

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Saturday, 24 June 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.



The volume of Myanmar's rubber export in April was 11,190 tonnes so it indicated an increase of 7,000 tonnes in May compared to that of April. The picture indicates the rubber plantation and the latex from the stems of rubber trees.

Myanmar bags US\$22 mln in rubber exports to foreign markets in May

MORE than 18,000 tonnes of Myanmar's rubber were shipped to foreign countries in May 2023, generating earnings of US\$22 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar exported over 14,860 tonnes of rubber worth

\$18.417 million by sea and over 3,330 tonnes of rubber worth \$4.073 million through border channels last month.

Myanmar sent 11,530 tonnes to China, over 1,270 to India, 860 to Malaysia, 400 to Indonesia, 300 to the Republic of Korea, 260 to Bangladesh and

240 to Japan through seaborne trade. Additionally, Myanmar delivered 1,520 tonnes of rubber to Thailand and over 1,810 to China via cross-border points.

The volume of Myanmar's rubber export in April was 11,190 tonnes so it indicated an increase of 7,000 tonnes in

May compared to that of April.

The prices of rubber rebounded to above K1,400 per pound, with K1,470 per pound of sundried Local 3 and K1,490 per pound of Ribbed Smoked Sheet Local 3 in the Mon State's market.

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CBM: exchange rate determined on forex online trading platform

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) notified that the exchange rate transacted on the online trading platform is the actual currency value and the US dollar was exchanged at over K2,900 on 22 June when the online trading platform started.

In 2013, the CBM implemented a forex market for interbank transactions among authorized dealers and bank-customer transactions for foreign exchange market development.

International forex trading platform (Refinitiv) helped the authorized dealers deliver a complete function for inter-bank transactions. The CBM has been managing online trading for bank-customer transactions.

Starting on 22 June, the CBM led the online trading platform for bank-customer transactions and transactions between clients. The total turnover for the trading of the six authorized banks was US\$6.89 million with an exchange rate of K2,920-2,922.

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Official signs condolences book over demise of wife of Timor-Leste Prime Minister



DIRECTOR-GENERAL of the Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Zaw Phyoo Win signed the book of condolences for the demise of Madame Isabel da Costa Ferreira, wife of Prime Minister Mr Taur Matan Ruak of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, yesterday morning at the Timor-Leste Embassy in Yangon. — MNA/MKKS

Myanmar bags US\$22 mln in rubber exports ...

FROM PAGE-1

Myanmar's rubber production is annually estimated at 300,000 tonnes. Seventy per cent of rubber produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries. Myanmar aims to export about 300,000 tonnes of

rubber to foreign markets in the current financial year 2023-2024, according to Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association. The rubber production in the last FY 2022-2023 reached over 360,000 tonnes and more than 200,000 tonnes of rubber were shipped to foreign trade partners.

Rubber is commonly pro-

duced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber season data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres. — NN/EM

CBM: exchange rate determined ...

FROM PAGE-1

Furthermore, the CBM also provided USD SWAP Financing and sold 1.2 million dollars.

The exchange rate transacted on online trading platforms determines the actual value and the rate in shady dealings and posted on

social media platforms are just grey market rates, the CBM warned. The CBM will provide SWAP Financing for the essential goods in need and intervene in the forex market, according to the notification issued on 21 June 2023. — NN/EM

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

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 number.

4. Donations can be made through KBZ Pay or Wave Money. If you wish to donate, please scan the QR codes provided by both KBZ Pay and Wave Money. To contribute, enter the code included within the respective QR codes.

5. People make donations through CB Pay, AYA Pay, OK \$, UAB pay and Cit-

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

code provided within it.

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



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

National Disaster Management Committee

Multiparty democratic system will be implemented under the political trend

THE multiparty democratic system will be implemented under the political trend whereas the administrative system will be a combined system of democratic administration and federal administration. It is an administration all ethnic people and citizens aspire to.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, chief ministers of regions and states and chairpersons of self-administered zones and division on 6 January 2023)

National Land Utilization Council needs to give legal advice for land utilization management

LAND confiscation, disputes and complaints hinder the development of the State as the law, procedures and ways to solve the problems are complicated, said Member of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo at the fourth meeting of the National Land Utilization Council yesterday morning.

At the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in Nay Pyi Taw, the General, who is in the capacity of Chairman of the National Land Utilization Council, said that the national land utilization policy aims to develop sustainability of land and resources utilization, ensure firmness for the people to work on lands, protect customs, rights of farmland operation and procedures of ethnic people, set up a process with transparency, justice and lesser expense, improve responsible investment and land utilization and harmonize the existing land laws with the national land law.

The national land utilization council was formed for the implementation of the objec-



State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Defence Minister General Mya Tun Oo chairs the fourth meeting of the National Land Utilization Council in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

tives of the 2016 land utilization policy, directives and basic principles as well as the laws related to the land utilization policy.

The council needs to draw the national land management law in conformity with the existing laws, give legal advice for land utilization management, effectively implement the master plans for agriculture policy and agricultural development

strategy, systematically draw the land utilization plans and zones, sustainably use land resources in Union territory (Nay Pyi Taw), regions and states, and grant the people for firmly working on the lands.

The General stressed the need for relevant national land law compilation and land management laws harmonization work committee to emphasize to insert of the farmland and

environmental sector policy agreements involved in Parts 1 and 2 of the Union Accord sent by the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee into the national land law (draft).

Vice-Chairman of the council Union Minister Lt-Gen Soe Htut explained the undertaking of the Ministry of Home Affairs, measures for the lands owned by departments, expan-

sion of towns and villages in regions and states without permission, and restrictions for expansion on the road areas.

Union ministers, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council and officials reported on the progress of tasks undertaken by relevant work committees, drawing the national land utilization law and management measures. — MNA/TTA



The chargé d'affaires ai of Bangladesh calls on Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

MoFA Union Minister receives Bangladeshi Chargé d'Affaires

U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr A S M Sayem, Chargé d'Affaires ai of the Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Yangon, at 10 am yesterday at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the call, they cor-

dially discussed matters related to the further enhancement of the bilateral ties, early commencement of the repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State and expansion of cooperation in areas of mutual interest as well as in regional and multilateral arenas. — MNA

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement No 33/2023**

6th Waxing of First Waso 1385 ME
23 June 2023

**Allowing Shan and Ethnic
Democratic Party (White Tiger Party)
to register as political party**

AS of 23 June 2023, Shan and Ethnic Democratic Party (White Tiger Party) with its headquarters located at No 43-44 (8-A), MMM Condo, Strand Street, Ahlon Township, Yangon Region has been allowed to register under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law. The registration number of the Ethnic Democratic Party (White Tiger Party) is 28.

Sd/Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement No 34/2023**

6th Waxing of First Waso 1385 ME
23 June 2023

**Allowing Democratic Party
to register as political party**

AS of 23 June 2023, Democratic Party with its headquarters located at No 42, Pyidaungsu Lane, Saya San (North/West) Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region has been allowed to register under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law. The registration number of the Democratic Party is 29.

Sd/Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement No 35/2023**

6th Waxing of First Waso 1385 ME
23 June 2023

**Allowing Democratic Forces
Labour Party to register as political
party**

AS of 23 June 2023, the Democratic Forces Labour Party with its headquarters located at No 12 on 85th Street between 33rd and 34th Streets, Aungnan (West) Ward, Malun Seyoe compound, Mandalay Region has been allowed to register under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law. The registration number of the Democratic Forces Labour Party is 30.

Sd/Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement No 36/2023**

6th Waxing of First Waso 1385 ME
23 June 2023

**Allowing Women's Party (Mon)
to register as political party**

AS of 23 June 2023, the Women's Party (Mon) with its headquarters located at No 5/B, Bogyoke Aung San Street, Myaingthaya Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State has been allowed to register under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law. The registration number of the Women's Party (Mon) is 31.

Sd/Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

MoC Union Minister attends regular meeting of Myanmar Competition Commission 2/2023



Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo chairs the 2/2023 meeting of the Myanmar Competition Commission yesterday.

THE regular meeting of the Myanmar Competition Commission 2/2023 was held yesterday morning at the Ministry

of Commerce. The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Commerce U Aung Naing Oo who is

also Chairman of the Myanmar Competition Commission, the commission vice-chairman and commission mem-

bers and officials from the commission office.

Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo gave an opening address at the meeting and discussed in detail resolution actions regarding the cases of competition complaints, issues related to the publication of competitive procedures, schedule to implement the Competition Law effectively, procedures to raise awareness for the public to be widely known about the Competition Law and local processes as well as regional and international cooperation processes. — MNA/TS

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Yangon port admits larger container ships than before



The picture shows the largest ever container vessel in Yangon River yesterday.

MYANMA Port Authority under the Ministry of Transport and Communications discovered a new approach channel, the Kings Bank Channel in the Yangon port area and accelerated the sandbank dredging processes accepting larger-seized international vessels.

As there is a better wa-

terway, it can admit larger-sized vessels than before at the jetties in the Yangon port area. Meanwhile, the MV SITC Zhaoming container ship with 185.99 metres of LOA, 35.25 metres of Beam, 29,232 tonnes of GRT and a capacity of 2,698 TEU under STIC Shipping Line arrived at the Asia World Port Terminal for the first

time at 9:30 am on 22 June.

That vessel is one of the largest container vessels ever docked at AWPT Port. It docked safely under the supervision of the Chief Executive Officer of Myanmar Port Authority. The MV SITC Zhaoming container ship left Myanmar on 23 June. —Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Illegal electronics, consumer goods, industrial materials, motorbikes and vehicles seized

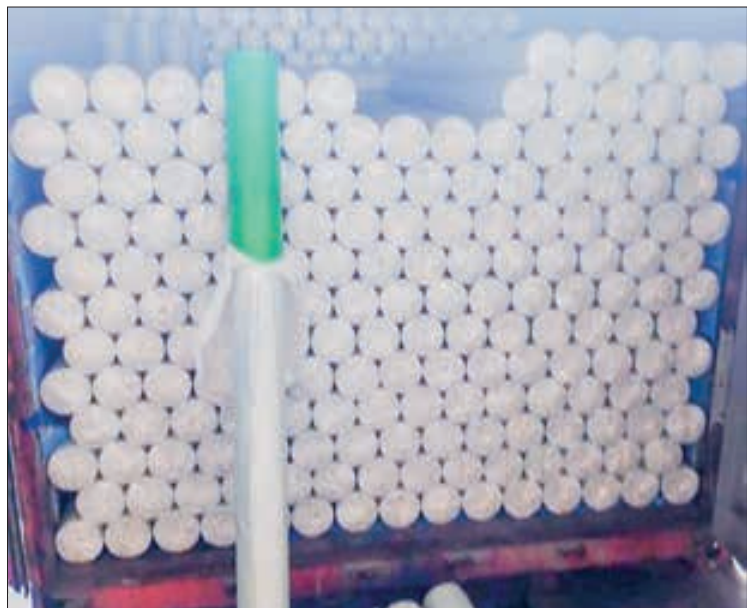
A combined team under the supervision of Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force confiscated two kinds of goods (worth K8.424 million) including 185 electric sprays that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a Hino truck (estimated value of K39 million) heading to Mandalay from Bhamo at the Letpanhla-Singu temporary checkpoint on 21 June. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Additionally, the on-duty teams under the management of the Customs Department nabbed a Nissan Condor truck (estimated value of K25 million) carrying two kinds of goods (worth K4.1 million) including 1,000 pairs of child footwear that were not declared in the ID travelling from Myawady to Yangon at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint, 70,300 kilogrammes of HDPE plastic sheet (worth K171,250,800) that were different from ID from two containers at the Myanmar

Industrial Port and three kinds of item (worth K32 million) including 1,200 kilogrammes of Duolist automotive paint that were not declared in the ID from a container at the Hteedan Port. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Similarly, a combined team conducted inspections and captured an unregistered Pleasure 110 motorbike (worth K400,000) in Tamu township and an unregistered Yamaha 125 motorbike (estimated value of K700,000), an unregistered Kenbo 125 (approximately K200,000) and an unregistered Triplecrown vehicle (estimated value of K6 million) in Homalin township. The action was taken under the Myanmar Export and Import Law.

As a result, a total of 12 arrests were made on 21 June, with an estimated value of K287,574,800, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated illegal goods.



MoALI tractors are seen assisting farmers in cultivation work in Sittway yesterday.

MoCRD Union Minister inspects affiliated departments under ministry in Rakhine State

UNION Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe, currently in Sittway, inspected the maintenance work of Mocha-hit buildings of the affiliated departments under the ministry in Rakhine State yesterday.

On arrival at Sittway Port, the Union minister checked the rapid distribution of relief items and assisted the relief teams after making proper instructions.

At noon, the Union Minister attended the handover ceremony of cash donations for Rakhine State rehabilitation processes held at the Rakhine State chief minister's office together with Chief Minister U Htein Lin and the deputy minister for Religious Affairs and Culture.

At the ceremony, Presiding Sayadaw of Thein-gon Monastery of Thandwe Township Bhaddanta Tejinda handed over a K5 million donation to the Rakhine State chief minister.

Then, the Union minister and party attended the coordination meeting on rehabilitation processes held at the Rakhine State government office.

During the meeting, the Union minister stressed the need to accelerate the rehabilitation processes to be better than the original ones, conduct rapid arrival of construction materials to be able to serve the duties of countries and cleanup activities in Sittway.

Then, officials of working committees reported on the working processes and further work plans.

The Union minister offered instructions and concluded the meeting. A total of 1,227 mobile stations were repaired in Rakhine State and the mobile communication rate is 99.51 per cent.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation helps farmers to carry out cultivation processes in time

with 80 tractors in Rakhine State and it cultivated 1,909 acres until 22 June.

The Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development also distributed a total of 1,036,186 gallons of water to 579 wards and villages in 10 townships and pumped the saltwater from 230 earthen lakes to date.

The Ministry of Electric Power also makes efforts in repairing power cables and sub-stations that transmit power to 10 townships in northern Rakhine State and now it can supply electricity to Sittway, Ponnagyun and Kyauktaw townships.

The electricity was transmitted to seven wards and 26 villages of MraukU via the MraukU sub-station, eight wards and three villages of Minbya via the Minbya sub-station and nine wards and five villages of Myebon via the Myebon sub-station yesterday evening. — MNA/KTZH

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.

သတင်းစာ မှာယူလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

09 454 237 515

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

MAI plans to provide healthcare services in cooperation with Sunway Medical Centre in Malaysia



Responsible persons from MAI and Sunway Medical Centre signed a memorandum of understanding on 23 June to comprehensively support the healthcare of customers.

MYANMAR Airways International (MAI) and Sunway Medical Centre (SMC), one of the largest advanced private hospitals in Malaysia, will develop cooperation in health services.

MAI and SMC signed a memorandum of understanding-MOU on 23 June to promote the medical tourism sector and provide their visitors with more options for

healthcare.

In the partnership, Sunway Medical's Wellness Centre will offer special discounts on health treatments, and guests using MAI Airlines will receive a 10 per cent discount on Business and Economy classes flight tickets, 10 kilogrammes of extra baggage allowance, and a special discount on the upgrade to Business Class based on seat availability.

MAI will increase direct flights between Yangon and Kuala Lumpur up to 11 times a week starting on 15 July, and all MAI flights will be allowed to carry an extra kilogramme of luggage and will be provided with special discounted rates for changing travel dates to make travel planning more convenient for passengers going to foreign countries for medical treatment. — TWA/CT

Licences temporarily revoked from 8 overseas recruitment agencies

THE Ministry of Labour announced on 21 June that the licences of eight overseas recruitment agencies were revoked.

The agencies whose licences were revoked are Shwe Mandalay, Myint Myat Dagon, Poe Poe and Phyto Thandar Htun for six months and Top Choice Man Power, Shwe Phyto Tha, Phyu Sin May, Labour King and Royal ABS for one year.

There are more than 50 foreign agencies whose licenses have been revoked from 2014 to 2022 and 22 agencies have been permanently closed, according to information from the Department of Labour.

According to the Ministry of Labour, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan and S Korea,

which had been suspended for years due to Covid-19, resumed recruitment of foreign workers.

There is also an increase in overseas employment agencies in the foreign labour market with there are many people who want to go abroad.

There are 157 overseas recruitment agencies in Myanmar and 133 overseas employment agencies were blacklisted and inspected in January.

Among them, a total of 16 agencies have been allowed to accept new job offers and sign new contracts starting from 2 May. Another 117 overseas employment agencies are allowed to sign a total of 100 workers in one job offer. — TWA/MKKS



Personal interviews in progress at the Labour Department.

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Renowned vocalist Sein Moh Moh passes away

SEIN Moh Moh, who firmly stood as a renowned vocalist in the early-stereo period and MRTV, passed away at 65 years of age at the Green Cross Hospital in Yangon due to cancer on 23 June.

"I have fraternally met with beloved Ma Moh (Sein Moh Moh) for a few years. I sincerely wish for her to escape

from the vicious circle," vocalist Tin Zar Maw expressed her condolences for the demise of Sein Moh Moh on her social network page.

Sein Moh Moh left the famous songs such as Taungpyar-tanka-Maung Maung-Sitthi, Apyoneko-Apyee-Hngar-Khe, Strawberry-Chit-The-Shin, and Myet-wun-

Sakar for audiences.

Vocalist Yuzana posted a status that she was sorrowful to hear about the demise of Sein Moh Moh and expressed her wish for Aunty Moh to reach a peaceful abode.

"Ma Sein presented a powerful voice for her songs. She carried a sweet smile while singing the songs," said Daw Khin Swe, an audience from Yankin Township, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Vocalist Sein Moh Moh,



called San Yu Kyi as her original name, was famous for her signature sound and posture in the 1980s.— TWA/TTA

Vocalist Sein Moh Moh (L) and a cover of the cassette tape for her songs. (far right photo)

Biden, Modi to agree on expansion of defence cooperation

US President Joe Biden and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi are set to agree Thursday on strategies to expand defence and technology cooperation, amid China's growing economic and military strength.

In his first state visit to Washington after nine years in office, Modi is hoping to raise India's profile on the global stage, seeing that forging closer ties with the United States would be the fastest way to meet that end, while many other democratic countries also stand united in condemning Russia's war on Ukraine.

One of the outcomes symbolizing the deepening of bilateral ties will be a deal to allow

General Electric to co-produce fighter jet engines in India, according to senior US administration officials.

India has been eager to gain access to advanced US technology for the development of indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities, while stepping up efforts to diversify its sources of military equipment.

India, the world's largest arms importer, is also expected to purchase MQ-9 reconnaissance drones from the United States, which officials of the two countries believe to be helpful in improving surveillance along its long border with China and maritime areas. — Kyodo



India's defence ministry unveiled in 2022 its first set of domestically manufactured helicopters, specifically designed for combat operations in high-altitude areas like the Himalayas and other mountainous regions. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ANI**

Race on for protection against hypersonic missiles



Israeli hypersonic missile interceptors were on display at the Paris air show. **PHOTO: AFP**

DEFENCE firms are racing to meet demand for systems to protect against attacks using tricky-to-intercept hypersonic missiles, with several on display

at this week's Paris Air Show.

Flying at multiples of the speed of sound, "everything's going faster, that's what changes the game," said Lionel Mazonq,

of European missile maker MBDA's Future Systems division.

"They change course. It's hard to know whether they're coming towards you, it's challenging to predict their behaviour," he added -- although the new missiles "can be intercepted, especially in the terminal stage" of their flight.

MBDA said Tuesday it had launched a three-year programme to develop an interceptor dubbed Aquila, with 19 partner firms from five EU nations -- France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain.

Brussels is expected to chip in with 80 million euros (\$87 million) from the European Commission. — AFP

Cash-strapped Pakistan to lease part of Karachi port to UAE for \$220 mln

AD Ports Group of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed an agreement Thursday to take over the running of part of Pakistan's main Karachi docking facility in a deal worth an immediate \$220 million, the company said.

The deal will come as a shot in the arm for Pakistan, with the

economy on the brink of collapse and the government desperate for big-ticket foreign investment to help service crippling debt.

AD Ports Group has formed a joint venture with another UAE company, Kaheel Terminals, to take over berths from Karachi Port Trust (KPT), the state-owned handling agency.

Karachi Port is Pakistan's oldest and busiest, with 33 berths, and the UAE deal will see the joint venture lease four of them for the next 50 years,

"The JV will undertake significant investments in infrastructure and superstructure over the next 10 years," an AD Group statement said. — AFP

Dutch to shut Europe's biggest gas field after quakes

THE Netherlands said Friday it would end production at Europe's largest gas field on October 1 after years of earthquakes, despite global energy worries sparked by Russia's war in Ukraine.

Wells at the massive Groningen field in the northern Netherlands will remain open for one more year in case of a cold winter but then be shut down forever, the government said.

Residents near the huge site, which opened in 1965, have complained for more than two decades of being terrorized by quakes directly attributed to drilling operations.

"We are really turning off the tap," said Hans Vijlbrief, the Dutch minister for extractive industries. The decision as an "im-

portant moment after decades of gas extraction," he added.

"The problems of Groningen residents have not yet been solved and unfortunately the earthquakes will continue for years to come, but the source of all misery will be closed from October."

The Netherlands first said five years ago that it would close the site by 2030 due to the increasingly severe quakes, which damaged homes and traumatized locals.

Although gas extraction from the field has been almost cut to zero over the last few years, the Dutch government kept the site operational due to the global energy uncertainties prompted largely by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. — AFP



The Netherlands' Groningen gas field is the largest in Europe. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

OPINION

Film artistic works which shake the hearts of audiences

WONDERFUL acting of film stars can win the hearts of movie lovers. So also, those film stars will be idols of audiences. As such, their actions and acting can change an era, influencing movie-lover audiences as well as other ordinary people.

Masterpiece films of film stars can be surely defined as classical artistic works. Generally, these can never be accustomed to and are always in modernity. These works can give something to viewers at any time. Whenever these classical artistic works are compared with a standard, these are always perfect with the least exceptions and obsessed by audiences forever.

As such, film stars should not express their overacting and daily routines without the intention to plunge relevant societies into the ravine and they should take care of their talks without harming the societies and everyone in person. Likewise, nobody should create the film's artistic works which can undermine the stable society and hearts of audiences. Both film stars and film creators should consider producing their masterpieces without any intention to downgrade society and the people. If so, films and stars will be classic ones forever in the hearts of audiences.

moves can reflect the socioeconomic life of the people. Political systems as well as the era of the country are based on the wishes of the people but such wishes are triggered by the influence of film stars and film artistic works over the people. Hence, those film artistes should not underestimate their daily routines which can shake the hearts and souls of audiences.

As such, film stars should not express their overacting and daily routines without the intention to plunge relevant societies into the ravine and they should take care of their talks without harming the societies and everyone in person. Likewise, nobody should create the film's artistic works which can undermine the stable society and hearts of audiences. Both film stars and film creators should consider producing their masterpieces without any intention to downgrade society and the people. If so, films and stars will be classic ones forever in the hearts of audiences.

MUSIC has the incredible power to captivate us and evoke emotions like no other art form. Music has a profound impact on our brains and emotions, whether it's a catchy melody, an infectious rhythm, or meaningful lyrics. Then, let us explore how melodies, rhythms, and lyrics influence our brains and emotions and shed light on the magic behind the universal language of music.

Melodies, the heart of music, are the sequences of musical notes that create a distinct tune. Melodies are processed in various regions of the brain, including the auditory cortex and the limbic system, which are associated with emotional processing. Studies have shown that melodies can elicit a wide range of emotions, from joy and excitement to sadness and nostalgia. For example, a fast-paced, upbeat melody can trigger feelings of happiness and excitement, while a slow, melancholic melody can evoke a sense of sadness and longing.

The rhythm, the backbone of music, refers to the pattern of beats and accents that give the music its groove and drive. Rhythm is processed in the brain's motor areas, which are responsible for movement planning and coordination. When we hear a catchy rhythm, our brains instinctively want to move in sync with the beat, which explains why we often tap our feet or nod our heads to the rhythm of a song. Rhythms can also influence our emotions by creating a sense of tension, anticipation, or relaxation. For instance, a fast, energetic rhythm can induce feelings of excitement and adrenaline, while a slow, steady rhythm can promote a sense of calm and relaxation.

Lyrics, the storytellers of music, are the words that convey the message and meaning of a song. Lyrics are processed in the language centres of the brain, such as the left hemisphere, which is associated with semantic processing and understanding of meaning. Lyrics can deeply impact our emotions by resonating with our thoughts, memories, and experiences. They can tell a story, express emotions, or convey social and cultural messages. For example, a heartfelt ballad with poignant lyrics about love and loss can

bring tears to our eyes, while an empowering anthem with uplifting lyrics can evoke a sense of empowerment and motivation.

The interaction between melodies, rhythms, and lyrics in music is complex and can profoundly influence our brains and emotions. For instance, when a song's melody, rhythm, and lyrics are in sync and convey a consistent emotional message, it can create a powerful emotional experience that resonates with us on a deep level. Conversely, when there is a mismatch between these elements, it can create a sense of cognitive dissonance, where our brains struggle to process the conflicting information, leading to a less enjoyable musical experience.

Research has shown that music can also modulate our emotions by influencing the release of neurotransmitters in the brain, such as dopamine, serotonin, and oxytocin, which are associated with pleasure, reward, and social bonding. For example, listening to music that we enjoy can trigger the release of dopamine in the brain, leading to feelings of pleasure and happiness. Music can also activate the brain's reward system, which is responsible for reinforcing behaviours that are pleasurable, such as listening to our favourite songs on repeat.

Moreover, music can evoke memories and trigger strong emotional responses. When we hear a familiar melody or lyrics associated with a specific event or time in our lives, it can instantly transport us back to that moment and evoke vivid emotions associated with that memory. This emotional connection to music is what makes it a powerful tool for self-expression, communication, and emotional regulation. Many people turn to music as a way to cope with difficult emotions, express themselves, or find solace in challenging times.

Furthermore, there are four ways that music affects the human brain.

The field of music and neuroscience is greatly expanding

and is indicating many beneficial ways music can engage and change the brain. Here let us learn how music affects the brain and mood by engaging emotion, memory, learning and neuroplasticity, and attention. In looking at the many ways that music engages the brain, we can begin to understand how creating a consistent musical program can target and enhance certain brain functions.



Scientists studied how music affects our minds and found that we pay more attention when there is a short pause between the music. They think that this pause helps our brains be ready for what comes next, so we can pay more attention. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP**

Emotion

Research indicates that music stimulates emotions through specific brain circuits. We can easily see how music and the brain engage mood and emotion when a child smiles and begins to dance to a rhythm. He is experiencing an uplifted mood of joy from the music. We also see this when parent and child connect through song. Have you ever listened to a mother singing a lullaby to her newborn baby? It is probably one of the most significant bonding experiences between people you will ever witness.

Outside of music affecting the brain as an emotional experience, it is also a physical experi-

ence. One reason for this is a hormone related to bonding called oxytocin. The "cuddle hormone," as it's sometimes called, can be released by singing. No wonder music is such a profound emotional experience in the mind of both mother and child!

In addition, research indicates that music affects mood by producing an array of other beneficial molecules in our biological pharmacy.

Listening to music can cre-

The study incorporated specific songs to portray different emotions. For example, a composition by Beethoven could be used to represent sadness, or the song "Happy" by Pharrell Williams could be used to represent joy. The children could then indicate and identify emotions based on the songs that represented them. Music succeeded where verbal language failed. Music was able to bridge the brain and heart. Music evokes and engages

chronicles how music can assist in regaining parts of memory and improve the brain health and quality of life of Alzheimer's patients. One of the caretakers in Henry's nursing home interviews his family to find out the type of music Henry used to enjoy listening to before Alzheimer's affected him. By creating playlists incorporating music specifically for Henry, the caretaker helps Henry

to evoke certain emotional responses that we wish to produce by the interaction with music and the brain.

Learning and Neuroplasticity

Neuroplasticity is the brain's ability to reorganize itself by forming new neural connections throughout life and can be greatly affected by the harmony of music and the brain. According to MedicineNet.com, "Neuroplasticity allows the neurons (nerve cells) in the brain to compensate for injury and disease and to adjust their activities in response to new situations or changes in their environment."

To further clarify, when our brain is damaged, it can find or create new pathways to function properly. Amazingly, music can provide the stimuli to create these new pathways and to help the brain rewire itself in the case of brain injury. For instance, in a groundbreaking study by the University of Newcastle in Australia, popular music was used to assist patients with severe brain injuries in recalling personal memories. The music affected the patients' brain's ability to reconnect to memories they previously could not access.

It's like getting directions to a location. If a road is closed, or you are stuck in traffic, there is sometimes an alternate route to get to the same place. Music can help map that alternate route in your brain!

A great example of this is shown in the case of former congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. Congresswoman Giffords experienced a brain injury as the result of a gunshot wound, which affected her brain language centre and left her almost unable to speak. By engaging her brain through music therapy, singing, and melodic intonation, she was able to provide new information to the mind through music and create a meaningful memories from their past, as it did in Henry's case.

These principles are what we will use later to form the basis of specifically constructed playlists

Unveiling the Powerful Forces Shaping Our Minds and Emotions

By Min Zan

some kind of neuroplasticity in our normal lives. Neuroplasticity, simply put, is our brain's ability to repair connections and find alternate pathways to memories, emotions, and even physical systems such as speech—and utilizing music is a wonderful way to achieve this effect.

Attention

Ever hear a song that engages you so profoundly it takes hold of your mind's full attention? By engaging our brain and our attention in the right ways, music can activate, sustain, and improve our attention.

Using brain images of people listening to short symphonies by an obscure eighteenth-century composer, a research team from the Stanford University School of Medicine investigated the power between music and the mind to hold our attention and showed that peak brain activity occurred during a short period of silence between musical movements—when seemingly nothing was happening. This led the researchers to theorize that listening to music could help the brain to anticipate events and hold greater attention, just as the listeners demonstrated when they seemed to pay the closest attention during the anticipatory silences between musical movements.

The theory is that these silences are indeed part of each composer's intention to guide the listener in interpreting and integrating the music in their brain. It is the space between the notes that captivates our full attention and allows the busy mind to communicate and integrate with the heart. It is in these silences, where our focus is total and complete, that true balance and healing can occur, as our brain and heart move into coherence.

On the other hand, we have all experienced how certain types of music, while affecting our mood, can also distract us or make us inattentive to the tasks at hand.

This makes complete sense. Unlike the attentive silences of the previous study, some songs can negatively engage our attention, as we become part of the song's story or scene. Lyrics are descriptive and engage our analytical mind, and lyrically heavy music could divide the attention of many people's brains.

SEE PAGE-10

TECH/ENVIRON WORLD

Unveiling the Powerful Forces Shaping Our Minds and Emotions

FROM PAGE-9

As we move forward in the following chapters, you will be encouraged to become an expert on using music and your brain to access targeted states. You will learn how to use mu-

sic as a bridge to affect moods, relax, increase your focus, and gain motivation. What's exciting is that you can assist your heart and brain as they move to more balanced and synchronized states using music, sound, and vibration!

In sum, music is an emotion that can range from joy and excitement to sadness and empathy. The emotional power of music is undeniable, and it is a complex interplay of melodies, rhythms, and lyrics that create a unique and personal

experience for each individual. Whether it's the uplifting melody of a favourite song, the infectious rhythm of a dance tune, or the poignant lyrics of a ballad, music can touch us at a deep emotional level. Understanding the science behind how melodies, rhythms, and lyrics influence our brains and emotions can provide us with a deeper appreciation of the profound impact that music has

on our lives. So next time you find yourself humming along to a tune, tapping your feet to a rhythm, or connecting with the lyrics of a song, remember that it's not just your ears, but your entire brain and emotions that are being influenced by the power of music.

Reference: Barry Goldstein

China-assembled FPSO vessel shipped to Brazil



This aerial photo taken on 12 June 2023 shows China-assembled "SEPETIBA," one of the world's largest FPSO (floating, production, storage and offloading) vessels, berthing at a dock in north China's Tianjin. PHOTO: ZHAO ZISHUO/XINHUA

CHINA-ASSEMBLED "SEPETIBA," one of the world's largest FPSO (floating, production, storage and offloading) vessels, was shipped from north China's port city of Tianjin to Brazil on Friday.

According to its general contractor Tianjin BOMESC Offshore Engineering Company Limited, the FPSO vessel will be used for oil and gas extraction and external transportation at the Mero oil field in the Santos Basin.

"SEPETIBA" is a floating production system that integrates offshore oil and gas production, storage, external transportation, living and power facilities.

"SEPETIBA" has a length of 333 metres, a height of 64 metres and a width of 60 metres. Its main deck area is approximately the same size as 3.5 standard football fields, and the boat has an empty vessel weight of 93,000 tonnes. It can meet operational require-

ments at a deep-sea depth of 2,000 metres in Brazilian waters.

The vessel can produce up to 180,000 barrels of oil per day, and has a daily gas treatment capacity of 12 million cubic metres. It can also store 1.4 million barrels of crude oil. Xu Lipin, manager of the company's project operations centre, said that as the vessel is the first Tianjin-assembled FPSO project, it has an export value of nearly one billion US dollars. — Xinhua

US county sues oil companies for \$51 bln over 'Heat Dome' disaster

A county in the northwestern state of Oregon on Thursday filed a lawsuit against major fossil fuel companies seeking more than \$51 billion over the 2021 "Heat Dome," one of the United States' deadliest weather-related disasters.

Multnomah County, which encompasses the state's most populous city Portland, said combined historic carbon pollution from use of the companies' products — and their decision to mislead the public about their impacts — was a big factor in exacerbating the heat wave.

"This is an event that is directly attributed to the impacts that we are seeing on our climate because of the actions of fossil fuel companies and their agencies that have been pressing for decades to deny climate science," County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson told AFP.

The county is asking for \$50 million in current damages from the Heat Dome, and \$1.5 billion for future damages as extreme heat, drought, wildfires, and smoky skies become more common. — AFP



Kermic Luster rests in a cooling centre at the Oregon Convention Center on 27 June 2021 in Portland, Oregon. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



Activists demonstrated against fossil fuel finance in central Paris on the eve of the summit. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Paris climate summit opens with call for 'finance shock'

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron told global leaders Thursday that no country should have to choose between tackling poverty and dealing with climate change at a summit tasked with reimagining the world's financial system. The Summit for a New Global Financial Pact is aimed at finding the financial solutions to the interlinked global goals of

tackling poverty, curbing planet-heating emissions and protecting nature. In his opening remarks Macron told delegates that the world needs "public finance shock" to fight these challenges, adding the current system was not well suited to address the world's challenges.

"Policymakers and countries shouldn't ever have to choose be-

tween reducing poverty and protecting the planet," Macron said.

Ugandan climate campaigner Vanessa Nakate took the podium after Macron and asked the audience, which included oil-rich Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, to take a minute of silence for people who are suffering from disasters. — AFP

HEALTH/WELLNESS: WORLD

‘Time bomb’?: Race to identify health effects of microplastics

TINY pieces of plastic have been found littered throughout human bodies, trapped in our lungs and laced through our blood, but the long-term health effects of this exposure remain unclear.

Every day humans ingest, inhale or otherwise come in contact with microplastics, plastic pollution less than five millimetres (0.2 inches) in diameter that is mostly invisible to the naked eye.

Microplastics have been found most everywhere on Earth, from the deepest oceans to the highest mountains, as well as in the air, water, soil and food chain.

But in the last couple of years scientists have discovered microplastics not just throughout nature but also throughout human bodies, detecting it in lungs, livers — even in placen-

tas.

Last year a Dutch study became the first to identify microplastics in human blood.

While scientists have urged caution due to the study’s small sample size, the presence of microplastics could suggest it is being transported through the bloodstream into organs.

But for now, the data remain incomplete on the health effects of microplastics, a complex cocktail of polymers and chemicals that could smuggle in other contaminants in what is called the “Trojan Horse” effect.

‘Insidious’

Xavier Coumoul, a toxicologist at French medical research institute INSERM, told AFP that there has been “more and more research” in the area over the last decade. — AFP



Scientists are growing increasingly concerned that microscopic fragments of plastic in the foods we eat and the air we breathe could be having an impact on human health and development. Delegates visit an art work during the resumed Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya in March, 2022. PHOTO: LONG LEI/XINHUA

Intl Day of Yoga marked around world



People practise yoga in Mao Sui Park, Hebei province, China, on 20 June 2019, to greet the upcoming International Yoga Day, which falls on 21 June every year. PHOTO: XINHUA

WHAT is Yoga and why do we celebrate it?

Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practise that originated in India. The word ‘yoga’ derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness.

Today it is practiced in various forms around the world and continues to grow in popularity.

Recognizing its universal appeal, on 11 December 2014, the United Nations proclaimed

21 June as the International Day of Yoga by resolution 69/131.

The International Day of Yoga aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practicing yoga.

The draft resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was proposed by India and endorsed by a record 175 member states.

The proposal was first introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address

during the opening of the 69th session of the General Assembly, in which he said: “Yoga is an invaluable gift from our ancient tradition.

Yoga embodies unity of mind and body, thought and action ... a holistic approach [that] is valuable to our health and our well-being.

The resolution notes “the importance of individuals and populations making healthier choices and following lifestyle patterns that foster good health.” In this regard, the World Health Organization has also urged its member states to help their citizens reduce physical inactivity, which is among the top ten leading causes of death worldwide, and a key risk factor for non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer and diabetes.

But yoga is more than a physical activity. In the words of one of its most famous practitioners, the late B. K. S. Iyengar, “Yoga cultivates the ways of maintaining a balanced attitude in day-to-day life and endows skill in the performance of one’s actions.” — UN

All five on Titanic sub dead after ‘catastrophic’ implosion

ALL five people aboard a submersible that went missing near the wreck of the Titanic died — likely in an instant — when their vessel suffered what the US Coast Guard said Thursday was a “catastrophic implosion” in the ocean depths.

The somber announcement ended a multinational search-and-rescue operation that captivated the world since the tiny tourist craft disappeared in the North Atlantic four days ago.

Rear Admiral John Mauger told reporters in Boston that analysis showed debris found

on the seafloor, 1,600 feet (500 metres) from the bow of the Titanic, was consistent with an implosion of the sub’s pressure chamber.

“On behalf of the United States Coast Guard and the entire unified command, I offer my deepest condolences to the families,” Mauger said.

On board were British explorer Hamish Harding, French submarine expert Paul-Henri Nargeolet, Pakistani-British tycoon Shahzada Dawood and his son Suleman, and Stockton Rush, CEO of the sub’s operator OceanGate Expeditions. — AFP



All five people aboard a submersible missing near the wreck of the Titanic died—likely in an instant—after their vessel suffered what the US Coast Guard said Thursday was a “catastrophic implosion” in the ocean depths. PHOTO: OCEANGATE/AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

China's largest EV maker eyes control of Southeast Asia market

BYD Co, China's largest electric vehicle manufacturer, has begun to penetrate the Southeast Asian market to challenge the stronghold held by Japanese automakers in the region.

BYD, which has launched an offensive on Japanese EVs that hold more than 80 per cent of the region's market share, is looking to build a formidable presence by expanding its local production line, though it faces issues with product selection and after-sales service.

At the Bangkok International



Photo taken in April 2023 shows the Shanghai International Motor Show crowded with visitors. In the back is the sales booth of BYD Co, China's largest electric vehicle manufacturer. **PHOTO: KYODO**

al Motor Show in Thailand, the largest public exhibition of motor vehicles in Southeast Asia, held in March, visitors streamed into the BYD sales booth.

A 21-year-old business owner who decided to purchase one of BYD's vehicles said, "I have a Honda now that costs me up to 8,000 baht (\$230) for fuel per month. For the BYD, I'll pay just 1,000 baht in electricity costs," he said.

"BYD is reliable because of its achievements (in China)," said a Thai Airways Interna-

tional pilot, 47, who also signed a purchase contract to buy a vehicle at the booth.

During the 12-day run of the motor show, automakers who participated sold roughly 43,000 cars.

Toyota Motor Corp and Honda Motor Co took the lion's share as the top two sellers, with many other Japanese carmakers ranking in the Top 10. Despite BYD only displaying its ATTO 3 model, it came ninth with about 2,700 sales orders. — Kyodo

Ford-backed electric battery venture approved for \$9.2 bln US loan

A Ford joint venture to build three new electric vehicle battery plants is set to receive up to \$9.2 billion in US federal loans under a programme backed by President Joe Biden, officials announced Thursday.

The US Department of Energy announced a "conditional commitment for a loan" to BlueOval SK, a joint venture between Ford Motor and SK On, a South Korean battery manufacturer, to build the new plants in the southern US states of Tennessee and Kentucky.

Biden has supported heavy public investment in such initiatives to address climate change and bolster US manufacturing.

The loan would be the largest in the history of the Advanced Technology Vehicles

Manufacturing programme, US officials said.

Ford cheered the move as boosting electric vehicle adoption, "while powering thousands of good paying jobs and American manufacturing," said Ford Treasurer Dave Webb.

"Major technology transitions have always been accelerated by collaboration between the public and private sectors," Webb said.

Electricity from batteries produced at the plants will replace more than 455 million gallons of gasoline over the lifetime of the vehicles, the Department of Energy said in its press release.

The projects will create 5,000 construction jobs and 7,500 operations positions once the plants are up and running, the agency said. — AFP



The new battery plants will create 5,000 construction jobs and 7,500 operations positions, officials say. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Japan inflation slows to 3.2% in May

JAPAN'S consumer prices rose 3.2 per cent year on year in May, with the pace of inflation slowing from the 3.4 per cent recorded in April, government data showed Friday.

The figure, which excludes volatile fresh food prices, was higher than market expectations, and topped March and February's readings of 3.1 per cent. Inflation in Japan has been less extreme than the price hikes seen in other countries such as the United States, fuelled by the war in Ukraine among other factors.

The US Federal Reserve and many other central banks have raised interest rates to tackle high inflation.

But the Bank of Japan has stuck to its long-standing, ultra-loose monetary policy in an attempt to boost economic growth, causing the yen to fall against the dollar.

Friday's core consumer price index (CPI) figure was slightly higher than market expectations of 3.1 per cent recorded in a survey of Bloomberg Economists.

Mizuho Research & Technologies said before the data release that core CPI would likely remain above three per cent until the summer, before

slowing "from around the latter half of this fiscal year".

Higher prices for processed food, durable goods, mobile phone handsets and hotel fees, among other items, contributed to inflation in May, the internal affairs ministry said. Declines in electricity and gas prices contributed to the slowing pace of inflation. — AFP



Inflation in Japan beat market expectations in May. **PHOTO: AFP**

Cheers in Zambia after landmark debt deal

JUBILANT lawmakers in Lusaka sang Zambia's national anthem on Friday after foreign lenders agreed to restructure part of the country's debt, a move that entrepreneurs said brought hope for the crippled economy.

Zambia defaulted on its \$18.6-billion foreign debt in 2020 at the height of the Covid pandemic.

The restructuring deal, covering around a third of the tab, came on Thursday at a two-day summit in Paris hosted by French President Emmanuel

Macron.

Relief was palpable in the capital Lusaka, where legislators in parliament belted out the national anthem in celebration.

The victory is a major success for President Hakainde Hichilema, who swept to power in 2021 on the back of promises to revive the economy, root out graft and woo back scared investors. "Unlike our colleagues that defaulted on repaying the debt we have secured a debt restructuring programme," said Garry Nkombo, an MP with Hi-

chilema's party.

In the city's business district, groups of people shared copies of the morning newspapers, whose front pages were dominated by the debt story.

"It's finally done," the Zambia Daily Mail headlined, while the Times of Zambia led with "Bailout". Mooya Chilala, who runs a small business selling fertilizer and seeds, said he believed the deal would ease economic pressure on Zambia and improve living conditions for many people. — AFP

Sony to build new image sensor factory in Kumamoto in chip push

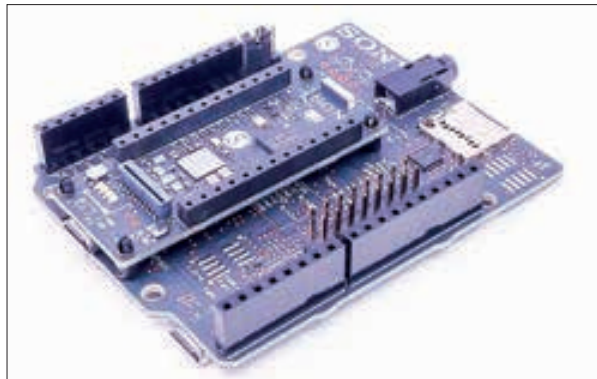
SONY Group Corp will set up a new image sensor factory in Kumamoto Prefecture, the head of its semiconductor unit said Friday, as it seeks to strengthen its chip operations and deepen ties with

a Taiwanese chip giant that is building a production base in the area.

The plant, which is expected to produce smartphone sensors, will be built on a 270,000-square-metre site it plans to acquire this

year in Koshi in the southwestern Japan prefecture, Sony Semiconductor Solutions Corp President Terushi Shimizu told reporters. There are “growing expectations” for the development of sensors as one of the sources of value for smartphones, Shimizu said, adding that this trend is expected to continue for a while. He did not specify the amount of investment or give a timeline for building the plant.

The move comes after Sony last month unveiled a plan to spin off its financial unit to focus its resources on the semiconductor and entertainment businesses. — Kyodo



The move comes after Sony last month unveiled a plan to spin off its financial unit to focus its resources on the semiconductor and entertainment businesses. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/SONY**

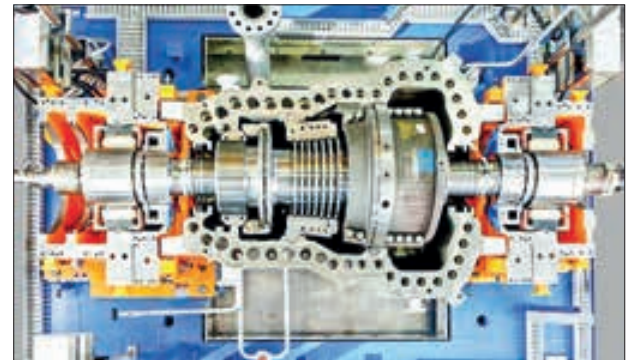
Siemens Energy shares plunge on wind turbine woes

SHARES in Siemens Energy plummeted Friday after the company warned that technical problems at its wind turbine unit were worse than previously thought.

The group scrapped its full-year profit target and said it was setting aside more than a billion euros (\$1.1 billion) over the coming years to fix the issues at troubled wind turbine subsidiary Siemens Gamesa.

In a call with reporters, Siemens Gamesa CEO Jochen Eickholt said “the quality problems go well beyond what had been known hitherto”.

“The result of the cur-



Shares in Siemens Energy plummeted Friday after the company warned that technical problems at its wind turbine unit were worse than previously thought. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ SIEMENS ENERGY**

rent review will be much worse than even what I would have thought possible,” he added.

Shares in Siemens Energy plunged by more than 31 per cent shortly after trading opened in

Frankfurt. Siemens Energy issued an ad-hoc statement late Thursday saying it had ordered a technical review following a “substantial increase in failure rates of wind turbine components”. — AFP

Hong Kong’s Cathay Pacific forecasts first-half profit

HONG Kong flag carrier Cathay Pacific on Friday predicted a return to profitability in the first half of 2023 as it benefits from rising travel demand following the relaxation of strict Covid containment measures.

However, the airline is still falling behind regional rivals such as Singapore Airlines owing to Hong Kong’s belated

axing of pandemic curbs, and is racing to rebuild its capacity amid a manpower crunch.

The Cathay Group has seen a “strong rebound in the performance of our airlines”, the company said in a press release.

“We expect that the Group will deliver a consolidated profit for the first half of 2023.” — AFP

Indonesia entrepreneurs cash in on TikTok live selling spree

INDONESIAN livestreamer Christine Febriyanti stood in a room crammed with clothes in Jakarta, hawking colourful garments to hundreds of viewers on a TikTok livestream for a local fashion brand.

“For the Vitamin C kind of girls, you’ll fulfil all of your nutrient needs with these orange pants,” the 25-year-old told the sales session. Her pitch is part of a clamour for TikTok shopping in Indonesia, where



Christine Febriyanti (C) is one of many Indonesians who have taken to selling merchandise on TikTok. **PHOTO: AFP**

users spent more money on the app than anywhere

else in Southeast Asia over the past year. The region

is a bright spot for TikTok, owned by Chinese tech firm ByteDance, following months of intense scrutiny in the United States and other nations over users’ data security and the company’s alleged ties to Beijing.

TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew announced plans last week to invest billions of dollars in Southeast Asia, where it counts 325 million users, of whom 125 million are in Indonesia. — AFP

The Global New Light of Myanmar
www.gnlm.com.mm

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MCL 19 VOY.NO. (01)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 19 VOY. NO. (01)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-6-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301928**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:
M/S UNIVERSE LOGISTICS INTERNATIONAL CO LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V OCEAN BRIGHT VOY.NO. (06/23)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OCEAN BRIGHT VOY.NO. (06/23)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-6-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MKH** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301928**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:
M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Japan emperor visits Borobudur temple during Indonesia trip

JAPANESE Emperor Naruhito visited Borobudur temple, a UNESCO World Heritage-listed site in central Java, on Thursday, the sixth day of his official goodwill visit to Indonesia.

The emperor, clad in a traditional batik-dyed shirt, climbed the stairs of the pyramid-shaped Buddhist temple in the suburb of Yogyakarta, the ancient city on Java Island.

The emperor said he was very happy to come to Borobudur which he had long wished to visit.

"I hope this remarkable temple will be preserved for a long time to come," he told reporters.

The temple was constructed in the eighth and ninth centuries and is renowned for its fine reliefs adorning its walls and 72 stupas, each containing a Buddha statue.

The emperor, who wore sandals so as not to damage the cultural property, took photos of the temple as he walked.

The emperor will go to Jakarta later Thursday. He and Empress Masako, who accompanied him on the Indonesia trip but did not go to Yogyakarta or the temple, are scheduled to return to Japan on Friday.

The imperial couple met Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Monday in Bogor, south of Jakarta. They received an invitation to visit from the president in July last year. — Kyodo

Japanese Emperor Naruhito (R) visits Borobudur temple, a UNESCO World Heritage-listed site on Java Island, Indonesia, on 22 June 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**



NEWS IN BRIEF

Malaysia to take legal action against Facebook over harmful posts

MALAYSIA'S internet regulator said Friday it plans to take legal action against Facebook operator Meta Platforms Inc over harmful posts, claiming its response to requests to remove those about race, royalty, religion and other sensitive subjects was too slow.

The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission said in a statement that the Facebook platform has been inundated with "undesirable contents" related to such subjects, as well as impersonation, illegal online gambling and scam advertisements. — Kyodo

Greece holds final party rallies ahead of Sunday vote

GREECE on Friday entered the final day of campaigning for Sunday's national elections, with conservative frontrunner Kyriakos Mitsotakis aiming to consolidate the gains he made in last month's inconclusive ballot. This poll is being held under a different system, meaning he stands to gain a larger share of seats in parliament if he repeats — or betters — his May performance, as polls suggest he will. — AFP

Russia's Antonov slams US Senators' speculations about nuclear strike

US senators' speculations about the possibility of Russia using nuclear weapons in Ukraine are absurd and contribute to the escalation of tensions, Russian Ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov said Thursday.

Earlier on Thursday, US Senator Lindsey Graham said the lawmakers were introducing a resolution to consider the use of a nuclear weapon by Russia in Ukraine as an attack on the NATO alliance.

"Speculations about Russia's possible use of tactical nuclear weapons are absurd. The provocative and short-sighted rhetoric of US lawmakers only contributes to the escalation of tensions and increases the

risk of the situation sliding to an even more dangerous line," Antonov said in a statement shared among media.

Antonov slammed the resolution as another "crazy initia-

tive" of "Russophobe senators" in the US.

Russia's deployment of tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus was done on legal grounds, the ambassador noted. — SPUTNIK



Yars intercontinental ballistic missile launcher. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ RUSSIAN DEFENCE MINISTRY PRESS OFFICE**



The Soviet Union previously used dolphins in the military. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Russia is 'training combat dolphins' in Crimea: UK

BRITISH military spies on Friday said Russia appears to be training combat dolphins in the annexed Crimean peninsula to counter Ukrainian forces. In its latest update on the conflict, UK Defence Intelligence said the Russian Navy had invested heavily in security at the Black Sea Fleet's

main base at Sevastopol since last year. "This includes at least four layers of nets and booms across the harbour entrance. In recent weeks, these defences have highly likely also been augmented by an increased number of trained marine mammals," it added. "Imagery shows a near

doubling of floating mammal pens in the harbour which highly likely contain bottle-nosed dolphins."

The animals were "likely intended to counter enemy divers", it added. The Russian Navy has used Beluga whales and seals for a range of missions in Arctic waters, the update said. — AFP

Meta says Canada news to be blocked after media bill passes

FACEBOOK and Instagram users in Canada will be blocked from viewing Canadian news, parent-company Meta said Thursday, after Ottawa passed a bill requiring digital giants to pay for such content.

Google, another critic of the Online News Act, has previously said it is considering a similar move.

The two Silicon Valley giants have pushed back against the bill, which aims to support a struggling Canadian news sector that has seen hundreds of publications closed in the last decade.

“Exciting news! (No pun intended),” Heritage Minister Pablo Rodriguez tweeted after the bill passed a final hurdle in the Senate on its way to becoming law.

He said Meta’s decision to block news content was regrettable, but vowed to “stand up for

Canadians against tech giants.”

His office said officials met with Facebook and Google this week and looked forward to further discussions about the new law.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau last month slammed Meta for a trial run of blocking Canadian news content for some users, saying the company was being “deeply irresponsible and out of touch” for refusing to pay journalists for their work.

Opposition to the bill, he said, was “flawed (and) dangerous to our democracy, to our economy.”

Google in February had also temporarily limited access to news for Canadian users of its popular search engine.

In a statement on Thursday, Meta said it was “confirming that news availability will be ended on Facebook and Instagram for all users in Canada.” — AFP



Google in February had also temporarily limited access to news for Canadian users of its popular search engine. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP

West Bank violence could spiral ‘out of control’: UN



People walk past a torched vehicle, reportedly set ablaze by Israeli settlers, in the village of Turmus Aya near the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah on 21 June 2023. PHOTO: AFP

THE new outbreak of violence in the occupied West Bank could spiral out of control, the

UN human rights chief warned Friday.

This week, at least 18 peo-

ple have been killed in the territory — in incursions by the Israeli military or attacks by Palestinians or Jewish settlers.

“These latest killings and the violence, along with the inflammatory rhetoric, serve only to drive Israelis and Palestinians deeper into an abyss,” Volker Turk said in a statement.

So far this year, more than 200 people have died in violence linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the vast majority of them Palestinians.

Deadly violence has flared in recent days in the northern West Bank, a stronghold of Palestinian armed groups where Israel has stepped up military operations. — AFP

New Zealand’s Ardern gets international book deal

EX-NEW Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced Friday she will write a book about leadership to be published worldwide, after five tumultuous years in charge of the Pacific nation.

Ardern, who turns 43 next month, said in an Instagram post that she would eschew the usual political tell-all in favour of some-

thing that would have inspired her “14-year-old self”. Ardern unexpectedly retired from politics in January, saying she no longer had “enough in the tank” to continue. She had become increasingly unpopular at home, even as she won widespread acclaim overseas.

After almost six months out of office, she still has millions of

followers on social media and is tipped by some as a future leader at the United Nations. Ardern’s term included managing the responses to a right-wing terror attack in Christchurch, a deadly volcanic eruption and the Covid-19 pandemic, which shuttered New Zealand’s borders for two years. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kremlin dismisses Macron warning over Russia’s role in Africa

THE Kremlin dismissed Friday comments by French President Emmanuel Macron that Russia was playing a destabilising role in Africa, citing Moscow’s deployment of mercenary groups there.

“Russia is developing friendly, constructive relations based on mutual respect and concern for each others’ problems. Our relations with all African countries are not directed – and cannot be directed – against third countries,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. — AFP

Kherson residents return to flood-ruined homes after dam destroyed

“MY whole life was in this house. Now I have nothing,” said Tetiana Pivneva, after returning to her flooded home in the Ukraine city of Kherson following the catastrophic destruction of a dam.

The 6 June breach of the Russia-controlled Kakhovka dam inundated huge swathes of the Kherson region, forcing thousands to flee and sparking fears of an environmental disaster.

Kyiv has accused Moscow of blowing up the dam on the Dnipro River, while Russia has blamed Ukraine.

When the dam was destroyed, Pivneva was in Odesa, 200 kilometres (125 miles) away, with her two children.

She returned home this week and still cannot process what she was met with.

“Words cannot describe it. I wept for several days,” said the 41-year-old widow.

“Even if I were here, I wouldn’t have been able to do anything. The water was unstoppable,” the businesswoman added. — AFP

Japan emperor visits Borobudur temple during Indonesia trip

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SPORT



Colombian striker Jose Valencia is seen after signing a one-season contract with Yangon United. PHOTO: YUFC

Munich, and Atletico Madrid, he started his professional career in Santa Fe, Colombia club at the age of 17.

“After a year spent in Santa Fe, he made a stunning performance known to Major League Soccer (MLS) Club Portland Timbers FC, and he was loaned in 2011. Then he could make a full transfer to Portland Timbers in 2013.

“Afterwards, he was loaned to Argentine sports club Club Olimpo from Portland Timbers and moved to Rosario Central in the second half of the season and back to Columbia clubs.

“Looking back on his international achievements, he achieved the two times Champions titles with Santa Fe and recorded his name in Maurice Revello Tournament as a Champion in 2011,” Yangon United of-

Yangon United signs Colombian striker for one season

YANGON United recently signed Colombian striker Jose Valencia for one season of the Myanmar National League to energize the forward line for the sake of international and domestic tournaments, as stated by Yangon United.

“Valencia played in American and South America clubs. He also represented the Colombia Youth International teams

and was a standout for the U-20 National Team in the 2011 FIFA U-20 World Cup playing along with James Rodriguez, former player of Real Madrid and Bayern Munich,” Yangon United officials stated.

“Taking the legacy of his father Adolfo Valencia who made appearances in the Columbia National Team and played in Bayern

officials elaborated.

The six feet one-inch forward player commented, “I am thrilled to receive the offer from this club, and this is a great opportunity for me. Moreover, this is my very first time in Myanmar, and joining Yangon United is beyond my pleasure. Now I am ready to play for this great team.” — KZL

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council: Twelve Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To assure support for the sustainability of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, in order to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities.
- (d) To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country’s prosperity and food security.

3. Social affairs

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

Jamaica eye US ambush as Gold Cup kicks off

JAMAICA coach Heimir Hallgrimsson is plotting an unlikely upset as the Reggae Boyz prepare to kick off their CONCACAF Gold Cup campaign against the United States on Saturday.

The 16-team biennial championship for North America, Central America and the Caribbean gets under way at Soldier Field this weekend, with the defending champion US taking on Jamaica in Group A. Hallgrimsson, who was part of the Iceland coaching set-up that masterminded a stunning defeat of England at Euro 2016, took over as Jamaica coach last September.

But so far the 56-year-old qualified dentist has struggled

to reverse Jamaica’s dismal international form, with the Reggae Boyz winless in seven games since Hallgrimsson took over. The Icelandic coach though is bullish that the Gold Cup can mark the beginning of an upturn in Jamaica’s footballing fortunes.

“We don’t fear them, we know they have a good squad and they are playing at home in front of their own fans,” Hallgrimsson said of the United States.

“The most important thing in a tournament like this is not to lose the first game. A draw is always a good point from the first game so you are alive until the end of the group phase.” — AFP

Paris Olympics chief hails ‘crazy’ torch relay route



Chief organizer Tony Estanguet unveiled the torch relay route for the 2024 Paris Olympics. PHOTO: AFP

TONY Estanguet, the chief organizer of the 2024 Paris Olympics, said the route of the torch relay unveiled on Friday was “crazy” and “unbelievable”.

From Mont Saint Michel to the French Caribbean to the Chateau de Versailles, the 80-day relay will be a French tourism chief’s dream.

“This is the culmination of an enormous team effort over the past year and a half,” said Estanguet, a three-time Olympic canoeing champion, at the unveiling of the route. “The route I find crazy, I find it unbelievable.” Estanguet’s remarks came at the end of a difficult week when police raided the organizers’ offices in a probe focusing on the awarding of contracts.

Indeed the announcement of the route had been preceded by news that police had searched the homes of two high-ranking officials in the organizing committee — Etienne Thobois, the Chief Executive Officer of Paris 2024, and Edouard Donnelly, the executive director of operations.— AFP