

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-point roadmap of State Administration Council

1. An emphasis will be placed on peace and stability and the full prevalence of law and order throughout the Union to ensure the safety of the socioeconomy life of the people.
2. Public-centred development tasks will be undertaken for the development of socioeconomic life to ensure the prosperity and food sufficiency of the country.
3. Efforts will be made to continue cementing the genuine discipline-flourishing multiparty democratic system and building the Union based on democracy and the federal system.
4. An 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 general elections will be held in line with the Constitution (2008), and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

Harmony to breeding farm development grabbing country's aims



Photos show one of the fish and prawn farms and its fishery products. **PHOTOS: KANU**

THE government is accelerating agriculture and livestock farms in the country. The agriculture and breeding industries rely on each other and there should be proportionate development in these two sectors to meet the objectives of the country.

It produces for local consumption and export using a total of 20 per cent of freshwater farming and 80 per cent of seizures from the ocean, and the people are interested in freshwater farming more for lowering water resources, fuel difficulties in fish and prawn capturing processes in the sea and other difficulties. It needs correct and systematic farming techniques.

The development of the fish farming industry needs quality fingerlings, feed, fish hatchery water treatment, management and market. Moreover, it should prioritize the market by producing the needed fish and prawn demand according to the current



global market.

The feed is crucial in breeding farms and the waste of winter sunflower, bean and summer paddy being cultivated under the arrangement of the government supporting the animal feed production. Therefore, the feed prices will be stable for having adequate raw materials in the country. As a consequence, the breeding industry can grab proper achievement for the price stability of fish and prawns in the marine product market.

“The major thing we need to develop the breeding sector is feed. If the raw material prices are high, the production rate can decline. The government provides the needed materials to plant the sunflower and soybean more in the country without importing from foreign countries. We need bran to feed fish and prawns and maize for chicken. We preserve the bran to maintain the protein and soybean powder to increase the amino acid. Therefore, if we carry out a harmony of

agriculture and breeding farms and work for the needs of the breeding sector, it will develop as per the aim of the country,” said an official of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

It should draft special plans for the investors to produce freshwater and saltwater fish locally, conserve the species, produce new species and hatching and ensure adequate freshwater and saltwater fish in the market.

Moreover, it should know well about the fish and prawn farming industries to meet the aims of the country and develop the country, agrochemicals such as financial assistance, techniques, transportation and electricity, opportunities permitted by the Myanmar Investment Commission and it should also make harmony efforts to promote the State economy through the accelerated drive in the breeding sector with an increasing number of investors. —Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

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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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 17/2023

14th Waxing of Tabodwe 1384 ME
3 February 2023

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Deputy Minister

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned Maj-Gen Toe Yi to the duties of Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Home Affairs under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By Order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant- General
Secretary
State Administration Council

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.

1 new case of COVID-19 reported on 3 February, total figure rises to 633,837

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,837** after **one** new case was reported on 3 February 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,307**, including **one** new recovery.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged to **19,490** on 3-2-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. — MNA

State Administration Council Press Release

Re-invitation to Myanmar citizens who reside in various regions for many reasons

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, with worries, have evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries due to the incitements and intimidation of NLD members, extremist followers, unlawful associations and terrorist groups such as CRPH and NUG, stimulation of CDM, and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibilities on 1 February 2021.
2. They are further worried about the dictatorship statement and speeches of unlawful association and terrorist group CRPH and NUG, and some relevant persons. As they face no security guarantee and difficulties in socio-economic life in those areas, they wish to return to their native lands.
3. **The State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.**
4. As those who evade their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from the evaded areas to various parts of Myanmar.
5. As such, the information was released that if those who evaded to various areas, except for persons who committed any kinds of crime, wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord due to multiple worries, the citizens abroad can contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates in accord with the easing restrictions under the law.

Information Team
State Administration Council

THE State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.

Well-educated human resources needed to materialize the genuine disciplined democratic system without fail

TO implement federalism compatible with geographical conditions, national characters and culture of the nation although many countries exercise democracy and federalism across the world. Necessities to turn out well-educated human resources in realizing the genuine disciplined democratic system without fail. Only when the number of educated persons is on the rise can nation-building tasks be accelerated for the promotion of the education sector.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the peace talk with the peace delegation led by General Yawd Serk, Chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) on 29 August 2022)

UEC concludes region/state-level voter lists management software training course

THE closing ceremony of the region and state-level voter lists management software training course was organized

at No 3 Tatmadaw transit centre (Ywataw) yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Election Commission

Chair U Thein Soe said trainee officers should apply the voter list management system learnt on training days systematically.

Perfect voter lists play a key role in holding the election successfully. The UEC launched the voter list correction processes in August 2021 and conducted verification of the ground population census across the nation between February and August 2022. The initial voter lists are checked with IVLS and systematically carried out the processes step by step including the cross-checking.

He then highlighted the needs to be carried out by region/state and district officers regarding the compiling of voter lists of respective townships and to be ready to hold the election as per the fifth number of the five-point roadmap.

He also talked about the adoption of a PR system in the coming election, continuous

learning to confirm with the electoral system, issuance of laws and rules, recruitment, capacity-building training, polling stations and election materials estimate.

He called on attendees to study the election law and rules, emphasize election processes in order not to occur any mistakes and communicate between higher and lower levels in a timely manner.

He finally added that only with a free and fair election, will the dignity of the commission and country be uplifted. It should make efforts to be the elections to reflect the dignity of the country that explores the true desire of the people fairly.

The ceremony was attended by UEC members, officials and trainees. — MNA/KTZH



The winding up ceremony of the voter lists management software training course is in progress yesterday.

SAC member attends kick-off ceremony for golf tourney marking 76th Shan State Day

AN opening event of the golf tournament commemorating the 76th Shan State Day in 2023 was held in Taunggyi at 7 am yesterday.

Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Zaw Aye expressed in his opening remarks that the golf tournament was held with the objectives of ensuring Myanmar's golf standards were raised, building up friendship among golfers, developing golf in Shan State in coordination with the Myanmar Golf Federation and play golf in line with rules and regulations.

Then, SAC member Dr Kyaw Tun, the Shan state chief minister and officials opened the golf competition. They also greeted competing golf teams cordially and watched the opening day of

the competition.

In the evening, SAC member Dr Kyaw Tun attended the 15th Myanmar traditional Htamane competition led by the Shan State government at Awayya Konethaya hot air balloon field in Taunggyi.

The SAC member, the state chief minister, the chief justice of the state high court, the deputy commander of Eastern Command and the state minister for social affairs ceremonially opened the event.

A total of 101 teams from wards in Taunggyi, Ayethaya, and Shwenyaung, districts and townships in Shan State and departments took part in the Htamane competition. — MNA/TS/KZW



The opening ceremony of the golf tournament is in progress yesterday in Taunggyi.

MoI Union Minister inspects Shwe Thanlwin's Skynet TV channel

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the broadcasting

programmes of Myanmar International Radio and Skynet TV at Skynet Head Office of

Shwe Thanlwin Media Company Limited in Botahtaung Township of Yangon yesterday.



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views round the Skynet headquarters in Yangon yesterday.

First, the two officials of Shwe Thanlwin Company presented the FM broadcasting system of Myanmar International Radio between 6 am to 12 pm for 18 hours daily, administration and HR processes. The Union Minister made proper responses and observed around the MIR Studio.

The Shwe Thanlwin Company broadcasted the MI Radio for five years on 1 June 2023. It formally ran Shwe FM for 18 hours per day between 6 am to 12 pm. It launched broadcasting 33 international channels among 80 TV channels including international football matches and sports, local sports and international dramas.

The Union minister and

party also inspected Studio A, Studio B, the sound system, recording studio and sound editing system of Myanmar International Radio.

Regarding the presentation of director U Tin San of Shwe Thanlwin Company, the Union minister said it should provide the information with goodwill for the rights to access information of the public and broadcast the news in line with the media ethic for the interests of the country and people. It also should remove the misinformation, disinformation and malformation and transmit the actual situation of the country in the English Language through MIR FM Radio. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar joins SCO's Forum on traditional medicine

THE Ministry of AYUSH and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India presided over the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Forum on traditional medicine virtually yesterday, and Director-General Dr Su Su Dwe of the Traditional Medicine Department of the Ministry of Health joined the forum.

Remarks at the forum were delivered by officials of traditional medicine fields in India and China. Then, experts of SCO member states – India, China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan discussed the development of traditional medicines, traditional medicine courses and research,

cooperation, production of traditional medicines, challenges and matters to work together with member countries, observers and partner countries.

It was attended by experts of SCO member states, dialogue partners, Dr Su Su Dwe, Director-General of the Traditional Medicine Department of the Ministry of Health, Pro Dr Thein Zaw Lin, Rector of the University of Traditional Medicine (Mandalay) and relevant officials. —MNA/KTZH

Myanmar delegates take part in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Forum on traditional medicine online yesterday.



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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.

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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gnlmnews@gmail.com
www.gnlm.com.mm

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

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka celebrates 75th National Day in Yangon

CELEBRATION of the 75th National Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka was held at Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening.

Firstly, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko and wife, Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Joyasinghe Mudhiyan Janaka Priyantha Bandara and wife, Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nikolay Listopadov and officials lit candles to commemorate the 75th National Day of Democratic Socialist the Republic of Sri Lanka.

Then, the ceremony was opened with the national an-

them of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan ambassador and Union minister greeted each other and gave gifts.

Next, the Sri Lankan ambassador and his wife served dinner for attendees and they posed for the documentary group photo. The traditional cultural troupe from Sri Lanka performed cultural dances.

Ambassadors from foreign embassies in Yangon, charge d'affaires of embassies, representatives of the United Nations and invitees attended the celebration. — MNA/KZW



The celebration of Sri Lanka's 75th National Day (Diamond Jubilee) is in progress in Yangon yesterday.

Ethnic traditional culture troupes from regions and states arrive in Nay Pyi Taw



Ethnic traditional culture troupes from various states and regions are seen on their arrival in Nay Pyi Taw.

MEMBERS of ethnic traditional culture troupes from Mandalay region and Kayah, Chin, Shan and Mon states who will attend the 76th Anniversary of Union Day celebration 2023 arrived at Nay Pyi Taw Training Camp (Sports Village) where they will stay temporarily.

Cultural troupes were wel-

comed by officials from various sub-committees and the Department of Fine Arts. The temporary accommodation and meals are also well arranged for them.

They are practising ethnic traditional dances for the 76th Union Day celebration. — Tin Soe Lwin (IPRD Tatkon)/KZW

Public Notice

1. The Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to effectively curb corruption.
2. The ACC used SMS on the mobile phone to ask the public who seek services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via Short Code No "1111" for feedbacks, including the Public Feedback Programme-PFP.
3. According to the PFP, the right replies of the citizens via Short Code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.
4. Therefore, the public should make a reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at Short Code No "1111" and such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

*Anti-Corruption Commission
Answer "1111" to fight against corruption
Answer "1111" to improve services
Let's work together to eliminate corruption towards prosperity*

Sugar mills purchase sugarcane at around K100,000 per tonne



Sugar-producing process is seen at one sugar mill.

IN the local sugarcane market, starting from February 2023, companies announced that they will buy sugarcane at around K100,000 per tonne.

Mya Bayin Sugar Mill stat-

ed that starting from 3 February 2023, they will purchase sugarcane at K100,000 per tonne.

The Silver Pearl Sugar Company stated that in the 2022-23 financial year, sugarcane was

purchased at the rate of K90,000 per tonne, and now it will be purchased at the rate of K95,000 per tonne, and the increase of K5,000 will be issued only after the sugarcane season. Maing Yal Sugar Mill also stated that it will increase the price of K90,000 per tonne of sugarcane from the previous price of K95,000.

At the beginning of this year, the price of sugarcane increased from K5,000 to K10,000 per tonne, and the price of sugarcane reached K95,000 to K100,000 per tonne. However, some farmers said that some sugar mills only pay around K75,000 per tonne of sugarcane. — TPT/GNLM

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Myanmar pockets US\$25.921 mln from rice exports in 2nd week of January



Export rice bags are seen loaded onto the vessel.

IN the second week of January 2023, 65,330 tonnes of rice and broken rice were exported to foreign countries, earning US\$25.921 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce's data.

During the period from 14 to 20 January, around 32,430 tonnes of rice worth \$13.781 million were exported by maritime trade. More than 17,250 tonnes of rice were delivered to Asian countries and over 15,180 tonnes of rice were shipped to EU member countries.

Myanmar exported rice to China, the Philippines, Malaysia, Viet Nam, China Taipei and Singapore in Asian coun-

tries, and Spain, Poland, Bulgaria, Italy, Portugal, Slovakia, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Croatia in EU member countries.

About 4,120 tonnes of exported rice were transported through the China-Myanmar border and 2,500 tonnes through the Myanmar-Bangladesh border this week, totaling 6,620 tonnes with a value of \$2.553 million.

The shipment of rice via sea route and land borders accumulated to 39,050 tonnes, collecting \$16.334 million. More than 7,400 tonnes of rice were exported compared to the previous week's exports.

Likewise, 15,080 tonnes of

broken rice valued at \$5.553 million were shipped via sea trade route between 14 and 20 January. The countries where broken rice is exported were China, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, England, Poland, Romania, Spain and Italy.

This week, over 10,350 tonnes and more than 840 tonnes of broken rice were exported via the China-Myanmar border and Myanmar-Thai border respectively, earning \$4.034 million. The overall tonnage of broken rice exports amounted to more than 26,280 tonnes worth \$9.587 million. It was more than 4,000 tonnes less compared to last week's broken rice shipment. — TWA/CT

Over 200 three-wheel motorbikes purchased to improve garbage collection system: YCDC

TO improve the trash collection system in Yangon Region, Yangon City Development Committee has purchased a total of 232 three-wheel motorbikes, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay said at the opening ceremony of the refresher course on driving and maintenance of garbage trucks on 1 February, organized by the Urban Environmental Conservation & Sanitation Department under YCDC.

As Yangon is a commercial city in Myanmar, more than 2,500 tonnes of garbage are discarded every day and transported further from ward to township, from township to district, and from district to the final disposal sites.

He said that 232 garbage three-wheel motorbikes have been purchased and used to replace dustcarts for the improvement of the trash collection system, assisting the activities that are being carried out to make the capital clean and tidy.

The mayor called on the garbage truck drivers to drive the vehicle as per the rules of the workplace set by the department, always be aware of the traffic rules and regulations while driving, handle the hydraulic systems that are installed in the vehicle correctly and check the vehicle daily to avoid causing major damage. He also directed them to always act and work carefully to prevent occupational hazards. — TWA/CT



Three-wheel motorbikes are seen collecting garbage in Yangon.

PP issuance process to be temporarily suspended from 6 February: ME

THE issuing of passports to Myanmar citizens in Malaysia will be temporarily suspended

Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

from 6 February according to the Myanmar Embassy to Malaysia.

The passport printer and computers have to be temporarily stopped for maintenance. The embassy also announced that passports will be reissued

once repairs are completed. Appointments for immigration processes, issuing identity certificates and letters of recommendation, and visa applications will be handled as usual during office hours. — TWA/KZW



Myanmar's fruit trucks delayed amid China's border trade system being advanced

TRADERS based at the China-Myanmar border said that since China is adjusting the level 2 for border trade, it has not reached the fruit sales field from Myanmar yet.

According to a border-based trader, the customs

system is also being updated on the Chinese side, and it is not yet known what will happen in the new system.

Trade is expected to improve after the Chinese New Year period, but prices have fallen slightly as fruits from

Viet Nam and Laos have started entering the Chinese market, according to border reports.

The 855 melons are priced at 3.6 yuan per kilogramme, Tangwan fruit is 3.6 yuan, and sweet melons are priced at 5

yuan per kilogramme. On 1 February 2023, 54 cars entered the Chinese fruit market.

China is starting to install a new system for border trade, and traders say it is still unclear what will happen.

When the Chinese mar-

ket just opened, melons and cucumbers from Myanmar fetched good prices, but after the price dropped due to the export of low-quality fruits, they are hoping to get good prices again after the New Year period. — TPT/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

51 cargo ships slated to arrive at Yangon Port this month

A total of 51 cargo ships carrying many containers are scheduled to enter Yangon Port in February 2023, according to Myanmar Port Authority.

This month, nine cargo ships run by New Golden Sea (COSCO), another nine by Sealand Maersk Asia, four by MSC Line, three each by PIL Line, R.C.L Line, Samudra Shipping Line, SITC and TI2 Container Line, two each by BLPL Shipping Line, Ever Green Line, X-Press Feeder and RCL Line and one each by Bay Line, CMA CGM Line, Gold Star Line, IAL Line, Land & Sea and MTT Shipping Line will enter Yangon Port.

Yangon Port saw the entry of 52 cargo ships in January 2023.

Yangon Port handled a to-



Overseas-going merchant vessels are seen berthing for loading and unloading cargoes at Yangon Port.

tal of 620 cargo ships this year, according to Myanmar Port Authority.

The number of cargo ships entering Yangon Port stands at 49 in January, 48 in February, 50

in March, 52 in April, 54 in May, 53 in June, 49 in July, 55 each in August and September, 50 in

October, 51 in November and 54 in December 2022 respectively.

From May 2021, the arrival of ships at terminals in Yangon has increased again. To fulfil the seaborne trade requirements, three new cargo ships by Maersk Line Myanmar (Sea Land Maersk) started to run in 2021.

Myanmar Port Authorities and Yangon inner terminals are providing services to ensure the fast and reliable cargo handling and withdrawal of the containers. Earlier, the larger ships had draft problems preventing their sailing on the Yangon River. The draft extension is up to 10 meters with the new navigation channel accessing the inner Yangon River and the international ocean liners can access the inner port at present. — NN/EM

Black gram price rebounds to over K1.8 mln per tonne

THE price of black gram bounced back to over K1.8 million per tonne from a one-month fall in the domestic market.

On 2 January, it hit K1,690,000 per tonne. The price gained to K1,808,000 per tonne on 2 February, showing a sharp increase of K118,000 per tonne within one month.

India's demand is a contributing factor to Myanmar's black gram price. The strong demand at present elevated black gram prices, traders elaborated.

India notified on 28 December that the free import policy of black gram (urad) and pigeon pea (tur) extended up to March 2024, pushing black gram prices down in the domestic market.

Additionally, the price of black gram is positively related to the exchange rate. Kyat devalued at K2,860 against the

US dollar.

Last August 2022, the price of black gram peaked at K2.1 million per tonne when Kyat hit a record low of K4,500 against hard currency.

Myanmar earned over US\$1 billion from over 1.3 million tonnes of pulses in ten months of the current financial year, the Ministry of Commerce said.

So far, Myanmar has shipped 559,227.57 kilos worth \$461.946 million to external markets.

Myanmar primarily exports black gram, green gram and pigeon pea among locally produced pulses. Of them, black gram and pigeon peas are mainly sent to India while green grams are shipped to China and Europe.

India has growing demand and consumption requirements

for black gram and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2022, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that annual quota. Myanmar yearly produces approximately 400,000 tonnes of black gram and about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas. Myanmar is the top producer of the black gram that is primarily demanded by India, while pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are cultivated in Australia and African countries besides Myanmar. — NN/EM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 3 February 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,140
Octane 95	K2,210
Diesel	K2,290
Premium Diesel	K2,370

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,252,500 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,868,000 per tical

Dollar Price

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

The above prices may change from time to time.

Myanmar exports \$1.43 bln worth of natural gas to China in 2022

MYANMAR'S natural gas export to China pocketed US\$1.43 billion in 2022.

Myanmar is listed among China's largest gas importers. It ranked third after Turkmenistan and Russia.

Natural gas extracted from

the Shwe natural gas field located offshore from Rakhine State is exported to China through the cross-border Myanmar-China gas pipeline.

Approximately 12 billion cubic meters of natural gas are yearly exported to China through

that pipe which was constructed with an estimated cost of \$1 billion. The pipeline connects Rakhine, Magway, Mandalay, and Shan State to Yunnan Province, China.

Furthermore, a 771-kilometre-long crude oil pipeline was constructed with the use of

\$1.5 billion. It was designated to send 22 million tonnes of crude oil per year.

South-East Asia Gas Pipeline Company Limited (SEAGP) is responsible for the operation of the Myanmar-China Gas Pipeline, while South East Asia

Crude Oil Pipeline Company is in charge of the crude oil pipeline. Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) owns 7.36 per cent of shares in the gas pipeline project, whereas it holds 49.1 per cent of shares in crude oil pipeline projects. — TWA/EM

OPINION

Implement the prevalence of law and order in civilized society

THE word prevalence of law and order indicates the political situation as well as the actual nature of the social society but it does not refer to any specific laws and rules. In fact, the word on prevalence or law and order must be implemented by those from the society including the government and the people. This being so, the prevalence of law and order also reciprocally shapes the society how to march forward and how to grasp the trend of the future situation.

The words on the prevalence of law and order can be defined as in modern politics, law and order is the approach focusing on harsher enforcement and penalties as ways to reduce crime. A similar word on rule of law can also be defined as the political philosophy that all citizens and institutions within a country, state, or community are accountable to the same laws, including lawmakers and leaders.

Justice and social harmony based on the prevalence of law and order will reflect the morale of the people in the society. It brings the right to equality to society. If not, society will unavoidably face deterioration.

To be able to overcome these hindrances, both the government and the people are to harmonize their functions to sustain the rule of law in perpetuity.

the prescribed laws. If a country is not placed under the rule of law, such a country will fall under illegal acts such as corruption. In a civilized society, the rule of law creates an equal chance for all citizens of the nation under the law and gives chances for them to enjoy fair judicial measures. If so, the citizens will be free from the impacts of legal bullying and manipulations.

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Justice and social harmony based on the prevalence of law and order will reflect the morale of the people in the society. It brings the right to equality to society. If not, society will unavoidably face deterioration. To be able to overcome these hindrances, both the government and the people are to harmonize their functions to sustain the rule of law in perpetuity.

Introduction

1. First and foremost, I would like to quote some writings from a book of essential quotations as follows. "Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man". Francis Bacon.

"Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested." Bacon, ibidem.

In this article, I would also like to make a positive critical assessment, not from an academician's point of view, but from a layman's point of view. The title of the book to be assessed is "Law and custom in Burma and the Burmese family," written by Dr Maung Maung, B.L (Rangoon) J.S.D (Yale) LL. D (Utrecht), of Lincoln's INN, Barrister-at-law.

2. Before mentioning my critical assessment from a layman's point of view, may I translate informally into English a Myanmar learned man's short

Reading maketh a full man

By U Khin Maung (A retired diplomat)

poem on cultivating a reading habit, written in our native language'. If translated informally that short poem into English, I think, it may read as follows: "Find out any remarkable write-up and literature and give it a reading daily without fail, if you give it a reading daily without fail, even your ignorant and silly better half may become cleverer than ever after giving it a hearing many a time.

3. Now, kindly give it a reading of a book written by Dr Maung Maung, a legal giant's one of the so many books, entitled "Law and custom in Burma and the Burmese family." "Calm and coordinated research and study have yet to be directed

towards a reappraisal of the role of law in the community and the development of a legal system which represents a happy blend between tradition and progress." A law revision committee appointed by the Government in 1951, wrestles the task of tidying up the statute book and keeping up with the latest amendments; the primary task of revision remains virtually untouched despite the committee's valiant efforts to come round to it. Special ad hoc committees are appointed as and when the clamour arises, to study the repressive and undemocratic laws and recommended their amendment or repeal." Much of what so far has been accom-

plished leaves an impression of a hurried patchwork.

4. The Rule of Law

The next important subject I would like to present to you is "the rule of law." The first essential condition for making democracy secure in our lives said U Nu, in his address to Parliament "is to base all our activities firmly on the rule of law" There are two kinds of laws which operate in this context, those that guarantee the freedom and equality of the individual against violation by the State; and those that ensure that individual freedom is exercised without affecting the rights and freedom of one's neighbours or the orderly working of society."

In this connection, the author, Dr Maung Maung expressed his views as follows:

"We believe that the constitution and other laws that already exist in the statute book provide adequately in this respect, and that it is more in their application than in their absence, and that there have been shortcomings in the past. For democracy to work, it is necessary not only that such laws exist but also that every citizen obeys the laws freely and conscientiously and that there is not only no disobedience but also no evasion. It is equally necessary that those in power enforce their

authority through the rule of law and not through fear or at the point of the bayonet.

5. The aforementioned words of wisdom are an extract from the book "Law and custom in Burma and the Burmese family." What beautiful, thought-provoking, wise and educative writing it is! Well, for want of space and for lack of time, may I end it here in this article. And please excuse me. I would like now to mention my love of reading, especially law. Apart from language and literature, the law is my favourite subject to read and learn. For being a law graduate and my honesty,

in our old administration system, I was endowed and entrusted with a special magisterial power. Furthermore, due to the credit of my being a law graduate, I was called or transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs when I was forty-four years old. I was entrusted and assigned to take charge of the international law and treaties division. While serving in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the assistance of my staff, I wrote a booklet entitled, "Significant terms and their meanings in international law and diplomacy (Volume D). And I submitted it to His Excellency, the Minister for Foreign Affairs. His Excellency, the Minister appreciated it and praised me.

Conclusion

6. Now, may I explain once again the meaning and significance of law in our society.

Oxford Dictionary defines the term law as follows: - "Law is the whole system of rules that everyone in a country

or society must obey." According to a great philosopher: Aristotle, "Law is a form of order, and good law means, therefore, good order." A legal giant, a legal pundit and sage Dr Maung Maung explained the law in essence in his book, law and custom in Burma and the Burmese Family" as follows. "Law is founded on morality, and morality finds its foundation in the moral integrity of the individual. Destroy this, we destroy morality. Destroy morality and we destroy the law." Reference:

1. မှတ်စွယ်မှတ်ရာ၊ ထိုထိုစာကို ရှာဖွေခြင်း၊ နေ့စဉ်ဖတ်ဖတ်ပါသော်လျှား၊ မှတ်ပါခြားသော် သားမသားပင်၊ သိမြင်ကင်းကွာမလို့လည်း စာပေစကား၊ နေ့တိုင်းကြားကထူးခြားလို့မှာ၊ ရှိမည်သာတည်း။
2. Law and custom in Burma and the Burmese Family by Dr Maung Maung.

Measles virus 'cooperates' with itself to cause fatal encephalitis

RESEARCHERS in Japan have uncovered the mechanism for how the measles virus can cause subacute sclerosing panencephalitis, or SSPE, a rare but fatal neurological disorder that can occur several years after a measles infection.

Although the normal form of the measles virus cannot infect the nervous system, the team found that viruses that persist in the body can develop mutations in a key protein that controls how they infect cells. The mutated proteins can interact with its normal form, making it capable of infecting the brain. Their findings were reported in the journal Science Advances.

If you are of a certain age, you may have gotten the measles as a child. Many born after the 1970s have never gotten it, thanks to vaccines. The condition is caused by the virus of the same name, which is one of the most contagious pathogens to this day. The World Health Organization estimates that nearly

nine million people worldwide were infected with measles in 2021, with the number of deaths reaching 128,000.

"Despite its availability, the recent COVID-19 pandemic has set back vaccinations, especially in the Global South," explains Yuta Shirogane, Assistant Professor at Kyushu University's Faculty of Medical Sciences. "SSPE is a rare but fatal condition caused by the measles virus. However, the normal measles virus does not have the ability to propagate in the brain, and thus it is unclear how it causes encephalitis."

A series of proteins

A virus infects cells through a series of proteins that protrude from its surface. Usually, one protein will first facilitate the virus to attach to a cell's surface, then another surface protein will cause a reaction that lets the virus into the cell, leading to an infection. Therefore, what a virus can or cannot infect can depend heavily on the type



The team hopes that their results will help develop therapeutics for SSPE, as well as elucidate the evolutionary mechanisms common to viruses that have similar infection mechanisms to measles such as novel coronaviruses and herpesviruses. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/FREEPIK

of cell. "Usually, the measles virus only infects your immune

and epithelial cells, causing the rash and fever," continues Shirogane. "Therefore, in pa-

tients with SSPE, the measles virus must have remained in their body and mutated, then

gained the ability to infect nerve cells. RNA viruses like measles mutate and evolve at very high rates, but the mechanism of how it evolved to infect neurons has been a mystery."

The key player in allowing the measles virus to infect a cell is a protein called fusion protein, or F protein. In the team's previous studies, they showed that certain mutations in the F protein puts it in a 'hyperfusion' state, allowing it to fuse onto neural synapses and infect the brain.

In their latest study, the team analyzed the genome of the measles virus from SSPE patients and found that various mutations had accumulated in their F protein. Interestingly, certain mutations would increase infection activity while others actually decreased it.

"This was surprising to see, but we found an explanation. When the virus infects a neuron, it infects it through 'en bloc transmission,' where multiple copies of the viral genome enter

the cell," continues Shirogane. "In this case, the genome encoding the mutant F protein is transmitted simultaneously with the genome of the normal F protein, and both proteins are likely to coexist in the infected cell."

Based on this hypothesis, the team analyzed the fusion activity of mutant F proteins when normal F proteins were present. Their results showed that fusion activity of a mutant F protein is suppressed due to interference from the normal F proteins, but that interference is overcome by the accumulation of mutations in the F protein.

A different set of mutations

In another case, the team found that a different set of mutations in the F protein results in a completely opposite result: a reduction in fusion activity. However, to their surprise, this mutation can actually cooperate with normal F proteins to increase fusion activity. Thus, even mutant F proteins that appear to be unable to infect neurons can

still infect the brain.

"It is almost counter to the 'survival of the fittest' model for viral propagation. In fact, this phenomenon where mutations interfere and/or cooperate with each other is called 'Sociovirology.' It's still a new concept, but viruses have been observed to interact with each other like a group. It's an exciting prospect," explains Shirogane.

The team hopes that their results will help develop therapeutics for SSPE, as well as elucidate the evolutionary mechanisms common to viruses that have similar infection mechanisms to measles such as novel coronaviruses and herpesviruses.

"There are many mysteries in the mechanisms by which viruses cause diseases. Since I was a medical student, I was interested in how the measles virus caused SSPE. I am happy that we were able to elucidate the mechanism of this disease," concludes Shirogane.

SOURCE: ANI

ENVIRON WORLD

Brazil to sink warship dubbed '30,000-tonne toxic package'

BRAZIL plans to sink a decommissioned aircraft carrier that has been towed around the Atlantic for months with a damaged hull, drawing criticism from environmentalists, who say it is packed with toxic materials.

The navy and defence ministry said in a statement Wednesday that the six-decade-old warship, the Sao Paulo, would be scuttled, after trying in vain to find a port willing to welcome it.

"Given the situation and the growing risk of towing (the ship), in light of the deteriorating buoyancy of the hull and the inevitability of a spontaneous, uncontrolled sinking, there is no option but to jettison it in a planned, controlled sinking," it said.

Environmentalists attacked the decision, saying the aircraft

carrier contains tonnes of asbestos, heavy metals and other toxic materials that could leach into the water and pollute the marine food chain.

The director of the Basel Action Network (BAN), Jim Puckett, accused Brazil's navy of "gross negligence".

"If they proceed with dumping the very toxic vessel into the wilderness of the Atlantic Ocean, they will violate the terms of three international environmental treaties," he said in a statement.

He urged President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva — who took office last month vowing to reverse surging environmental destruction under far-right ex-president Jair Bolsonaro — to immediately halt the "dangerous" plan.

French environmental



The aircraft carrier 'Sao Paulo' is seen in February 1994, when it belonged to France and was known as the 'Foch'. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

group Robin des Bois meanwhile called the ship a "30,000-tonne toxic package."

Built in the late 1950s in France, whose navy sailed it for 37 years as the Foch, the air-

craft carrier earned a place in 20th-century naval history.—AFP

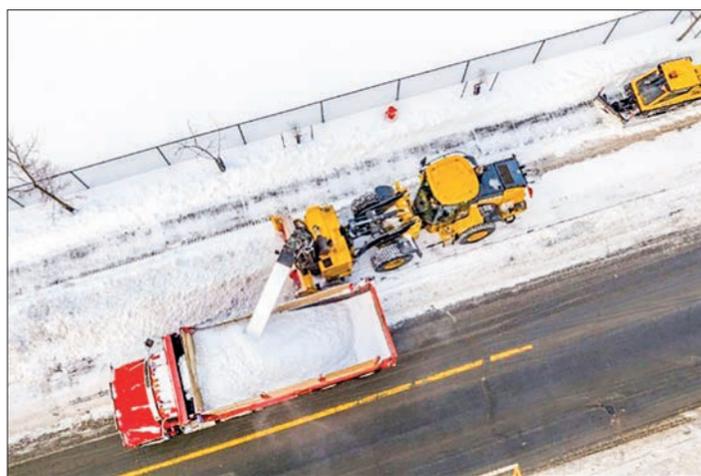
Montreal snow-clearing: good for traffic, bad for environment

A choreographed ballet of massive trucks, snowplows and snowblowers takes over the streets of Montreal whenever it snows, an enormous logistical effort with a significant environmental cost.

Hundreds of snow-clearing vehicles are deployed across the frigid Canadian city for 100 or more days each year on average, dusting the road with salt and belching emissions into the air. "The snow challenge in Montreal is colossal," says city spokesperson Philippe Sabin.

If the city's streets and sidewalks were put end to end, they would total 10,000 kilometres (6,200 miles) or the equivalent of the distance from Montreal to Beijing, he said.

Some 3,000 employees and



Aerial picture of a snow removal operation in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, in January 2023: in just a few hours, tonnes of snow are removed from roadways to allow cars, bicycles and pedestrians to get around the island city — an enormous logistical effort with significant environmental costs. **PHOTO: AFP**

2,200 vehicles go into action day and night every time it snows, helping make the streets passable.

In Montreal alone, the equivalent of 150,000 tonnes of salt is spread on roads and sidewalks over the winter.—AFP

Spain's Menorca gets green light to limit cars

THE regional parliament of Spain's Balearic Islands approved Wednesday a law that allows the holiday island of Menorca to limit the number of cars that can visit.

The text passed by the assembly grants the government of the tiny Mediterranean isle the power to limit the entry of

"all types of motor vehicles" to prevent it from becoming choked by fumes and overrun during summer months.

It also allows Menorca to set a "maximum ceiling" for the number of vehicles that can circulate on the island's roads during a "defined period".

Menorca, one of the most

popular destinations for British holidaymakers in Spain, has so far not specified what limit it might set on the number of cars allowed.

During the peak summer season tens of thousands of cars arrive on ferries from mainland Spain or the neighbouring island of Mallorca.—AFP

Business and consumers hamper climate fight: report

CORPORATIONS and consumers are the main obstacle to the emissions cuts needed to keep global warming to the 1.5-degree Celsius limit, researchers said Wednesday, adding that "positive signs" in other areas are not yet enough to meet climate goals.

The report by a multidisciplinary team of researchers warned that staying within the 1.5C goal was "not plausible", but that this could change if societies stepped up their efforts to cut emissions.

"We see all kinds of positive signs, for example, the political protests, divestment decisions, climate litigation cases, transnational initiatives, this is all on the rise," said one of the study authors Anita Engels. "So you

could think that we are really on a good track."

But she added: "We need to do so much more".

The report, the Hamburg Climate Futures Outlook, assessed the plausibility of achieving the emissions reductions necessary to limit temperatures in line with the Paris Agreement.

That 2015 deal saw nations agree to limit global warming to well below two degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times, preferably 1.5C. Researchers looked at 10 societal factors that they considered to be the most important drivers of decarbonization and found that currently none are yet at a level that would lead to the dramatic emissions reductions needed by 2050.—AFP



A man ponders the options at a Dollar Store in Alhambra, California. **PHOTO: FREDERIC J. BROWN/AFP**

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Canada seeks to delay euthanasia for mentally ill

CANADA on Thursday moved to delay a change to its euthanasia laws that would make mentally ill patients eligible, saying more time was needed to set up safeguards.

Canada approved doctor-assisted suicide for the terminally ill in 2016 in response to the top court striking down a ban, ruling that it deprived Canadians of their dignity and autonomy.

It was expanded in 2021 to include adults with serious and chronic physical conditions that were not life-threatening, while the government vowed to also permit mentally ill patients to request euthanasia.

But on Thursday Justice Minister David Lametti introduced a bill in parliament seeking a one-year extension, to 17 March 2024, for such an inclusion. —AFP



Canada approved doctor-assisted suicide for the terminally ill in 2016. This was expanded in 2021 to include adults with serious and chronic physical conditions that were not life-threatening. Demonstrators protest in front of Parliament Hill, in Ottawa, Canada on 11 December 2022. PHOTO: ANDREJ IVANOV / AFP / FILE

US temporarily extends tariff relief on Chinese medical goods

THE United States will temporarily extend tariff exemptions for some medical products from China, while it seeks public comment on whether such relief should continue, the US Trade Representative said Thursday.

These exclusions cover 81 medical-care products, and the exemptions stem from the US battle against the Covid-19 pandemic.

The current exclusions were originally scheduled to expire on 28 February and will now last through to mid-May, said the USTR in a statement.

“USTR is requesting public comments on whether to extend particular exclusions for Covid-related products for up to six months,” the statement added.

The temporary extension until May allows for consideration of these public comments.

Such exemptions were first announced in December 2020, and have been extended several times in recent years.

Items on the list include pump bottles for hand sanitizer,



The exclusions cover 81 medical-care products, and the exemptions stem from the US battle against the Covid-19 pandemic. PHOTO: CLEMENT MAHOUDEAU/AFP

plastic containers for sanitizing wipes, blood pressure monitors, fingertip pulse oximeters, MRI machines and X-ray tables.

As inflation surged in the past year, President Joe Biden has been under pressure to end the so-called Section 301 tariffs.

These came as trade tensions between the United States and China escalated when then-president Donald Trump imposed tariffs on \$350 billion

worth of Chinese goods, alleging unfair trade practices along with theft of US technology and intellectual property.

Washington and Beijing signed a so-called phase one trade agreement in January 2020, under which China pledged to boost its purchases of American products and services by at least \$200 billion over 2020 and 2021, although the target was not met amid the pandemic.—AFP

Australia to legalize MDMA and magic mushrooms for medical use

AUSTRALIA'S drugs watchdog on Friday announced that psychedelic substances MDMA and psilocybin — more commonly known as ecstasy and magic mushrooms — will soon be used in the treatment of depression and post-traumatic stress.

Psychiatrists will be able to prescribe the two substances from July, the Therapeutic Goods Administration said after finding “sufficient evidence for potential benefits in certain patients”.

The two drugs are currently “prohibited substances” and can only be used in closely controlled clinical trials.

The administration said they had been found to be “relatively safe” when administered in a medical setting and provided an “altered state of consciousness” that could help patients.

Mike Musker, a mental

health and suicide prevention researcher at the University of South Australia, welcomed the move as “long-awaited”.

“There are many people in the community experiencing PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) and depression, particularly army veterans and

people who have worked in emergency services, where standard psychiatric drugs have not worked and offer no relief,” he said.

Musker said the two drugs “reduce inhibitions” and could help people process difficult images and memories. —AFP



Mushrooms for sale are displayed in the smartshop Innerspace in Amsterdam 18 October 2007. PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/ AFP/FILE

Colombian judge uses ChatGPT in ruling

A judge in Colombia caused a stir by announcing he had used the AI chatbot ChatGPT in preparing a ruling in a children’s medical rights case.

Judge Juan Manuel Padilla said he used the text-generating bot in a case involving a request to exonerate an autistic child from paying fees for medical appointments, therapy and transportation given his parents’ limited income.

Padilla told Blu Radio on Tuesday that ChatGPT and other such programmes could be useful to “facilitate the drafting of texts” but “not with the aim of replacing” judges.

He ruled in favour of the child and wrote in his judgment dated 30 January that he had consulted ChatGPT on the matter, without specifying to what extent he had relied on the bot.

Padilla also insisted that

“by asking questions to the application we do not stop being judges, thinking beings”.

ChatGPT uses artificial intelligence and reams of data from the internet to generate answers to questions posed by human users.

In this case, Padilla said he asked the bot: “Is autistic minor exonerated from paying fees for their therapies?” among other questions.

It answered: “Yes, this is correct. According to the regulations in Colombia, minors diagnosed with autism are exempt from paying fees for their therapies.”

The judge argued that ChatGPT performs services previously provided by a secretary and did so “in an organized, simple and structured manner” which could “improve response times” in the justice system.—AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Hong Kong offers free flights after Covid isolation



A ferry with flags marking the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland sails at the Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong, south China, 22 June 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

HONG Kong is ready to welcome the world back, its leader said Thursday, as he pitched free flights and positive publicity to resurrect the once-vibrant global hub after three years of Covid-enforced isolation.

The government's re-branding campaign, "Hello, Hong Kong", bills itself as an effort to tell "good stories" about the southern Chinese city, where years of political repression, coupled with pandemic curbs, have tarnished its business-friendly reputation.

Promising "no isolation, no quarantine and no restrictions" during a speech to business and tourism heavyweights, Chief Executive John Lee announced

500,000 free air tickets for visitors to experience the city's "hustle and bustle".

The giveaway will open in March, with another 80,000 tickets up for grabs to residents in the summer.

"This, ladies and gentlemen, is probably the world's biggest welcome ever," Lee said.

Adherence to Beijing's zero-Covid doctrine of quarantine, closed borders and face masks kept Hong Kong largely virus-free until a deadly Omicron outbreak at the start of 2022.

But it also contributed to an economic recession and the exodus of more than 2.5 percent of the population.—AFP

German trade surplus shrinks on Ukraine, energy crisis

GERMANY'S much-vaunted trade surplus shrank in 2022, official data showed Thursday, as soaring energy prices in the wake of the Ukraine war pushed up the cost of imports.

Germany exported goods to the value of 1.56 trillion euros (\$1.7 trillion), up 14 per cent on a year earlier, federal statistics agency Destatis said in seasonally adjusted figures.

But imports rose by more than 24 per cent to 1.48 trillion euros, resulting in a trade surplus of 76 billion euros.

Destatis said it was "the lowest surplus" since 2000 and down by more than half compared with last year's 173.3-billion-euro figure.

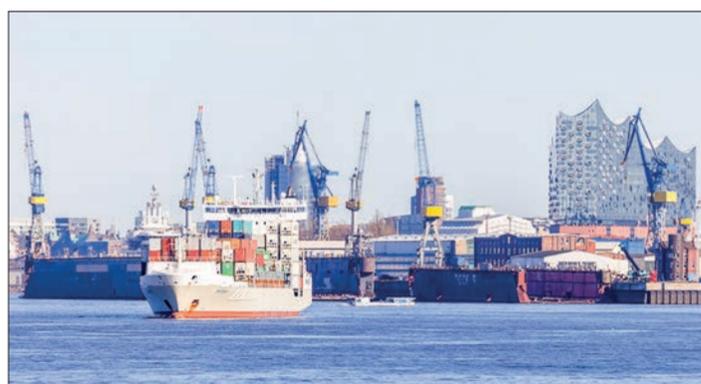
The bill for imports rose

much more strongly "on account of the sharply increased prices of energy" following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the agency said.

It is the fifth consecutive year that the trade surplus has narrowed in Europe's biggest economy, it added.

The United States remained the top destination for "made in Germany goods", while China was once again the largest source of imports.

The shrinking surplus in export champion Germany comes at a time of growing concern about the competitiveness of European companies in the face of US plans for a major subsidy package to green its economy.—AFP



In this file photo taken on 7 March 2022 container ship Dagmar leaves the harbour of Hamburg on the river Elbe, while the building of the Elbphilharmonie concert hall (right) is seen in the background, in Hamburg, northern Germany. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE A**

OPEC+ committee recommends staying course on oil output policy

LEADING oil officials on Wednesday recommended to maintain the current oil output policy of OPEC+, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies, amid an uncertain global economic outlook. The OPEC+ agreed in October 2022 to cut production by two million barrels per day from the following month until the end of 2023.

The cut equals to about two per cent of the annual global oil demand. Members of the OPEC+ Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC) "re-affirmed their commitment" to the current output plan at a virtual meeting on Wednesday and "urged all participating countries to achieve full conformity and adhere to the compensation mechanism", according to an



ARAMCO engineers working on an eastern Saudi oil installation. **PHOTO: AFP**

OPEC statement. The JMMC comprises oil ministers from the OPEC+ countries. It has no decision-making power but provides policy recommendations for the OPEC+ ministerial meeting, the

group's decision-making body. It has also the authority to request additional OPEC+ ministerial meetings "at any time to address market developments," according to OPEC.—Xinhua

EU unveils green industry deal to compete with US

THE European Commission on Wednesday unveiled its plan to meet the challenges posed by the United States' (US) Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and keep up with a worldwide race in subsidy schemes for green industries.

Net-zero industries are most important in the fight against climate change, European Commission President Ur-

sula von der Leyen said when presenting the Green Deal Industrial Plan.

The plan is built on four pillars: a conducive regulatory environment for the net-zero industries, national and EU funding, ensuring proper skills for the green transition and an ambitious trade agenda.

It is designed to ease re-

strictions on state aid and unlock huge private financing for cleantech production in the European Union (EU). To that end, the European Commission will have to consult with EU countries to amend the current state aid framework, including increasing notification thresholds for the support of green investments.—Xinhua

Sushi conveyor belt pranks spark outrage in Japan

A handful of unhygienic pranks at sushi conveyor belt restaurants in Japan have sparked stock slumps, venue overhauls and legal action, along with furious social media commentary.

Several videos dubbed "sushi terrorism" have emerged on social media including Twitter and TikTok in recent days, some of them ap-

parently weeks or even years old.

In one, viewed nearly 40 million times on Twitter, an apparently teenaged customer licks the top of a communal soy sauce bottle and the rim of a teacup he then places back on a shelf, before licking his finger and touching a piece of sushi as it goes past on the belt.—AFP



Japanese restaurant chain Kura Sushi plans to install cameras above its conveyor belts to monitor customers. PHOTO: AFP

Japan logs record 1.4 tril yen in farm, fishery exports in 2022

JAPAN'S agricultural, fishery and forestry product exports rose 14.3 per cent in 2022 from a year earlier to a record 1.4 trillion yen (\$10.9 billion), government data showed Friday, due to the yen's weakness and overseas dining industries' recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

It marked a 10th consecutive record-breaking year, the farm ministry said. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's government aims to increase agricultural and fishery exports to two trillion yen by 2025 and five trillion yen by 2030.

Products in all categories logged their best ever results in the reporting year, with agricultural product exports accounting for 887 billion yen, fishery products for 387.3 billion



Products in all categories logged their best ever results in the reporting year, with agricultural product exports accounting for 887 billion yen, fishery products for 387.3 billion yen and forestry-related items for 63.8 billion yen. PHOTO: KYODO

yen and forestry-related items for 63.8 billion yen. Scallop exports to markets including China and the United States were particularly strong, jumping

42.4 per cent from a year earlier to 91 billion yen. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said alcoholic beverages also posted

good results, with exports of Japanese whiskies rising 21.5 per cent to 56 billion yen and sake increasing 18.2 per cent to 47.4 billion yen.—Kyodo

Germany's exports, imports up in 2022: Destatis

GERMANY'S imports and exports both increased year-on-year in 2022 amid the energy crisis and high inflation, according to preliminary

figures published by the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) on Thursday. Exports of Europe's largest economy rose by 14.3 per cent year-on-year

to 1.56 trillion euros (1.72 trillion US dollars), while imports jumped 24.3 per cent to a value of 1.49 trillion euros.

The increases were "largely based on price effects", the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce (DIHK) commented on the figures. As with inflation, the development was mostly driven by soaring energy prices.

Last year's export balance "turns out to be less good than it seems", Tanja Goenner, chief executive of the Federation of German Industries (BDI), said.—Xinhua



People visit the Caravan Salon 2022 in Dusseldorf, Germany, on 27 August 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/SHAN WEIYI

Google, Apple disappoint as tech earnings hit by gloom

GOOGLE and Apple on Thursday reported downbeat results for the last quarter of 2022 as Amazon beat expectations, but warned that the coming months would be uncer-

tain in a difficult moment for Big Tech. The tech titans posted earnings as shares in Meta skyrocketed a day after it reported better results than expected and signalled

spending and job cuts. The results follow weeks of unprecedented layoff rounds in the usually unassailable tech sector amid pessimism about the economic outlook.—AFP

ASIRI MYANMAR LIMITED
Call for proof of debts or claims
(Pursuant to Insolvency Rule 9)

Following the approval of the company's voluntary winding-up and the appointment of U Maung Maung Min Khaung as liquidator, all persons claiming to be creditors of the above named company are hereby requested to submit details of their claims together with any documentary evidence in their possession to the liquidator at the address given below not later than 20 February 2023.

U Maung Maung Min Khaung
LL.B., D.B.L (Advocate) (No. 16234)
Liquidator

Liquidator's Office: Uniteam Marine Office Building, 8th Floor, Unit #1, No. 84, Pan Hlaing Street, Sanchaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar, 11111



Call

09251022355
09974424848

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (214W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (214W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-2-2023** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Micronesia pres says “transparency” eased Fukushima water concerns

MICRONESIAN President David Panuelo said Friday that Japan’s “transparency” over its intention to release treated water from the crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant into the ocean has helped ease the Pacific island nation’s concerns over the plans.

Panuelo’s remarks stood in contrast to those he gave the UN General Assembly in September of his “gravest concern”

regarding Tokyo’s plans to dump the water containing low-level concentrations of tritium into the Pacific Ocean from the spring or summer of 2023.

Speaking at a press conference at the Japan National Press Club a day after bilateral talks with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Panuelo said the extensive information provided by Japan meant he trusts the country in “doing the right thing”

and ensuring it “does not harm the shared asset which is our Pacific Ocean”.

But he stopped short of offering full support, saying that while his government has been “satisfied” with the information provided, “this is not to say that we are stopping, we continue to consult with the government of Japan” to ensure the water “meets requirements so that it is safe”. —Kyodo



Photo taken 26 August 2020, at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in northeastern Japan, shows tanks for storing treated water from which most of the radioactive contamination has been removed.

PHOTO: KYODO

Nicaragua’s Ortega says NKorea, Iran have right to nukes



North Koreans watch on 4 October 2022 a news report showing North Korea’s Hwasong-12 intermediate-range ballistic missile launch on electronic screen at Pyongyang station in Pyongyang, North Korea.

PHOTO: KYODO / FILE

NICARAGUAN President Daniel Ortega on Thursday ardently defended the right of Iran and North Korea to develop nuclear weapons, saying the United States holds no authority to turn them back.

Ortega made the remarks upon receiving Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian. “We don’t love atomic bombs... but what authority (do Western powers have) to want to prohibit Iran if it wants to make atomic bombs?” Ortega asked with the Iranian minister by his side. He added that North Korea has the same sovereign right no matter how the United States or its allies feel about it.—AFP

Mexico tourist deaths add to calls for vacation rental regulation

A vacation to watch the Mexican Grand Prix ended in tragedy for one tourist poisoned by carbon monoxide, fueling calls for regulation of popular accommodation rental websites like Airbnb and Booking.com.

Angelica Arce, 29, travelled to Mexico City with her two younger siblings in October from the northwestern Mexican border city of Tijuana to watch the Formula One motor racing.

They rented a short-stay apartment through the online platform Booking.com.

Inside, a poorly installed

water heater was leaking carbon monoxide — a colourless, odourless gas that can pose a lethal threat to human health.

All three began to feel unwell and were hospitalized.

Arce died at dawn on 30 October.

“May her death not be in vain,” said her mother, Gloria Ojeda.

Arce is just one of several people killed recently by suspected carbon monoxide leaks in Mexico City — prompting increased pressure for authorities to urgently regulate online vacation rentals.—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Putin warns West over arms deliveries to Ukraine

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin on Thursday vowed a decisive response to any country threatening Russia and lashed out against Germany for promising tanks for Kyiv.

His threats came after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky warned that the Kremlin was consolidating its forces for a fresh offensive.

Zelensky was speaking in Kyiv beside EU chief Ursula von der Leyen, who said the bloc was looking to finalize fresh sanctions against Russia by 24 February, exactly one

year after Putin ordered troops into Ukraine.

In the southern Russian city of Volgograd, Putin said: “It’s unbelievable but true. We are again being threatened by German Leopard tanks.”

He was speaking at a ceremony commemorating the Red Army’s victory against Nazi troops 80 years ago in Stalingrad, as the city was then known.

“We have something to respond with,” he added. “A modern war with Russia will be completely different.”—AFP



Ukrainian tanks ride towards the front line with Russian forces in the Lugansk region of Ukraine on 25 February 2022. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Iran says all Russian banks connected to Iran’s financial messaging system

AN Iranian banking official said on Thursday that all Russian banks and 106 banks in 13 other countries have been connected to Iran’s financial messaging system known as SEPAM, the semi-official Tasnim News Agency reported. With SEPAM, Iranian banks are no longer in need of the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) network, Mohsen Karimi, the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) for international affairs, told Tasnim.—Xinhua

Pope Francis takes Africa peace mission to S Sudan after DR Congo

POPE Francis is due to wind up his trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo and arrive in South Sudan on Friday on a three-day visit to promote peace and reconciliation in a country still bearing the scars of civil war.

Francis is scheduled to land in Juba at 3:00 pm (1300 GMT), in the first visit to South Sudan by a pope since the predominantly Christian nation gained independence from Muslim-majority Sudan in 2011 after decades of bloody struggle.

Peace has eluded South

Sudan in statehood too, with a five-year civil war leaving 380,000 people dead, four million displaced, and the young country deeply impoverished.

The 86-year-old is expected to meet victims of the conflict, as well as the country's political and church leaders, between prayers and an outdoor mass that is expected to draw large crowds.

The visit -- Francis's fifth to Africa -- was initially scheduled for 2022 but had to be postponed because of the pope's problems with his knee.

The affliction has made him dependent on a wheelchair, and seen a paring-back of parts of the itinerary in both countries.

He will be joined in South Sudan by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in what is being billed as a "pilgrimage for peace".

The visit has been long anticipated in a devout country of 12 million where the church is a deeply respected institution with a long history of peace-building. — AFP



Pope Francis addressed thousands of youngsters at a packed stadium in DR Congo. PHOTO: AFP

Peru Congress votes down new bid to advance elections



People protest against the government of Peruvian President Dina Boluarte in Lima on 2 February 2023. PHOTO: AFP

PERU'S Congress on Thursday voted down another proposal to advance elections to this year, a day after a similar proposal aimed at quelling deadly nationwide unrest also failed.

In addition to moving elections up from April 2024 to July 2023, the proposal rejected Thursday included the calling

of a referendum on forming a constitutional convention — another key demand of protesters.

The proposal by the Free Peru party was rejected with 75 votes against and only 48 in favour, with one abstention.

The vote Wednesday on a proposal to advance elections to October 2023, without the consti-

tutional convention referendum, had been backed by President Dina Boluarte.

The president's office said on Twitter it regretted the vote Wednesday and vowed to immediately present another bill to hold general elections this year.

Peru has been embroiled in a political crisis with near-daily demonstrations since 7 December, when then-president Pedro Castillo was arrested after attempting to dissolve Congress and rule by decree.

In seven weeks of demonstrations, 48 people — including a police officer — have been killed in clashes between security forces and protesters, according to the human rights ombudsman's office.

Roadblocks erected by protesters have caused shortages of food, fuel and other basic commodities in several regions of the Andean nation. — AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

New York returns 14 stolen antiquities to Italy

AUTHORITIES in New York announced Thursday the return to Italy of 14 antiquities worth an estimated \$2.5 million, as part of a criminal investigation into smuggling of stolen artifacts.

The Manhattan District Attorney's office over the past two years has been conducting an extensive campaign into looted antiquities that have ended up in New York museums and galleries — including the prestigious Metropolitan Museum of Art.

During a ceremony Thursday with the Italian consul-general and Italian police representatives, 14 more artefacts — some 2,600 years old — were returned to Italy, bringing the total number of repatriated pieces to that country over the past seven months to 214, District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office said. — AFP

France arrests suspected Italian mafia killer after 16 years on run: Interpol

A convicted Italian killer, believed to belong to one of the country's most powerful mafia organizations, was arrested on Thursday in France after 16 years on the run, Interpol said.

Edgardo Greco, 63, is suspected of belonging to the notorious 'Ndrangheta, a powerful mafia organisation in Calabria, southern Italy. Interpol said he was arrested in the French city of Saint-Etienne, where he had at one point run an Italian restaurant under an alias, according to French prosecutors. — AFP

Colombia's war on illegal gold mines also hits outlaw armed groups

FROM the army helicopter circling overhead, Colombian security forces are able to spot several illegal gold mines in the jungle below.

The armed forces land suddenly to be confronted by angry workers, but they brush them off and destroy the machinery used to extract gold.

The operation is both a blow

to illegal mining and a strike at armed groups that profit from illicit mines in this conflict-ridden country.

More than 100 soldiers, police and anti-riot officers arrive onboard four aircraft in the southeastern Triangulo del Telembi region.

Their mission is to destroy bulldozers to prevent villag-

ers from mining for gold, an illegal activity that helps fund the National Liberation Army (ELN) rebels and dissidents of the now-defunct Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas who made peace with the state in 2016, laying down their arms to form a communist political party. — AFP



A helicopter lands at an illegal gold mining place in Triangulo de Telembi, Colombia on 25 January 2023. PHOTO: DANIEL MUNOZ / AFP

Micronesia pres says "transparency" eased Fukushima water concerns

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SPORT

Aung La N Sang to fight against Fan Rong on 5 May



MYANMAR MMA fighter Aung La N Sang will take on Chinese fighter Fan Rong in the ONE Fight Night-10 tournament to be held in the United States on 5 May.

Aung La N Sang, who missed a chance to face him on 14 January, will battle against Fan Rong this time, and their fight will only be showcased as a middleweight challenge.

On 14 January, Aung La N Sang and Fan Rong were sched-

uled to compete in ONE Fight Night-6 in Thailand, but Fan Rong was infected with Covid-19, and Aung La had to switch fights with Brazilian Galvao.

Although Aung La continues to win, he has not yet been allowed to challenge for the middleweight world title. If he wins this fight, he is likely to challenge for the championship belt.

Aung La has won his last two bouts against Japanese Okami and Brazilian Galvao by first-

round stoppage.

The ONE Championship organization will hold its first event in the United States on 5 May, and the flyweight world championship will be held as the main event, and current champion American fighter Johnson will fight with Brazilian Moraes.

In the United States, it will be held on the night of 5 May, so Myanmar fans will have to watch it early in the morning of 6 May. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council 12 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.
- (d) To ensure peace and stability, rule of law and secure and smooth transport across the Union.

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 encourage micro, small and medium-scale enterprises based on domestic raw materials in order to substitute import goods and enhance export products to have long-term guarantees and create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.
- (d) To develop the socioeconomic life of the people to ensure prosperity and food sufficiency of the country.

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 faiths, culture and national characteristics based on national spirit.
- (c) To further strengthen basic healthcare services of the nation and to emerge the health system for enhancement of longevity and health of the entire National people.
- (d) To promote multiple education systems in order to produce the necessary human resources for building a modern developed democratic nation.

'No excuses' for Arsenal in title bid after January spending: Arteta

MIKEL Arteta says Arsenal can have no excuses if they do not win the Premier League title for the first time in two decades after strengthening their squad during the January transfer window.

Arteta splashed out more than £50 million (\$61 million) on three new signings as the club look to hold onto their lead at the top of the table, bringing in Italy midfielder Jorginho, Belgium forward Leandro Trossard and Poland defender Jakub Kiwior.

The Gunners are five points clear of second-placed Manchester City with a game in hand on the champions and Arteta knows his side are perfectly placed to win the club's

first English title since 2004.

Arteta was asked on Friday about whether there would now be no excuses if Arsenal failed to get over the line.

"If you want to put it that way, that's fine," he said. "What we have to do is train really well and win, and play well to win. That's the only thing we can do."

Arsenal would have spent even more on new signings last month but they missed out on Ukraine winger Mykhailo Mudryk, who instead joined Chelsea, and Brighton's highly rated midfielder Moises Caicedo. Despite those frustrations, Arteta is pleased with the backing he received from the Arsenal hierarchy.—AFP

France defender Varane announces international retirement at 29



Raphael Varane of France celebrates the goal of Kylian Mbappe of France during the UEFA Nations League League A Group 1 match between France and Austria at Stade de France on 22 September 2022 in Saint-Denis near Paris, France. PHOTO: AFP

FRANCE centre-back Raphael Varane, a World Cup winner in 2018 and runner-up last year, announced Thursday his retirement from international duty at the age of 29. "I've been thinking about it for several months and I decided it was the right time for me to retire from international football," Varane wrote on Instagram. The Manchester United defender made his France debut in 2013 and won 93 caps for Les Bleus. He had been in the running to take over as captain following the retirement of Hugo Lloris last month.

"To represent our magnificent country for a decade has been one of the greatest honours of my life. Each time I wore this special blue shirt I felt

immense pride," said Varane. Varane's decision to call time on his France career leaves Kylian Mbappe as the frontrunner for the captaincy, with Didier Deschamps' side set to begin Euro 2024 qualifying at the end of March with a double-header against the Netherlands and the Republic of Ireland. The former Real Madrid star played every minute of his country's triumphant 2018 World Cup campaign as France defeated Croatia 4-2 in the final.

He was one of five French players who also started the 2022 final defeat by Argentina on penalties, recovering from a leg injury that ruled him out of the start of the tournament. — AFP