertise in countries that cannot afford to lose their more experienced nurses. That has really been a serious concern," said ICN president Pamela Cipriano.

"When you take those nurses out of the clinical environment, you truly have a brain drain." She said countries had to adopt a strategy of becoming self-sufficient in producing nurses.

"We're appealing to the ethics of countries that health is a global issue," she said. "We don't want to see some countries thrive and others hurt." —AFP

WHO urges action on contaminated meds after child deaths

FOLLOWING the deaths of more than 300 children from contaminated cough syrup, the WHO appealed Monday for "immediate and coordinated action" to root out substandard and falsified medicines around the world.

At least seven countries have reported incidents involv-

ing over-the-counter cough syrups for children over the past four months, the World Health Organization said in a statement.

More than 300 associated deaths have been recorded in three of those countries — The Gambia, Indonesia and Uzbekistan — it said, adding that

most of the deaths were among "young children under the age of five".

The incidents reported involve confirmed or suspected contamination of Indian-made cough syrups with high levels of diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol.—AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

China's outbound travel market sees recovery at Spring Festival

ON the first day of the Chinese Lunar New Year, a Chinese tourist surnamed Wu landed in Bangkok, Thailand, together with her parents, at the start of a long-awaited vacation.

"I wanted to take my family to Thailand a few years ago, but it was put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic," said Wu, who lives in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province. "As soon as the restrictions on our overseas trips were lifted, I booked the plane tickets to Thailand and fulfilled my promise."

As China downgraded its

management of COVID-19 and facilitated the smooth and orderly cross-border travel of Chinese and foreign nationals in early January, the outbound travel market, which had been almost dormant for the past three years, quickly recovered during the Spring Festival.

"Currently, the demand for outbound travel is very strong. For instance, our charter flight products to the Maldives on Chinese Lunar New Year's Eve were sold out within three days," said Hang Haijun, head of a travel photo service.

The embassies and tourist bureaus of many countries, including Thailand, Norway and Indonesia, have extended their welcomes to Chinese tourists in various ways since the adjustment of China's COVID response and entry-exit policies. "For any destination in the world, the return of Chinese tourists is something to look forward to," said Shen Jiani, a senior researcher at the strategic research centre of the Ctrip Research Institute, adding that the boost will be felt most in the Asian market, as it is closer to China.—Xinhua



Travellers from China arrive at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok on 6 January 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Microsoft invests billions in ChatGPT firm OpenAI

MICROSOFT on Monday said it had extended its partnership with OpenAI, the research lab and creator of ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence chatbot that has sparked widespread fears of cheating in schools and universities.

In a company blog post tweeted by CEO Satya Nadella, the tech giant announced a "multiyear, multibillion dollar investment to accelerate AI breakthroughs" that would be "broadly shared with the world".

OpenAI's ChatGPT became an internet sensation when it was released without warning in November, allowing users to experiment with its ability to write essays, articles and poems as well as computer code in just seconds.

With teachers alarmed by its ability, ChatGPT is banned in universities and school districts - including in New York City and Washington DC - and has sparked nervous debates about the future of office work. California-based OpenAI

is also the creator of DALL-E, a programme that can swiftly draw up digital images and illustrations at a simple request.

Media reports have put Microsoft's fresh investment in OpenAI at \$10 billion, which would value the company at roughly \$29 billion.

The announcement comes less than a week after Microsoft said it would lay off 10,000 employees in the coming weeks and redeploy investment to new priorities such as AI.—AFP

US auto giant Ford to axe 3,200 jobs in Germany: union

US auto giant Ford is planning to axe 3,200 jobs in Germany, a union said Monday, adding it was extremely concerned about the future of the company's sites in Europe's top economy.

The news came amid fears in the EU that companies could shift their operations to the United States because of the recently passed landmark Inflation Reduction Act that offers tax cuts for US-made electric cars and batteries.

A spokesman for the IG Metall union told AFP the cuts will be mainly in Cologne, where Ford has a major plant, but all sites across Germany are threatened.

"We at IG Metall are ex-

tremely concerned about the future of the German development divisions and, as a whole, about the future of the German Ford sites," said a statement from the union after an extraordinary meeting with management.

As well as the Cologne site, Ford has a development centre in nearby Merkenich.

The carmaker did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The development centre has "successfully designed models for the European market, which often brought global success for the company," said IG Metall, which represents workers in the key electrical and metal sectors.—AFP

Interest rates need to rise at 'steady pace': ECB chief



President of the European Central Bank (ECB) Christine Lagarde attends a press conference following the meeting of the governing council of the ECB in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, on 15 December 2022. PHOTO: AFP

EUROPEAN Central Bank chief Christine Lagarde said Monday that interest rates need to continue rising at a "steady pace"

in order to avoid inflation becoming entrenched. While energy prices have recently come down, Lagarde said underlying

inflation continues to rise. "It is vital that inflation rates above the ECB's two-per-cent target do not become entrenched in the economy," she said at an event hosted by the operator of the Frankfurt stock exchange. In less than six months the ECB has raised its key policy rates by 2.5 percentage points, the fastest increase in its history.

"ECB interest rates will still have to rise significantly at a steady pace to reach levels that are sufficiently restrictive, and stay at those levels for as long as necessary" to bring inflation down, Lagarde added. "We must bring inflation down. And we will deliver on this goal," she vowed.—AFP

Musk says buying Tesla at \$420 a share was no joke

ELON Musk on Monday told jurors that his 2018 tweet about taking Tesla private at \$420 a share was no joke and that Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund was serious about helping him do it. Tesla chief Musk returned to the witness stand on Monday to answer questions by lawyers for angry investors who accuse him of costing them millions of dollars with a pair of allegedly false tweets about having fund-

ing secured to buy them out.

Much of the focus was put on Musk's buyout figure of 420, a number that is also a popular rallying code for marijuana, which Musk uses.

"420 was not chosen because of a joke; it was chosen because there was a 20 per cent premium over the stock price," Musk said when asked if he was having a laugh when he made the tweet.—AFP

Laos expects to welcome 1.4 mln tourists in 2023

THE Lao government hopes to attract 1.4 million domestic and foreign visitors this year, which is expected to generate more than 340 million US dollars.

Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism Suanesavanh Vignaket urged relevant officials to work harder to strengthen tourism operations, improve local infrastructure, and create new tourism products, the Lao News Agency (KPL) reported on Tuesday. Suanesavanh told a two-day meeting that the ministry will coordinate with central and local authorities on planning tourism development, as well as upgrade tourism sites and improve the quality of hotels and guesthouses to meet ASEAN standards.

Lao Thiao Lao, or Lao



This photograph taken on 12 March 2020 shows an employee inviting customers at an open air restaurant on the banks of the Mekong river in Vientiane. PHOTO: AFP

Visit Laos programme, continues in 2023, with the government hoping to continue attracting domestic tourists as well as visitors from abroad. The campaign was launched in 2020 to encourage Laos to travel within the Southeast

Asian country.

Meanwhile, Laos has begun preparing for the arrival of Chinese tourists after it was listed among 20 countries greenlit by the Chinese government for outbound group tours.

The Lao Airlines

plans to operate more flights to welcome Chinese tourists. The airline currently operates three flights a week from the Lao capital Vientiane to Kunming in southwest China's Yunnan Province.

—Xinhua

Thailand's auto exports hit 45-month high in December

THAILAND'S auto exports rose to a 45-month high of 111,605 units in December as the supply of semiconductor parts picked up, data showed on Tuesday. The country's auto exports climbed 10.17 per cent year on year in December to 111,605 units, with a combined export value of 65.99 billion baht (about 2.01 billion US dollars), an 8.21-per cent increase year on year, according to the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI).

In December, the country's car production rose 2.75 per cent from a year earlier to 158,606 units, FTI auto club vice president and spokesman Surapong Paisitpattanonong said at a news conference. In 2022, the country manufactured more than 1.8 million cars, marking an increase of 11.73 per cent from a year earlier, he said.—Xinhua

**The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Industry
No(3) Heavy Industrial Enterprise
Invitation for Expression of Interest (Eol)**

1. The Ministry of Industry hereby announces an Invitation for Expression of Interest (Eol) to both interested local and foreign investors and companies for Public-Private-Partnership for the following factories and farm ;

- (a) No.(10) Textile Factory (Taungtha)
- (b) No.(11) Textile Factory (Pakokku)
- (c) Horse and Sheep Breeding Farm (Yanpe)

2. The applicable information is as follow;

- (a) Available date for Eol Form - (27-1-2023) to (24-3-2023)
- (b) Deadline for submission of Eol - (31-3-2023) (16:00 hrs)
- (c) Place to sell Eol form;
 - (i) Planning Department, No.(3) Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Office No. 37, Nay Pyi Taw.
 - (ii) No.(1), Thukhawadi Road, (6) Ward, Yankin Township, Yangon.
- (d) Place of Tender Submission - No.(3) Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Office No. 37, Nay Pyi Taw.

3. For further detail information, please contact to

- Phone No. - 95-67-3408185, 95-67-3408156, 95-67-3408338
- Email - textile.planning@gmail.com

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 insecticide and fungicide distributed by Agro Green Land Chemical Co. Ltd to Min Zanaka Agro Co. Ltd.

No	Trade Name		Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
	Old	New			
1	Guang Cyper	အယ်ဖာစတား	Alpha-Cypermethrin 100g/l EC	Provisional	P2021-5245
2	Foison Knight	ရွှေသီးနံ	Epoxiconazole 12.5% SC	Provisional	P2022-4704

Agro Green Land Chemical Co. 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 : Agro Green Land Chemical Co. Ltd. No.61, Gayunar Road, Near (Ka Nya Na) office, Dagon Myo Thit (South) Township, Yangon, Tel: (+95)977758847

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (23003N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (23003N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-1-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S X-PRESS FEEDERS LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (162N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (162N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-1-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL TRUST VOY.NO. (1301S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL TRUST VOY.NO. (1301S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-1-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINES

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

South African navy to host Russian, Chinese counterparts for maritime exercise



Chinese and Russian warships take part in a joint naval exercise, Joint Sea 2022, in the East China Sea on 21 December 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA

SOUTH Africa will host the naval forces from China and Russia during the multilateral maritime exercise scheduled to take place next month in Durban and

Richards Bay in KwaZulu-Natal, according to the country's Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans.

Known as Exercise Mosi

II, the multilateral maritime exercise will take place from 17 to 27 February, and more than 350 South African soldiers will join their Chinese and Russian counterparts in the exercise, the ministry said in a statement released Sunday.

"The envisaged exercise will benefit all countries involved through Interoperability of the naval systems, joint disaster systems management enhancement, maritime cooperation and anti-piracy exercises," Minister of Defence and Military Veterans Thandi Modise said in the statement. South Africa conducted the first exercise with naval forces from China and Russia in November 2019 in Cape Town. — Xinhua

Brazil's Lula in Argentina to 'rebuild bridges' in first foreign trip

BRAZILIAN President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Monday started his first foreign trip since being elected with a meeting in Buenos Aires with Argentine counterpart Alberto Fernandez.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira said before the trip that Lula was looking to "rebuild bridges" with the international community after four years of his far-right predecessor Jair Bolsonaro's populist leadership.

The two leftist leaders were to discuss strategic bilateral "gas integration" and a "common

South American currency" for financial and trade flows, the Argentine presidency said in a statement. Lula, 77, arrived at the Casa Rosada presidential palace at 11:00 am, accompanied by his wife Rosangela da Silva. He was greeted by Fernandez and First Lady Fabiola Yanez.

Brazil is Argentina's largest trade partner, according to official figures published last week by the INDEC national statistics institute.

Brazil is the top destination for Argentine exports, amount-

ing to 14.3 per cent and worth \$12.7 billion in 2022.

Close to 20 per cent of Argentina's imports are from Brazil, worth just over \$16 billion last year. "Argentina is the most important country in our diplomatic relations," Feliciano de Sa Guimaraes, academic director for the Brazilian Centre for Diplomatic Relations, told AFP.

Likewise, Fernandez's government "depends a lot on Brazil," not least in its negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), with whom Argentina has a \$44 billion debt.

Following the bilateral meeting with Fernandez, Lula had been due to hold talks in the afternoon with Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro.

However, that meeting was cancelled and Brazilian sources told AFP that Maduro had called off his trip to Argentina.

Maduro's expected presence in Argentina had caused a stir, with civil organizations filing a complaint against the Venezuelan leader for human rights abuses, and some opposition politicians demanding he be arrested on arrival. — AFP



Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (L) and Argentine President Alberto Fernandez (R) greet during a press conference at the Casa Rosada presidential palace in Buenos Aires on 23 January 2023.

PHOTO: AFP

Seven dead in new California shooting

A suspected gunman was in custody Monday over the killing of seven people in a rural community in northern California, just two days after a mass shooting at a Lunar New Year celebration near Los Angeles.

The latest bloodshed occurred at two farms around Half Moon Bay, a coastal community south of San Francisco.

San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus said seven people were killed and one wounded in the twin shootings, and that a 67-year-old Half Moon Bay resident named Chunli Zhao had been taken into custody. Reports said the dead were Chinese farmwork-

ers, and that Zhao had worked at one of the farms.

Corpus said deputies had been despatched to two nurseries around Half Moon Bay, a rural spot known for surfing contests and a pumpkin festival, around mid-afternoon on Monday.

Four people were dead at one of them and one was critically wounded, while three more fatally wounded victims were found at a second location.

Corpus said children were present at one of the sites.

"It was in the afternoon when kids were out of school and for children to witness it is unspeakable," she said.—AFP



A San Mateo County sheriff deputy stands guard at the scene of a shooting on highway 92 in Half Moon Bay, California on 23 January 2023. PHOTO: AFP

'Shortages' as power cuts hit S Africa's food sector

FROM dairy farms unable to keep milk refrigerated, to chickens suffocating en masse as ventilators fall idle, an energy crisis is taking a heavy toll on South Africa's food sector, industry groups said.

Record power cuts have caused shortages of some staples, threatening price rises that could make some popular items too expensive for poor families, agricultural industry body AgriSA said.

"The affordability of food is going to be a challenge particularly to the lower income household, especially with chicken which is one of the cheapest protein staples in the country," AgriSA's chief economist, Kulani Siweya, told AFP.

Scheduled blackouts,

known as load-shedding, have burdened Africa's most industrialized economy for years, with state-owned energy firm Eskom failing to keep pace with demand and maintain its ageing coal power infrastructure.

But the outages reached new extremes over the past 12 months.

Poultry farmer Herman Du Preez, said at least 40,000 of his chickens were asphyxiated last week with disruptions in power supply causing the farm's ventilation system to stop working.

"It wasn't a pretty sight to see how much money we lost due to the fact that Eskom is so unreliable," Du Preez told AFP on Monday at his farm in the North West province.—AFP

Japan braces for heavy snow, warns of traffic disruption

SNOW fell in areas of northern and western Japan facing the Sea of Japan as a cold air mass flowed into the archipelago Tuesday, with flights cancelled and the weather agency warning of heavy snow in other areas and traffic disruption due to frozen roads.

Wide areas of the country, including the Pacific side, could see heavy snowfall from Tuesday evening to Wednesday, as a low pressure system near Hokkaido and southern Japan will bring the coldest air of this winter, making atmospheric conditions extremely unstable, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

As the strong winter patterns are expected to take hold through Thursday, some parts of the country could see their lowest temperatures in a decade, leading to a possibility of

snowfall in Tokyo and Osaka, the agency said.

The cold temperature could cause water pipes to freeze and make road surfaces icy.

Japan Airlines Co and All Nippon Airways Co cancelled more than 120 flights to and from airports facing the Sea of Japan.

At JR Aomori Station in the northeastern prefecture of Aomori, a 43-year-old company employee who was on a business trip from neighbouring Iwate, said, "I will be careful of unexpected road closures and act quickly."

In the city of Kagoshima in southwestern Japan, it rained in the morning but snow is expected later in the day. A 47-year-old businesswoman heading to work said, "I am worried if I can get home tonight."

In the 24 hours through



Commuters walk in the snow near Aomori Station in northeastern Japan on 24 January 2023, as the country braces for heavy snowfall amid a once-in-a-decade cold snap. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Wednesday 6 am, the Hokuriku region in central Japan could see up to 90 centimetres of snowfall, while there may be up to 70

cm in Kanto-Koshin in eastern and central Japan and the Kinki and Chugoku regions in western Japan.

Up to 60 cm of snow is expected in northeastern Tohoku and central Tokai regions, the agency said.—Kyodo

Australia to sign global education treaty

THE Australian government said on Tuesday that it will sign up to a global education agreement to benefit international students.

Education Minister Jason Clare and Minister for Skills and Training Brendan O'Connor confirmed that Australia will

endorse the UNESCO Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education.

Developed in 2019, the treaty will make it easier for students to have their school qualifications recognized in another country, allowing them to

pursue further study there.

It will also allow tertiary students to transfer their study credits to an institution in another country. "Australia's ratification of the global convention is a significant education milestone," Clare said in a statement.—Xinhua

Iranian parliament speaker urges stronger cooperation with Russia in face of US sanctions

THE Iranian parliament speaker on Monday called for expanding cooperation with Russia, as both countries face "cruel" US sanctions, Iranian Students' News Agency reported.

Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf made the remarks during a joint press conference in Tehran with visiting Chairman of the Russian State Duma Vyacheslav Volodin.

The "cruel" US sanctions are the biggest threats to Iran, Russia, and some other countries, Qalibaf told the press conference, which was held after the third meeting of the Supreme Joint Parliamentary Commission of Iran and Russia.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the expansion of cooperation, investments in the oil and gas sector, and gas swap.

They also talked about cooperation in the fields of agriculture, cereals trade, the application of modern technol-

ogies, and transport, as well as in the banking and monetary sector.

Qalibaf called on Iranian and Russian banks to open branches in both countries, so as to enable the use of their respective national currencies in bilateral trade and business transactions.

For his part, Volodin said relations between Russia and Iran have reached an "excellent level" and have expanded at different levels.

A comprehensive contract is being prepared to be signed between the two countries, which will greatly improve their relations, he added.

Commenting on the US sanctions imposed on both Russia and Iran, Volodin said they only lead to greater solidarity between the two countries.

Volodin arrived in the Iranian capital on Sunday night, leading a number of Russian officials.—Xinhua

Power returns to Pakistan a day after massive outage

THE national power grid was restored in Pakistan, the energy minister said on Tuesday, a day after a nationwide breakdown left most of the country's 220 million people without electricity and caused tens of millions of dollars in industry losses.

The outage started around 7:30 am (0230 GMT) on Monday, a failure linked to a cost-cutting measure as Pakistan grapples with an economic crisis.

Energy Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan said the grid was repaired at around 5:15 am (0015 GMT) but load-shedding would continue over the next two days as coal and nuclear plants were brought back online.

"There is a need to invest in the energy sector, especially to improve the distribution



People light a bonfire to warm themselves during a nationwide power outage, in Muzaffarabad on 23 January 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

system, which has long been neglected," he told reporters in Islamabad.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed "sincere regrets for the inconvenience our citizens suffered".

An inquiry is under way and "responsibility will be fixed", he said on Twitter.

Electricity returned to urban centres overnight, including the mega cities of Karachi and Lahore.—AFP

Japan braces for heavy snow, warns of traffic disruption

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SPORT

Myanmar team prepares for Asian Cup U-20 women's qualifiers



Myanmar women footballers take their special training ahead of the Asian Cup U-20 women's qualifiers. PHOTO: MFF

THE Myanmar U-20 Women's National Team is preparing for the 2024 Asian Cup U-20 Women's Qualifiers, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The Myanmar team has been practising since the last week of December and is handled by Daw San San Thein as the head coach. The Myanmar U-20 women's team was initially formed with 38 players but is currently training with a total of 32 players.

The Myanmar U-20 women's team will compete in the first-round group matches of the Asian Cup U-20 women's qualifiers in March. The team is falling in the same group as Cambodia, Pakistan, and Malaysian teams.

The team is supervised by Head Coach Daw San San Thein,

Assistant Coaches Daw Nwe Nwe Toe, Daw San Yu Naing, and Goal Coach Daw May Khin Yamin.

Goalies May Oo Khin, Zee Bay, Lucier, Thu Zar Aung, Thet Htar Aung, defenders Phyu Phway, Yu Yu Naing, Phyar Mya Moe Moe Aye, New Moe, Khin Htay Khaing, Moe Pyae Pyae Maung, December Nhin, Khin Moe Win, Ei Zin Moe, Yamin Sandar Aung, May Tharaphi Kyaw, Kyal Sin, Phyu Phyu Win, Wai Phyu Eain, Daisy Aung, Nang Cho Mway, Thazin Moe, Nhin Phwint Aye, Hay Mhan Soe, Di Nhin Yar, Kazar Rosy, Kay Thwe Phyo, Theingi Htwe, Wai Hin Phyo, Sandar Lin, Mya Nhin Wai, May Thet Mon Myint, strikers Zin Moe Pyae, Yu Ya Naing, Su Myat Noe, Yin Loon Eain,

Yoon Waddy Hlaing and Zam Kham Hom have been selected for the team.

The current players are players from last year's women's league competition clubs, and U-19 and U-16 national teams. In addition to the players from the Sports and Physical Education Institute, the players who showed their skills from the regional and state competitions held in Nay Pyi Taw were also selected.

The Asian Cup U-20 Women's Qualifiers will be held in eight groups, and only the top teams from each group will be allowed to compete in the second-round qualifiers. The Myanmar team will continue to compete in other international competitions after the Asian Cup first-round qualifiers. — Ko Nyi Lay/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.

Sadio Mane returns to training with Bayern Munich

BAYERN Munich forward Sadio Mane returned to training on Tuesday, as the Senegalese international continued his recovery from a leg injury which forced him out of the World Cup.

In a video published on the club's Twitter page, Mane appeared on the snow-covered pitch at Munich's Saebener Strasse training ground, telling the cameras "Hey, it's a good feeling, after a long holiday, to be back."

Mane, 30, injured his right leg during Bayern's 6-1 home win against Werder Bremen on 8 November and underwent surgery, ruling him out of Senegal's World Cup campaign.

Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann said in early January that Mane, who arrived last summer from Liverpool, could be in line for a return for the second leg of their Champions League last-16 clash



Bayern Munich's Senegalese forward Sadio Mane smiles as he attends a training session in Munich, southern Germany, on the eve of the UEFA Champions League Group C football match FC Bayern Munich v Inter Milan on 31 October 2022. PHOTO: AFP

against Paris Saint-Germain on 8 March.

"If everything goes really well, he may be able to play again against Paris," Nagelsmann said, telling the media there's only a "small chance he plays the first leg".—AFP



Belarus' Victoria Azarenka celebrates victory against Jessica Pegula of the US during their women's singles quarter-final match on day nine of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 24 January 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Azarenka beats 'fears of failing' for first Melbourne semi in 10 years

VICTORIA Azarenka reached her first Australian Open semi-final since winning the title in 2013, then opened up Tuesday about overcoming "anxiety" and "fears of failing" on court.

The Belarusian, who won back-to-back Australian Opens in 2012 and 2013, knocked out third seed Jessica Pegula 6-4, 6-1 on Tuesday.

The 24th seed outlasted her American opponent in a marathon 64-minute first set before running away with the second to set up a last-four encounter against Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina at Melbourne Park.

Asked about her battles with nerves and anxiety, Azarenka detailed what she had been through in recent years and how it had held her back from winning another major. —AFP