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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council: Five-Point Road Map

1. Priority will be given to fully realizing peace, stability and rule of law throughout the Union to safeguard the socioeconomic life of the people.
2. People-centred development work that enhances socioeconomic well-being will be undertaken to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.
3. Processes will further continue to consolidate a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and build a Union based on democracy and federalism.
4. Priority will be accorded to work aligned with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, in order to achieve enduring peace for the entire nation.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing graces collective work of charity feasts for storm victims in Sittway

STATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife, accompanied by the Rakhine State chief minister, the Western Command commander and officials yesterday inspected the preparation processes of vegetable biryani meals that were launched under a 50-day charity feast donation by SkyNet, Myanmar Licensed Contractors Association (MLCA), Myanmar Licensed Contractors Public Company (MLCP), Myanmar-India-China International Cooperation and Economic Development Association (MICA) and Inter-Faith Friendship Organization for the convenience of people who are participating in rehabilitation processes and storm victims in Sittway Township of Rakhine State.

First, donation officials welcomed the Senior General and party. Then, the Senior General inspected the packaging of vegetable biryani meals to distribute to storm victims and comforted participants and provided cash prizes.

Then, members of religious organizations expressed gratitude to the Senior General for



State Administration Council Chair Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla comfort the participants in rehabilitation processes and storm victims in Sittway Township of Rakhine State yesterday.

visiting the disaster hit-Rakhine State in person to be able to provide the necessary things on behalf of the Rakhine people.

The Senior General and party proceeded to TatU Sutaungpyae Pariyatti Monastery in Sittway Township and

presented the boxes of vegetable biryani, which was cooked under a 50-day charity feast donation by SkyNet, MLCA, MLCP,

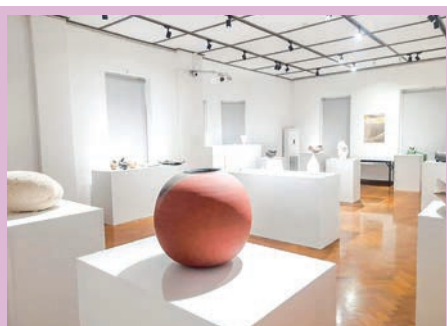
MICA and Inter-Faith Friendship Organization, to members of fire brigade members who are

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Renovation plan for quake-hit Thatbyinnyu Temple in 2016 issued

THE renovation plan of the quake-hit Thatbyinnyu Temple in 2016 has been worked out, an official of the Department of Archaeological and National Museum (Bagan Branch) told the Global New Light of Myanmar English daily (The GNLN).

Myanmar and China signed MoU to renovate the Thatbyinnyu Temple under a 108-month project term. It takes time as it is a huge building in Bagan and it needs to carry out the maintenance with the minimum of damage to the ancient style.

“The temple is one of the mega structures. It takes time because the experts have to work according to their respective sectors to conserve the original structure of the temple ensuring the stability and with the least damage to the ancient style. Initially, some parts of pagoda areas are being

dug. Currently, the renovation plan has come out. Then, the operation will start. What will be there between the pagoda and the wall? The research is being conducted to know what things

can be found in the compound. The temporary maintenance is completed and now the real permanent maintenance work begins. The temple is huge and the project is critical as it is a

G-to-G agreement. We cannot say exactly when it will start. It is not sure whether to start in August. In addition, the experts of Myanmar, departmental experts, foreign experts and in-

ternationally skilled persons are discussing how to renovate the Thatbyinnyu Temple as quickly as possible”, said the official.

The leading committee on the renovation of quake-hit ancient pagodas, temples and religious buildings in the Bagan-NyaungU region was organized on 29 November 2016. It intends to conduct the repair of pagodas hit by the earthquake on 24 August 2016.

Then, the committee was reorganized as the Leading Committee on Renovation of Cultural Heritage in Bagan’s World Heritage Site on 14 February 2023.

Of 389 quake-hit pagodas, the pagodas except Thatbyinnyu Temple have been renovated in the first phase, according to the Department of Archaeological and National Museum (Bagan Branch). — (123)/KTZH



The photo shows the general view of the Thatbyinnyu Temple.

Announcement for local and foreign well-wishers to donate cash to cyclonic storm Mocha victims

1. AN announcement has been issued that well-wishers wishing to make donations for people who fell victim to the extremely severe cyclonic storm Mocha which hit Myanmar on 14-5-2023 can donate cash to Myanmar account OA-011834 and foreign account 1DA-0300086.
2. In this announcement, it is duly mentioned that our commitment to receiving donations extends to additional electronic payment systems and mobile payment systems. Further updates and notifications will be made in due course.
3. It has been announced that dona-

tions can be made to the previously announced phone number and to the account that was opened, and since it can be confusing to donate with a phone number, we have already made it possible to donate with a QR code instead of the phone number.

4. Donations can be made through KBZ Pay or Wave Money. If you wish to donate, please scan the QR codes provided by both KBZ Pay and Wave Money. To contribute, enter the code included within the respective QR codes.
5. People make donations through CB Pay, AYA Pay, OK \$, UAB pay and

Citizens Pay which are widely used to enhance convenience for donors. To donate, please scan the QR code and

enter the code provided within it. 6. The well-wishers can contact the following persons for further information: -



Nay Pyi Taw	Yangon	Mandalay
Daw Lei Lei Aye Director-General Department of Disaster Management 067-3404050 09-2021491	U Than Soe Director Department of Disaster Management Office of Yangon Region Department 09-250123885	U Aye Min Thu Director Department of Disaster Management Office of Mandalay Region Department 09-420708827
U Win Shwe Deputy Director-General Department of Disaster Management 067-3404048 09-254170011	Daw Than Than Win Deputy Director Department of Disaster Management Office of Yangon Region Department 09-420740160	
Daw Phyu Phyu Win Director Department of Disaster Management 067-3404316 09-43054844		

National Disaster Management Committee

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing graces collective work ...

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carrying out the rehabilitation tasks.

Then, the Senior General highlighted the supportive efforts of fire brigade members in rehabilitation processes and skills ensuring fast completion of operations to a certain extent, and presented cash prizes to the respective officials.

At noon, the Senior General, his wife and his party visited the Rakhine State Cultural Museum and were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Daw Nu Mra Zan, Director of Archaeological and National Museum (Sittway Branch) Daw Aye Nilar and officials.

On arrival at the museum, the Senior General and party observed the booths featuring

Rakhine ancient cities, ancient coins, Rakhine ethnic groups, Rakhine tradition and culture, Rakhine State and Buddhist culture and traditional sport festival-Kyin (wrestling). The officials of the museum explained each of the booths and the Senior General offered instructions.

Then, the Senior General signed the guests' book of the museum.

During the inspection tour to Danyawady Stadium, Deputy Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Dr Soe Win reported on the work plans.

In his response, the Senior General stressed the need to establish an indoor stadium, stadium with modern runway and a stand and swimming pool to hold the township-level sports competitions. — MNA/KTZH



The Senior General hears the report on the work plans at the Danyawady Stadium.

DPM MoD Union Minister makes inspections in Sittway, Myebon, Pauktaw



Deputy Prime Minister Union Defence Minister General Mya Tun Oo is pictured (C) during his inspection tours in Sittway, Myebon and Pauktaw townships yesterday.

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo, who accompanied SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on his Rakhine trip, inspected the rehabilitation processes in Sittway, Myebon and Pauktaw townships yesterday.

Together with the Deputy Prime Minister on his inspection tour were Union Minister for

Union Government Office Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung, Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, Deputy Ministers, senior military officers and departmental officials.

First, the Deputy Prime Minister and party inspected the ongoing and completed maintenance of Mocha-hit buildings and barracks at the No 12 Security Police Unit in Sittway Township.

On arrival at the Sittway Airport, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Lu Maw reported on the damage to airport buildings, staff housings, completed rehabilitation

processes. In his response, the Deputy Prime Minister stressed the need to do cleanup activities at the airport and buildings, both sides of the runway and near the locations where the planes stop.

The Deputy Prime Minister and party visited the Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and Deputy Minister and state MPT manager reported on the completed repair of communication failure in the storm, communication system, office buildings and staff housing. Then, the Deputy Prime Minister and party looked into the erection of a temporary tower and a new tower in the office compound.

They also proceeded to the jetty of Myanmar Port Authority and Myanmar Economic Bank. They also inspected the office tasks, treasury and police patrol for bank safety.

They also met and comforted the members of the No 36 Security Police Division and their families and provided cash assistance.

Then, they met with the township departmental officials, town elders, ward administrators at the Township Administrative Department of Myebon Township and Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Soe assigned in Myebon

Township reported on the lists of losses in the storm, systematic sending of relief items and rehabilitation processes.

Speaking at the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister appreciated the unity of the departments concerned in serving their tasks and called on the departments to work together with the town elders and ward administrators in carrying out the rehabilitation programmes and regional development.

The Deputy Prime Minister and party also oversaw the safe of Myanmar Economic Bank and comforted the bank staff.

They met with the township departmental officials, town elders, and ward administrators at the Township Administrative Department of Pauktaw Township. Brig-Gen Sunny Ohn explained the arrival of recuse and relief items, systematic distribution and rehabilitation tasks.

In his response, the Deputy Prime Minister made instructions regarding the efforts for education, health and religious buildings on priority after the storm, distribution of agriculture and farming equipment, high-yielding rice grains, better communication and electrification. — MNA/KTZH

Tatmadaw has pledged to hold the multiparty democracy general election in a peaceful and stable situation: Senior General

ALL have to plant trees to ensure favourable weather in the region and prevent natural disasters to some extent, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meetings with Tatmadaw members and families at Maygawady Hall of Sittway Station and Tatmadaw members, families and trainees from Myanmar Police Force at Aungsitthi hall of Advanced Military Training Depot in Kanni Station separately yesterday morning.

In his speech, the Senior General said that cyclone Mocha caused the largest casualties after cyclone Nargis, leaving 148 persons dead. Thanks to preparations, the region could overcome the challenges with the least loss and damage. In the aftermath of the storm, guidance was given to carry out rescue and relief measures and rehabilitation tasks. Renovation



State Administration Council Chair Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Tatmadaw members and families from Sittway Station yesterday.



and repair will take a long time due to systematic calculation for the long-term existence of structures.

The Senior General stressed the need to grow trees as part of making preparedness against natural disasters. At present, all have to plant trees to ensure favourable weather in the region and prevent natural

disasters to some extent.

The Senior General highlighted that every soldier needs to have military awareness and military conscience. If they can effectively apply the experiences from training in the battlefields, they can comprehensively combat enemies.

As two national objectives and two political objec-

tives are being implemented for fine purposes, Tatmadaw firmly believes that it will surely achieve success in implementation. Tatmadaw has pledged to hold the multiparty democracy general election in a peaceful and stable situation, he added. To be peaceful and stable in the state, armed conflicts must cease.

The Senior General urged all to read and encourage their offspring to learn education.

The Senior General presented foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members, families and trainees from relevant stations whereas his wife gave cash assistance for the station maternal and child welfare associations to officials. — MNA/TTA



The Senior General cordially greets officers and family members at the Advanced Military Training Depot in Kanni Station.



Cash assistance is provided for the Kanni Station's maternal and child welfare association.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing instructs officials to repair damaged religious buildings in original works

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and officials, paid homage to Lawkananda Pagoda in Sittway of Rakhine State yesterday morning.

The Senior General and his wife offered Waso robes, rice and alms to the Presiding Patron of Nandayama Pariyatti Buddhist Learning Centre.

At U Ye Kyaw Thu monastery in Sittway, the Senior General and his wife also donated alms to abbot Bhaddanta Jotipala and supplicated the necessary repair plan for damaged buildings caused by



The Senior General, his wife and the congregation observe the five Precepts (above) and offers Waso robes donations (below right) at the Nandayama Pariyatti Buddhist Learning Centre.

the recent storm.

The Senior General inspected the loss and damage

of the Thakyamuni Phayagyi ordination hall in the precinct of the monastery and in-

structed officials to repair the damaged buildings in original works, roof the ordination hall

as the first priority and keep the precinct neat and tidy. — MNA/TTA



The photo shows the damage to U Ye Kyaw Thu monastery in Sittway.



NSPNC holds peace talks with RCSS

A peace talks meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee-NSPNC and a delegation of the Restoration Council of Shan State-RCSS was held yesterday morning at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein, Secretary of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee-NSPNC and members, and RCSS Secretary 1 Sao Sai Ngin, Central Executive Committee member Sao Saung Han and Central Steering Committee member Sao Sai Han attended the meeting.

During the meeting, both

sides mutually discussed issues of the facts to be amended from the Constitution 2008, the implementation of the points agreed upon in the previous discussions, the holding of a peace conference, the peace and stability of the region, the annihilation of the narcotic drugs, development-related matters and humanitarian assistance. The first day of the meeting was adjourned and it will continue on 12 July. — MNA/TS

The meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and the Restoration Council of Shan State-RCSS in progress yesterday.



Myanmar emphasizes harmonious development in social economic and environmental conservation measures as well as gender equality: Vice-Senior General Soe Win



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win speaks on the marking occasion of the 2023 World Population Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE sustainable and harmonious development project is being implemented in the country to build a Union based on democracy and federalism with peace and stability, said Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the ceremony to mark the 2023 World Population Day at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General, who is in the capacity of Patron of the Central Census Commission, said that the United Nations

declared that the world's population reached eight billion on 15 November 2022. It took just 12 years to increase from seven billion population to eight billion population. A quickly growing number of populations depended on health, nutritious foods, personal hygiene and the improvement of medicines.

Most developed countries face a declining birth rate, a shortage of labour and an increasing number of the aged. For the time being, least developed countries are struggling to fulfil the needs of the population which is growing rapidly. Some 10 per cent of the global

people are below the poverty line, earning less than US\$2 per day.

The UN adopted 17 sustainable development goals and 169 objectives, so all UN member countries agreed to complete the implementation of these visions and missions in 2030.

Myanmar emphasizes harmonious development in social economic and environmental conservation measures as well as gender equality. So, the sustainable and harmonious development project is being implemented in the country to build a Union based on democracy and federalism with peace

and stability.

According to the census on 1 October 2022, Myanmar has more than 55.7 million population, and it is expected to reach more than 59.3 million of the population in 2030.

The centres to give comprehensive care to those suffering from gender violence are opened at hospitals in Nay Pyi Taw, Pindaya, Mawlamyine, Thaton, Myitkyina and Waingmaw and more plans are underway to open similar centres at state- and region-level hospitals.

In line with the theme for the 2023 World Population Day,

Balancing the population and development, let's strive for a better future, the country needs to effectively implement the population and development sectors.

The Vice-Senior General stressed the need to enhance the capacity of women, ensure gender equality, and carry out family planning and mother and reproductive health so as to develop a social life.

The Vice-Senior General disclosed that a plan is underway to enumerate a pilot project for the census in the coming October and collect the population and household data across the country from 1 to 15 October 2024. He stressed the need for all the people to participate in the process in order to build a fine future.

Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing reported on the population growing process in Myanmar and policy affairs.

All attendees were presented with a video clip on the collection of population and household data in 2024.

The Vice-Senior General viewed round the booths of the exhibition to mark the 2023 World Population Day. — MNA/TTA

Union Industry Minister attends 13th Industrial Fair opening in Yekaterinburg

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than arrived in Yekaterinburg to attend the 13th Industrial Fair in Yekaterinburg, Russian Federation yesterday morning.

The Union Minister attended the opening ceremony of the 13th Industrial Fair together with the Ministers from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and the Russian Federation.

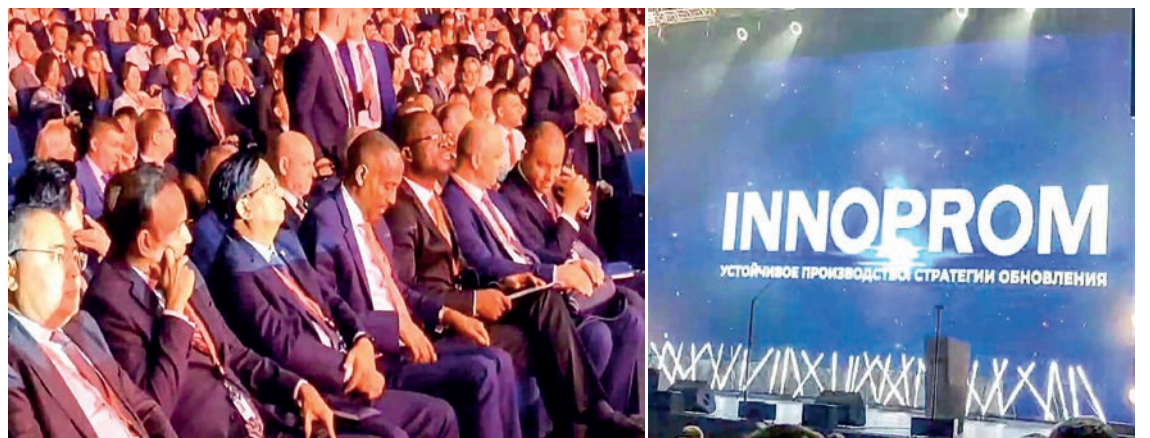
The ministers from the Russian Federation, Belarus and Kazakhstan gave opening speeches.

Then, Union Minister Dr Charlie Than participated in a

panel discussion on the topic of Sustainable Manufacturing Strategies of Renewal and replied to the questions of the moderator regarding 'Building Economic Relations and Protecting your Own Manufacturer'.

Furthermore, the Union Minister said that Myanmar is similar to the Russian Federation in terms of terrain, the wealth of natural resources, and, in particular, the potential production of iron ore. As a result, steel production is another area that should be prioritized. Myanmar is now receiving assistance from the Russian Federation in the steel-producing industry.

The Union Minister also



The opening event of the 13th Industrial Fair in progress in Yekaterinburg yesterday, attended by Union Minister Dr Charlie Than.

said that Myanmar students have been studying engineering, aviation, maritime and other subjects at Russian univer-

sities for almost two decades. Myanmar is also striving hard to become an industrial country. He also voiced his view that

the industrial endeavours being undertaken by the Russian Federation will benefit Myanmar. — MNA/KZW

Union Health Minister addresses International Conference on Public Health, Diplomacy

UNION Minister of the Ministry of Health Dr Thet Khaing Win attended the International Conference on Public Health and Diplomacy held in Dhaka, Bangladesh yesterday.

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, officials from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the World Health Organization's resident representative in Bangladesh gave greeting speeches.

Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win, in his address, said that Myanmar is working with other countries to address global health issues. He expressed gratitude to the government of Bangladesh for giving humanitarian aid relief supplies to Rakhine State devastated by Cyclone Mocha.

Following that, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh greeted ministers from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Health from the participating countries. The Union minister said that Myanmar has made better preparations to accept refugees who are in Bangladesh.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister met Bangladeshi Minister of Health Mr Zahid Maleque at the meeting room of Pan Pacific Hotel in Dhaka and they discussed bilateral health sectors and health human resource development and the development of pharmaceuticals.

Then, the Myanmar delegation led by the Union Minister attended a dinner hosted by Dr A K Abdul Momen, Foreign Affairs Minister of Bangladesh, at State Guest House-Jamuna in Dhaka.



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win poses for the documentary group photo at the event in Bangladesh yesterday.

The sector-wise discussions of the conference took place in the afternoon, and delegates

from the countries took part in the discussions of their respective sectors.

The conference was held from 11 to 12 July in Dhaka, Bangladesh. — MNA/KZW

CRIME NEWS

Vehicles breaking traffic rules decrease on highway

AN officer of the Highway Police Command told GNLM that the number of traffic violations on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway has decreased.

He said that 7,548 vehicles broke the rules on the expressway during the six months from January to June 2023, which was a decrease from the same period before COVID-19.

“Before the COVID-19 period, there were 16,717 vehicles made traffic violations in 2017 and 16,295 vehicles in 2018. After experiencing the period of COVID-19, the number of vehicles prosecuted has decreased due to less traffic and more people obeying the rules.

“Currently, the Highway Police Commander’s Office is working on two parts: education and action regarding traffic regulations. In the past, group educational talks and leaflet distribution were conducted for vehicles at the toll gates, but later, kilos were set according to the type of vehicle.

“There are two parts to traffic regulations: awareness and action. Not only the drivers and the people in the vehicle but also the villagers who live on the



A highway accident occurred last April. PHOTO: HIGHWAY FIRE BRIGADE

side of the road, are educated by the troops on duty.

“At the toll gates, we had discussions with the drivers of each 10 vehicles. Afterwards, we set the speed of the vehicles according to the type of vehicle to avoid traffic jams and delays: 100 kilometres per hour for domestic cars, 90 km for passenger vehicles and 60 km for commercial vehicles.

“In addition, there have been works such as the installation of road signs at the intersections. In order to ensure that vehicles do not exceed the speed limit along the ex-

pressway, and to comply with the traffic rules, the installation and inspection of vehicle speed measuring devices is also being carried out. No matter how much education we do, road users need to follow the rules”, he added.

In the first half of 2023, 53 people died and 162 were injured due to traffic accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

From January to June, there were 83 traffic accidents on the expressway, resulting in a loss of K288.58 million. — 123/KZL

Over K1 bln worth of Ketamine captured in Tachilek Tsp

OVER K1 billion worth of 127 kilogrammes of Ketamine was captured in Tachilek township, said the Myanmar Police Force.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force seized 127 kilogrammes of Ketamine worth over K1 billion from a Toyota Hilux Revo vehicle in Wansaukhon village

in Tachilek township at 11:30 pm on 7 July.

After being interrogated, the offenders admitted that the seized drugs were to be carried from Pansan to Tachilek.

The police have taken legal action against the offenders and an investigation is underway to identify those who are involved in the case. — MNA/MKKS

22 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 11 July, total figure registers 640,825

MYANMAR’S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 640,825 after 22 new cases were reported on 11 July 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of 10,924,022 laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 640,825. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 619,607 including 19 new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered 19,494 on 11-7-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. — GNLM

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OPINION

Reduce plastic bag usage: A call for change

PLASTIC bags have become a ubiquitous packaging material due to their affordability and wide availability. While they serve as a crucial part of daily lives, the environmental consequences of plastic pollution pose a significant threat to ecosystems, humans, and animals alike.

Year after year, industries worldwide produce over 380 tonnes of plastic materials and products, with a staggering 460 million tonnes manufactured in 2019 alone. Consequently, people across the globe are grappling with the adverse effects of plastic products. Plastic bags are rarely reused by consumers, leading to their disposal after a single use.

These discarded plastic bags accumulate in landfills and water

Similarly, Myanmar must take measures to curtail the use of plastic products and bags as part of its efforts to combat plastic pollution within the country. It is imperative to raise public awareness about the consequences of plastic waste, urging individuals to reject plastic bags and packaging materials whenever possible. By doing so, Myanmar's society and environment can be relieved of excessive plastic pollution, enabling future generations to thrive without the dangers associated with plastic contamination.

bodies, particularly in seas and oceans. Birds mistake them for feed, resulting in dire consequences, while fish often meet their demise entangled in these plastic traps. For instance, sea turtles struggle to differentiate between jellyfish and plastic bags, often succumbing to digestion-related issues.

The present scenario is disheartening, with businesses worldwide producing approximately five trillion plastic bags annually. Startlingly, researchers estimate that the combined material of these bags could encircle the Earth seven times over. Although the original intention was to promote multiple uses, a mere nine per cent of plastic bags are reused globally.

Nowadays, disposable plastic bags and products litter roads and residences as waste. The United Nations Environment Programme-UNEP

recently projected that plastic waste in the oceans could reach a staggering volume of 75 million to 199 million tonnes. This alarming prediction underscores the urgent need to address the pervasive issue of plastic bags and daily product usage worldwide.

Similarly, Myanmar must take measures to curtail the use of plastic products and bags as part of its efforts to combat plastic pollution within the country. It is imperative to raise public awareness about the consequences of plastic waste, urging individuals to reject plastic bags and packaging materials whenever possible. By doing so, Myanmar's society and environment can be relieved of excessive plastic pollution, enabling future generations to thrive without the dangers associated with plastic contamination.

The government, businesses, and communities must work together to implement policies that promote sustainable alternatives to plastic bags. Encouraging the use of reusable bags, promoting the adoption of biodegradable materials, and investing in recycling infrastructure are essential steps in mitigating the plastic waste crisis. By limiting plastic product and bag usage, it is necessary to create a cleaner, healthier world, free from the perils of plastic pollution. Let's seize this opportunity and pave the way for a sustainable future.



FOR ease of reference, let's refer to them as "SAPs", as in "self-absorbed people".

All the countries in the developing world, that have been bullied under the pretence of "democracy" and "human rights" by all these SAPs for decades, take note.

China and Russia, please note.

Shout out to all these self-absorbed and self-proclaimed "righteous", out-of-

touch SAPs in the Ivory Towers in Geneva and New York! Paris is burning! Where are all these so-called "rapporteurs", "special envoys", "commissions", "groups of experts", "high-level experts", etc.?

Paris has been burning for days. Violence has spread to other cities across the country. SAPs have been slowed to catch up. Let alone a condemnation, there have been no statements of any kind from the SAPs across their sprawling or-

ganizations. A lone statement was made by a spokesperson in a Geneva-based outfit calling for "action", which was brushed aside by France as baseless. Since, there's not a single whisper. They are busy trying to open offices in India and China. Hey, Paris is just a short flight away from Geneva. Go pay a visit! Go to Lausanne where there are riots. Just take a train to Lausanne. When it comes to a country of their "Uncles" and "Aunties" they don't dare to say

or do a thing.

One of their major organizations is even based in Paris. Everyone is quiet! This is one of the Western countries most of them plan to live in after retirement. They don't want to jeopardize any future chances of a comfortable retirement, visiting professor roles at prestigious universities, being enlisted as "experts" by think tanks, etc. SHHH!!!! Let's not say anything.

Imagine similar development in Russian or China? SAPs would immediately demand a "fact-finding" visit. That "fact-finding" is one of their favourite expressions. After that, endless commissions and groups would be created to pay the way for endless investigations. Resolutions would be passed. If the country is a small developing (Paris) nation, sanctions would be imposed. They

could go on and on.

Fighting against bullying is one of their favourite subjects. But they are the biggest bullies. They are experts at how to bully small developing countries. Multiple "Envoys" and "Representatives" would be appointed. Just look at how many such positions have been created for Myanmar. They use these positions to attack Russia and China. But when the big ones are involved, they can't say or do a thing. They are PNGd by the Western countries. So-called Human Rights experts are barred from visits. Life goes on! No one says a thing. But if similar actions are taken by small countries, watch out! There would be an onslaught of pressure.

Yes, they also love to travel. At one point around 2012-2013, just as Myanmar was just opening up, there were three Heads

of Agencies visiting the country at once. Three! They arrive in the country. Travel to Bagan together. Have a sip together in a luxurious hotel lounge together. Life is good! But people in the small countries they are supposed to serve continue to suffer.

Recently SAPs were kicked out of Mali. Hallelujah! Now the citizens of Mali can truly create peace and genuinely rebuild their country. What did the SAPs achieve in Mali? Haiti should consider the same.

They are unable to treat and pay respect to people in small countries at the same level as those in big countries.

They will not bring any solution to the problems in Myanmar. They are SAPs oblivious to the problems, cultures and traditions of small countries.

HYPOCRITES

By Kyaw Myint Htun (Paris)

ARTICLE WEATHER FORECAST



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 11 July 2023)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 12 July 2023:

Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing and Mandalay regions and (Northern and Eastern) Shan State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6 - 8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of increase of rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 July 2023: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 July 2023: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 July 2023: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 July 2023: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Study finds how deep-sleep brain waves predict blood sugar control

The researchers say this is an exciting advance because sleep is a modifiable lifestyle factor that could now be used as part of a therapeutic and painless adjunct treatment for those with high blood sugar or Type 2 diabetes.

An exciting advance

The researchers say this is an exciting advance because sleep is a modifiable lifestyle factor that could now be used as part of a therapeutic and painless adjunct treatment for those with high blood sugar or Type 2 diabetes.

"These synchronized brain waves act like a finger that flicks the first domino to start an associated chain reaction from the brain, down to the heart, and then out to alter the body's regulation of blood sugar," said Matthew Walker, a UC Berkeley professor of neuroscience and psychology and senior author of the new study.

"In particular, the combination of two brain waves, called sleep spindles and slow waves, predict an increase in the body's sensitivity to the hormone called insulin, which consequentially and beneficially lowers blood glucose levels."

"Adding to the therapeutic relevance of this new discovery,

the findings also suggest a novel, non-invasive tool — deep-sleep brain waves — for mapping and predicting someone's blood sugar control." The team's findings were published today in the journal *Cell Reports Medicine*.

For years, researchers have studied how the coupling of non-rapid eye movement sleep spindles and deep, slow brain waves corresponded to an entirely different function — that of learning and memory. Indeed, the same team of UC Berkeley researchers previously found that deep-sleep brain waves improved the ability of the hippocampus — the part of the brain associated with learning — to retain information. But this new research builds on a 2021 rodent study and reveals a novel and previously unrecognized role

for these combined brain waves in humans when it comes to the critical bodily function of blood sugar management.

Sleep data in a group

The UC Berkeley researchers first examined sleep data in a group of 600 individuals. They found that this particular coupled set of deep-sleep brain waves predicted next-day glucose control, even after controlling for other factors such as age, gender and the duration and quality of sleep.

"This particular coupling of deep-sleep brain waves was more predictive of glucose than an individual's sleep duration or sleep efficiency," said Raphael Vallat, a UC Berkeley postdoctoral fellow and co-author of the study. "That indicates there is something uniquely



The recent research has uncovered a potential mechanism in humans that explains how deep-sleep brain waves during the night can regulate the body's sensitivity to insulin, leading to improved blood sugar control the following day. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ PIXABAY**

special about the electrophysiological quality and coordinated ballet of these brain oscillations during deep sleep."

Next, the team then set out to explore the descending pathway that might explain the connection between these deep-sleep brain waves sending a signal down into the body, ultimately predicting the regulation of blood glucose. The findings from the team reveal an unfolding set of steps that could help explain how and why these deep-sleep brain waves are related to superior blood sugar control.

First, they found that stronger and more frequent coupling of the deep-sleep brain waves predicted a switch in the body's nervous system state into the more quiescent and calming branch, called the parasympathetic nervous system. They measured that change in the body and the shift to this low-stress state using heart rate variability as a proxy. Next, the team turned its attention to the final step of blood sugar balance.

SOURCE: ANI

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Japanese traditional ceramic, earthenware exhibition commences from 12 to 29 July

THE “Yakishime-Earth Metamorphosis” exhibition, also known as the exhibition of traditional to contemporary ceramics and earthenware, will take place at the Cultural Centre of the Japanese Foundation (Yangon) from 12 to 29 July.

The exhibition will be open for free from 9 am to 4 pm every day, except on Mondays and Tuesdays. In the exhibition, the Yakishime pottery technique will also be on display for study.

The oldest Yakishime pottery dates back to the period between the 4th and 5th centuries AD, and the Yakishime pottery method was systematically developed between



Some of the traditional Japanese pottery that will be displayed at the exhibition.



the 12th and 17th centuries AD. It was widely used in cities such as Bizen, Shigaraki, and Tokoname, the places where Japanese pottery flourished.

Earthenware, which is the main essential material in the tea ceremony, called

“Sado” in Japanese, is made using the Yakishime method, and the pots, plates, and cups associated with traditional Japanese Washoku dishes are also made using the Yakishime method.

In this exhibition, in addition to works of art created traditionally and depicting wabi-sabi (the art of imperfection), a variety of Yakishime earthenwares will be displayed.

The exhibition will be held at the cultural centre of the Japanese Foundation (Yangon) located at No 70, Natmauk Lane 1 in Bahan Township. — TWA/CT

Weekly market update of dry groceries at Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre



The photo shows a grocery.

FOR a week from 4 to 11 July 2023, the prices of palm oil and potato went up at Bayint Naung Wholesale Centre while the onion and garlic prices declined, along with the pulses and bean prices.

Onion

Bayint Naung Wholesale market saw the entry of 120,000 visses of onions from various regions on 11 July. The wholesale prices moved in the range of K1,700 and K2,100 per viss depending on the quality and size that day. The highest price in regions outside Yangon was just under K1,900 per viss.

With 30,000 visses of onions being supplied to the Seikphyu market, the highest price was K1,800 per viss only on 11 July. Meanwhile, 33,950 visses of on-

ions were supplied to the Pakokku market and the price hit K1,850 per viss, the market data showed.

Garlic

The prices of garlic from Shan State dipped to K7,000-8,300 per viss depending on varieties and qualities, whereas Kyugoat garlic fetched K7,000 per viss.

Potato

The wholesale price of potatoes imported by China was K3,100 per viss 11 July, whereas potatoes from Shan State (Aungban area) were priced at K2,800-3,000 per viss on 10 July.

Chilli pepper

The wholesale prices of chilli peppers were K13,500-14,000 per viss for long chilli pepper and Moehtaung variety. The price of bell peppers from the Sinphyuk-

yun area touched a high of K19,500 per viss.

Rice

The prices hit K51,000 per bag of low-grade rice and K70,000 for summer short-matured rice (90 days) and K83,000 for Pawkywe variety. The high-grade Pawsan rice prices were K88,000 from the Bogale area, K90,000-93,000 from Pyapon and K100,000-110,000 from the Shwebo area respectively.

Palm oil

For a week from 10 to 16 July, the wholesale reference price of Yangon Region was set at K4,140 per viss.

The wholesale market price was K6,500 per viss on 7 July. It jumped to K7,300 per viss on 10 July. There is a queue in the Bayintnaung market to buy palm oil at the retail reference prices.

Pulses

The prices of various pulses stood at K2,198,000 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K2,428,000 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC), K3,115,000 per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) RC, K3,750 per viss of green gram and K5,500 -5,900 per viss of chickpea in Yangon markets. — TWA/EM

Fishing allowed after breeding season

AS the fish breeding season has ended, fishing has been allowed since July, according to the Department of Fisheries.

The fish breeding season for this financial year was set for April, May, and June, and the fishing season starts in July.

Fishing is being done in fishing lots along the coasts of Rakhine State, Ayeyawady Region, Yangon Region, and Taninthayi Region.

Fishing was banned for two to three months, depending on the type of fishing boat. During the three-month closure of offshore fishing, basic occupational skills courses were opened to ensure the safety of fishermen.

The course also included the process of providing training on how to deal with the issues of danger to the lives of fishermen and how to deal with emergency firefighting in the event of a fire.

In addition, educational activities are being carried out constantly to ensure that the sea and the environment are not polluted and to prevent throwing garbage into the sea.

The fish banning period and the designation of no-fishing areas in Myanmar waters are stipulated under Section 22, subsection (b), and Section 23 of the Myanmar Marine Fisheries Law 2022, and the directive was issued on 3 March 2022. — TWA/CT



Some fishing boats are seen near the shore in Kawthoung.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Downward trend of corn prices persists

THE price of corn is on a downward trend in the domestic market as the FOB corn prices fall to US\$290-310 per tonne, according to Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayint Naung Commodity Depot).

Corn fetches K1,150-1,170 per viss in the domestic market. Myanmar delivered corn to China and Thailand through the border and also sent corn to China, India, Vietnam and the Philippines by maritime shipping, Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

China is purchasing Myanmar's corn through cross-border trade under the opium substitution program. Legitimate corn trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 companies have been given the go-ahead for corn exports. Thailand gives the green light to corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand.

The directive released on 30

The price of corn is on a downward trend in the domestic market as the FOB corn prices fall to US\$290-310 per tonne. The picture indicates a corn plantation.



June 2022 said that transactions for the exports of agricultural products including corn, rice, bean and oil crops are to be made in dollars instead of Yuan-Kyat/Baht-Kyat. Therefore, 65 per cent of export earnings (US dollars) of the corn have to be exchanged according to the reference rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar (K2,100). Nonetheless, there is a large gap between the regulated rate and the unauthorized rate of the US dollar (over K3,100).

Myanmar exported over 2 million tonnes of corn to foreign trade in the 2022 corn season. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to the Philippines, China, India and Viet Nam.

More than two million tonnes of corn are expected to be shipped to foreign trade partners in the 2023 corn season, said U Min Khaing, chair of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayah states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons—winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/EM

Black gram, pigeon pea prices slump tracking weak foreign demand



The vendor is seen organizing bags of beans and pulses for sale in the market.

THE prices of black gram and pigeon pea plummeted as foreign demand faltered, according to Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayint Naung Commodity Centre).

The prices touched a high of K3.2 million per tonne of pigeon pea and K2.3 million per tonne of black gram on 1 July. The prices slipped to K3.115 million per tonne of pigeon pea and K2.198 million per tonne of black gram on 11 June, showing a sharp drop of K85,000 per tonne of pigeon pea and K102,000 per tonne of black gram.

Myanmar shipped more than 420,000 tonnes of pulses, with an estimated value of over \$330 million, to foreign coun-

tries in Q1 during the 2023-2024 financial year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's pulses exports crossed over US\$1.4 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the past financial year 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar primarily exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black gram and pigeon peas are mostly conveyed 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 2021, 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.

Black grams that India primarily purchases are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. — NN/EM

Kyat against US dollar depreciates at K3,100 in shady dealings

KYAT against the greenback weakened to approximately K3,100 in the grey market although the Central Bank of Myanmar set reference exchange rate at K2,100, the traders involved in the forex market said.

CBM has set the currency trading band at 0.3 per cent for the Kyat to fluctuate between these two specified upper and lower exchange rates for transactions, selling or buying, according to a directive issued by the CBM on 10 August 2022.

Therefore, financial insti-

tutions including the banks and informal money exchanges are instructed to set a dollar value at K2,094 for buying and K2,106 for selling. However, the over-the-counter Kyat-dollar exchange rate was K3,040 for buying and K3,095 for selling on 11 July.

There is a large price difference between the reference rate of the CBM and the unofficial market rate. Yet, there is no way for the CBM to set the new price, as per the notification released on 26 May 2023.

To stabilize and enhance the FX market, the CBM has been providing liquidity through local banks. It helps reduce the need for US dollar liquidity and Kyat liquidity for the businesspersons and stabilize the exchange rate, the statement revealed.

However, the unscrupulous are attempting to take advantage of some naive people by manipulating the FX market with false rumours.

This being so, the CBM announced that it has no plan to

change the reference exchange rate. The CBM will continue to provide USD liquidity and Kyat liquidity.

Those studying abroad, working abroad under the foreign recruitment program of the Ministry of Labours and going abroad for medical treatment are entitled to buy large amounts of foreign currencies in denominations at the banks' FX counters and the CBM has planned to sell the cards for international payment for a certain amount.

The CBM warned the people of malicious rumours regarding the FX market.

Investigation and Prosecuting of market manipulation to hike the exchange rate in the local forex market by disseminating incorrect information will be undertaken under the provisions stipulated in the Central Bank of Myanmar Law and Foreign Exchange Management Law. Tipping off about the manipulators can be done through the CBM's email: gov.office@cbm.gov.mm. — NN/EM

ECONOMY WORLD

UK unemployment climbs as inflation weighs on economy



Customers eat and drink outside bars in the Soho area of London on 18 June 2023. PHOTO: AFP

UK unemployment rose back to four per cent in the three months to the end of May, official data showed Tuesday, as the economy struggles with stubbornly-high inflation.

The unemployment rate increased from 3.8 per cent in the three months to the end of April, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement.

The rate was back at four per cent for the first time since the start of 2022. Analysts' consensus had been for unemployment to remain at 3.8 per cent.

Despite the rise, finance minister Jeremy Hunt said Britain's "jobs market is strong with unemployment low by historical standards".

The ONS added that pay

excluding bonuses had risen at record levels.

"Due to high inflation, however, the real value of weekly earnings are still falling, although now at its slowest rate since the end of 2021," noted Darren Morgan, director of economic statistics at the ONS.

In a keynote speech late Monday, Hunt insisted there could "be no sustainable growth without eliminating the inflation that deters investment and erodes consumer confidence".

UK annual inflation has eased in recent months but remains close to nine per cent.

This is far above the Bank of England's two-per-cent target, triggering numerous interest-rate hikes from the central bank. — AFP

LatAm sees record high foreign direct investment in 2022, says UN agency

LATIN America and the Caribbean received a record 224.579 billion US dollars in foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2022, or 55.2 per cent more than in 2021, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) said Monday.

According to the United Nations agency's latest annual report on FDI in the region, FDI inflows to regional countries had not topped 200 billion US dollars in nearly 10 years.

"Since 2013, annual FDI inflows to Latin American and Caribbean countries did not exceed 200 billion dollars. This makes 2022 an important milestone for the entire

decade," said ECLAC's Executive Secretary Jose Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs when presenting the report at a press conference in Santiago, Chile. Leading the list of countries with the most FDI were Brazil, which received 41 per cent of the regional total, followed by Mexico (17 per cent), Chile (nine per cent), Colombia (eight per cent), Argentina (seven per cent) and Peru (five per cent).

"The challenge of attracting and retaining Foreign Direct Investment that contributes effectively to the region's sustainable and inclusive productive development is more relevant than ever," said Salazar-Xirinachs. — Xinhua

Cash-strapped Pakistan gets \$2 billion deposit from Saudi Arabia

PAKISTAN'S desperately low foreign exchange reserves were boosted on Tuesday with a \$2 billion deposit from Saudi Arabia, ahead of a key IMF meeting this month to approve a new deal.

The economy has been stricken by a balance-of-payments crisis as it attempts to service crippling external debt, while months of political chaos have scared off foreign investment. Inflation has rocketed, the rupee has reached a record low against the dollar, and the country is struggling to afford imports, causing a severe decline in industrial output. "Saudi Arabia had announced in the recent past that it would deposit an additional \$2 billion dollars in the account of the State Bank of Pakistan — that has been credited to the account

of the State Bank," Pakistan's finance minister Ishaq Dar said in a televised press conference.

It brings state foreign reserves to a total of \$6.5 billion, an almost 50 per cent increase compared to last week's account

balance. Faisal Shaji, a research analyst with Standard Capital Securities, told AFP that the deposit will stabilize Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves and will improve its credit rating in the international market. — AFP



A man enters a foreign currency exchange shop in Islamabad on 11 July 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Clean tech minerals market surges to \$320 bn: IEA

THE market for the minerals key to the clean energy transition soared to \$320 billion last year but faces challenges including volatile prices, supply chain snarls and geopolitical tensions, the International Energy Agency said Tuesday. The market for minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel and copper doubled between 2017 and 2022, fuelled by the record deploy-

ment of clean technologies such as solar panels and electric car batteries, according to the IEA. "Rapid growth in demand is providing new opportunities for the industry," the Paris-based agency said in its first annual IEA Critical Minerals Market Review. "But a combination of volatile price movements, supply chain bottlenecks and geopolitical concerns

has created a potent mix of risks for secure and rapid energy transitions," it added.

The IEA, which advises developed nations on energy policies, said the "affordability and speed of energy transitions" will depend on the availability of critical mineral supplies.

Prices rose in 2021 and early 2022 as the Covid pandemic

caused bottlenecks across supply chains and Russia's invasion of Ukraine wreaked havoc in commodity markets.

Most prices began to moderate in the latter half of 2022 and into 2023, but they remain well above historical averages, the IEA said. "As things stand, 2023 could be a crucial year for clean energy technology prices," the

report said.

"Whether and how quickly they resume a downward trajectory will depend on the speed of innovation and on the stability of mineral markets that witnessed significant volatility in 2022 after two years of pandemic-related supply chain disruptions followed by the onset of global geopolitical uncertainty." — AFP

Foxconn scraps US\$19.5 bln Vedanta chip plan in India

FOXCONN Monday announced it has decided to pull out from a 19.5 billion US dollar semiconductor joint venture with Indian conglomerate Vedanta.

Foxconn said it is “working to remove the Foxconn name from what now is a fully-owned entity of Vedanta”.

The move was seen as a setback to the chipmaking plans of India. Foxconn, a global contract electronics maker, and Vedanta, an Indian multinational mining company, had inked an agreement in September 2022 to invest 19.5 billion US dollars to set up semiconductor and display production plants in Gujarat state. — Xinhua

World job market on brink of ‘AI revolution’: OECD

THE world’s wealthiest nations must urgently prepare for the impact of an imminent “AI revolution” that will change jobs, create new ones and make others disappear, the OECD said Tuesday. The rapid development of artificial intelligence — with tools that can generate essays, create images and even pass medical exams — have raised concerns that it could replace whole sectors of the workforce through automation.

In its 2023 Employment Outlook, the OECD said there was little evidence of significant negative effects on employment from AI “so far”. “While the adoption of AI still remains relatively low, rapid progress, falling costs and the increasing availability of workers with AI skills

indicate that OECD economies might be on the brink of an AI revolution,” the report said. “While there are many potential benefits from AI, there are also significant risks that need to be urgently addressed,” according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The international and influential organization has 38 member countries ranging from Australia to Britain, Canada, Germany, Japan, Mexico and the United States.

The OECD said it was “vital” to gather better data on AI uptake and use in the workplace, “including which jobs will change, be created or disappear, and how skills needs are shifting”.

AI use is generally concentrated in large



Autonomous, programmable humanoid robot “Nao” performs at the booth of Aldebaran company during the world’s largest gathering of humanoid AI Robots as part of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva, on 5 July 2023. PHOTO: AFP

firms that are still experimenting with the new technology, and many appear reluctant to replace staff, said Stefano Scar-

petta, OECD director for employment, labour and social affairs.

“However, it is also clear that the potential

for substitution remains significant, raising fears of decreasing wages and job losses,” he wrote in an editorial. — AFP

Singapore state investor Temasek reports portfolio value drop

SINGAPORE state investor Temasek said Tuesday its net portfolio value fell 5.2 per cent in the last financial year due to volatility in global markets, and that it would be adopting a more cautious strategy.

The company, whose global footprint extends well beyond the city-state, said its net holdings in the year ending in March were

at Sg\$382 billion (\$287 billion), down from a record high Sg\$403 billion in the previous year. Its one-year total shareholder return came in at negative 5.07 per cent, weighed by higher interest rates resulting from tighter monetary policies to fight inflation.

Its three-year total shareholder return, however, stood at 8.0 per cent,

while its 10-year return was at 6.0 per cent and 20-year return at 9.0 per cent.

“We maintain a cautious investment stance and expect to invest at a moderated pace this financial year, given the challenging macroeconomic environment,” said Temasek chief investment officer Rohit Sipahimalani. — AFP

In the matter of the Financial Institution Law, 2016

In the matter of uab bank Limited

[Under Paragraph 34 of the Directive on External Auditors of Banks of the Central Bank of Myanmar (10/2019)]

Public Notice regarding Publication and Exhibition of Financial Statements

Pursuant to Paragraph 34 of the CBM Directive (10/2019), notice is hereby given that the Audited Financial Statement of the uab bank Limited for the Financial Period ended 31st March 2023 and the External Auditors’ Report had been published on the website of the bank at

<https://www.uab.com.mm/investors/our-reports/>

on the date of 11th July, 2023

Sd/- Shune Pa Myat Noe Eain
Legal & Secretariat
uab bank Limited

India’s cash-strapped Go First extends flight cancellations until 14 July

INDIA’S cash-strapped private airline Go First has once again extended its flight cancellations, aviation officials said on Tuesday.

As per the latest announcement Go First said all its flights will remain suspended until 14 July.

The crisis-hit airline is struggling to resume

its operations, a move which so far has not materialized.

“We regret to inform that due to operational reasons, Go First flights scheduled till 14 July 2023, have been cancelled. We apologize for the inconvenience caused by the flight cancellations,” the airline said in a statement. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC QUIMING VOY.NO. (2310S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC QUIMING VOY.NO. (2310S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-7-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (045N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (045N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-7-2023** 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:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

ROLLING UPDATES

ASIA

Thai caretaker PM Prayut announces retirement from politics

THAILAND'S outgoing prime minister Prayut Chan-o-cha announced his retirement from politics Tuesday, but will remain as PM until the formation of a new government.

A long-running fixture in Thai politics, the army chief seized power in a 2014 coup before cementing his control in highly controversial 2019 elections.

His decision comes just days before a key vote in the Thai parliament that could see the next prime minister elected, following a May election when voters emphatically rejected army-backed parties.

"From now on, I quit politics by resigning as a member of the UTN party," he said in a statement posted on the United Thai Nation (UTN) party's official Facebook page.

The party — which Prayut joined only weeks before the



(FILES) Thai prime minister Prayut Chan-O-cha speaks to the press after a cabinet meeting at Government House in Bangkok on 16 May 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

elections — failed to gain traction with voters, coming in a distant fifth place behind opposition parties Move Forward and Pheu Thai.

The opposition groups were

galvanized by a wave of support across the country, as voters rejected a near-decade of army-backed rule and voted for reform.

In his statement, Prayut

urged members of UTN to protect "the institutions of nation, religion, and monarchy" — a reference to the previously untouchable three pillars of Thai society. — AFP

N Korea slams US move to supply Ukraine with cluster munitions

NORTH Korea on Tuesday slammed the United States' decision to supply Ukraine with cluster munitions, while also expressing support for Russia's war effort.

Washington announced last week that it would provide the widely-banned munitions to Ukraine for their counteroffensive against invading Russian troops. "The US has made a very dangerous choice by deciding to offer such lethal weapons to Ukraine," said North Korean foreign minister Choe Son Hui in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

The move "brings to light once again its true colours as destroyer of peace regarding aggression and massacre as its national policy and mode of existence", she said. — AFP

Fukushima fishermen still oppose water release after IAEA report

FISHERIES associations in Fukushima Prefecture told Japan's industry minister Tuesday they remain opposed to releasing treated radioactive water from the crippled nuclear power plant into the sea despite a UN watchdog's safety assurance on the plan.

Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura briefed the Fuku-

shima Prefectural Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations in their meeting in northeastern Japan about the International Atomic Energy Agency's comprehensive assessment released last week.

The government seeks their understanding as it aims to start releasing the water around this summer. — Kyodo

6 killed in Nepal tourist helicopter crash

ALL six people, including five Mexican tourists and a Nepali pilot, were killed after their helicopter crashed on Tuesday in a mountain district in eastern Nepal, the authorities said.

"The five passengers and a pilot in the helicopter have lost their lives in the crash," Jagannath Niroula, spokesperson of the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal, told Xinhua.

He said all five passengers

are Mexicans and the tourist helicopter was found to have hit a tree.

The Manang Air chopper lost contact with the ground 15 minutes after it took off from Surke in Solukhumbu district for the capital city of Kathmandu, and it was found crashed in the Lamjura area of the district, according to Chief District Officer Basant Bhattarai. — Xinhua

Death toll rises in collapse of under-construction Bangkok highway

A second person has been confirmed killed and 12 others injured in the collapse of a road bridge under construction in Bangkok, Thai officials said Tuesday.

The collapse late Monday of a beam system supporting work on a raised bridge trapped several vehicles travelling on the busy thoroughfare in the Lat Krabang district, near Suvarnabhumi international airport.

A video released Monday by the Department of Disaster Prevention showed the structure's sudden fall, raising a cloud of dust, while later videos showed the devastation left in the aftermath of the incident.

Wisanu Subsompon, deputy governor of Bangkok, told a press conference Tuesday the damage may have been caused by an unbalanced crane.

"Work will be suspended until they have a safety plan," he said.

The roadwork is part of a



Forensic police and rescue workers inspect the scene after a construction girder on an elevated tollway collapsed, killing at least one person, in Lat Krabang district in Bangkok on 10 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

project to build elevated highways in an attempt to ease the city's notoriously congested traffic.

Construction safety standards are lax in Thailand, where accidents are commonplace.

In 2016, at least 13 people

were killed when a building under construction collapsed.

The accident had sparked protests from trade unions, who denounced the inadequacy of safety standards and the meagre wages paid to workers on construction sites. — AFP

UN report calls for redoubling global efforts to achieve sustainable development goals



People register during a launching ceremony of a solar media project in Nthunguni village of Mtito Andei, Kenya on 1 July 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

THE world risks big misses across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) unless actions to accelerate implementation are taken, said a UN report released on Monday.

Failure to redouble global efforts to achieve the SDGs may fuel greater political instability,

pend economies and lead to irreversible damage to the environment, according to “The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition”.

The SDGs were unanimously adopted by world leaders in September 2015 to serve as the blueprint for global development

efforts in the years leading up to 2030. The 17 goals aim to end poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change.

Using the latest available data and estimates, the new report provided a comprehensive midpoint assessment of the progress of the SDGs.

The combined impacts of the climate crisis, the conflict in Ukraine, a gloomy global economic outlook and lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have revealed systemic weaknesses and hindered progress towards the SDGs, the report said. According to the report, of the approximately 140 targets that can be evaluated, half of them show moderate or severe deviations from the desired trajectory, and more than 30 per cent of these targets have experienced no progress or, even worse, regression below the 2015 baseline.

It said that the impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic stalled three decades of steady progress in reducing extreme poverty, with the number of people living in extreme poverty increasing for the first time in a generation.

If present trends persist, by 2030, 575 million people will remain trapped in extreme poverty and an estimated 84 million children and young people will still be out of school, the report said.

It further warned that while

lack of progress is universal, it is the world’s poorest and most vulnerable who are experiencing the worst effects of these unprecedented global challenges.

Meanwhile, the report pointed to progress in some areas since 2015 which illustrates the potential for further advances.

Among the progress highlighted, the share of global population with access to electricity has increased from 87 per cent in 2015 to 91 per cent in 2021, with close to 800 million additional people being connected.

The report also illustrated that the number of people using the Internet has grown by 65 per cent since 2015, reaching 5.3 billion people of the world’s population in 2022.

Such important development gains demonstrate that a breakthrough to a better future for all is possible through the combination of collective action and strong political will, and the effective use of available technologies, resources and knowledge, said the report. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Afghan interpreter who worked for US military gunned down in Washington, DC: media

A ride-hailing driver who had long served as an interpreter for US military in Afghanistan before he fled his motherland was lately gunned down in Washington, DC, Qatar-based Al Jazeera reported Friday.

Nasrat Ahmad Yar, 31, was found fatally shot on 3 July in his car while he was working as a ride-share driver late night in a neighbourhood in northeastern Washington, DC, said the report. — Xinhua

Indonesia seizes Iran-flagged tanker over suspected crude oil transfer

INDONESIAN maritime authorities seized an Iranian-flagged tanker carrying more than 200,000 metric tons of light crude oil after a suspected illegal transfer at sea, they said Tuesday.

Iran has been accused by the United States and its allies of using crowded shipping lanes in the Persian Gulf and elsewhere to circumnavigate Western sanctions on its nuclear programme.

The MT Arman 114 under the Iranian flag was “suspected of carrying out illegal transshipment activities” in Indonesia’s exclusive economic zone, the maritime security agency said in a statement. — AFP

Sudan civil servants go hungry as war claims livelihoods

SUDANESE public school teacher Imad Mohammed had worked for 32 years when war broke out almost three months ago, tearing his country apart and his finances to shreds.

“We only eat one meal a day now,” he told AFP about his family of five.

“And we don’t know how long this will go on,” said the teacher from Al-Jazirah state, which has been spared the brutal fighting but has still suffered dire shortages.

Like other civil servants, Mohammed has gone without a salary since the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces took up arms against each other. When the first blasts shook Khartoum on 15 April, banks there shuttered their doors, and branches nationwide have since struggled to provide services because they are cut off from headquarters in the capital.



Trucks carrying foreign humanitarian aid pass by Gadaref on the main road linking the Sudanese capital Khartoum with Port Sudan on 10 July 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Since then, the only government salaries that have been paid are the army’s. Deprived of their pay and annual holiday bonuses for the Muslim festivals of Eid al-Fitr in April and Eid al-Adha in June, around one million desperate public sector workers have been forced to survive on their savings or on social aid networks.

“What teachers and their

families are going through, in both the public and private sectors, is catastrophic,” said Ammar Youssef, head of the Sudanese Teachers Committee.

The livelihood losses and descent into poverty have compounded the horrors of the war, which has already killed around 3,000 people and displaced three million. — AFP

UN report calls for redoubling global efforts to achieve sustainable development goals

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SPORT

MFF to conduct Futsal Referee Course in August



The four futsal referees (in the middle) are seen during a domestic futsal tournament. PHOTO:MFF

MFF Futsal Newly Referee Course 1/2023 will be opened from 3 to 9 August in cooperation with the Myanmar Football Federation and Referee Committee.

It will be opened to ensure the emergence of qualified young futsal referees and internationally recognized referees.

Those interested in attending the course must be between 18 and 30 year-olds and have at least a high school-level degree.

The trainee must be fit and able to run and move, so he must not wear glasses.

He must be able to attend without fail until the end of the training period.

Those who wish to attend the course must register with the Referee Committee of the Myanmar Football Federation or Referee Service Department by 30 July.

U Kyaw Soe (Futsal Tech-

nical Instructor), U Soe Min (Futsal Technical Instructor), U Myint Naing (Futsal Referee Assessor) and U Hla Myint Lay (Fitness Instructor) will conduct the courses.

MFF stated that those interested in attending the training can contact the Myanmar Football Federation's Referee Operations Department (Phone -09420270324) during office hours for more information. — KZL

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council: Twelve 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 prioritize 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, stability, rule of law, and the safe and smooth functioning of transport networks across the Union.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to 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 assure support for the sustainability of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, in order to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities.
- (d) To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.

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 people and preserve and safeguard their faiths, beliefs, culture, and characteristics of patriotic nationalism.
- (c) To strengthen basic health care in order to achieve the emergence of a health system that enhances the longevity and health of the entire nation.
- (d) To comprehensively promote the education sector to make it capable of producing the human resources necessary for building a modern, developed, and progressive democratic nation.

Ukraine's Svitolina stuns Swiatek to reach Wimbledon semi-finals

UKRAINE'S Elina Svitolina stunned to reach the Wimbledon semi-finals months after returning from ma-

The world number 76 came (5/7), 6-2 despite being a break down in first two sets against the reigning US and French Open champion.

Svitolina, also a semi-finalist in 2019, will take on Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic for a place in Saturday's championship match.

Svitolina has reached the last four by seeing off a quartet of Grand Slam title winners in Venus Williams, Sofia Kenin, Victoria Azarenka, in a stormy last-16 clash, and now Swiatek.

She said she intended to "enjoy the moment and have a beer".

"In my head, I don't know what's happening. It's an unbelievable moment.

"If you had told me before the tournament I would get to the semi-finals, I'd say you were crazy."

Svitolina, playing on a wild card, hailed Swiatek for her unwavering support of Ukraine following the Russian invasion of the country.

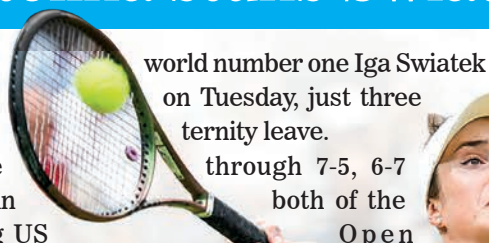
The Polish star organized a benefit exhibition match last year to raise funds for humanitarian causes in Ukraine.

A heavily pregnant Svitolina acted as chair umpire.

"Iga is a great champion and an unbelievable person," said Svitolina.

"She was one of the first to help Ukraine people. It's not easy to play against someone with whom you share great memories."

Swiatek broke in the first game of the match but the resolute Svitolina hit back to level in the fourth game.



world number one Iga Swiatek on Tuesday, just three months after returning from maternity leave.

through 7-5, 6-7 both of the Open

Again the Pole nipped ahead with another break and held for 4-2.

However, Swiatek could not serve it out and a double fault allowed Svitolina to level at 5-5.

At 5-6 down, Swiatek sat courtside in the changeover, scribbling into a notepad but whatever self-help tips she penned, they did not work.

She was broken for the third time as Svitolina claimed the set when Swiatek pushed a backhand volley wide.

The Centre Court action was paused as the roof closed on the rain, a welcome respite for the top seed, who had shipped four consecutive games.

That became five when Svitolina served a love game in the second set opener.

Swiatek grabbed the first break of the set in the game before the 28-year-old Svitolina cancelled it out for 3-3.

In a rollercoaster conclusion, the top seed survived trailing 1/4 in the tiebreaker to level the quarter-final and set-up the decider.

Svitolina gathered herself from letting that set slip away to race to a double break and a 5-1 lead in the decider.

Victory was hers when Swiatek netted a return, the last of the Pole's 41 unforced errors. — AFP

Ukraine's Elina Svitolina returns the ball to Poland's Iga Swiatek during their women's singles quarter-finals tennis match on the ninth day of the 2023 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, on 11 July 2023. PHOTO: AFP