

ADMM-Plus counter-terrorism tabletop exercise bolsters regional security cooperation

Senior military officers from 12 nations gather in Nay Pyi Taw to enhance anti-terrorism measures and foster mutual understanding



The opening event of the Myanmar-Russia co-chaired ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Counter-Terrorism tabletop exercise in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE opening ceremony of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Counter-Terrorism (EWG on CT) tabletop exercise was held at Park Royal Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Co-chaired by Myanmar and the Russian Federation, the event witnessed the active participation of senior military officers from 12 ADMM-Plus countries, aiming to build mutual relations, trust, and friend-

ship among militaries in the ASEAN and partner nations while enhancing anti-terrorism measures within the region.

General Maung Maung Aye, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy, and Air) of Myanmar, opened the ceremony using a touch screen and delivered his opening remarks. Following the ceremony, a group photo was taken with the delegates from ASEAN and partner countries participat-

ing in the tabletop exercise.

Throughout the day, the exercise was diligently executed by member countries, led by co-chairs Myanmar and the Russian Federation, who are jointly guiding the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Counter-Terrorism for the term 2021-2023.

In the evening, General Maung Maung Aye met Lt-Gen Mikhail Nosulev, Commander of the Eastern Military District of

Russia, who is also attending the exercise. The two military leaders engaged in a friendly discussion, exploring opportunities to enhance cooperation and friendship between their respective armed forces. The meeting was attended by officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and the military of the Russian Federation, including Military Attaché Colonel Sergey S Kurchenko. — MNA/TH

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NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order No 55/2023

1st Waning of Second Waso 1385ME
2 August 2023

Retirement from duty assignment

THE State Administration Council has allowed the following SAC members to retire from the duty assignment under Section 419 of the Constitution.

- (1) U Maung Ko
- (2) Dr Aung Kyaw Min

By order,

*Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order No 56/2023

1st Waning of Second Waso 1385ME
2 August 2023

Transfer and Assignment

THE State Administration Council has transferred and assigned SAC member Dr Kyaw Tun as a member of the Central Advisory Body of the State Administration Council under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,

*Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order No 58/2023

1st Waning of Second Waso 1385ME
2 August 2023

Retirement from duty assignment

THE State Administration Council has allowed Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo to retire from the duty assignment on health grounds under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,

*Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order No 60/2023

1st Waning of Second Waso 1385ME
2 August 2023

Retirement from duty assignment

THE State Administration Council has allowed the following persons to retire from the duty assignment under Section 419 of the Constitution.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) U Myo Myint Oo (2) Dr Pwint San | <p>Union Minister
Ministry of Energy</p> <p>Union Minister
Ministry of Labour</p> |
|--|---|

By order,

*Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order No 57/2023

1st Waning of Second Waso 1385ME
2 August 2023

Reformation of State Administration Council

THE State Administration Council is reorganized as follows under Section 419 of the Constitution.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Senior General Min Aung Hlaing (2) Vice-Senior General Soe Win (3) Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe (4) Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo (5) General Mya Tun Oo (6) Admiral Tin Aung San (7) Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun (8) Lt-Gen Soe Htut (9) Lt-Gen Yar Pyae (10) U Wunna Maung Lwin (11) Daw Dwe Bu (12) Porel Aung Thein (13) Mahn Nyein Maung (14) Dr Hmu Htan (15) Dr Ba Shwe (16) Khun San Lwin (17) U Shwe Kyein (18) U Yan Kyaw | <p>Chairman</p> <p>Vice-Chairman</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Joint Secretary</p> <p>Member</p> <p>Member</p> <p>Member</p> <p>Member</p> <p>Member</p> <p>Member</p> <p>Member</p> <p>Member</p> <p>Member</p> <p>Member</p> <p>Member</p> <p>Member</p> <p>Member</p> |
|---|--|

*Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order No 59/2023

1st Waning of Second Waso 1385ME
2 August 2023

Retirement from duty assignment

THE State Administration Council has allowed the following persons to retire from the duty assignment on health grounds under Section 419 of the Constitution.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) U Ko Ko (2) U Thaung Han (3) U Tin Oo (4) Dr Htay Aung (5) U Hla Myint | <p>Union Minister
Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture</p> <p>Union Minister
Ministry of Electric Power</p> <p>Union Auditor-General</p> <p>Chairman
Anti-Corruption Commission</p> <p>Chairman
Myanmar National Human Rights Commission</p> |
|--|---|

By order,

*Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary*

Economic driving force key mechanism

- A country has to function by the political, economic and defence driving forces. Among them, the economic driving force is the most essential.
- Only when the economic driving force improves will it contribute to political and defence driving forces. And, it will lead to the prosperity of the State and food security.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with SAC members, Union ministers, region and state chief ministers, chairpersons of self-administered zone and division administration bodies on 24 March 2023)

Myanmar delegation returns from productive study tour on China's development initiatives

AT the invitation of the Department of International Affairs, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China, a Myanmar delegation led by U Myint Thein, a member of the Union Election Commission, recently concluded a study tour to the People's Republic of China. The delegation arrived back at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

During the study tour, the

Myanmar delegation closely observed and engaged in discussions on various aspects of China's development projects. These included initiatives focused on improving transport for the development of the western province, enhancing basic agricultural activities in rural areas, setting goals for poverty elimination, preserving ethnic solidarity and cultural heritage, promoting tourism, and facilitating modern devel-

opment in the eastern province of the People's Republic of China. These transformative initiatives were executed under the guidance of the Communist Party of China.

The study tour offered valuable insights and potential areas of collaboration, paving the way for further interactions between Myanmar and China in the realm of developmental strategies and policies. — MNA/TS



Election commissioner U Myint Thein (C) is pictured on his arrival back at Yangon International Airport yesterday.



Maravijaya Buddha Image welcomes worshipers for 9-day celebration on 8-16 Aug

THE Maravijaya Buddha Statue will be open from 8 to 16 August for the Sangha and the public to be able to pay homage to it. During that period, although pilgrims – Buddhist monks as well as the public – do not have to pay entrance fees, they will have to undergo necessary security check-ups.

The ceremonies to consecrate the Maravijaya, the world's tallest sitting Buddha Statue, to hoist golden umbrellas atop small pagodas on the stone plaque chambers and to share merits gained were successfully held in the precinct of the Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw on 1 August. — MNA/KZW

Myanmar Gazette

Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of Dr Khin Thida Aye as Director-General of the ASEAN Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after the one-year probationary period.

11 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 2 August, total figure registers 641,074

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 641,074 after 11 new cases were reported on 2 August 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of 11,036,844 laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 641,074. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 619,865 including 25 new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered 19,494 on 2-8-2023 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

NATIONAL

26th ASEAN Senior Level Committee-SLC on Financial Integration Meeting held virtually



The 26th ASEAN Senior Level Committee-SLC on Financial Integration Meeting in progress online yesterday.

THE 26th ASEAN Senior Level Committee- SLC on Financial Integration meeting was held yesterday morning using a hybrid format and Dr Lin Aung, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar attended the meeting.

In the meeting, the Glasgow

Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ) and the Asia Pacific Network Office shared information on the state of global and regional financial developments while the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) presented the most recent macroeconomic developments in the

region.

In the afternoon, the representative from the ASEAN secretariat conferred on prioritized subjects and their growth for the financial integration, and the development of implementation works under processes of the ASEAN Economic Com-

munity-AEC. The co-chairs of the meeting discussed the Risk Monitoring Report drafted based on the Risk Monitoring Template (RMT) submitted by ASEAN Finance Working Groups.

At noon, the final progress of the ASEAN Banking Integration Framework- ABIF, the Capital Account Liberalization-CAL, the Capital Market Development-CMD, the Financial Inclusion-FINC, the Financial Services Liberalization-FSL, the Payment and Settlement System-PSS and the Steering Committee on Capacity Building – SCCB, was explained by respective working committees, and deputy governors gave their guidance.

The Senior-Level Commit-

tee Working Group co-chairs then discussed recent developments in sustainable finance and the next steps to be taken while the Central Bank of Indonesia discussed the ASEAN Cybersecurity Resilience and Information Sharing Platform-CRISP and the Central Bank of the Philippines about the ASEAN Swap Arrangement.

The co-chairs of the Capital Account Liberalization-CAL presented the updates of the ASEAN Local Currency Transactions-LCT Task Force and ASEAN LCT Framework. They also reviewed the tasks of ASEAN working committees from Indonesia before the Monetary Authority of Singapore, a co-chair of the committee made conclusion remarks. — MNA/TH

Prisoners under trial released from Kyaukpyu prison

THE State Administration Council granted pardon for 72 prisoners under trial from the Kyaukpyu prison in commemoration of the full moon of the Second Waso and on humanitarian grounds yesterday.

Officials from the Kyaukpyu District Administration Body, Kyaukpyu District Police Force and Kyaukpyu prison de-

livered speeches to releasees.

The order was announced under Article 419 of the Constitution to close pending criminal cases of 72 members of ethnic armed organizations and related individuals who are still facing trials in various courts in the country and to release the defendants. — Tin Htun Oo, Phyo Wai Lin (IPRD)/KZW



Family members and relatives embrace the released individuals in Kyaukpyu.

Exciting EV car exhibition to be held in People's Square

ACCORDING to the Yangon Region Government Office, the 2023 Rainy Season Expo, Industrial Product Exhibition and Electric Vehicle (EV) Exhibition will be held at People's Square in Dagon Township, Yangon Region.

Not only products produced in Yangon Region but also products from other regions and states are planned to be displayed and sold in the exhibition from 4 to 6 August.

People can buy products from 29 industrial zones in Yangon Region, MSME products, and products produced by manufacturing cooperatives.

During the exhibition, value-for-money restaurants will be opened and sold for the vendors and visitors, and



The photo shows some imported battery electric vehicles (BEVs).

entertainment programmes will also be included.

Products from the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Fed-

eration, Retailers Association, Myanmar Oil Traders and Oil Industry Association and other associations and various industrial zones will be sold at the expo. — ASH/KZL

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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NATIONAL

MoL to issue licences to agencies handling labour affairs in foreign countries



Myanmar workers are seen travelling to Thailand through the border route thanks to the bilateral MOU. PHOTO: ASH

THE Ministry of Labour is in the process of issuing foreign employment brokerage agency

licences only to the agencies that can solve labour issues that arise in foreign countries, ac-

ording to the overseas employment supervision committee. If labour issues arise in for-

foreign countries, the responsible agencies need to provide full protection. To prevent nominal agencies and agencies from operating illegally, only agencies that are truly accountable and able to operate are being verified to be licensed.

In addition to this, the two sides of Thailand-Myanmar have negotiated for Myanmar workers who have completed four years of the MoU in Thailand to return to work through the MoU U-turn system.

Preparation of despatch procedures is underway with the MoU U-turn system. Thailand is the country where most Myanmar workers go to work. By sending these workers back through an official MoU U-turn system, the family remittances of these workers will be able to be sent back to the moth-

er country through an official route, which will increase the country's foreign income.

Besides, workers who have completed the MoU four-year passport renewal at the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand will be issued an OWIC card if they re-enter Myanmar and leave through the MoU U-Turn system.

Workers holding a PJ passport and renewing their passports will have to verify their information and issue an OWIC card at the Labour Skill Training Institute in Dagon Myothit (North) Township upon departure after re-entering Myanmar.

Similarly, plans are being made for Myanmar workers to remit 25 per cent of the basic salary to the family through the official banking system. —ASH/KZL

CRIME NEWS

Illegal industrial materials, rice and broken rice bags, car parts and vehicles confiscated

THE on-duty teams under the supervision of the Customs Department confiscated 304,698 kilogrammes of pre-painted galvanized iron sheets in coil from 11 containers at the Thilawa Special Economic Zone on 12 July, K86,526,30034 worth of 34 kinds of goods including 80 sport lights/down lights without Import Licence and 10,600 electric LED bulbs and three kinds of goods including 36,000 electrical taps that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from three containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port on 31 July, 10 kinds of goods (worth K3,862,314) including three pneumatic springs and an air flaps upper without Import Licence from luggage at the Yangon International Airport

(Import Desk) on 31 July. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Additionally, The combined on-duty teams conducted inspections on 30 July and impounded a Foton Auman tractor head and a trailer (approximate value of K61 million), headed to Mandalay from Muse, carrying three kinds of goods (worth K19,605,000) including 4,350 kilogrammes of Spoked & Nipple bicycle spare parts that exceeded the quantity mentioned in the ID at the 26/4 Milepost on Mandalay- Muse road and a Yutong bus (estimated value of K40 million), headed to NayPyiTaw from Muse, carrying nine kinds of goods (worth K18,500,105) including 60 kilogrammes of Chinese pear and 1340 USB

chargers at the 27/1 Milepost on Mandalay- Muse road. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On the same day, a combined team made inspections at the Tollgate checkpoint near the bypass in Lashio township and captured a Nissan diesel, a Mitsubishi Fuso and an Isuzu Giga (estimated value of K84 million), headed to Muse from Mandalay, carrying 350 bags of rice and 690 bags of broken rice (worth K48.6 million) without official documents. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Therefore, 23 arrests (estimated value of K841,993,069) were made on 12, 30 and 31 July, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Drugs seized in Chanmyathazi, Mahaaungmyay, Nawnghkio Tsps



Offenders are seen with seized drugs, a saloon and a motorbike.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined a suspect by the name of Win Moe (aka) Nyan Moe Myint in Chanmyathazi township at 8 pm on 31 July and captured 0.02 kilogramme of ketamine and 0.025 kilogramme of Happy Water.

After interrogating Win Moe (aka) Nyan Moe Myint, the police seized 150 ecstasy tablets, 2.02 kilogrammes of Ketamine and 1.45 kilogrammes of Happy Water from a hotel room in Mahaaungmyay township where Thiha Tin Soe (aka) Pauk Keng Pe was staying and 0.07 kilogramme of Happy Wa-

ter from a house in Mahaaungmyay township which was rented by Win Moe (aka) Nyan Moe Myint at 11 am on 1 August.

In addition, the police searched a Toyota Corolla car driven by Hla Myo Aung near a tollgate on Lashio-Mandalay Road in Nawnghkio township at 9:50 pm on 1 August and captured 50,000 stimulant tablets. At 10:30 am, the police stopped and inspected a motorbike driven by Hlaing Moe at 10:30 am and captured 20,000 stimulant tablets. Offenders are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS

CURRENT AFFAIRS

SAC forms committee to monitor commodity prices



Dry groceries are organized for sale in the market.

THE State Administration Council formed the Union Steering Committee to stabilize commodity prices on 27 July for commodity price stability.

The committee is led by Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo of the Ministry of Commerce as chair and 19 members are assigned to it, as per the SAC's notification (114/2023).

The tasks and responsibilities of the committee are to give priority to stabilize dry groceries including staple food such as rice and edible oil, maintain a balance between domestic production and consumption, form organizations for coordination matters to stabilize the commodity prices and work together with the stakeholders concerned to deal with high freight rates and unnecessary

measures. Additionally, coordination and support regarding smooth trade flows and improving staple food production and monitoring market abuse and manipulation cases that disrupt the price stability of the staple food are also included in those tasks and responsibilities. Moreover, objectives contain necessary support to bolster production in agriculture and livestock sectors, to develop businesses on a manageable scale, to be persuasive in businesses and come up with ideas to enhance gross domestic production by the region and state governments.

The MoALI deputy minister takes the role of vice-chair of the committee and officials from the respective ministries are also on the committee. — TWA/EM

Thukha Dagon Housing to issue rental permits for 1,168 completed apartments in Aug

AS per the Urban and Housing Development Department, Thukha Dagon Housing, situated near the junction of No 2 Highway and No 7 Ring Road in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, will begin issuing rental permits in August.

During the period from 1 July to 31 July, a total of 16,000 application forms for rental permits were sold at the respective township administrator offices. These forms were made available to low-income individuals

facing housing difficulties, retired employees, and civil servants. This marks the first issuance of rental permits for the 1,168 completed apartments, scheduled for August.

As of 28 July, application forms were sold to 8,000 people, 2,400 retired civil servants, and 6,500 civil servants still in service. The monthly rental rates set by the housing committee are K67,000 for the first floor, K60,000 for the second floor, K55,000 for the third floor, and

K46,000 for the fourth floor, with a lease term of five years.

The housing project encompasses 171 acres of land, with 194 buildings and 3,104 apartments currently under construction for the first phase. Notably, the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation (MCEF) and the Myanmar Licensed Contractors Association (MLCA) have each been allocated 97 buildings for the construction endeavour. — TWA/MKKS



The apartments of Thukha Dagon Housing near the junction of No 2 Highway and No 7 Outer Ring Road in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

Weekly update prices of Bayintnaung Commodity Market

IN the Yangon market, the prices of black grams and pigeon peas, which had fallen during the last week (from 26 to 31 July), have now risen again. Additionally, there have been notable changes in the wholesale reference prices of onions, sugar, and palm oil, while the market price of palm oil has dropped.

Onions

On 31 July, the Yangon market received various regional onions weighing 150,000 visses. The wholesale price per viss of Seikphyu and Monywa onions ranged from K1,800 to K2,250, depending on their size and quality. Meanwhile, at the Pakokku depot, 45,000 visses of onions were supplied, with the highest price reaching K2,100 per viss. Another 12,000 visses of onions entered the Seikphyu commodity depot on the same day, priced at only

K1,950 per viss.

Garlic

On the same date, in the Yangon market, Shan garlic was priced at K7,100 per viss for S2, K7,600 for S3, K8,000 for S4, and K8,400 for S5. Kyukok garlic fetched K7,050 per viss.

Potato

Interestingly, the Yangon potato market only published the price of Chinese potatoes from 11 to 31 July and did not include prices for potatoes from the Aungban area of Shan State.

Chilli Pepper

In the Yangon chilli pepper market on 31 July, the prices of

Eainme and Panye long chilli peppers were approximately K10,000-K12,000 per viss, while Sinphyukyun and delta region bell peppers were valued at K15,000-K16,000 per viss.

Rice

On 31 July, retail demand surged in the Yangon rice market. The price per bag of rice grown under multiple cropping was K64,000, the 90-day rice variety was K74,000, and the Pawkywe rice variety was K85,000. Pawsan rice varieties ranged from K90,000 to K117,000 per bag, depending on the rice-producing regions.

Palm Oil

Although the wholesale reference price of palm oil from 31 July to 6 August 2023 remained fixed at K4,295 per viss, the market wholesale price on 31 July was K8,100 per viss, as reported

by a trader from the Nyaungpinyay market in Lanmadaw. In the Meiktila oil market, the wholesale price of palm oil was K8,500 per viss on 24 July and K8,400 on 31 July. On 25 July, the wholesale price of palm oil ranged from K9,000 to K9,200 per viss, while on 29 July in the Mandalay market, it was K8,950 per viss.

Beans and Pulses

On 31 July 2023, the price of black gram was K2,327,500 per tonne for RC and K2,537,000 per tonne for SQ/RC. Meanwhile, a tonne of pigeon peas was valued at K3,115,000. The price per tonne of pigeon pea surged to K3.1 million on 31 July after having dropped to K3 million before. Additionally, the price of green gram (Kayan Shwewah variety) fetched K3,665 per viss, while that of gram was K5,800-K6,000 per viss. — TWA/CT



The photo shows a dry groceries outlet.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Local sugar price surges to K3,400 per viss

THE price of sugar jumped to K3,400 per viss in the domestic market amid the low stocks and inflation panic sparked by the issuance of the new K20,000 notes by the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM)

The CBM notified on 23 July that the new K20,000 notes will be issued from 31 July. The price of sugar hit K3,240-3,280 and then rocketed to K3,380-3,400 per viss on 2 August, showing an increase of over K100 within two weeks.

Following the soaring sugar price, intending to help sugarcane growers, some companies have reportedly planned to contribute K200,000 per acre in advance for those new sugarcane growers for the 2023-2024 season.

In the 2023-2024 season, new advanced machines will be added. Moreover, sugarcane expansion is also expected on account of soaring sugar prices, as per



The production of sugar is seen at the sugar mill.

the Myanmar Sugar and Cane Related Association.

Myanmar's annual sugar production is estimated at 450,000 tonnes. Myanmar earlier

sent sugar to China and Viet Nam beyond self-sufficiency. At present, it is delivered to Viet Nam only, said U Win Htay, vice-chair of the association.

Sugar export to China via border was conducted under the state-level Memorandum of Understanding. However, it came to an abrupt stop due to

the COVID-19 policy in China. Therefore, the sugar industry called for a government-to-government agreement to legally export sugar to China under quota.

At present, Myanmar's sugar is shipped to Viet Nam and it can be granted tax exemption by presenting the Certificate of Origin. Only three registered Myanmar companies are entitled to sugar exports to Viet Nam so far.

Sugarcane is commonly found in the upper Sagaing Region, followed by the northern Shan State. It is also found in the western and eastern Bago Region, Yangon Region and Mandalay Region. The sugarcane is grown in December-January. It can be harvested from November to February of the following years. The sugarcane growing rotation cycle lasts four years in Myanmar. — NN/EM

CBM crackdowns ZX Digital Store for scams

THE ZX Digital Store social media page is found to be attempting phishing to trick the people and the Central Bank of Myanmar will take action against that scammer in line with the existing laws.

The CBM has granted licences for banking, non-bank financial institution registration, licences for mobile wallet services, foreign exchange licences, remittance licences, digital banking services for bank institutions, i-banking, mobile banking, mobile pay and mobile financial services, in accord with the law.

Under Section 159 of the Financial Institutions Law, any entity is not allowed to provide service without registration for a non-bank financial institution (NBF) issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar. Under Section 38 of the Foreign Management Law, no one shall provide remittance services without holding a money changer licence. ZX Digital Store is found to violate those rules without holding any valid licence. It is

trying to convince the people through an illegitimate money transfer scam with incentives, the CBM warned on 29 July.

The CBM will take legal action against the ZX Digital Store and those involved in scams under Section 171 of the Financial Institution Law and Section 42 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law.

Furthermore, CBM will carry out investigations and prosecutions against those involved in phishing scams and illegal financial services under the Financial Institution Law, Anti-Money Laundering Law, Foreign Exchange Management Law and existing laws.

On 23 June, under the guidance of the Monitoring and Steering Committee on Gold and Currency Market, the CBM clamped down on over 50 individuals and three companies that are found to be engaged in hundi business without the relevant licence and foreign exchange business without money changer licence under the existing laws. — NN/EM

Gold and jewellery export, import commence

EXPORTATION and importation of gold and jewellery have started, as per the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce.

The ministry has reformed the evaluation and inspection team of the One Stop Service Centre (OSSC) to apprise the gold and jewellery designated for exports depending on the international prices, supply and demand and notified the relevant organizations and departments concerned of the gold export/import matters.

The Trade Department notified the relevant institutions on 28 July to send the representatives to carry out the tasks at the OSSC located at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, starting from 31 July.

International remittance for Myanmar's value-added gold exports can be made using either Letter of Credit

(LC) or the Telegraphic Transfer (TT) system, according to the news bulletin, 12/2023 dated 3 July released by the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce.

Exporters of value-added gold products, jewellery, gold arts and accessories must comply with the Export/Import Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

The procedures for SOP activities include registration for exporters/importers, applying for value appraisal, seeking export/import licence, tax payment and customs clearance procedures.

Those criteria mentioned in the news bulletin are effective from 3 July. The news bulletin 10/2020 was cancelled with this one incorporated.

Myanmar is placed on the Grey List by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the inter-governmental body that sets anti-money laundering standards. Therefore, the

country needs to monitor the gold and jewellery exports and imports to ensure there is no illegal income. As per the news bulletin 10/2020 released by the Ministry of Commerce on 12 August 2020, the payment method was changed to LC only.

With the use of LC, payment can take about two months, cost banking service charges by two sides, increase the charges for security matters in transportation and suspend trading amid volatile prices in the spot gold market.

From 30 December 2021, the TT system has been allowed for gold exports worth below US\$50,000 and the LC system needs to be used for exports worth above \$50,000.

Gold and other jewellery are primarily purchased by Japan and the Republic of Korea, and other tourists also buy them, the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association stated. — NN/EM

OPINION

Rehabilitation measures in the aftermath of flooding

THIS year's monsoon season brought heavy rains to various regions and states of lower Myanmar, triggering strong storms, flooding, inundation, landslides, and tidal waves. Among these calamities, flooding stands out as one of the most destructive disasters worldwide, alongside storms and fires.

The impact of climate change has become increasingly evident, with severe heat waves, droughts, storms, and natural disasters wreaking havoc globally. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) of the United Nations early-warning system has helped

minimize casualties in disasters; however, the frequency and severity of climate-related disasters have been on the rise over the past five decades, leading to significant economic losses, as reported by the WMO in May of this year.

Between 1970 and 2021, a staggering 11,778 natural disasters were recorded worldwide, with Myanmar being particularly vulnerable due to its geographical conditions. Flooding, overflow of rivers and creeks, and inundation typically occur in Myanmar from June to October, with heavy rains being the main trigger for flooding in various parts of the country. Such events often lead to devastating landslides, causing loss of life and damage to property, making post-flood rehabilitation measures crucial.

Learning from the severe storm Mocha that struck the western part of the nation, especially Rakhine State, in May, local authorities are now placing more focus on disaster preparedness. Failing to take comprehensive preparation measures can result in devastating losses and waste for communities in affected regions.

Effective preparedness against natural disasters includes disaster risk reduction measures, timely search and rescue operations, emergency response and relief measures, and rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in disaster-affected areas. While these disasters are not punishments from the universe, it is crucial for global communities to work together to mitigate their bitter impacts and minimize losses. The success of disaster risk mitigation lies in capable natural disaster management.

After flooding occurs, it is essential for authorities to implement systematic preparations, emergency responses, and rehabilitation efforts to build a safe and resilient society that can withstand future natural disasters. By learning from past experiences and taking proactive measures, communities can reduce the devastating consequences of flooding and other climate-related disasters.

Myanmar, with its vulnerable geographical conditions, faces the brunt of these disasters, especially flooding during the monsoon season. Proper rehabilitation measures are essential to reduce the loss of life and property. By prioritizing disaster preparedness, emergency response, and post-disaster rehabilitation, societies can build resilience and protect themselves from the impacts of natural disasters. Cooperation and proactive efforts are key to fostering a safe and secure world in the face of climate challenges.

DR Fritz Noetling, a German geologist and palaeontologist, was born in Mannheim, Germany on 17 July 1857. He was trained as a geologist at the University of Bonn and the University of Freiberg in Germany. After graduation, he worked as a geologist in Germany for some years. Then he joined the Geological Survey of India in 1903 and worked for six and half years. Fritz Noetling married a Tasmanian woman in 1899 in India and they came to live in Tasmania in 1906. On moving to Tasmania in 1906 he was employed mainly as a mining engineer.

When they came to Tasmania quickly became Australian citizens and naturalized British subjects. He was in the world society and he was in Tasmanian Club, Tasmanian Naturalist Club. He was a well-respected and well-known man around Harvard. He was a mining engineer with involving a lot of mining interest around the state. He was also a trustee in Museum. He was elected a member of the Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club and the Royal Society of Tasmania, where he served as office bearer between 1908 and 1914. Noetling resumed his collecting activities, assembling over 1,000 items: many of these are now in the Leipzig Ethnological Museum.

In August 1914, he attended his last Museum Trustee Meeting the night before War was declared. And then on he disappeared in the record until June 1915. When one of the members of a very well-known Tasmanian Club objected to him coming to

making disloyal statements and possibly spies and the next day he was sent up to New South Whale the host of the German camp at Liverpool. After the war, Fritz repatriated back in Germany and stayed in Tasmania.

By the end of 1911, he had published over 20 papers in the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania, mainly on Aboriginal stone tool technology. His mining reports and papers on Tasmanian Aborigines attracted some criticism.

Collecting relating to Dr Fritz Noetling, a German palaeontologist and Acting German Consul in Tasmania, who was interned during 1915-1919. The collection consists of correspondence, diary entries, and news cuttings collated from the point of view of the military importance of the news during the war period. Noetling's correspondence, diary entries, and notes regarding the news cuttings, taken mostly from Tasmania's "The Mercury", are written in German.

Noetling was active in a wide variety of organisations in Tasmania, including the Royal Society of Tasmania where he

In February 1914, Noetling was appointed Acting German Consul in Tasmania, but the outbreak of WWI dramatically altered his life. Noetling was arrested on 26 November 1915 and interned the following day for transfer to New South Whale. His record notes that he was interned "for making disloyal statements and communicating information to Germany by means of correspondence. The correspondence which was interpreted by the Censor comprised voluminous letters written in German, many newspaper cuttings with comments thereon, and tables of figures regarding troops, etc., addressed to General Mackelstein of the German Army." Noetling was denaturalized in July 1919 and repatriated to Germany. He died in Baden-Baden in Germany in 1929.

Prehistory of Burma

Fritz Noetling was a geologist and mining engineer and enthusiastic collector of palaeontological and cultural materials.

During working for the Geological Survey of India in the Punjab, Baluchistan, and Burma, he

discovery of chipped flint flakes in the Pliocene of Burma" was criticized by Michael Aung-Thwin who was a specialist in the history of Burma and Professor of Asian Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Michael Aung-Thwin pointed out in his "Origin and Development of the Field of Prehistory in Burma" that "Limited interest in the field in the Western sense probably began with Dr Fritz Noetling of the Geological Survey of India. In 1894 and 1897 he published reports of an Upper Miocene or early Pliocene deposit in which were found what are now considered the first stone implements to be recorded from Burma. Subsequently, during the early 1900s, Noetling's finds and conclusions triggered some interest in the subject among individuals such as R D Oldham (1895), R J C Swinhoe (1903), and E H Pascoe (1912)."

Fauna of the Miocene Beds of Burma.

Fritz Noetling described the fauna of the Miocene beds of Burma in Palaeontologia Indica, New Series, Volume I. Part 3 and Bibliographical Notices mentioned in 1901 as follows:-

The author explains that the fossils here described, besides including those collected by himself from the Irrawadi series and other beds, comprise some collected by the late Mr Grimes and others by Messrs. Theobald and Fedden in Lower Burma some thirty years ago. He found that the want of any reliable literature on Burmese palaeontology was not relieved by any of the published works on Indian fossils. The corals and echinoids are too rare in Burma for Duncan and Sladen's monographs on those of Western India to be of service, and Sowerby's descriptions of Cutch fossils are not sufficiently distinct.

In the memoir on the fossils of the Nummulitic group of Sind by d' Archiae and Hamie, he found



Noetling, Friedrich Wilhelm (Fritz) (1857-1929)
Source: Wikimedia Commons

them to be "worse than useless," the fossils of different formations being confused. The type of fossils requires to be revised and carefully compared with others of authenticated horizons.

Martin's 'Tertiarschichten auf Java,' however, has been of great use to him; and following Stoliezka's suggestion that the fauna of the Burmese Tertiary System should be compared with the living fauna of the Indian Ocean, F Noetling has been able, thanks to Major Alcock, to study the great collection in the Indian Museum with highly satisfactory results.

Thus, a new line of research has been opened out in the study of the Indian Tertiary System, affording some highly interest-

ing "views regarding not only the origin of the recent fauna of the Indian Ocean but also of the relation the Miocene of India-Burma had with the older Tertiary System of Europe and the recent fauna of the Western Pacific. In fact, I think that one of the most important of my results", says Mr Noetling, "is the proof of a migration of species from Europe in an eastern direction, which commenced with Eocene and probably lasted through the Miocene—a migration which still continued in an eastern direction during the Miocene period in India-Burma, though all direct communication between the Miocene Ocean of Europe and India was disconnected during the Miocene period."

In subdividing the Tertiary

System of Burma, the author finds that the Upper or Irrawaddy (Pliocene) Series contains the remains of land and freshwater (fluvatile) life, and is based on a conglomerate containing numerous fossil bones, such as those of Hippotherium and Acerotherium.

(It was on an exposed ledge of this conglomerate that Mr Noetling discovered, in association with a fossil tooth of Hippotherium antelopinum, the stone implements described in 'Natural Science,' vol.x.no. 62, p.234, 1897.)

The Lower or Arakan (Miocene) Series in its subdivisions comprehends:-

- (1) The Upper or Pegu division (Miocene), no Nummulites;
- (2) The Middle of Bassein division, with Nummulites (Eocene);
- (3) The Lower or Chin division, without Nummulites (Eocene or Cretaceous?).

It is noted that the geology and fossils of the Pegu division have been best known and that those of the Bassein and Chin divisions have not been so closely collected and studied. The Pegu division comprises:- (1) The Yeneyoungian beds, marine, largely littoral, and partly estuarine; and (2) The Promean, of estuarine origin, with its petroliiferous strata.

The description and correlation of the formations and their zones in Lower Burma and in Upper Burma are followed by tables of vertical and zonal distribution of the fossil molluscan fauna. Two hundred and eight species, including some varieties, besides indeterminate forms, are described on pages 101-378.

The relationships of wide territorial types, namely, (1) the Gallic, Pacific, and Mediterranean groups of Palaeogene species, and (2) the Identical, Subidentical, and Evolutionary Neogene species, are defined, and their proportions are stated.

The proofs are given of an Eastern migration of European

The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and their Contributions to the Geology of Myanmar

EPISODE: 17

By THAN HTUN (GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR)

species, assumed by the late H. M. Jenkins in 1864 to have proceeded in Miocene times, by F Noetling (in the work before us) having been in the Eocene period. This extensive subject is carefully and philosophically treated on pages 39-100, and elucidated with elaborate successional and statistical tables.

Noetling agrees with Martin that there is no evidence to warrant the adoption of "Oligocene" for any part of the Indian Tertiary System resting on that regarded as Eocene, whether in Baluchistan, Western India, Burma, Java, Sumatra, or Borneo.

Articles and books

Noetling contributed a lot of articles and books to Myanmar geology, palaeontology, and archaeology during his tenure in the Geological Survey of India. Some of them are mentioned hereunder:

On the occurrence of chipped flints in the Upper Miocene of Burma (GSD, 1894).

The Development and subdivision of the Tertiary system in Burma (GSD, 1895).

On the discovery of chipped flint flakes in the Pliocene of Burma (Natural Science), 1897.

Note on the reported Namséka Ruby-mine in the Mainglon State (GSI, Vol. XXIV, 1891).

Note on the Tourmaline (Schorl) Mines in the Mainglon State (GSI, Vol. XXIV, 1891).

Report on the Coal-fields in the Northern Shan States (GSI, Vol. XXIV, Part 2), 1891.

Note on a Salt spring near Bawgyo, Thipaw State (GSI, Vol. XXIV, Part 2), 1891.

The Miocene of Burma (book)

The occurrence of petroleum in Burma, and its technical exploitation (1897)

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 2. Tasmania History Research Association.
 3. Aung-Thwin, M, 2001: Burmese History, Asian Perspectives 40 (1).
 4. Noetling, F, 1901: Fauna of the Miocene Beds of Burma, Palaeontologia Indica, New Series. Vol. I. Part 3.
 5. Australian War Memorial.
 6. From Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository.

SCI/TECH WORLD

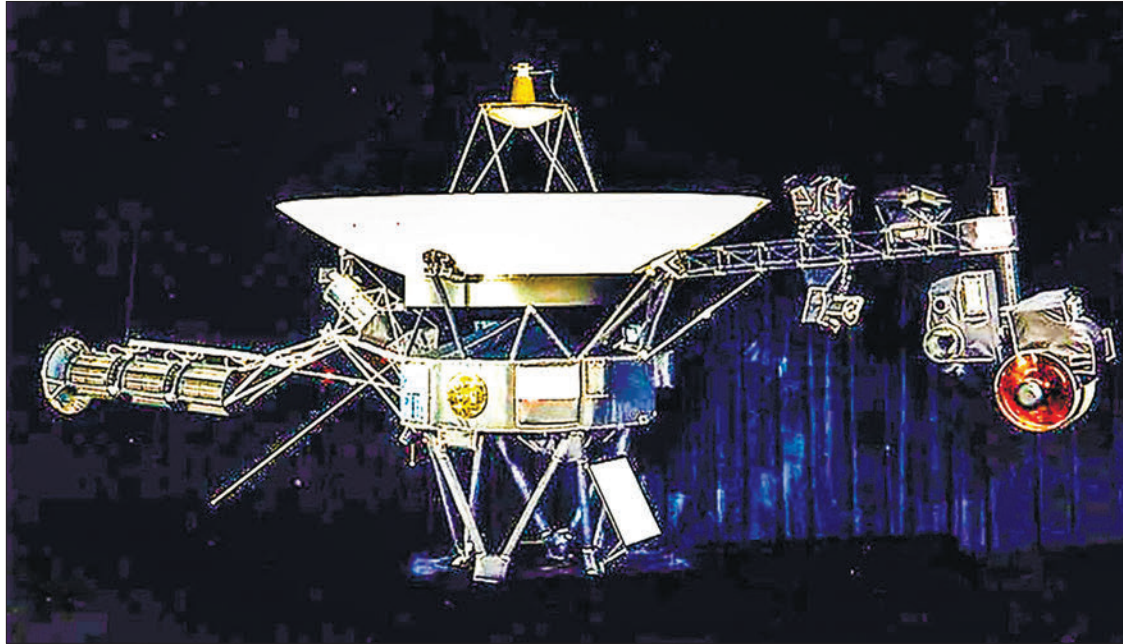
NASA hears from Voyager 2 after brief blackout

NASA'S distant Voyager 2 probe has signaled it is in "good health" after mission control mistakenly cut contact for several days, the US space agency said in its latest update.

Launched in 1977 as a beacon from humanity to the wider Universe, it is currently more than 12.3 billion miles (19.9 billion kilometres) from our planet, exploring interstellar space along with its twin, Voyager 1.

A series of planned commands sent to Voyager 2 on 21 July "inadvertently caused the antenna to point two degrees away from Earth," NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) said in a recent update.

This left it unable to transmit data or receive commands to its mission control – a situation that was not expected to be resolved



This NASA file image obtained 9 August 2002 shows one of the Voyager spacecraft. **PHOTO: NASA/AFP/FILE**

until it conducted an automated re-orientation maneuver on 15

October.

But late Monday, NASA's Sun

& Space account posted on social media that contact had been

re-established.

"The Deep Space Network has picked up a carrier signal from @NASAVoyager 2, letting us know that the spacecraft is in good health," the agency said.

The Deep Space Network is NASA's international array of giant radio antennas.

While JPL built and operates Voyager spacecraft, the missions are part of the NASA Heliophysics System Observatory.

Voyager 2 left the protective magnetic bubble provided by the Sun, called the heliosphere, in December 2018, and is currently traveling through the space between the stars.

Before leaving our solar system, it became the first and so far only spacecraft to have visited the outer planets Uranus and Neptune. — AFP

Meta starts blocking news in Canada

META on Tuesday started blocking Canadians' access to news on Facebook and Instagram in response to a new law requiring digital giants to pay publishers for such content.

Google, another critic of the Online News Act, has said it is considering a similar move, among an ongoing global debate as more governments try to make tech firms

pay for news content.

"News links and content posted by news publishers and broadcasters in Canada will no longer be viewable by people in Canada," Meta said in a statement.

News posted on foreign sites will also not be viewable by Canadian Facebook and Instagram users, and they will no longer be able to share articles

on the two platforms.

Meta noted that the changes starting Tuesday would be implemented "over the course of the next few weeks".

An AFP reporter was still able to see news on Facebook Tuesday, but some users reported already getting messages saying such content was being blocked. — AFP



Meta, the owner of Facebook and Instagram, has begun blocking news links in Canada in protest at a new law requiring digital publishers to pay for such content. **PHOTO: JOSH EDELSON / AFP**

Less power, lower emissions: improving AC technology



Air conditioning units, while helping keep people cool, are also responsible for emissions that warm the planet. **PHOTO: AFP**

WITH air conditioner demand surging, scientists are looking for ways to improve the energy efficiency of cooling systems and limit damaging emissions that accelerate global warming.

Improve efficiency

Innovation is focused on three major fronts, with much of the attention on energy consumption. Air conditioning units account for six percent of electricity used in the United States. Several breakthroughs have already cut power consumption by half since 1990, according to the US Department of Energy. — AFP

X sues hate speech tracker over Twitter reports

X is suing a nonprofit group in US federal court over reports that hate speech has flourished at the platform formerly known as Twitter. Elon Musk-owned X accused the Centre for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH) of generating "flawed" studies that have cost the tycoon's tech firm tens of millions of dollars, a copy of the lawsuit showed.

However, the legal basis outlined in the suit filed in San Francisco late Monday was an accusation that the nonprofit violated X's terms of service in the way it accessed data for its

reports. CCDH chief executive Imran Ahmed on Tuesday contended that Musk's legal move is an effort to silence critics that comes "straight out of the authoritarian playbook".

Ahmed stood by the group's research, saying it shows that hate and disinformation are "spreading like wildfire" at Musk-run X.

The eccentric billionaire's lawsuit asks a court to grant X unspecified cash damages and to order CCDH to stop the way it has been getting data for its reports. — AFP

Tuareg flock to Algerian desert oasis for ancient festival

IN a riot of colour, music and dance, thousands of Tuareg have flocked to the Sebeiba festival that marks the end of an ancient tribal feud and which once a year transforms an oasis town deep in the Algerian Sahara.

The Tuareg are a semi-nomadic people of Berber descent who practice Islam and whose traditional desert homeland stretches across parts of Algeria, Libya, Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso. The annual Sebeiba festival, held in Djanet, 1,500 kilometres (900 miles) southeast of Algiers,

dates back over 3,000 years and is held to coincide with the Shiite Muslim Ashura commemoration. During the 10-day event, male dancers, dressed as warriors and wielding swords, perform to the singing and drumbeat of women who are adorned with glittering jewellery and henna tattoos.

The men parade their weapons and “then stand in a ritual circle rattling their swords continuously as the women sing traditional songs to the rhythm of the tambourine”, says the UN cultural organization. — AFP



People attend the Sebeiba Festival, a yearly celebration of Tuareg culture, in the oasis town of Djanet in southeastern Algeria. PHOTO: AFP

Chinese zoo denies rare sun bear is human in disguise

A Chinese zoo has been forced to deny that its sun bear is actually a human in a costume, after footage of one standing on its hind legs raised online accusations of a furry imposter.

A video clip of a bear rearing up and interacting with a group of people at a zoo in eastern Hangzhou city went viral on Chinese social media.

Many users posted comments doubting that the bear was real, with some alleging that its bipedal posture and wrinkled skin suggested that it was actually a human in costume.

But the zoo dismissed the rumours, saying in a statement written from the bear’s perspective on Sunday that the animal was real and its detractors “re-

ally don’t understand me”.

“The zoo director called me after work yesterday and asked if I’d been slacking off by finding a two-legged beast to replace me,” the bear, named Angela, said in the statement.

“Some people thought the way I stand up looks too human... so I will stress again: I’m a sun bear!”

Native to Southeast Asia, sun bears are named for a patch of bright orange or cream-coloured chest fur that stands out against the rest of its jet-black coat.

It is the smallest bear — about the size of a large dog — and is listed as a vulnerable species due to deforestation and the global wildlife trade. — AFP



Sun bears are listed as vulnerable due to deforestation and the global wildlife trade. PHOTO: UNSPLASH/AFP

German mud mires world’s top heavy metal festival

DRIVING rain, rivers of mud and traffic jams in northern Germany led organizers of Wacken Open Air, billed as the world’s biggest heavy metal festival, to ask fans Tuesday to stay away.

The giant annual outdoor event known as W:O:A is set to kick off Wednesday, with 85,000 headbangers due to descend on a venue of farmland and cow pastures to hear 150 bands on eight stages over four days.

Although often a muddy affair, Wacken is facing severe accessibility problems this year, prompting both promoters and police to tell anyone who has not already arrived at the showgrounds to turn back.

“The persistently difficult

weather situation with rain quantities of around 40 litres (11 gallons) per square metre (yard) in the last 24 hours and the resulting condition of the campgrounds, fairgrounds and

access routes means that the area could not be made ready in time,” W:O:A said in a statement. “We apologize profusely to all metalheads for the delay in providing information.” — AFP



Organizers of the sold-out festival said that weather forecasts showed no sign of the downpour letting up. PHOTO: AFP

Popstar Lizzo named in employee harassment suit

US performer Lizzo has been sued by three of her former dancers who allege the body-positive pop diva created a hostile work environment, court filings seen by AFP showed Tuesday.

The suit filed in Los Angeles accuses Lizzo, whose self-

love message has resonated around the globe, as well as other defendants of various violations of California labour law.

“Plaintiffs Arianna Davis, Crystal Williams and Noelle Rodriguez allege sexual, religious and racial harassment, disability discrimination, as-

sault and false imprisonment, among other things,” the law firm representing them said in a statement.

“Davis and Williams were eventually fired while Rodriguez resigned over the appalling behaviour,” it added. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan's average gas price rises to 15-yr high on lower gov't subsidy



The average price for regular gasoline stood at 176.70 yen (\$1.24) per litre as of Monday, advancing 1.90 yen from 24 July and hitting its highest level since August 2008. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

THE average retail gasoline price in Japan has climbed to its highest level in 15 years, industry ministry data showed Wednesday, as the government subsidy to curb price hikes has been gradually scaling down.

The average price for regular gasoline stood at 176.70 yen (\$1.24) per liter as of Monday, advancing 1.90 yen from July 24 and hitting its highest level since August 2008, according to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

The price is expected to in-

crease and affect households if the government halts the subsidy programme, designed to curb the impact of a surge in gasoline and other fuel prices, at the end of September as planned.

The program began in January 2022 and was extended several times to keep the average retail price of gasoline at 168 yen per liter.

While crude oil prices have been rising after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the upward trend was supported by addi-

tional oil production cuts by oil-producing countries, including Saudi Arabia, according to the ministry.

Gasoline prices are projected to continue rising through next week, according to an official of the Oil Information Centre, which conducted the survey.

In August 2008, gasoline prices marked a record-high 185.10 yen, as China's oil consumption increased, while speculative funds flowed into the crude oil market in large quantities. — Kyodo

HSBC reports bumper profits on rising interest rates

BANKING giant HSBC said on Tuesday that pre-tax profit more than doubled to US\$21.7 billion in the first half of 2023, boosted by higher interest rates.

The massive jump from US\$8.8 billion in the same period a year ago came as central banks around the world have ramped up borrowing costs to fight inflation, helping inflation lenders' income.

HSBC said revenue jumped US\$12.3 billion to US\$36.9 billion. "We have delivered a strong first-half performance and are confident of achieving our revised mid-teens return on tangible equity target in 2023 and 2024," chief executive Noel Quinn said in a statement.

"There was good broad-based profit generation around the world, higher revenue in our global businesses driven by strong net interest income, and continued tight cost control," chief executive Noel Quinn said in a statement.

The firm also said second-quarter earnings came in better than forecast, jumping almost 90 per cent to US\$8.8 billion, thanks to the bumper income from surging interest rates. With regards the outlook, it said: "Given the current market consensus for global central bank rates, we have raised our 2023 full-year guidance for net interest income to above US\$35 billion." — AFP



HSBC's profits have been boosted by surging interest rates by central banks aimed at taming inflation. **PHOTO: AFP**

Oil majors still profitable even if super-profits gone



Guards work at TotalEnergies' central processing facility construction in Buliisa, Uganda on 20 February 2023. **PHOTO: BADRU KATUMBA / AFP**

FROM BP to ExxonMobil to TotalEnergies, none of the oil and gas majors have repeated the exceptional profits posted in 2022 when prices surged in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but they nevertheless remain comfortably profitable this year.

BP was the last to report earnings, reporting Tuesday a second-quarter net profit of \$1.8 billion, which was just a fifth of what it earned in the same period last year.

Before it, the US giant Exx-

onMobil saw its second-quarter profits tumble 56 per cent to \$7.9 billion, while rival Chevron saw a similar fall to \$6 billion.

Shell saw a 64 percent drop in net earnings to \$3.1 billion, while TotalEnergies fared better with just a 28 per cent slide to \$4.1 billion.

All of them saw their financial performance "impacted by fluctuating prices of oil, gas and refined products," as BP described it on Tuesday.

In 2022, the five oil majors earned a combined total of \$151

billion in net profits thanks to the double-whammy of the Russian invasion of Ukraine causing supply concerns, with Moscow cutting gas supplies to most of Europe, just as the emergence of the global economy from pandemic lockdowns boosted demand.

"2022 was clearly an exceptional year and not the norm," said Moez Ajmi, an energy analyst at the consulting firm EY.

Oil and gas prices are now much lower. — AFP

Uber reports surprise profit in Q2

UBER reported a surprise profit on Tuesday, pointing to strong growth in its core mobility and delivery businesses despite missing revenue estimates.

Profits for the second quarter were \$394 million, compared with a loss of \$2.6 billion in the year-ago period.

The results included the company's first-ever quarterly operating profit. Its results were also boosted by a gain in Uber's equity investments.

"It's a great day," Chief Executive Dara Khosrowshahi said on CNBC.

"Everything came together this quarter," he said. "The team executed really well and we plan

to be profitable for every quarter going forward."

Revenues rose 14 per cent to \$9.2 billion, but stood below the \$9.3 billion expected by analysts.

The company scored sharp increases in revenues tied to customer rides and delivery, more than offsetting declines in its much smaller freight business. "People are buying more services," Khosrowshahi said of the fall in freight. "But our mobility and delivery businesses are growing at huge rates and larger than ever."

Khosrowshahi also cited "cost discipline" as a driver, with general and administrative expenses down sharply from the year-ago period. — AFP

Subaru to produce EVs in US from 2027 to accelerate shift

SUBARU Corp said Wednesday it will start producing electric vehicles in the United States as early as 2027, as the Japanese carmaker accelerates its shift toward battery-driven vehicles under its new president. "We have decided on production in the United States," President Atsushi Osaki said at a press conference in Tokyo. "Considering the speed of the shift to EVs in the US, we thought it was about time." Osaki, who took the helm at the company in June, said it is still unde-



Supplied photo shows Subaru Corp.'s electric vehicle "Solterra". PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

ecided on where production will take place, though joint production with a partner such as Toyota Motor Corp remains under consideration. — Kyodo

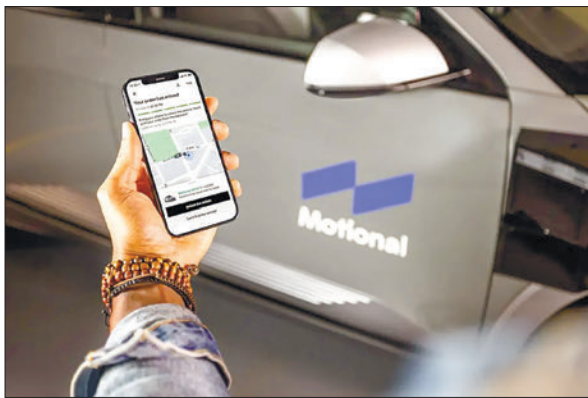
Pfizer trims 2023 revenue outlook as profits tumble

PFIZER reported a steep drop in profits Tuesday on much lower Covid-related revenues as it curtailed its full-year sales outlook, in part due to tornado damage to a key manufacturing facility. Profits in the second quarter were \$2.3 billion, down 77 per cent as revenues fell 54 per cent to \$12.7 billion. Quarterly revenues for Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine and Paxlovid therapeutic were \$1.6 billion,

far below the \$16.9 billion in the year-ago period.

The drugmaker pointed to a "few near-term individual product revenue" challenges as it trimmed its full-year sales forecast.

These include US approval for a drug combination for prostate cancer and a needed recommendation on the Abrysvo vaccine from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. — AFP



Both the mobility and delivery businesses have been essential components of Uber's growth and diversification strategy. PHOTO: UBER/AFP

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER NO. 3 / 2023 - 2024

(1) Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, No.(1) Mining Enterprise Invites to submit the tender quotation sale open tender with United State Dollars (USD) (or) Myanmar Kyats (Worker Remittance Rate) USD for serial (a) and United State Dollars (USD) for serial (b) -

(a) **Cathode Copper (3200) M/T**

Lot 100 M/Tonnes each, 32 Lots Monywa, Mine Site
Base price of Cathode Copper shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Copper price on the date of tender opening. The highest proposal amount (Premium amount added to the L.M.E price and deduction of transportation and handling expenses) shall be winning tender.

(b) Lead Ore and other mixed (3) M/Tons Ywangan (Pb - 4.03 %)

(2) Tender Closing Date and Time is 23rd August , 2023 (13:00) hrs and Opening Tender (15:00) PM.

(3) Tender documents are available from Nay Pyi Taw, Office Building No.(19), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, No.(1) Mining Enterprise, the Procurement Department and details can be asked to +95-(0) 67- 3409162 , 3409012 within the office hours.

Tender Committee
No.(1) Mining Enterprise

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (047N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (047N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-8-2023** 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:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CHERRY VOY.NO. (207N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHERRY VOY. NO. (207N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-8-2023** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OS KANO 35 VOY.NO. (2306)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OS KANO 35 VOY.NO. (2306)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-4** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ELDER TRIUMPHNAT SHIPPING LINES PTE., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Singapore PM mounts defence of scandal-hit ruling party

SINGAPORE'S prime minister mounted a vigorous defence of his long-ruling People's Action Party on Wednesday, even as he acknowledged it had "taken a hit" after a rare spate of political scandals.

Lee Hsien Loong vowed, however, to "show Singaporeans that we will uphold standards and do the right thing, so that trust is maintained, and the Singapore system continues to work well".

Singapore has capitalized on its reputation for clean government to attract massive foreign investments and turn the city-state into a financial and commercial hub.

But that reputation has been threatened by two major furores: a cabinet minister's arrest amid a corruption probe; and two PAP legislators resigning because of an affair.

Before that, two heavy-weight cabinet members were

investigated for allegedly getting favours in their rental of sprawling colonial-era bungalows, but were subsequently cleared of any wrongdoing.

"Let me assure Singaporeans that we will protect the integrity of our system of government. For the good of our country, we will carry through what needs to be done in accordance with the law, even if it may be politically embarrassing and painful to the party," Lee said. — AFP



Singapore has capitalized on its reputation for clean government to attract massive foreign investments and turn the city-state into a financial and commercial hub. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP/FILE**

Iran Guards launch naval drills near strategic Gulf islands



The main focus of the drills was near Abu Musa island, but exercises were also conducted around Greater and Lesser Tunb islands. **PHOTO: TASNIM NEWS AGENCY/SPUTNIK**

IRAN'S Revolutionary Guards launched naval drills on Wednesday near strategic Gulf islands

controlled by Iran but claimed by the United Arab Emirates, state media said.

The manoeuvres, which were being held mainly near Abu Musa island but also around

Greater and Lesser Tunb, came two weeks after the United States boosted its naval presence in the Gulf. It was not immediately clear how long the exercises would last.

"The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps naval exercise started Wednesday morning for the defence of the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf," the official IRNA news agency reported.

It quoted Guards navy commander Ali Ozmaee as saying that the drills "were held in Abu Musa island and Greater and Lesser Tunb".

The three islands — located near the Strait of Hormuz, the vital sea passage between the Gulf and the open ocean through which a fifth of world oil output passes — have been a source of contention between the UAE and Iran for decades.—AFP

Pope health in focus ahead of global Catholic festival in Lisbon

POPE Francis heads to Lisbon Wednesday, where a million youngsters from across the world are expected for a major Catholic festival, held as the Church reflects on its future. The 86-year-old underwent major abdominal surgery just two months ago. That has not stopped him from lining up a packed 42nd trip abroad, with 11 speeches and around 20 meetings scheduled. The Argentine Jesuit, whose direct and spontaneous style is very popular with young people, is expected to address youth-focused themes, from ecology and social justice to the war in Ukraine. — AFP

Most oil removed from decaying tanker off Yemen: UN

MOST of the oil on board a rusting supertanker off war-torn Yemen has been moved to a replacement vessel in a bid to avert a catastrophic spill, the United Nations has said.

The transfer of 1.14 million barrels of Marib light crude from the 47-year-old FSO Safer to the new vessel started last week.

"More than half the oil aboard the decaying FSO Safer has been transferred to the replacement vessel Yemen in the past seven days," the UN resident coordinator for Yemen, David Gressly, said on social media on Tuesday.

Gressly had previously said the entire transfer would take

less than three weeks.

The UN Development Programme project manager for the Safer, Mohammed Mudawi, said more than 636,000 barrels of oil had been pumped to the replacement tanker. "We reached the 55 per cent mark today (Wednesday) at 9:00 am (0600 GMT)," Mudawi told AFP. — AFP



Workers prepare to transfer oil from the 47-year-old supertanker FSO Safer (L) to a UN-purchased replacement vessel in a bid to avert a catastrophic spill in the Red Sea off war-torn Yemen. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SPORTS



Myanmar youth football players hug each other and celebrate the victory in an international match. PHOTO: MF

AFC U-23 Championship 2023 to kick-start on 17 August

MYANMAR national football team will compete in the AFC U-23 Championship 2023, which will be held in Thailand on 17 August, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation.

Ten Southeast Asian countries, divided into three groups will compete in the tourney.

Myanmar consists of Group A with host Thailand, Cambodia and Brunei while Malaysia is in Group B with Indonesia and Timor Leste. Group C sees Viet Nam, the Philippines and Laos.

According to the format of the competition, only the top three teams from the group and the best one from the second-placed teams will advance to the semi-finals. The Myanmar team is likely to struggle to advance to the next round.

Team Myanmar is competing in the ASEAN U-23 tournament as the second international competition this year and won fourth place in the 32nd SEA Games held in Cambodia in May.

The Myanmar squad is meeting again with Thailand and Cambodia, among the teams they met in the SEA Games.

After this tournament, the Myanmar U-23 team will continue to compete in the 2024 Asian Cup U-23 qualifiers in early September and the 19th Asian Games to be held from 19 September to 7 October. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Germany want more creativity in crunch South Korea clash

GERMANY coach Martina Voss-Tecklenburg has urged her team to be more creative as they look to bounce back from a shock defeat when they meet South Korea in a crunch Women's World Cup clash on Thursday.

The 2003 and 2007 champions were one of the pre-tournament favourites, but a stunning 2-1 upset at the hands of Colombia on Sunday threw a spanner in the works after they thumped Morocco 6-0 to open their account.

A win in Brisbane would guarantee passage to the last 16 and a point would also be sufficient unless Morocco beat Colombia. If Germany lose and Colombia win, it would come down to goal difference.

Voss-Tecklenburg felt they should have been "smarter" at the end against Colombia and settled for a draw. But instead they pressed for the win and were beaten by a stoppage-time header.

She said patience would again be key against a South Korea side that must win to keep their slim hopes alive,

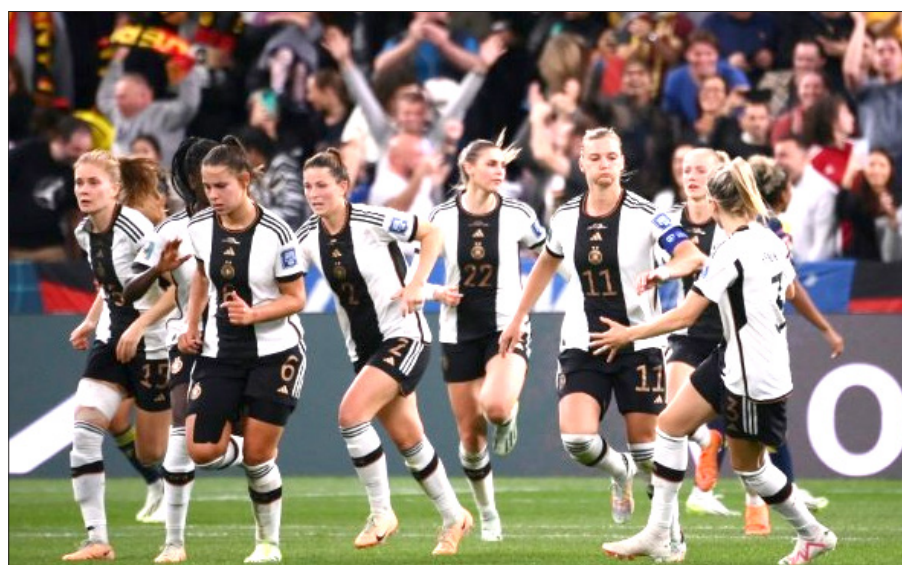
with the coach wary about what formation the Asian nation might adopt.

"Their system is flexible, technically they are very well trained and they can play at high speed for 90 minutes or more," said Voss-Tecklenburg, who has been in charge since 2018 and led Germany to the final of last year's

Euros.

"(South Korea coach) Collin Bell has brought in more intensity and made them more courageous.

"They press a lot and we know it could give us some space. It's about courage and creating spaces," she added. — AFP



Germany celebrates after scoring at the Women's World Cup. PHOTO: AFP

Diani hits hat-trick as France beat Panama 6-3 to make World Cup last 16

KADIDIATOU Diani hit a hat-trick as France marched into the last 16 of the Women's World Cup on Wednesday in a 6-3 thriller against Panama.

It was a polished recovery after Marta Cox's wonder strike on 67 seconds left the French reeling, swerving a freekick into the corner from 30 yards for her country's first-ever World Cup goal.

She spun away in celebration and

was mobbed by teammates as the tears flowed at a sold-out Sydney Football Stadium.

But the euphoria was short-lived as France ran riot, with Diani scoring twice — one a penalty — and Maelle Lakrar and Lea Le Garrec adding a goal apiece before half-time. Paris Saint-Germain striker Diani got her third from the spot after the restart, but Panama refused to give up.

Yomira Pinzon added their second with a crisply-struck penalty and Lineth Cedeno scored again in an exciting finale, before Vicki Becho finished well to seal the game for France in injury time.

The win ensured France finished top of Group F to set up a knockout round clash with the second-placed team in Group H — most likely Germany.

Jamaica held Brazil 0-0 in the other group game to finish second and face a showdown with the Group H winner, probably Colombia.

With only a point needed, France coach Herve Renard shuffled the deck, making five changes.

He rested inspirational captain Wendie Renard, with Grace Geyoro assuming the armband. Veteran striker Eugenie Le Sommer also made way with Clara Mateo and Diani up front.

But the perennial World Cup underachievers were caught on the hop as play got underway and Cox surged forward, with Le Garrec tripping her.

Cox lined up the kick and curled it into the top left-hand corner for one of the goals of the tournament. — AFP



France forward Kadidiatou Diani scored a hat-trick against Panama. PHOTO: AFP



Tunisia president dismisses PM as country faces 'colossal challenges'

TUNISIAN President Kais Saied sacked Prime Minister Najla Bouden without explanation Tuesday night and replaced her with former central bank executive Ahmed Hachani, whom he tasked with overcoming the “colossal challenges” facing the cash-strapped North African country.

No official explanation was given for Bouden’s dismissal, but several local media outlets highlighted Saied’s displeasure over a number of shortages, particularly of bread in state-subsidised bakeries. Saied “terminated the functions” of Bouden, who had been the first woman to head a government in Tunisia, according to a press release and video released by the presidency shortly before midnight.

Saied immediately appointed in her place Hachani, who until now worked at the Tunisian central bank and studied law at the University of Tunis, where Saied taught, according to Hachani’s Facebook profile. The new head of government, a figure unknown to the general public, was sworn in before the president, according to the presidency video. At the end of the ceremony, Saied wished him “good luck in this responsibility”. The president stressed that “there are colossal challenges that we must overcome with a solid and strong will, in order to protect our homeland, our state and social peace”. — AFP

Winning party in Thai election excluded from coalition



(L-R) Puea Thai Party deputy leader Phumtham Wechayachai, party leader Cholan Srikaew and party secretary-general Prasert Jantararuangton take a seat before a press conference announcing that the Move Forward Party will no longer be part of the eight-party coalition, at the Puea Thai Party’s headquarters in Bangkok. PHOTO: AFP

THE reformist party that won Thailand’s general election was on Wednesday excluded from a coalition trying to form a government, as lawmakers seek a way around resistance from military and pro-royalist senators.

The Move Forward Party (MFP) won the most seats in May’s election, riding a wave of support from young and urban Thais weary of almost a decade of

army-backed rule, but it fell well short of a majority.

An eight-party coalition, including MFP’s closest rival, Pheu Thai, was not enough to get its leader Pita Limjaroenrat elected prime minister, leaving the kingdom in political deadlock.

Harvard-educated Pita, 42, was blocked from the top job by the senate – whose members were handpicked by

the last junta – because of his determination to reform Thailand’s tough royal defamation laws.

After weeks of backroom haggling, Pheu Thai leader Chonlanan Srikaew announced that MFP was out of the coalition.

“The formation of the new government will not include MFP,” he told reporters. — AFP

BAE profit jumps as Ukraine war boosts defence spend



The rise in profits is attributed to increased government defence spending, particularly amid the ongoing war in Ukraine. BAE’s radar system utilizes solid-state technology PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ BAE/ AFP

BRITISH military equipment maker BAE Systems on Wednesday announced a 57 per cent jump in net profits for the first half of this year as government defence spending increases amid the war in Ukraine.

Profit after tax increased to £965 million (\$1.2 billion) in the six months to the end of June compared with £615 million in the first half of last year, BAE said in a statement.

Revenue climbed 13 per cent to £11 billion.

“Our global footprint, deep customer relationships and leading technologies enable us to effectively support the national security requirements and multi-domain ambitions of our government customers in an increasingly uncertain world,” chief

executive Charles Woodburn said alongside the earnings.

Shares in BAE rallied 4.5 per cent in early London trading following the update, as the group also hiked its dividend and said it would return up to £1.5 billion to shareholders by further repurchasing stock. “Leading defence contractor BAE Systems posted a very strong set of results... benefiting from a general rearmament among NATO countries as the war in Ukraine grinds on,” noted Andy Chambers, a director at research group Edison.

“The company’s order backlog has reached a record £66.2 billion — this is very much typical of the sector, as modern high-tech armaments systems often take many years to produce.” — AFP