

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. X, No. 42, 11th Waxing of Nayon 1385 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Monday, 29 May 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.

MRCs provides emergency relief supplies to Cyclone Mocha victims in Rakhine State



A resident of Sittway accepts aids and emergency relief equipment from an official on 26 May. **PHOTO: WIN AUNG (MRCS)**

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society is actively assisting in Rakhine State, suffering severe impacts of Cyclone Mocha, by providing aid and distributing emergency relief equipment to the residents of Sittway Township.

Under the leadership of U Myint Htwe, the Head of Rakhine State Red Cross Brigade, and Daw Aye Aye Nyein, Direc-

tor of the Projects Management Unit of Rakhine State, officials from International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies donated supplies to the villages of Myitna and Nyoyaungchaung villages in Sittway Township on the morning of 26 May.

A total of 33 family kits, 107 bags of personal hygiene goods,

107 bags of female hygiene goods, 74 sets of kitchen utensils, 148 sheets of tarpaulin and 74 mosquito nets were supplied for 107 households in Myitna village. A total of 54 family kits, 130 bags of personal hygiene goods, 130 bags of female hygiene goods, 76 sets of kitchen utensils, 152 sheets of tarpaulin and 76 mosquito nets for 130 households in

Nyoyaungchaung village.

The Myanmar Red Cross Society provides food, shelter, water, personal hygiene products, and emergency cash assistance to people in temporary shelters and villages in need. They are committed to supporting shelters and ensuring ongoing aid. — Win Aung (MRCS)/KZW

MLCA sends construction materials to storm-affected schools in Rakhine State

THE Myanmar Licensed Contractors Association-MLCA arranged transport of construction materials by cargo ship from Bo Aung Kyaw Port of Yangon on 27 May, aimed at renovating schools and universities in storm-affected Rakhine State.

“The association managed sending of construction materials such as



corrugated iron sheets and hollow iron pipes weighing more than 20 tonnes and roofing accessories to Rakhine State so as to construct buildings. It is scheduled that these construction materials will be used in renovation of universities and schools,” said U Tin Naing, joint-secretary-1 of the association.

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A photo shows construction materials to be sent by Myanmar Licensed Contractors Association to storm-hit Rakhine State.

MLCA sends construction materials to storm-affected schools in Rakhine State

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He continued to say that more plans are underway to send CI sheets and hollow pipes donated by well-wishers to the storm-affected areas.

According to the follow-up information, the association also managed transport of 600 visses of palm oil and 50 visses of groundnut to be used in cooking meals for people from four corners.

With regard to sympathizing with the

storm-hit people in Rakhine State, the MLCA invited Myanmar Licensed Contractors Public Co Ltd and MLCA members from regions and states as well as religious partnership organizations from 17 to 22 May and formed necessary committees. Reportedly, the Oxygen Donors & Volunteer Group with participation of members from MLCA and associates has been sending lunch for 10,000 storm-affected people daily since 24 May. — Htun Htun/TTA

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

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

4. Donations can be made through KBZ Pay or Wave Money. If you wish to donate, please scan the QR codes

provided by both KBZ Pay and Wave Money. To contribute, enter the code included within the respective QR codes.

5. People make donations through CB Pay, AYA Pay and OK\$, which are widely

used to enhance convenience for donors. To donate, please scan the QR code and enter the code provided within it.

6. The well-wishers can contact the following persons for further information: -

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

Products must be of better quality to attract consumers

— For successful production, efforts must be made to ensure good quality products and modern packaging to attract consumers.

— If products are the same, prices should be cheaper. If prices are the same, products must be of better quality. With these, our goods will be marketable.

(Excerpts from the discussion by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with MSME businesspersons of Myeik District held on 5 November 2022)

SAC member DPM Union Minister inspects progress of rehabilitation activities in Rakhine State

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San, Union Border Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin yesterday morning inspected loading of relief supplies carried by Fortune, Sun Shine vessels, and military vessels onto other vessels and vehicles with heavy machinery for Mocha-affected areas at Essar multipurpose port in Sittway.

They also viewed the military landing crafts that would be loaded with relief materials and delivered to the Mocha-hit areas and instructed respon-



SAC member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San inspects unloading of construction materials at the port in Rakhine State on 28 May.

yun-Sittway No 1 power cable are being repaired by of 567 electricians in 16 teams and 62 heavy machinery from the Electric Power Transmission and System Control Department (DPTSC) under the Ministry of Electric Power.

Seven pylons of the 66 KV Ponnagyun-Yathedaung power line, which releases power to Yathedaung Township in Sittway District, Rakhine State and 76 lamp-posts and two transformers from the 11 KV/400 volt power line that feeds Yathedaung were damaged in Cyclone Mocha.

Power cables and substations in Yathedaung city were restored by 92 electricians and six heavy machinery from the



Unloading of concrete lamp-posts



Admiral Tin Aung San views round Technological University in Sittway.



Electricians repairing power cables to supply electricity to locals in Yathedaung.

sible personnel to make arrangements in advance to load and unload the goods without delay at the arrival of vessels, distribute supplies systematically, deliver to affected areas as soon as possible, and en-

sure that it actually reaches the people in need through the systematic supervision.

Next, Admiral Tin Aung San and his party examined the progress in repair of lamp-posts along the city circular

road and inspected the restoration process of the guest house in Sittway Station.

Then, they looked into progress of the roofing work at Sittway Basic Education High School No 1 and gave instruc-

tions on the restoration work and the improvement of the school's cleanliness and appearance in a priority order.

Currently, the 230 KV MraukU-Ponnagyun power cable and the 66 KV Ponnag-

Ministry of Electric Power, completing 34 lamp-posts in the 11 kV/400 volt power cable as of 26 May. It is scheduled that the remaining power lines would be completed in the first week of June. — MNA/CT

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Rural manufacturing road commissioned into service in Mawlamyinegyun Township



SAC's Central Advisory Body leader U Saw Tun Aung Myint has documentary photos taken at inauguration of manufacturing road in Mawlamyinegyun Township on 28 May.

LOCALS have to maintain the already-inaugurated manufacturing road in cooperation with relevant departments for long-term use of further generations, said U Saw Tun Aung Myint, leader of State Administration Council's Central Advisory Body, at the ceremony to com-

mission the manufacturing road into service in Hteinkala Village of Mawlamyinegyun Township in Ayeyawady Region yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the central advisory body leader said it is sure that the manufacturing road in Hteinkala Village would actually contribute much to social, economic, education and health sectors of the village.

He expressed his pleasure for emergence of an all-season use road built by the Ayeyawady Region Department of Rural Development with more than K69 million in 2022-23 financial year.

He stressed that locals have to maintain the already-inaugurated manufacturing road in cooperation with relevant departments for long-term use of

further generations.

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win, in his speech, unveiled that the region government is striving for improvement of education, health, transport, water supply and electricity for the rural people.

The leader of the central advisory body together with the region chief minister and the commander of South-West Command cut the ribbon to open the concrete road.

The manufacturing road is 2,450 feet long, 10 feet wide and seven inches thick.

The leader of the central advisory body viewed school enrolment activities at the post-primary school in the village and presented cash assistance to teachers.—MNA/TTA

ASEAN-ERAT clarifies findings of survey in Rakhine State

THE ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) conducted a field survey in Mocha-affected areas: Sittway, Rathedaung, Kyauktaw, and Ponnagyun townships in Rakhine State from 22 to 25 May.

A meeting to present the findings and procedures of the survey to the Union Minister of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement took place at the meeting hall of the Disaster Management Department yesterday morning.

At first, leaders from two survey teams clarified the findings and the tasks that should be prioritized based on the results of the survey in relations to food, shelter, water and cleaning up, drinking water, livelihoods, and employment.

Union Minister of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine thanked the efforts of the ASEAN-ERAT team and said



ASEAN-ERAT clarifies situation of storm-hit area on 28 May.

that field surveys were compact and complete. The Union minister also stated that the health, education, electricity supply, and communication sectors are being prioritized by the government, and plans are underway to repair damaged lakes to provide clean drinking water, distribute seedlings and hatchlings from the respective departments for the livelihood sector, and carry out the cash for work programme. Current-

ly, Tatmadaw members, MPF members, firefighters and volunteers are cleaning the public areas; the re-opening of markets and stability of commodity prices are also being done; and the water distribution with the use of water purifier trucks is being carried out.

The emergency response to Cyclone Mocha and the conditions of the rehabilitation process were also discussed.— MNA/CT

Commander-in Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung inspects naval bases in Sittway

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung, who arrived in Sittway, Rakhine State, along with the commander of the local naval command and officials, examined the local naval jetty in Sittway Station, pumping out of sea water from water tanks, the status of Mingan port, buildings in local naval units yesterday. They also checked the staff housings for families and handed over the basic foodstuffs, kitchen appliances, vegetables, eggs, canned meat, and instant noodles after encouraging families.

Afterwards, the commander of the local naval command presented the preparatory state for Cyclone Mocha, the damage buildings caused by the cyclone, and the conditions of restoration works.

Then, the Admiral oversaw the damaged fence around the local naval command headquarters and the damage along the strand road. Finally, he visited the ES-SAR jetty to supervise transport of relief materials to MyaukU by landing crafts from the Tatmadaw (Navy). — MNA/CT



Admiral Moe Aung presents relief aid to naval families on 28 May.

Tatmadaw (Air) continues transporting foodstuffs, relief items to Rakhine State

THE relief materials and food items contributed by the families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and well-wishers and relief supplies provided by the National Disaster Management Committee for local communities affected by the natural disaster in Rakhine State are being transported by Tatmadaw aircraft, helicopters and vessels.

Foodstuffs, purified drinking water, plastic containers, medical accessories, rehabilitation accessories, and household goods donated by the families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) were transported from Nay Pyi Taw Airport

to Sittway Airport twice yesterday by Tatmadaw plane.

Tatmadaw members, police force members, relief teams, departmental officials, tinned fish, soap bars, detergent powder, clothes, construction material, tarpaulin sheets and foodstuffs were also transported from Mingaladon Airport to Sittway Airport by Tatmadaw plane.

The officials checked the donations and donated food and cash.

Officials in the respective areas received relief supplies and will distribute them to storm victims. — MNA/KZW



Aircraft of Tatmadaw (Air) is under preparation for transporting relief supplies to storm-hit areas in Rakhine State on 28 May.

Tatmadaw (Navy) transports supplies to people in Mocha-hit Rakhine State



Relief aids being unloaded from landing craft in local port of Rakhine State on 28 May.

A 29-metre landing craft from the Tatmadaw (Navy) transported relief items, foodstuffs and utensils totalling 24 tonnes to Rathedaung and Buthidaung Ports from Yaychanpyin Port yesterday morning.

Another 29-metre landing craft transported essential utensils, rehabilitation items, and foodstuffs totalling 57 tonnes to Ponnagyun Port via Sittway.

In the afternoon, the third 29-metre landing craft transported relief items totalling 10 tonnes of supplies to Yaychan-

pyin Port via Sittway's Essar Jetty.

Similarly, the fourth one conveyed hardwoods, foodstuffs, LED bulbs and utensils totalling 29.5 tonnes and the fifth one, 57 tonnes of relief items and as well as 52 rolls of tarpaulin donated by India to Kyauktaw Port via Sittway.

Likewise, MCL 3 vessel owned by MCL Company Limited which docked in Yangon transported relief items, foodstuffs, and essential utensils donated by Electricity Supply

Enterprise, Ministry of Health, Myanmar Timber Enterprise, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation as well as Shwe Than Lwin Co totalling 1,453.56 tonnes to Sittway.

The naval vessels and MV MCL 3 vessel owned by MCL Company will hand over food products, construction vehicles and relief materials to the officials in an orderly manner.— MNA/KZL

Tatmadaw senior officers assist in rehabilitation efforts in Rakhine State

THE State Administration Council has assigned senior military officers to supervise restoration work in the disaster-hit areas.

Brig-Gen Khin Zaw, currently in Minbya Township, MraukU District, along with officials, met with teachers, school heads and construction teams from the damaged schools at the township education office on 27 May to construct building of the school buildings before the schooling season and then cooperated in the completion of school building construction. Next, they hand-

ed over rice and foodstuffs to locals from cyclone-affected areas at the office of the General Administration Department in Minbya Township and encouraged them.

Likewise, Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Soe, who arrived in Myebon, MraukU District, and officials coordinated with the township disaster rehabilitation committee members for quick delivery of 13 items carried by the landing craft, which were provided by the Disaster Recovery Committee of the Rakhine State Government



Brig-Gen Khin Zaw distributes relief aids to locals in storm-hit Minbya on 27 May.

and well-wishers to people affected by the disaster yesterday.

In addition, Brig-Gen Aung Kyaw Moe, who arrived in Sittway Township, met with ward administra-

tors and officials from social organizations at the meeting hall of the district GAD office for the collective clean-up activities in Sittway and coordinated the necessary things. — MNA/CT

Relief materials from ministries transported to Rakhine State

UNDER the directive of the National Disaster Management Committee, with the supervision of the Transport and Communications Work Committee, MCL 3 vessel which docked at the Myanmar Terminal (TMT) in Yangon transported 13,013 bags of rice, 600 vises of edible oil, 400 cartons of instant noodle, 1,490 boxes of medicines, 300 tonnes of sawn timber in various sizes, 26,840 corrugated roof sheets, 33 tractors, parts of telecom towers and related items, lamp-posts and relief materials provided by the Ministries of Transport and Communications, Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Electric Power, and Social Welfare, Relief & Resettlement as well as Myanmar Economic Corporation totalling 1,592 tonnes to Sittway.—MNA/KZL

Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw)-China (Lancang) Trade Fair continues for fourth and final day



THE Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw)-China (Lancang) Trade Fair continued for the fourth and final day at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Meetings on sectoral cooperation and trade between businessmen and companies from the two countries who visited the trade fair were held daily, and signing the memoranda of understanding and trade agreements was also conducted.

In the afternoon, a mem-

orandum of understanding on trade was signed between AJ Myanmar Co., Ltd and Shenyang Tianfeng Bio-Pharm Co., Ltd.

In turn, a memorandum of understanding on bank payment cooperation was signed between Yoma Bank Limited, Fully Light Group of Companies, and Kokang Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association Incorporated (KKEEA).

Senior officers and employees from ministries in Nay Pyi Taw and the public came to the trade fair.—MNA/KZL

Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw)-China (Lancang) Trade Fair bustling with people on fourth and final day on 28 May.

Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw)-China (Lancang) Trade Fair thronged with visitors on fourth day



Booths at Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw)-China (Lancang) Trade Fair crowded with people on 28 May. **PHOTOS: HTEIN NAN NAW**

THE fourth day of Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw)-China (Lancang) Trade Fair held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw was crowded with businessmen, departmental staff and public yesterday.

At the trade fair, 79 booths from 65 Myanmar business associations and companies and 40 booths from 70 Chinese businessmen exhibited electric vehicles (EV), motorcycles, tricycles, electric bicycles, and fuel-powered motorcycles.

Henan Feibo Vehicle Industry Co., LTD's showroom from China introduced the BOMA-X9 electric vehicle at a rough price of around K12 million at the trade fair. When charging for about 100 miles per hour (55 km), it can charge at 220 volts with electricity, and the duration is between three and six hours respectively.

The BOMA-X7 and BOMA-X5 electric cars are priced

at K8 million and K6.5 million respectively, and are available in various colours.

The BM-1.8 electric tricycle is priced at approximately K3.2 million, has a load capacity of 1.5 tonnes, and is equipped with a hydraulic system.

The company will sell the electric vehicle in the market soon. Motorcycles and tricycles were allowed to be test driven by the company, and shoppers came to view with interest.

"In this trade fair, there are two types of motorcycles on display: fuel-powered motorcycles and electric motorcycles. Only one type of electric motorcycle is displayed in this exhibition. The maximum speed of this electric motorcycle is 100 km per hour. But because it is new in the market, many people do not dare to use it yet," said U Aung Kyaw Win, official of Myanmar New Power Motorcycle Co. Ltd in

Dekkhinathiri Industrial Zone.

"Since it runs without making a sound, there is a difference compared to the usual vehicles, so they don't dare to ride it. Charging time from zero to full charge is about seven hours. On a full charge, it can go between 40 and 50 miles.

"The electric bike is priced at roughly K5 million. Since this electric motorcycle is new, we are still in contact with the Ministry of Commerce to obtain a license. As it is currently a trial period, the installment system is not yet available. If the production is strong, there is a plan to introduce an installment system.

"The other one is 110 and 125 fuel-powered motorcycles. A licensed 125 motorcycle is sold at K16.5 million and a 110 motorcycle at K1.6 million. These two bikes will be licensed next week, so we have taken some records from the buyers. Once the licence is obtained, all buyers will be contacted for their licences," he added. Charging time of the MG 4 (long range) Standard, NETA Pro, BYD Han, and Honda ENS electric vehicles sold at EV MALL Myanmar company showroom from Myanmar side are eight hours if AC system is used, and only 30 minutes if DC system is used, and can go up to 300 miles.

These models are covered by an eight-year warranty for the battery and motor. "Our bank's 30th anniversary was coincid-

ed with the day of the trade fair. Our bank is not only participating in this trade fair but joining any event held nationwide. The purpose of participating in this exhibition is to match this trade fair with our bank's products," said U Tun Tun Lin, an official at the Yoma Bank showroom.

"Our bank also has programmes on car installments and housing loans. In addition, I think businessmen will also come to see. Therefore, since there are various types of loans, we would like to explain the loans that are suitable for them. I think that our bank's activities will be spread to many people through this trade fair and they will be able to know more," he added.

At the event, jewels, furniture, bags, clothes, snacks, coffee, local foodstuffs, cosmetics, electronics, solar and related

products, Inverter and batteries, EV-charging and related items, wooden crafts, tea leaves, various kinds of bean, and Kokang traditional wears, and utensils were displayed.

At Mandalay Region Government's project gallery, visitors can buy plots of land at a special price, as well as electric vehicles, motorcycles, tricycles and bicycles are also viewed with interest by businessmen and the public.

The fourth edition of the Trade Fair was held to further promote trade and investment between Myanmar-China traders, and achieve more friendship among businessmen. The trade fair aims to improve employment opportunities through cooperation between the tourism industry and the industrial technology sector.—Aye Aye Thant/KZL



Interested persons view round EVs at the trade fair on 28 May.

Foreign investment worth US\$3.73 mln flowed into business in April

ACCORDING to the statistics of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), there was only one foreign direct investment (FDI) business that entered Myanmar in April.

The DICA stated that the foreign investment in the amount of US\$3.73 million was made in order to operate a business in the manufacturing sector.

A total of \$5.99 million entered

in the same period of the last financial year, exceeding over \$2 million more than this year.

In the 2022-2023 financial year, Myanmar attracted foreign direct investments worth more than \$1.6 billion, and investment of Singapore amounted to more than \$1.1 billion as the largest amount, followed by China and Thailand. — TWA/CT



The office of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

MAI to launch new flights connecting Yangon, Mandalay to Thailand



MAI plane taking off from Don Mueang Airport in Bangkok.

MYANMAR Airways International (MAI) has announced that new flights from Yangon and Mandalay to Don Mueang (DM) in Bangkok, Thailand starting from 15 June. The flights are scheduled to operate five times a week on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Flight No 8M360 will depart from Yangon Airport at 9:40 am MST and arrive at Don Mueang Airport at 11:30 am TST. Flight No 8M361 will depart from Don Mueang at 12:20 pm TST and arrive in Mandalay at 3:40 pm MST.

There will be weekly flights from Yangon and Mandalay to Don Mueang (DM) in Bangkok, Thailand starting from 15 June. The flights are scheduled to operate five times a week on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Flight No 8M360 will depart from Yangon Airport at 9:40 am MST and arrive at Don Mueang Airport at 11:30 am TST. Flight No 8M361 will depart from Don Mueang at 12:20 pm TST and arrive in Mandalay at 3:40 pm MST.

Flight No 8M362 will depart from Mandalay at 2:50 pm MST and arrive at Don Mueang at 5:10 pm TST, while Flight No 8M363 will depart from Don Mueang at 6:10 pm TST and arrive back in Yangon at 7 am MST, respectively.

In addition to expanding new routes, the number of flights to the three most popular destinations in the current flight network, namely Singapore, Thailand, and Incheon in Seoul, will be increased in the coming months. —TWA/KZW

Some 400 YBS vehicles run through red lights per month

ACCORDING to Yangon Region Private Transportation Committee-YRTC, approximately 400 YBS buses running in Yangon Region have been found guilty of running through red lights.

During an awareness session for YBS drivers who violated the traffic rules on 25 May, YRTC vice-chairman U Chit Ko Ko stated that some drivers were picking up or dropping off passengers in the middle of the road near

traffic lights, disregarding red lights. He further mentioned that this behavior makes inconveniences to other road users, who may have a green light but cannot proceed due to the obstructing YBS buses.

According to YRTC, the directive has been issued that individually owned vehicles must be merged into public companies by the end of May for easier control. —TWA/KZW



YBS buses rolling on their routes in Yangon City.

104 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 28 May, total figure registers 638,668

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **638,668** after **104** new cases were reported on 28 May 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of **10,623,954** laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **638,668**. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **617,621** including **74** new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 28-5-2023 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

OPINION

Uphold politeness in relations with people

SERVICE personnel are appointed and assigned by relevant governments to give services to the people as well as customers. As they all are citizens of the country, they have the responsibility to give services to all citizens of the country without any reason to take advantage more than others and to make relations with other citizens on the upper hand.

In upholding common sense, everybody should not underestimate or overestimate others. Everybody has an equal term of the right to keep abreast of others. As such, all service personnel should make polite relations with the people in giving their services without any reasons to behave rude and impolite manners. In fact, such rude and impolite manners should not be used in Myanmar society.

Recently, Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, at the meeting 3/2023 of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, recounted that some members of the One-Stop Services and those from combined teams serving the security duties along the trade routes made impolite relations with the people. The Vice-Senior General stressed the need for the illegal trade eradication special task forces in regions and states to make good and polite relations with the people in checking commodities at checkpoints and security posts. If not, action must be taken against those who broke discipline.

Some weak points were found in examining illegal trade measures at checkpoints and security posts along the Myawady-Yan-gon trade route and the Muse-Lashio-Mandalay trade route, both of which are concerned with the cross-border trade processes. These weak points are hindrances to eradicating illegal trade measures. Hence, those personnel assigned to the posts have to dutifully discharge their assignments by correctly seizing the illegal commodities and preventing the inflow of smuggled goods.

Correct, righteous and honest serving of those personnel will contribute to a corruption-free society as well as shape a polite, peaceful and prosperous society. Hence, personnel from One-Stop Service teams and security forces have to avoid illegal and corrupted measures which can harm their original duties to stay away from facing legal action and not commit crimes which can discredit themselves although they themselves are law enforcement bodies.

Chairpersons of regional and state illegal trade eradication special task forces have been authorized to punish those personnel for doing illegal measures to harm their duties. Remorse cannot be erased. Those from law enforcement bodies themselves need to know the dos and don'ts in society and avoid illegal and incorrect cases not to discredit their service terms.

Chairpersons of regional and state illegal trade eradication special task forces have been authorized to punish those personnel for doing illegal measures to harm their duties. Remorse cannot be erased. Those from law enforcement bodies themselves need to know the dos and don'ts in society and avoid illegal and incorrect cases not to discredit their service terms.

IT is only human nature to know about others, and I think it is one of the potential reasons why people willingly read short stories today. As we all probably know, short stories often tell many universal truths about life. To say so, the short story usually comprises a series of life events of interest. Hence, short stories are still being accepted and read until now besides the fact that their golden age had existed in the world of literature. Also, writers from all parts of the globe have been studying and composing short stories much more widely. This article is all about short stories with my intention of becoming an avid reader of short stories.

First of all, what on earth is meant by the term 'short story'? This has been an absolutely challenging question for both normal readers and short story writers for ages, of course. Often short stories are not long in length of subject matter writing and to the point as their names suggest. From the point of view of subject matter amount, it is, however, difficult to define the term 'short story' now that although some short stories are long like a novel, they are just short stories. In addition, the lexical terms called 'tamyatna-wuthtudoh' (one-page short story), 'wuthtudoh' (short story), 'wuthtulat' (medium-sized story), 'wuthtushay' (long story), 'lonechin-wuthtu' (novel) and 'wuthtu-saungpar' (story-article) appeared in Myanmar literature. Certainly, among those different works of literature, short stories may consist of the whole event about something or just its particular sequential part, but the only main theme is founded on an incident.

Basically, there are two types of short story that can be classified in terms of writing and subject matter: descriptive, informative short stories, and imaginative, uninformative short stories. Nonetheless, it cannot be denied that any type of short story is not free from imagination and information; descriptive stories contain realistic or logical imagination, that is, some truth about life as the saying goes that truth is stranger than fiction, whereas imaginative stories involve hypothetical imagination. Whatever type of short story it is, story readers will most likely get any information or pleasure at least from short stories whether they are descriptive or imaginative. Nevertheless, care should be taken that most life-describing short stories are ranked a nation's literature while those short stories based on imagination only are writing pieces of just entertainment. Short stories might be closely linked to sci-fi, mysteries, fantasies, romances, fables, myths, fairy tales, folktales, and tall tales.

According to Longman Advanced American Dictionary, there can be found eight key characteristics which happen in a short story: 1) story, 2) plot, 3) action, 4) narrative, 5) conflict, 6) climax, 7) ending, and 8) resolution. A story is simply the things that happen in a short story. But a good story can make an excellent short story except that some short story writers do not try to rely on good stories. It is noticeable that not everything that happens is a story; the story must include at least one of the three cases: 1) reversing a purpose, 2) getting to know something, or 3) anything unexpected becoming to happen. A plot

is the events that happen in a short story, and the way in which these events are connected. In almost all short stories, writers tend to compose a single plot very capably. Action is the events that happen and the things the characters do in a story. Here, the characters in a short story with too much action may look like hand puppets. A narrative is the description of a series of

events that happen in a short story. Some story writers like to beckon their target audiences to read stories from beginning to end with a clever sequence of the narrative. A conflict is an issue or problem in a story, which the story is about. That should be either an interpersonal conflict or an intrapersonal one. A climax is the most exciting or important part of a story, which

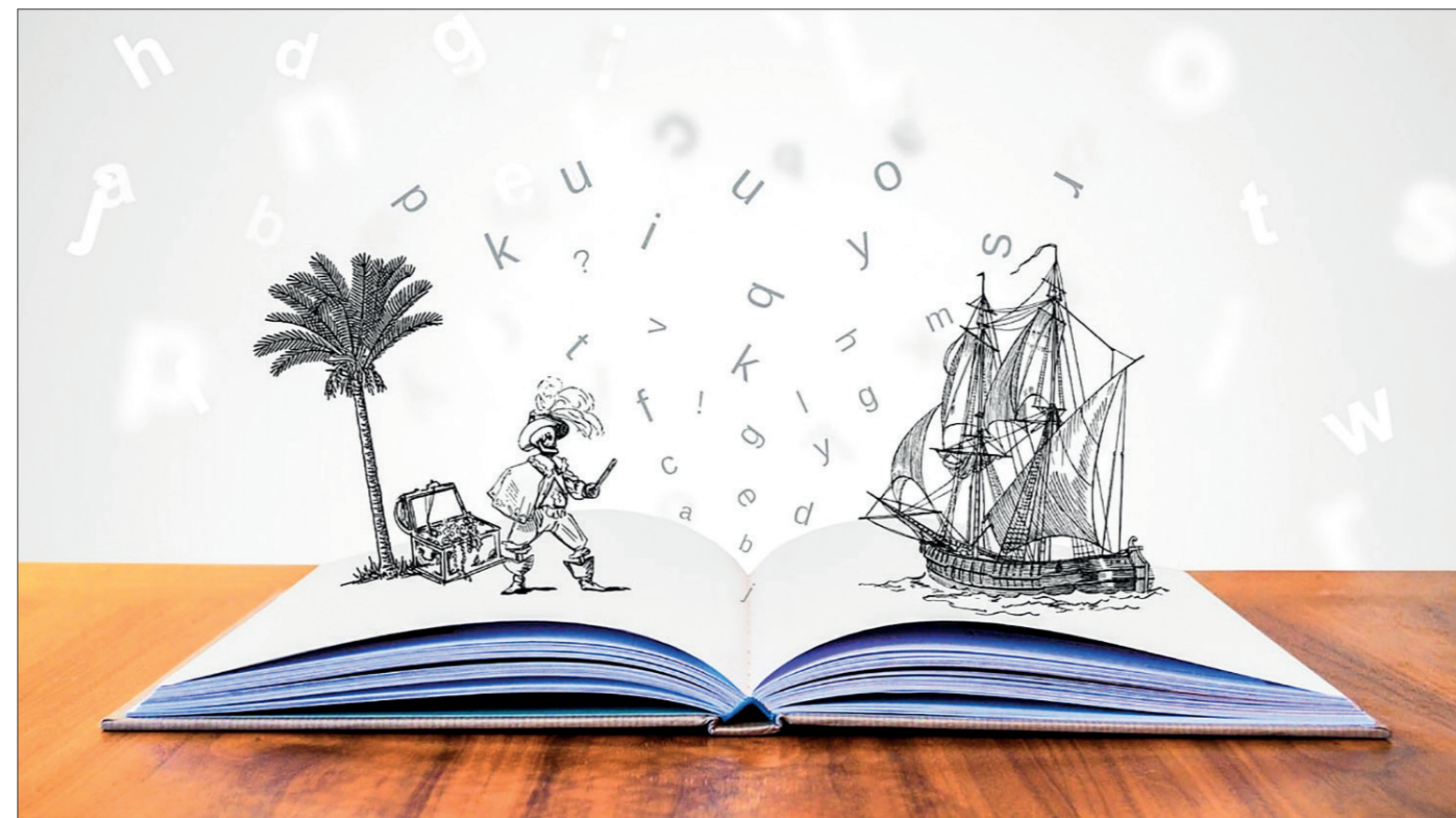
usually comes near the end. It turns out to come after the plot thickens. An ending is the things that happen at the end of a short story. The ending ought to be critical or logical by down-to-earth situations, to be said more exactly, sad, happy or humorous. A resolution is part of a story after the climax when the conflict is solved. This is the life of detective stories, as Sayagyi Shwe

Ou Daung said, for the simple reason that the other parts of a detective story can be created with one's eyes shut, but it might be completely meaningless if a poor or unreasonable resolution is carried over there.

A first reader of short stories should have got to learn how to read a short story. As mentioned above, the meaning, types, and characteristics of a short story

To Become an Avid Reader of Short Stories

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)



People like to read short stories because they can learn about what other people are going through in life. The stories can teach us things that we may not have known before. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

ARTICLE

questions unconsciously. The first question is whether we were surprised at the ending of a short story. There is no denying the fact that not all stories have a surprise ending. A good writer gives his readers hints as to the outcome of a story that a nice reader promptly recognizes. As a result, the reader half expects an ending to the story before it is reached. So, we do not have to hunt for a surprise ending of a short story on purpose. The second question is whether the ending satisfied us. Really, life is not made up of happy endings only by any means for which fiction is a reflection of life sometimes. Thus, we do not need to seek out a happy ending that is not mostly a large part of modern literature. Instead, what we had better do is to explore an ending which is true to the characters and events in a story. And then, we will enjoy reading short stories for sure.

Short stories, figuratively windows on the world, are read across the globe for several reasons. These reasons may be a certain curiosity to see what would happen next, a real lust for aesthetic feelings or ethical thoughts, and even a detailed study of how a short story is written until it has arrived at its successful finale. Actually, short stories contribute to so many life-long concepts alongside pleasant feelings that reading stories would be better than studying psychology books. Natural beauty, physical beauty, and mental beauty usually given by short stories will be able to ease a person's destructive spirit of the whole world. That is why all of us should read short stories as an avid reader.

As always, the writer's hand is behind the story by arranging events, causing things to happen, and beckoning the reader to the end. A skilful reader comes to recognize in a little while the clever ways in which a story is created. Most importantly, after we have read short stories, we are likely to ask ourselves two

German companies fell back on R&I during COVID-19 pandemic

THE share of innovative companies in Germany "fell rapidly" during the COVID-19 pandemic, with only one in five considered "particularly innovative" in 2022, according to a study published on Thursday by German think-tank the Bertelsmann Stiftung.

"This will have serious consequences for the (competitiveness) of German companies on global markets," Armando Garcia

Schmidt, an economic expert at Bertelsmann, said in a statement.

If less German companies consider themselves as technological pioneers or no longer dare to work on breakthrough innovations, "prosperity is at a great risk," he said.

Last year, the number of German patent applications at the European Patent Office (EPO) fell by 7.8 per cent to 24,684 compared to 2019. Although this still made

the country second only to the United States, the gap with other countries is narrowing.

China has been catching up with the top league, which also includes Japan. Compared to pre-pandemic levels, China increased its European patent applications by more than half to 19,041 in 2022.

According to the Bertelsmann Stiftung, more than one in four German companies post-

poned or completely canceled planned innovation activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. For companies with no specific focus on innovation, the cancellation rate was almost twice as high.

Germany still accounted for 29 of the 500 companies worldwide with the highest spending on research and development, a recent analysis by consulting firm EY Germany showed. In 2022, the R&D spending of these German

companies totaled 68 billion euros (72.8 billion US dollars), 11 per cent more than in the previous year.

Only China, Japan and the US hosted more top R&D-investing companies: 38, 98 and 164, respectively. "Companies from Germany do not look bad internationally at first glance. However, the race is on," Henrik Ahlers, chairman of the management board at EY Germany, said earlier this month.

"Germany as a business location is under pressure as probably never before in its history," Ahlers said. "High energy and production costs, difficult-to-source raw materials, uncertain supply chains and significant geopolitical tensions are a challenging mix — particularly for an exporting nation like Germany." (1 euro = 1.07 US dollar)

Source : Xinhua



A visitor (R) tries an exoskeleton equipment at Hannover Messe 2023 in Hannover, Germany, 20 April 2023. PHOTO: REN PENGFEI/XINHUA

ENVIRON WORLD

Planet-friendly farming takes root in drought-hit Tunisia

SABER Zouani lost his job as a waiter when the Covid pandemic ravaged the Tunisian tourism sector, so he decided to try something new and started a permaculture farm.

Now he grows all the food he needs and has become a pioneer of the style of ecological agriculture that is gaining fans worldwide, including in his North African country.

Many hope it will help Tunisia weather the impacts of climate change and wean it off its reliance on global supply chains, including grain and fertiliser imports from war-torn Ukraine and Russia.

In his western home town of Cap Negro, Zouani, 37, proudly showed off his three-hectare (seven-acre) farm, set up to mimic natural ecosystems in line with ideas popularised in the 1970s by Australian ecologists.

Permaculture, as an alternative to industrial agriculture,



Many, like farmer Saber Zouani, hope permaculture will help Tunisia weather the impacts of climate change and wean it off its reliance on global supply chains, including grain and fertiliser imports from war-torn Ukraine and Russia. **PHOTO: AFP**

aims to work in harmony with the environment, keep soil structures intact, and do without artificial inputs such as chemical

fertilisers or pesticides.

“No, these are not weeds,” said Zouani, a biotechnology graduate, pointing to nettles

and dandelions growing wild all around his rows of onions, peppers and radishes. When he harvests his vegetables, he said,

he puts the excess green matter back onto the soil to slow evaporation — hoping to keep the ground as moist as a forest floor covered with fallen leaves.

Create living soil

Such methods are especially useful in Tunisia where an unprecedented drought has parched the countryside and left water reservoirs at dangerously low levels this spring. At his farm, Zouani captures precious rainwater in a pond and only sparingly waters his plants, which are all grown from his own seeds.

Zouani also keeps cows, sheep, goats and chickens and composts their droppings to create soil enriched with the nitrogen-rich natural fertiliser.

Zouani said he earns around 300 dinars (\$100) a month from selling farm produce, with enough left over to make him, his brother and their elderly parents self-sufficient. — AFP

Brazilian Amazon city of Belem to host COP30 in 2025: Lula

THE city of Belem on the edge of the Brazilian Amazon has been chosen to host the COP30 round of global climate talks in 2025, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva announced Friday.

“I am convinced that it will be a great event... the world will love the people of the state of Para” of which Belem is the capital, the president said in a video posted on social media.

“I already participated in this conference (Conference of the Parties or COP) in Egypt, in France, and everyone was talking about the Amazon. So I said: ‘Why not hold the conference



Illegal deforestation in the Amazon, Brazil is a major problem, with an estimated 20-25% of the Amazon rainforest having been destroyed since 1970. Deforestation is driven by a variety of factors, including logging, cattle ranching, and agricultural expansion. **PHOTO: TARSO SARRAF/AFP/FILE**

there, so you know where the Amazon is?” Lula said about

his offer to host the annual talks. —AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Viet Nam battles plastic blight in idyllic Ha Long Bay

SQUINTING in the bright light of a hot summer morning, Vu Thi Thinh perches on the edge of her small wooden boat and plucks a polystyrene block from the calm waters of Vietnam's Ha Long Bay.

It's not yet 9 am, but a mound of styrofoam buoys, plastic bottles and beer cans sit behind her.

They are the most visible sign of the human impacts that have degraded the UNESCO World Heritage Site, famed for its brilliant turquoise waters dotted with towering rainforest-topped limestone islands.

“I feel very tired because I collect trash on the bay all day without much rest,” said Thinh, 50, who has been working for close to a decade as a trash picker. “I have to make five to seven trips on the boat every day to collect it all.”

Since the beginning of March, 10,000 cubic metres of rubbish — enough to fill four Olympic swimming pools — have been collected from the water, according to the Ha Long Bay management board. — AFP

‘Patrol’ film exposes Nicaragua forest threat from beef industry

SURROUNDED by fallen trees and languid cows, illegal cattle rancher Chacalin surveys a clearing deep inside one of Nicaragua's largest remaining protected rainforests.

“When I came here, I knew it was a reserve. I just stole the land. I didn't pay for it,” he says calmly, staring away from the camera.

“If they take me out of here they can take me off the land, but I don't lose money. That's how we operate.”

Beginning in 2016, and over several years, filmmakers Cami-

lo de Castro and Brad Allgood visited the Indio-Maiz Biological Reserve for a documentary about the threats of deforestation and indigenous rights violations. — AFP

The directors of ‘Patrol’ say it is often not possible to check the origin of beef from Nicaragua back to its farm, as the traceability process is too opaque. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**



HEALTH/WELLNESS: WORLD

Philip Morris boss campaigns to sell more heated tobacco



Philip Morris International is trying to get countries to make it easier to promote other things like heated tobacco and vaping instead of cigarettes. **PHOTO: AFP**

US tobacco giant Philip Morris International is fighting to get Britain, France and other countries to make it easier to promote alternatives to cigarettes such as heated tobacco and vaping.

PMI embarked on a strategic shift six years ago to become a smoke-free company,

against a backdrop of increasingly stringent regulations in many countries, costly lawsuits and falling smoking rates.

The group has injected more than \$10 billion into new products, which now account for a third of its \$32 billion sales for the financial year 2022.

It has a very limited pres-

ence in the vaping e-cigarette market.

But in the UK, the promotion of conventional or heated tobacco is forbidden, while gleaming e-cigarette stores are popping up all over the place.

In countries where “alternatives” are not allowed, such as Turkey, Belgium or Singapore, PMI has no plans to move away from conventional cigarettes.

Stopping the sale of traditional cigarettes will “make Philip Morris look better” but not affect the one billion smokers who can “continue buying a product from somebody else”, chief executive Jacek Olczak told AFP.

Instead, he wants to “convince the governments... (to) allow the alternatives and we can start reducing the sale of cigarettes much faster.”

In countries open to alternatives, he sees this deadline within 10 years.

“Our vision is of a smoke-free future,” he added. — AFP

Can exercise reduce risk of developing Parkinson’s disease?

ACCORDING to new research published in the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology, frequent exercise such as cycling, walking, gardening, cleaning, and playing sports may lower the chance of getting Parkinson’s disease.

The study found female participants who exercised the most had a 25 per cent lower rate of Parkinson’s disease when compared to those who exercised the least. The study does not prove that exercise lowers the risk of developing Parkinson’s disease. It only shows an association.

“Exercise is a low-cost way to improve health overall, so our study sought to determine if it may be linked to a lower risk of developing Parkinson’s disease, a debilitating disease that has no cure,” said study author Alexis Elbaz, MD, PhD, of the Inserm Research Center in Paris, France. “Our results provide evidence for planning



Exercise has been shown to reduce the risk of developing Parkinson’s disease. Regular physical activity can help improve motor function, reduce inflammation, and improve overall health. Moderate-intensity exercise can help improve your thinking and memory in just six months. **PHOTO: HARVARD HEALTH.EDU/ANI**

interventions to prevent Parkinson’s disease.”

The study included 95,354 female participants, mostly teachers, with an average age of 49 who did not have Parkinson’s disease at the start of the study. Researchers followed participants for three decades

during which 1,074 participants developed Parkinson’s disease.

Over the course of the study, participants completed up to six questionnaires about the types and amounts of physical activity they were getting. — ANI

US top health official sounds alarm on child social media use

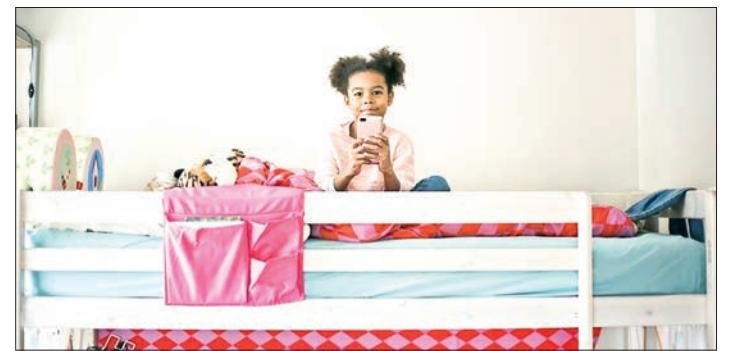
THE top US health official on Tuesday issued a stark warning to parents, tech companies and regulators, saying the evidence is growing that social media use may seriously harm children.

In a lengthy advisory, US surgeon general Vivek Murthy said that while not without benefits, “there are ample indicators that social media can also have a profound risk of harm to the mental health and well-being of children and adolescents.”

Social media use by

young people in the United States is nearly universal, with up to 95 per cent of adolescents reporting using a social platform and more than a third saying they do so “almost constantly,” according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Murthy’s report said social media can help children and adolescents find a community to connect, but that it also contains “extreme, inappropriate, and harmful content,” which can “normalize” self-harm and suicide. — AFP



The top health official in the country said that too much use of social media by kids and teens is a problem and adults should work together to help fix it. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope returns to work after taking day off with fever

POPE Francis returned to work Saturday after taking a day off with a fever, the Vatican said, with the pontiff set to hold several private audiences.

The 86-year-old, who was hospitalised with bronchitis nearly two months ago, had a full calendar of meetings lined up, it said.

On Friday Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni had said the Argentine pope was not holding audiences “due to a feverish state”.

It was unclear who the pope had been expected to meet with, as his agenda was not made public. — AFP

Type 2 diabetes medicine may treat autoimmune disorders: Study

RESEARCHERS AT Swansea University discovered that a medicine frequently used to treat type 2 diabetes might possibly be used to treat autoimmune illnesses.

Academics at the University’s Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Science have found that the drug, canagliflozin (also known as Invokana), could be used to treat autoimmune disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus as it targets T-cells, which form an essential component of the immune system.

Canagliflozin is a drug that controls blood sugar levels in people with type 2 diabetes, however researchers have found an unexpected role for the drug involving the human immune system. — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

Large offshore oil production base delivered in China's Dalian



This aerial photo taken on 26 May 2023 shows the M350 floating, production, storage, and offloading (FPSO) hull named Bacalhau in Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

A large-scale offshore oil production base, which can process 220,000 barrels of crude oil per day, was delivered to the coastal city of Dalian in northeast China's Liaoning Province on Friday.

Named Bacalhau, the M350 floating, production, storage, and offloading (FPSO) hull was jointly developed by Dalian Shipbuilding Industry Co., Ltd. (DSIC) and

Mitsui Ocean Development & Engineering Company.

The FPSO is a high-end large-scale offshore engineering base designed to exploit deep-sea oilfields. It can undertake preliminary processing such as sediment filtration, oil-gas separation, oily sewage treatment and storage, and loading and unloading crude oil.

"The daily production ca-

capacity of Bacalhau delivered today is equivalent to an oil and gas processing plant covering an area of 10 square kilometres on land," said Han Yu, project manager at the offshore project management team of DSIC.

The Bacalhau has a total length of 364 metres, a beam of 64 metres, a depth of 33 metres, and a displacement of more than 460,000 tonnes. — Xinhua

Iraq unveils ambitious Europe-Mideast road and rail project



Iraq wants to connect Europe and the Middle East with a new network of roads and railroads. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP**

IRAQ on Saturday presented an ambitious plan to turn itself into a regional transportation hub by developing its road and rail infrastructure, linking Europe with the Gulf and other Middle East countries.

Once completed, the \$17 billion project known as the "Route of Development" would span the length of the country, stretching

1,200 kilometres (745 miles) from the northern border with Turkey to the Gulf in the south.

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohamed Shia al-Sudani announced the project during a conference with transport ministry representatives from Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the United Arab Emirates.

"We see this project as a pillar of a sustainable non-oil economy, a link that serves Iraq's neighbours and the region, and a contribution to economic integration efforts," Sudani said.

While further discussions are required, any country that wishes "will be able to carry out part of the project", the Iraqi parliament's transport committee said, adding that the project could be completed in "three to five years".

War-ravaged and beset by rampant corruption, oil-rich Iraq suffers from dilapidated infrastructure. Its roads are in terrible condition and those connecting the capital Baghdad to the north cross areas where Islamic State group remnants continue to carry out sporadic attacks. Sudani has prioritised the reconstruction of the country's road network, along with upgrading its failing electricity infrastructure. — AFP

IMF slightly lifts US 2023 growth forecast

THE International Monetary Fund slightly raised its forecast for 2023 US economic growth Friday while noting that a slowing economy will likely lead to a small increase in unemployment in 2024.

"The US economy has proven resilient," IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva said in a press conference, shortly after the updated figures were released.

Georgieva also sounded a warning about the ongoing stalemate in the United States over raising borrowing limits before a 1 June deadline, and called for Republicans and Democrats in Congress to come to a "speedy resolution."

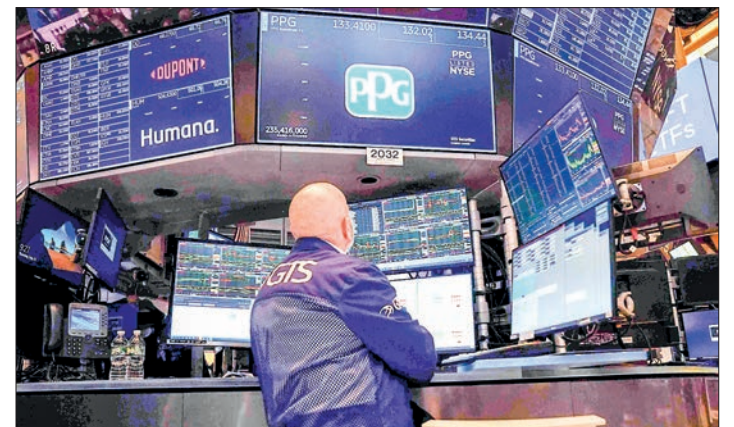
"We think of the US Treasury market as an anchor for the global financial system, and this anchor needs to hold," she said.

Real GDP growth in the United States is expected to rise by 1.7 per cent this year, up from 1.6 per cent forecast earlier this year; before slowing to 1.0 per cent in 2024, the IMF said in a statement.

The US unemployment rate, which is currently at near-record lows, is expected to tick up slightly, with "slowing, but still-solid, growth" pushing it to increase to 4.4 per cent by the end of next year, the IMF statement said.

Double-edged sword

The IMF's new US forecast follows recent data which indicates a resilient economy in spite of an aggressive campaign of interest-rate hikes to counter high inflation by the US Federal Reserve, and recent stresses in the banking sector. — AFP



The IMF expects the US economy to grow by 4.2% this year and 4.4% in 2023. However, in 2024 the US economy may slow down a bit and this could lead to a small rise in unemployment. A trader works the floor of the New York Stock Exchange at the opening bell, on 25 May in New York City. **PHOTO: AFP**

London hosts 6th China Int'l Import Expo roadshow

THE 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) roadshow held here on Thursday was attended by over 200 representatives from the British government, business associations and enterprises.

The CIIE serves as a window for China to share development opportunities with the world, and China welcomes the British government and businesses to make the most of the expo to achieve greater success in the Chinese market, Bao Ling, minister of Chi-

nese Embassy in the United Kingdom, said.

The expo is China's major decision to promote its opening up in the new era and a great action to proactively open Chinese market to the world, Liu Fluxue, deputy director of the CIIE Bureau, said at the roadshow.

Several well-known UK brands, such as AstraZeneca, Unilever, Burberry and HSBC, have been keen participants in the CIIE, Liu said. — AFP

China's first homegrown passenger jet makes maiden commercial flight



The C919 has been primarily designed to compete with the Boeing 737 and the Airbus A320 family of single-aisle aircraft. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINA'S first domestically produced passenger jet took off on its maiden commercial flight on Sunday, a milestone event in the nation's decades-long effort to compete with Western rivals in the air.

Beijing hopes the C919 commercial jetliner will challenge foreign models like the Boeing 737 MAX and the Airbus A320, though many of its parts are sourced from abroad.

Its first homegrown jetliner with mass com-

mercial potential would also cut the country's reliance on foreign technology as ties with the West deteriorate.

"In the future, most passengers will be able to choose to travel by large, domestically produced aircraft," state broadcaster CCTV said.

China Eastern Airlines flight MU9191 rose into the skies above Shanghai Hongqiao Airport on Sunday morning, footage from CCTV showed, and

was due to land in Beijing in the early afternoon.

The plane is carrying over 130 passengers, CCTV said.

Footage broadcast by state media showed dozens of passengers gathering at the sun-drenched Shanghai airfield to admire the sleek white jet.

They then filed into the narrow-body plane which taxied to the runway before taking off.

Passengers received red boarding passes and

will enjoy a sumptuous "themed meal" to commemorate the flight, CCTV reported.

China has invested heavily in the production of the homegrown jet as it seeks to become self-sufficient in key technologies.

The aircraft is manufactured by the state-owned Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC), but many of its parts — including its engines — are sourced from overseas. — AFP

Japan ranks lowest for ratio of women in nuclear workplace at 15%: OECD

JAPAN ranked lowest for the ratio of women employed in the nuclear sector among 17 member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a recent survey by an OECD agency showed.

In 2021, just 15 per cent of Japan's nuclear workforce was comprised of women. Norway had the highest representation of women in the sector at around 60 per cent, while France and Britain both recorded around 24.9 per cent, the average figure for the 17 countries surveyed, according to the report by the Nuclear Energy

Agency.

The average per centage of women in Japan who have been promoted stood at around 14 per cent, compared with the overall level of 27.1 per cent.

The survey also highlighted the deep disparity in salaries of women and men in the nuclear sector. In Japan, women were paid about 26 per cent less than men on average, while among the 12 countries which provided comparable data, men were paid 5.2 per cent more.

The Japan Atomic Energy Commission, which was involved in the latest survey, attributed the low



In a survey of 17 countries, Japan had the fewest women working in the nuclear sector. Students take part in a recruiting event organized by the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum in Tokyo in October 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

level of pay in Japan to an "extremely low" ratio of women in upper management and executive positions.

Yukiko Okada, an of-

ficial of the commission, said, "We need diversity as we aim for a safer technology. It is a waste not to make use of women's capabilities." — Kyodo

India's forex reserves decline to 593.48 bln USD in May

INDIA'S foreign exchange reserves declined by 6.05 billion US dollars during the week ended May 19 to 593.48 billion US dollars, showed the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India.

This situation came after three consecutive weeks seeing the forex reserves rise.

In the previous week

ended 12 May, India's forex reserves rose by 3.55 billion US dollars to reach 599.53 billion US dollars, according to the country's central bank.

Earlier this week Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said India was in a "comfortable" position for the next five to six years in terms of its forex reserves. — Xinhua



A money changer shows the currency notes at a money exchange shop in New Delhi, India. **PHOTO: PARTHA SARKAR/XINHUA**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Asiana Airlines bans some emergency seats after door-opening accident

SOUTH Korea's Asiana Airlines has stopped selling some emergency seats following an accident in which a passenger opened an emergency exit mid-air, the carrier said Sunday.

The incident took place onboard a A321-200 plane, which was carrying nearly 200 passengers as it approached the runway at Daegu International Airport, about 240 kilometres (149 miles) southeast of Seoul.

The plane landed safely but several people were hospitalized. There were no serious injuries or damage. — AFP

Hong Kong treads fine line on regulating retail crypto trade

RETAIL investors in Hong Kong may soon be able to buy popular cryptocurrencies like bitcoin at government-licensed exchanges, thanks to new rules meant to bolster the city's standing as a digital asset hub.

Global crypto markets have yet to recover from a string of high-profile failures in recent months, including the spectacular downfall of trading platform FTX and crypto-friendly US banks Signature and Silvergate.

But the so-called "crypto winter" has not deterred Hong Kong authorities from embracing the sector, a pivot that began last October and culminated with new laws for crypto exchanges starting 1 June. — AFP

Modi set to inaugurate grand new Indian parliament

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi was set to inaugurate a grand new parliament building Sunday, a major part of his Hindu nationalist government's remodelling of New Delhi, but opposition parties have said they will boycott the event.

"Our new Parliament is truly a beacon of our democracy. It reflects the nation's rich heritage and the vibrant aspirations for the future," Modi tweeted late Saturday, with the hashtag "MyParliamentMyPride."

To mark the opening of the new building, he will also launch a special 75-rupee coin.

But many opposition parties have said they will boycott the inauguration, calling it a "grave insult" that Modi, and not the Indian president, ceremonial head



The government is planning to make the chamber of the lower house bigger. It will have 888 seats, which is more than the current number of 550. **PHOTO: INDIA'S PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU/AFP**

of state Droupadi Murmu, will perform the ceremony.

Some politicians have also

raised questions about the inauguration date itself, which happens to be the birth anniversary

of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, an important Hindu ideologue who was a mentor to Mahatma

Gandhi's killer. The new parliament has reportedly cost \$145 million to build.

The chamber of the lower house will have 888 seats — significantly more than its current maximum membership of 550, an indication that authorities plan a major expansion in their numbers. Modi has long sought to eliminate vestiges of British rule and the grand new hexagonal legislature stands next to the colonial-era building designed by British architects Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker that it will replace.

The new building is part of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project — a grand project aimed at revamping or replacing British-era government centres. — AFP

Egypt unveils ancient mummification workshops and tombs



Objects are displayed at the Saqqara necropolis where archaeologists unearthed two human and animal embalming workshops as well as two tombs. **PHOTO: AFP**

ARCHAEOLOGISTS in Egypt have unearthed two human and animal embalming workshops,

as well as two tombs, discovered in the Saqqara necropolis south of Cairo, the government said

on Saturday.

The vast burial site, at the ancient Egyptian capital Memphis, is a Unesco World Heritage site and home to more than a dozen pyramids, animal graves and old Coptic Christian monasteries. Mostafa Waziri, head of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, told reporters the embalming workshops, where humans and animals were mummified, "date back to the 30th dynasty" which reigned around 2,400 years ago.

Researchers "found several rooms equipped with stony beds where the deceased lay down for mummification", Egypt's tourism and antiquities ministry said. — AFP

Ukraine reports 'most important' drone attack on Kyiv since invasion

RUSSIA unleashed the "most important" assault by drones on Kyiv overnight Saturday-Sunday since the start of the invasion, but nearly all were destroyed, military authorities said.

Forty of the 54 drones launched targeted the capital, killing two people and wounding three.

"In total a record number of explosive drones launched

were counted: 54!" Ukraine's air force said in a Telegram post on Sunday.

"It's the most important drone attack against the capital since the start of the invasion" in February 2022, the regional military administration said on Telegram.

The attack "took place over several waves and the air raid alert lasted more than five

hours!"

"According to preliminary reports more than 40 Russian drones were destroyed by air defence" systems over Kyiv, the administration added.

With most of the drones being downed, "debris fell on a seven-storey building" in the capital's Golosiivskii district, killing one person and wounding another. — AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Türkiye braces for historic runoff election

IN an attempt to rally his conservative base on the eve of a historic runoff vote, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday pays homage to his executed Islamic predecessor Adnan Menderes.

Erdogan outperformed expectations by defeating secular challenger Kemal Kilicdaroglu by almost five percentage points in the first round on 14 May, falling fractionally short of an outright victory, setting up Türkiye's first election runoff on Sunday.

Pro-Kilicdaroglu activists are trying to pierce the air of inevitability surrounding Türkiye's first runoff, where few believe Erdogan will fail to extend two decades of conservative Islamic-rooted rule to 2028. On the other hand, Erdogan's visit to Menderes mausoleum takes him back to the man he cited when he called early polls for 14 May in a bid to ease his way to an unprecedented third decade of rule. — AFP

Ambassador: Philippines unlikely to impose sanctions against Russia

PHILIPPINE Ambassador to Russia Igor Bailen told Sputnik that he did not think Manila would impose sanctions against Moscow or support restrictive measures already introduced by other states.

"I don't think that the Philippines will impose sanctions [against Russia] ... or join the EU, I haven't heard any of that," Bailen said, answering the question about the Philippines' position on measures taken against Russia over its military operation in Ukraine.

Last year, Philippine National Security Adviser Clarita Carlos said Manila took a neutral stance on the Ukrainian conflict.

Western countries stepped up sanctions pressure on Moscow after the start of the Russian special military operation in Ukraine in February 2022. The EU has since imposed ten packages of sanctions against Russia. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said the policy of containing and weakening Russia is the West's long-term strategy, and the restrictions have affected the entire global economy. — SPUTNIK

Biden 'hopeful' of imminent US debt deal

PRESIDENT Joe Biden said Friday that Democratic and Republican negotiators were on the verge of resolving a debt ceiling standoff, as the deadline for a potentially catastrophic US default was pushed back to 5 June.

"It's very close and I'm optimistic," Biden told reporters at the White House. "I'm hopeful we'll know by tonight whether we're going to be able to have a deal."

Although there was no indication of an imminent public announcement, it was the strongest sign yet that the drama in Washington might end, allowing the government to borrow and



A billboard showing the US debt limit in Washington DC. PHOTO: AFP

avoid a default that would likely trigger a recession and send shockwaves through the global economy.

Earlier, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the dreaded X-date, when the government runs out of money unless it can borrow, will now be 5 June, not 1 June. Yellen, however, warned that the deadline extension does not change the urgency.

"Waiting until the last minute to suspend or increase the debt limit can cause serious harm to business and consumer confidence, raise short-term borrowing costs for taxpayers, and negatively impact the cred-

it rating of the United States," she said in a letter to the Republican leader of the House of Representatives, Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

According to unconfirmed US media reports, the deal taking shape would include an agreement to extend the government's borrowing authority for two years, meaning no repeat of the current drama before the 2024 presidential election.

Democrats, however, would have to offer concessions on Republican demands for sweeping spending limits on social safety and other domestic programmes. — AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Philippine authorities warn of syndicate crime behind children beggar using QR code

A photo of a boy begging in the Philippine capital using a QR code went viral on social media, prompting a government body to warn about the possibility of syndicates using street children to scam people.

A netizen, who ran into the boy, said the beggar whipped out a QR code when told they had no coins. "We laughed at first, so we checked if the QR code works, and it was real, named after a certain Beverly," the netizen said in his Facebook post.

The National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) on Friday warned the public that a criminal syndicate might be behind the scheme.

"There are syndicates behind these activities. The syndicates haul these beggars in vans, deploy them in the streets, and collect them at night," NAPC vice chairperson Reynaldo Tamayo told local television. Tamayo said parents of children begging in the streets could face a fine and not more than two years imprisonment if proven guilty. — Xinhua

Two killed in clashes on Afghan-Iranian border: Taliban

TWO people were killed on Saturday when clashes broke out between Taliban and Iranian forces at the Afghan-Iranian border, Taliban authorities said, as the neighbours argue over water rights.

Iranian police confirmed the incident without giving details of casualties, while local news agency Mehr reported one Iranian border guard had been killed. Both sides blamed the other for shooting first. "In the clash, one person was killed on each side and many were injured," tweeted the Taliban's interior ministry spokesman Abdul Nafy Takor about the incident in the southwestern province of Nimroz.

"The matter has been brought into the notice of the leaders on both sides and now the situation is under control. The Islamic Emirate does not want a war with its neighbor," the spokesman said, using the Taliban government's name for the country.

Iranian state news agency IRNA quoted the deputy head of the police force, Qassem Rezaee, as saying that "Taliban forces started shooting with all kinds of weapons" at an Iranian police station in Sistan-Baluchistan province. — Xinhua

Israelis continue judicial reform protests after budget approved

ISRAELIS took to the streets of Tel Aviv Saturday night for the 21st straight week against the hard-right government's controversial judicial reform plans, days after parliament approved the state budget.

Protesters gathered in other major cities, Haifa and Beer-sheba, as well as at dozens of junctions and locales throughout the country, to decry what they perceive as a threat to Israel's democracy. The government's reform proposals would curtail the authority of the Supreme Court and give politicians greater powers over the selection of judges.

In March, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had announced a "pause" to allow for talks on the reforms, which were



People have been protesting for 21 weeks in Tel Aviv and other cities. Israeli media put the number of participants in the Tel Aviv demonstration at 'tens of thousands'. PHOTO: AFP

moving through parliament and split the nation.

Ongoing dialogue produced no major breakthrough, and on Wednesday parliament approved

the state budget, with Netanyahu vowing to "continue our efforts to reach understandings as broad as possible on the legal reform." — AFP

Iraq warned to end oil addiction to avoid 'intensive care'

OIL-DEPENDENT Iraq has been warned its economy risks going into "intensive care" unless it diversifies in line with worldwide efforts to tackle the impact of fossil fuels on the climate.

The country's vast oil reserves are enough to produce crude at current rates for another century, but as the world works to wean itself off hydrocarbons, Baghdad has been slow to adapt.

For years the energy indus-

try has faced calls to help meet the goal of keeping global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

In April, the G7 countries — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — pledged to "accelerate" their "exit" from fossil fuels, aiming for carbon neutrality by 2050 "at the latest".

But sales of the commodity make up 90 per cent of Iraq's

budget revenue as it recovers from years of devastating conflicts and political upheaval, leaving it overly reliant on the sector. "Currently, the whole economy depends on oil and the price of oil," political scientist Ammar al-Azzawi said.

"If oil plunges, our economy will go to intensive care."

His suggested remedy is to develop Iraq's industrial, agriculture and tourism sectors before the world shifts to alternative energy sources. — AFP



SPORT

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.



ISPE FC's player (yellow) tries for the header during the Myanmar National League Week-6 match against Rakhine United at Thuwunna YTC in Yangon on 28 May 2023. PHOTO: MFF

Rakhine United vs ISPE ends at 1-1 draw in MNL Week-6

RAKHINE United played a 1-1 tie against ISPE FC in the Week-6 match of the Myanmar National League held at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre yesterday.

The ISPE team tried to continue to put pressure on the top three teams but was satisfied with a draw after conceding a goal in the second half.

The Rakhine United was able to end their losing streak

in the matches against Maha United and Dagon Star team and moved up.

Both teams attacked from the start, and in the 19th minute, Rakhine's Min Khant scored an own goal to give ISPE the lead.

The Rakhine team, who had conceded a goal in the first half, opened attack for their equalizers, and Thura produced the valuable goal in

the 55th minute.

After the Week-6 matches, Shan United led the MNL table with 16 points, and Yangon garnered 15, Hanthawady 13 points, ISPE 10 points, Yadanabon, Rakhine and Maha United eight points each, Dagon Star and GFA seven points each, Myawady five points, Kachin United two points, and Ayeyawady United got only a point.—Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

SKYNET Shwe Aunglan Traditional Lethwei Challenge to be held on 3 June

WITH the aim of promoting Myanmar traditional Lethwei sport to the international level, Sky Net TV channel and Myanma Lethwei Federation will stage the SKYNET Shwe Aunglan Traditional Lethwei Challenge on 3 June. The tourney will feature four weight classes: 57 kg for three minutes of five rounds, 60 kg boxers for three minutes of five rounds, 63.5 kg boxers for three minutes of five rounds, and 67 kg boxers for three minutes of five rounds.

Saw Naing Lin, Saw Mu Htaw Gay, Aung Kyaw Kyaw, Kyauk Khe, Thant Zin, Doe Lay, Kyaw Ye Min, and Hein Tun Aung will compete in the 60 kg fights,

while Yan Naing Kyaw, Byat Ga, Mike Mike, Kayin Lay, Tun Win Aung, William, Sein Lone Chaw, and Aung Zaw Hein will fight for the 63.5 kg category.

Kanyaw Khwa, Aung Hein, Aphoe Thway, Htet Naing Aung, Thet Win Aung, Saw Mya Lin, Saw Thar Gi, and Lanmayu will fight in 67 kg events, and Hline Htet Aung, Sit Thway, Aung Htet Hein, and Thway Lin Htet will compete in the 57kg events.

There will be two challenging fights on the final day.

Talented fighters and award winners across Myanmar will compete in the tourney according to their weight classes.

Starting from the quarter-fi-

nals, the knockout system will be applied and if the match is not completed by knockout, they will have to compete step by step using the scoring system. The fights will

be broadcast live on "SkyNet Sports-4", "SkyNet Sports-HD", and "Channel-9 HD", and ticket prices are set at K5,000, K10,000, and K15,000. The competition is



The advertisement for the SKYNET Shwe Aunglan Traditional Lethwei Challenge is seen.

planned to be held every year rather than broadcast as a local programme. The challenge was held in June 2022 when four flag winners emerged. — TWA/KZL

PSG win record 11th French title

PARIS Saint-Germain clinched a French record 11th league title on Saturday as Lionel Messi scored in a 1-1 draw away at Strasbourg.

Messi's opener was cancelled out by a Kevin Gameiro equalizer, but the result gave PSG an unassailable four-point lead over second-placed Lens with one match of the season remaining.

PSG moved ahead of the previous record of 10 titles set by Saint-Etienne in 1981 and which they equalled a year ago under former coach Mauricio Pochettino. It is PSG's ninth title in the last 11 seasons, a period in which they have dominated French football under Qatari ownership. — AFP