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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council: Five-Point Road Map

1. Priority will be given to fully realizing peace, stability and rule of law throughout the Union to safeguard the socioeconomic life of the people.
2. People-centred development work that enhances socioeconomic well-being will be undertaken to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.
3. Processes will further continue to consolidate a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and build a Union based on democracy and federalism.
4. Priority will be accorded to work aligned with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, in order to achieve enduring peace for the entire nation.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets MSME entrepreneurs in Rakhine State



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round the products displayed at the meeting with MSME businesspeople in Rakhine State on 27 February 2023.

elders and business persons from MSMEs in Rakhine State. **Individual discussions on requirements in carrying out the MSME activities**

First of all, the Rakhine State chief minister presented matters relating to the facts about the region, implementation of MSMEs, support being provided for the development of the MSMEs, conducting of the training courses on MSME production, implementation of the One Village One Product Project, progress on research and development, situation on domestic and foreign investments within Rakhine State, progress of tourism industry and issuing of loans to the businessmen from the MSMEs inter alia.

Afterwards, Rakhine State Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairman U Tin Aung Oo, Rakhine State Rice Entrepreneurs Association Chairman U Shwe Tun Aung, Rakhine State Oil Mill Entrepreneurs Association Chairman U Kyaw Aye Maung, Rakhine State Salt Industry Entrepreneurs Association Chairman U Than Win and the entrepreneurs from the MSMEs in Rakhine State submitted matters relating to the difficulty they encounter in border trade because of the

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STATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met the entrepreneurs from micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs)

in Rakhine State yesterday morning in the U Ottama Hall and discussed matters relating to regional development and economic development.

Also present together

with the PM were: SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Council Members Admiral Tin Aung San and Dr Hmu Htan, the Union Ministers, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, the

high-ranking Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Htin Latt Oo, state-level departmental officials, town

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Reception held to commemorate Royal Thai Armed Forces Day



The documentary group photo of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Day event held in Yangon yesterday.

THE Royal Thai Armed Forces Day reception was held yesterday evening at Novotel Hotel on Pyay Road, Yangon.

Lt-Gen Thet Pon and wife from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe and wife, high-ranking military officers, ambassadors from foreign embassies in Yangon, charges d'affaires, military attaches and guests attended the ceremony.

First, Lt-Gen Thet Pon and his wife, high-ranking military officers and guests were welcomed by Mr Mongkol Visitsump, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar and military attachés (Army, Navy, Air) and officials.

Afterwards, the reception was opened with national anthems of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Thailand. The ambassador gave a welcoming speech followed by the commemorative video of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Day. Then, Thai Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visitsump, Lt-Gen Thet Pon and the military attaché cut the Royal Thai Armed Forces Day cake and took documentary group photos with guests. Then, the honorary dinner was hosted by the Thai ambassador and military attaches. — MNA/TS

Application for registration, political party establishment rights ongoing

UNDER Article 3 of the Political Parties Registration Law after the issuance of the Political Parties Registration Law and Rules, Shan and Ethnic Democratic Party, which is desirous of organizing a political party and under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law, Arakan Front Party (AFP), which is desirous of organizing a political party yesterday applied to Union Election Commission for permission to establish political parties under the law and rules.

To date, four parties have applied under Section 3 of the Political Parties Registration Law, and nine parties have applied under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law, totalling 13 parties.

Among these 13 parties, five parties will organize the entire Union and eight parties will organize only within a region or state.

Union Election Commission continues verifying the right to establish and register these parties. — MNA/KZL

Surgery performed on 75 cataract patients to hail Myanmar Health Sciences Conference 2023



A total of 75 cataract patients are under operation on 23 and 27 February. PHOTO:KANU

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.

TO hail Myanmar Health Sciences Conference 2023, operations were performed on 75 cataract patients in cooperation between the eye disease department of the University of Medicine 2 and North Okkalapa General Hospital.

With the support of the Department of Medical Services of the Ministry of Health, doctors and professors from the eye disease department at UM 2 operated on 40 patients on 23 February and 35 patients on 27 February at North Okkalapa General Hospital.

They also provided sunglasses, intraocular lenses and eye drops to the patients. The eye tests will be done the next week and one month later. —Nyein Thu (MNA)/KZW

3 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 27 February, total figure rises to 633,914

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,914** after **three** new cases were reported on 27 February 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,398**, including **one** new recovery.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,490** on 27-2-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. —MNA

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

United strengths of all ethnic people needed to build a future developed Union State

THE State Administration Council's efforts in fulfilling the development of ethnic regions while serving the State responsibilities, the need for ethics to firmly grasp that opportunity to be fully utilized for regional development, prospects to shape a future developed Union State through united strengths of all ethnic people.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the peace talk with the peace delegations led by Chair of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO Khun Thurein, Chair of the Lahu Democratic Union-LDU Kyar Solomon and Vice-Chair of the Arakan Liberation Party-ALP Saw Mra Razar Lin on 22 August 2022)

SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets ...



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets MSME businesspersons in Rakhine State on 27 February 2023.

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time constraints, construction of jetties and pontoons to facilitate the border trade, building of the all-weather roads, plying of the coastal going cargo vessels, establishment of a bank system for making direct payment with foreign countries, permission of establishment of the economic zones to promote the employment opportunities, situation on paddy cultivation within Rakhine State, situation on cultivation of the summer paddy, providing of water supply for cultivation of summer paddy, providing of rice technology for yield of pedigree seeds, providing of the necessary inputs on the part of the central government, the situation on cultivation of oil crops in Rakhine State, the need for capital for boosting of oil mills, the situation on the salt business, the need to finance the salt industry, the need to provide assistance for development of the MSMEs among others.

Next, the SAC Chairman PM gave replies to the discussions. Afterwards, the Union Ministers replied to the points

raised in the discussions by the entrepreneurs. Their discussions included the efforts being made by their ministries concerned to improve road transport to ensure the smooth and secure flow of commodities, issuing loans at a low-interest rate, pumping the river water for cultivation purposes, formation of cooperative societies for the effectuation of agriculture and livestock breeding, extraction of forest resources with the exercise of restraint, the opening of training courses on MSME business technology and the measures being taken to fight illegal trade inter alia.

Encouraging manufacturing based on the agriculture and livestock breeding raw materials available within Rakhine State

The Senior General then discussed matters relating to the promotion of the national economy by boosting the development of Rakhine State, issuing funds amounting to K10 billion for making capital investments, encouraging manufacturing on the basis of agriculture and livestock breeding, over-re-

liance on foreign aid previously and promotion of the economic welfare of the rural people who account for 70 per cent of the country's population.

The Prime Minister pointed out that consumption of domestic products is one way of promoting national economic growth, that production of value-added products can create employment opportunities and stimulate the capital flow, and that the SAC is making arrangements for exporting the value products manufactured by the MSMEs and that Rakhine State abounds in natural resources.

He went on to say that there is a vast number of rubber plantations in Rakhine State, that if the value-added rubber products can be manufactured, it will be of dramatic help to domestic consumption and that the surplus can be exported. In fact, what he said was concerned with import substitution industrialization.

Building the nation through the promotion of education

Man matters most, it is said. Tasks can be accomplished only through efforts by human be-

ings. That is why in bringing about regional development, it is of utter necessity to upgrade the quality of human resources. This is where quality education comes in. Obviously, it is needed to develop the educational qualifications of human resources. Low-quality education will adversely affect the production of skilled labourers with the result that our country will lag in development. The 2014 census has demonstrated the need to promote the educational standard. To fill this gap, priority is to be given to education. Parents and teachers are needed to encourage their children and pupils to continue to pursue education. Only when people are educated will they be able to lead a prosperous life. We are obliged to leave education as a legacy.

Development of the tourism industry

Rakhine State has a great number of places of tourist attractions as it is possessed of scenic natural beauty. As known to all, if the tourism industry develops in Rakhine State, the local people will be able to sell their local food and products in

addition to the typical souvenirs with the result that their businesses will be developed. In this regard, it is needed to keep the good quality of the products. Besides, it is also needed to improve the packaging system. On top of it, it is essential to keep tourist destinations clean and pleasant.

Regional stability

At a time when the central government is making an all-out effort to ensure security, the local people are responsible to contribute their part to restore stability and peace to their own region if they want their state to be prosperous. We are making effort to hold the election. And when this happens, we want to see the elections being held in the entire Rakhine State.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged all attendees to join hands in the effectuation of the development of the Rakhine State as well as to make concerted efforts to restore stability and peace to the Rakhine State.

Afterwards, the Senior General greeted entrepreneurs from MSMEs. Next, he went round the products displayed. — MNA

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project in Sittway Township of Rakhine State on 27 February 2023.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, together with SAC members, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Htin Latt Oo and officials, inspected the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project in Sittway Township of Rakhine State yesterday.

First, Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San reported on the project procedures, port infrastructures, construction of office facilities, arrival of machinery and vessels along the river, construction of Paletwa inland water transport jetty, dredging, the highway from Paletwa to Myanmar-India border, recognition of international customs port, plans to set as local jetty and benefits for the country on completion.

In his response, the Senior General said the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project will bring benefits to Rakhine State and facilitate local and foreign trade flows. Myanmar and India possess a good relationship in history and are also good neighbouring countries. The project can improve bilateral trade and is strategically important for the two countries. The development activities can be carried out in northern Rakhine State including Paletwa only when there is peace and tranquillity in Rakhine State after the ceasefire. Moreover, it will also support the development of the Kaladan river. Therefore, hard work should be exerted from respective sectors to complete the project as quickly as possible.

Then, the Senior General and party observed the project site and the Indian Consul-General of Sittway Mr Bibekananda Bhattamishra and officials presented the project operations. The Senior General also coordinated the discussion.

Several benefits for Myanmar associated with the Kaladan Multimodal Project are; the two countries can achieve more trade opportunities, there will be international seaports for direct shipments to other countries in addition to India, it will support transportation services in Rakhine and Chin states as well as the regional development, it will create job opportunities and the residents can get opportunities such as water transport tourism.

— MNA/KTZH



The Senior General hears the report on the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project.



Rakhine State govt provides cash assistance, household items to locals returning to their homes from IDP camps

THE handover ceremony of cash assistance and commodities to the internally displaced persons from seven villages of five village tracts who temporarily shelter at IDP camps in Myaybon Township of Rakhine

State was held at the township administrative department yesterday. During the ceremony, Station Commander Colonel Myo Nyunt Oo presented K96 million provided by the Rakh-



Cash assistance and household stuff are provided to locals (right photo) who are returning to their homes from IDP camps (left photo).

ine State government for 192 households while township administrator U Khine Lin Naing gave K19.2 million provided by Disaster Management Department for 192 households, township administration member 1 Major Ye Kyaw Aung handed over K6,876,000 for rice

donated by Natural Disaster Management Department and township Natural Disaster Management Department head U Kyaw Kyaw Win transferred 192 family kits containing 17 types of commodities to the respective representatives of IDPs.

Then, Station Commander Colonel Myo Nyunt Oo and officials comforted the IDPs. The members of Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force, Red Cross Society and departmental staff took them to their homes by vehicles and boats. — Tin Win (IPRD)/KTZH

CRIME NEWS

Illegal lead, foodstuffs, consumer goods, auto parts and vehicles confiscated

AN on-duty team confiscated 25.6 metric tons of lead bags worth K84.48 million without official documents from a vehicle heading to Hpa-an from Thaton at the Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an) combined checkpoint on 24 February and 35 blenders and grinders worth K2.65 million without official documents from a vehicle heading to Yangon from Myawady at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint on 26 February. The action was taken under the Myanmar Mines Law and Customs procedures.

The on-duty teams under the supervision of the Customs Department conducted inspections at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint in Mon State on 25 February.

Officials seized two kinds of goods including clothes worth K3 million without official documents from a Yutong express bus (estimated value of K35 million) heading to Yangon from Hpa-an, 200 cartons of Lactasoy worth K2.4 million without official documents from a Nissan Diesel car (estimated value of K30 million) heading to Yangon from Mawlamyine and three kinds of goods including 150 cartons of Lactasoy worth



Confiscated illegal items in Bago Region.

K4.15 million without official documents from a Zhongtong express bus (estimated value of K40 million) heading to Yangon from Myawady. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A combined team conducted inspections on the Myawady-Yangon Road and captured 23 kinds of goods including 90 kilogrammes of the rear-view mirror (used), 11 car engines (used) and 10 brand new batteries worth K53,856,000 that were not declared in the ID/RO (Manifest) from a tractor head and a trailer (approximately K60

million) at an energy shop near Nyaungkhashay village. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

An unregistered Toyota Mark II car (estimated value of K4.5 million) was captured heading to Shukhintha from Bandula Bridge in Dawbon township and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Therefore, 12 arrests (estimated value of K320,036,000) were made on three consecutive days from 24 to 26 February, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Over K410 mln worth of stimulant tablets captured in Mayangon, East Dagon townships

OVER K410 million worth of 410,000 stimulant tablets were impounded in Mayangon and Dagon Myothit (East) townships in Yangon Region, Myanmar Police Force stated.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined an Isuzu Bighorn car driven by Kyaw Ko Lwin accompanied by Hla Htwe (aka) Ko Htwe near the Myakyuntha park in Mayangon township, according to information at 6 pm on 23 February. Police Force seized

200,000 stimulant tablets. Acting on a tip-off, Police Force searched the house of Kyaw Ko Lwin in Dagon Myothit (East) Township at 7 pm on the same day and seized another 210,000 stimulant tablets. The offenders admitted the drugs were carried from Shan State (South) to Yangon Region. Police have taken legal action against the offenders and an investigation is underway to identify other perpetrators in the crime chain. — MNA/MKKS



Two offenders are seen along with seized drugs and an SUV.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Photo contest to be held for natural beauty of elephants and elephant camps

A freelance photography contest related to the natural beauty of elephants and elephant camps will be held between 1 and 30 March, according to Myanma Timber Enterprise.

The freelance photo competition related to the nature and wildlife of elephants will be held at Ngalaik Sakhantha Elephant Camp, Palin Kanthaya Elephant Camp, Mann Shwe-settaw Mann Chaung Elephant Camp, Wingabaw Elephant Camp, Ngwe Saung Elephant Camp, Moe Makha Elephant Camp, Phoe Kyar Elephant Camp, and elephant camps

located inside the seven-mile Elephant Hospital.

The elephant camps are located in Uttara Thiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw, NyaungU Township in Mandalay Region, Minbu Township in Magway Region, Phayagyi Township in Bago Region, Pathein Township in Ayeyawady Region, Yedashe Township and Oktwin Township in Bago Region.

Anyone interested in the freelance photography competition related to the natural beauty of these elephants and elephant camps can contact and register to participate, officials said. —TWA/KZL



Mann Shwe-settaw Mann Chaung Elephant Camp entertains visitors with demonstrative shows by clever elephants.



Regular maintenance work is being done at the 230 KV substation.

7 townships to experience temporary power outage

AS upgrading work will be done at the Thakayta power plant, a temporary power outage will occur in seven townships on 28 February, according to the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation.

At the 230 kV Thakayta power plant, the 230 kV Bus will be switched off and Bank (2) Transformer D/S connection will be removed to transmit power to the 230/33/11 kV, 100 MVA Bank (2) transformer.

Thakayta, Yankin, Dawbon, Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Thingangyun and Tamway townships will have temporary outages from 9 am to 12 pm on 28 February but arrangements will be made to ensure that there are no power outages in important areas. —TWA/KZW

Appointment dates announced for PP applicants who paid via online system

THE Myanmar Passport Office announced that those who paid through the passport online appointment system on 24 February but have not received the appointment dates can check them by pressing the button.

If one of the applicants who applied in groups has not paid, there will be a notification about it. They can get the appointment only when all applicants in the group have paid.

The Online Appointment

System is still being updated, so the service is not yet available for those who want to make new appointment dates for their passport. It will be announced when the service resumes.

There were a total of 8,529 applicants through the Online Appointment System only on 24 February and the online appointment system for applying for passports and passport renewals has stopped since 25 February.

—TWA/MKKS

Myanmar nationals in Japan to apply in person to avoid delays in passport renewal process

MYANMAR nationals in Japan who want to register for the passport renewal process must apply in person, stated the Myanmar Embassy in Japan.

The embassy has supervised the passport renewal applications for Myanmar nationals sent by post previously. However, it is notified that there are delays in the process due to the lack and incompleteness of the information specified by the Myanmar Embassy, and difficulties in contacting applicants to revise the information. There

are currently 449 applications that have requirements for passport renewal at the Myanmar Embassy in Japan. To avoid such problems, the embassy urged the residents of Chiba, Kanagawa, Saitama, Ibaraki, Tochigi and Gunma districts near Tokyo to apply in person for passport renewal.

It is also notified to include the phone number and the e-mail address currently in use in the applications that the embassy can contact if there are any requirements. —TWA/CT

Russia approves 6-month tourist visa for citizens of 19 countries including Myanmar



An airline attendant checks the passport of a traveller at a Russian airport. PHOTO: THE MOSCOW TIMES

THE Russian Federation approves a six-month tourist visa for citizens of 19 coun-

tries including Myanmar, according to the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Af-

fairs, Myanmar.

It said the Russian government portal published on 20 February that Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin signed on 16 February a Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No 372-r saying the citizens of the specified countries may get a tourist visa for up to six months.

Under Article 25 of the Federal Law On the Procedure for Departure from the Russian Federation and Entry to the Russian Federation, the facilitated countries are Bahrain,

Brunei, India, Indonesia, Iran, Cambodia, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Laos, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Thailand, Türkiye and the Philippines, it read.

These citizens are issued an ordinary tourist visa for up to six months based on confirmation of booking a place in hotels or other accommodation facilities, information about which is contained in a single of the classified hotels, ski slopes and beaches, it said. —TWA/KTZH

LOCAL BUSINESS

Black gram price regains to over K1.9 mln per tonne

THE price of black gram bounced back to over K1.9 million per tonne from a one-month fall in the domestic market.

On 1 January, the price was K1,762,000 per tonne. It jumped to K1,905,000 per tonne on 27 February, showing a sharp increase of K143,000 per tonne within one month.

India's demand is a contributing factor to Myanmar's black gram price. The strong demand at present elevated black gram prices, traders elaborated.

India notified on 28 December that the free import policy of black gram (urad) and pigeon pea (tur) extended up to March 2024, pushing black gram prices down in the domestic market.

Additionally, the price of black gram is positively related to the exchange rate. Kyat devalued at K2,860 against the US dollar.

In August 2022, the price of black gram peaked at K2.1



General view of the Myanmar - India friendship bridge between Myanmar and India.

million per tonne when Kyat hit a record low of K4,500 against hard currency.

Myanmar earned over US\$1.1 billion from over 1.5 million tonnes of pulses over the past ten months of the current

financial year, the Ministry of Commerce said.

So far, Myanmar has shipped 595,886.762 kilos of black gram worth \$489.688 million to external markets.

Myanmar primarily ex-

ports black gram, green gram and pigeon pea among locally produced pulses. Of them, black gram and pigeon peas are mainly sent to India while green grams are shipped to China and Europe.

India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black grams and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2022, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that annual quota.

Myanmar yearly produces approximately 400,000 tonnes of black gram and about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas. Myanmar is the top producer of the black gram that is primarily demanded by India, while pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are cultivated in Australia and African countries besides Myanmar. — NN/EM

Palm oil reference price for Yangon Region rebounds this week ending 5 March

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market jumped this week ending 5 March compared to that of the previous week, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The reference price stood at K4,470 per viss in the week from 20 to 26 February. For the week ending 5 March, the price was set higher at K4,600 per viss. The figures showed an increase of K130 per viss.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been close-

ly observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transport costs, tariffs and banking services, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil every week.

Regardless of the reference price, the current market price is too high at over K6,000-7,000 per viss.

If those edible oil retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Special Goods Tax Law, MoC released a state-

ment.

The Ministry of Commerce is striving for consumers not to worry over the supply of edible oil. The ministry is also trying to secure edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer reasonable prices to the consumers and maintain price stability.

At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July to offer palm oil at a subsidized rate. They offer palm oil at K4,800 per viss to consumers directly at present. However, there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell palm oil at a reference rate depending on the volume quota.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. —NN/EM



Imported palm oil jerry cans are seen in stacks.

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 27 February 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,120
Octane 95	K2,195
Diesel	K2,170
Premium Diesel	K2,250

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,133,500 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,843,000 per tical

US Dollar Vs Kyat

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,870 to K2,885

The above prices may change from time to time.

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To join rule of law for the sake of the nation and citizens

TODAY’S global governments exercising any political systems are responsible for giving guarantees to the people for safety and security as part of serving an important duty. Hence, governments need to manage cooperation between law enforcement bodies and people from society in taking safety and security measures.

Every country set up forces enforcing the legal affairs and disciplines often adopted by relevant governments in serving safe and secure measures for the people including citizens and ethnic people. Those bodies are responsible for protecting the life and property of the citizens as well as organizations and institutions which are serving the State and the people in the relevant territories while preventing intimidations, coercions and violent attacks.

In taking various responsibilities including safe and secure measures for the people, the governments need to operate counterattacks against threats and coercions of unscrupulous persons. To be able to successfully tackle the threats, the governments are to arrange the formation of relevant service organizations capable of combating the destructionists through investigation and talented inquiry bodies.

On the other hand, it is necessary to set up reserved forces such as law enforcement bodies, fire brigades and emergency medical teams for the prevention of unnecessary movements committed by destructionists. These reserved bodies need to help the authorities to combat or suppress unacceptable movements in society.

Some acts in society such as drug abuse, trespass, gambling, disturbing, squats, juvenile youths, noisy acts, undisciplined disposing of, unacceptable social problems and many others cause disturbing the people of society. Indeed, citizens have fundamental rights to demand the removal of these inappropriate activities under the law. It is because these unacceptable movements may cause crimes.

On the other hand, the people have to cooperate with the authorities in protecting themselves for their interests despite enjoying the rights of safe and secure facilities. Even if people see the potential for the outbreak of any dangerous events possibly to harm society, they need to inform the authorities about the possible dangerous events to take protective measures in advance. But, their preventive measures should not bring loss to any innocent people. If so, society will be safe and secure.

Not only the authorities but the people are to do their tasks with genuine goodwill without harming the individual people as well as the society to be free from intimidation and coercion.

Weather Report

THE slump in the stock markets around the world in 2022 has been painful. Global equities were down 18 per cent. Not just the shares, but even the more speculative assets of cryptocurrencies. The market value of all cryptocurrencies surged to nearly three trillion in 2021 and has fallen to ~\$800 billion by the year-end of 2022. Safer assets such as bonds are not spared either. Global bonds have all dropped by 15 per cent in 2022.

So, what exactly is crypto or cryptocurrency?

A good way to understand would be to think of it as any other currency just like the \$, Euro or Baht. There are two differences between them and crypto: being digital (not physical notes and coins like the former) and being decentralized i.e., not subject to any central bank or jurisdiction

of a particular country.

Cryptos become popular after the number of people accepting them increased as the popularity of any currency depends on a large number of people accepting it as a medium of exchange. This came after accessibility to purchase the crypto increased throughout the world. In Singapore, e.g., there are ATM machines selling crypto across the island. Hence, the overall popularity leads to widespread usage. Just analogous to a physical currency, if you compared the Japanese Yen with Myanmar Kyat, the former is more accessible across the world, more popular, better accepted as a medium of exchange and thus more widespread usage.

Here come the distinct advantages of crypto, which lie in the anonymity and lack of any government centralized control.

Crypto for Myanmar

By U A C

What is the implication here? Some of the payments for, say, illegal services, are best done without your true namesake. Criminal activities are best paid for using a currency that the government cannot seize. Or, an account that law enforcement cannot freeze. Cryptos are products made heavily for the criminal underworld. Thus, they will only get more traction for years to come.

FTX and Crypto Fraud

The crypto market nearly collapsed when one of the major crypto exchanges, FTX went bankrupt amidst the fraudulent use of customers’ deposits, paid in for buying various cryptocurrencies. Think of crypto exchange

as any other stock exchange, e.g., YSX, or SET. Instead of trading stocks and bonds, the crypto exchange trade in various cryptocurrencies, from the popular Bitcoin, and Ethereum to some coins that no one even heard of.

Traders/customers pay money to the exchange to buy the coins and the coins went into their digital wallets. Operating an unsupervised exchange, the bosses of FTX illegally diverted massive sums of customer money from FTX to make lavish real estate purchases for themselves as well as fund their personal billionaire lifestyles.

How do you buy crypto?

First and foremost, you have to note that trading (buying and selling) of cryptos is illegal in Myanmar (CBM notification). If one insists on buying and holding, he or she would definitely be doing something against the law of this land.

Almost all crypto buyers in Myanmar however, bought their currencies through exchanges advertised through Facebook, e.g., Binance or Coinbase Exchange. The buyer first has to go through the KYC (Know Your Customer procedures) with the exchange first. This involves a picture ID in English such as a passport or

driving license. Once it is done, the money transfer can be made to the exchange via agents using mobile banking such as K Pay. Then the buyer can be initiated.

Shall I invest in Crypto?

Buying and holding cryptocurrencies is akin to buying and holding any other currencies or things that have some exchange value (\$, gold, etc.). The value of these will go up or down over the course of time. All these media of exchanges are not investments. Gold may be an inflation-proof asset, yet, it is not an investment that provides any return. Properties may give you rental income. Stocks will give you dividends. Bonds provide interest.

Yet after buying and holding onto crypto, you are simply hoping for the price to go up. There would be times like 2022 when crypto values fall over 70 per cent. Do you really have a risk appetite than yourself to buy the item you bought at a significantly higher price?

There is a further downside to this. The fact that it is digital and all being done online, it is subject to cyber theft, fraud and security risks. We have all heard of credit details being stolen digitally or bank accounts being hijacked by cybercriminals. Once this happened, cryptos being without jurisdiction, there is nothing much one could do. No government or authority can take action against the collapse of the blockchain (the decentralized system in which transaction records are maintained across computers

via a peer-to-peer network) or the coin issuer.

The second downside is the collapse of the exchanges such as FTX. In the physical world, e.g., you can be pretty sure YSX (Yangon Stock Exchange) will not collapse nor will it defraud your investments. The same cannot be said of extra-jurisdictional crypto exchanges. Imagine the collapse of Binance. What would happen to the coins that you bought via that exchange? FTX customers might not even receive 10c for every 1\$ that they invested.

Among many investment opportunities out there, buying cryptos carries significantly higher risks than the rest of the crowd. The potential returns or crypto price increases may not be able to justify a higher standard deviation from the mean.

COVID-19 infection raises diabetes risk: Research

Because diabetes can damage vital organs and blood vessels, people with diabetes are at higher risk for heart attack and stroke. The disease affects an estimated 26 million people in the United States.

RESEARCHERS at Cedars-Sinai’s Heart Institute have confirmed that persons who have had COVID-19 have a higher risk of developing new-onset diabetes, which is the leading cause of cardiovascular disease.

“Our results verify that the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes after a COVID-19 infection was not just an early observation but, in fact, a real risk that has, unfortunately, persisted through the Omicron era,” said Alan Kwan, MD, first and corresponding author of the study and a cardiovascular physician in the Smidt Heart Institute at Cedars-Sinai.

The trend, Kwan says, is concerning because most people in the United States will eventually experience a COVID-19 infection. “This research study helps us understand—and better prepare for—the post-COVID-19 era of cardiovascular risk,” Kwan said.

The findings, published today in the journal JAMA Network Open, also suggest that the risk of Type 2 diabetes appears lower in individuals who were already vaccinated against COVID-19 by

the time they were infected.

Rising rates of diabetes

To determine the rising rates of diabetes, investigators evaluated medical records from 23,709 adult patients who had at least one documented COVID-19 infection and were treated within the Cedars-Sinai Health System in Los Angeles from 2020-2022. The average patient was 47 years old, and 54 per cent of subjects were female.

Within the study time frame: - The combined risk of Type 2 diabetes after COVID-19 exposure—accounting for both vaccinated and unvaccinated patients—was 2.1 per cent, with 70 per cent occurring after COVID-19 infection versus 30 per cent happening prior to COVID-19 exposure.

“These results suggest that COVID-19 vaccination prior to infection may provide a protective effect against diabetes risk,” said Kwan. “Although further studies are needed to validate this hypothesis, we remain steadfast in our belief that COVID-19 vaccination remains an important tool in protecting against COVID-19 and the still-uncertain risks that



Diabetes disrupts normal metabolism and metabolic processes, preventing the pancreas from producing enough insulin, a hormone that helps regulate blood levels of glucose and amino acids. PHOTO: AFP

people may experience during the post-infection period.”

Susan Cheng, MD, MPH, senior author of the study, professor of Cardiology, and director for Cardiovascular Population Sciences in the Smidt Heart Institute, says these findings broaden the medical field’s understanding of the effects of

COVID-19 on the body, while simultaneously unearthing yet-to-be-answered questions.

“Although we don’t yet know for certain, the trends and patterns that we see in the data suggest that COVID-19 infection could be acting in certain settings like a disease accelerator, amplifying risk for a diagnosis

that individuals might have otherwise received later in life,” said Cheng, the Erika J. Glazer Chair in Women’s Cardiovascular Health and Population Science. “So, it could be that instead of being diagnosed with diabetes by age 65, a person with preexisting risk for diabetes might—after a COVID-19 infection—be more

likely to develop diabetes by age 45 or 55.”

Normal metabolism

Diabetes disrupts normal metabolism and metabolic processes, preventing the pancreas from producing enough insulin, a hormone that helps regulate blood levels of glucose and amino acids. Because diabetes can damage vital organs and blood vessels, people with diabetes are at higher risk for heart attack and stroke.

The disease affects an estimated 26 million people in the United States. This research, Kwan says, is one piece of the puzzle that will help researchers understand how to prevent metabolic as well as cardiovascular disease risk in the future.

“As we learn how to live with COVID-19, we also have to be prepared to recognize and treat the various conditions linked to its aftereffects,” said Kwan. “Our ultimate goal—with every research study we conduct—is to find ways to keep people healthy and able to engage in their everyday activities and lives.”

SOURCE: ANI



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 27 February 2023)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair over the North Bay of Bengal and a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 28 February 2023: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kachin and Shan states and isolated in Upper Sagaing and Mandalay regions. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be generally fair in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Chin and Rakhine states and partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3 - 6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight increase of day temperatures in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 February 2023: Partly cloudy

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 February 2023: Generally fair.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlim.com.mm

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BYD electric buses delivered in Japan’s Hokkaido



Representatives of Fighters Sports & Entertainment, Hokkaido Bus Company and BYD Japan posed for photograph after the delivery ceremony in Kitahiroshima, Japan on 24 February 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA/JIANG QIAOMEI**

CHINESE automaker BYD has delivered a batch of electric buses to the city of Kitahiroshima, Hokkaido prefecture, amid the region’s electrification and carbon neutral efforts.

The buses, five in total, will function as shuttle buses between Hokkaido Ballpark F Village, a local sports and leisure complex, and Japan Railways Kitahiroshima Station. This marked the first delivery of electric buses in Hokkaido by BYD JAPAN Co Ltd.

The shuttle buses will start operation on 14 March, when an open game will be held, allowing visitors to travel between the station and the village’s major facility of Es Con Field Hokkaido, the new home stadium of the famous

Japanese baseball team Nippon Ham Fighters.

The stadium will be officially put to use by the end of March.

Tailored to echo the stadium design, the elderly-friendly buses are black with bright blue lines and can carry up to 80 passengers each.

Hokkaido Bus Company, as the operator of BYD electric buses, introduced electric buses for the first time.

The company’s president, Harunari Nishimura, said that due to the low penetration rate of electric buses in Japan, Hokkaido has almost no relevant experience, so such an introduction is of great significance.

Choosing BYD electric buses

can contribute to local carbon neutrality, and these electric buses can contribute to emergency evacuation, said Maezawa Ken, executive director and business operation general manager of Fighters Sports & Entertainment, or the operator of the village.

At a delivery ceremony held on Saturday, Ken told Xinhua that given the variety of BYD models, the company would like to introduce more BYD electric vehicles to promote environmental protection in the future.

“There will be many Chinese tourists visiting Hokkaido in the future, and I hope they will see BYD electric buses driving on the roads of Hokkaido here,” he said. — Xinhua

SpaceX crew launch to ISS postponed

A rocket launch to the International Space Station was postponed minutes before take-off on Monday, with officials citing a problem with ground systems.

The SpaceX Dragon Crew-6 mission was scheduled to depart the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida at 1:45 am (0645 GMT), carrying two NASA astronauts, a Russian cosmonaut and the second Emirati to voyage to space.

But just two minutes before lift-off, the launch was called off, or “scrubbed”.

“Today’s Crew6 launch has been scrubbed due to an issue with ground systems,” NASA posted on Twitter.

SpaceX unloaded fuel from its Falcon 9 rocket and the crew disembarked, NASA added in a statement.

“The next available launch



The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with the company’s Crew Dragon spacecraft vents fuel prior to a scrubbed launch from pad 39A for the Crew-6 mission at NASA’s Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Florida, on 27 February 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

attempt is at 12:34 am EST Thursday, 2 March, pending resolution of the technical issue preventing

Monday’s launch,” it said.

“I’m proud of the NASA and SpaceX teams’ focus and dedication to keeping Crew-6 safe,” NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said in the statement.

“Human spaceflight is an inherently risky endeavor and, as always, we will fly when we are ready.”

Once they are successfully sent into space, NASA’s Stephen Bowen and Warren Hoburg, Russia’s Andrey Fedyayev and Sultan al-Neyadi of the United Arab Emirates are to spend six months on the orbiting station.

Neyadi, 41, will be the fourth astronaut from an Arab country and the second from the oil-rich UAE to journey to space; his compatriot Hazzaa al-Mansoori flew an eight-day mission in 2019. — AFP



Years of conflict in Yemen and soaring prices have left people desperate for fuel and income. **PHOTO: AFP**

War-weary Yemenis fell trees for fuel, cash

THE sound of an electric saw rips through a lush mountain landscape in southern Yemen, where years of conflict and soaring prices have left people desperate for fuel and income.

“We started cutting trees and selling them because we have no other way of making a living,” said Hussein Abdulkawi from a thinning forest on the outskirts of Taez.

He and other workers lugged freshly cut wood into the back of a van near the city, which is besieged by rebels but still under government control.

A more than eight-year-long war between Saudi-backed government forces and pro-Iran Huthi rebels has devastated Yemen, the poorest country on the Arabian Peninsula.

Following Russia’s invasion

of Ukraine a year ago, rises in global food and fuel prices have piled on further suffering.

Abdulkawi acknowledged he was contributing to an environmental “catastrophe” but said he lacked options in a nation where many cannot afford fuel for heating and cooking.

“We have no choice” but to sell the wood, just as people “have no choice but to buy” it, he said.

Huthi rebels seized the capital Sanaa in 2014, prompting a Saudi-led coalition to intervene the following year to prop up the internationally recognized government.

Since then, the war has caused hundreds of thousands of deaths both directly and indirectly, and pushed the nation to the brink of famine. — AFP

Brazil moves on illegal mines in Indigenous Yanomami territory

BRAZILIAN authorities this week intensified their fight against illegal mining on the land of the Indigenous Yanomami people, sending helicopters over the Amazon jungle in search of clandestine dig sites.

From above, heavily armed police and officials from the Ibama environmental agency spot a camp: a brown patch of deforest-

ed land in the middle of the vast green carpet that is the Amazon.

There are improvised sleeping quarters, a kitchen, bathrooms. The sound of engines thrumming indicates the miners are not far away.

Government agents have already blocked illegal movement on the area’s two main rivers, said Felipe Finger, an Ibama co-

ordinator. “Now we are starting another phase — to attack these mining operations, break up and neutralize these camps.”

Spotting the helicopters, the “garimpeiros”, or illegal miners, flee into the jungle, leaving behind sacks of cassiterite — tin dioxide-rich ore known as “black gold” — which they sell to commercial buyers. — AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Bird flu risk to humans in Cambodia remains low: WHO

THE risk to general public from avian influenza A (H5N1) in Cambodia remains low despite two human cases of the virus were detected recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in a statement late Sunday.

Last week, the Southeast Asian nation confirmed two human infections with H5N1 bird flu, the first since 2014, the statement said.

It added that the first case involved an 11-year-old girl from southeastern Prey

Veng province, who died of the virus on 22 February, and her 49-year-old father tested positive for the virus a day later and is currently in isolation at the Prey Veng Provincial Referral Hospital.

Eleven others, who were in close contacts with the deceased girl, tested negative for the H5N1 virus, the statement said.

Almost all H5N1 infection cases in people have been associated with close contact with infected live or dead birds,

or H5N1 virus-contaminated environments, it added.

“Based on evidence so far, the virus does not infect humans easily and spreads from person-to-person appears to be unusual,” the statement said. “Based on available information so far, WHO assesses the risk to the general population posed by this virus to be low.”

WHO representative to Cambodia Li Ailan praised the kingdom for its swift response to the H5N1 outbreak. — Xinhua



This picture released by Cambodia's Communicable Disease Control Department (CDCD) on 23 February 2023 shows villagers posing with posters about H5N1 virus threats, in Prey Veng province. An eleven-year-old girl in eastern Cambodian Prey Veng province has died from bird flu, the country's first fatality from the virus in years, health authorities said on 23 February 2023. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / CAMBODIA'S COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DEPARTMENT / AFP**

WHO asks for more healthcare donations to help war-torn Yemen



(FromL) Swedish Head of Department for UN Policy, Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs Carl Skau, UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths and Assistant Director-General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland Andrea Studer give a press conference ahead of a donor conference for the humanitarian crisis in Yemen in Geneva on 27 February 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has appealed for 392 million US dollars in donation to provide essential health support to 12.9 million Yemenis in 2023.

“Yemen requires urgent and robust support from international donors and other partners to effectively avert the potential collapse of its health system,” a WHO statement quoted Adham Abdel Moneim Ismail, WHO Representative in Yemen, as saying on Sunday.

The appeal was made on the eve of a high-level pledging event for the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, a UN-led fund-raising activity held on Monday in Geneva, Switzerland.

“New funding in the amount of 392 million US dollars is required by Yemen's health sector to ensure that overstretched health facilities can continue providing even the most basic services to 12.9 million vulnerable people,” the WHO representative said, adding that the current funds pledged to the WHO-led Health Cluster equals only 3.5 per cent of the required amount.

According to the statement, 10 million Yemenis, including 7.9 million children, have no access to health services. Around 1.1 million children in Yemen suffer from acute malnutrition and 2.9 million women of reproductive age lack maternal services. — Xinhua

Australia develops new microfluidic device to detect cancer cells without surgeries

A research team led by the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) has developed a new device to detect and analyze cancer cells from blood samples, which can help doctors to monitor treatment progress without conducting invasive biopsy surgeries.

The study, published in Volume 223 of the Biosensors and Bioelectronics journal, displayed a high throughput static droplet microfluidic device with 38,400 chambers.

The device is capable of isolating and classifying the number of metabolically active circulating tumour cells (CTCs) in peripheral blood at single-cell resolution.

Researchers found that the workflow of their newly-designed device is simple and robust, which can eliminate

the need for specialized equipment and expertise required for single-cell analysis of CTCs and facilitate on-site metabolic screening of cancer cells.

“Our device monitors single cells for increased lactate using pH-sensitive fluorescent dyes that detect acidification around cells,” Majid Warkiani, coauthor and UTS professor, said in a statement on Monday.

“A single tumour cell can exist among billions of blood cells in just one millilitre of blood, making it very difficult to find. The new detection technology has 38,400 chambers capable of isolating and classifying the number of metabolically active tumour cells,” the expert said.

According to the statement, cancer is a leading cause of illness and death in Australia,

with more than 150,000 Australians diagnosed every year. Those with suspected cancer, particularly in organs like the liver, colon or kidney, often require surgery for a definitive diagnosis.

Noting that getting a biopsy can cause discomfort, higher costs and an increased risk of complications due to surgery, Warkiani regarded the assessment of tumour cells in blood samples as “far less invasive than taking tissue biopsies”.

“It allows doctors to do repeat tests and monitor a patient's response to treatment,” he added.

The UTS research team has filed a provisional patent for the static droplet microfluidic device and has plans to commercialize the product. — Xinhua

China sees adequate supplies, stable prices during COVID-19 pandemic

OVER the past three years, China has managed to ensure adequate supplies and stable prices of daily necessities to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, the country's top economic planner said on Monday.

In 2022, China's grain output hit a record high of 686.55 billion kilograms, and meat and milk production also reached record highs, Xu Zhengbin, an official

from the National Development and Reform Commission, said at a press conference.

In the past three years, the prices of major commodities for people's livelihoods have remained generally stable, with increases within a reasonable range, Xu said.

To ensure supplies and prices, prices have been monitored daily and the trading volume of

daily necessities has been conducted for more than 200 large-scale agricultural and sideline products, wholesale markets, and more than 140 large supermarket chains in 36 large and medium-sized cities, the official said.

The capacity for the emergency supply of daily necessities has also been enhanced, Xu said. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

UK and EU eye deal over post-Brexit trade in N Ireland



(FILES) Officials check freight from Scotland as truckers disembark a ferry at the Port of Larne in County Antrim, Northern Ireland on 1 January 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

BRITAIN and the European Union were on Monday poised to agree a crucial overhaul of trade rules in Northern Ireland, in a breakthrough aimed at resetting strained relations since Brexit.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen were set to hold “final talks” at lunchtime in the UK, in a bid to end more than a year of negotiations over the so-called Northern Ireland protocol.

Agreed in 2020 as part of Britain’s EU divorce, the pact

kept the province in the European single market and subject to different trade rules than the rest of the UK, angering pro-UK unionists there and eurosceptics in London.

The UK government had threatened a unilateral overhaul of the protocol unless the EU agreed to wholesale changes, souring diplomatic ties and risking a wider trade war, but that prospect now appears to be receding.

“I’m looking forward to turning a page and opening a new

chapter with our partner and friend,” von der Leyen said as she left Brussels for Britain.

The EU chief is also set to meet King Charles III in Windsor, west of London, stoking controversy in the UK that Sunak was trying to project royal endorsement of the expected deal.

It is likely to face opposition from Brexiteers, including his potentially rebellious predecessor Boris Johnson, and lawmakers representing the pro-British unionist community in Northern Ireland. — AFP

Viet Nam targets 1-bln-USD annual revenue from coconut exports

VIET NAM has targeted annual revenue of 1 billion US dollars from exporting coconut products with more value-added semi-processed and processed coconuts, local newspaper Vietnam News reported Monday.

Viet Nam earned 900 million US dollars from export of coconuts and other byproducts last year, becoming the fourth largest exporter in the Asia-Pacific region, the Viet Nam Coconut Association said.

The local industry has developed about 200 coconut-based foods, Cao Ba Dang Khoa, the association’s

acting general secretary, said.

He added that besides traditional products, processing companies are tapping into export markets of other coconut-based products such as coconut shell and fibre, especially coconut woods which can offer huge potential for increasing export revenues.

“Coconut wood is one of the country’s highest valued woods,” Khoa said.

The association said it will work with local authorities to expand production capacity and increase promotion of coconut products. — Xinhua

UAE’s ADNOC Gas expands IPO, seeking up to \$2.5 bln windfall

THE UAE’s ADNOC Gas raised the number of shares in its initial public offering by 25 per cent on Monday as it seeks to raise \$2.5 billion in what is expected to be the biggest flotation so far this year.

ADNOC Gas, an offshoot of the United Arab Emirates’ Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), a major crude producer, expanded the offering from 4.0 to 5.0 per cent or 3.84 billion shares.

A price range of 2.25-2.43 dirhams (\$0.61-0.66) was announced last week, valuing the newly formed company at \$47-50.8 billion.

The final offer price is due to be announced on Friday, be-



The picture shows the headquarters of UAE’s state oil company ADNOC in Dubai on 27 July 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

fore the shares launch on the Abu Dhabi stock exchange on 13 March. The offering was increased “based on significant investor demand across all tranches”, said a statement carried by

the official WAM News Agency.

The initial three billion shares were sold within an hour when they were made available last Thursday, a source close to the company told AFP. — AFP

Lao govt to take further actions to stabilize economy

LAO government will take further action to stabilize currency exchange rates and inflation, rein in rising prices, and foster trade and investment, in a bid to revive the economy and overcome the financial crisis.

Lao Economic Daily on Monday quoted Deputy Minister and Deputy Head of the Prime Minister’s Office Thipphakone Chanthavongsa said at the government’s monthly meeting last Friday that more would be done to restore economic, financial and monetary stability.

The intention to more

forcefully tackle the country’s continuing economic woes was made during the government’s monthly meeting last Friday, when a range of measures to boost economic growth were discussed.

The meeting, chaired by Lao Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone, was attended by deputy prime ministers, members of government, mayor of Vientiane, provincial governors, and ministers, together with representatives of various state agencies.

The government’s monetary policy and efforts to im-

prove currency exchange rates will be strengthened, together with attempts to regulate product prices and service charges, and to ensure a regular supply of fuel.

The government will declare 2023-2024 as Lao Tourism Year and make in-depth plans to welcome tourists.

The meeting also discussed dry season agriculture, the transport of goods, tourism services, and the production of goods for domestic sale and export, with an emphasis on low production costs and a strong sale price. — Xinhua

Thailand’s rice export surges 75% in January

THAILAND’S rice export volume surged 75.2 per cent in January from a year earlier to 805,519 tonnes, boosted by a weak Thai Baht and year-end orders, the Ministry of Commerce said on Monday.

The country’s rice export in January was valued at 14.28 billion baht (about 407 million US dollars), up 78.76 per cent year-on-year, Ronnarong Phoolpipat, director general of the ministry’s foreign trade department, told a news conference.

Given higher demand from some Middle East countries, Thailand’s rice export to the re-

gion rose to 2.3 million tonnes in 2022 from only 630,000 tonnes in 2021, Ronnarong said.

However, he expressed concerns over a strengthening Baht since this year, which he said might cause the Thai rice export to be less competitive.

The ministry maintained its annual rice export target of 7.5 million tonnes for this year.

As one of the world’s major rice exporters, Thailand exported 7.69 million tonnes of rice last year, beating its annual target of 7.5 million tonnes, with the top markets including Iraq, South Africa and China. — Xinhua

Toyota’s global sales fall 5.6% in Jan as chip shortage continues

TOYOTA Motor Corp said Monday its global sales for January fell 5.6 per cent from a year earlier to 709,870 vehicles, marking the second straight month of decline amid a semiconductor shortage and shorter business days in China.

The global chip shortage continued to hit the world’s largest automaker while the Lunar New Year holiday period in China, which fell in January this year, cut operating hours at its dealers, the Japanese firm said.

Overseas sales fell 9.7 per cent to 579,652 units as the figure for the Chinese market, also hit by the termination of economic stimulus measures to promote purchases of new cars, plunged 23.5 per cent. The North American

market saw a 12.8 per cent fall due to a decline in inventories.

Domestic sales, including mini-vehicles, rose 18.0 per cent to 130,218 units in a rebound from a year before when the negative impact of the coronavirus pandemic was more severe.

The overall easing of a parts shortage, not including semiconductors, helped drive up production, with Toyota’s global output increasing 8.8 per cent to 689,090 cars thanks to a 30.1 per cent jump in domestic production to 211,572 units.

Overseas production increased 1.4 per cent to 477,518 vehicles as growth in North America and Europe was partially offset by a decline in China.

— Kyodo

Nissan to make nearly all cars sold in Europe electrified in 4 yrs

NISSAN Motor Co said Monday it plans to make nearly all of its cars sold in Europe electrified by fiscal 2026, as part of efforts to accelerate its electrification push globally.

In a revision to its long-term strategy revealed in November 2021, the automaker said it expects to increase the ratio of hybrid and all-electric vehicles among its cars sold in Europe to 98 per cent from its earlier target of 75 per cent.

Europe is a leading market for electric cars with its increasingly tight environmental regulations. Car markets in the United States and Japan are also shifting their focus away from gasoline-only powered cars.

The announcement

came after Nissan said earlier this month it will buy an up to 15 per cent stake in Ampere, an electric-vehicle venture to be set up by its alliance partner Renault SA.

“(The decision) has given us an opportunity to increase our market coverage and use our partner to support our European business,” Nissan Chief Operating Officer Ashwani Gupta said in an online press conference.

Globally, the company aims to raise the ratio of electrified cars to 44 per cent by the fiscal year ending March 2027, up from the previous goal of 40 per cent, with the target for the Japanese market revised upward to 58 per cent from 55 per cent.

— Kyodo

Phone firms promise ‘tsunami of innovation’ at Barcelona meeting



Telefonica's CEO Jose Maria Alvarez-Pallete Lopez talks at the opening of the Mobile World Congress (MWC), the telecom industry's biggest annual gathering, in Barcelona on 27 February 2023. PHOTO: AFP

THE big beasts of the telecom industry kicked off their most important annual get-together in Barcelona on Monday, promising to lead a “tsunami of innovation”, as they try to shrug off a major slump across the technology sector.

Some 80,000 delegates are expected at the four-day Mobile World Congress (MWC), which is back to near full strength following years of pandemic-related disruption.

Industrial titans like

Huawei, Nokia and Samsung are set to showcase their latest innovations, flanked by smartphone makers like Oppo and Xiaomi and network operators like Orange, Verizon and China Mobile.

“We are at the doors

of a new change of era driven by the intersection of Telco, Computing, Artificial Intelligence and Web3,” said Jose Maria Alvarez-Pallete, boss of Spanish operator Telefonica and current chairman of industry body GSMA, which organizes the Barcelona event.

He promised the telecoms industry would be at the forefront of the “tsunami of innovation”, adding: “Without telcos there is no digital future.”

But many of the firms are more concerned with finding a path back to profit as the global economy stutters and the wider tech sector slashes thousands of jobs.

In the first clear sign that the ills of the wider tech sector are reaching telecoms, equipment maker Ericsson announced 8,500 layoffs last week.

— AFP

Indian govt says no restrictions on export of onions

THE Indian government on Sunday said there was no ban on exports of onions from the South Asian country, but the export of onion seeds is restricted.

According to the federal ministry of commerce and industry, India has exported onions worth 523.8 million US dollars from April to December 2022.

“Government has not restricted or prohibited the export of onion. The extant export policy of onions is ‘Free’. Only the export of onion seed is ‘Restricted’ and that too is permitted under Authorization from Directorate General of Foreign Trade,” the ministry said.

On Saturday, federal minister of commerce and industry Piyush Goyal described the reports on a ban on onion exports from India to other countries as misleading.

“There is no ban on onion exports from India to any country and misleading statements suggesting the contrary is unfortunate. In fact, from July-December 2022, onion exports have consistently been above the 40 million US dollars mark every month, benefiting our Annadata (food givers),” Goyal said in a statement.

— Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (165N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (165N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-2-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE LTD

CHANGING DISTRIBUTOR OF REGISTERED PESTICIDE

This is a notification of the change of distributor of below fungicide, registered by **Bayer AG**, under the Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, from **Myanma Golden Farm Co., Ltd.** to **Charoen Pokphand Produce Myanmar Co., Ltd.** Any objection to this change can notify to Joint Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein, within 14 days.

Trade Name	A.I	Reg. Type	Reg. No.
Trivia 72.7WP	Fluopicolide 6% + Propineb 66.7% WP	Full	F2022-2342

Bayer Thai Co., Ltd. (Myanmar Branch) - PH: 01-8382710 (Ext. 40600)



A handout picture provided by the Iranian presidency on 9 April 2022 shows President Ebrahim Raisi (2-L) accompanied by the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) chief Mohammad Eslami (2-R) attending an event during the "Nuclear Technology Day" in the capital Tehran. **PHOTO: HO / IRANIAN PRESIDENCY / AFP**

Iran seeks to export nuclear products, technology: atomic chief

IRAN'S atomic chief said Sunday that the country seeks to export its nuclear products and technology amid the "propaganda warfare" conducted by enemies to block the country's progress in the nuclear field.

President of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami made the remarks at the 29th Iranian Nuclear Conference at Shahid Beheshti University on Sunday, according to Iran's

Mehr News Agency.

Eslami said the country seeks to export its nuclear products and technology, adding that Iran is currently exporting radiopharmaceuticals and some types of nuclear equipment.

He also referred to the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists and attacks on Iranian nuclear sites as measures taken by Iran's enemies to impede the progress of Iran's nuclear technology.

The United States and its Western allies have accused Iran of developing a nuclear weapon, and Washington has imposed unilateral sanctions on Tehran aiming to stop its nuclear activities.

Iran rejects the allegation as "baseless" and sanctions as "illegal", saying its nuclear programme is peaceful and the country has never sought to develop a nuclear weapon.

— Xinhua

Kremlin calls new EU sanctions package against Russia 'absurd'

THE Kremlin hit out at the European Union on Monday after the bloc adopted its latest package of sanctions against Russia for its military intervention in Ukraine.

"All this, of course, is absurd," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters in response to a question about the new penalties, which target 121 individuals and entities.

The latest penalties are the 10th round of EU sanctions aimed at undercutting Russia's finances and military supplies for the conflict.

Peskov said Western

countries were struggling to find more people and entities to sanction.

"That explains the illogical listing of individuals and entities," Peskov said.

"We are talking about such accomplished people and for them, inclusion in the lists will not cause any discomfort," he added.

The latest EU sanctions target dozens of Russian entities — meaning businesses or state agencies — including another three Russian banks.

Being on the list means an asset freeze in the EU and a visa ban. — AFP

S Africa's Ramaphosa vows to fight dirty money after 'grey' listing

PRESIDENT Cyril Ramaphosa on Monday said South Africa would seize "an opportunity" to tackle dirty money after the country had been placed on a watchlist for financial crimes.

A global watchdog, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), on Friday said it had placed South Africa on its "grey list" for increased monitoring over deficiencies in combatting "money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing".

The FATF sets standards for more than 200 countries and jurisdictions on cross-border financial crime — a system intended to encourage national authorities improve their performance.



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (C) arrives on the second day of the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU) at the Africa Union headquarters in Addis Ababa on 19 February 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

"The grey listing is an opportunity for us to tighten our controls and improve our response to organized crime", Ramaphosa said in his weekly newsletter. — AFP

One killed, dozens wounded in fresh quake in eastern Türkiye

A 5.6 magnitude earthquake hit eastern Türkiye on Monday, killing one person and wounding dozens others while causing some damaged buildings to collapse, the government's disaster agency said.

The epicentre of the tremor was the Yesilyurt district in the Malatya province, which was hit by the 6 February earthquake that killed over 44,000 people in Türkiye and thousands more in neighbouring Syria.

"One citizen lost his life. Some 69 were injured," Yunus Sezer, chairman of AFAD disaster agency, said in televised



Rescuers carry on search operations among the rubble of collapsed buildings in the Yesilyurt district of Malatya on 27 February 2023 after a 5.6 magnitude earthquake hit eastern Türkiye, killing one person and wounding dozens others while causing some damaged buildings to collapse, the government's disaster agency said. **PHOTO: DHA (DEMIROREN NEWS AGENCY) / AFP**

comments.

AFAD tweeted that 29 buildings already damaged by a powerful 6 February earthquake had collapsed.

"Our search and rescue teams were quickly dispatched to the region, and started to work," it added.

The local mayor, Mehmet Cinar, said a father and his daughter were trapped after they entered a damaged building to get their belongings, Turkish media reported.

Television images showed the man being carried on a stretcher into an ambulance, while rescue teams were trying

to make contact with his daughter inside the damaged building.

Turkish authorities have expanded a criminal probe into individuals responsible for buildings levelled by the deadly earthquake that left millions without homes.

AFAD recorded almost 10,000 aftershocks after the 6 February quake. Some 173,000 buildings are believed to have sustained damage according to local media reports.

Turkish media has vocally criticized developers for using shoddy materials and failing to comply with construction codes.

— AFP

G-20 plastic use seen surging 1.7-fold by 2050 without new steps

PLASTIC consumption among the Group of 20 major economies in 2050 will be 1.7-fold higher than 2019 levels without new measures to reduce use, increasing the problem of marine plastic pollution, a study showed Monday.

Economist Impact and Nippon Foundation estimate in their joint research that plastic usage could reach 451 million tons in 2050, up from 261 million tons in 2019, without further steps.

Even if progress is made in

addressing the issue, such as through more countries imposing bans on some plastic products or taxation measures, consumption is estimated to reach 325 million tonnes, according to the research.

The research team warned that without tougher measures under international treaties on usage currently being negotiated, marine contamination by plastic waste cannot be stopped.

In March 2022, 175 countries signed a resolution to end plastic pollution at the UN En-

vironment Assembly. Specific measures are yet to be decided, and an intergovernmental negotiating committee aims to complete a draft legally binding agreement by the end of 2024.

The United Nations has said that around 11 million tonnes of plastic waste flows into oceans annually, with the number projected to potentially triple by 2040. Plastics also put over 800 marine and coastal species at risk through such dangers as ingestion and entanglement. — Kyodo



File photo taken in November 2021 shows plastic waste washed up on Ishigaki Island, Okinawa Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Pope to visit Hungary, meet Orban in April

POPE Francis will visit Hungary from 28 to 30 April, where he will meet Prime Minister Viktor Orban, the Vatican said Monday.

Francis, who regularly champions the rights of refugees, will sit down in Budapest with the far-right Orban, who

portrays himself as the defender of Christian Europe against migrants.

The pope will also meet with poor people, young people and refugees, according to a programme released by the Vatican.

It will be the 86-year-old pope's second visit to the predominantly Catholic country in two years.

He made a one day visit to the country in September 2021, spending just seven hours in the country to preside over a mass and meet privately with Orban.

Francis then received Orban for the first time at the Vatican a few months later, in April 2022.

During the private audience, he reportedly thanked the Hungarian leader for the protection his country offered to refugees fleeing the war in neighbouring Ukraine. — AFP



(FILES) In this file photo taken on 12 September 2021 Pope Francis takes a tour in an open vehicle to greet faithful before a Holy Mass at the end of an International Eucharistic Congress in Budapest, during his papal visit to Hungary. Pope Francis will visit Hungary from 28 to 30 April, where he will meet Prime Minister Viktor Orban, the Vatican said 27 February 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

World Bank backs bankrupt Sri Lanka's private banks

THE World Bank offered a lifeline to three private banks in bankrupt Sri Lanka on Monday, lending them \$400 million to finance imports of essential food and medicines with an IMF bailout stalled.

The World Bank's private sector funding arm, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), is lending the trio the funds with Sri Lanka's economic crisis still rumbling on.

The South Asian nation of 22 million has been enduring severe hardships since it ran out of foreign exchange to finance essential food, fuel, medicines and fertilizer in late 2021. It defaulted on its debt in April 2022.

Months of protests forced the president to resign in July

and the new government of Ranil Wickremesinghe sought a \$2.9 billion rescue from the IMF a month later.

But authorities say it is being held up because Sri Lanka's main bilateral creditor China has not yet provided financial assurances. The IFC said its loan arrangement with Commercial Bank of Ceylon, Nations Trust Bank and Sampath Bank will "support the private sector with critical financing, contributing to the country's urgent need to stabilize the economy".

Ratings agencies have said Sri Lanka's entire financial sector was under severe stress, with the sovereign debt default undermining the credibility of all local banks. — AFP

Britons face higher energy bills despite cooler inflation

UK regulators announced Monday a lower cap on sky-high energy bills from April but Britons still face paying more for gas and electricity as the government reduces financial assistance.

The energy regulator Ofgem said the annual amount suppliers are able to charge an average household would be slashed by nearly a quarter, to £3,280 (\$3,925) from £4,279.

"The price cap is coming down, but not by enough to help people who will face a sharp

spike in their energy bills in April when the government" reduces its financial help, noted Rocio Concha, director of policy and advocacy at the consumer pressure group Which?

Market energy costs have slumped in recent months on easing supply concerns.

Following the invasion of Ukraine by major oil and gas producer Russia one year ago, which sent energy prices and wider inflation soaring, governments have scrambled to shore up supplies while sub-

sidizing domestic bills.

Annual UK inflation has cooled in recent months but remains above 10 per cent, five times the rate targeted by the Bank of England.

Soaring energy and food bills, coupled with rising interest rates by the central bank aimed at cooling inflation, have eaten into the disposable income of millions of Britons.

The cost-of-living crisis has triggered the biggest UK strike action in more than a decade.

"Ofgem's latest manoeuvres on the energy price cap do next to nothing to ease the pressure on workers and communities already haunted by... their fuel bills," Sharon Graham, general secretary of major British union Unite, said Monday.

"This out-of-touch government is clearly preparing to pull the plug on protecting consumers and is totally abdicating any responsibility for dealing with the runaway profiteering of energy companies,"

she said.

The Conservative government of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is resisting calls to offer inflation-matching pay rises for public-sector workers, notably thousands of nurses and teachers who are planning more strikes next month.

The government argues that it needs to slash debt after the state provided massive financial assistance during the height of the Covid pandemic, subsidizing wages to keep millions of people in work. — AFP

Iran seeks to export nuclear products, technology: atomic chief

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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.



Manchester United's Dutch manager Erik ten Hag (3R) and his assistants celebrate with the trophy after their victory in the English League Cup final football match between Manchester United and Newcastle United at Wembley Stadium, north-west London on 26 February 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Ten Hag wants to 'keep on dancing' after first trophy as Man Utd boss

AS Erik ten Hag danced a jubilant jig on the Wembley pitch after Manchester United's League Cup final victory over Newcastle, it was clear the manager's romantic ideas about the club had blossomed into a full-blown love affair.

Ten Hag has made a remarkable impact since leaving Ajax to take charge of United last year and Sunday's 2-0 win

against Newcastle was the latest sign the club are back on track after a turbulent decade.

Casemiro's header and an own goal from Sven Botman sealed United's first major trophy since 2017, when they won the Europa League and League Cup under Jose Mourinho.

But the trophy was only secured after keeping Newcastle at bay with a gritty second half dis-

play that underlined how much difference Ten Hag has made.

Less than a year ago, United slumped to a sixth place finish in the Premier League under interim boss Ralf Rangnick.

Revived by the demanding and disciplined Ten Hag, United have set the stage for a potential return to the kind of sustained success last seen in the Alex Ferguson era. — AFP

K50 million to be given to each club of Myanmar National League 1

ACCORDING to the decision of the Myanmar National League Committee Meeting 1/2023, each Myanmar National League 1 team will receive a subsidy of K50 million.

At the committee meeting held on 26 February, the decision was made regarding the Myanmar National League teams.

In addition, the Myanmar

National League 2 competition clubs will receive K20 million per team and K15 million per team for the women's league competition clubs.

The 2024 Myanmar National League football tournament will be held in August just like international football tournaments.

U Zaw Min Thein took charge of the Marketing and

Finance Sub-Committee as the team leader to find more financial funds for the Myanmar National League to be held more successfully.

The owners of eight National League participating teams, chairmen, and CEOs of the football clubs were formed as members of the sub-committee.

—TWA/KZL

'Honoured' Klinsmann named coach of South Korea

JURGEN Klinsmann, who won the World Cup as a player and led Germany to the semi-finals as coach, has been appointed head coach of South Korea, the country's football association said Monday.

The 58-year-old will arrive in Seoul next week and be in charge for a friendly against Colombia on 24 March, the KFA said, adding he had a contract until 2026.

The former Germany, Bayern Munich and United States coach succeeds Paulo Bento, who took the Koreans to the last 16 of the World Cup in Qatar, where they were beaten 4-1 by Brazil.

"I am very happy and honoured to be the head coach of

South Korea's national football team," Klinsmann said, according to a Korea Football Association statement.

"I am well aware that the Korean national team has been constantly improving and producing results over a long period of time," he said.

He added that he was "honoured to be following in the footsteps" of former South Korea coaches, including Guus Hiddink and Bento.

"We will do our best to achieve successful results in the upcoming Asian Cup and 2026 World Cup," Klinsmann said.

South Korea are led on the pitch by skipper and forward Son Heung-min. — AFP



Ayeyawady United and Hanthawady United compete in the 2022 Myanmar National League. PHOTO: MNL