

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 9 July 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.

57th kidney transplant completed successfully

THE 57th kidney transplant was successfully performed at the Yangon Speciality Hospital, a 500-bed facility, on 6th July. Despite temporary suspension due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the medical teams, led by Professors/Department Heads and comprising specialists and nurses, resumed the 55th renal transplant operation in November 2022 and the 56th operation in March 2023, under the close supervision of the Medical Services Department and leadership of the Ministry of Health.

The recipient of the 57th operation was a 27-year-old male nurse from Shan State Public Hospital, Namhsam, with his 32-year-old sister as the donor. The surgery commenced at 9 am and concluded at 1:45 pm. Prof Dr Kyaw Soe Kyaw, the department head of urine and renal surgery at the 500-bed Yangon Speciality Hospital, along with Prof Dr Win Win Hlaing, the department head of urine and renal treatment, Prof Dr Mu Mu Naing, the department head of Anesthesia at Yangon General Hospital, Prof Dr Win Win Kyaw, the department head of heart and cardiovascular surgery, Prof Dr Aung Cho Tun, the department head of X-ray, Deputy Director-General Dr Thida Aung of the National Blood



The 57th kidney transplant operation in progress at the Yangon Speciality Hospital (500-bed) on 6 July 2023.

Centre (Yangon), Director Dr Swe Sett of the National Health Laboratory (Yangon), Associate Prof Dr Maung Maung Swe of the 500-bed Yangon Speciality Hospital, and veteran retired medics Prof Dr Than Aye, Prof Dr Kyaw Swa Hlaing, Prof Dr Khin Maung Htay, and Prof Dr Kyi Kyi San, along with skilled nurses and Medical Superintendent Dr Aung Lin Aye of the 500-bed Yangon Speciality

Hospital, collaborated to carry out the operation. The hospital management committee members provided their valuable cooperation.

The successful completion of renal transplant operations by Myanmar specialists in public hospitals enables patients to receive treatment locally and save on medical expenses that would otherwise be incurred abroad. The Ministry of Health

supports these operations by providing the necessary resources.





Colonel Win Tint, the Yangon Region Security and Border Affairs Minister, and U Aung Win Thein, the Social Affairs Minister, observed the operation procedures and offered K1.5 million to the patient and the donor, along with K3 million to the healthcare workers. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar exports white shrimp (Vannamei) to China, Japan

MYANMAR exports white shrimp (Vannamei), which earns export earnings and has been successfully produced in the fish ponds of Myeik Archipelago, Taninthayi Region, to China and Japan, according to the Taninthayi Region Fisheries Department.

White shrimp farming was launched commercially in Myeik Archipelago in 2018. It shows progress in the farming industry due to the clean seawater and so the marine entrepreneurs are ready to expand farming if there is a solid foreign market, whereas the marine workers are also interested in white shrimp farming rather than capturing fish and prawns in the sea as they can make money after breeding shrimp for three months.

SEE PAGE-2

Now, Sky Cable car has been just opened, you can see and enjoy the beauty of Pyin Oo Lwin(Flower City) while riding the Sky Cable car.

Pwe Gauk (BE.FALLS) Waterfalls Resort

PYIN OO LWIN (Flower City)

Myanmar exports white shrimp (Vannamei) to China, Japan

FROM PAGE-1

There are 200 white shrimp breeding ponds, about one hectare (2.5 acres), in Myeik Archipelago and about 100 ponds in Kawthoung. Arrangements are underway in Dawei. Out of 100 acres of shrimp ponds, 40 acres are used to store clean seawater and shrimps are kept in the rest of 60 acres.

One hectare can produce millions of shrimp larvae and they are marketable after three or four months. Shrimp farming is conducted three or four times per year and the boiled white shrimp are exported in packaging boxes to China and frozen ones to Japan.

The shrimp larvae and feed for shrimp farming are exported from Thailand. If the country can produce these two imports, the business people are ready to expand the farming scale and



Workers are seen working in the fishery processing line. **PHOTO: KANU**

initiate new businesses.

“The fish and shrimp catches are falling and the fishermen show their interest in white shrimp (Vannamei) farming. The fish resources become rare and the fuel prices are also high and so they cannot make

profits with their fishing boats. They seem to change from fishing to farming. The Vannamei farming is running properly and some also want to expand the operation. The main challenge is farm space. If the land where we cannot grow paddy or flooded

lands are used for shrimp farming, it will be OK for those who want to expand and launch new businesses. It can improve the country’s GDP as well as the income of business people. It can be known if we observe Viet Nam’s success in the breeding

sector. When they received over 8,000-9,000 million dollars from marine exports in 2019-2020, we earned only 700-800 million dollars. If the number of breeders is high in Myeik Archipelago, we have a plan to establish a feed plant by cooperating with Thailand. Experts from the university and officials of the Fisheries Department work together to produce shrimp larvae. If we can produce locally, we can save millions of foreign expenditures,” said U Thet Soe, secretary of the department.

If the people change their business from fishing to farming, the ocean resources will be high again and it can also make foreign income from such firm breeding industry. Currently, business people in white shrimp farming are running their operations properly. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

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 Citizens Pay which are widely used to enhance convenience for donors. To



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

United strength is the strength of the country

AMICABLE cooperation between the people and the Tatmadaw is the best for the future of the country. Both the Tatmadaw and the people will always exist. United strength is the strength of the country. The Tatmadaw is striving to ensure non-disintegration of national solidarity.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the SAC meeting 9/2022 held on 11 November 2022)

Preventive maintenance needed than reactive maintenance in communication system: MoTC Union Minister

IT should conduct preventive maintenance rather than reactive maintenance, said State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San.

The Deputy Prime Minister urged officials to conduct the maintenance during the inspection tour to the Technology Department of MPT in Kamayut Township of Yangon Region yesterday.

He also stressed the need to check the emergency communication equipment and vehicles, conduct regular maintenance, and raise suggestions to be ready for suitable equipment by studying a better sys-

tem than the currently used emergency communication equipment.

He continued that the communication and information sectors play a key role in carrying out the relief and rehabilitation processes during the disaster period and preventive measures were conducted before Cyclone Mocha.

Moreover, the emergency communication system was adopted while the communication was lost after the storm and such doing was a very supportive measure in recuse work.

He underscored that it should review the practical ways to emergency communication during the failure of



State Administration Council Member DPM Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San inspects the maintenance work process at the Technology Department of MPT in Kamayut Township of Yangon Region yesterday.

the communication system due to Mocha to be able to know the strengths and weaknesses. In doing so, it can make instant repairs and set short- and long-term projects. — MNA/KTZH

Union Industry Minister inspects Pharmaceutical Industry (Insein)

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than visited Pharmaceutical Industry (Insein), Yangon Region yesterday morning and inspected working processes.

The manager of the factory explained the situation of the production of a solid anti-snake antidote and the installation of additional equipment to increase production.

The Union minister said that more snake venom antidotes can be produced and distributed only if the freeze-dryer installation work is completed quickly in line with specifications.

He urged officials to buy and replenish the raw materials and spare parts for the continuous production of basic medicines needed by people.

The Union minister ordered to draw up plans for the development of human resources to



Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than looks into the Pharmaceutical Industry (Insein), Yangon on 8 July 2023.

ensure continuous improvement of pharmaceutical manufacturing technologies.

After that, he toured the installation of a freeze dryer to

increase the production of freeze-dried antivenin and the stages of the production of antivenin.

In the evening, the Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister

Dr Charlie Than left Yangon for the Russian Federation by Myanmar Airways International to attend the 13th Industrial Expo to be held in Yekaterinburg, Russian

Federation from 10 to 13 July.

During their arrival in the Russian Federation, they will meet Mr Denis V Manturov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation and Minister of Industry and Trade and mayor of Yekaterinburg to discuss issues related to the steel production industry. More than 600 companies, including the State Corporation of the Russian Federation "Rostec", will participate in the exhibition.

More than 100 discussions on topics such as Digital Manufacturing, Industrial Innovations, Industrial Development, Metropolitan Technologies, Labour Efficiency, Financing of Manufacturing, New Mobility, Chemical Industry, ENG in Industry, Educational Solutions in Industry, Food Tech and Agri Tech will be included in the economic programme. — MNA/KZL

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MIFER Union Minister joins First High-Level Conference of Forum on Global Action for Shared Development, 2023 Workshop on Ocean Economy Development & Management



Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw is seen off by officials at Yangon International Airport on 8 July 2023.

AT the invitation of the China International Development Co-operation Agency (CIDCA), Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, left Yangon by flight yesterday morning to attend the First High-Level Conference of the Forum on Global Action for Shared Development, which will be held from 9 to 10 July in Beijing, and the 2023 Workshop on Ocean Economy Development and Management, which will be held on 12 July 2023, in Xiamen. The Union minister and

party were seen off by U Thant Sin Lwin, Director- General for the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Dr Marlar Myo Nyunt, Director-General for the Foreign Economic Relations Department, officials from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Yangon, and the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. The Union minister was accompanied by Dr Aung Moe Chai, Deputy Director-General of the Foreign Economic Relations Department. — MNA

Rakhine State CM inspects recovery efforts in Sittway

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Htein Lin who is also Chairman of the Rakhine State Natural Disaster Management Committee accompanied by deputy ministers, state ministers and other officials viewed a collective cleaning in Sittway Township. They also observed rehabilitation and prevention activities for dengue fever.

First, the chief minister and his team visited Wingaba square in Sittway City, where they observed the joint cleaning operating alongside police officers and residents. The executive officer of the township municipality demonstrated the removal of garbage cans, improvement of the garbage tank area and water outlets and explained the clearing and

excavation of the city's drain.

Afterwards, the chief minister and his team distributed garbage bags to facilitate proper waste disposal among the neighbourhood residents. Additionally, the employees of the Department of Public Health visited social organizations and collaborated with ward administrators to monitor and encourage activities aimed at dengue fever prevention and control.

Next, the chief minister and his team visited the staff of the department in Ywagyi South ward and Ywagyi North ward and inspected the ongoing collective cleaning conducted by the police officers.

They also inspected the digging of drainage ditches,



The drainage improvement works in progress in Sittway on 8 July 2023.

and the clear-up of undergrowth and coordinated with officials.

During the collective cleaning, municipal organizations are using garbage trucks

to collect the garbage and dispose of it in designated areas. — MNA/KZW

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ကမ္ဘာ့လူဦးရေနေ့

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“ Balancing the population and development, let's strive for better future ”

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19 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 8 July, total figure registers 640,737

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **640,737** after **19** new cases were reported on 8 July 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of **10,904,013** laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **640,737**. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **619,560** including **10** new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 8-7-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. — GNLM

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Myanmar students secure second prize in SEAMEO Singapore Student Challenge

REPRESENTING Myanmar in the SEAMEO Singapore Student Challenge (SSSC-2023), students from No 1 Basic Education High School in Dagon Township achieved remarkable success by winning the second prize among the 10 participating ASEAN countries. The competition, organized by SEAMEO members in collaboration with the Ministry of Education of Singapore and the Singapore Department of Science, showcased the outstanding abilities of these talented students.

The triumphant students returned to Yangon yesterday afternoon and were warmly received by officials from No 1 High School (Dagon) and their family members at Yangon International Airport, celebrating their remarkable achievement.

The students from No 1 Basic Education High School in Dagon Township were carefully selected for the competition. Chosen from among the

exceptional students aged 13-15, who demonstrated excellence in both English and other subjects, they were among the ten remarkable schools representing Basic High Schools and Middle Schools from various states and regions. Led by their supervisor Daw Aye Mya Thida, a high school teacher, the team consisted of Maung Shin Thant Kyaw, Maung Phyo Zane Aung, Maung Bhone Myat Zaw, Ma May Thanzin Htet, and Ma Eain Thu Thu Khin.

Daw Aye Mya Thida, the team supervisor, shared, "We participated in the SEAMEO Singapore Student Challenge held in July 2023. Prior to the competition, we attended a five-day online workshop. The students from Dagon No 1 High School were selected from among the schools across the regions and states. When we competed with students from the ten ASEAN countries in Singapore, we proudly secured



Myanmar students winning the second prize at SSSC-2023 are seen at the Yangon International Airport on 8 July 2023. PHOTO: KANU

the second prize in the SSSC SEAMEO 2023."

The SEAMEO Singapore Student Challenge (SSSC-2023) took place in Singapore from 5

to 6 July. In the Project Presentation section, focusing on the theme of "Good Health and Well-Being Practices in School Environment," the Myanmar

students claimed the second prize. Indonesia was awarded the first prize, while the third prize went to the Philippines. — MNA/MKKS

UMFCCI Chair attends 12th Asian Business Summit 2023 in Seoul



Participants take a documentary group photo at the 12th Asian Business Summit 2023 Seoul of South Korea on 5 July 2023.

THE 12th Asian Business Summit 2023 led by the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) was held at the FKI Conference Centre in Seoul of South Korea on 5 July.

It was attended by business people from Asia and President U Aye Win of the Republic of the

Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Vice-Presidents Dr Sithu Win and U San Linn.

At the dinner held at LOTTE HOTE Seoul on the 4 July evening, FKI Chairman Dr Byongjoon Kim made a

greeting speech while Korean Deputy Prime Minister Mr Choo Kyung-ho delivered an honorary speech on the 12th Asian Business Summit 2023 and Chairman of Keidanren Mr Masakazu Tokura also made greeting speech.

The 12th Asia Business

Summit 2023 was held at FKI Conference Center on 5 July. The FKI led the summit aiming to exchange ideas and challenges among the business people of Asian nations to ensure the approach to a better world economy overcoming the challenges for the development of the global economy.

During the meeting, the FKI chairman and Keidanren chairperson made greeting speeches respectively and Dr Dukgeun Ahn (Minister for Trade, Korea) made an honorary speech. At the plenary session, the business organization discussed Pivot to Asia Economy, Challenges for a better Asia, Globalization and Trade Policy.

The Pivot to Asia Economy Session discussed market creation, the economic status of post COVID-19 period, inflation, price index and promotion of investment and trading while the

Challenges for the Better Asia Session focused on technology, digitalization, fine administrative system, AI, Robot, the fourth industrial revolution, climate changes, environmental issue, innovation, intellectual property and human resource development.

At noon, Korean Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Park Jin made an honorary speech at the Emerald Room of the FKI Conference Centre and the Plenary Session continued.

Myanmar delegation led by UMFCCI president participated in the Globalization and Trade Policy sector and discussed the Global Supply Chains, RCEP- Regional Comprehensive, CPTTP- Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, Non - Tariff Barrier, digital trade and technology. — Myo Min Thura/KTZH

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

CURRENT AFFAIRS

NEWS IN BRIEF

MoTC Union Minister meets domestic airlines, airport operators' officials

MEMBER of the State Administration Council, Deputy Prime Minister Ministry of Transport and Communications Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San, on 8 July, visited the School of Aeronautical Science and met with officials from domestic airlines and airport operators at the Department of Civil Aviation.

After a presentation by the officials, the Union Minister coordinated the encountered difficulties and addressed the identified needs.

MAI Airlines to extend Yangon-Kuala Lumpur route

MYANMAR Airways International (MAI) will be adding weekly flights between Yangon and Kuala Lumpur, providing a direct connection with Malaysia, starting from 15 July, as announced by the airline.

Over 680,000 tonnes of edible oil expect to be released, estimates suggest

DURING the meeting of the Oil Crops Agriculture Expansion Committee held on 7 July, it was reported that a total of 8.3 million acres of oil crops were planted for the 2022-2023 period. Union Minister U Min Naung of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation stated that the estimated production of edible oil for domestic consumption would exceed 680,000 tonnes.

Myanmar-India set to discuss cross-border power transmission cooperation

UNION Minister U Than Swe of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs met with Indian Ambassador Mr Vinay Kumar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yangon on 6 July. During the bilateral discussions, they explored opportunities to expand cooperation for power transmission lines across the border between Myanmar and India.

Affordable food for sale offers at Magway

THE Magway Region government, in coordination with relevant township general administration departments, has organized the sale of essential food products such as rice, oil, eggs, and various vegetables at lower prices than the market rates. This initiative took place from 6 to 9 July in the townships of the Magway Region.

Chinese company donates oxygen machines

GUANGDONG Bolisan Technology Co Ltd, a Chinese technology company, donated 800 oxygen generators worth US\$ 1.2 million to be used in public hospitals and rural health centres under the Ministry of Health on 7 July.

Myanmar attracts FDI of US\$13.59 mln in Q1 2023-2024

MYANMAR Investment Commission gave the green light to 11 foreign projects from six countries in the Q1 of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning in April. The country attracted a capital of US\$13.59 million, including the expansion of capital by the existing enterprises, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

MIC nodded one foreign enterprise in April, four in May and six in June respectively. The agriculture sector drew \$1 million from one enterprise. The remaining FDI flowed into the manufacturing sector.

In Q1 this FY, China is the top source of FDI so far, investing \$8.4 million from six enterprises. One enterprise each from India, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore and the USA also made investments this year.



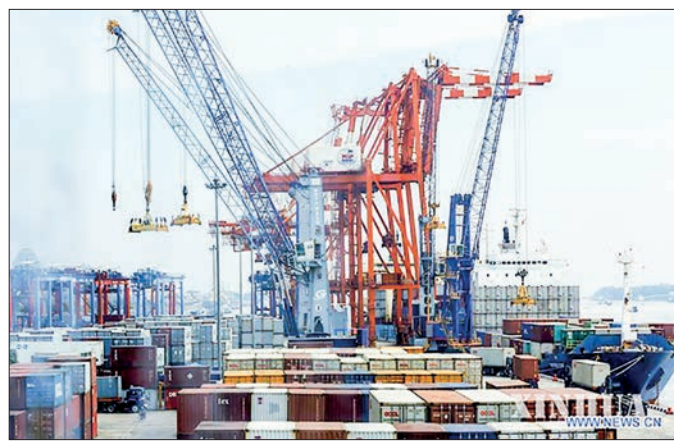
Photo by Xinhua: The photo taken on 12 May 2023 shows Yangon garment factory workers.

Next, \$21.99 million of FDI flowed into the country in the corresponding period last FY. The figures indicated a decrease of 38 per cent in Q1 this FY compared to that of the last FY.

Myanmar attracted foreign direct investments of \$1.64 billion from 87 enterpris-

es last financial year 2022-2023 (April-March). The majority of the investments were brought into the manufacturing sector, drawing \$271.8 million from 64 enterprises. Singapore, China and Thailand made the highest investments last year. — TWA/KK

Exports from manufacturing sector bag US\$1.7 bln as of 6 June



Containers at the port are seen to be shipped to foreign markets. (Photo: Xinhua)

THE export value from the manufacturing sector totalled over US\$1.74 billion as of 6 June in the financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's

statistics showed.

Garment export is the key driver in the manufacturing sector, followed by sugar, jewellery and natural gas, as per the Ministry of

Commerce. Exports by the private sector were estimated at \$1.064 billion while exports worth 676.349 million were performed by the public sector.

The value of manufacturing exports over the past three months in this FY declined from \$2.153 billion recorded in the corresponding period last year.

Garment export is ranked first among the top ten export items including natural gas and minerals Myanmar exports agricultural products, livestock products, fisheries, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods and other goods. Of them, the manufacturing sector pocked the highest foreign income. — TWA/EM

RTAD registers above 3,200 battery electric vehicles

MORE than 3,200 EVs have been registered at the Road Transport Administration Department, according to the RTAD.

As of last June, 467 battery electric vehicles (BEVs) were registered across various cate-

gories in state, region and district offices, including two light cargo vehicles, 2,474 two-wheelers, and 263 three-wheelers. In order to develop the EV sector, the government established the National Working Committee on the De-

velopment of Electric Vehicles and Related Industries last June.

Between last year and June 2023, passenger vehicle groups registered in the department's district offices within states and regions include sedans, station

wagons, minibuses with a capacity of over 15 passengers, and light vans, jeeps and double-cab vehicles. Pick-up trucks are categorized as light cargo vehicles, including single-cab stand-up vans with a carrying capacity of three

tonnes or less, as well as trucks.

Imports of EV chargers, along with various types of electric vehicles imported into the country, have been exempted from Customs duties. — TWA/KZW

LOCAL BUSINESS

Moehtaung chilli pepper market sluggish before new supply enters Yangon market

YANGON market sees a slow-moving trade of Moehtaung chilli pepper variety this month amid low foreign and domestic demand and higher prices compared to that of the year-ago period.

The chilli pepper market is sluggish in early July 2023. Newly harvested Moehtaung chilli pepper from the Kyaukse area has not flowed into the Yangon market. However, traders have been storing the varieties of chilli peppers in cold storage. They are expecting a high price.

A new supply of Moehtaung chilli pepper was seen in the Yangon market on 24 June 2022. Yet, there is still no new stock inflow as of 7 July 2023, an owner of a chilli pepper warehouse

located on Seinpan Street in Bayint Naung told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

Nonetheless, the new Moehtaung chilli pepper entered the Mandalay market at K15,000 per viss.

The prices stood at K13,000-15,000 per viss of chilli pepper (long chilli pepper and Moehtaung chilli pepper varieties) on 7 July 2023. Bell peppers supplied by Sinphykyun and Delta regions and processed in cold storages fetched K19,000-19,500 per viss. The market is sluggish for now.

The original price of chilli pepper is higher in 2023 than that in 2022. Nevertheless, we still cannot expect that the price this year will hit the record high last year, a seller U



Workers are choosing quality chilli pepper to be sent to market.

Zaw Myint told the Global New Light of Myanmar:

Chilli pepper is among the

inflated commodities in 2022, prompting people to reduce their consumption. Those

traders who kept the stocks in hands reaped a handsome profit last year. – TWA/EM



A consumer is checking the brand name of the product.

Intellectual Property Dept receives over 50,000 trademark applications

STARTING from 26 April 2023 when Trademark Law came into effect, over 50,000 right holders have sought trademark registration, as per the Intellectual Property Department.

This law was enacted this year to safeguard intellectual property rights and protect the marks, ideas, innovations, interests and legal rights of domestic and foreign investors.

Both online registration and in-person registration are accepted.

Trademark registration

can be applied through trademark agencies.

This law plays a pivotal role in the promotion of investment and commerce, technology and science cooperation. It will bring about more investment and commerce opportunities.

The right holders and owners of the mark have the exclusive rights to use the trademark under the law. It can also help elevate the brand's value and penetrate global markets.

— TWA/EM

Strong foreign demand makes butter bean market bustling

THE price of butter beans jumped on the back of strong foreign demand in recent days, Mandalay bean traders said.

The Upper Myanmar region is the largest supplier of butter beans. Last year, the price was K180,000-K200,000 per three-basket bag of butter

beans, whereas it significantly soared to K300,000-K320,000 per bag depending on the different sizes, according to Soe Win Myint depot.

“The butter bean fetches a good price in recent days. The farmers store only seeds for cultivation and the traders

are keeping the butter bean stocks in their hands. In addition to foreign demand, there is a high consumption of butter beans locally. They are yearly shipped to China, India, Japan and Europe. Lately, they are mostly purchased by China and India. The Japanese and European market prefers large sizes of butter beans. It is a winter crop. The demand has grown year over year,” Soe Win Myint elaborated.

The butter beans are primarily grown in the central regions of Myanmar, mostly found in Minbu, Sinphyu and Salin in Magway Region, Mahlaing, Taungtha and Natogyi in Mandalay and Gangaw, Kalay, Kalewa, Shwebo and Kabaw Valley areas in Sagaing Region. — Min Htet Aung/EM



The Upper Myanmar region is the largest supplier of butter beans. Myanmar's butter beans are seen in the market. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

OPINION

ARTICLE BOOKRACK

An opportune time: raise tourism services in Myanmar

THE tourism industry is a lucrative sector that generates income through the provision of services to both local and foreign travellers. However, this industry is not immune to various challenges such as pandemics, financial crises, natural disasters, and terror attacks, all of which can have a significant impact on its operations. The success of businesses in the tourism industry hinges on their ability to overcome these obstacles.

The Covid-19 pandemic, which erupted in 2020 and persisted into 2021, had a profound effect on the tourism industry worldwide, including in Myanmar. The pandemic resulted in the suspension of international flights and imposed restrictions on the tourism sector. However, as the infection rate declined from April 2022, international flights gradually resumed, allowing Myanmar to welcome foreign travellers under Covid-19 protocols. This contributed to the

revival of the tourism industry in the country. In 2022, more than 230,000 foreign travellers visited Myanmar, although this figure remains lower than that of neighbouring countries.

Local authorities are facilitating the smooth entry and exit of travellers, adopting measures similar to those implemented by neighbouring countries. The government has taken steps to simplify the e-Visa process and has introduced tourist incentive plans, such as special discount programs and tax refund schemes, to enhance tourism services. Additionally, attractive tourist sites must be promoted through online platforms and digital marketing.

Myanmar boasts a wealth of outstanding tourist destinations, including religious landmarks, natural caves and waterfalls, resorts and beaches, ancient cultural heritage sites, and the diverse costumes and

customs of its ethnic communities. These remarkable attractions have the potential to captivate the interest of domestic and international travellers alike.

To further promote tourism in Myanmar, it is essential to host tourism shows, trade expos, and relevant fairs that will enable international media to explore the diverse tourism services and potential travel destinations in the country. Collaboration between tourism companies and marketing agencies is crucial. Moreover, efforts should be made to ensure smooth transportation for travellers, encompassing aviation services, road transport, and waterway transport. Providing safe and secure transportation options will undoubtedly leave a positive impression on visitors.

In the near future, Yangon will host the Let's Go VACS Yangon Travel Fair 2023, with the participation of travel writers and media representatives from Russia. This event presents an excellent opportunity for Myanmar's tourism entrepreneurs to enhance their services, generate income, and enhance the country's image on the international stage. By leveraging its unique tourist destinations, organizing promotional events, and ensuring seamless transportation, Myanmar can position itself as an attractive and safe destination for travellers worldwide.

THE International Maritime Organization, which oversees the highly polluting shipping industry, clinched a landmark deal on Friday to improve its target to cut carbon emissions — but green campaigners said it fell far too short to tackle climate change.

The London-based IMO said its Marine Environment Protection Commission has adopted a “historic... strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping”.

Compared with 2008 levels, the United Nations' global shipping regulator said nations had agreed to cut total annual emissions of greenhouse gases “by at least 20 per cent, striving for 30 per cent, by 2030” and “by at least 70 per cent, striving for 80 per cent, by 2040”.

That compared with the prior target for a 50-per-cent reduction

by mid-century.

The deal came at the end of a five-day meeting at the IMO's headquarters in London, attended by representatives from 100 countries involved in the shipping industry—which emits roughly the same level of greenhouse gases as aviation.

Urgency

The gathering pitted climate-vulnerable nations — particularly islands in the Pacific — and richer countries against big exporters like China.

The vast majority of the world's 100,000 cargo ships — which carry 90 per cent of the world's goods — are powered by highly-polluting diesel.

Maritime sector seals carbon-cutting deal but sparks criticism



Shipping emits roughly the same level of greenhouse gases as aviation. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Shipping is responsible for around three per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions according to the UN.

The IMO added it “remains committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping and, as a matter of urgency, aims to phase them out as soon as possible”.

The “carbon intensity” of ships was expected to decline over time with “further improvement of energy efficiency” of new vessels, it insisted.

However, environmental non-governmental organizations slammed the agreement, arguing it was insufficient under the framework of the landmark Paris climate accord.

The green lobby instead wants the shipping sector to implement a 50-per-cent reduction by 2030 and deliver carbon neutrality by 2040.

'Vague' deal

“They knew what the science required, and that a 50-per-cent cut in emissions by 2030 was both possible and affordable,” said John Maggs, president of the Clean Shipping Coalition.

“Instead the level of ambition agreed is far short of what is needed to be sure of keeping global heating below 1.5 Celsius, and the language seemingly contrived to be vague and non-committal.”

Harjeet Singh, head of global political strategy for Climate Ac-

tion Network International, concurred that the strategy “charts a course towards emission reduction — but unfortunately falls short of expectations”.

“There is a clear disparity between its goals and those set by the Paris agreement.”

Greenpeace UK welcomed the deal also declared it was “still too weak” to fight pollution in a sector which “has operated out of sight” for too long.

Under the 2015 Paris deal, nations pledged to reach net-zero carbon emissions by the middle of the century with the aim of limiting the increase in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Argentina, Brazil and China, in particular, had strongly resisted tougher IMO targets, arguing they cost poor, developing countries the most.

SOURCE: AFP



- Book Title - Ein Hmyaung Myar
- Writer - Maung Ko Ko (Amarapura)
- Publishing House - Hnit Kala Myar
- Publication Date - June 2023 (1st Edition)
- Price - K5,000

Ein Hmyaung Myar

THIS book titled, 'Ein Hmyaung Myar' reminds me of Saya Maung Tha Ya who said that if you know how to write, you can produce a novel. Saya Maung Ko Ko, the writer of this book, is dramatically good at writing. And so, the book under review is highly entertaining, bringing the readers to the end of the novel in one sitting. The readers cannot drop this book until they finish reading. This novel was first published in Kalya Magazine in parts in the form of a serial. The first part was carried in this magazine commencing from 1998. But the order of the series was changed in the book form. In fact, not only the order but also the characters were changed

with some new themes.

In this novel, there are five main characters viz Taw Kee Gan, Kywe Yaing, Poe Hut Phyu, Shay Haung and Moe Tein Han. Additionally, there is a special guest character called Thein Sun Hnget. The names of his characters are rather peculiar while their traits are also bizarre, looking like people with mental insanity. All his characters are engaged in the field of art and literature. As known to all, these people have strange habits and hobbies. What makes me more interested in them is that they all exist in the real world. Their names are changed, nevertheless. This being so, this novel

is based on true stories, which are blended with the notions of the writer. In other words, this is a mixture of facts and fiction, and so, this is more entertaining. May I go so far as to say that the writer has a magic hand in the creation of this novel? The writer asserted that his novel is composed to depict the loving-kindness his characters harbour towards other people.

His novel was opened with a scene in which there are five people in a two-storeyed wooden house located in front of the Golden Palace in the City of Mandalay. There is a four-foot fluorescent lamp hanging from the ceiling. The fluorescent

lamp tried to dominate all five characters with its light. Yes, it can give light on all five from head to toe, but it cannot arrest their minds so that they cannot think of things outside the room. Although they are all inside the room, their dreams, their minds, their hopes and their desires are all outside the room. They all escape from the light of the fluorescent lamp. He can depict perfectly the peculiar traits of his characters. In depicting the traits of the poet, one of his characters, he does not use prose. Instead, he is rather poetic in his composition.

And when he depicts the traits of the photographer character named Moe Tein Han, the writer does not forget the daily routine activities of a photographer. He is rather meticulous in illustrating the life of a photographer. This really impresses me. In a nutshell, the writer is remarkably careful of the traits of his characters. And this has enabled him to compose his novel in a way that the readers are seeing in their daily lives.



- Book Title - Hsu Khinn Lan Go Shauk Khe Ya Pan Khinn Lan Go Shauk Khe Ya
- Writer - Maung Khin Min (Danubyu)
- Publishing House - Seikku Cho Cho
- Publication Date - June 2023 (1st Edition)
- Price - K5,500

Hsu Khinn Lan Go Shauk Khe Ya Pan Khinn Lan Go Shauk Khe Ya

THE journey of life is too long to reach the destination. The steps taken are countless. The tiredness demands a halt en route. Looking back from where one rests, one will see how he has gotten through this ordeal. In retrospect, he will see both his failures and successes. And he will learn that failures are the stepping stones to success. Anyway, taking a rest en route to the life-long journey will make him refreshed and reinvigorated, nevertheless.

As the title of this book suggests, people have trodden on the path paved with flowers sometimes whereas they have

walked on the path strewn with thorns at other times. The writer is nobody but Saya Maung Khin Min (Danubyu), who is highly famous in the field of Myanmar literature. Saya is also a reputable researcher of the Myanmar Language.

Saya is a seasoned linguist, having undergone different periods. This being so, he is an authority on Myanmar language and literature.

When he celebrated his golden jubilee of marriage, he had an idea struck his mind to write about his family. Commencing his 50th wedding anniversary, he started to write

about the experiences he gained throughout his academic career in addition to his family life.

There are altogether 45 articles in which you can have knowledge on changes in the education system, gain his experiences in Japan where he served as a visiting professor, imagine how great the 50th Anniversary of the University of Yangon would be, learn how hard a doctorate candidate has to study to be able to fulfil the requirements for the passage of the doctoral degree examination and know the life of a retired professor etc.

Additionally, the readers

will learn how hard Saya had to struggle. When he got married, he was earning only K400 per month. To earn extra income, Saya had to contribute articles to journals and magazines. However, he got the honorarium in his capacity as an examiner. Fortunately, Saya was never in the red, not owing any money to other people. What made him annoyed was attacks by some fellow teachers. Despite leading an honest and straightforward life, he was attacked by his seniors who were jealous of his success in teaching. Although he was attacked by his fellow teachers, he never harboured hatred against them.

The book under review is recommended because the readers can learn lessons and also have knowledge of the education system. Additionally, this book is worth reading because the readers can also imitate the writer as to how he could have managed a hard life to reach the top of the faculty of Myanmar at the University of Yangon. In a nutshell, the book under review is not only knowledge-giving but also entertaining.

SCI/TECH WORLD

Hazardous 'forever chemicals' detected in nearly half of US tap water

AT least 45 per cent of the United States' tap water is contaminated with toxic "forever" chemicals, according to a study by a government agency. Found in everyday products such as non-stick frying pans, polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) can linger in the environment for a long time and have been linked to serious health conditions including cancer and birth defects.

The chemicals can reach water supplies through industri-

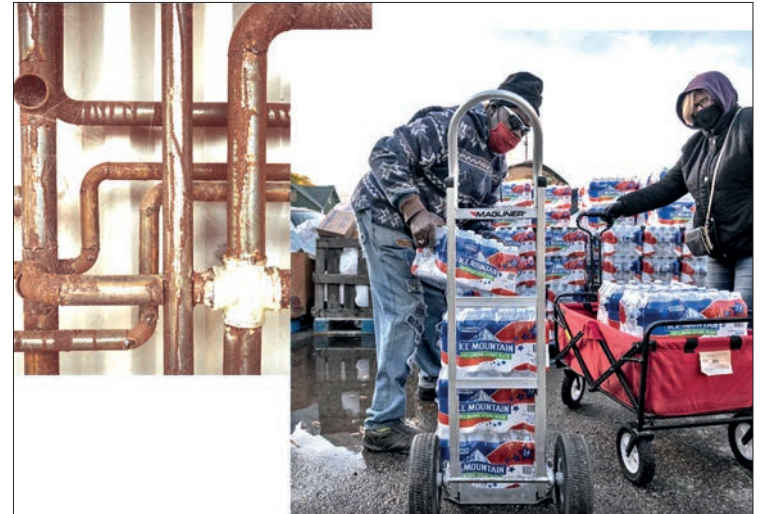
al discharges and leaching from landfill sites. "This USGS study was the first to compare PFAS in tap water from both private and public supplies on a broad scale throughout the country," Kelly Smalling, a USGS scientist and the study's lead author, told AFP on Friday. The paper was published this week in the journal *Environment International*, and found exposure to PFAS was similar in samples collected from unregulated private wells and

regulated public supply.

Overall, the study estimated the probability of PFAS being observed in the water at 75 per cent in cities and 25 per cent in rural areas.

Filters recommended, not bottled water

There are more than 12,000 types of PFAS, not all of which are detectable by current testing. For the purposes of the current research, USGS tested for only 32 types. — AFP



A US study estimated the probability of PFAS being observed in the tap water at 75 per cent in cities and 25 per cent in rural areas. Bottled water was distributed to residents of Flint, Michigan, after authorities discovered elevated levels of lead in the city's tap water. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

US safety regulators demand more records on Tesla Autopilot



The touchscreen control panel of the Tesla Model S electric sedan at the car's unveiling in Hawthorne, California, on 26 March 2009. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ROBYN BECK/AFP**

US auto safety regulators have demanded additional information about Tesla's Autopilot, threatening civil penalties on the automaker for inadequate response, according to a document request reviewed Thursday by AFP.

The 3 July information request from the National High-

way Traffic Safety Administration seeks more details about Tesla's modifications to the driver-assistance system, which has been probed by the agency since 2021 over its safety record.

"Failure to respond promptly and fully" could lead to civil penalties of up to \$26,315 per vi-

olation per day for a maximum of \$131.6 million, said the letter from Tanya Topka, acting director of the Office of Defects Investigation, which set 19 July as a deadline.

NHTSA launched the probe in August 2021 following a series of accidents involving Autopilot and emergency vehicles. After the initial inquiry, the agency expanded the investigation in June 2022.

The probe "aims to explore the degree to which Autopilot and associated Tesla systems may exacerbate human factors or behavioural safety risks by undermining the effectiveness of the driver's supervision," NHTSA has said. In the 3 July letter to Tesla Director of Field Quality, Eddie Gates, Topka asked for "all modifications or changes" from the start of production for vehicles produced between 2014 and 2023. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

China's first open-source desktop operating system released

BUILT by multiple developers, China's first open-source desktop operating system, openKylin 1.0, was released Wednesday.

The operating systems of the Kylin series, including openKylin, are available for computers and mobile phones. The openKylin app store offers some 1,000 third-party software options, including WPS Office, WeChat and QQ, to meet various customer demands in terms of work, life, entertainment and programming, according to Kylinsoft, the company that developed openKylin.

The company will continue to expand cooperation to attract global software and hardware partners to join the operating system, said an executive of the company. — Xinhua

Volkswagen to test autonomous vehicles in Texas

GERMAN auto giant Volkswagen said Thursday it will start testing self-driving vehicles in Texas this month, and plans a commercial launch in the state in 2026.

Ten ID Buzz electric minivans will be used in the trials in the state's capital, Austin, the car giant's first autonomous driving test programme in the United States.

They will be fitted with a self-driving platform developed by VW and its partner, technology firm Mobileye, said Volkswagen in a statement. — AFP

EU probes Amazon purchase of robot vacuum maker

THE EU on Thursday opened an antitrust investigation into Amazon's \$1.7-billion purchase of US robot vacuum maker iRobot over competition concerns.

Brussels said it was probing whether the acquisition would allow Amazon to "restrict competition" and "strengthen its position as an online marketplace provider".

"We are concerned that, by acquiring iRobot, Amazon may use this dual role to foreclose access by iRobot's rivals to its marketplace," EU competition chief Margrethe Vestager said.

"With our in-depth investigation, we will also investigate whether Amazon would use data collected by iRobot to strengthen its position."

The purchase of the maker of Roomba self-operating vacuums, announced in August 2022, aims to expand Amazon's artificial intelligence and smart home ambitions. Amazon said it continues "to work through the process with the European Commission and are focused on addressing its questions and any identified concerns at this stage". — AFP



The EU on Thursday opened an antitrust investigation into Amazon's \$1.7-billion purchase of US robot vacuum maker iRobot over competition concerns. **PHOTO: JUSTIN SULLIVAN / AFP/FILE**

Pink macarons and empowerment: a day in the 'World of Barbie'

IN the "World of Barbie", the news is always happy, the weather is always perfect, and the kitchen is always full of sweet pink macarons.

A huge immersive attraction in Los Angeles -- all bright colours and childhood whimsy, complete with Dreamhouse -- has drawn tens of thousands of visitors, just as excitement builds for "Barbie", a major Hollywood film based on the legendary doll this summer.

"It's Barbie spirit, Barbie energy everywhere!" said Lucy Treadway, spokeswoman for Kilburn Live which, along with toy manufacturer Mattel, runs the 20,000-square-foot (1,850-square-metre) experience.

Visitors -- nearly all dressed in peak Barbiecore, with lots of pink and glitter -- can explore a ball pit with a fuchsia slide, a beauty salon, beach chairs and palm trees, a recording studio, and even a spaceship.

In this surreal make-believe



In the World of Barbie, even the rocket ship is pink. PHOTO: AFP

world, a morning news studio broadcasts bulletins about cute dog competitions, and a map shows perfect weather across the United States, with tem-

peratures never rising above a balmy 81 degrees Fahrenheit (27 Celsius).

The "World of Barbie" is not directly linked to the film --

out in US theatres on 21 July -- but comes amid a blitz of Barbie-themed events, also including a Barbie-themed mansion listed on Airbnb in nearby Malibu.

Rhonda, Lois and Felice, all in their 50s and friends since childhood, travelled to Los Angeles to meet up for a girls' weekend at "World of Barbie".

Escapism

The two-story experience also contains a museum tracking Barbie's career since the first dolls -- dressed up in heels and a black-and-white bathing suit -- arrived in stores in 1959, and the iconic Dreamhouse.

"The Barbie Dreamhouse is such a staple in so many people's lives," said Treadway.

Another popular spot is a room full of human-size doll boxes, which visitors can enter to pose as movie director Barbie, skater Barbie, explorer Barbie, mermaid Barbie and Hollywood star Barbie.

"Barbie has been an inspiration over so many decades, and to really show people that you can be whatever you want," said Treadway. — AFP

Eagles announce farewell tour

CHART-TOPPING rock band the Eagles on Thursday announced a final tour after more than half a century in music, with the kickoff set for New York in September.

The "Hotel California" rockers announced 13 initial dates, and said they "will perform as many shows in each market as their audience demands," anticipating the tour would continue into 2025.

The first concert will take place on 7 September at New

York's Madison Square Garden.

"The Eagles have had a miraculous 52-year odyssey, performing for people all over the globe," the band said in a statement. "Our long run has lasted far longer than any of us ever dreamed. But, everything has its time, and the time has come for us to close the circle."

Fellow rockers Steely Dan will join the band on tour, dubbed "The Long Goodbye", the statement said. — AFP



Glen Frey and Joe Walsh of The Eagles perform on 16 October 2013. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Fashion and film merge as Paris shows its opulent side

FROM an absurdly opulent film shoot at the Opera Garnier to a Chanel catwalk along the Seine, fashion week offered a very different view of Paris on Tuesday from the riots of recent days.

The country is still licking its wounds and facing up to the deep societal divisions exposed by days of violence sparked a week ago by the police killing of a teenager. The riots have died down since the weekend, and it was the other France -- of unbridled luxury, craftsmanship and conspicuous excess -- that took centre-stage on the second day of haute couture week.

Chanel's models paraded



Chanel's show took place alongside the River Seine. PHOTO: AFP

alongside the River Seine with the Eiffel Tower in the background, some with little dogs or baskets of

flowers, in a show of "sophistication and simplicity," said designer Virginie Viard. — AFP

Rome's Pantheon charges for tourist entry

ROME'S 2,000-year-old Pantheon started charging for entrance Monday, with tourists paying five euros (\$5) to see Italy's most visited cultural site.

The building, one of the city's oldest and best loved, is currently a consecrated church and part of the proceeds from ticket sales will

go towards the diocese of Rome, while the rest will go to the culture ministry.

Minors and Rome residents are exempt from paying. The new charge "won't stop many people coming to visit", French visitor Camille Piallat predicted, as he queued to buy his ticket in the

sunshine. Engineer Tim Witte, visiting from America, told AFP he thought five euros was a "very reasonable" price. The other major churches in Rome, including St Peter's Basilica, are free to visit, but museums and monuments such as the Colosseum are ticketed. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Sri Lankans jump ship as a bankrupt nation struggles

THE snaking queues for food and fuel that crisscrossed Sri Lanka last year have given way to a different kind of line — people scrambling for travel documents to flee their bankrupt island.

“What we see as normalcy is a mirage,” customer care executive Gayan Jayewardena, 43, told AFP while queueing at a government office for a passport for his baby daughter.

“The situation is not getting better,” said Jayewardena, whose wife and two older daughters already have their papers.

“When we consider it from the point of our children, it is

better to leave. We want to migrate to a country like New Zealand.”

The South Asian nation’s 22 million people suffered desperate shortages of essentials in 2022 after the government ran out of dollars to finance imports, including life-saving medicines.

Months of protests led to the storming of then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa’s palace on 9 July last year.

His successor Ranil Wickremesinghe doubled taxes and cut subsidies, two highly unpopular moves. The new government may have restored supplies but at sometimes three times the previous price. — AFP



On 27 March 2022, the owner of two prominent newspapers in Sri Lanka announced the suspension of their print editions due to a paper shortage. This decision reflects the ongoing economic crisis faced by the island nation, which has had detrimental effects on various sectors, including the media industry. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Pakistan’s economy faced serious imbalances in 2022: Report

PAKISTAN’S economy experienced serious imbalances in 2022 as the existing troubles were made worse by an unfavourable external environment, according to Dawn.

Dawn is a Pakistani English-language newspaper.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Friday issued the annual Financial Stability Review for 2022 and found that financial system performance and resilience remained firm during the year.

The report said: “The domestic headwinds including

the twin deficits, high inflation, catastrophic flooding, delay in the completion of IMF programme reviews as well as the global challenges such as a fast-paced increase in commodity prices and monetary tightening by major central banks in advanced economies, manifested in the deteriorating macroeconomic conditions.”

The central bank, however, maintained that the financial sector showed resilience against these stresses and posted steady performance. — ANI

AIIB says internal review found ‘no evidence’ of China influence

THE China-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) said Friday there was “no evidence” it was dominated by Beijing’s ruling Communist Party, as it released a review into explosive claims made by a former executive.

Bob Pickard, a former communications chief, resigned from the lender last month, saying it “serves China’s interest” and was “a resource to the geopolitical goals” of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

China’s foreign ministry denied the allegations, saying the bank operated with “openness, meritocracy and transparency”.

The AIIB initially called Pickard’s allegations “baseless and disappointing” but later launched an internal review of his claims.

The bank said Friday the review found “no evidence of undue or improper influence in the decisions taken by the Board of Governors, Board of Directors, and President, or in other aspects of the operation of the Bank”.

The probe concluded that the AIIB “follows the high-



The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank launched an internal probe after a former communications chief resigned last month, saying it ‘serves China’s interest’. **PHOTO: AIIB**

est standards of multilateral governance” with a structure that “has enabled the Bank to take independent decisions in line with operational policies”. The review did identify certain recommendations “in response to issues raised during its work”, the bank said, including the need to strengthen pre-recruitment screening processes, grievance mechanisms and corporate culture.

However, there was “no evidence to support or validate (Pickard’s) allegations”, said Alberto Ninio, the AIIB’s general

counsel who led the review.

Pickard, a Canadian citizen, accused the bank of directing lending mainly towards countries targeted by Beijing’s massive and controversial Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) at the CCP’s behest.

He described foreign executives on the bank’s board as “window dressing” and said he had left China hurriedly out of concern for his safety.

Inside the bank, “there’s a parallel system, it’s adjacent to the public-decision making structure”, he said. — AFP

Ivory Coast’s fishermen land-bound to save declining stocks

ON a beach south of Ivory Coast’s economic hub Abidjan, a group of fishermen are spending the day sitting in the shade and playing cards.

Normally, they would be out on their boats — long canoes known as pirogues — and hunting the seas.

But this month, they have been banned from doing so to help the country’s badly depleted fisheries recover.

“We can’t do anything, we can’t do anything at all,” said Patrick Ange Yao, a fisherman since the turn of the century.

“We sit here, we chat,” he said. But “we don’t even know where to go — we just go around in circles.”

Overfishing compounded by climate change has left the waters off the West African state alarmingly void of a de-



Many artisanal fishermen say fish stocks are being ravaged by industrialized trawlers. **PHOTO: ISSOUF SANOGO/AFP**

cent catch.

In May, the government announced an “annual biological rest period” in the nation’s 200,000-square-kilometre (77,000-square-mile) Exclusive Economic Zone.

The measure entails a ban on trawling for a range of commercial species, including red

tuna, sardinella, anchovies and threadfin.

Artisanal fishermen are being banned in July and “industrial and semi-industrial” vessels in July and August.

But the interdiction has come without any aid, leaving families of small-scale fishermen in dire straits. — AFP

Teamsters hold 'practice pickets' for possible UPS strike

UPS drivers came out in force Friday for a "practice picket" event organized by the Teamsters as the union edges towards a possible strike in light of stalled contract talks.

Joined by progressive Democratic Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, workers at the UPS hub in Maspeth, Queens shouted demands for "fair contracts" and threatened to "shut it down" if the company doesn't return to the bargaining table with a better offer.

The negotiations for a new four-year contract have loomed for months as a question mark in logistics, but the odds of a strike

rose earlier this week when labor talks broke down, with UPS and the Teamsters each blaming the other.

On Friday, a UPS spokesman reiterated a call for the Teamsters to "return to the table to finalize this deal".

The current contract expires July 31. The Teamsters represent about 340,000 workers, meaning a strike would be the biggest in decades.

Vincent Perrone, president of the Teamsters Local 804 in New York, said the practice picket events were designed for younger workers who were not around for the last UPS strike in 1997. — AFP

Chinese fintech giant Ant announces share buyback after crackdown

CHINESE fintech giant Ant Group announced on Saturday a share buyback plan to allow some investors to offload or reduce their stakes after the government slapped the firm with a US\$1 billion fine for alleged "illegal acts".

Ant operates Alipay, the world's largest digital payments platform, which boasts hundreds of millions of monthly users in China and beyond. It was one of the most prominent targets



People visit the booth of ANT Group during the World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC) in Shanghai on 6 July 2023. PHOTO: AFP

of a sweeping crackdown on the country's tech sec-

tor that is now drawing to a close. Ant said it aims to

repurchase up to 7.6 per cent of its equity.

The share buyback plan values Ant Group at 567.1 billion yuan (US\$78.5 billion), less than a quarter of the company's whopping US\$315 billion valuation when it tried to list in Hong Kong in 2020.

"The repurchased shares will be transferred into Ant Group's employee incentive plans to attract talents," the company said. — AFP

Mass fish deaths haunt river on Polish-German border

FISHERMAN Henry Schneider stopped work for several months after a toxic algae bloom hit the Oder river last August, decimating his catch.

Schneider, 43, whose family has made its living from the river for over a century, finally took up his activities again in May.

But fears of a repeat are growing, as global warming adds to the toxic mix of pollution putting the delicate ecosystem under pressure. "It was unbelievable that we had fish left at all," Schneider, who lives on the German bank of the river, says of the poisoning.

The disaster wiped out more than half the fish in the river, which traces a long stretch of the Pol-

ish-German border.

And while the Oder has had some time to recover, the organism responsible for the disaster, known as *Prymnesium parvum*, has not been eradicated.

Polish and German authorities on either side of the river say they are determined to stop that happening.

But the two have clashed over responsibility for the disaster and the best way to keep the algae in check. Among fishermen there is concern over the impact of a possible recurrence. "If it happens again this year then there will be nothing to fish in this river for the next few years," Schneider says. Schneider and his family received fi-

nancial support from the Brandenburg region to bridge the gap left by the disaster. "There have never been fish deaths on this scale in the Oder in my lifetime", says Henry's 65-year-old father, Peter Schneider. A confluence of high salt levels in the river and an extended period of high temperatures creat-

ed the perfect conditions for the algae to flourish upstream. The question of excess salt "has existed for a long time and is now getting worse with climate change", says Pusch.

Among other factors, parched waterways mean that dangerous discharges are not being as diluted as before. — AFP



Henry Schneider's family has made a living from the Oder river for generations. PHOTO: AFP



United Parcel Services (UPS) workers walk a 'practice picket line' on 7 July 2023, in the Queens borough of New York City, ahead of a possible UPS strike. PHOTO: AFP

US economy adds 209,000 jobs in June, unemployment ticks down

HIRING in the United States slowed in June, the Labour Department said Friday, with fewer new jobs created than many had expected, a signal that the economy could be cooling down.

The slower pace of hiring will be welcome news for the US Federal Reserve, which recently paused its aggressive campaign of rate hikes to

give policymakers more time to assess the health of the US economy.

Despite the swift pace of rate increases, inflation remains stubbornly above the Fed's long-term target of two percent.

The world's biggest economy added 209,000 jobs last month, down from a revised figure of 306,000 in May. Mean-

while, the unemployment rate edged down to 3.6 per cent, the department added.

The employment figure was below the median expectation of 240,000 new jobs in a survey of economists conducted by MarketWatch, while the unemployment rate was in line with expectations.

Many of the new jobs created in June came

from increases in employment in government, healthcare, social assistance and construction, the Labour Department said.

Despite the slowdown in new jobs, average hourly earnings ticked up by 0.4 per cent month-on-month in June, rising by 4.4 per cent on an annual basis. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB326A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB326A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-7-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

ROLLING UPDATES

ASIA

Japan marks one year since former leader Abe's killing

JAPAN on Saturday marked a year since the shock assassination of former prime minister Shinzo Abe, the country's longest-serving leader and a towering political figure.

Abe was gunned down in broad daylight while giving a campaign speech in western Japan, targeted by a man allegedly angry over the former leader's links to the Unification Church.

The suspect, Tetsuya Yamagami, was apprehended on the spot and is said to have resented the sect over large donations that his mother made that bankrupted his family.

Gun violence is extremely rare in Japan which has strict gun laws. Yamagami is believed to have used a homemade weapon.

On Saturday, visitors from all walks of life formed a long queue outside Tokyo's Zojoji



People pay their respects at a memorial on the first death anniversary of Japan's former prime minister Shinzo Abe in Nara city on 8 July 2023. **PHOTO: STR / JIJI PRESS / AFP**

Buddhist temple, offering flowers before framed pictures of a

smiling Abe.

"I think he was the icon of

Japanese people. He was the icon of the conservatives," said

mourner Tomoko Shimoda, 57.

She said "the way he communicated with other people, what he said publicly, and the way he behaved" made a lasting impression on her.

Hiroyuki Kumagi, 69, said he was "a real worshipper of Mr Abe". "I participated in the prayer at the last year's national funeral, and of course I am here today," he told AFP.

In the western Nara region, people brought flowers and prayed outside Yamato-Saidaiji Station — the site of Abe's shooting.

Abe's death prompted a flood of condolences from international leaders, many of whom met the former prime minister as he worked to raise Japan's diplomatic profile.

But at home, the assassination caused waves of political upheaval. — AFP



Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the China-Central Asia Summit in May. **PHOTO: MARK CRISTINO / POOL/AFP**

Uzbeks see little chance for change in looming election

IN the streets of Tashkent, there is little doubt as to who will win Sunday's presidential election in Uzbekistan. The residents who spoke to AFP all said they would cast their ballots for the incumbent, Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

"There is nothing new to expect from this vote," said Rustam Usmonov, a programmer riding the Uzbek capital's metro.

"Mirziyoyev is the only one who is active and the other candidates do not dare criticize him," Usmonov said.

Uzbekistan, a former Soviet republic, is Central Asia's most populous country, rich in natural gas and with a strategic location bordering Afghanistan.

Mirziyoyev, who was first elected in 2016, has tightened his

grip on power while also aiming to open up his country to foreign investment and tourism.

Polls open at 0300 GMT and close at 1500 GMT. Some 20 million Uzbeks are eligible to vote.

The election comes after constitutional changes that allow Mirziyoyev, who was already re-elected in 2021, to serve two more terms. — AFP

Indian Army carries out combat drills, adds Howitzers at Ladakh border

THE Indian Army carried out combat drills and added new weapons in its area of operations in the Eastern Ladakh sector, a defence official said on Saturday.

New Delhi's incorporation of indigenously manufactured howitzers, and Quick-Response-Force Vehicles is telling considering India's border stand-off with China has now extended to a fourth year.

Also, during the military exercises that were conducted in the mountainous terrain near the Indus River in Eastern Ladakh, a large contingent of tanks and armoured vehicles was de-



The Indian Army said that these exercises were carried out to prepare troops to respond quickly to a sudden attack by enemy forces and foil any attempts to take control of Indian territory via valley routes in the region. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/NEWS BHARATI**

ployed by the Indian Army.

Tank formations featuring Russian-made T-90 and T-72 tanks and infantry combat vehicles were among the military equipment used in the war games.

The Indian Army said that these exercises were carried out to prepare troops to respond quickly to a sudden attack by enemy forces and foil any attempts to take control of Indian territory via valley routes in the region.

Moreover, the Indian Army added an array of new weapons to keep the adversary in check in Eastern Ladakh. — SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yellen calls for communication in talks with China Vice-Premier He

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen called Saturday for close communication between the world's two largest economies amid their intensifying rivalry as she met China's Vice-Premier He Lifeng in Beijing, the Treasury Department said.

"Amid a complicated global economic outlook, there is a pressing need for the two largest economies to closely communicate and exchange views on our responses to various challenges," Yellen told He, who is in charge of economic and financial affairs.

"This communication can help both sides more fully understand the global economic outlook and make better decisions to strengthen our economies," she added. The Treasury chief is in China, with her trip through Sunday intended to help improve Sino-US ties that have become strained over a host of issues, including tit-for-tat export control measures on items related to semiconductors. — Kyodo

US has destroyed all its chemical weapons: Biden



Operators move M55 rockets containing VX nerve agent from a pallet to a transfer cart to begin the destruction process at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant 15 April 2022. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/US ARMY/FILE**

PRESIDENT Joe Biden announced Friday that the United States has fully destroyed its decades-old stockpiles of chemical weapons, fulfilling a commitment under the three-decade-old Chemical Weapons Convention.

“Today, I am proud to announce that the United States has safely destroyed the final munition in that stockpile — bringing us one step closer to a world free from the horrors of chemical weapons,” Biden said.

The United States was the last of the Chemical Weapons

Convention’s signatories to complete the task of destroying their “declared” stockpiles, though some are believed to maintain secret reserves of chemical weapons.

“It marks the first time an international body has verified destruction of an entire category of declared weapons of mass destruction,” Biden said in a statement.

The announcement came after the Blue Grass Army Depot, a US Army facility in Kentucky, recently completed

its four-year job of eliminating some 500 tonnes of lethal chemical agents, the last batch held by the US military.

The US had held for decades stores of artillery projectiles and rockets that contained mustard gases, VX and sarin nerve agents, and blister agents.

Such weapons were condemned widely after their use with horrendous results on the battlefields of World War I.

But many countries retained and further developed them in the years afterward. — AFP

As Greece rolls back migrant support, thousands go hungry

IN an out-of-sight flat in one of Athens’ poorest districts, dozens of migrant women and young children left exposed by Greece’s dwindling asylum support programmes queue for food donations.

Deniz Yobo, a 33-year-old woman from Niger has picked up enough rice, lentils, flour, honey and biscuits to fill her kitchen cupboards for the coming month.

A mother of two raising her children alone, Yobo saw her meagre salary all but wiped out this year by the soaring cost of living in Greece.

Working as a part-time cleaner, she earns less than 500 euros (\$550) a month,

which is just enough to pay her 350-euro rent.

Greece has been steadily slashing benefits offered to asylum seekers and refugees amid a toughening attitude towards migrants across Europe. Finance assistance of a few hundred euros (dollars) per month ends once an asylum seeker is granted refugee status. In December, Athens terminated a European Union-funded programme that had offered rented housing to tens of thousands of refugees over the past seven years.

Fahima, an Afghan woman in her twenties, was among those dumped on the street by the move. — AFP



The humanitarian aid group Intersos has provided food to over 5,000 migrants and refugees, 54 per cent of them minors. **PHOTO: SPYROS BAKALIS/AFP**

Energy-short South Africa will survive winter: Minister

SOUTH Africa, which has experienced crippling electricity outages in recent months, will “survive” this winter season thanks to a huge improvement in generation, a cabinet minister said on Saturday.

Electricity Minister Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, who had last month forecast “an incredibly difficult” southern hemisphere winter, on Saturday said power generation had been ramped up to achieve an average output of 60 per cent, from 48 per cent weeks ago.

The state utility Eskom imposes daily scheduled blackouts, called load-shedding, to safeguard the grid whenever



State utility Eskom imposes daily scheduled blackouts, called load-shedding, to safeguard the grid whenever demand outstrips supply. **PHOTO: PAUL BOTES/AFP**

demand outstrips supply.

These have in recent weeks

drastically dropped from 12 to around two hours a day. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Zelensky visits island symbol of defiance as war enters 500th day

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky has visited a Black Sea island whose defenders famously defied a Russian warship at the beginning of the invasion, as the conflict reaches its 500th day.

“Today we are on Snake Island, which will never be conquered by the occupiers, like the whole of Ukraine, because we are the country of the brave,” he said in a video clip released on social media Saturday.

“I want to thank from here, from this place of victory, each of our soldiers for these 500 days,” Zelensky said in the undated clip, in which he was shown arriving on the island by boat and leaving flowers at a memorial.

Moscow captured Snake Island shortly after launching its invasion on 24 February 2022.

A radio exchange went viral in which Ukrainian soldiers told the crew of Russia’s attacking warship demanding their surrender to “go f... yourself”. — AFP

US has destroyed all its chemical weapons: Biden

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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.

Players to be selected for U-12 Junior Soccer World Challenge 2023



An invitation sign is seen for the player selection ahead of the U-12 Junior Soccer World Challenge 2023. PHOTO: MFF

U-12 players will be selected to compete in the 11th U-12 Junior Soccer World Challenge 2023, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation.

The tournament will be held in Japan from 24 to 27 August and 18 players will be selected for the tournament. Young players who are of legal age can apply with school transcripts, household lists and birth certificates.

Player selections will be conducted at Yangon National Football Academy from 14 to 15 July, and Mandalay Academy from 16 to 17 July.

A total of 32 Junior Clubs including Barcelona, Juventus, Bayern Munich and Japan J League youth teams will compete in the U-12 Junior Soccer World Challenge 2023. — TWA/KZL

Pochettino ready to risk reputation at Chelsea, but Kane bid off the agenda

MAURICIO Pochettino is ready to "risk" his reputation at troubled Chelsea, but the new Blues boss won't be bolstered by a reunion with Harry Kane.

Kane has been linked with a move away from Pochettino's former club Tottenham and a switch to Stamford Bridge could have suited both parties.

Pochettino needs a top-class striker to improve on the club's dismal goal-scoring record last season and England captain Kane fits the bill perfectly.

Tottenham's record goalscorer, who rose to prominence under Pochettino, is keen to leave the north Londoners after failing in his bid to engineer a transfer to Manchester City two years ago. Linked with Bayern Munich and Manchester United, Kane's Tottenham contract expires next year, increasing the urgency to resolve his future.

However, Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy might see the prospect of selling Kane to a London club, and one managed by the man he sacked in 2019, as a bridge too far. — AFP

Team Myanmar leaves for 36th King Cup Sepak Takraw World Championship 2023

MYANMAR Sepak Takraw Team left for Thailand via Yangon International Airport yesterday to compete in the 36th King Cup Sepak Takraw World Championship 2023, to be convened

from 9 to 16 July.

The team includes one captain, three coaches, 11 male athletes plus 12 female athletes.

They will compete in men's and

women's double and triple events.

Athletes from ASEAN countries, Brazil and New Zealand will compete in the tourney. — Bala Soe/KZL



Myanmar Sepak Takraw team is seen before leaving for Thailand to compete in the 36th King Cup Sepak Takraw World Championship 2023. PHOTO: BALA SOE