

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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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.

Not only the Ministry of Health and health experts but relevant departments, organizations and entire people are to join hands in ensuring the longevity of all the people and improving basic healthcare services: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the opening ceremony of the Myanmar Health Sciences Conference in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 March 2023.

ALL medical professionals are to uplift the health sector through collaborative efforts of medical professionals from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defence and relevant ministries as well as private healthcare institutions, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

at the opening ceremony of the Myanmar Health Sciences Conference at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, the Union Minister for Health and officials formally opened the archway to the conference. The Senior General

unveiled the archway of the conference. Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that the Myanmar Health Sciences Conference 2023 will be held under the title of Quality Care in Medical Practice. In implementing the third point of the social objectives of the State Administration Council: To strengthen

basic health care to achieve the emergence of a health system that embraces the longevity and health of the entire nation, the Ministry of Health plays a pivotal role in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence, the Medical Services Corps, related departments and people to be able to secure success step by step. Not only the Ministry of

Health and health experts but relevant departments, organizations and entire people are to join hands in ensuring the longevity of all the people and improving basic healthcare services. They all should strive for raising health awareness of the people and for them to have healthy lifestyles. SEE PAGE-3

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Objectives of 78th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day

- To serve primary duties of Tatmadaw for successfully safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes, and protecting the State Constitution and shielding the genuine disciplined multiparty democratic system
- To emphasize agreements in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) as much as possible for the restoration of the durable and perpetual peace across the nation as ceasing of armed conflicts is an actual requirement for realizing the multiparty democratic system
- To safeguard the national interest of the State, lives and property of people, and to put a strenuous effort on respective corners in times of natural disasters.
- To provide the necessary assistance by Tatmadaw for holding a free and fair multiparty democratic general election upon completion of undertakings in accord with the provisions of the state of emergency for the emergence of the Union based on democracy and federalism.

Illegal timbers, consumer goods, industrial materials, raw industrial materials and vehicles confiscated



Confiscated illegal commodities.

THE on-duty team under the supervision of the Customs Department made inspections.

Officials confiscated 84 kinds of goods worth K443,710,625 from seven containers on 6 March and 18 kinds of goods worth K14,857,500 from two containers on 7 March at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint and five kinds of goods worth K201,219,732 from two containers on 8 March at the Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal container checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 7 March, an on-duty team

at the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint in Mandalay Region seized 5,000 kilogrammes of textiles that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from three vehicles (approximately K21 million) heading to Mandalay from Muse. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Two unregistered motorbikes worth K200,000 were seized in Kalewa township on 9 March, an unregistered Toyota Crown car (approximately K9 million) was captured at the tollgate of Sagaing township on 10 March and a total of 0.6 tonne of illegal

timbers was seized worth K90,000 in Homalin township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law and the Forest Law.

On 10 March, a total of 4.878 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K484,648 were seized in the Aitkonkon forest reserve in Kyauktaga township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 21 arrests (estimated value of K1,073,637,455) were made on five consecutive days from 6 to 10 March, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

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.

1 new case of COVID-19 reported on 11 March, total figure rises to 633,955

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,955** after **one** new case was reported on 11 March 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,441**, including **two** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,490** on 11-3-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. — GNLM

Call for Nominations for ASEAN Prize 2023

THE ASEAN Secretariat is calling for nominations for the ASEAN Prize 2023, a prestigious regional award, which aims to acknowledge the inspiring and outstanding achievements of an individual or organization in fostering the ASEAN identity, promoting the ASEAN spirit and championing the ASEAN way.

Nominees should have exceptional merit in contributing to the following designated focus areas: -

- Collaboration between ASEAN Member States;
- Collaboration between ASEAN and the world;
- People-to-people engagement among ASEAN Member States;
- Economic integration and promotion of standards between ASEAN Member States; or
- Excellent contribution to ASEAN Community Building.

A Judging Committee, consisting of eminent high-level members, including incumbent and former ASEAN Secretaries-General, will select a recipient who will be awarded the ASEAN Prize Trophy and a monetary prize of US\$20,000.

Submissions for ASEAN Prize 2023 are open from now until 28 April 2023. The nominee must be an ASEAN citizen or an ASEAN-based organization. The nomination form for ASEAN Prize 2023 can be downloaded at the ASEAN Secretariat website <https://asean.org/nomination-form/>. The nominee must submit the duly filled-in form to the ASEAN Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No 9, Nay Pyi Taw, or dgasean@gmail.com and arnns.mofa@gmail.com no later than the deadline.

Rice and rice products prioritized to promote export volume

RICE and rice products are prioritized in the national export strategy being implemented for promoting the export volume. The vision for the promotion of the rice export strategy is to produce and export rice which will be high quality for rural development and increased income as well as sustainable development suitable for the natural environment.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of Myanmar Rice Conference-2022 on 6 October 2022)

Not only the Ministry of Health and health experts but relevant departments, organizations and entire people are to join hands in ensuring the longevity of all the people and improving basic healthcare services: Senior General

FROM PAGE-1

A total of 16 medical-related universities and 53 nursing and midwifery training schools are giving trainees to become qualified human resources for health with revised curriculums. These curriculums are being standardized for the students in addition to inter-professional education to have experiences for practically cooperating among others.

The Senior General expressed his satisfaction with emphasizing teaching on ethics of medical personnel as well as medical education to the students to provide better health care services to the people. Medical universities and dental medicine universities admit students who are actually interested in medical science abiding by medical ethics,



cine sector, and food and drug administration.

The Senior General stressed that all medical professionals are to uplift the health sector through collaborative efforts of medical professionals from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defence and relevant ministries as well as private healthcare institutions.

Next, a documentary video clip on the endeavours of the Ministry of Health was presented.

After the opening ceremony, the Senior General viewed round the exhibitions on various societies of medical science, medicines and medical equipment, modern machinery and drugs, health educative programmes, modern teaching aid, books and publications, documentary photos of relevant departments,



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round the exhibitions at the opening event yesterday.

serving duties in the health arena and giving health care services to people with goodwill and compassion, as of the 2022 academic year.

The Senior General urged the Department of Food and Drug Administration to check and test foodstuffs and medicines in a quick and exact manner. The Senior General also acknowledged the successful holding of the 21st Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference and Symposiums to improve the standards of Myanmar's tra-

ditional medical sciences.

The Senior General also honoured the continuous efforts for doing research on the Myancopharm Covid-19 vaccine, Withama fever drug and genetic changes of viruses of diseases, to improve health standards and successful holding of the Myanmar Health Research Congress till 51st time.

The Senior General called on new generation health professionals and staff to effectively study the good knowledge for prevention and treatment for diseases

and rehabilitation of patients, new perspectives and experiences and taking lessons from the past events for improvement of their capacity in the future.

It was known that the local and foreign specialists and physicians were expected to widely discuss treatments on surgical operations, medical treatments, OG and pediatric diseases, orthopaedic, ear, nose and throat diseases, and public healthcare services at the conference while attendee medical professionals

would have the chance to raise questions what they want to know and share their experiences. Hence, they have to efficiently utilize their knowledge and experiences from the conference in the relevant fields.

Thanks to the conference, the people will know the undertakings of the Ministry of Health such as modern treatment, healthcare services, turning out of human resources for health, modern medical research, development of the traditional medi-

and international cooperation, discussed the reports of officials and gave necessary instructions.

Medical and medical-related professionals, medical experts from the medical corps of the Directorate of Medical Services of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), retired medical professionals, retired Tatmadaw medics, private medical doctors and medical professionals from Southeast Asian region will participate in discussions at the conference. — MNA/TTA

SAC Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends dinner in honouring Myanmar Health Sciences Conference



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win enjoys the gala dinner and entertainment performed by the Fine Arts Department yesterday.

THE gala dinner of the Myanmar Health Sciences Conference 2023 was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening, attended by State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

SAC members, Union ministers, Tatmadaw high-ranking officers, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, directors-general, rectors, medicine and medical-related scholars, invitees and officials attended the dinner.

Then, the Deputy Prime Minister enjoyed the dinner together with the attendees.

Artistes from the Department of Fine Arts performed entertainment before and during the dinner. Afterwards, SAC Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win presented the flower basket to the artistes. — MNA/KZW

Myanmar Health Sciences Conference 2023 opens

THE Myanmar Health Sciences Conference 2023 was held yesterday morning at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw, and Union Health Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win delivered the opening speech.

Participants discussed “Quality Care in Medical Practice” in the morning and afternoon sessions for the main symposium. They also discussed “Genomic Medicine in Myanmar-Current and Future Applications”; Professor Ouppatham discussed “Role of calcitriol in the management of chronic kidney disease”, “Living with Hypertension”, “Surgery Updates in Management of Gastric Cancer”, and “Inguinal Hernia and Sepsis”.

Next, Dr Takayuki Inagaki and Myanmar paediatricians discussed “Updates in Neurosurgery”, “Updates in Management of Colorectal Cancer”, “Haematopathological Cases”, “Updates in Endoscopic Surgery”, “Safe anaesthesia for every patient today”, and “Updates on Prevention of Cervical Cancer”.

Professor Dr Tan Soo Young put forward the topics “Challenges in Diagnosis of Lymphoma” and “Standard Care in Cardiology” as Pathology Special Talk.

Dr Sanjay Kalra discussed “Basal Insulin Addressing the Fasting Plasma Glucose Challenge”, “Osteoporosis: Not to Miss”, “Updates in Management of Common Hepatobiliary Problems” and “Integrative Care of

Pain”.

Dr Taweesak Chotivatanapong and Dr Suphasit Sathitrakool put forward the topics “IHD: Stable Angina and Long-term Treatment” and “Standard Practice in Gastroenterology”. The attendees also joined the discussions. — MNA/KZL

Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win makes the opening speech at the Myanmar Health Sciences Conference 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 March 2023.

Union Information Minister attends book donation event

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn attended the event of donating the book “various life-struggle” written by author Myingyan Kyaw Aung (aka) Than Htet San to the ministry held at Hotel Yangon in Mayangon Township, Yangon yesterday.

First, the Union minister said the donated books will be sent to the libraries of IPRD opened in districts and townships registering systematically to lend to the public free of charge. The mobile library will carry the books to the basic education schools and wards/villages.

The development of literature can create a community with well-educated and polite people and produce perfect human resources for the country. All citizens should read to promote their lives, families, and communities



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views the live broadcasting programme of MRTV-HD’s music concert 3 in marking the 78th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.



and participate in State development activities

Then, donor Myingyan Kyaw Aung (aka) Than Htet San donated 410 copies of the book to the Union minister.

On 10 March, the Union Minister enjoyed the live broadcast-

ing programme of MRTV-HD’s “Pyi Chit Thar Mon Tay Thawun” music concert 3 marking the 78th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day.

First, the Union minister cordially greeted the artistes and guests at the concert. The MRTV-

HD broadcast the live streaming of the singing concert hailing the 78th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day.

The MRTV presents creative and active entertainment programmes marking significant days in the country in addition

to the Friday Night Live Show to entertain the public.

The “Pyi Chit Thar Mon Tay Thawun” music concert 3 was broadcast on MRTV HD Channel at 9 pm on 10 March and the replay will be at 10:30 am on 11 March.—MNA/KTZH

MoE Union Minister, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister inspect Maubin oil and gas field

UNION Energy Minister U Myo Myint Oo and Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win inspected the Maubin oil and gas field in Maubin Township yesterday.

First, the field general manager and officials explained the status of drilling and testing of Well No 20, the estimated volume of natural gas and liquid gas from underground extraction, the prospect of production from Well No 9, the maintenance work of the Kangyidaunt-Thaboung section of the Nyaungdon-Thaboung natural gas pipeline, the prospect of oil and natural gas exploration in Maubin oilfield and the project for

oil and natural gas exploration in the Phayagon area to the Union minister and the chief minister.

Next, the Union minister and the chief minister coordinated the necessary things. Then, they inspected Well No 20 and provided the fruit basket and nutritious foodstuffs to the staff.

The Nyaungdon-Maubin oil and natural gas field have 17 wells producing about 50 barrels of liquid gas and over 22 million cubic feet of natural gas per day.—MNA/KZW

Union Minister U Myo Myint Oo and party inspect the Maubin oil and gas field yesterday.



Myanmar aims to ship 600,000 tonnes of green gram in FY 2023-2024

MYANMAR expects to export 600,000 tonnes of green grams to external markets in the financial year 2023-2024, with 150,000 tonnes in each batch, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The green gram is exported to China, India, the Netherlands, Ireland, England and Germany by sea and border post. More than 570,000 tonnes of green grams have been delivered to foreign trade partners as of 3 March in the current FY 2022-2023 beginning 1 April, with an estimated value of US\$408.776 million.

The prevailing prices stand at K1,742,000 per tonne for green gram from the central Myanmar regions and K2,069,000 per tonne for green gram (Shwewah variety) in the Mandalay market.

The newly harvested green gram

started to flow into the market at the end of 2022. The prices vary depending on the qualities, the Mandalay commodity depot stated.

Myanmar’s green gram is primarily sent to India, China and European countries. Myanmar has grasped a strong market share in the vast global markets. Additionally, Myanmar has been preparing to export green gram to European Union countries in 2023, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Ministry of Commerce agreed to export the green grams for sprouts in 2015.

The steering committee has been holding a series of meetings to call for bids, conduct awareness courses for the farmers and inspect farm-level process-

ing regarding exports of the green grams for bean sprouts.

The Agriculture Department takes in-charge of farmer and collector inspection and testing, while the Consumers Affairs Department carries out processor inspection and training. Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service (MITS), the authorized organization of the State, was asked to monitor processor level to meet the criteria, food safety and quality standard set by the EU. Those inspectors from MITS are trained by the experts of the Plant Protection Division, the Agriculture Department and the German Development Agency GIZ.

MITS conducted inspections annually, with nine in 2018, 10 in 2019, six each in 2020 and 2021 and five in 2022 respectively.

For Myanmar’s bean and pulse exports to the EU, handling and hygiene practices are crucial for bean export to the EU. The inspection undergoes the following stages; purchasing green grams, warehousing, processing and refining green grams, cargo handling for exports, quality control and health and hygiene of the workers.

The MITS undertakes an inspection once at a factory that meets the criteria and standards. If the MITS finds the requirements during inspection, they set a timeframe for the factory manager to fix them. Then, they went on a second inspection tour. They present certificates for those factories that pass the test.

The MITS is ready to implement a processor-level test for those export companies to the EU in 2023. — NN/EM

AAET Distinguished Lecture for Commemoration of World Engineering Day 2023 held in Myanmar



The online Zoom meeting in commemorating World Engineering Day 2023 is in progress yesterday.

THE AAET Country Operation Unit of Myanmar organized an Online Zoom Meeting on AAET Distinguished Lecture for the Commemoration of World Engineering Day 2023 under the permission of AAET (ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology) marking World Engineering Day 2023 yesterday.

In his opening speech, Union

Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than, in his capacity as Patron of the Myanmar Engineer Council said the World Federation of Engineering Organization (WFEO) proposed to set 4 March as World Engineering Day. UNESCO announced the 4 March as World Engineering Day in 2019 to improve the image of engineers and engineering. The theme of

World Engineering Day this year is “Engineering innovation for a more resilient world”. The AAET holds such a seminar to promote the innovations of engineers to become stronger in ASEAN and the world. It also appreciates the creation of Myanmar engineers in the construction of the world’s highest marble Buddha image in Nay Pyi Taw. The image is 81 feet

in height including the throne and 5,292 tonnes in weight.

It also decided to divide the stone marble into four parts for the Buddha image and five parts for the altar. The conveying processes of marble stones to Nay Pyi Taw were conducted in July 2020. The designs of the image were created to resist the weather and natural disaster and the curving processes were made by the CNC Machine and modern machines created by Myanmar engineers.

Those from the Myanmar Engineering Council and military engineers took seven months in building a steel tower installed with eight cranes to lift up the image to be placed onto the throne after combining the carved parts of the image and building a steel basket for conveying the image to avoid damage, using some 3,800 tonnes of iron wares.

The construction of the Maravijaya Buddha Image highlights the engineering subject and encourages engineers to create more inventions.

The Union minister also stressed the consequences of

the COVID-19 pandemic in the world, crisis, health issues, migrating and national identity issues, peace and security and the role of engineers in various engineering fields.

He then appreciated the grand inventions and innovations and called on the participants to keep inventing.

Next, AAET President Prof Dr Ewe Hong Tat remarked and AAET Vice-President, Myanmar Engineer Council Chairman Prof Dr Aung Kyaw Myat delivered a Distinguished Lecture about Seismicity Around the Bagan-NyaungU Area, Significant Ground Shakings on Historical Monuments, Development of Seismic Hazard and Vulnerability Assessment under the topic of Seismic Hazard and Vulnerability Assessment for the Bagan-NyaungU Area.

The event was attended by international professors, experts from AAET, local engineers, and architects.

The ceremony came to an end after the concluding remark of Prof Dr Aung Kyaw Myat. — MNA/KTZH

Neighbouring countries’ demand for Myanmar kidney beans pushes up prices in Mandalay market

MANDALAY market sees an abundant supply of kidney beans and the demand of neighbouring countries drove the price up, said traders.

There is an ample amount of supply from the Bhamo, Katha, Htigyaingt, Kalay and Kalewa areas in the Mandalay markets. The kidney beans fetched K150,000 per three-basket bag in the corresponding period last year. This year, the price nearly doubled to K290,000 per bag, said Soe Win Myint, an owner of Soe Win Myint depot from Mandalay.

“Kidney beans are doing a roaring trade in the Mandalay market. Both China and India are purchasing them in the competitive market. The price is

therefore rising. Both the yield and the price are high this year. Chinese buyers come to Bhamo and Katha areas to buy kidney beans. Mandalay market sees brisk sales of kidney beans. Also, countries in the Middle East and Europe buy them every year. The market is bustling with the growing foreign demand year over year”, he elaborated.

It is a winter crop. It cannot be grown in any place as it is not well adapted to high temperatures and heavy rain. It is primarily produced in Htigyaingt, Katha, Bhamo, and Shwegu areas along Ayeyawady River Basin and Kalay, Kalewa and Gangaw areas along Chindwin River Basin. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/EM



Traders are pictured evaluating various beans and pulses in the Mandalay market. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar bags over \$1.2 bln from pulses exports over past 11 months

MYANMAR brought in over US\$1.2 billion from over 1.6 million tonnes of various pulses exports over the past 11 months of the current financial year 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

The country shipped over 1,428,869.205 tonnes of pulses and beans valued at \$1.1 billion to foreign markets by sea, and over 233,483.976 tonnes valued at \$168.989 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders, totalling 1,662,353.181 tonnes worth \$1.278 billion.

Myanmar exported over 2 million tonnes of various pulses worth US\$1.57 billion to foreign trade partners last financial year 2020-2021. The country shipped 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and

beans valued at \$966.4 million to foreign markets through the sea route, and 786,920 tonnes worth \$604.3 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders.

Myanmar primarily exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black gram and pigeon peas are mostly conveyed 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 con-

secutive 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.

The prevailing price of black gram is K1,947,000 per tonne, while pigeon peas fetch K2,220,000 per tonne, according to Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayint Naung Commodity Centre).

In August last year, the dollar against Kyat gained to K4,500 in the black market. Following that, the black gram price reached a record high of K2.1 million per tonne. Pigeon pea price hit K2.12 million per tonne.

Myanmar yearly produces



Multiple beans and pulses in the market.

approximately 400,000 tonnes of black gram and about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas.

Black gram that India primarily purchases is commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas

pigeon peas, green gram and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. – NN/EM

Black gram price rebounds to around K1.95 mln per tonne

THE price of black gram bounced back to approximately K1.95 million per tonne from an eleven-day fall in the domestic market.

On 1 March, the price was K1,858,500 per tonne. It jumped to K1,947,500 per tonne on 9 March, showing a sharp increase of 88,500 per tonne within ten days.

India's demand is a contributing factor to Myanmar's black gram price. The strong demand at present pushed up 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 K2,870 against the US dollar.

Last August 2022, the price of black gram peaked at K2.1 million per tonne when Kyat weakened to K4,500 against the US dollar.

Myanmar earned over US\$1.2 billion from over 1.6 million tonnes of pulses over the past ten months of the current financial year, the Ministry of Commerce said.

So far, Myanmar has shipped 608,673.819 kilos of black gram worth \$499.491 million to external markets.

Myanmar primarily exports 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



Myanmar yearly produces approximately 400,000 tonnes of black gram and about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas.

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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

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 11 March 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,105
Octane 95	K2,190
Diesel	K2,110
Premium Diesel	K2,190

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,198,300 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,852,000 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	K2,855 to K2,870

The above prices may change from time to time.

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.

Save the planet Earth to stay away from air pollution

NOWADAYS, industries, as well as living standard of the people, are improving more and more, air pollution is worsening and worsening due to the emission of carbon dioxide from industries and factories and vehicles in addition to landfills whereas areas of forests which purify the atmosphere are lesser and lesser.

Such a problem is a very important topic among other topics to be solved urgently across the world. Ozone gas, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitro dioxide may cause the increasing rate of air pollution. Human beings well as various animals breathe polluted air into the lungs unavoidably and suffer from toxic problems in the inner organs of the body.

At the same time, global people are to nurture trees and forests to green the world. They have to save the natural environment for avoiding environmental degradation. So also, they have to seek renewable energy for society to cut the emission of carbon dioxide as well as other dangerous gases which hamper the health conditions of human beings and the sustainability of the natural environment.

As such, all global people should reduce the emission of carbon dioxide from industries and factories as well as various types of vehicles to cut air pollution. Likewise, people from both rural and urban areas are to reduce the use of firewood and charcoal. At the same time, global people are to nurture trees and forests to green the world. They have to save the natural environment for avoiding environmental degradation. So also, they have to seek renewable energy for society to cut the emission of carbon dioxide as well as other dangerous gases which hamper the health conditions of human beings and the sustainability of the natural environment. That is why all global people regardless of race and country are responsible for improving the planet Earth better and better with a lesser volume of air pollution in the atmosphere. As a result, all global people will have improved health conditions and higher living standards for years.

Such toxicity may cause various dangerous health problems such as respiratory diseases, cardiac and cardiovascular diseases, neuro and psychological diseases, eye and skin diseases as well as asthma and lung cancer.

In fact, air pollution may cause impacts the natural environment and bring disadvantages of underground water and fertile soils to society. It may dip the growth rate of trees as well as the reproduction rates of biodiversity. Moreover, air pollution may cause changes in temperature as well as greenhouse effects which may worsen changes in the natural environment and ecosystem which controls the natural living of fauna and flora.

Even in a house, using firewood and charcoal in cooking inside a home in a rural area, using mosquito coils and joss sticks in houses and smoking cigarettes and cheroots may happen home air pollution. On the other hand, air pollution affects the depletion

India sent medicine to 150 countries during Covid crisis

On the steps taken by the Indian government during the COVID-19 pandemic, he had said, "As regards enacting relevant legislations, the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 was amended by Parliament to provide for adequate safety and protection of healthcare personnel handling patients and the epidemic.

UNION Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday said that India sent medicines to 150 countries during covid crisis without increasing the price and compromising on the quality of the medicines.

Minister was speaking at the inauguration of the International Symposium on Health Technology Assessment in Delhi on Friday.

India sent medicines to 150 countries

"During the Covid crisis, India sent medicines to 150 countries without increasing price and compromising on the quality," Union Health Minister said.

India offered support to more than 150 affected countries in the form of vaccines, medical equipment and medicines during the

pandemic, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Harivansh said in a keynote address at the 26th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) in Canberra, Australia in January.

The Deputy Chairman had said that India facilitated the evacuation of stranded foreign nationals from different parts of India to

around 123 countries.

Mandaviya said that India fulfils 65 per cent of the world's vaccine requirement. "Today, if there is any country in the world which is providing affordable medicines, then it's India," he informed.

An exclusive initiative "Vaccine Maitri"

Harivansh further added that

India took an exclusive initiative "Vaccine Maitri" to supply COVID-19 Made-in-India vaccines to various countries across the world.

Under this initiative, as of the first week of December 2022, India has supplied more than 282 million vaccine doses of COVID-19 to 101 countries and two UN entities.

"Since the outbreak of the COVID pandemic in India, we fol-

lowed a 'whole of Government' and 'whole of society approach'. We took several measures for containing the spread of the virus, addressing major gaps in the availability of life-saving healthcare facilities, shoring up livelihoods and restoring normalcy in the areas such as education and employment," he had added.

SOURCE: ANI



Greater use of drones could be a game-changer for medical services in India's hard-to-reach rural areas where healthcare is limited and roads often poor. Technicians flies a drone belonging to the Throttle Aerospace Systems (TAS) which flies Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) to deliver life saving medical supplies. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP



Book Title	- Thabawa Ah Hmaung
Writer	- Sagaing U Pho Thinn
Publishing House	- Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date	- December 2022 (Reprint)
Price	- K4,000

Thabawa Ah Hmaung

PEOPLE are by nature desirous of success and progress. This is the reason why they are invariably exerting effort daily to achieve success. In doing so, people rely on their luck wisdom and diligence. Nevertheless, another important matter is mindfulness which guides people with the dos and don'ts — i.e., what to do and what not to do. U Pho Thinn, the writer of this book, reminds the readers of the importance of mindfulness to accomplish tasks. The opening pages of this book will give some ideas which many people are forgetful of. It is guaranteed that this book is worth reading because it gives knowledge on the world outlook and the life the people ought to lead.

Sayagyi U Pho Thinn pointed out that the nature of the world is a deep mystery. Teak is not grown by the people in some regions. They grow up naturally. Likewise, there are many species

of trees and plants which are not grown by people — they grow up naturally. The metals and the oil and gas reserves are also natural resources. Who knows why they are there? In the same vein, we do not know how humans and animals come into existence. Who creates these things? Indeed, they are not creations; they are things of nature.

Living beings like humans and animals have to depend on the land, the water and the climate etc. There is an interaction between the living beings and the habitat they are living in. Matter-of-factly, there are many things of nature which are beyond the intelligence of human beings.

People have feelings be they good or bad. And they make mental notes of their feelings. Next, they are desirous of the good feelings and the good things whereas they do not want the bad feelings and the bad things. And when

people make a conscious effort, they are growing the seeds to be reborn in the existences to come. As long as people have the craving for life or the desire to live, they cannot emancipate from the rounds of rebirth.

When the human being stays in the womb of his mother-to-be, he is said to be sowing the seed to be a human. But the trees and the plants can grow by themselves or be grown by people. It is said as you sow, so shall you reap. The siblings can have different mindsets and mentalities although they may look in physical appearance.

People will have to lead life depending on the three volitional activities — physical, verbal and mental — as well as on the observance of the precepts, the donation and the meditation. The original writer has provided case studies from which the readers can learn lessons. In one case, he dealt with the ups and downs

of a woman, who has risen to the position of the chief queen from a very poor country girl and then fallen to her original status because of her non-observance of the precepts. And her breach of the precepts is attributed to her lust or sexual desire. How dreadful the breach of the precepts and how terrible the indulgence in the sexual desire it is! It is believed that if the readers can draw lessons from the case studies the writer has provided, this book will be of high value.

The title of this book is darkness, which suggests illusion, the root cause of having sexual desire. And this desire is of a very subtle nature. Some people may think they are free from sexual desire. They think so because they are doing the meditation, trying to keep their mind clear of all desires. In truth, they are not so. They are unwittingly desirous of the opposite sex. Only those who have become the Third Elect are free from sexual desire. In fact, this book is concerned more with spiritual phenomena.



Book Title	- Yaw Min Gyi U Pho Hlaing Uphtokepatti and Raja Dhamma Sangaha Kyan
Writer	- Maung Htin
Publishing House	- UNITY Publishing House
Publication Date	- February 2023 (6 th Edition)
Price	- K8,000

Yaw Min Gyi U Pho Hlaing Uphtokepatti and Raja Dhamma Sangaha Kyan

RAJA Dhamma Sangaha is a text famous not only in Myanmar's ancient literature but also in the political history of Myanmar. This book was written by U Pho Hlaing in his capacity as the Town Officer of Wetmasut and also as a commissioner but finished only on the 7th Waxing Day of Nadaw in the 1240 Myanamar Era. The completion of writing happened to coincide just two months after the accession to the throne by King Thibaw. According to the biography of U Pho Hlaing which was collectively compiled by the learned men of those days, U Pho Hlaing submitted to King Thibaw this book which covered the two periods reigned by King Mindon and King Thibaw. Nonetheless, U Tin, the Sub-Divisional Officer of Bagan, who wrote the Paper on the Administration

Systems Practiced by Myanmar Kings, said that this Raja Dhamma Thingaha is a book, which contained the words of admonition for King Thibaw.

Throughout the history of Myanmar, our ancestors have lived independent life with their own monarchs possessing sovereign power.

The writer said that like all other empires, Myanmar had been faced with disunity and discord among the royalties and the nobilities. He also said in the biography of U Pho Hlaing that the people were influenced by the systems prevailing in that age. If the people did not endeavour to go against the systems prevailing in an age, just living an easy-going life, the history of the people of that country would be dull, falling under the influence of foreign

philosophies. By nature, the people are rebellious, however. If the people struggled against the new concepts imported from abroad, their history would be brilliant, thereby achieving progress and prosperity. It is said that the historical events recorded by U Pho Hlaing reflected the struggle of the people in different eras. BORN in the early period of colonization, U Pho Hlaing had witnessed the Anglo-Myanmar ties. Since childhood, he always held a different opinion and had a different perspective regarding things and events. And he became the Town Officer of Yaw at 23. When King Mindon and Prince Kanaung were faced with a difficult military issue in the town of Yadana Theingga, U Pho Hlaing provided a peculiar military strategy by

which the king and the prince had overcome the problem. This precious advice of U Pho Hlaing won him the title of Min Hla Sithu. King Mindon not only conferred this tile on him but also presented the town of Yaw to him. The people had high expectations of U Pho Hlaing and Prince Kanaung, who would turn the Kingdom of Myanmar into a modern, progressive one. Nevertheless, the disunity and discord among the royalties caused the loss of Prince Kanaung and U Pho Hlaing. Sayagyi Maung Htin, the writer, wrote that U Pho Hlaing was a patriot, who was always seeking a chance to bring benefit to his country. As a self-sacrificing patriot, U Pho Hlaing was never reluctant, to tell the truth, not worrying about the loss of his official position. In his pursuit of the truth, he was never afraid of the King. What a great man he has been! The country of Myanmar has old great gratitude to him.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

DR provides short-term loans to small business owners, including disabled businesspersons

THE Department of Rehabilitation announced that short-term loans will be provided to small business owners, including disabled business owners, and the deadline for application date is 24 March.

A short-term loan with a loan term of three years was lent by the Department of Rehabilitation to microfinance institutions, to be able to provide disabled people and organizations with the interest earned by investing in a revolving fund for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The three-year short-term loan (one-year pending period, two-year repayment period) will also be used by microfinance institutions to grant

loans to small business owners including disabled business owners.

In the process, at least 10 per cent of the loan amount must be given priority to businessmen with disabilities, and microfinance institutions with total entitlement above K10 billion will have to fill out the loan amount and the interest rate that can be given on the loan in the attached loan application and submitted along with it.

Documents can be applied in person at the Rehabilitation Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Office No 23 in Nay Pyi Taw by 24 March 2023, stated by the Department of Rehabilitation.— TWA/CT



Some people with disabilities who are ready to start a business are seen in the picture in 2019. (Photo: Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business)

Academy awards for 2019, 2020, 2022 to be held; Shwekyo applications accepted



The 2018 Academy award winners were seen in 2019.

THE Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards for 2019, 2020 and 2022 will be presented in Nay Pyi Taw this year and the officials review the 16 movies currently.

For the 2019 Academy, 29

films were short-listed out of 97 films while 21 films for 2020 and another 20 films for 2022.

Those who want to apply for Academy Shwekyo can apply to start on 13 March no later than 4 pm on 24 March,

the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization announced.

The 2018 Academy Awards Event was held at The One Entertainment Park in Thuwanna Township of Yangon on 23 March 2019 and actress Phway Phway won the best actress award while the best support actress award went to Aye Myat Thu, best film award to Shwe Kyar, best director award to Director Awratha, best sound engineering award to Ko Aye, best photograph award to Ko Win Lwin Htet, best script award to Wyne, film editing award to Kyaw Khine Soe, background music award to Shalane Anvringe Naw and lifetime achievement award to Academy Daw Myint Myint Khin. — TWA/KTZH

Bayintnaung-Sein Pan Myaing 66 kV underground cable stolen

THE Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation released a statement that one of the cables of Bayintnaung-Sein Pan Myaing 66KV underground cables was stolen.

A fault occurred in Bayintnaung-Sein Pan Myaing 66 kV electrical cable at 4:22 am on 9 March and the power cuts occurred in Hline, Mayangon and Kamayut townships.

According to the investigation, one of the 66 kV underground cables near Thaminechaung in Bayintnaung street of Hline Township was stolen and the outage occurred due to the cable

fault.

The power was supplied temporarily by 230KV Thakayta power plant with the feeders of 66KV RIR sub-station, 33 kV Mya Kantha sub-station and 33 kV Taw Win substation feeder as it is in the time of matriculation examination period and maintenance works were being conducted in a timely manner, it said.

The YESC urged the public to protect the materials and inform relevant township power stations if they find the insurgents to prevent cable thefts that cause power cuts. — TWA/KTZH

CBM directs taxpayers in foreign currency to open FE accounts at state-owned banks

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) asked taxpayers in foreign currency to open foreign currency accounts at state-owned banks including Myanma Economic Bank (MEB), Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank (MICB) and Myanma Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB).

Additionally, the CBM directed the private banks not to convert the foreign currency into Kyat and transfer them to the MEB accordingly if the taxpayers open a foreign currency account with the money that is supposed to be tax

liability at the private banks and foreign bank branches, as per the notification 2/2023 dated 25 January 2023.

When the authorized dealers (private banks and foreign bank branches) transfer those tax liabilities to the MEB, MFTB and MICB, the taxpayers must bear the conversion fee for the SWIFT transactions. If they do not want to bear the extra banking charges, they are advised to open foreign currency accounts at the MEB, MFTB and MICB respectively. — TWA/EM



The photo shows a forex dealer holding foreign currency in hand.

US high court asked to weigh in on trans athletes

A transgender child's desire to join her school's female running team could be decided by the US Supreme Court after West Virginia on Friday asked the high court to rule on the controversial case.

The court was asked to overturn a lower appeals court decision that froze West Virginia's 2021 law banning Becky Pepper-Jackson and others like her from competing with other girls because she was born a biological male.

It could lead to the Supreme Court's first-ever intervention in the hot-button issue of trans girls and women in sports.

Backed by the American Civil Liberties Union, Pepper-Jackson, 11 at the time, sued in 2021 to block the West Virginia law so that she could join her school's girls cross-country team.

Her case argued that the state law violates guarantees of equal rights under the US Con-



The US Supreme Court has been asked to weigh in for the first time on the controversial topic of transgender girls and women in school sports.

PHOTO: JEMAL COUNTESS /AFP

stitution and the 1972 federal law known as Title IX that prohibits discrimination in schools based on sex. She lost that suit in the federal district court early this year, the court ruling that the state law did not contradict federal protections because they all linked equal treatment to a person's sex as assigned at birth.

Pepper-Jackson then successfully asked the regional federal appeals court to put a stay, or freeze, on implementation of the law pending her appeal.

On Friday the state, backed by the conservative Alliance Defending Freedom, asked the Supreme Court to overturn the appeals court's stay. — AFP

Tourism booms in Upper Egypt's Aswan after pandemic-related recession

ON the morning of a sunny Spring day, dozens of boats were busy sailing back and forth in the Nile River, carrying groups of tourists visiting the Philae temples on an island in Upper Egypt's charming city of Aswan.

Tourists coming from different countries enjoyed the beautiful weather and the marvelous buildings of the Philae temple complex with giant ancient py-

lons and columns overlooking the Nile. "It's been three days in Aswan. We went to Abu Simbel temples a little south (of Aswan). They are really beautiful places, architecture and history. It's amazing!" Aghiles Abbad, an Algerian man living in Canada, told Xinhua.

The number of tourists in Egypt dropped to around 3.7 million in 2020 because of the COV-

ID-19 pandemic, after it saw a boom in 2019 with over 13 million visiting the North African country, according to official data. It gradually recovered to about eight million in 2021 and further flourished throughout 2022 to near pre-pandemic numbers.

The gradual recovery coincided with Russia's resumption of direct flights to Egyptian Red Sea resorts in August 2021, after a six-year suspension following a 2015 deadly Russian plane crash over Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

In January this year, the first Chinese tourist group since the outbreak of COVID-19 arrived in Egypt, marking the return of tourists from China, one of the most significant tourist source countries, to further boost Egypt's tourism.

Groups of Chinese tourists led by Egyptian guides were seen visiting the Philae temples, taking photos and listening to the guide's introduction of the ancient structures. — Xinhua



Tourists take boats at a dock after visiting the Nubian village of Gharb Soheil in Aswan, Egypt, on 9 March 2023. **PHOTO: AHMED GOMAA / XINHUA**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Non-CPC political party hails China's COVID response

LEADER of the Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party (CPWDP), one of the eight non-Communist political parties in China, spoke highly of China's COVID response.

He Wei, chairman of the central committee of the CPWDP, said the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee has kept optimizing and adjusting the COVID response measures in light of the evolving epidemic situation and has effectively protected people's lives and health. — Xinhua

Apollo Dialysis celebrates World Kidney Day 2023

APOLLO Dialysis, a business unit of Apollo Health & Lifestyle Ltd, celebrated World Kidney Day and on the occasion executed on-ground activities to educate the community about risk factors and symptoms of kidney diseases, promote healthy lifestyles and preventative measures, and encourage early detection and treatment of kidney diseases. Apollo Dialysis, which operates in 90+ locations across India, offers the best in class treatment with most experienced doctors and healthcare professionals ensuring smooth and safe recovery for people suffering from kidney diseases.

As a part of the celebration, a free consumer screening camp for kidney diseases was conducted at Krishnakanth Park, Yousufguda and Ameerpet Metro station in Hyderabad where more than 500 people availed this service. — ANI

Long COVID may cause surge in US women with disabilities: media



A family wearing masks walks in downtown Los Angeles on 22 March 2022. **PHOTO: APU GOMES/AFP/FILE**

LONG COVID may be behind the recent surge in US women with a disability, who surpassed their male counterparts in the workforce during the pandemic, reversing historic trends, according to a report of Bloomberg.

Women are disproportionately affected by lingering effects from COVID-19 infection. The emergence of long COVID coincides with an increase in women with disabilities, who have outnumbered their male peers in monthly government labour figures on a regular basis since last June, said the report published on Thursday.

The gender difference has important implications for the labour market. Researchers have estimated that COVID illnesses may have reduced the workforce by 500,000 to one million people when accounting for those who either worked fewer hours or left entirely, according to the report. — Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

Bank of Japan leaves policy unchanged as Kuroda bows out



Outgoing Bank of Japan governor Haruhiko Kuroda (C) had both a strong network in Japan and an international profile. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

JAPAN’S central bank left its ultra-easy monetary policy unchanged on Friday in its last meeting before Governor Haruhiko Kuroda steps down and is replaced by economics professor Kazuo Ueda.

The Bank of Japan has steadfastly resisted tightening in recent months, even as peers in other developed economies have hiked rates to tackle inflation.

While most analysts expect-

ed the bank to stay the course in Kuroda’s final policy decision, some had speculated about a surprise tweak.

But the bank left its longstanding negative interest rate in place and made no further adjustments to the band in which rates for 10-year government bonds fluctuate.

The decision came shortly after Japan’s parliament approved Ueda as the BoJ’s next governor, paving the way for the

71-year-old to take over in April.

At his final press conference as governor, Kuroda said it was “unfortunate” that the bank’s longstanding target of sustained two-per-cent inflation had remained elusive, after years of stagnant wages and prices.

But he defended his record, saying he had “no regrets” and that prices had stopped falling during his tenure, after the deflation that plagued Japan from 1998 through 2012. — AFP

UK high speed rail line faces two-year delay

THE UK government on Thursday announced a two-year delay to construction on part of the HS2 high-speed railway connecting London with cities in the north

of England. The part of the line running into central London would also be delayed, as part of cost-saving measures, Transport Minister Mark Harper said. The

project, which is being built in stages, is set to cost more than £100 billion funded mostly by the state and will take years to build.

Former prime minister Boris Johnson heralded HS2 as a key infrastructure project aimed at helping drive Britain’s post-Brexit economy.

Johnson however was forced to scale back his HS2 plans for northern England amid soaring costs in 2021.

According to Harper, construction of the Birmingham to Crewe leg of HS2 in central England would now be put back by two years. That part of the line had been due to be extended between 2030 and 2034. — AFP



UK announces HS2 cost-saving measures with 2-year delay. **PHOTO: TWITTER**

Viet Nam’s energy sector to increase use of coal, gas for electricity

VIET NAM will ramp up the use of coal and gas sources and mobilize renewable sources to ensure sufficient supply of electricity for the Southeast Asian country as the demand is projected to increase in 2023, local media reported on Thursday.

The country is set to produce and import 284.5 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity this year, 16 billion kWh higher than the 2022 figure and 29 billion kWh more than in 2021, according to the Vietnam News. The plan is based on a gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 6.5 per cent approved by the country’s legislative body and a planned total supply of nearly 251.3 billion kWh for residents nationwide, an increase of nearly nine billion kWh against last year, the newspaper reported.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade has instructed the Viet Nam Electricity company to establish suitable operating methods and mobilize power sources, including renewables, to ensure a sufficient supply for the country, it said.

According to the ministry’s Department of Oil, Gas, and Coal, about 57.9 million tonnes of coal are expected to reach the market in 2023, with 44.7 million tonnes planned to be domestically produced and 13.2 million tonnes imported.

By the end of 2022, Viet Nam’s total installed capacity was almost 77,800 megawatts, an increase of 1,400 MW against 2021. Renewable energy accounted for 26.4 per cent, or 20,165 MW, according to the ministry. — Xinhua



Viet Nam boasts the highest installed capacity of solar power in Southeast Asia, generating 16,500MW at the end of 2020. Viet Nam unconditionally committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by nine per cent by 2030. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Germany plans 2024 oil and gas boiler ban

GERMANY on Thursday presented controversial plans to ban the installation of new oil and gas boilers from 2024 to speed up the switch to renewable technologies.

The planned change in household heating was “urgent”, Economy Minister Robert Habeck told reporters at a press conference. Germany had to “catch up in a short time” on the lag it had built up in the switch to renewable heating, the Green party minister said.

But the policy, which was leaked to local media last week,

has added to mounting tensions within the government coalition, over issues including climate and spending.

The liberal FDP has responded angrily to the proposal prepared by the economy and housing ministries, led respectively by the Greens and Social Democrats. The proposal would essentially accelerate plans already in the coalition deal struck between the parties to ban new heating units that did not produce 65 per cent of their energy from renewable sources from 2025. — AFP

Regulator says
insufficient grounds to
probe Credit Suisse

SWISS financial watchdog FINMA said on Friday it hadn't found sufficient grounds to investigate comments by the Credit Suisse chairman, after rumours of a probe sent the bank's shares to record lows.

The regulator said it had "investigated possible violations of financial market law" connected to public comments made by Credit Suisse Chairman Axel Lehmann in December regarding the outflows of client funds from the troubled bank.

But, it said, it did "not see sufficient grounds to open supervisory proceedings in this case".

On 21 February, rumours that FINMA had launched an investigation into public comments made by chairman Axel Lehmann about the outflow of client funds sent

shares in the troubled bank to a record low of 2.52 Swiss francs (\$2.73) a piece.

The comments came after the bank issued a profit warning in late November, due among other things to large outflows of client funds amid a litany of scandals facing the bank. In several media interviews, Lehmann had indicated that the outflows had stabilized.

But when the bank issued its annual results last month, the outflows in the fourth quarter had surged to 110.5 billion Swiss francs (nearly \$120 billion) amid large client withdrawals, which was far higher than market expectations. Based on information from the bank, one analyst estimated in late November that these stood at 84 billion Swiss francs. — AFP



A branch of Swiss banking giant Credit Suisse in Bern.
PHOTO: FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP

US adds
311,000 jobs in
February

THE United States added 311,000 jobs in February, the Labour Department said on Friday. The jobless rate climbed to 3.6 per cent from last month's 3.4 per cent.

The increase is likely to cause the US Federal Reserve to continue in the most aggressive rate hike cycle in decades, experts said. — Xinhua

Belgian government bans TikTok on
official phones

BELGIAN Prime Minister Alexander De Croo on Friday banned federal officials from using TikTok on their work phones, making his the latest country to take steps against the Chinese app.

A number of national governments in Europe have already restricted TikTok for government employees, over fears the authorities in Beijing could use the video-sharing

network to access sensitive user data.

The European Union's governing institutions have also told staff in recent weeks to purge the app from smartphones and laptops used for work purposes.

"We shouldn't be naive: TikTok is a Chinese business that is currently obliged to cooperate with the Chinese intelligence services," De Croo said.

"That is the reality."

A spokesperson for TikTok said Friday: "We are disappointed at this suspension, which is based on basic misinformation about our company."

"TikTok is not a Chinese company. Our parent company is also incorporated outside of China and is majority-owned by global institutional investors." — AFP

Five investments in 3 years show
German company's confidence in China

DESPITE the impact of the pandemic, Bitzer, a German compressor technology company, decided to invest another 300 million yuan (about 43 million US dollars) in its Beijing factory this year.

Part of the investment will be spent on a 4,800-square-metre building for the research and development (R&D) department, and the foundation-laying ceremony is



This photo taken on 27 February 2023 shows the plant area of Bitzer Refrigeration Technology (China) Co, Ltd in Beijing, capital of China. PHOTO: PENG ZIYANG/XINHUA

scheduled in April.

"We have brought in some equipment, so we desperately need the building as soon as possible," said Karl Heinz Meister, vice president of the Bitzer Asia Pacific Area.

It is the fifth time the company invested in its Beijing subsidiary over the past three years, with a total of 84 million yuan poured for the previous four times. — Xinhua

US closes Silicon Valley Bank in biggest
collapse since 2008

US regulators pulled the plug on Silicon Valley Bank on Friday in a spectacular move that sent global banking shares sputtering, as markets fretted over possible contagion from America's biggest banking failure since the 2008 financial crisis.

US authorities swooped in and seized the assets of SVB, a key lender to US startups since the 1980s, after a run on deposits made it no longer tenable for the medium-sized bank to stay afloat on its own.

Little known to the general public, SVB specialized in financing startups and had become the

16th largest US bank by assets: at the end of 2022, it had \$209 billion in assets and approximately \$175.4 billion in deposits.

Its demise represents not only the largest bank failure since Washington Mutual in 2008, but also the second largest failure ever for a retail bank in the United States.

In response to the sudden collapse, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen convened an emergency meeting of top US banking regulators.

"Secretary Yellen expressed full confidence in banking regulators to take appropriate actions in response and noted that the



US regulators pulled the plug on Silicon Valley Bank in a spectacular move that sent global banking shares into turmoil. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

banking system remains resilient and regulators have effective tools to address this type of event," a Treasury statement said.

Based in the shadow of the world's biggest

tech companies, SVB's travails have raised fears that more banks may face doom as the fallout from high inflation and hiked interest rates squeezes weaker lenders. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MITRA BHUM VOY.NO. (138W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MITRA BHUM VOY.NO. (138W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-3-2023 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.

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Shipping Agency Department
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M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Four years after airline tragedy, victims’ families flay Boeing

FAMILIES of victims of the 2019 Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 MAX crash gathered Friday near the headquarters of aircraft manufacturer Boeing to denounce what they called “total impunity” over the loss of life.

“There has been no investigation, from a judicial point of view and from a criminal point of view, in the United States for manslaughter,” said Catherine Berthet, who lost her daughter Camille in the accident.

Berthet, who is French, joined with other families from as far away as Canada and Germany as they brandished portraits of loved ones and stood in rain in protest outside the imposing headquarters of Boeing in suburban Virginia.

“Four years later... this plane is still in the air,” she said.

On 10 March 2019, six minutes after takeoff from the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa and bound for Nairobi, Kenya, flight ET302 crashed in a field, killing all 157 passengers and crew.

The accident came barely five months after a similar tragedy in which a 737 MAX operated by Lion Air crashed into the Java Sea off Indonesia, killing 189 people. — AFP



Ethiopian Airlines employees pose for a group photo in front of a Boeing 737 MAX on the tarmac of the Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa on 1 February 2022. Ethiopian Airlines is set Tuesday to operate the Boeing 737 MAX for the first time since a crash nearly three years ago killed all 157 people on board and triggered the global grounding of the aircraft. PHOTO: AFP/ROBBIE BOULET/FILE

WORLD: TOP HEADLINE

Macron to meet Orban for talks on Ukraine and Europe

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron will meet Hungary’s Prime Minister Viktor Orban to discuss the Ukraine crisis and other issues ahead of a European Council meeting, his office said Friday.

Orban has been an outspoken critic of Europe’s stance on the war in Ukraine, accusing it of waging an “indirect war” on Russia.

Macron will meet with Orban on Monday before the 23-24 March European Council meeting, and would also discuss energy issues and support for the European defence industry, a statement said.

EU member Hungary is highly dependent on imported Russian fuel. Orban has vowed to maintain ties with Russia, and has refused to supply weapons to Ukraine.

He has also criticised western sanctions levelled at Russia, even if Hungary eventually voted with its EU partners on this issue. — Xinhua

Train crash may thwart Greek PM’s re-election bid: analysts



Calls are growing for PM Mitsotakis to quit after Greece’s deadliest train crash. PHOTO: AFP

THE Greek prime minister’s bid for re-election at forthcoming polls may be thwarted by the country’s deadliest train crash, which has sparked mass protests and calls for him to quit.

A nation heartbroken at the loss of 57 lives has exploded in anger, with tens of thousands taking to the streets on Wednesday in sometimes violent protests.

Four people -- three station masters and a rail supervisor — are facing multiple charges over the head-on collision on 28 February and could be jailed for life.

But public anger has focused on mismanagement and underfunding of the railway network, which critics say is symptomatic of a broader hollowing out of public services that was triggered by the country’s debt crisis.

And, observers say, conservative Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis -- who had looked on course to comfortably win a second term -- may pay a heavy price.

The accident “will have an impact on the government, as it has political and ethical responsibility”, Stella Ladi, who works at Panteion University in Athens and Queen Mary University of London, told AFP. — AFP

Yemen’s warring parties to meet in Geneva over prisoner swap

YEMEN’S warring parties will hold talks in Geneva starting Saturday to discuss a prisoner exchange, rebels and government officials have said.

The negotiations in Switzerland, overseen by the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross, will run for 11 days, said Majed Fadail, a member of the Yemeni government delegation. The talks with Iran-backed Huthi rebels aim “to reach an understanding regarding the details” of a prisoner exchange, he told the official Saba news agency on Thursday.

It comes almost a year after the Huthis said they had agreed to a prisoner swap that would see 1,400 rebels freed in exchange for 823 pro-government fighters — including 16 Saudis and three Sudanese nationals. — AFP



Freed Yemeni Houthi prisoners are welcomed at Sanaa airport upon their arrival on 15 October 2020 as Yemen’s warring sides began swapping about 1,000 prisoners in an operation overseen by the International Committee of the Red Cross. PHOTO: MOHAMMED HUWAIS /AFP/FILE

Iran, Saudi to restore ties in major step for Middle East

REGIONAL powerhouses Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed Friday to restore ties and reopen diplomatic missions in a surprise, Chinese-brokered announcement that could have wide-ranging implications across the Middle East.

In a trilateral statement, Shiite-majority Iran and mainly Sunni Muslim Saudi Arabia said they would reopen embassies and missions within two months and implement security and economic cooperation deals signed more than 20 years ago. Riyadh cut ties after Iranian protesters attacked Saudi diplomatic missions in 2016 following the Saudi execution of revered Shiite cleric Nimr

al-Nimr -- just one in a series of flashpoints between the two longstanding rivals.

Friday's announcement, which follows five days of previously unannounced talks in Beijing and several rounds of dialogue in Iraq and Oman, caps a broader realignment and efforts to ease tensions in the region.

"Following talks, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have agreed to resume diplomatic relations and reopen embassies and missions within two months," said the joint statement, which was published by both countries' official media.— AFP



Wang Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee, presides over the closing meeting of the talks between a Saudi delegation and an Iranian delegation in Beijing, capital of China, 10 March 2023. PHOTO: LUO XIAOGUANG/XINHUA

Colombia FARC dissidents optimistic for peace

LIVING under plastic tents in the Colombian jungle, a group of rebel fighters has high hopes for peace talks with the government of President Gustavo Petro, who as a former guerrilla himself, "inspires confidence", they say. The men and women of the so-called Rafael Aguilera Front based in the country's southwest are dissidents who chose to not join their comrades in the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in laying down arms following a 2016

peace agreement. They opposed the initial peace process throughout, some unwilling to give up arms for fear of becoming easy targets, others because they saw no alternative way of making a living. Today, they are locked in a deathly conflict over territory and resources with another group of dissidents who had supported the peace process but took up arms again after failing to reintegrate into civilian life. — AFP

Li Qiang endorsed as Chinese premier

LI was endorsed as Chinese premier at a plenary meeting of the first session of the 14th NPC, the country's national legislature. President Xi Jinping later signed a presidential order to appoint him as premier. Newly appointed Chinese Premier Li Qiang made a public pledge of allegiance to the Constitution on Saturday.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang will meet the press at the Great Hall of the People after the conclusion of the first session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) on Monday morning, according to the press centre for the first session of the 14th NPC.

In another development, the first session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the top political advisory body, concluded in Beijing on Saturday.

Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders attended the closing meeting of the session at the Great Hall of the People.

Wang Huning, chairman of the 14th CPPCC National Committee, presided over the meeting and delivered a speech.

A resolution on the work report of the Standing Committee



Newly appointed Chinese Premier Li Qiang makes a public pledge of allegiance to the Constitution at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 11 March 2023. Li was endorsed as Chinese premier at a plenary meeting of the first session of the 14th National People's Congress, the country's national legislature. PHOTO: PANG XINGLEI/XINHUA

tee of the 13th CPPCC National Committee, a resolution on the report on the work of proposals from political advisors, a resolution on an amendment to the CPPCC charter, a report

on the examination of new proposals, and a political resolution on the first session of the 14th CPPCC National Committee were approved at the meeting. — Xinhua

Fierce fighting close to DR Congo's Goma

FIGHTING erupted Friday between M23 militiamen and government troops near the eastern DR Congo city of Goma, where a European mercy flight arrived in the afternoon, sources said.

The aid mission is the first in

an airlift announced last Saturday by the European Union to help the beleaguered city. After a day of relative calm, clashes unfolded early Friday near the village of Murambi, less than 30 kilometres (18 miles) west of Goma, local

officials said. Murambi is the last settlement before the town of Sake, considered the city's last bulwark. "The population is starting to panic again," Leopold Busanga, a spokesman for civil society groups in Sake.

Fighting was also reported further north, around 70 kms from Goma, an official there said.

Goma, the capital of North Kivu province, has been under threat since the M23 launched an offensive last year after reviving from dormancy in 2021.

Its advance has triggered tension in central Africa.

The Democratic Republic of Congo accuses its neighbour Rwanda of supporting the group, something that Kigali denies, and regional countries have deployed a joint force aimed at stabilizing the region. — AFP



M23 rebels, pictured in January at a meeting in Rumangabo with the East African regional force in DR Congo. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

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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.

Yangon United beat Dagon Star United to win four games in row

YANGON UNITED team played against Dagon Star United team in Myanmar National League match 4 and won 0-1. Yang Kyaw Soe scored the precious winning goal for Yangon United.

Yangon United started with a 4-3-3 formation, and as soon as the game started, they tried to attack opponents. In the 43rd minute of the game, Yangon United's striker Sella had a chance but missed the opportunity to take the lead. The two sides were able to attack each other, but could not convert into a goal, so the first half ended in a goalless draw. In the 45th minute of the restart of the second half, Sella tried to score a

pass from his teammate Yan Naing Oo, but the Dagon Star United goalkeeper was able to save it. In the 53rd minute of the match, Yang Kyaw Soe was added instead of Hlaing Bobo and prepared to break the deadlock. In the 60th minute of the game, Yangon United started to take the lead, and substitute Yang Kyaw Soe scored a beautiful goal with a long shot.

Yangon United player Min Kyaw Khant (No 22) blocks the ball from the opposing player during the Myanmar National League match played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 11 March 2023. **PHOTO: YUFC**

There were mutual attacks in the remaining minutes, but no more goals were scored, so Yangon United won 0-1 against Dagon Star United at the final whistle. After the match, Yangon United head coach U Kyaw Dun said, "Today was a good match. The Dagon team played compactly and carefully. But, we played our best," he said.

After playing 4 games in the Myanmar National League, Yangon United won four games, garnering 12 points, and ranked 2nd in the points table by goal difference. Match 5 of team Yangon will be played against Rakhine United on 16 March at Yangon United Sports Complex. — KZL

Aussie Thompson shocks third-ranked Tsitsipas at Indian Wells

UNSEEDDED Australian Jordan Thompson shocked third-ranked Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-6, (7/0), 4-6, 7-6 (7/5) on Friday, his second career win over a top 10 player

putting him into the third round at Indian Wells. Thompson, 28 and ranked 87th in the world, secured the upset when a blistering forehand from Tsitsipas landed

just wide on the first match point. "I'm thankful that last ball was out — I thought it was in," Thompson told fans on court. — AFP

Benzema disputes 'liar' Deschamps' claim over World Cup fitness

KARIM Benzema has responded to Didier Deschamps' claim that the striker told him "he wouldn't have been ready" to play at the World Cup because of an injury by implying the France coach was a "liar".

The Real Madrid forward pulled out of the France squad with an injured left thigh on the eve of the tournament and departed their team hotel in Qatar soon afterwards.

Benzema returned to training with his club on 10 December, four days before France played Morocco in the World Cup semi-finals.

"Karim told me himself that



Karim Benzema (L) has called France head coach Didier Deschamps (C) a 'liar' after claims made about his fitness for the World Cup. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

he wouldn't have been ready," Deschamps told the Parisien newspaper in an interview published on Saturday.

"When Karim got injured, our doctor accompanied him to the Aspetar clinic to undergo an MRI," said Deschamps.

"Karim passed on the results to someone who follows him in Madrid and who also gave him an opinion. When he came back to the hotel, it was already gone midnight.

"I met Karim in his room with our doctor who had come to give me the report from the scan... Karim was hurt because this World Cup meant a lot to

him. He told me, 'It's over.' "We stayed together for about 20 minutes," added Deschamps.

"When leaving I told him, 'Karim, there's no rush. Organize your return with the team manager.' When I woke up I found out he was gone. It's his decision, he won't tell you otherwise, I understand and respect it."

Benzema, who announced his international retirement the day after France lost the World Cup final on penalties to Argentina, appeared to dispute Deschamps' version of events on social media. — AFP