

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. X, No. 6, 5<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Kason 1385 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Sunday, 23 April 2023

## 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.

## SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets, comforts tornado victims in Lewe township



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing comforts the injured at Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed) yesterday.

**S**TATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met residents at Aungmyingon and TadaU villages in Lewe Township victimized by a tornado, comforted and provided cash assistance and relief items yesterday.

A tornado pummelled Lewe Township of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory at 6:20 pm on 21 April. A total of 155 houses, one school, one rural dispensary, one monastery in Aungmyingon Village and another 77 houses and one monastery in TadaU Village were damaged in the strong wind leaving a total of 113 locals hurt and six people dead.

The region Tatmadaw members, members of the Myanmar Police Force, the Fire Brigade, departmental officials and volunteers carried out emergency rescue measures and conveyed the injured persons to the nearest hospitals to receive medical treatment.

First, the Senior General met the Aungmyingon village administrator and local people to comfort them. Then, the Senior General provided cash

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# Yangon, Mandalay to donate alms food for over 21,000 monks



The donation ceremony for 30,000 monks is in progress in Mandalay Region in 2019.

THE food offering ceremony for more than 21,000 Buddhist monks will take place in Yangon and Mandalay on the full moon day of Kason.

On 3 May, the full moon day of Kason (Buddha Day), the consecration ceremony of the Shwedagon Pagoda by 11,111 monks from various sects and the ceremony to offer provisions and various articles to monks will be held at the People's Square and Park in Dagon Township, Yangon Region.

In the same way, the Mandalay Region Government will organize the donation of food and offerings for 10,268 monks

in Mandalay on the same day.

The presiding monks of all the monasteries and the monks of the Buddhist seminaries in Yangon will be brought together for the donation ceremony in Yangon Region. As for Mandalay, a total of 10,268 monks, with 2,567 on each side of the Mandalay Moat, will be provided with offerings.

It is known that arrangements are being made to provide health care to the monks on their alms round. The people who want to donate will be able to participate in the donation themselves and contribute money to the donation. — TWA/CT

### Public Notice for Elimination of Violence

1. Declaring themselves to be “for the people”, the so-called CRPH, NUG and PDF terrorist groups are lawlessly killing Buddhist monks, civil servants including schoolteachers, and members of the general public, as well as looting and robbing.
2. Not encouraging, supporting, or assisting “CRPH”, “NUG”, and “PDF” terrorists, who are intimidating and killing people and committing destructive activities, is to protect the lives and property of the general public.
3. Giving information secretly to the authorities on terrorists and on the possession and transport of weapons/ammunition is tantamount to protecting the lives and property of innocent people.

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## MNA to extend Yangon-Dubai-Yangon flight on 1 May



One aircraft of the MAI fleet.

MYANMAR National Airlines (MNA) will extend the Yangon-Dubai-Yangon flight commencing on 1 May. The Yangon-Dubai-Yangon flight is operated every Sun-

day weekly and it will fly every Monday.

The Sunday flight will leave Yangon at 7:40 am Myanmar standard time and will arrive in Dubai at 10:55 am (local time in Dubai). The flight will depart Dubai at noon (local time in Dubai) and will arrive at Yangon at 8:15 pm MST.

The Monday flight will leave Yangon at 5:50 pm MST and will arrive at Dubai at 9:05 pm (local time in Dubai) but also will depart Dubai (local time in Dubai) at 11 pm and will arrive at Yangon at 7:15 am MST.

MNA sells a ticket at US\$468. — TWA/MKKS

## 46 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 22 April, total figure registers 634,304

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **634,304** after **46** new cases were reported on 22 April 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **19** patients returned from foreign countries and **27** cases were infected locally.

### Status of new COVID-19 patients (as of 22 April 2023) (8:00 pm)

New COVID-19 Patient	New Patient	Percentage (%)
People returned from foreign countries	19	41.3%
People infected in the country	27	58.7%
Total	46	100%

Therefore, a total of **10,286,203** laboratory samples were examined and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **634,304**.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,678** including **20** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,490** on 22-4-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic.

According to the research, it is found that people who have been vaccinated do not suffer severely from the disease, need not be hospitalized and are unlikely to die. If they have received booster shots, the death rates can be reduced more.

As such, people need to follow the new normal way of living with COVID. Hence, all people above five have to fully receive COVID-19 vaccination inoculated by the Ministry of Health free of charge. Six months after the vaccination, they have to take booster jabs at relevant health centres and ward/village administration offices without fail. Moreover, they have to wear masks while in closed chambers and public places. They need to often wash their hands with soap and water or the hand gel containing alcohol (at least 60 per cent) for 20 seconds.

People need to follow the social distancing rule and avoid crowds as much as possible. While not wearing masks, if they cough and sneeze, they need to cover their mouth and noses with elbows in line with the personal hygienic ways.

COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. — GNLMM



## Country's current situation – only our internal affairs

IN democracy, Hluttaw is the highest political stage. Ethnic groups for their part must represent the Hluttaw on a larger scale in the political stage. The current situation in the country is only our internal affairs. The forthcoming election is just our nation's election, not a world election. It is just necessary to ensure that the election will be free and fair for our citizens.

*(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the SAC meeting 2/2023 on 23 February 2023)*

## SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets, comforts ...

### FROM PAGE-1

assistance for six deceased victims from two villages.

The Senior General exhorted officials of the Ministry of the Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Nay Pyi Taw Council and Nay Pyi Taw Command to reconstruct the destroyed schools in time for the school-opening season, repair monasteries, rebuild houses in land plots systematically and

provide the needed household items to storm victims.

He then inspected the seriously damaged school, monastery and houses in Aungmyingon village and made proper instructions.

He also cordially encouraged the victims who are under medical treatment at Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed) and provided foodstuffs to them. — MNA/KTZH



The Senior General views the relief items for the victims.



Damage and debris are seen in the aftermath of the violent storm occurred in Aungmyingon and TadaU villages of Lewe Township on 21 April 2023.

## White elephant “Rattha Nandaka” lives happily and healthily with his mother mammal

A 33-year-old female elephant called Zar Nan Hla kept by the Myanmar Timber Enterprise in Taungup Township of Rakhine State gave birth to one white male elephant at 6:30 am on 23 July 2022. When it was born,

the baby elephant was two feet and five inches in height, three feet and one inch in girth and weighed 180 pounds.

The white elephant's name is “Rattha Nandaka”. It has pearl-coloured eyes, a plantain

branch-shaped back, white hair, a distinctive tail with a tuft of hair at its end, auspicious plot signs on the skin, reddish-brown or pinkish skin, five claws on the front legs, four claws on the back legs and big ears. Therefore,

these features conform with seven out of eight characteristics.

At nine months old, the baby white elephant is three feet and five inches in height, six feet and one inch in girth and weighs about 490 pounds.

He stays healthy and happy under the human-friendly training system with his mother elephant, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. — MNA/KZW



# MoEP Union Minister inspects repair of Baelin-Ohntaw National Grid towers



UNION Minister for Electric Power U Thaung Han and officials yesterday inspected the repair works of Tower No 67, 68 and 69 on 230 kV Baelin-Ohntaw National Grid damaged by the gust on 20 April.

Officials reported on the cause of damage and the Union minister instructed for speedy completion of the repair to provide sufficient power supply to the public while prioritizing worksite safety.

The 230 kV Baelin-Ohntaw

National Grid distributes 340 MW of electricity to towns and villages in Sagaing Region, Magway Region, Kachin State and Chin State and three towers of the National Grid were damaged by heavy winds on 20 April.

Under the supervision of the Department of Power Transmission and System Control, relevant offices were divided into three teams with 250 electricians to restore the towers of the National Grid. — MNA/MKKS

Union Minister for Electric Power U Thaung Han inspects the repair works of Tower on 230 kV Baelin-Ohntaw National Grid damaged by the gust.

# Govt provides relief items to tornado victims of Lewe Township

A tornado that tore through TadaU and Aungmyingon villages in Lewe Township of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory on 21 April evening destroyed 235 houses and killed six people while forcing 967 victims with 113 locals injured.

The National Disaster Management Committee and Nay Pyi Taw Disaster Management Team officials went to the tornado-hit TadaU and Aungmyingon villages yesterday and provided 17 kinds of relief items distributed by the Disaster Management Department to 235 households.

Similarly, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, who is also Chairman of the Healthcare Management Working Committee, National

Disaster Management Working Committee Chairperson Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Tin Oo Lwin went to the Dekkhinathiri 50-bed Hospital and provided foodstuffs and cash assistance to 34 wounded people from TadaU and Aungmyingon villages. They also comforted patients and briefed the support of the government regarding the paving roads, access to water, rebuilding of religious buildings, electricity and house construction.

Union ministers and party then encouraged and provided cash assistance to 28 wounded residents from TadaU and Aungmyingon villages at Lewe



Union Ministers Dr Thet Khaing Win and Dr Thet Thet Khine and party comfort the victim of tornado at the Dekkhinathiri 50-bed Hospital yesterday.

100-bed Hospital and explained the government's assistance measures.

Then, they inspected the indoor stadium of Lewe Township

victims of two villages temporarily and instructed the necessary things. — MNA/KTZH

## Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit [www.moi.gov.mm/mal](http://www.moi.gov.mm/mal), [www.moi.gov.mm/km](http://www.moi.gov.mm/km), [www.moi.gov.mm/nlm](http://www.moi.gov.mm/nlm) and [www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper](http://www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper).

News and Periodicals Enterprise

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increasing of death rate based on the disease.

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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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## Myanmar's fishery exports from Taninthayi Region cross US\$262 mln in FY 2022-2023



Workers are pictured in the fishery processing line. Myanmar ships fishery products to over 40 countries, mostly to Thailand and China.

MYANMAR shipped fishery exports worth over US\$262 million to external markets from Taninthayi Region in the 2022-2023 financial year, according to Taninthayi Region's Fishery Department.

Myanmar sent fishery exports to foreign markets from Taninthayi and Yangon regions. Myanmar conveyed 227,671.931 tonnes of fishery products to foreign trade partners directly from Taninthayi Region with an estimated value of \$240.668 million, while 3,206.15 tonnes of fishery products worth \$21.676 million were delivered to foreign

markets directly from Yangon.

The volumes of Myanmar's fishery export in the 2022-2023 FY stood at 22,992.99 tonnes (\$21.432 million) in April, 2,206.193 tonnes (\$4.258 million) in May, 9,135.461 tonnes (\$13.291 million) in June, 15,393.854 tonnes (\$19.362 million) in July, 18,985.006 tonnes (\$23.128 million) in August, 22,374.858 tonnes (\$25.458 million) in September, 21,923.663 tonnes (\$25.144 million) in October, 23,108.551 tonnes (\$25.656 million) in November, 19,327.03 tonnes (\$22.64 million) in December, 23,846.826 tonnes

(\$28.129 million) in January, 22,131.01 tonnes (\$23.691 million) in February and 29,452.639 tonnes (\$30.155 million) in March respectively.

Myanmar's overall fishery exports amounted to \$765.947 million in the 2022-2023 FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce's statistics. Myanmar exports fishery products to external markets through sea-borne trade and border trade.

At present, fishery export is underway. The export volume is still declining compared to that recorded before COVID-19.

Myanmar's fishery products are delivered to Japan, European countries, China, Thailand and neighbouring countries by maritime trade. Fish, shrimp, crab and fishery products are sent to neighbouring countries through Muse, Myawady, Kawthoung, Sittway, Myeik and Maungtau border posts.

More than 20 fish species including hilsa, rohu, catfish, and seabass are exported to foreign markets, according to Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

Myanmar ships fishery products to over 40 countries, mostly to Thailand and China. — NN/EM

## Illegal teak, consumer goods, electronics, industrial raw materials, auto parts and vehicles confiscated

ON 19 April, a combined on-duty team under the supervision of the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force confiscated 19 kinds of goods including 193 car tyres (used) worth K66,962,000 without official documents from two Nissan diesel tractor heads and two trailers worth K127 million near Nyaungkhashay X-Ray checkpoint, according to information. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A combined team led by the Yangon North District Forest Department captured a total of 4.792 tonnes of illegal teak worth K1,581,492 from a Mitsubishi Canter truck (approximately K25 million) in Hlegu township on 19 April and an unregistered vehicle seizure group of No 2 Traffic Police Force seized an unregistered Honda Fit car (approximately K3.5 million in Thanlyin township

on 20 April. The action was taken under the Forest Law and the Export and Import Law.

In addition, the Customs on-duty teams nabbed 78,000 kilogrammes of super cornice compound EC-98 worth K24.57 million that were taken over 61 days of VPA and 50 office desks worth K2.5 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from two containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint and two kinds of goods including one set of EI-6550 DV standard x-ray baggage scanner parts worth K861,000 without Import Licence from luggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk) on 19 April and four kinds of goods including 269 Grace ceramic toilet seats worth K20,097,000 that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) and 99000 kilogrammes

of plastic resins worth K187.11 million that were taken over 61 days of VPA from two containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal container checkpoint on 20 April. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Similarly, on 20 April, an on-duty team made inspections at the Yepu permanent checkpoint in Shan State and confiscated four kinds of goods including 19 Dynam batteries worth K2.558 million without official documents from an Aung Zeya microbus (approximately K30 million) heading to Mandalay from Muse. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Therefore, 14 arrests (estimated value of K491,739,492) were made on 19 and 20 April, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

## News in Brief

### Union Health Minister alerts preparations for fast-spreading Covid strain

The Union Health minister said in an internal meeting held yesterday that although the Covid-19 genetic mutant strain XBB 1.16, which is currently spreading in some countries of the world and neighbouring countries, does not have severe symptoms the ministry should take preparatory measures for the treatment.

### DMH says day temperatures couldn't decrease even after rain

While regions and states across Myanmar may encounter intermittent rainfall, the prevailing summer season could not lead to a decrease in temperature. Any potential temperature rise is limited to a maximum of one degree Celsius, and there is no possibility of a temperature decrease according to the Director U Hla Tun of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

### Companies can apply for registration to export rice to China



The Myanmar Rice Federation has invited companies wishing to apply for registration to export rice and broken rice to China to submit an Expression of Interest-EOI.

EOI forms can be obtained from the Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the technical working group on exporting rice and broken rice to China of the Myanmar Rice Federation.

### Gust forces trees fell, damaging houses in Mandalay



Strong winds destroyed the roofs of some houses and the fall of street lampposts at the corner of 26 Street and Strand Road in Mandalay on 21 April according to the Mandalay Region Fire Brigade. Furthermore, on 21 April, a powerful wind resulted in injuries to over one hundred individuals and fatalities of six persons at the Aungmyingon, and TadaU villages of Lewe Township in Nay Pyi Taw.

### Car crash leaves one dead, one hurt in Lashio

On 21 April, a traffic accident occurred near the 183-Mile Post of the Lashio-Hsenwi Road in Lashio Township of Shan State. The incident left one casualty and one injured. — Htun Htun/KZW





# CURRENT AFFAIRS



## West Yangon University to hold 1<sup>st</sup> Convocation in April last week

THE first convocation of the West Yangon University will hold in the last week of April according to West Yangon University. That will be held from 25 to 30 April for the first time.

Previously, the commencement ceremony for West Yangon University was conducted at Yangon University. However, effective this year, the convocation for distance learning undergraduate students will be organized for the first time.

At the first convocation, degree certificates for the 2019-2020 acad-

ic year will be awarded to graduate students who have completed distance learning as it was not organized in 2020-2021 due to COVID-19.

On 28 November 1921, the first convocation of Yangon University was held at the Jubilee Hall in Yangon. The convocation was convened at Jubilee Hall 10 times, and the 11th was held on 28 July 1931 with the opening of the Yangon University Convocation building as a special convocation event for the first time in Yangon University. — TWA/KZW

## Golden Academy brooch to be given to senior award winners at upcoming event

THE Golden Academy brooch will be given to the senior academy award winners at the Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards Event to be held for 2019, 2020 and 2022, according to the statement of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization on 22 April.

“There are about 120 academy award winners who won the award in previous events. Of them, Golden Academy brooches will be presented to those who will attend the academy award event this year. Moreover, the five-tical gold statute will be awarded to the winners this year,” U Aye Kyu Lay, vice-chair of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The association will bear the cost of gold brooches. The film academy awards presentation event will be held in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 May. — Htun Htun/KTZH



Golden Academy Award Statue.



A vehicle from a bus line running under Yangon Region Transport Committee-YRTC. PHOTO: XINHUA

## 24 cases of passenger fare upcharges found during Thingyan

ACCORDING to the Yangon Region Transport Committee (YRTC), 24 cases of asking for higher passenger fares were reported during Thingyan.

It is said that YRTC has summoned bus line officials and drivers for charging more passenger fares than the set rate.

A total of 63 bus

lines and 1,288 vehicles operated during the Thingyan Festival.

During this period, YRTC had informed all the bus lines not to charge more than the set rate, and if they ask for more, they will be taken action until the closure of CNG and permanent dismissal from the bus line. — TWA/KZL

## Palm oil prices stable in post-Thingyan period



The photo shows palm oil being sold at a retail outlet.

THE price of palm oil remained unchanged at some commodity depots in the post-Thingyan period despite the inflation of other commodities' prices.

The prices of rice, onion, garlic and sugar went up after the Thingyan holidays, yet the price of palm oil was stagnant for five days, said a seller.

The wholesale market price of palm oil was K6,900 per viss on 21 March and K6,650-6,700 per viss on 6 April. Between 18 and 22 April, the

prices hovered around K6,400 per viss.

The reference wholesale price for Yangon Region is set at K4,790 for the week ending 23 April and K4,545 for the week ending 8 April, showing an increase of K245 per viss.

The CIF price of palm oil at Yangon Port was US\$1,032 in the first week of April and rose to \$1,088 in the second week.

To ensure edible oil security in the market, 30,000 tonnes of palm oil were

stocked in oil tanks on 1 April. Approximately 75,000 tonnes of palm oil were stored in the post-Thingyan period. The palm oil price usually rises owing to the difficulties in withdrawal from oil tanks, international palm oil prices and foreign exchange rates. The demand for palm oil in mid-April dropped. The wholesale oil prices stood at K12,500 for peanut oil and K11,000 for sesame oil in the third week of April 2023. — TWA/EM

## Onion prices rebound in post-Thingyan holidays

THE prices of onions bounced back to over K1,000 in the post-Thingyan period after two-week falls in Yangon and other regions.

Between 4 and 8 April, 984,000 visses of onions from various regions entered the Yangon market. About 702,000 visses of onions flowed into the Yangon market on 18 and 22 April.

On 31 March, the onion prices stayed below K1,000 per viss in Yangon's whole-

sale market. On 22 April, the prices increased to K1,200-1,450 per viss depending on the size and producing areas.

On 22 April, the highest price of onion in the Seikphyu market was K1,350 per viss following an entry of 15,500 visses to the Seikphyu market.

Meanwhile, the onions touched the highest of K1,175 per viss in Pakokku and K1,300 in the Myingyan market on 21 April.

The summer onion price this year is higher than that of the corresponding period last year, allowing the growers to do well financially. Those traders who store the onion stocks also make a big purchase this year. Nonetheless, there is less chance for the price to hit a record high this year like 2022's record price. — TWA/EM



The photo shows the onions to be sent to the Myingyan depot.



# LOCAL BUSINESS

## Solar, relevant components exempt from customs duties

THE Ministry of Planning and Finance grants customs tariff exemption, in the exercise of the power conferred by Section 7 (A) of the Tariff Law, according to its notification dated 20 April.

To have energy sufficiency, solar and related components are exempt from customs tariffs.

Solar panels, solar charge controller, solar powered inverter (string, combined battery, dual-use, main), household solar inverter, (roof and on-ground installation), solar energy installation system (installation on water), solar controller and battery are included in this

toms tariff exemption.

The notification is effective from 1 April.

Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC) announced on 21 April that it was willing to purchase the extra energy from small-scale solar power systems of private enterprises.

The notification stated to sell extra energy back to the utility through the small-scale solar system from shopping centres, hotels, households, factories and workshops in industrial parks and on privately owned plots of land.

If extra energy is linked to Yangon Distribution Grid Sys-



A solar panels installation.

tem, it will be offered K85 for 100 KW to 1 MGW and K80 for 1 MGW to 10 MGW.

Furthermore, technical guidelines and detailed information on the work procedures for

the Grid-connected mini-solar system will be further notified, YESC stated. — NN/EM

## Small supply of chickpeas pushes up prices



Myanmar ships chickpeas to foreign markets beyond self-sufficiency. More than 18,000 kilogrammes worth US\$13.139 million have been exported to foreign countries in the 2022-2023 Financial Year.

THE small supply of chickpeas elevated prices, according to the Mandalay Commodity Wholesale Centre.

The prices moved in the range between K201,000 and 206,500 per 56.25/57.25 viss on 1 April 2023 and climbed to K207,000 and K219,000 per 56.25/57.25 viss depending on varieties on 22 April.

The figures showed a sharp increase of K11,000-14,000 per 56.25/57.25 viss within three weeks.

The chickpea is a winter crop and is usually grown in

October and November. The harvest season is from January to April. They are mostly found in Bago, Ayeyawady, Sagaing and Magway regions.

The country primarily cultivates paddy, corn, cotton, sugarcane, various pulses and beans. Its second-largest production is pulses and beans, accounting for 33 per cent of agro products and covering 20 per cent of growing acres. Among them, black beans, pigeon peas and green grams constitute 72 per cent of bean acreage. Other beans including peanuts, chickpeas,

soybeans, black-eyed beans, butter beans and rice beans are also grown in the country. Agriculture is the backbone of Myanmar's economy. Among agricultural products, various beans and pulses are one of the main items.

Myanmar ships chickpeas to foreign markets beyond self-sufficiency. More than 18,000 kilogrammes worth US\$13.139 million have been exported to foreign countries in the 2022-2023 Financial Year, according to the Ministry of Commerce's statistics. — NN/EM

## Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 22 April 2023

### Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,055
Octane 95	K2,145
Diesel	K1,975
Premium Diesel	K2,055

All of the prices are based on per litre.

### Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,336,200 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,980,000 per tical

### US Dollar Vs Kyat

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,845 to K2,860

The above prices may change from time to time.

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# OPINION

# ARTICLE BOOKRACK

## Don't be careless of daily routines in hot summer

**S**UMMER in Myanmar is a very hot and dry season. During the three-month period of summer in Myanmar, the period from the third week of April to the second week of May is the very hottest. Hence, people should take shelter and follow the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health.

In the hot season, everybody needs to stably work daily routines without hesitation, hostility and anger. They have to control their minds to be calmed down. If not, they will face running out of energy from their bodies with exhaustion and hypertension. They should drink water adequately. They have to take care

of their body natures. If they suffer from dehydration, they have to drink any solution or rehydrated salt solution to recover in time. Moreover, they can eat fleshy fruits as well as seasonal fruits to fill hydration in the body.

If possible, people especially student youths may take relaxation under the shade of trees and buildings during the holidays while reading. If not, they may take a rest at the parks and religious edifices so as to calm down their minds.

In addition, they have to take care of dressing themselves. Their clothes must be in conformity with the hot season. Their clothes should be made of cotton in white colour. These must be thin and wide. Windows of buildings and houses should be opened for proper ventilation. They should not go out at the hottest time. If necessary, they should take any covers such as umbrellas and hats. Especially, they should

avoid the situation in which the sunray can fall on their heads. But they should not take a bath during the hottest time from noon to about 4.30 pm on a daily basis.

Everybody needs to listen to the weather forecasts officially released by relevant departments on the radio or watch them on TV. It is because the bad impacts of El Nino, La Nina and global warming affect all parts of the world as well as the global people. Consequently, these effects will be transformed into natural disasters unexpectedly. Only when people know information about natural disasters can they make necessary preparations.

Currently, Myanmar is suffering from the impacts of the hot season. Hence, Myanmar people need to take care of the points on dos and don'ts in the best living process in summer. If they do anything by applying their experiences and knowledge, they can do daily routines safely with free from dangers and losses.

**A** SEVERELY hot summer can be a challenging and uncomfortable experience for many people. With temperatures soaring to unprecedented levels, it can lead to health risks and other problems. However, there are ways to cope with a hot summer and protect oneself from its adverse effects. One of the most important things to do during a hot summer is to stay hydrated. Drinking plenty of water throughout the day can help prevent dehydration, which can cause symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, and fatigue. It is also essential to avoid drinks that can dehydrate the body, such as alcohol and caffeinated beverages.

It is also essential to protect

oneself from the sun's harmful UV rays during a hot summer. Wearing sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor of at least 30 and avoiding direct sunlight during the hottest parts of the day can help prevent sunburn and other skin damage. Wearing a hat and sunglasses can also provide additional protection. In addition to these measures, it is crucial to be aware of the signs of heat stress and heat exhaustion as well as heat stroke,

## Be cautious for Heat Stress, Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke in Severely Hot Summer



It is crucial to be aware of the signs of heat stress and heat exhaustion as well as heat stroke, which can be life-threatening. ILLUSTRATION: FOR REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ FREEPIK

which can be life-threatening. If left untreated, it can progress to heat stroke, which can cause confusion, seizures, and loss of consciousness. If you or someone you know experiences any of these symptoms, it is impor-

tant to seek medical attention immediately.

Heat stress occurs when the body's ability to regulate its internal temperature is overwhelmed by external heat. This can happen when a person is exposed to high temperatures and/or high humidity for prolonged periods, causing their body temperature to rise to dangerous levels. Symptoms of heat stress can include dehydration,

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

dizziness, weakness, headache, nausea, vomiting, confusion, and even loss of consciousness. Heat stress can be particularly dangerous for young children, elderly individuals, and people with certain medical conditions. To prevent heat stress, it is important to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water and other fluids, wearing lightweight and light-coloured clothing, staying in air-conditioned environments

when possible, and avoiding prolonged exposure to the sun and high temperatures. If you suspect that you or someone else may be experiencing heat stress, it is important to seek medical attention immediately.

Heat exhaustion is a condition that occurs when the body becomes overheated and dehydrated, usually as a result of prolonged exposure to high temperatures and/or high humidity. It is a milder form of the heat-related illness than heat stroke, but it can still be dangerous if left untreated. Symptoms of heat exhaustion can include heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, weakness, dizziness and headache, nausea, vomiting, and fainting.

SEE PAGE-10>>

Currently, Myanmar is suffering from the impacts of the hot season. Hence, Myanmar people need to take care of the points on dos and don'ts in the best living process in summer. If they do anything by applying their experiences and knowledge, they can do daily routines safely with free from dangers and losses.



<b>Book Title</b>	-	<b>Buddha Hnit Kawphy Thauk Chin (Coffee with the Buddha by Joan Duncan Oliver)</b>
<b>Translator</b>	-	<b>Minn Thant Han</b>
<b>Publishing House</b>	-	<b>Tharng Sarpay</b>
<b>Publication Date</b>	-	<b>December 2021 (1<sup>st</sup> Edition)</b>
<b>Price</b>	-	<b>K3,000</b>

### Buddha Hnit Kawphy Thauk Chin (Coffee with the Buddha by Joan Duncan Oliver)

IT has almost been about 2,600 years since many people have been discussing Buddha and His Teaching in various forms with some providing reference to Buddha, some talking about it in a casual way, some preaching through rhyme and rhythm and some discussing with the use of poems and verses. Nonetheless, the preachers are all talking to the audience from a dais or in a chair on a raised platform. This book uses a different presentation.

The life story of Buddha is first presented to make the readers familiar with Buddha. After the familiarization process is over, the reader is asked to make a cup of coffee. Sipping the coffee, the reader will continue to read this book. It is said in the introduction of the book that Buddha will be ready then to answer the questions the reader might be willing to raise.

The title of this book may be rather of fensive at first sight. The translator said, "The Teachings of Buddha are indicating that Buddhism is neither a religious faith nor a religious philosophy. It is, in fact, a way of

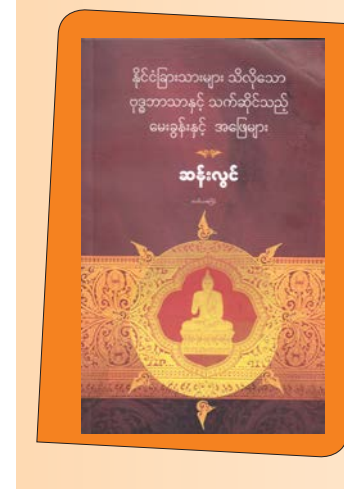
life. Buddha has introduced Buddhism not as a religion to profess but as a way of life for all people to follow."

If we analyse the word religion to find out how it is derived, it will be seen that religion is a Latin word which has two parts - re and ligare where re means again while ligare suggests union or unification. Therefore, religion means the reunification or reunion of God and human beings. The way of life is not only concerned with human beings but also with animals and plants. In this regard, it is worth mentioning that this way of life as expounded by Lord Buddha is not confined to a group of people. It is not limited to Buddhists only. The way of life is multidimensional. If a person follows his way of life, he will get the same benefit regardless of the religious faith he believes in.

This book is written in a Q&A format. The questions and answers are about dukkha, the sufferings; anicca, impermanence; anatta, non-ego; rebirths; karma and karmic effects; the desires; the morality; the mindfulness; compassion; loving-kindness; the physique;

the paths the Buddhas-to-be follow and interdependence.

Although these things are all known to those who are familiar with Buddhism, the presentation, looking at things from a different aspect, the choice of words and the approaches made from contemporary thinking is different. For example, when the karma and karmic effects are explained, the writer used a peculiar exemplification. He said that death and birth are existing immediately like the water in a river: The karma and karmic effect are likened to the waves, which are all water in different forms. Explaining mindfulness, he said that mindfulness is practising of mind. A well-trained mind is peaceful and stable. What counts is to live in the present. Living in the past is like a cow chewing the cud, ruminating. And people do not belong to the future, which is not for them to see. They need not be worried about whatever will be. The more the people are mindful of the present, the nearer they are to attaining the way to cut off the rounds of rebirth.



<b>Book Title</b>	-	<b>Naing Ngan Gyar Thar Myar Thi Lo Thaw Buddha Barthar Hnit Thet Hsaing Thi May Khun Myar Hnit Ahphyay Myar</b>
<b>Writer</b>	-	<b>Sun Lwin</b>
<b>Publishing House</b>	-	<b>Nang Dewi</b>
<b>Publication Date</b>	-	<b>July 2022 (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)</b>
<b>Price</b>	-	<b>K3,000</b>

### Naing Ngan Gyar Thar Myar Thi Lo Thaw Buddha Barthar Hnit Thet Hsaing Thi May Khun Myar Hnit Ahphyay Myar

I happened to read two books on Buddhism - one is a translated version whereas the other one is written in vernacular Myanmar during the Water Festival. The book under review is written by Sun Lwin, who is now a Buddhist monk. Having studied different religious philosophies which he specializes in during his academic career, he has chosen to profess Buddhism. When leading the secular life, he has been with the universities in various capacities as a tutor, assistant lecturer and lecturer. He has also been a researcher. In addition to contributing articles to the philosophy literature, he has shown his talents in the film industry. He has won literary awards.

Reading this book by Sayagyi U Sun Lwin has not only given me satisfaction but

also makes me proud of being a Buddhist. This book is about the questions raised by foreigners interested in Buddhism and the answers he has provided to them. Nevertheless, there are also things which we Myanmar Buddhists are not aware of. This being so, this book will be of benefit to our local Myanmar also.

As in many other cases, the foreigners are scientific in their approach to Buddhism. They are meticulous when shooting questions. Additionally, they have demonstrated a great interest in Buddhism. Maybe, some foreigners are merely curious, being bent more on putting the philosopher into the corner. Sayagyi U Sun Lwin has been ordained, and his layman's name has been changed to Reverend Adiccaramsi. He has been able to give

quite satisfactory answers to all questions raised by foreigners. Doctor Brown, a German, was rather doubtful of Dukkha Sacca - all are suffering. He could not understand particularly the sufferings of Jatipi Dukkho, the sufferings the future baby has to suffer in the mother's womb in his opinion, having to stay inside the mother's womb is not suffering because the would-be baby knows nothing.

Sayagyi explained the nature of Dukkha - the suffering which involves persecution, tiredness to maintain the body and soul nonstop, worries that give persistent trouble and the trouble to preserving the unstable phenomenon. He also explained that there are three types of Jati - Kilesa Jati, Kamma Jati and Vipaka Jati, giving

reference to Catu Sacca Dipani written by Reverend Ledi the Great.

He went on to explain that medicines are manufactured in the West to relieve expectant mothers of their pain. It is not only the expectant mother but also the embryo that suffers. The latter has also to suffer inside the mother's womb. The German was quite satisfied with his answer of Sayagyi.

Another interesting question is that old age, disease and death are natural phenomena, so, people should not regard these natural processes as suffering. This kind of view is rather pessimistic, the foreigner argued. He contended that if the people do not die, how the newly born can find a space for them to live in. Saya U Sun Lwin shot a counter question to that foreigner: How would people feel if they are kept inside a 31-storey building with all the doors and windows shut? Do you think they would feel comfortable inside the building without the ability to go out? Then, Sayagyi explained that there are 31 planes of existence in which living beings are going round, riding in a cycle of births and deaths. As long as living beings cannot emancipate from the rounds of rebirth, they suffer. There are many other interesting questions and answers.



# SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

## Be cautious for Heat Stress, Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke in Severely Hot Summer

>>FROM PAGE-9

If you suspect someone is experiencing heat exhaustion, it's important to move them to a cooler environment, have them drink plenty of fluids (such as water or sports drinks), and encourage them to rest and cool down. If the person's symptoms worsen, they lose consciousness, or their body temperature rises above 104°F (40°C), seek medical attention immediately. Heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke if left untreated, which is a much more serious and poten-

tially life-threatening condition. Therefore, it is important to take steps to prevent heat exhaustion by staying hydrated, avoiding prolonged exposure to high temperatures, and taking breaks in cool environments if necessary.

Heat stroke is a serious and potentially life-threatening condition that occurs when the body's internal temperature regulation system fails and the body temperature rises to a dangerous level, usually above 104°F (40°C). It is a medical emergency and requires immediate treatment. Symptoms

of heat stroke can include high body temperature, rapid heart-beat, rapid breathing, headache, dizziness, confusion, agitation, seizures, and even loss of consciousness. Heat stroke can cause damage to the brain, heart, kidneys, and other organs, and can lead to death if not treated promptly. If you suspect someone is experiencing heat stroke, call for emergency medical assistance immediately. While waiting for medical help to arrive, move the person to a cooler environment, remove excess clothing, and attempt to

cool the person's body temperature down by any means necessary, such as by spraying them with water, using ice packs or wet towels, or cooling them. To prevent heat stroke, it is important to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids, especially water, and avoiding prolonged exposure to high temperatures and humidity. Wear lightweight and light-coloured clothing and take breaks in cool environments if necessary. If you are working or exercising in hot conditions, be sure to take frequent breaks and listen to your body's signals

if you feel unwell.

In conclusion, a severely hot summer can be challenging, but with proper preparation and care, it is possible to stay safe and healthy. Staying hydrated, staying cool, protecting oneself from the sun's harmful UV rays, and being aware of the signs of heat stress, heat exhaustion and heat stroke are essential steps to cope with a hot summer. By taking these measures, we can make the most of the season while staying safe and healthy.

■

## Russia releases first feature film shot in space

THE first feature film shot in space premiered in Russian cinemas on Thursday, as Moscow delighted in beating a rival Hollywood project amid a confrontation with the West over Ukraine.

"The Challenge" is about a surgeon dispatched to the International Space Station (ISS) to save an injured cosmonaut.

Russia sent an actress and a film director for a 12-day stint on the ISS in October 2021 to film scenes aboard the orbiting laboratory.

The Russian crew beat a Hollywood project announced in 2020 by "Mission Impossible" star Tom Cruise together with NASA and Elon Musk's SpaceX.

At a Kremlin gala this month, Russian President Vladimir Putin lauded the film "We are the first to have shot a feature film in orbit, aboard a spacecraft. Once again the first," he said.

The Soviet Union pioneered space travel -- sending the first dog, man and woman into orbit -- and the film crew's mission added to a long list of firsts for Russia's space industry after several setbacks, including botched launches.

In "The Challenge" a surgeon played by 38-year-old Yulia Peresild -- one of Russia's most glamorous actresses -- is sent to the ISS to save a cosmonaut injured during a spacewalk. — AFP



In The Challenge a surgeon played by Yulia Peresild, 38, is sent to the ISS to save a cosmonaut injured during a spacewalk. PHOTO: AFP

## Chinese EV dominance hastens end of petrol engine era

THIS year's Shanghai Auto Show signalled the end of the petrol engine era in China, as domestic electric vehicle brands drive change across the sector and leave foreign companies in the dust, analysts and industry insiders said.

Government support for EVs and growing interest from a vast consumer base has assured Chinese companies' dominance of their home market, the world's largest -- and they are now beginning to set their sights overseas.

Shanghai has shown Chinese brands "can compete with all of the legacy automakers in every way -- performance, quality, comfort, there's nothing they can't do", said EV specialist Elliot Richards, joking he had seen "a lot of worried-looking German men wandering around".

"I think this show marks the end of the internal combustion



A BYD Seagull is displayed at the 20th Shanghai International Automobile Industry Exhibition in Shanghai, east China, 18 April 2023. PHOTO: FANG ZHE / XINHUA

engine and the beginning of the EV era," he added.

EV companies are well aware they are closing in on their fossil-fuelled predecessors.

"We regard high-end petrol vehicles such as BMW, Mercedes Benz and Audi as our main com-

petitors," William Li, CEO of the "Chinese Tesla" Nio, told AFP.

According to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, electric vehicles made up a quarter of car sales in the country in 2022, a year-on-year increase of 94 per cent. — AFP

## World's 'oldest' tree able to reveal planet's secrets

IN a forest in southern Chile, a giant tree has survived for thousands of years and is in the process of being recognized as the oldest in the world.

Known as the "Great Grandfather", the trunk of this tree measuring four metres (13 feet) in diameter and 28 metres tall is also believed to contain scientific information that could shed light on how the planet has adapted

to climatic changes. Believed to be more than 5,000 years old, it is on the brink of replacing Methuselah, a 4,850-year-old Great Basin bristlecone pine found in California in the United States, as the oldest tree on the planet.

"It's a survivor; there are no others that have had the opportunity to live so long," said Antonio Lara, a researcher at Austral University and Chile's

centre for climate science and resilience, who is part of the team measuring the tree's age.

The Great Grandfather lies on the edge of a ravine in a forest in the southern Los Rios region, 800 kilometres (500 miles) to the south of the capital Santiago.

It is a *Fitzroya cupressoides*, a type of cypress tree that is endemic to the south of the continent. — AFP



# HEALTH/WELLNESS: WORLD

## Japan's 'crying baby sumo' festival returns after pandemic

DOZENS of bawling Japanese babies faced off Saturday in a traditional "crying sumo" ritual believed to bring the infants good health, which returned for the first time in four years after the pandemic.

Pairs of toddlers wearing ceremonial sumo aprons were held up by their parents and faced each other in the sumo ring at Sensoji Temple in Tokyo.

Staff wearing "oni" demon masks tried to make the babies cry, with the first to bawl declared the winner by a sumo referee in an elaborate traditional uniform holding a wooden fan used to signal victory.

"We can tell a baby's health condition by listening to the way they cry. Today she may get nervous and not cry so much, but I want to hear her healthy crying,"

Hisae Watanabe, mother of an eight-month-old, told AFP.

The "crying sumo" is held at shrines and temples nationwide, to the delight of parents and onlookers.

Shigemi Fuji, chairman of Asakusa Tourism Federation which organized the event, said some people might think it's terrible they make babies cry.

"But in Japan, we believe babies who cry powerfully also grow up healthily. This kind of event takes place in many places in Japan," he said.

A total of 64 babies participated in the ritual, according to the organizer.

The rules vary from region to region -- in some places parents want their offspring to be the first to cry, in others the first to weep is the loser. — AFP



The 'crying baby sumo' ritual returned to Sensoji Temple for the first time since the Covi-19 pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

## When, how do athletes seek mental healthcare?

A more rigorous study strategy could help better understand athletes' experiences with mental health support, as well as their attitudes towards these programmes.

Experts at the University of Birmingham's School of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences, plan to assess current studies on athletes' mental health help-seeking, suggesting that research to consolidate existing knowledge was a necessary next step.

Athletes are less likely to seek help for mental health issues than non-athletes, and can also face challenges including a lack of access to services or previous negative experiences when seeking help.

While researchers understand the sources of support available - including those available in healthcare, sporting contexts and higher education systems, how athletes access these and their experience of them is less well understood.

Since athletes' help-seeking for mental health is a relatively new area of research, a review of existing studies that could inform future research directions would be an important next step as new evidence



Athletes are less likely to seek help for mental health issues than non-athletes, and can also face challenges including a lack of access to services or previous negative experiences when seeking help. PHOTO: ANI

is emerging continually.

The protocol, published in BMJ Open, outlines plans for a scoping review, leading to clearer identification of gaps in the knowledge base and suggestions for further research.

Kirsty Brown, who led the research, said: "Athletes are known to have similar rates of issues such as anxiety, depression and eating disorders as the general population, yet they have lower rates of help-seeking for mental health. — ANI

## Astrocyte dysfunction causes cognitive decline: Study

ACCORDING to a preclinical study led by Weill Cornell Medicine researchers, people with dementia have protein buildup in their astrocytes, which may cause abnormal antiviral activity and memory loss.

Dysfunction in cells called neurons, which transmit messages throughout the brain, has long been the prime suspect in dementia-related cognitive deficits.

But a new study, published in Science Advances, suggests that abnormal immune activity in non-neuronal brain cells called astrocytes is sufficient to cause cognitive deficits in dementia.

The discovery could lead to new treatments that reduce excess immune activity in astrocytes and their detrimental effects on other brain cells and

cognition. "Astrocyte dysfunction alone can drive memory loss, even when neurons and other cells are otherwise healthy," said co-senior author Dr. Anna Orr, the Nan and Stephen Swid Assistant Professor of Frontotem-

poral Dementia Research in the Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute and a member of the Helen and Robert Appel Alzheimer's Disease Research Institute at Weill Cornell Medicine. — ANI



While everyone loses some neurons as they age, people with dementia experience far greater loss. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP

## Kenya vows to sustain investments to attain zero malaria goal by 2030

KENYA'S Ministry of Health on Wednesday announced new strategies that harness sustained funding and innovations in order to eliminate malaria by 2030.

Josephine Mburu, principal secretary in the Ministry of

Health, said that by implementing high-impact interventions such as domestic financing and novel innovations, the country is likely to achieve zero malaria status in the next seven years. "The Ministry of Health plans to use

innovative tools such as the use of drones in larval source management in lake endemic zones," Mburu remarked at a briefing in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, ahead of World Malaria Day which falls on 25 April. — Xinhua



# ECONOMY WORLD

## Japan asks EU to lift restrictions put on exports after 2011 disaster

FARM minister Tetsuro Nomura on Friday asked his European Union counterpart to lift restrictions placed on some of Japan's agricultural exports following the 2011 Fukushima nuclear plant disaster.

In a meeting in Miyazaki, southwestern Japan, Nomura asked EU Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski to swiftly remove restrictions on products such as seafood and wild mushrooms from northeastern Fukushima Prefecture.

The restrictions were implemented after a massive earthquake and tsunami triggered multiple-reactor meltdowns at the Fukushima Daiichi power station.

In a separate meeting, Nomura agreed with US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack on creating a new forum for regularly exchanging information to promote sustainable farming.

In the Japan-US Dialogue on Sustainable Agriculture, the



In this 17 April 2013 file photo, IAEA experts depart Unit 4 of TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station as part of a mission to review Japan's plans to decommission the facility. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ IAEA**

two countries agreed to hold regular in-person dialogue sessions, preferably in Tokyo and Washington, to share information and discuss relevant policies, according to a joint statement.

"I have hopes that Japan-US cooperation on sustainable agriculture will become even stronger," Nomura, the minister of ag-

riculture, forestry and fisheries, said at the meeting, part of which was open to the media.

"Japan has provided leadership in focusing on the important role of innovation in responding to a changing climate and the demand for more production," Vilsack said. — Kyodo

## Norway wealth fund posts strong quarterly return

NORWAY'S sovereign wealth fund, the largest in the world, posted a gain of \$84 billion in the first quarter due to the strong stock market following big losses last year, the central bank said Friday.

The robust showing, representing a return of 5.9 per cent, erases about half of the fund's massive \$165.4-billion loss last

year amid turbulence over the start of the war in Ukraine.

The fund, one of the world's biggest investors, was worth a dizzying \$1.34 trillion at the end of March, or almost \$245,000 for each of Norway's 5.5 million inhabitants.

"The equity investments had the most positive contribution to the return in the quarter,"

the fund's deputy director Trond Grande said in a statement.

"The rise of the equity market was to a great extent driven by the technology and consumer discretionary sector," he added.

Fuelled by revenues from Norway's state-owned oil and gas companies, the fund is aimed at financing future spending in the generous welfare state.

According to a ranking by the Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute (SWFI), the Norwegian fund is the biggest in the world, just ahead of the China Investment Corporation and followed by those in Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Singapore.

Shares, which accounted for 70.1 per cent of the Norwegian fund's portfolio at the end of March, saw a 7.4 per cent return in the first quarter.

The fund has stakes in more than 9,200 companies worldwide, representing 1.5 per cent of the total market capitalization. — AFP



Fuelled by revenues from Norway's state-owned oil and gas companies, the fund is aimed at financing future spending in the generous welfare state. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Brazil may surpass US as world's No 1 corn exporter

ON his farm in the state of Mato Grosso, Brazil's grain basket, Ilson Jose Redivo finished planting his corn crop a few weeks ago, acting quickly once he'd harvested the soybeans that he'd grown on the same fields.

In this region of west-central Brazil, the fields stretch as far as the eye can see and the schedule is well established: The farmer plants the two crops, soybean and corn, on "almost 100 per cent" of his over 1,550 hectares (3,800 acres). The corn will be harvested in June.

The corn is a second crop, or "small crop", which Brazilians call a "safrinha". Over the past decade, the second crop has turned into Brazil's main corn crop and taken an increasing share of world corn

production.

This year's expected production should hit a record, making Brazil the world's leading corn exporter ahead of the United States, a position it has only reached once before, in 2013.

Production is expected to hit 124.9 million tonnes (up 10.4 per cent compared to last year), of which 76.3 per cent is second crop, according to the latest report from the National Supply Company (Conab), published this week.

This is despite a "delay in the soybean harvest" due to a "surplus of rain" in Mato Grosso, the country's main producer of soybeans and corn, where the mild winter and the distribution of rainfall allow a second annual harvest. — AFP



In this file photo taken on 12 May 2023, trucks harvest corn grains at a farm in Guarapuava, Brazil. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Poland allows transit of Ukrainian grain

POLAND on Friday allowed the transit of Ukrainian grain and other food through its borders, partially lifting a near week-long ban imposed in response to protests from farmers.

Poland and other European Union countries bordering Ukraine imposed temporary bans on Ukrainian grain exports after farmers protested a slump in prices related to the influx.

Ukraine has transported such exports across EU borders since Russia's invasion disrupted its usual Black Sea shipping route. Polish authorities said Friday the transit of dozens of food items — including sugar, meat, fruits and vegetables — is

now permitted, but Ukrainian exporters still cannot sell the listed products on the country's market.

"We assume that the check-ins will be quite smooth, so far there is no signs that queues will form," Bartosz Zbarszczuk, head of the Polish customs agency told RMF24 radio.

The transit was allowed at 2:00 am (0000GMT) when the government regulation lifting the ban on transports entered into force. Poland on Saturday banned entry of dozens of food items from the war-torn country and Hungary, Slovakia and Bulgaria followed suit with similar moves. — AFP



# Financial summit sees contracts worth over US\$ 10 bln signed between China, Singapore

THE fifth China-Singapore (Chongqing) Connectivity Initiative Financial Summit opened in China's Chongqing Municipality and in Singapore simultaneously on Thursday, witnessing the contracting of 90 projects with an aggregate contract amount of 111 billion yuan (about 14.5 billion US dollars).

Focused on new missions for financial centres and new momentum for financial opening-up, the summit aims to provide forward-looking views and policy guidelines for quality financial cooperation between China and Singapore, as well as new areas



This photo taken on 20 April 2023 shows the signing ceremony of key projects during the fifth China-Singapore (Chongqing) Connectivity Initiative Financial Summit in southwest China's Chongqing. **PHOTO: HUANG WEI/XINHUA**

of financial cooperation between China and the Association of Southeast

Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Among the 90 projects contracted, 19 involve Chinese and foreign-funded institutions to be put into operation, with a total contract value of 39.23 billion yuan, according to the organizing committee. The projects also involve capital increases for institutions, with a contract value of 9.9 billion yuan, the committee said.

The financial summit is one of the major landmark accomplishments of the China-Singapore (Chongqing) Demonstration Initiative on Strategic Connectivity, which was launched in 2015.—Xinhua

## Credit Suisse bondholders sue Swiss regulator

A group of Credit Suisse bondholders representing billions of dollars in high-risk debt that was wiped out in the bank's rescue takeover by rival UBS are suing Switzerland's banking regulator, their lawyers said Friday. Swiss authorities required that 16 billion Swiss francs (\$17.9 billion) in so-called additional tier 1 (AT1) bonds be rendered worthless in the mega-merger of Switzerland's two biggest banks, announced last month. The order by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA) infuriated bondholders, who are typically better protected than shareholders.

But in this case, shareholders were not fully wiped out in the deal, though they did see the value of their holdings shrink drastically in the \$3.25 billion takeover. Lawyers for a group of Swiss and international investors collectively representing more than a quarter of the wiped-out debt — worth 4.5 billion Swiss francs — have now taken legal action against FINMA over that move.—AFP

# London seeks to keep Europe fintech crown despite Brexit



In January 2022, Revolut launched as a bank (instead of an e-money institution) in 10 additional European countries: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, and Sweden. **PHOTO: AFP**

FROM digital bank Revolut to money-transfer group Wise and payments company Checkout, London is Europe's fintech champion and intends on keeping its crown despite Brexit fallout and declining investments.

"Before Brexit, the UK was a great place" for the sector developing financial technology, Revolut's global head of government affairs, Adam Gagen, told UK Fintech Week which

ended on Friday.

He put this down to "fantastic regulation... great talent" and 300-400 million customers that could be directly accessed throughout Europe.

"That's not the case anymore."

Britain's exit from the European Union without an EU-London deal on financial services has complicated access to the gigantic market and talent.

Also addressing the

Fintech Week, junior UK Treasury minister Andrew Griffith insisted the sector was "vital for the economy". Revolut, which made its first annual profit in 2021, has an EU banking licence and is seeking the same for the UK, which would allow it to operate on a similar level as on the continent. "The UK is still probably one of the best places to start and grow a fintech anywhere in the world," said Gagen.—AFP

# Google stops work on big Silicon Valley campus: report

GOOGLE has paused construction of a massive campus in the Silicon Valley city of San Jose as it reins in costs, CNBC reported on Friday. Google's parent company Alphabet early this year announced it would cut about 12,000 jobs globally, citing a challenging economic reality.

Alphabet reported lower revenue and profit than expected in the final three months of last year as harsh economic times cooled its ad business.

The internet titan

is scheduled to release its most recent quarterly earnings figures next week. A site in San Jose had been cleared for a Google "Downtown West" campus, with construction to start by the end of this year, according to CNBC.

The report cited unnamed people as saying the project was put on pause, with no word sent to contractors regarding when it might resume.

An approved plan for the 80-acre (32 hectare) campus included office

space, housing units, and public parks, according to CNBC. Alphabet's budget cuts follow a major hiring spree during the height of the coronavirus pandemic by internet companies scrambling to meet demand as people went online for work, school and entertainment. Analysts have said tech's big guns had previously overspent, not seeing a slowdown on the horizon.

Google's world-dominating search engine has found itself under pres-



A new Google mega-campus in the Silicon Valley city of San Jose was to feature office space, housing units, and public parks. **PHOTO: AFP**

sure with the emergence of ChatGPT, a Microsoft-backed chatbot that

can generate elaborate, human-like content in just seconds.—AFP

**CORRIGENDUM**  
In the Trademark Caution for SUNEKOS and NUTRAKOS marks that appeared on page 19 of this Newspaper dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023, the correct owner company name is Professional Dietetics S.p.A. (a joint-stock company).

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# GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## G-7 farm ministers seek to enhance food security amid Ukraine war

AGRICULTURE ministers from the Group of Seven industrialized nations met Saturday in southwestern Japan for two days of talks to find ways of ensuring stable food supplies as Russia's war against Ukraine threatens global food security.

During the gathering in Miyazaki, one in a series of ministerial meetings taking place in the run-up to the G-7 summit next month, Japan also plans to call on other group members to participate in a UN-involved project aimed at supporting small-scale food producers in developing countries.

"As food supply and demand change drastically around the

world, agricultural policies in each country are at a historic turning point," Japan's farm minister Tetsuro Nomura said at the opening of the meeting.

The G-7 groups Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, plus the European Union.

The meeting is taking place as disruptions at food markets, brought on by the war between the two major grain suppliers, and the coronavirus pandemic, are pushing up prices, hitting poorer countries especially hard.

Discussions will focus on beefing up agricultural productivity to increase output while



Group of Seven agriculture ministers and representatives from various international organizations meet in Miyazaki, southwestern Japan, on 22 April 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

doing so in an environmentally sustainable manner and sharing ideas between governments and international organizations, according to the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and

Fisheries.

"Innovation is definitely key to feeding a growing population and doing it sustainably," said Canadian Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Ma-

rie-Claude Bibeau, who pointed to Canada's so-called clusters initiative, which forms partnerships between the farm industry, government and academia, with support from the state. — Kyodo

### WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

#### Russia declares Bulgarian journalist a 'foreign agent'

RUSSIA on Friday added a Bulgarian journalist and longtime Kremlin critic to its list of "foreign agents" and ordered his arrest, in a rare use of the label against a non-Russian citizen.

Moscow has stepped up efforts to stamp out dissent after President Vladimir Putin sent troops to Ukraine in February last year, and most independent media outlets have been shut down or suspended operations.

Bulgarian Christo Grozev, 53, is the lead Russia journalist for the Bellingcat investigative website, and played a key role in its investigation into the poisoning of opposition politician Alexei Navalny.

The Russian interior ministry added Grozev to its list of foreign agents on Friday and a Moscow court ordered the arrest of Grozev, Russian news agencies reported.

Grozev is not currently in Russia.

Moscow has extensively used the label "foreign agent", which has Stalin-era connotations, against Kremlin critics but rarely against a foreigner.

According to Russian law, it can be slapped on an individual "regardless of their citizenship". — AFP

## Peru ex-president Toledo surrenders for extradition: US marshals



Newspapers with the portrait of former Peruvian President (2001-2006) Alejandro Toledo on their front pages, are displayed for sale in Lima in 2017. **PHOTO: ERNESTO BENAVIDES/AFP/FILE**

PERUVIAN ex-president Alejandro Toledo surrendered to US authorities in California Friday,

ahead of his expected extradition to Lima on charges of corruption and money laundering.

Toledo has lived in the United States for several years, and gave himself up at a federal court building in San Jose, where he was handed over to the US Marshals Service. The 77-year-old, who served as Peru's president from 2001 until 2006, is wanted by Peruvian prosecutors investigating a sprawling scandal involving Brazilian construction conglomerate Odebrecht.

Toledo, who holds a doctorate from Stanford University, is accused of taking millions of dollars from Odebrecht in exchange for favored treatment in bidding on public works.

He denies all charges, which could see him jailed for up to 20 years if convicted in Peru. — AFP



Mexico's presidential airplane is seen at the Benito Juárez International Airport in Mexico City in December 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Mexico finally finds buyer for luxury presidential jet

MEXICAN President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said he has finally found a buyer for a luxury presidential jet that he once called an "insult" to the people — the government of Tajikistan.

The Central Asian nation agreed to purchase the Boeing 787 Dreamliner for 1.66 billion

pesos (\$92 million), Lopez Obrador announced late Thursday after several years of trying to sell the plane.

Lopez Obrador, a leftist austerity crusader, had been vowing to get rid of the aircraft since his 2018 election campaign, saying "not even Donald Trump has a

plane like that." "I would have felt shame, I say it sincerely, to use this plane," Lopez Obrador said in a video announcing its sale, sitting next to the aircraft.

The proceeds will be used to build two hospitals in impoverished regions of southern Mexico, he said. — AFP



## Greek PM kicks off general election countdown



Mitsotakis met with President Katerina Sakellariou to submit the proposal from cabinet. PHOTO: AFP

GREECE'S Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis called for the dissolution of parliament on Saturday, kicking off the countdown to general elections set for 21 May.

Mitsotakis, whose four-year term would have ended in July and holds a slim lead in polls, is seeking re-election on pledg-

es of safety improvements after the nation's worst rail disaster, and strengthening the economy. He met with President Katerina Sakellariou to submit the proposal from cabinet, with a signed presidential decree expected later in the day.

"The government has practi-

cally exhausted its term of office. I hope we have a fruitful debate free from toxicity," Mitsotakis said in a statement calling for widespread participation in the coming elections. "I especially call on young people who must be involved in decisions about their future," he added. Later, in televised statement, Mitsotakis added that "the country needs political stability to... regain investment grade status meaning cheaper borrowing for the country but also for businesses and households".

### Narrow lead

Credit rating agency Standard and Poors refrained from granting investment grade to Greece's economy on Friday, affirming its rating at "BB+" that is one notch below investment grade, attributed to the uncertainty of the upcoming general election. — AFP

## Comoros refuses migrants expelled in France standoff



Protesters hold French and Mayotte flags as they gather on the Place de la Republique in Mamoutzou, on the French Indian Ocean island of Mayotte, in March 2018 during a demonstration against insecurity and immigration. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

THE Indian Ocean archipelago of the Comoros warned Friday it would not accept migrants expelled from the neighbouring French island of Mayotte in a looming operation that has triggered a diplomatic spat.

Authorities in Mayotte are expected to launch Operation Wuambushu ("Take Back") next week to remove illegal migrants

who have settled in slums on the island.

Those without papers are to be sent back to the Comoran island of Anjouan, 70 kilometres (45 miles) away.

"The Comoros do not intend to welcome people expelled as part of the operation planned by the French government in Mayotte," government spokes-

man Houmed Msaidie told AFP. Msaidie said the planned action went against "the spirit and the letter" of agreements between the two countries.

In 2019 France pledged 150 million euros (\$161 million) in development aid as part of a deal to tackle human trafficking and ease the repatriation of Comorans from Mayotte. — AFP

### WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

#### Canada considers next steps after citizen convicted in Paris bombing: Trudeau

CANADA is considering its next steps after a Paris court on Friday convicted a Lebanese-Canadian sociology professor in absentia for the 1980 bombing of a synagogue in the French capital, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said. Hassan Diab, now 69 and a resident of Canada, faces life in prison in France. But he and his supporters want Ottawa to reject any new requests for his extradition. "We will look carefully at next steps, at what the French government chooses to do, at what French tribunals choose to do," Trudeau told a news conference. — AFP

#### Disney marks centenary with retrospective in Munich

DISNEY is putting its cultural legacy on show in Germany in a multimedia exhibition featuring memorabilia from the Magic Kingdom, including the first ticket to Disneyland and drawings from its most famous animated pictures.

From Mickey Mouse to Marvel, the US entertainment titan's celebration of its centenary opened in Munich this week, the first stop on its European tour.

Visitors are treated to 10 galleries mixing images, sound and text as well as items pulled from the Disney archives: screenplays, photos, movie props, letters and memorabilia. — AFP

## Khartoum sees lull in fighting on first day of Eid

STREET fighting between the forces of two rival generals eased in parts of Sudan's capital by Friday evening, witnesses reported, after repeated calls for an end-of-Ramadan ceasefire to the nearly week-long conflict.

More than 400 people have been killed and thousands wounded since the fighting erupted Saturday between forces loyal to army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his deputy, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the powerful paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and is commonly

known as Hemeti. The army announced Friday that it had "agreed to a ceasefire for three days" to "enable citizens to celebrate Eid al-Fitr and allow the flow of humanitarian services", which UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken had called for a day earlier.

Blinken welcomed both the army's announcement and an earlier one by the RSF, a powerful force formed from members of the Janjaweed militia involved in years of violence in the western Darfur region. — AFP



People fleeing street battle between the forces of two rival Sudanese generals, are transported on the back of a truck in the southern part of Khartoum, on 21 April 2023. PHOTO: AFP



G-7 farm ministers seek to enhance food security amid Ukraine war  
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# SPORT



## FIFA-MFF programme to select talented players nationwide

WITH the supervision of FIFA, the Myanmar Football Federation will search for and select the next generation of talented players through the FIFA-MFF TDS Scouting Tour 2023 program.

The Myanmar Football Federation will cooperate with the relevant organizations to carry out the program, and the new generation of outstanding players

between the ages of 11 and 15 will be systematically screened and selected according to their technical skills. The FIFA-MFF TDS Scouting Tour 2023 program starts with the first round of selection in major cities from 20 to 28 April.

After that, the final selection will be held at Myanmar Football Academy in Mandalay on 9 and 10 May and at Yangon National Football Academy on 16 and 17 May.

The list of selected players will be announced on 24 May, said MFF football authorities.

The second round of FIFA-MFF TDS Scouting Tour 2023 player selection will continue in October and November 2023.

The FIFA-MFF TDS Scouting Tour 2023 programme will be headed by the Myanmar Football Federation's technical department. — KZL



The young boy participates in the FIFA-MFF programme's player selection event held in Yangon on 20 May. PHOTO: MFF

between the ages of 11 and 15 will be systematically screened and selected according to their technical skills. The FIFA-MFF TDS Scouting Tour 2023 pro-

## Inter fury as racism victim Lukaku punished



Inter Milan striker Romelu Lukaku was subjected to racist abuse after scoring a penalty against Juventus. PHOTO: AFP

INTER Milan on Friday condemned striker Romelu Lukaku's Italian Cup semi-final ban saying the "victim" of racist abuse had become the "only guilty party" after Juventus won an appeal against a stand closure.

The Italian Football Federation's (FIGC) appeals court confirmed Lukaku's suspen-

sion meaning he will be unable to compete in Wednesday's semi-final, second leg in the San Siro.

On Friday, Inter Milan said it was saddened "that the victim has become the only guilty party".

Lukaku received the suspension after picking up two yellow cards, the second for

his goal celebration on front of Juventus fans after a stoppage-time penalty which secured Inter a 1-1 draw in the first leg in Turin.

The Belgium striker held his finger to his mouth as he has after scoring for his country and told Juve supporters to "shut up". — AFP

## 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.

## Kim A-lim leads weather-hit LPGA Chevron Championship

SOUTH Korea's Kim A-lim closed with back-to-back birdies to grab the lead on Friday in the weather-hit second round of the LPGA Chevron Championship, the first women's golf major of the year.

Kim had eight birdies in her seven-under par 65 on the Jack Nicklaus Signature course at The Woodlands near Houston, Texas.

She capped her round with birdies at the eighth and ninth holes, rolling in a putt from off the green at the eighth then sticking her approach shot at the ninth inches from the cup for a tap-in and the outright lead on

eight-under par 136.

The round, delayed two hours after heavy rain, was halted by darkness and was to resume Saturday morning.

Kim was one stroke ahead of Americans Megan Khang and Lilia Vu.

Vu had made the most of the rain-softened course to card a three-under par 69 on Friday morning and was joined on seven-under 137 by Khang, who completed her bogey-free five-under par 67 as darkness fell.

"It was pretty good," Kim said of her finish, noting she thought the front nine played easier than the back. — AFP