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Honouring the 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Independence Day

Five National Objectives of Diamond Jubilee Independence Day

- To ensure cementing the discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democratic system and build the Union based on democracy and federalism;
- To utmost strive for ensuring prosperity of the nation and food sufficiency as national work processes;
- To build a better State and socioeconomic life in accord with the theme "Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal" focusing on interests of the State and ethnic national people;
- To initiate national solidarity and peace of the Union with a firm vow;
- To successfully hold the free and fair multiparty democratic general elections and emerge an electoral system in which all ethnic nationals would participate proportionately.

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NATIONAL

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing attends ceremony to present military gallantry medals, certificates

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Thilawa SEZ attracts over US\$2.188 bln as of Nov 2022

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Congratulatory messages from foreign heads of states on 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day

His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia sends congratulatory message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ON the auspicious occasion of the 75th Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the People of the Kingdom of Cambodia join me in conveying sincere greetings and congratulations to Your Excellency and the people of Myanmar.

Over the last sixty-seven years, Cambodia and Myanmar have enjoyed warm and cordial relations based on values of mutual respect and understanding. I am confident that our two countries will continue to strengthen our multilateral cooperation through the framework of the United Nations, as well as other international and regional structures including the ASEAN cooperation. I extend my wishes of serenity to Your Excellency, as well as peace, progress and prosperity to your country.

With my highest consideration,

Mr Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

PLEASE accept sincere greetings on the occasion of the national holiday of your country - Independence Day.

Russia and Myanmar are bound by friendly relations that were fully confirmed in our bilateral meeting in September in Vladivostok. I am convinced that realization agreements achieved will facilitate to further development of bilateral relations in various fields – for the benefit of our peoples, in the interests of strengthening regional stability and security. I wish You good health and success and to all citizens of Myanmar peace and prosperity.

Mrs Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal sends congratulatory message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ON the auspicious occasion of the Diamond Jubilee, the 75th Anniversary of the Independence Day of Myanmar, I extend my congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. I wish for Your Excellency's good health and happiness, and the progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

Mr Mikhail Mushustin, Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ON behalf of the Government of the Russian Federation and myself please accept greetings on the occasion of the national holiday of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar – Independence Day.

Russia and Myanmar are bound by friendly and partnership relations. I am convinced that active joint work between our governments will facilitate further strengthening cooperation in trade and economy, science and technology and humanitarian spheres, ensuring favourable conditions to promote perspective projects and initiatives. This fully meets the interests of the Russian Federation and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. I sincerely wish you, dear U Min Aung Hlaing, good health, well-being and new successes in your important work and to all citizens of Myanmar – peace and prosperity.

Mr Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, Prime Minister of Nepal sends congratulatory message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ON behalf of the Government and people of Nepal and my own, I extend congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the auspicious occasion of the Diamond Jubilee, 75th Anniversary of Independence Day of Myanmar. I extend my best wishes for Your Excellency's personal well-being and the continued progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar.

Mr Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation sends Congratulatory Message to U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs

PLEASE accept sincere greetings on the occasion of the national holiday of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar—Independence Day.

WE are satisfied to note the positive dynamics of Russia-Myanmar relations, which are characterized by traditional friendship and mutual understanding. We look forward to consistently promoting confident political dialogue and contacts between our foreign ministries under the agreements reached during our talks in Nay Pyi Taw in August 2022. I am convinced that strengthening multifaceted cooperation meets the core interests of the peoples of our countries, and contributes to maintaining peace and security in South-East Asia and the Asia-Pacific Region as a whole. I wish you and all your colleagues in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar good health and success.

Our historical duty to build a genuine and disciplined democratic State

“It is our historical duty to build a genuine and disciplined democratic State holding pragmatic views on the events experienced in the past and with each of us having understanding and trust.”

(Excerpt from the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the 74th Anniversary of the Shan State Day on 7 February 2021)



Scenic Beauty of Bagan. PHOTO BY U NAY LINN (IPRD)

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing attends ceremony to present military gallantry medals, certificates

STATE Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address at the ceremony to present military gallantry medals, certificates at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Also present at the ceremony were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Thiri Pyanchi Sithu Maung Maung Aye and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zeya Kyaw Htin Sithu Moe Aung and



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing poses for the documentary group photo at the event yesterday.

wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Zeya Kyaw Htin Sithu Tun Aung and wife, senior mil-

itary officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, Union level offi-

cial and wives, title recipient officers, other ranks and heirs. Speaking on the occasion,

the Senior General said that the State and Tatmadaw have been honouring the persons who sacrificed life and limb for serving the historic duties with braveness on Independence Day every year as part of honouring the deserving persons.

At today's ceremony, gallantry medals will be presented to 32 recipients, the gallantry certificate of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services to two recipients and the honorary certificate of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services to 39 recipients. At the same time, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, relevant military command commanders will present the Ye Bala medal to 181 recipients,

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The Senior General presents the gallantry medal to Lt-Col Naing Bo Bo.



The Senior General presents the gallantry certificate to the wife of Colonel Wai Myo Paing.

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence ...

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the excellent performance award in the administrative field to 110 recipients, the excellent performance award in the social field to 12 recipients, excellent performance award in the industrial economic field to four recipients, excellent performance award in service economic field to ten recipients, excellent award in the science field to four recipients, excellent award in the medical field to one recipient, excellent award in the technological field to 74 recipients, gallantry certificate of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services to 136 recipients and honorary certificate of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services to 404 recipients.

The Senior General urged



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing poses for the documentary group photo at the event yesterday.



The Senior General presents the honorary certificate to Sergeant Thet Khaing.

those recipients to hand down the legacy to new generations for adoring the honorary military medals and certificates, continuously serve the assigned duties in defending the State and nation-building tasks, and try hard to become good and able Tatmadaw members to uphold the Our Three Main National Causes by understanding the value and heritage of the independence.

Then, the Senior General presented gallantry medals to 32 recipients, gallantry certificate of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services to two recip-

ients and honorary certificate of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services to 39 recipients.

The Senior General posed for documentary photos together with gallantry title and certificate winner officers, other ranks and heirs.

The Senior General gave a tea party to the medals and title recipients. Meanwhile, the Myawady Entertainment Troupe presented songs.

The Senior General and party warmly greeted the military gallantry medal and certificate winners.

Tatmadaw has conferred

the Aung San Thuriya title on six recipients, the Thiha Thura title on 51 recipients, the Thura title on 554 recipients, the Thiha Bala title on six recipients, the gallantry title on 1,860 recipients, the gallantry medal on 2,050 recipients, gallantry certificate of Supreme Commander on 339 recipients, gallantry certificate of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services on 3,125 recipients, honorary certificate of Supreme Commander on nine recipients, and honorary certificate of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services on 2,351 recipients. — MNA/TTA

SAC Chairman's Trophy sports competitions held marking Diamond Jubilee Independence Day

As a gesture of hailing Diamond Jubilee Independence Day, the Inter-State/Region (Invitation) Sepak Takraw Men's third-place and championship events were held by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs at 9 am in Wunna Theidhi Stadium 2, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

SAC members Daw Aye Nu Sein, Jeng Phang Naw Taung and U Shwe Kyein, Union ministers, deputy ministers and responsible persons from the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, officials from the Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation and sports fans watched the matches.

The Rakhine State team defeated the Yangon Region team



SAC members, Union ministers and party watch the athletic competitions in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



for third place and the Mandalay Region team beat the Sagaing Region team for first prize.

The SAC members and Un-

ion ministers presented the trophy, medals and cash awards to the winning teams respectively.

In the afternoon, the SAC

Chairman's Cup Inter-State/Region (Invitation) U-25 Athletics awarding ceremony was also held at Wunna Theikdhi Stadium.

SAC members and Union ministers presented the championship awards to the Mandalay Region team. — MNA/UTS

Need to export value-added products to external markets

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

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

SAC Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets ethnic traditional cultural troupes, students from regions and states who will participate in ceremony to honour Diamond Jubilee Independence Day

STATE Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win cordially met ethnic traditional cultural troupes from regions and states at Nay Pyi

Taw Sports Training Camp and students at the Transit Centre (Ywataw) who arrived in Nay Pyi Taw to join the ceremony to honour the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day yesterday afternoon.

At the Gold Medal Hall of the sports camp, the Vice-Senior General gave encouragement to ethnic traditional cultural troupes of regions and states.

The Vice-Senior Gener-

al, Union ministers U Maung Maung Ohn, U Ko Ko and U Min Thein Zan, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Tin Oo Lwin, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win and Deputy Minister U

Myo Hlaing presented Pathein parasols to ethnic traditional cultural troupes.

The Vice-Senior General inspected the hostels of the troupes and gave instructions to officials.

At the transit centre (Ywataw), the Vice-Senior General cordially spoke words of encouragement to students who will participate in the ceremony to honour the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day.

The Vice-Senior General, Union Ministers U Maung Maung Ohn, U Ko Ko, Dr Myo Thein Kyaw and U Min Thein Zan, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Tin Oo Lwin, Deputy Ministers Dr Zaw Myint and U Zaw Win presented Pathein parasols to students.

The Vice-Senior General and party inspected the hostels and mess hall of the students and instructed officials to arrange smooth accommodation and food supplies for students and fulfil their needs in time.

— MNA/TTA



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win warmly greets ethnic traditional cultural troupes and students in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

8 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 3 January, total figure rises to 633,694

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,694** after **eight** new cases were reported on 3 January 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **608,325** including **eight** new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged to **19,490** on 1-1-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic.—MNA

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.

State Administration Council issues notifications 1/2023 and 2/2023 for offering religious titles to Buddhist monks, laypersons

THE State Administration Council released Notification No 1/2023 dated 4 January 2023 to offer the Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title to five prominent venerable members of the Sangha and Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika title to five prominent venerable members of the Sangha who had passed away.

Moreover, the State Administration Council released Notification No 2/2023 dated 4 January 2023 to offer religious titles to members of the Sangha who have been serving Ganthadhura for lecturing the stu-

dent members of the Sangha, Vipassanadhura for giving instructions on meditation to devotees, members of the Sangha from internal and external missionary arenas and laypersons.

In this regard, the Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title was offered to eight members of the Sangha and two foreign recipient Sayadaws, Agga Maha Pandita title to 22 local members of the Sangha and eight foreign recipient Sayadaws, Tipitakadhara Dhamma Bhandagarika title to one Sayadaw, Agga Maha Gandhavasaka Pandita title to 24 local

members of the Sangha, one foreign recipient Sayadaw and three local nuns, Maha Gandhavasaka Pandita title to 37 local recipient Sayadaws, one foreign recipient Sayadaw and seven nuns, Gandhavasaka Pandita title to 54 local recipient Sayadaws, one foreign recipient Sayadaw and 17 nuns, Maha Dhamma Kahtika Bahujana Hitadhara title to one local recipient Sayadaw, Dhamma Kah-tika Bahujana Hitadhara title to three local recipient Sayadaws and one foreign recipient Sayadaw, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika title to six

local recipient Sayadaws and one foreign recipient Sayadaw, Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to 50 local recipient Sayadaws and two foreign recipient Sayadaws, Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to 82 local recipient Sayadaws, three foreign recipient Sayadaws, six nuns and four laypersons, Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to 44 local recipient Sayadaws, one foreign recipient Sayadaw, five nuns and three laypersons, Agga Maha Kammathanacariya title to 13 local recipient Sayadaws, Maha Kammathanacariya title to 13 local recipient Sayad-

aws, Kammathanacariya title to 14 local recipient Sayadaws, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara title to four persons, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi title to three persons, Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara title to three persons, Thiri Thudhamma Theingi title to four persons, Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara title to three persons, Thiha Thudhamma Theingi title to four persons, Thudhamma Manijotadhara title to seven persons and Thudhamma Theingi title to seven persons. — MNA/TTA

SAC presents Honorary Medals of Gallantry and Outstanding Performance to MoHA staff



THE State Administration Council awarded the honorary titles and medals under

Order No 211/2022 issued on 17 November 2022 (National Victory Day). According to the

order, the honorary medals for gallantry and outstanding performance of the persons from

the units/departments under the Ministry of Home Affairs were conferred in Nay Pyi Taw, regions and states respectively yesterday.

While the SAC is presenting honorary titles/medals to civil servants/public servants who make efforts in building a peaceful, developed and modern country, titles and medals are conferred to the staff under the Ministry of Home Affairs as they perform security measures and the rule of law regardless of the risk of their lives applying their uttermost abilities with full of adventures and also for carrying out duties for the peace and tranquillity and rule of law with endeavours and perseverance, model performance for the entire Myanmar Police Force.

The deputy minister for

Home Affairs, the police chief of the Myanmar Police Force, respective regional and state ministers, the chairpersons of district administrative bodies and members and township administrators conferred honorary medals to recipients at respective locations.

A total of 129 recipients – 58 recipients from the Myanmar Police Force, 61 recipients from the General Administrative Department, one recipient from the Bureau of Special Investigation, six recipients from the Prison Department and three recipients from the Fire Services Department received Ye Thiha, Ye Thura, Ye Bala, Ye Kyawthu badges and Excellent Performance in Management (First) at the events. — MNA/KTZH

People from developing countries working in Japan can apply for Kubota Fund

THOSE who are from developing countries and working in Japan can apply for a scholarship of up to 100,000 yen per month from the Kubota Fund for 2023-2024, according to the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo.

The Kubota Fund invites applications for grants from developing countries to give money to students, trainees, and researchers pursuing academic degrees,

training, or research at educational institutions or commercial organizations in Japan.

In addition, the candidate must live in Japan while receiving the grant except for traveling abroad to conduct research, attend international conferences and temporarily visit their own country.

The Kubota Fund scholarship will be given to 12 people

and the grant will be from yen 80,000 to yen 100,000 per month from April 2023 to March 2024.

Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo announced that the deadline for scholarship application is 16 January. Applications can be sent to <https://mypage.3050.i-webs.jp/kbt2023/> and those interested can visit <http://www.kubota-fund.org/> for further details. — TWA/MKKS

Kubota Fund
for self-financed students
of developing countries
in Japan

scholarships.af | scholarship for Afghanistan

LOCAL BUSINESS

Mang Wein, Nantaw, Sinphyu borders to resume on 8 Jan 2023

TRADE activities on some Sino-Myanmar borders including Nantaw, Sinphyu and Mang Wein, which performed the majority of trade, are slated to restart on 8 January, said U Min Thein, vice-chair of Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

China has shut down all crossings linking to the Muse border amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, imposing travel bans at Nantaw and Sinphyu borders from 1 April 2020 and Mang Wein from 30 March 2021.

Only Kyinsankyawt resumed trading activities on 26 November 2022 after the closure on 8 July 2021.

“Mang Wein border saw a bustling trade with 400 and 500 trucks. The other two crossings – Nantaw and Sinphyu – have been closed down for three years. Now, those will be reopened on 8 January. They



The closure of the Mang Wein checkpoint wreaked havoc on the Muse trade. The trade value through Muse land border was down by \$337 million compared to the corresponding period of last FY.

will be accessible by road vehicles (trucks, vans, motorcycles) again,” U Min Thein said.

Additionally, the driver-substitution system will be

abolished along with the reopening of the border crossings.

There is no responsibility and accountability if goods are damaged under the driver-sub-

stitution system. Therefore, Myanmar exporters choose short-haul driver service at the Kyinsankyawt border and bear high freight costs.

If this system is cancelled, we can directly go on the China side, tackle delay problems, facilitate trade in the Muse border, save high short-haul driver costs and help cut unemployment, U Min Thein added.

Myanmar daily delivers rice, broken rice, pulses, rubber, watermelon, fishery products, chilli pepper and other food commodities to China through Kyinsankyawt with about 100 trucks and building materials, electrical appliances, pharmaceuticals, fertilizer, household goods and industrial raw materials are imported into the country with 40 trucks.

Myanmar has opened five border trade posts with China – Muse, Lweje, Kampaiti, Chinswehew and Kengtung. The majority of the trade is carried out through Muse, Ministry of Commerce’s data indicated. — NN/EMM

Pure gold price rallies to K2.733 mln per tical in domestic market

THE prices of pure gold hovered in the bear market with over K2.733 million per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilogram) in the domestic market.

The price has risen tracking the increase in global gold spot price, which stands at US\$1,845 per ounce. Therefore, Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) raised the reference price to K2,173,500 per tical.

There is a price difference of over K550,000 per tical between the YGEA’s reference price and the market price.

YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar’s reference exchange rate of K2,100, with some addition, said U Myo Myint, chair of YGEA.

The US dollar is exchanged at K2,850 in the unofficial forex market.

Meanwhile, YGEA called for the gold shops in Yangon Region to sell pure gold at K2,530,000 per tical, according to its notification released on 30 October 2022.

The soaring dollar exchanging at over K4,500

pushed up the pure gold price to a record-high of K3.7 million per tical in late August.

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

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

Under the guidance of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, the Monitoring and Steering Committee on Gold and Currency Market was formed on 21 January 2022 as gold and currency market stability play a crucial role in the trade facilitation.—NN/EMM



Gold jewellery is seen being displayed at the gold outlet in Yangon.

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

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,060
Octane 95	K2,120
Diesel	K2,355
Premium Diesel	K2,435

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,173,500 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,733,000 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

Safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the nation

INDEPENDENCE can lose in a short time for various reasons but it needs to take several years for regaining independence. Hence, the entire national people should join hands in unison to continue safeguarding the independence and sovereignty of the nation for its perpetual existence.

Although the entire people struggled for independence with the sacrifice of life and blood, the independence gave patriotic spirit, national spirit and unity as a noble gift to all. It is a distant example

in the independence struggle of the country that when all ethnic national brethren are in unity, they all will have to secure victory.

Not to lose the space of Myanmar on the world map, all Myanmar citizens are responsible for safeguarding the independence and sovereignty as well as defending the State and the people as a national inborn duty. Hence, the entire people should strive for Myanmar to be able to proudly stand tall with the patriotic spirit and the national spirit among the global countries for thousands of years in its perpetuity.

These duties are not enough for the country. Every citizen needs to cooperate with the government in successfully implementing the two political aims of strengthening the genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and building a Union based on a democratic system and federalism.

In so doing, every citizen needs to avoid all inappropriate acts which can cause derailment of the country from en route to a democratic goal while striving for ensuring the prevalence of law and order under the existing laws able to initiate a firm and stable democratic system of in accord with the concept "No one is above the law".

Currently, many global countries are exercising various types of democratic systems and federalism. In building a democratic nation, it is necessary to choose the best way in conformity with Myanmar in order to implement the democratic system and federalism the entire ethnic national people aspire to. In this regard, the people exercising the democratic system need to follow the wish of the majority but emphasize the wish of the minority, without identifying the persons as enemies if they are not in conformity with the concept of the majority.

That is why all citizens need to focus on the interests of the State and national people under the theme "Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal" in order to build a better socioeconomic country with a firm pledge to restore national reconciliation and the peace of the Union.

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That is why all citizens need to focus on the interests of the State and national people under the theme "Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal" in order to build a better socioeconomic country with a firm pledge to restore national reconciliation and the peace of the Union.

ACCORDING to a new USC study, stress in the form of traumatic events, job strain, everyday stressors, and discrimination accelerates immune system ageing, potentially increasing a person's risk of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and illness from infections like COVID-19.

The research, published 13 June in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), could help explain disparities in age-related health, including the unequal toll of the pandemic, and identify possible points for intervention.

Age-related health

"As the world's population of older adults increases, understanding disparities in age-related health is essential. Age-related changes in the immune system play a critical role in declining health," said lead study author Eric Klopach, a postdoctoral scholar in the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology. "This study helps clarify mechanisms involved in accelerated immune aging."

As people age, the immune

system naturally begins a dramatic downgrade, a condition called immunosenescence. With advanced age, a person's immune profile weakens, and includes too many worn-out white blood cells circulating and too few fresh, "naive" white blood cells ready to take on new invaders.

Immune ageing is associated not only with cancer, but with cardiovascular disease, increased risk of pneumonia, reduced efficacy of vaccines and organ system ageing.

But what accounts for drastic health differences in same-age adults? USC researchers decided to see if they could tease out a connection between lifetime exposure to stress -- a known contributor to poor health -- and declining vigour in the immune system.

Cross-referenced enormous data

They queried and cross-referenced enormous data sets from

University of Michigan's Health and Retirement Study, a national longitudinal study of the economic, health, marital, family status, and public and private support systems of older Americans.

To calculate exposure to various forms of social stress, the researchers analyzed responses from a national sample of 5,744 adults over the age of 50. They answered a questionnaire designed to assess respondents' experiences with social stress, including stressful life events, chronic stress, everyday discrimination and lifetime discrimination.

Blood samples from the participants were then analyzed through flow cytometry, a lab technique that counts and classifies blood cells as they pass one-by-one in a narrow stream in front of a laser.

As expected, people with higher stress scores had older-seeming immune profiles, with lower

Stress speeds up immune ageing: Study



In this study, statistically controlling for CMV positivity also reduced the connection between stress and accelerated immune aging. **PHOTO: AFP**

percentages of fresh disease fighters and higher percentages of worn-out white blood cells. The

association between stressful life events and fewer ready to respond, or naive, T cells remained strong

even after controlling for education, smoking, drinking, BMI and race or ethnicity.

Some sources of stress may be impossible to control, but the researchers say there may be a workaround.

Lifestyle factors

T-cells — a critical component of immunity — mature in a gland called the thymus, which sits just in front of and above the heart. As people age, the tissue in their thymus shrinks and is replaced by fatty tissue, resulting in reduced production of immune cells. Past research suggests that this process is accelerated by lifestyle factors like poor diet and low exercise, which are both associated with social stress. "In this study, after statistically controlling for poor diet and low exercise, the connection between stress and accelerated immune aging wasn't as strong," said Klopach. "What this means is people who experience more stress tend to have poorer diet and exercise habits, partly

explaining why they have more accelerated immune ageing."

Improving diet and exercise behaviours in older adults may help offset the immune ageing associated with stress.

Additionally, cytomegalovirus (CMV) may be a target for intervention. CMV is a common, usually asymptomatic virus in humans and is known to have a strong effect accelerating immune ageing. Like shingles or cold sores, CMV is dormant most of the time but can flare up, especially when a person is experiencing high stress.

In this study, statistically controlling for CMV positivity also reduced the connection between stress and accelerated immune ageing. Therefore, widespread CMV vaccination could be a relatively simple and potentially powerful intervention that could reduce the immune ageing effects of stress, the researchers said.

SOURCE: ANI

Study reveals unionized healthcare workers earned higher pay, benefits



Study researchers found that labour unionization rates were low, at an overall prevalence of 13.2 per cent, with no significant change from 2009 through 2021. **PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/FREEPIK**

UNIONIZED healthcare workers earned more money and received better non-cash benefits while working fewer hours

than non-unionized workers, according to a new study.

The study, "Trends in Labour Unionization Among US Health

Care Workers, 2009-2021", was published in the journal JAMA.

"This study is the first to systematically investigate the landscape

of labour unionization among the US healthcare workforce and its associated economic effects," said senior author Xiaojuan Li, PhD, Instructor in the Department of Population Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute.

Worker conditions in some industries

Labour unionization efforts have resurged in the US, and union membership has been shown to improve worker conditions in some industries. However, little is known about labour unionization and its economic effects among healthcare workers. It remains unclear how labour unionization in healthcare has changed over the years and what benefits, if any, healthcare workers gain from unionizing.

To bridge this gap, the study team examined the prevalence of labour unionization among healthcare workers and its associations with employee pay, non-cash ben-

efits, and work hours across the healthcare workforce in the United States. The team studied healthcare workers who participated in the US Census Bureau Current Population Survey and Annual Social and Economic Supplement between 2009 and 2021. This nationally representative, population-based household survey allowed for a sample of over 14,000 self-identified healthcare workers, including physicians and dentists, advanced practitioners, nurses, therapists, and technicians and support staff.

Study researchers found that labour unionization rates were low, at an overall prevalence of 13.2 per cent, with no significant change from 2009 through 2021. Labour unionization was associated with better pay and better benefits for healthcare workers.

More weekly work hours

Unionized workers reported earning \$123 more per week than nonunionized workers, receiving

better health insurance from their employer (both in terms of employer's contribution and the kind of insurance plan), and higher chance of having a pension or other retirement benefits at work. However, compared with nonunionized, unionized workers reported slightly more weekly work hours.

"The associated benefits of unionization are striking but not surprising," said Ahmed Ahmed, fourth-year medical student at Harvard Medical School and first author of the study. "Unions collectively bargain for their members, which appears to improve both employee compensation and pay gaps between workers."

"Future causal analysis of the relationships, however, is needed," said Dr Li. "And given the toll of the COVID-19 pandemic on the healthcare workforce, investigating whether unionizing could help mitigate burnout, will be important."

SOURCE: ANI



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 3 January 2023)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair over the North Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 4 January 2023: Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago regions and Chin and Rakhine states and partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5 - 7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Slight decrease of night temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Shan and Chin states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 January 2023: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 January 2023: Partly cloudy.

Ads Call 09251022355, 09974424848

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Prices of Pawsan rice, paddy dip

ON 2 January 2023, the prices of high-grade Shwebo Pawsan paddy and rice declined slightly after an upward trajectory in prices, as per the Shwebo Paddy Producers Association.

On 2 January, the paddy prices of old Pawsan from the Shwebo area were K2.5-2.6 million per 100-baskets. The figures indicated a decrease of K30,000 per 100-baskets compared to that of mid-December.

The price of the new Shwebo Pawsan paddy is lower than the old one. In mid-December 2022, new paddy prices stood at K1.55-K1.7 million per 100 baskets. On 2 January 2023, the prices dipped to K1.48-K1.6 million per 100-baskets.

Similarly, the prices of high-grade Pawsan rice slipped. The prices of old Pawsan rice fell to K86,000-K92,000 on 2 January 2023 from K85,000-K94,000 per

bag in mid-December, whereas the prices of new ones dropped to K60,000-K66,000 per bag.

Although the prevailing market price in early 2023 is lower than that of December 2022, it is K10,000-K20,000 per bag compared to the prices of early 2022.

This year, there is transparency in wholesale market prices and plantation acres of Pawsan paddy in the Shwebo district.

There are 333,942 sowing acres of Pawsan paddy in the Shwebo District in the 2022-2023 FY. The output of paddy is estimated at 20 million baskets if one acre can produce 70 baskets. Approximately 4 million bags are likely to be produced.

Moreover, Pawsan rice is supplied by other regions as well. As they are not included in export items, there is less chance to hit fresh peaks this year like that in mid-2022.

Thus, traders in possession of stocks are able to gain lower profits than in 2022. — TWA/EMM



Some consumers are purchasing rice at a rice outlet.



Sayadaws who passed the 104th Ceti yangana Pariyatti Dhamma Nuggaha Examination.

Religious titles, certificates to be conferred to 15 Sayadaws who pass 104th Ceti yangana Pariyatti Dhamma Nuggaha Examination on 8 January

THE religious titles and certificates will be conferred to a total of 15 Sayadaws who passed the 104th Ceti yangana Pariyatti Dhamma Nuggaha Examination of Shwedagon Pagoda on 8 January, according to the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The Ceti yangana exam was held at the Chanthagyi prayer hall of Shwedagon Pa-

goda from 19 to 25 November and four Sayadaws passed the Ceti yangana Pariyatti Dhamma Cariya Gandhavasaka and 11 Sayadaws passed the Ceti yangana Ahbhivansa exams.

Sayadaws will gather on the pagoda platform at 7 am on 8 January and religious titles and certificates will be conferred to Sayadaws at 8 am at the Rahu corner. — TWA/KTZH

Thilawa SEZ attracts over US\$2.188 bln as of Nov 2022

FOREIGN investments of over US\$2.188 billion have been pumped into Thilawa Special Economic Zone under the Special Economic Zone Law as of November 2022, the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) indicated.

Myanmar Investment Commission will prioritize the manufacturing of fertilizer, cement, iron and steel, value-added foodstuff, electric vehicle and pharmaceutical and medical supplies, agriculture and livestock farming and re-

lated industries and public transportation services for investments.

At present, approximately 102 factories are running at Zone A and B of the Thilawa SEZ. The power sector topped the investment line-ups with more than \$3.121 billion of investment, as per the DICA.

The commission welcomes both foreign direct investment and domestic investments made by Myanmar citizens in those sectors. MIC and the related ministries will also ensure investment facilitation. — TWA/EMM



Footage shows an aerial view of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.



Myanmar nationals are pictured queuing for passport extension at the front of the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand.

ME to re-issue appointment tokens from 7 January for passport renewals

APPOINTMENT tokens will be re-issued from 7 January to renew passports that have expired in 2022, according to the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand.

Appointment tokens will have to be taken out in person between 9 am and noon on Saturdays and only passports that have expired in 2022 will be renewed.

The Myanmar Embassy is giving priority to those whose passports have expired in 2022. The rest of the passports will be renewed in order of their expiry dates. — TWA/KZW

YBS lines expanded to 4 townships including Kungyangon, Kawhmu

THE new YBS bus lines will be expanded in four townships including Kungyangon and Kawhmu, according to the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC).

New routes such as Kungyangon, Kawhmu, Twantay and Dala townships are operated by San Waila company.

These bus lines will be operated by four city buses from the beginning

of January. The buses will run four times a day – one at 6:30 am, one at 7 am, one at 7:30 am and one at 8 am, stated YRTC.

As the construction of the bridge connecting Yangon and Dala will be completed soon, bus lines will facilitate public transport.

YBS 47, YBS 48, YBS 49 and YBS 50 are running in Hlinethaya, Dala, Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships. — TWA/KZW



An inaugural ceremony for new YBS lines.

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

50,000 chickens to be culled at bird flu-hit farm in Denmark

FOLLOWING a fresh outbreak of the deadly bird flu virus at a farm in west Denmark, 50,000 chickens will have to be culled, the country's Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries said in a press release on Monday.

"The flock is infected with the deadly and highly contagious H5N1 bird flu virus. As a result, we will cull the entire herd of 50,000 chickens in the coming days, both to alleviate the birds' suffering and to prevent the spread of infection," Lotte Brink, head of section at the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (DVFA), said.

The presence of the virus was first observed on New Year's Eve, when several dead chickens were found at a farm near the town of Orum in Hedensted Municipality, about 177 kilometres west of Den-

mark's capital Copenhagen.

All the infected chickens are expected to be killed and removed by the DVFA and the Danish Emergency Management Agency (DEMA), followed by a thorough cleaning and disinfection of the entire farm.

On Monday, the DVFA also started to put in place a 10-kilometre restricted zone around the farm, making it illegal to remove eggs or poultry without a permit.

According to the DVFA, the restrictions, which will affect more than 450,000 birds in the wider area, will be lifted at the earliest 30 days after the last infected birds are culled and the property is disinfected. This is the fourth and largest bird flu outbreak to occur in Denmark since October, according to the ministry. —Xinhua

Greek health staff without Covid jabs go back to work

GREEK healthcare workers who refused to be vaccinated against Covid-19 returned to their posts on Monday after 16 months of suspension, an association of public hospital employees said.

Around 2,000 employees of public hospitals and ambulance services went back to work after the Council of State, the country's highest administrative court, ordered the government to lift the ban. Their return is "a big relief to the system, but the challenge of a lack of staff remains", said a statement by the Panhellenic Federation of Public Hospital Workers (POEDIN).

Another 5,000 unvaccinated healthcare workers had earlier been allowed to return to work if they had a medical certificate showing they had already contracted the virus.

Like several other European countries, Greece brought in rules during the worst of the pan-



Healthcare workers opposing mandatory Covid-19 vaccination protest outside the Greek Ministry of Health in Athens on 23 February 2022 after the announcement that unvaccinated health workers will be fired from their jobs at the end of March. PHOTO: AFP

demic requiring staff at hospitals, surgeries and care homes to be fully vaccinated.

This was strongly opposed by the main union of hospital workers and sparked protests in the country which has a strong anti-vaccination movement.

Greece has recorded over 5.3 million Covid infections and more than 34,000 deaths, according to the health ministry.

Most Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, except in health-care establishments and on public transport. —AFP

Bird flu cases rise to record high in Japan

BIRD flu cases in Japan hit a record high after new infections were confirmed in Chiba and Fukuoka prefectures, the farm ministry said Tuesday.

As of Tuesday, a total of 54 cases of avian flu were confirmed across 23 prefectures in Japan this season, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

The previous record was registered two seasons ago, between November 2020 and March 2021, when 52 cases were confirmed in 18 prefectures, resulting in the culling of roughly



Officials from Chiba prefectural government cull chickens at a poultry farm in Asahi on 3 January 2023, after avian flu was confirmed there. PHOTO: (PHOTO COURTESY OF CHIBA PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT) KYODO

9.9 million chickens, an all-time high. Around 7.75 million birds have already been culled this season as of Tuesday, with the number likely to exceed the previous record.

As bird flu has spread globally, it is believed that it has been brought into Japan by migratory birds.

The farm ministry has said there is no possibility of people contracting bird flu from eating chicken or eggs.

This season's first case of bird flu was confirmed on a poultry farm in Okayama Prefecture,

western Japan, in October, with the highly deadly H5N1 strain detected from samples of the infected chickens.

At a poultry farm in Chiba Prefecture, eastern Japan, near Tokyo, an avian flu case was confirmed through genetic testing on Tuesday, the prefectural government said, leading to the culling of around 10,000 chickens at the location.

Bird flu was also reported at a farm that raises emus in Fukuoka Prefecture in southwestern Japan, with about 430 of the birds being culled. —Kyodo

Imposing travel restrictions for China arrivals "scientifically unjustified": ACI EUROPE

THE systematic pre-departure or on-arrival testing of travellers from China for COVID-19 is "neither scientifically justified nor risk-based," the Europe branch of Airports Council International (ACI EUROPE) said recently.

In a press release on 31 December 2022, the organization expressed its "regret regarding

the actions of a number of states within the EU (European Union) and globally for unilaterally imposing health-related travel requirements".

"These unilateral actions are at odds with all the experience and evidence gained over the past three years," it said, adding that "these travel restric-

tions do not work".

The ineffectiveness of international travel restrictions in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and its multiple variants of concern (VOCs) has been unequivocally recognized by both the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the World Health

Organization (WHO), ACI EUROPE noted.

According to the organization, as states need to remain vigilant to the status and control of the virus, the focus should instead be on increasing genomic sequencing to identify possible new COVID-19 variants and related surveillance.

"Such an approach, as urged by EU Health Commissioner (Stella) Kyriakides in a letter sent earlier this week to the member states, does not require the testing of travellers, but can be achieved by means such as the testing of wastewater from airports," the ACI EUROPE press release said. —Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Singapore economy grows more than expected in 2022



Containers are stacked at the Tanjung Pagar terminal port in Singapore on 21 September 2022. **PHOTO: ROSLAN RAHMAN / AFP**

SINGAPORE'S economy grew more than expected last year but much slower than in 2021, official data showed Tuesday, as analysts warned of weaker growth ahead owing to an expected recession in key markets.

While the 3.8 per cent on-year expansion was welcome, it was weighed by a 3.0 per cent contraction in the key manufacturing sector in the final three months.

Growth in the fourth quarter came in at 2.2 per cent, sharply down from 4.2 per cent in July-September, according to advance estimates by the trade ministry. Exports for computer chips and other products have been hit by softer global demand caused by surging inflation and sharp increases in interest rates.

The city-state's economic performance is often seen as a

useful barometer of the global environment because of its reliance on trade with the rest of the world.

Last year's growth beat the 3.5 per cent expected by the government but was half the 7.6 per cent rise enjoyed in 2021.

"While the slight outperformance suggests some resilience in economic activities for now, the overall trend remains on the downside," Yeap Jun Rong, market analyst at online trading firm IG, said in a note.

Research house Capital Economics said it expects exports to fall further on expectations the global economy would enter a recession this year.

"Elevated interest rates, declining household savings and high inflation are likely to drag on domestic demand," it added.—AFP

Viet Nam's industrial production up 7.8% in 2022

VIET Nam's national index of industrial production advanced 7.8 per cent in 2022, according to the country's General Statistics Office on Tuesday.

The processing and manufacturing sector, the main driver behind the increase, went up eight per cent. The electricity pro-

duction and distribution sector expanded seven per cent, said the office. In December alone, the industrial production index decreased one per cent against November and rose 0.2 per cent year-on-year.

Last year, the production of beer witnessed the largest output

year-on-year growth of 35.3 per cent, followed by processed seafood, up 15.7 per cent and phone accessories, up 15.1 per cent.

As of 1 December 2022, the total number of employees in the industrial sector edged up 0.3 per cent year-on-year, said the office.—Xinhua

Brazil stocks fall on Lula's first day, led by Petrobras

BRAZILIAN stocks slumped more than three per cent on President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's first business day in office Monday, led by a selloff of shares in state-run oil company Petrobras.

A day after the veteran leftist took office for a four-year term, succeeding far-right president Jair Bolsonaro, the Sao Paulo stock exchange's Ibovespa in-

dex was down 3.25 per cent in afternoon trading. Petrobras was among the biggest losers, with preferential shares falling 6.6 per cent and ordinary shares 5.71 per cent. Analysts say investors are worried over signs of increased government intervention in the economy under Lula, who previously led Brazil from 2003 to 2010.

Petrobras is especially in the

spotlight, after Lula extended federal fuel-tax cuts and vowed to change the company's pricing policy. "The market's reading is that there will be more and more interference in state companies, after a period of more free-market policy making" under Bolsonaro, said financial analyst Gilberto Braga of research university Ibmec.—AFP

Israel raises base interest rate to 3.75%, highest since 2008

ISRAEL'S central bank on Monday announced an increase of 0.5 per cent in the base interest rate to 3.75 per cent, reaching the highest level since October 2008.

This is the seventh consecutive rise in the base interest rate in Israel since April 2022 when the

figure then stood at 0.1 per cent.

The decision aims to curb the continuous rise of inflation, which reached 5.3 per cent in November, the highest 12-month figure in over 14 years. "High inflation involves growing uncertainty and increasing difficulty in making

decisions at the household and the business levels," said Amir Yaron, Bank of Israel governor, adding that "it weighs on economic conduct, and adversely impacts growth and welfare, first and foremost amongst the weaker strata."—Xinhua

Sri Lanka welcomes over 700,000 int'l tourists in 2022

SRI Lanka's tourism ended the year 2022 on a positive note, as the arrivals of international visitors to the country topped the 700,000 mark despite the economic and political crisis, local media reported on Tuesday.

According to official statistics, December saw a total of 91,961 tourists entering the South Asian island country, recording the third-highest monthly arrivals in 2022, and the number of total arrivals in 2022 is 719,978. Industry stakeholders said the Tourism Ministry expected to close the year with at least 800,000 tourists, for which

several initiatives and promotional campaigns were carried out in potential source markets in the fourth quarter.

Based on the data released by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, India accounted for 17 per cent of the total tourist arrivals. Russia ranked second accounting for 13 per cent and Britain became the third largest source market with 12 per cent. The Tourism Ministry said the tourism industry expects China to regain its position this year as one of the key source markets for Sri Lanka's tourism.—Xinhua



A tourist flies a kite at the Galle face promenade in Colombo on 1 January 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Only around half of firms in Japan expect economic growth in 2023

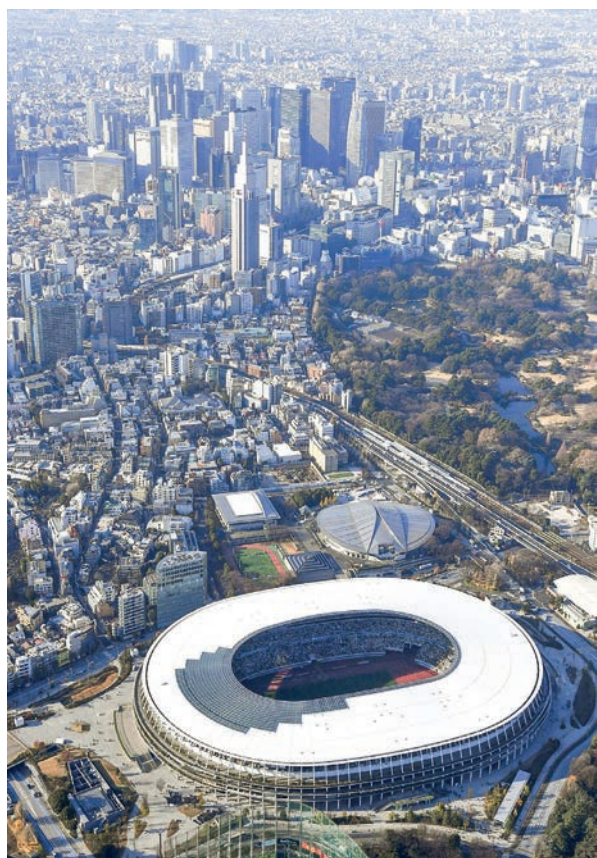


Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on 28 December 2022, shows the National Stadium in Tokyo.
PHOTO: KYODO

ONLY around half of major companies in Japan expect the coun-

try's economy to grow in 2023 given soaring prices of natural resources

and raw materials triggered by Russia's war on Ukraine and the weak yen, a Kyodo News survey showed Monday.

In the survey of 117 companies, including Toyota Motor Corp and SoftBank Group Corp, 65 firms, or 56 per cent, expect solid expansion or moderate growth in the world's third-largest economy in the year ahead, sharply down from 84 per cent a year ago.

The overall percentage of firms forecasting growth was at its second lowest in 10 years in the survey, with responding companies also cautious about slowdowns in the United States and China in 2023. In the survey, carried out between late November and mid-December, 40 firms, or 34 per cent, said they believe the economy will be flat while seven predicted a moderate contraction. None be-

lieved the economy would fall into a recession.

With multiple answers allowed, an overwhelming 92 per cent of the companies that expect growth cited a recovery in consumer spending after its plunge due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Of the responding companies that did not expect growth, 70 per cent cited rises in prices of natural resources and raw materials, followed by 45 per cent forecasting personal consumption would be sluggish. Forty per cent of the firms also cited slowdowns in both the United States and China, respectively.

As for companies' evaluation of the rapid depreciation of the Japanese yen against the dollar, 43 per cent saw it as having a positive impact on earnings, exceeding 23 per cent taking it as a negative.—Kyodo

Cambodia's trade with RCEP countries up 7% in first 11 months last year

CAMBODIA'S trade with the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) member countries reached 28.4 billion US dollars in the first 11 months of 2022, a year-

on-year increase of seven per cent, the Ministry of Commerce's latest report showed on Tuesday.

The report said the kingdom's export to the RCEP member countries

was valued at 5.67 billion US dollars during the January-November period last year, up five per cent, while its import from the RCEP member countries totalled 22.73 billion dollars, up sev-

en per cent. The Southeast Asian kingdom's top five trading partners under the RCEP are China, Viet Nam, Thailand, Singapore and Japan, the report added.—Xinhua

Invitation to Bid for In-house Consultancy Services Re-Tender RFP No. 18 / In-house Consultancy Services / 2022-2023

1. Department of Hydropower Implementation (Client) intends to select consulting firm for In-house Consultancy Services for Feasibility Study, Basic Design, Tender Design, Construction Design Review and Scope of Works mentioned in Section-5 of RFP for the Hydropower Projects.
2. The Client requests for proposals to the qualified, well experienced international consulting firms in hydropower projects on the basis of open tender announcement in order to carry out In-house Consultancy Services described in RFP.
3. A consulting firm will be selected under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method and procedures as described in the RFP. This RFP has been addressed to **European and Japanese Consultant Firms**.
4. The proposals shall be submitted in six sets (one original and five duplicates/ copies) in two separate and sealed envelopes clearly made "Technical Proposal" and "Financial Proposal" on or before 1:30 pm on 9th March, 2023 (Myanmar Local Time) to Tender Receiving and Scrutinizing Committee, Department of Hydropower Implementation.
5. Only technical proposals will be opened on the same day of submission of proposals at meeting room, Department of Hydropower Implementation, in the presence of authorized representative of the firms. Absence of the representative of the firm shall not hinder the opening of the proposal.
6. A complete set of RFP documents with detailed information shall be available from 5-1-2023 to 6-2-2023 at the following address during office hours.
Tender Receiving and Scrutinizing Committee, Department of Hydropower Implementation, Ministry of Electric Power, Office No (27), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, Phone: + (95) 067 8104184, + (95) 067 8104298, Email : dd1officedhpi@gmail.com
7. The bid announcement form can also be accessed on the Ministry of Electric Power website www.moep.gov.mm.

Tender Receiving and Scrutinizing Committee
Department of Hydropower Implementation
Ministry of Electric Power

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TRIESTE TRADER VOY.NO. (250W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TRIESTE TRADER VOY.NO. (250W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-1-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (769N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (769N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-1-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3301S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3301S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-1-2023** 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 LINE

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Facts about Russia-Ukraine conflict: Ukrainian strike kills 63 Russian servicemen



People stand by a damaged building in Kyiv, Ukraine, 31 December 2022. PHOTO: ROMAN PETUSHKOV/
XINHUA

THE following are the latest developments in the Ukraine crisis:

Ukrainian troops fired rockets on the temporary deployment facility of the Russian troops in the city of Makiivka in Donetsk, killing at least 63 Russian servicemen, the Russian Defence Ministry said Monday.

Ukraine shelled the area with six US-manufactured HIMARS rocket launchers, the ministry said, adding the Russian air defence systems shot down two rockets.

“All necessary assistance and support will be provided to the families and friends of the deceased servicemen,” it said.

Energy infrastructure facilities were damaged as a result of another massive Russian drone attack on the Ukrainian capital

Kyiv overnight Monday, local authorities said.

Parts of Kyiv were left without electricity and heating after the air strike, which also injured a 19-year-old man, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko wrote on Telegram. A critical infrastructure facility and private houses were damaged in the Kyiv region due to the attacks, Oleksii Kuleba, head of the Kyiv Regional Military Administration, said on Telegram. Russia attacked Ukraine overnight Monday with 39 Iranian-made kamikaze drones Shahed-136 and Shahed-131, two Orlan-10 drones and a Kh-59 missile. All air targets have been destroyed by the Ukrainian air defence, the Air Force Command of the Ukrainian Armed Forces said on Facebook.—Xinhua

France signals flexibility in face of pension reform resistance

THE French government said Tuesday it could be flexible on its plan to raise the retirement age to 65, part of a hugely controversial pension reform project pushed by President Emmanuel Macron.

Speaking ahead of crunch talks with unions that have fiercely resisted any change, Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne told FranceInfo radio that the age of 65 is “not set in stone”.

She added that “other solutions” could help the government reach its target of balancing the pensions system by 2030.

She said the plan, a flagship domestic policy of Macron’s second term, would be presented to the cabinet on 23 January before being debated in parliament at the beginning of February.

The full details of the plan — whose banner policy of raising the retirement age from the current level of 62 has been rejected out of hand by the unions — are to be unveiled on 10 January.

Macron’s overhaul would be one of the most extensive in a series of pension reforms

enacted by successive governments on both the left and right in recent decades aiming to end budget shortfalls.

‘Our pensions problem’

Edouard Philippe, a former prime minister, summed up politicians’ frustration at failing to manage a pensions breakthrough despite long-standing attempts.

“The English have their Ireland problem, the Americans their weapons problem, and we have our pensions problem,” he told AFP recently.

A majority of French oppose the reform, according to opinion polls, with a Harris-Interactive poll published Monday putting the level of opposition at 54 per cent.

“The only group in favour are retired people of 65 and over,” said Frederic Dabi, head of the Ifop polling institute. The revamp was supposed to have been announced in mid-December but Macron, whose ruling party lost its overall parliament majority in polls last year, delayed the announcement to allow further talks.—AFP

S African journalist, 90, delivers news in the desert

ARMED with a flask of coffee, some boiled eggs and a towel to shield his bare legs from the scorching sun, 90-year-old Frans Hugo sets off every Thursday to deliver newspapers in the South African desert. Week in, week out, the elderly editor has made the 1,200-kilometre (750-mile) round trip across the semi-arid Karoo region in the country’s south.

He has been doing it for some four decades.

Born Charl Francois Hugo in Cape Town in 1932 — but known to everyone simply as Frans — he is arguably the last bastion of a dying business. The energetic



Francois Hugo, 89, owner and editor of the Noordwester, the Messenger and the Oewernuus, sits in his car before leaving to deliver the newspapers in a 1,200kilometres roundtrip through the Karoo, in Calvinia on 23 November 2022. PHOTO: AFP

nonagenarian edits and hand-delivers three local papers — The

Messenger, Die Noordwester and Die Oewernuus.—AFP

Strike-hit UK faces first rail stoppage of 2023

UK rail staff disrupted the New Year return to work on Tuesday in the latest strike action by

workers in a range of sectors over the worst cost-of-living crisis in a generation.

Workers across the economy are at loggerheads with the government as they demand big pay rises to cope with decades-high inflation, currently running at nearly 11 per cent.

Normally bustling London train stations were quiet on Tuesday, the first normal working day of 2023 after the New Year break. Network Rail, which operates the UK’s rail services, warned travellers of “significantly reduced” train services or no services at all in some areas until Sunday.—AFP



Commuters on their way to work cross London Bridge in central London on 3 January 2023. UK rail staff disrupted the New Year return to work in the latest strike action by workers in a range of sectors over the worst cost-of-living crisis in a generation. PHOTO: AFP

Japan Duolingo app users spend longest time on language study: report

JAPAN-BASED users of popular language-learning app Duolingo spend the longest time studying a language on the platform, with English being studied the most followed by Korean and Chinese, a recent report by the US-based developer showed.

Learners in Belarus, Hungary, and Russia followed Japan in spending the most time using the app, according to the 2022 Duolingo Language Report, which was compiled based on data from over 500 million users worldwide.

Duolingo, which the firm says is the world's most down-



File photo taken in September 2018 shows a junior high school student using a smartphone. **PHOTO: KYODO**

loaded education app, sends daily reminders to users on their smartphones to complete language lessons presented in a game-like format. It has both free and paid versions.

The report said Japanese was the fourth most studied language in Japan.

This is partly due to international travellers and businesspeople returning to the country, after it fully relaxed border restrictions in October that were originally imposed due to the coronavirus pandemic, according to a white paper separately released by Duolingo.

The white paper, which provided further analysis of user trends in Japan, found that 78.4 per cent of respondents in survey said they studied English, while 17.4 per cent studied Korean, and 11.9 per cent learnt Chinese.

In 2022, Japanese was the most popular language in Malaysia and Myanmar. Korean, meanwhile, is now the seventh most studied language worldwide and the most popular language in four countries, including Brunei and the Philippines, where it replaced Japanese in the top spot.—Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Moderate quake hits Indonesia's West Papua

AN earthquake with a magnitude of 5.0 jolted Indonesia's eastern province of West Papua on Tuesday, the country's meteorology, climatology and geophysics agency said.

The quake occurred at 16:32 pm local time (0932 GMT) with its epicentre situated 68 kilometres southwest of Kaimana Regency and a depth of 10 km, the agency said. The tremor did not potentially trigger a tsunami. —Xinhua

S Korea fines Tesla US\$2.2 mln for misleading ads

SOUTH Korea's antitrust watchdog decided on Tuesday to fine US electric carmaker Tesla and its South Korean unit 2.85 billion won (2.2 million US dollars) for misleading advertisements.

The Korea Fair Trade Commission (KFTC) said Tesla had "falsely, exaggeratingly or deceptively" advertised the mileage on a single charge, the charging speed and the fuel efficiency of its electric vehicles in the South Korean homepage since August 2019.

The advertisements suggested Tesla vehicles can run hundreds of kilometres on a single charge under any conditions, but the range was cut by up to 50.5 per cent under low temperatures and in downtown areas, the KFTC said.—Xinhua

Mongolia's population growth slows down since 2020

MONGOLIA'S population growth has been slowing down since 2020, Chair of the National Statistics Office Batmunkh Batdavaa said Tuesday.

The population of the country had grown by an average annual rate of 2.2 per cent from 2010 to 2020, he said.

However, the average annual growth rate has decreased to 1.5 per cent since 2020, Batdavaa said, noting that the slowdown is mainly related to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic difficulties.

The Asian country's population stood at 3.45 million at the end of 2022. Mongolia, with a land area of 1,564,116 square kilometres, is the most sparsely populated country in the world. —Xinhua

Viet Nam rescuers try to raise concrete pillar with trapped boy

VIET Nam on Tuesday mobilized soldiers and engineering experts to try free a 10-year-old boy trapped in a buried hollow concrete pillar on a construction site.

Rescuers hope to raise the pillar from its 35-metre-deep (115-feet) hole and cut the boy, named Thai Ly Hao Nam, out — though after three days trapped inside, it is not clear whether he is still alive. The youngster fell into the 25-centimetre (12-inch) wide shaft of the pillar, sunk as part of a new bridge in Mekong delta province of Dong Thap, on Saturday, apparently while looking for scrap metal.

A wider 19-metre-long metal pipe has been lowered around the concrete tube in which Nam is trapped to allow them to re-



Rescuers gather at the site of where a 10-year-old boy is thought to be trapped in a 35-metre deep shaft at a bridge construction area in Dong Thap province Viet Nam on 2 January 2023. **PHOTO: STR / AFP**

move mud from around the pillar and try to lift it out.

Rescuers were softening and removing mud and water

to reduce pressure around the pillar before bringing it up — most likely later on Tuesday evening.—AFP

97 people charged with drug offences at music festival in Australia's Sydney

UP to 97 people have been charged with drug offences, following a police operation at a New Year's Day music festival in Sydney, Australia.

According to a statement released on Monday, police in the state of New South Wales (NSW) launched a targeted operation at the festive event held on Sunday, which attract-

ed more than 27,000 people to the eastern fringe of the Sydney CBD.

The police said that the 97 people were found to be carrying illegal drugs, including MDMA, amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy, LSD, ketamine and psilocybin.

Among those, three were arrested for drug supply offences.

A 21-year-old man was allegedly in possession of 15 MDMA capsules, another man was found with nine capsules, and a 25-year-old woman was in possession of five MDMA capsules. In total, police issued 15 court attendance notices, two infringement notices, 13 cannabis cautions and 58 criminal infringement notices.—Xinhua

Japan Duolingo app users spend longest time on language study: report

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SPORT

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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



Former ONE Championship two division Champion Aung La N Sang. PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

ONE Championship change its opponent to fight against Aung La N Sang

THE ONE ON PRIME VIDEO 6 tournament to be held by the ONE Championship organization in Thailand on 14 January will feature a bout of Myanmar MMA fighter Aung La N Sang, as his opponent has been changed, and he will fight against the Brazilian fighter Gilberto Galvoa.

Aung La N Sang was supposed to fight with China's Fan Rong in the past, but the opponent changed in the last

few days.

The ONE Championship organization announced the lineups for the ONE ON PRIME VIDEO 6 tournament on 3 January, which will feature nine bouts.

Gilberto Galvoa, who will fight against Aung La N Sang, is 40 years old, and it has been more than three years since he fought Dutchman De Ridder in June 2019. He has a total of 37 bouts in his tournament

history with 30 wins and seven losses. The match between Aung La N Sang and Gilberto Galvoa will only be held as a challenge match.

The main event in this tournament will be the fight between Superbon from Thailand and Allazov from Belarus as the featherweight world champion. The competition will be held on the morning of 24 January Myanmar time. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Myanmar lose Viet Nam 0-3 in last group match of AFF Cup 2022

MYANMAR men's national football team suffered a 0-3 loss to the Viet Nam team in their last group match of the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022 played at My Ding Stadium in Hanoi, Viet Nam yesterday.

The Myanmar team had already left the group stage, but for their dignity, they played the best response against the powerful

Viet Nam team.

Even at the beginning of the match, the Viet Nam team threatened the Myanmar team's backline many times with their power passes and superb dribbling skills.

In the eighth minute of the game, Myanmar goalkeeper Kyaw Zin Lwin made a big mistake, and because of his mistake,

Viet Nam scored an early goal.

In the 27th minute of the game, Nguyen Tien Linh scored the second goal of the Viet Nam team with beautiful attacking links.

After conceding two goals, the Myanmar team had to focus on defence, and thus the Viet Nam team could not score again, and the first half ended with a 2-0 result.

In the second half, the Myanmar team played an open attack, but could not overcome the tough Viet Nam team's backline.

From the counterattack, Chau Ngoc Quang scored the third goal for the Viet Nam team after passing the Myanmar defenders at 72 minutes.

With a 3-0 victory, the Viet Nam team passed the group stage, but the Myanmar team was eliminated from the group stage with just one point. — KZL

PHOTO: MFF



Djokovic romps in first singles clash in Australia since deportation

NOVAK Djokovic swept to victory in his first singles match on Australian soil since being deported a year ago, crushing Constant Lestienne at the Adelaide International Tuesday to kick-start his bid for another Grand Slam title.

The Serbian superstar was given a warm welcome when he played a losing doubles clash on Monday and received similar treatment on a packed centre court.

He beat the Frenchman comfortably 6-3, 6-2 in 74 minutes, breaking once in the first set and twice in the second.

"For the first match I can't complain, I played very well," Djokovic said.

"Thank you all for coming out today. Thank you for giving me the welcome that I could only wish for. "Even the circumstances last year, it wasn't easy for anybody. But I'm just happy to be here focusing on tennis, and enjoying my time with you guys."

It was his first singles clash in the country after being kicked out before the 2022 Australian Open for not being vaccinated for Covid-19. Djokovic was subsequently barred from re-entering for three years.

The ban was lifted in November, allowing him a chance to win an unprecedented 10th Australian Open crown at Melbourne Park later this month. —AFP